



The Beacon

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

January 2021

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
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Pastor Chris's Message

Typically during this time, I would be writing a New Years Beacon article about resolutions, reflecting on the past as we create intention for the future, and all of the joys of individual and communal church ministry that go with starting fresh and planning ahead. And those are definitely important to reflect on. I know 2020 has been a rough year and simply not having to say "2020" anymore feels like there's a renewed hope to 2021. With the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines being rolled out it seems at some point this year we'll be able to finally get past this pandemic and back to some semblance of church life before this all began. But as your pastor, as a shepherd of a flock, I think it would be unwise to just skip over what we're going through right now and dive into life post-COVID.



A large part of my work as a pastor is walking with people in times of grief and struggle and helping those deep emotions and experiences not remain bottled up, but rather to allow our pain to speak to us, to help us reflect and grow, and to step into the newness of life after these moments with the lessons in hand that rough experiences can still grant us. My knowledge of this work not only comes from being with people during the loss of loved ones, but also my own personal experiences of loss and the counseling I entered into to understand what pain and grief has taught me.

Obviously, every year comes with its own versions of pain, but I think it's safe to say that 2020 has presented a level of collective pain our community has not seen in most of our lifetimes and so I want to offer some words to the experiences of what we are coming out of and still dealing with.

I've touched on this in several sermons, but my first point is that we can never skip over grief/pain. We can try to bury it, numb it, or avoid it, but no matter what, if not acknowledged, grief/pain will make itself known and at times in volatile ways. We are going through a traumatic and long-lasting event with this pandemic and its effects will be present within our psyches for a while. Even as we come out of this pandemic in this new year, the effects of 2020 will still be with us and we should both be patient with ourselves as we get back to life and try to be aware of where we're holding on to fears, traumas, pain, etc. from this pandemic.

The second point I want to touch on is how collective this pandemic has been. Regardless of age, health, income, geography, etc. this pandemic has touched every person in this country, and everyone will be coming out of it with their experiences of it. We've also been removed from a fully accessible life for a long time. As much as we want to get right back into things as they were, we're all going to be relearning elements of being together and learning new elements in how to have relationships with people who have gone through collective pain. I encourage all of us to hold off on expectations of how anyone should act in a post-COVID world and approach one another with compassion and grace. Let us simply focus on loving one another, being present with each other, and being patient as we navigate into the world again.

Finally, I want to say my work with grief always includes helping people try to see the positive side of pain – which is a weird thing to say. For those who go through grief/pain, there are always lessons. I

don't believe God intentionally sends traumatic events to teach us, however, I do believe all events offer lessons to learn from. This pandemic has countless lessons about our society, what we could have done better, our value systems, our politics etc. People in our nation will be going over these lessons for a long time and I think as citizens our input is an integral part of being a democracy. But there are also countless personal lessons in dealing with pain, change, loss, and our own personal value systems. Very few of us could have affected the outcome of this pandemic, but every one of us has control over the lessons our experiences can teach us and the kind of people we commit to being in a post-COVID world. You will have the option to just treat life as it was, but I encourage you to reflect on what you've been through over the last year (what will be year and a half), and see what lessons are offered for your life in a post-COVID world.

While the New Year is always a superficial moment in that December 31st and January 1st really aren't any different from each other, the New Year is always a time that naturally facilitates reflection on the past with hope for the future. I think this time the lessons may be far more profound, and I think the grief/pain might be more present in a collective way than ever before. It brings me joy to see people planning for life that embraces communal activity again but let us not neglect the opportunity to really learn from what we've gone through and shape our communities in ways that embrace experiencing God in one another through community and service. And please know, if you would like someone to help you navigate this time, I'm here for you.

**In Christ's Love,
Pastor Chris Brown**

Youth and Family Ministry

Happy New Year,

Virtual Sunday School continues on our Bethania YouTube channel. Attachments and materials list are shown in the weekly service email.

