



Vacation Bible School 2026

Many hands make light work and that is exactly what happened at Vacation Bible School this year! We appreciate all of the myriad volunteers who came and did things while we were here, as well as all of you prayer warriors who supported us from home.

Vacation Bible School was very successful with over 20 kids showing up and having a fabulous time learning about God and how the Lord is there for us as our comforter, as our Shepherd, and in the midst of a swarm of troubles. Many songs were sang, over \$100 was raised to support the Schierkolk's mission in Mexico, amazing crafts were made, Bible stories were learned, scientific progress was explored from a Biblical perspective, and many games and much joy abounded!

Again, a really big, **"Thank you!!"** to everyone who pitched in!



Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 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

Online Giving Options can be found at our web page www.bethanyfree.com or scan the QR code.



New Members Class
Sunday 9-9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Prayer
9:30-10:30 AM
In the sanctuary

Men's Prayer Breakfast

July 4th, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts around 7:30am if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Quarterly Meeting The quarterly meeting will be July 26th after church service.

Bethany Sewing Ministry Will be taking a break for the month of July.

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, July 9th, 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 July 7th, 6pm.

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

New Bible Study

Tuesday Nights Together (TNT) is a new bible study on Galatians, it is being held at the church upcoming dates are June 28, July 14, 21 & 28 at 7pm



Upcoming Dates

Annual Picnic Join us for our annual church picnic it will be held August 2nd at Cullaby Lake, South Shelter. Burgers, hotdogs and drinks are provide bring a salad, dessert, chips, vegies or whatever you would like to share.

Parking will be covered.



At the core of each person lies a question. What is the point or reason of my life? After becoming self-aware in childhood, many often want to be like their parents. The reason for life is to be like mom, or dad. Normally parents are the provider of good things to their children, which helps cause their children to love them. Parents typically provide security, nourishment, and entertainment. They may not entertain their children directly, but through providing toys and access to streaming or television, entertainment is given. Over time children often tend to model behavior and experiences demonstrated by their parent, and many times become mirrors of their parent's behavior.

As we age and begin to have other factors influencing our behavior, the reason for life often becomes centered on the pursuit of pleasure. This is where most people never move beyond. What brings us pleasure may change, but the drive to attain pleasure often remains the focus of our lives. A great example of this is King Solomon from the Bible. He more than any other recklessly pursued pleasure in all its forms. The book of Ecclesiastes is his ruminations of his pursuit of pleasure, and how it still left him feeling hollow and empty.

Some join groups, movements, and even cults with the belief that they will find significance and purpose. These people often find at least a temporary purpose in whatever their group holds as the standard. Sometimes the purpose of the group has a positive effect on society or others. A gardening group might make a run-down vacant city lot into a beautiful haven for people to experience nature. Or a group may exist to help clothe the poor, and each year they can reflect back on the many people they helped provide good clothing to. Most would agree that those activities provide a positive outcome and are good. Groups that people join can be nefarious as well. Some groups seek to control people while also gathering followers in order to achieve more power and influence. Regardless of the outcome of a group, the end result of being part of group still often is meaningless in the long run.

Many others if asked what the purpose is for their lives, will never really have an answer. They perhaps have tried finding pleasure, but came to realize that pleasure becomes pointless. Maybe they have tried joining groups and that also left them feeling directionless. Some people have

become so frustrated and despondent with life that they live in a state of depression because they just don't have any purpose or significance to their life.

Do you think people would live differently if they truly felt like they had a clear direction in their life? How would you live your life differently if you had a clear purpose or reason to live? And what if it was possible to discover not only your purpose in life, but learned about ways to accomplish that purpose? The good news is that the creator of all life, God, has given each of us a purpose or calling. Jesus' last words to His followers before He ascended into heaven is often called the Great Commission. Part of what Jesus said at this time was, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19,ESV). The simple truth is that we are called to make disciples of Jesus. A disciple is someone who follows another in both thoughts and actions. So our primary reason for life is to help others be followers of Jesus.

God has provided us with some very powerful tools to help us in our purpose. Just as a carpenter needs tools to ply his or her trade like a saw, hammer, and chisel; so too does a Christian need tools to effectively make disciples. Perhaps one of the most important of tools for a Christian is God's Word the Bible. This is a supernatural, living creation, that is powerful and effective in helping Christians in their calling by giving us wisdom and help by revealing truth that applies to all areas of our lives. We also have been given access to God Himself. The person of the Holy Spirit works in and through us to speak to our hearts, enlighten us with truth, and even occasionally empower us to do supernatural feats. Jesus modeled another powerful tool that He regularly used which is prayer. Prayer is like a conduit that allows for the free flow of communication between God and His followers. When a Christian learns how to effectively wield these tools, he or she becomes much more effective at making disciples, and thereby fulfilling our purpose in life.

Pastor Rich Carr