

The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
1-805-688-4637
www.bethanialutheran.net

May 2020

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
email: bethanialutheranch@gmail.com



A Message from Kristyl Downey, Office Manager

Because Pastor Chris writes a midweek message every week to the email group I am sharing something I wrote to the first group of people who helped with the Brown Bag Food distribution or the Emergency Food Distribution after our "Stay at Home" orders began. We had members and non-members alike, young and older, couples, families, singles.

I want to thank everyone for helping with the Brown Bag Breakfasts on Sunday. I know we are doing God's work. We are helping people keep healthy.

I also thank those of you who helped today with the Emergency Food Distribution (going on now as I type). Several people were in line already at 3:15 pm when I left the premises. There is a big need right now. We are serving the members of our community by providing this service.

While nothing ever goes completely smoothly, we really do a great job. Both the BBBs and the Emergency Food Distribution are a work of love, service, cooperation and efficiency. Each of us is helpful and supportive to the greater good. Today we unloaded the food, put it on tables, and adapted our own ways of packing up the groceries. Well done, everyone! We were also able to use 12 boxes of fresh produce from Veggie Rescue and make about 50? smaller bags.

We are blessed as a church - Bethania has the facilities for production and storage, tables, parking lots (to drive in and out), staff, volunteers, communication - Facebook, email, connection to other community members (like the schools, etc) and the ability to organize and help. As we know, "it ain't our first rodeo."

I close with a passage from Ephesians " ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

I sincerely value and appreciate each and everyone of you. When we all lift together the load is lighter.

- Kristyl

I wrote this at first to the people who helped during the food packing. But now - in the Beacon - I want to emphasize both what we are doing as individuals and as a congregation. The paragraph that begins "We are blessed as a church" is directed to everyone - past, present and future - who has ever given or will give to Bethania in some way: families, individuals, committees, staff, outside groups, businesses, charitable or service groups, etc. who donated land, materials, money, labor, service, etc. to begin Bethania and continue it have equipped us for a time such as this. We are a huge blessing to all in need at this critical time. Thank you for supporting Bethania.

Youth and Family Ministry

Wellness and Happiness to you,



As many of you know scheduled events have changed due to our current pandemic. VBS (June 22nd-26th) will be rescheduled.

Each year VBS grows in attendance as children excitedly return and bring more friends along. Our volunteers are the most wonderful and integral parts of this event! Help make a child's summer feel special and contact me directly if you'd like to help in any capacity this year.

*** I will be crafting decorations while working from home. If you need something to do and would like to help, please email me and I can give you some creation ideas. ***

Until we know more about the current situation, I've compiled a list of supplies. If you have any items to lend or you'd like to donate, please see below:

Masking tape	Silver duct tape	Stacks of white & blue & black paper
X-Large cardboard boxes	White & Blue fairy lights	White & Blue iridescent paper
Polyester fiberfill/ batting (decor)	30 flip flop sandals	Artificial Christmas trees (decor)
2 pairs of rain boots (adult size)	2 armor breast plates (costume)	
Plastic toy knights helmet (costume)		Black, silver & gray spray paint

Stay safe and healthy,

Livier Ghamari-Brown, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

livierghamari@yahoo.com

(909) 962-9366

Faith in Action

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing Day is coming:

Sunday, May 3 at 11:00 am

Mark your calendar to help us pack brown bag breakfast items for needy local seniors on Sunday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. We are meeting a little later so you can participate in the online worship service with Pastor Chris.

We will be practicing social distancing and CDC recommended guidelines. You will need to wear a mask and follow sanitation guidelines. If you have been sick AT ALL for the past 7 days, please do not come. If you are in the high risk category, please do not come.

Our little brown bags are for SYV seniors who need to take medications in the morning with food, and would otherwise have nothing to eat with their pills due to financial constraints or physical limitations. Currently we are helping between 70 and 85 local seniors with breakfast bags three times a week, which means we need a minimum of approx. 840 bags per month. This ministry continues to be a vital need for our area.

You can also help out by donating any of the following items. The church is open daily from 9-5 and you can drop off items inside. Or, you can drop them on the packing day.

- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
- Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
- Protein Bars
- Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)
- Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles
- Fruit Cups or Applesauce
- Pudding (non-refrigerated)
- Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

A big THANK YOU to the recent donation from The Bert R. Cohen Family Foundation. Special thanks also to the Kei Lin Foundation for supporting us with their grant and to Betty Madsen for her donation. These grant funds and your donations will be purchasing the Brown Bag Breakfast items for the next packing, but we still encourage and need your donations.

YOUR PARTICIPATION makes a difference in the health and happiness of someone living right here in our valley. Thank you!

