

Lenten Soup & Services

Wednesdays,
March 4, 11, 18 & 25
Soup 6:00 PM
Service 7:00 PM

Alaska Tote

We will be filling a tote to go to The Net, again this year in May. The Net is the internet coffee house in Naknek, AK. It is a place where coffee is free and people from all over the world hear about the free gift of salvation.

“What is the ministry of The Net? It’s a sanctuary in a sea of chaos and unrest. It’s a place where strangers are treated like family. One young woman walking in breathed deeply, “This place smells like love.” Our table is laid with fresh coffee, hot cocoa, lemonade, water, iced tea and platters of fresh baked goods and a basket of packaged snacks and candies. A few tables with chairs, a well worn couch and coffee table invite guests to stay awhile. The walls hold bookshelves with Bibles, devotionals and Scripture tracts to feed the mind and nurture the soul. Board games and puzzles are stacked on an end table, and used clothing is piled on a table in the back room.

Everything is free. Sometimes people would come to the kitchen asking where the donation basket is. We would tell them it’s all a free gift to anyone who comes, just like God freely gives salvation to those who come to Him through Christ. We also told them that the food comes from our church family and friends down in the lower 48 who care for them and the difficulty of life during this season.”

Julie, A Net Volunteer

More information about The Net can be found on the AFLC Home Missions site.

<https://aflchomemissions.org/alaska/the-net-cafe/>

A registry on Amazon for ideas on the things they need can be found there. Examples –cookies mixes, cake mixes, cupcake papers, premade frosting, canisters of hot chocolate & coffee, paper cups, paper supplies, cleaning supplies, shelf stable milk, powdered creamer, Bibles, cooking oil, white garbage sacks, more things listed on the Amazon wish list. Warm coats are also a welcome addition.

QUILTS FOR ALASKA

The Alaska Ministry Team so appreciates all the quilts being sent to their base in Alaska. The quilts are passed out to people in Naknek, as well as taken to many area villages where they fly. Several boxes have been taken to a closed village (due to strong Russian Orthodox influence) and were welcomed there solely because of quilts. Quilts were also sent to villages where there has been severe flooding and people had lost nearly everything – the quilts were received with tears. Additionally, dozens of quilts are shared with international visitors to Naknek during fishing season.

Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.

11:00 A.M. Worship Services

Check Us Out

www.youtube.com/@bethanyfreelutheranastoria3012

Bethany Lutheran AFLC– Instagram

Bethany Free Lutheran Church

www.bethanyfree.com/

Subsplash

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word



Men's Prayer Breakfast

March 7th, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:30am if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Bethany Sewing Ministry



The ladies of Bethany will be meeting, March 5, 19 and 26 at 10am, downstairs at Bethany. All sewing skills are welcome or if you want to bring you other hand work and just fellowship. A lunch is provided.

They are always more than glad for any donations of fabric. Just drop by on one of the sewing days or contact the church and arrangements can be made.

Brown Bag Ministry

Every Wednesday at 11:00 am, we have our weekly Brown Bag Ministry which prepares brown bag lunches that are distributed in the community, we are always grateful for volunteers.



Women's Evening Bible Study



WEBS is the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, this months will be March 24th, location will be announced, eventually will be in new building. We will be using the book "Get Out of Your

Head" by Jennie Allen. It can be purchased on Amazon for \$12, the study guide will be used by the leader but if you want to purchase that as well for your own use you can, that is about \$16 on Amazon.

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation will meet, Thursday, March 12th, 11am at the church. All Ladies are Welcome, bring a lunch, dessert is provided.



Deacons & Trustees Meeting

Deacons & Trustees will meet here at church, Thursday, March 10, 6pm.

Art/Craft Meetup

Bring your arts & craft projects all skills welcome. March 7th, from 2-5pm, at Bethany Free Lutheran Church. Join us to fellowship while you craft.

Easter Season

Lenten Services

Our Wednesday evening Soup & Services for Lent is underway, dinner at 6pm and service to follow at 7pm.

March

4th- We will return to dust (From Gen.3:19)

11th- The snake's eating of dust reminds us of God's prophesied victory (Gen. 3:14-15)

18th- God lifts us up from the dust and blesses us (1 Sam 2:8)

25th- The promise of our new bodies coming from the dust of our old ones (1 Cor. 15:35-38)

*A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board to provide the Wednesday evening soup and bread.

Palm Sunday– March 29th, 11am

Maundy Thursday is a communion service focused on the last supper–April 2nd, 7pm

Good Friday will focus on the final sacrifice for sins through Jesus' death–April 3rd, 7pm

Easter Sunday breakfast served during Sunday School(9:30am) Christ is Risen! The sting of death has been removed– April 5th, 11am



Meeting

A short congregational meeting will be held right after church Sunday March 8th. We will be discussing name ideas for the new building, as well as ideas on how to use the building. Also we will be asking the congregation about whether we want to do VBS this upcoming year.

Names

This month on the 8th after church we will be having a meeting to talk about ways we can or should use the new building. In addition to that, we will also be talking about ideas for what to name the new building. I value this upcoming meeting, and hope that many come to share their ideas. I believe it is always a good thing to get input from as many people as possible. As I have been thinking and praying about the name for a few months, I began to really ponder the question, “How important is the new name?”

After all, regardless of what we name it, how we use the building is vastly more important than what we name it. Yet as I kept thinking about the name, I couldn't shake the feeling that what we name the building really is important. The Bible demonstrates the power of a name, by highlighting some of the greatest believers of our Christian family who had their names changed often by God, to reflect their new identities. Who could forget that Abram and Sarai had their names changed to Abraham and Sarah, or Jacob's name that was changed to Israel? Did you know that Joshua the leader that came after Moses was once named Hoshea the son of Nun? The importance of a name wasn't just an Old Testament thing either. Jesus gave Simon the name of Peter, and later on the road to Damascus Saul had his name changed to Paul. And these are only some of the people that had their names changed.

It seems that one of the primary reasons for people to have their names changed was to reflect their new identity they had been given by God. Their names were not just a marker used to summon them, God wanted their name to reflect who they were. Names are special because it gives significance and reflects a person's identity. It helped people understand who they were and often who they belonged to. Furthermore, names are important to God. Remember that He used one of the 10 commandments to remind us how important and special His name is, and that we should never use God's name in a flippant manner.

Now obviously a building is different than a person, but the concept of a building, or even a ministry's name is still similar to a person's name. The name we choose will be used by people for hopefully many years. It will identify the building, but it can also be a reminder to people that God is real and active today. Our building's name can be a reminder of an attribute of God. Or maybe it can be something to point people to the hope we have in Christ. It can be a look back on our godly legacy, or a look forward to the coming resurrection from the dead. Whatever name we choose, it will be an indicator to the community around us, as well as to those that come after us what we valued and esteemed. May God bless our efforts on this matter, and guide our choice as we seek to bring Him glory through this process.

Pastor Rich Carr