



Emerald Crossing

Psalm 23rd "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

When: June 24,25 & 26

Time: 1-4 PM

Ages: Kindergarten-5th grade

Community Event: June 26 4-6pm

VBS will culminate with a small program put on by the attendees, and a neighborhood block party style barbecue beginning at 4:00 pm.

All are welcome-Feel free to invite friends!

Volunteer help is welcome

please sign up on the bulletin board or reach out to Melissa Reid or Tami Stelzig.

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

YouTube: @bethanyfreelutheranastoria3012

Instagram: www.instagram.com/bethanylutheranafc/

Bethany Website: www.bethanyfree.com

Subsplash: Bethany church Astoria, on your mobile device app.

Facebook: Bethany Free Lutheran

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word

Growing in Faith Transforming lives



Men's Prayer Breakfast

May 2nd, 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, May 14, 21, and 28 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.



WMF Meeting



Women's Missionary Federation will meet, Thursday, May 7 (a week earlier due to conflicts), 11am at the Bethany. All Ladies are Welcome, bring a lunch, dessert is provided.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

Deacons & Trustees will meet here at Bethany, Tuesday May 5th, 6pm.

Men's Movie Night

Men's movie night will be at the Elk's lodge May 6th at 6 PM. Burgers and fries will be served, the movie will be the comedy "Wild Hogs."

Art/Craft Meetup

Due to conflicts the May meetup is cancelled it will resume in June.

Alaska Tote

Thank you to all who stayed and helped pack the Alaska Mission tote. We are especially grateful to Tighe who "climbed" in, John Estoos bringing his trailer in to transport it and Andy Peitsch delivering it to Seattle. Thanks, too, for the donations of blankets, warm clothing and supplies for the Net. We made 50+ plus quilts this year!

Confirmation Sunday This year Finnley Pearson and Chloe Stelzig will be confirming on May 31st during the church service.

Graduation Sunday We will be honoring the graduates on Sunday May 31 during the church service.

New Building The new Bethany building has a name. At the quarterly meeting a vote was taken and the building will be called the Bethany Annex.

Vacation Pastor Rich will be leaving on vacation May 6th, and will return late May 13th. If there are any needs during that time please contact one of the church Elders.



Baby Bottle Drive Coast Pregnancy Center is doing their annual fundraising drive with baby bottles again. There are baby bottles in the back of the church that can be filled with your loose change, or

money you have that you would like to donate. The collection time is from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Take a bottle home, and once it is filled, or Father's Day comes, you can return the bottle to the church, and we will take the bottles to the Clinic.

Missionary from Mexico

Pastor Todd Schierkolk will be presenting and sharing on Mother's Day, May 10th during Sunday school and preaching during the service.



Sign Up Sheets Don't forget to check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary.

The Hard Work of Being a Christian

Perhaps the greatest claim to fame of the Lutheran Church is our stand on justification. Luther came to a radical (yet correct) understanding that we are saved completely by the finished work of Jesus Christ, and that we have nothing to do with it. We don't cooperate with God in having saving faith, we don't meet God halfway, a Christian's salvation is completely a work of God without any human "help." A sorrowful result in correctly understanding our salvation is that since God is completely responsible for it, we sometimes adopt the attitude that salvation is the whole picture for a Christian.

"As long as I'm saved what else is there", is an attitude that some develop. To be more crass, some view their Christian faith as merely fire insurance for the day that they meet their maker. Since there is nothing we do to come to faith, as it is a gift from God, some live their lives seeking merely to please their own desires because after all God does all the work. But there is a serious problem with this understanding. God desires us to not *just be saved from the punishment of Hell. God wants us to right now experience more of Him, and to start the process of being holy. This is called our sanctification. Some refer to sanctification as holy sweat. It is rightly called holy sweat because it is hard work, and oftentimes it moves beyond being hard to being brutal.*

Ephesians 4:17-24 sheds a bit more light on this topic of sanctification. Verses 17-19 explain one of the reasons why we should seek to be sanctified, because we are not ignorant:

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

The vast majority of the world is ignorant or unaware of their miserable state of being. The Bible calls us out and tells us to stop acting like foreigners to God. The Bible says those living in sin have a darkened understand and a blind heart. They are numb to their conscience and strive to live in lewdness, filth, and act greedy. For those of us that have learned the truth

about Jesus, and have a relationship with Him, we are different, or at least we should be different. So God tells us further in verses 20-24 how we who do have a relationship with Christ should be like.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. NKJV

By the renewing of our minds through meditating on God's Word, listening to sermons, praying, and simply being with God, we feed the new righteous man or woman within us. Likewise as we feed our new righteous nature we starve and seek to kill our old sinful nature. But here is the hardship. Our old nature doesn't like to starve. It rears its ugly head time and time again, it does battle within us and fights against the new righteous nature we have in Christ.

So there is a constant battle within us. We are justified and declared holy once and for all because of what Jesus Christ has done. Yet there is a daily struggle of our old and new nature to gain control of us. What we do, how we live, even what we wear, eat, and drink can affect which nature gains strength.

It is neither easy to kill that old nature, or frankly enjoyable. We must train and condition our souls, minds, and bodies. An athlete knows that without sometimes pushing through physical pain and weakness, there will be little physical growth. Likewise, without pushing back against our old nature, there will be little development of our new nature.

Every day we have a choice to make. Which nature do we feed and nurture, and which nature do we starve and attempt to put to death. Being a Christian starts with our justification. But living as a Christian is an ongoing struggle that unfortunately all of us have until we go to be with Christ in glory. Let us join together in this hard work, encourage one another, and put to death our old sinful nature.

Pastor Rich Carr