Linda Marzullo
Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Special Donations Received For Bethania Programs

Heartfelt thanks for the following donations which will help support our programs to help ease food insecurity in our beautiful Valley:

TUESDAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Solvang Rotary (\$2000)
Los Olivos, Santa Ynez, Buellton and Solvang Rotary Clubs (\$500)
Community Members and Friends (\$1250 total)
Barbara Morr
The Bert R. Cohen Family Foundation

BLESSING BOX

Southwest California Synod (\$800.00)

SENIOR BROWN BAG BREAKFASTS

Betty Madsen
The Bert R. Cohen Family Foundation

Linda Marzullo, Chair, Social Ministry Committee



Some of the food packed on April 28, 2020

Blessing Box and Blessing Bags



The Blessing Box in front of our church has been a true Blessing to all who have used it. We have distributed various food, cleaning products, coffee, diapers and more out of this mighty pantry on a post.

Our goal with this the Blessing Box was to have the community be able to access assistance at any time, without any stigma, from the items within it. We constantly are being told how much it is appreciated. We have received donations and visitors, all day, every day, since it was installed after Easter.

With so many people struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic, we also have made up Blessing Bags. These Blessing Bags are located in the narthex of the church, so they may be picked up any day between 9 am and 5 pm. If you or someone you know is in need, please be aware that these programs exist at Bethania.



Financial donations and food donations are welcome for these projects. Items needed include canned and dried foods, snacks, cereal, coffee, diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies basically whatever you use in your household, we would like to have to distribute. You can leave items in the church between 9-5 daily, or contact me if you like: (805) 688-5219 or (805) 451-5548. You may also email me at vikingpressprint@verizon.net .

THANK YOU to all who have contributed items, donated funds, and used the box. Already this has been an amazing experience for us all.

- Linda Marzullo

Noisy Sunday, May 24th: Hygiene Kits

The next Noisy Sunday is coming on May 24th. Will we or won't we be together in worship, that is! Thank you to those who have been able to send in their Noisy Offering to the office when there was no way to drop their donation into the buckets. Here is hoping we will be able to be with each other soon.

If the past few months have taught us anything, it is access to soap is access to health. We can change our health and our lives (and maybe the world) - with a simple bar of soap!

We are beginning our annual collection of items for Personal Care Kits that are distributed through LWR that we will be putting together in September at Day of Service if we are able to do so. Your donations will help us purchase bars of soap, towels, combs, nail clippers and toothbrushes for the kits. These kits will be distributed globally to victims of disease, disaster and need. We could be saving someone from a major illness by simply sharing a bar of soap.

Make change for the better on Noisy Sunday! So send in your coins and cash and make a joyful jingle on May 24th. Together, we can CHANGE our world.

**Linda Marzullo, Chair
Social Ministry Committee**

Emergency Food Distribution Site at Bethania Tuesdays, 4-6 pm Drive up and Walk up

Bethania is operating as an Emergency USDA Food Distribution site during the pandemic. We receive food deliveries from SB County FoodBank at 10 am each Tuesday, which we then sort and bag for families. We also have received some fresh vegetables through Veggie Rescue. In addition, we have received kind donations from generous neighbors and businesses.



Even Mickey Mouse is helping! Thanks to Mickey (Ron Walsh, photo)

Distribution is through drive up or walk up, from 4-6 pm. There are no restrictions on income or family size at this time.

This is an incredibly rewarding and emotional experience for many. All of us try to be kind, compassionate and loving to those who come to our site. We have had many joyful moments as well. From sharing tears with someone who is struggling, to watching a little boy dance with Mickey Mouse (Bridget Cassara), it has been a blessing to be able to help our neighbors through our church and FoodBank.

If you would like to help, please contact me. We need about 22-24 people in the mornings and 16-18 people in the afternoons. Too many people makes it difficult for us all to be safe, unfortunately. This is why we really need people to sign up in advance. Anyone interested in attending should let me know by 3:00 pm Monday (the day before the distribution).

We practice COVID-19 safety procedures and have strict guidelines we must follow or risk being shut down. If you have been sick in any way in the previous 7 days, you cannot come to help. Additionally, if you are in a risk category, please do not come and endanger yourself. Please be aware that we are moving a lot of heavy canned items from pallets and into bags. Hard work, but so rewarding!

When you receive this Beacon, we will have completed our 6th week of Emergency Food Distribution. Every week the number of people who need are help has increased. We ask for your prayers and support for this challenging mission.

Linda Marzullo, Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
688-5219, 688-3059, 805-451-5548 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Food for Iglesia Luterana

We are still providing food and supplies for Iglesia Luterana. Items needed are:

Vegetable Oil	Canned Chicken or Tuna	Large cans of Hominy
Masa (Corn) or White Flour	Granola Bars	5 lb. bags of White Rice
Bags of Dried Pinto Peas	Canned Soups & Vegetables	Breakfast Cereal
Cleaning Supplies	Diapers	Feminine Hygiene Items
Toilet Paper		

Please bring items to the doorstep of the Church Office or contact Linda Marzullo
688-5219, 688-3059, 805-451-5548 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net to make arrangements to drop off.

Events and Occasions

*Bethania's Virtual Service Begins at 9:15 am on YouTube
Every Sunday*

Bethania Lutheran Church Solvang

Prelude Music

*Service with Announcements, Scripture,
Message by Pastor Chris and Prayers*

Mother's Day

We want to honor or remember our mothers on Mother's Day, May 10. We will put the foam core heart display in front of the church on Sunday morning. If it is up we invite people to put flowers in it to remember and honor their mothers. If not you may put them at the base of the bust of Maria Jacobsen located on the South side of the church.

Mother's Day is an important day to our Armenian sisters and brothers who honor their adoptive mother, Maria Jacobsen. Maria was a Danish missionary who "participated in the support and relief efforts of orphans in the eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire." (Wikipedia)

One Month Late....

We congratulate Pastor Chris on his fifth anniversary of being called to Bethania! He started his ministry at Bethania in April 2015. He is a blessing to the congregation, the Preschool and After School Program, Atterdag Village of Solvang, our community and more.

If you would like to send him a card, please mail it to Bethania, 621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang, CA 93463 or email him at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com

You may also send him a gift card to a local restaurant or on-line vender.

Theo Pub

Theo Pub is meeting via ZOOM on May 14 at 7 pm. Pastor Chris will send out an invitation and you can participate with us. Please email Kristyl at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com and she can forward you the invite if you are not already on the church email list.

Church Business

Council Highlights from the April 2020 Meeting

The April 2020 monthly Council meeting was held at 7:00 pm on April 16, 2020. Members present were Emily Abello, Wendy Bevier, Josh Bratt, Pastor Chris, Stewart Fries, Lynne Hemming, Carol Lake, Lori McConnell, Carolyn Schuit, and Anne Twigg. Jeanelle Needham was not present. Ron Walsh was also present at the meeting.

The April 2020 Council meeting was again conducted via Zoom Conference technology.

The Pastor provided an update on the actions taken by the church in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, including:

- Live Stream Services
- Food Distribution on Tuesdays
- New Blessing Box
- Deacon program
- Midweek Updates
- Theology Pub on virtual media

Ron Walsh, Business Manager for the church and Lori McConnell, Treasurer gave a presentation on the church's financial position through April 15, 2020, including weekly giving, endowment funding and an SBA loan/grant application submitted to Montecito Bank. They reported that expenses were being closely managed and that member and non-member giving had been greater than expected in view of the suspension of church gatherings.

The council also discussed:

- New signers on Montecito Bank checking account
- Endowment Funding in case of shortfall

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020.

**The Peace of Christ be with you all,
Stewart Fries, Bethania Council President
805-245-0041**

Treasurer's Report March 2020 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet:

- Cash position is relatively good at \$4,890; money market funds are primarily designated funds, with the exception of \$4,962 that is available to the church for general fund usage.
- Major change to balance sheet is pension liability when Pastor Chris was called, his letter of call stipulated that a housing equity fund be set up for him; it was to be 3%; we assumed that the money was being deposited monthly to Portico (the church benefits program); we recently

discovered that it had not been done; the bookkeeper calculated the past due amount (approximately \$8,500) and that has been added as a liability in account 2200 (bottom of page 1 of the balance sheet).

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- Under other income, Laurel, there was an error in the budget for 2020; the yearly amount should be \$21,600; that is being adjusted for next month.
- Fundraising was down, as were facilities use receipts.
- Monthly offerings were up by \$2,085 (that is the first time this year), but still are below the year to date by \$4,000.
- Total income for the month was up slightly, but below budget for the first three months.
- For the month of March we experienced a deficit of \$1,047. Considering our current situation, that is encouraging it could have been much worse!
- The Endowment Committee has made \$10,000 available for us to cover upcoming expenses. This money will be spent only if necessary.
- As an aside the offering income for April so far has shown an increase over the budget.

Expenses:

- Expenses were well controlled for the month, with salaries & benefits below budget (partially due to Livier being on leave, but her leave finished mid-March), office administration below budget for the month, maintenance on budget, utilities on budget, and all other expenses at or below budget.

Lori McConnell, Treasurer

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

We uplift in prayer the following people in our congregation and community. May we minister to and bless all who need God's help.

For comfort during grief for the family and loved ones of Bob Petersen. Bob died April 30, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, his memorial service will take place at a later date.

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Annette Clausen, Terry & Jo Daly, Sharon Espinoza, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Sheldon & Pat Green, Belle Hoger, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Gladys Jorgensen, Betsy & Steve Logan, John Marzullo, Stella Miller, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Joyce Purvis, Tim Reed, Robert Workman, David & Yolanda Yanez, health care workers, volunteers in the community, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad



The paper congregation is growing!



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Easter Cross, Photo by Lisa Blanton