Our large scheduled social events have pended due to our current pandemic. I am hopeful that we may organize the Rummage Sale, Youth Bake Sale, and other fundraisers this year.

ELCA Youth Gathering to Minneapolis was rescheduled for **July 2022**. High schoolers and parents are welcome, please contact me.

Vacation Bible School will be **June 2021**. Each year VBS grows as children excitedly return and bring more friends along. Our volunteers are an integral part of this event! There are so many ways to get involved; like supplies. If you have any items to lend or donate, please see below:

Masking tape & Silver duct tape	Stacks of white & blue & black paper
X-Large cardboard boxes to build a bridge	White & Blue fairy lights
White & Blue iridescent paper	Polyester fiberfill/ batting
Artificial Christmas trees	2 pairs of rain boots (adult size)

Health and Happiness to you,

Livier Ghamari-Brown
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
livierghamari@yahoo.com
(909) 962-9366

Faith in Action

Noisy Offering: Making Change Count - Jan. 26, 2021

The nourishment of body is food, while the nourishment of the soul is feeding others. -Ali ibn Abi Talib

Our January Noisy Sunday offerings will be used to help provide food pantry items for the members at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie have been delivering food daily to members of their congregation who are suffering from the effects of COVID. As the winter progresses, field work will diminish and many more will be hungry.

You are making a difference in a child's life with your quarters and dimes. You are helping to keep food on the shelf for the children of field workers who struggle to make ends meet.

We all really "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday. So send in your coins, cash and checks into the office from **9 am - 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 26** and make some noise. Together, we can CHANGE a family's world, right here in our area. Even one donation or one coin can make a difference to someone in need. Or mail in a check to the office and note that it is for the Noisy Offering.

– **Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry**

You are invited

to join the newly forming

Bethania Secret Prayer Pals

Praying for others is one of the most powerful gifts we Christians can give, and in doing so we build Christian community.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

To be a part of uplifting others via Bethania Secret Prayer Pals, complete the info sheet on the next page.

- Mail the info sheet on the back by 1/31/21 to Jan Zigler 280 First Street Solvang 93463.
- Receive a secret prayer pal name and info about them in early February.
- Commit to praying for them for one year.
- Send an encouraging card from time to time.
- SHHH! Don't tell anyone!
- Learn who prayed for you at a "Reveal Your Prayer Pal" Tea Party in spring 2022.

For more info contact Jan Zigler at janzigler@hotmail.com or 559-740-3676.

Bethania Prayer Pal Information

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Birthday (No year required) _____

Favorite:

Color _____

Flowers _____

Season _____

Hymns _____

Scripture _____

Anything else _____

Milestones _____

Bethania's Angels come through!



Thank you to all of our Christmas Angels who helped with the gifts for our 75 Iglesia children and the 4 Preschool/After School children plus two other community members in need. A total of 81 recipients had a joyful Christmas thanks to the generosity of our Angels. This was our largest Christmas Angel event yet, with all of these children to shop for, and I am so proud to say that Bethania members and friends once again stepped up to this challenge – even in the midst of the pandemic!

The members of Iglesia Luterana are primarily of indigenous Oaxacan descent; most do not speak English but may be able to get by with some Spanish, as their primary language is a native dialect. The pastor communicates in Spanish and those who speak only the indigenous dialect(s) have the Spanish translated to their language by others. They attend a start-up church located on the premises of Bethel Lutheran Church in Santa Maria. The parents of these children struggle during the off-season months to have enough food for their families and other necessities. Christmas presents are non-existent for the majority of these children.

We worked with Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie to try to fill the children's "wish lists". We were "Christmas Angels" to children of both genders, ranging in age from newborns to age 16. The presents were wrapped and delivered to the church before their distribution. The joy of the children and the gratitude of their parents is overwhelming, as the only gift that most of them will get was from our "angels". Pastor Esteban's team decorated a Winnebago (re-named the "Rudibego" after Rudolph) to help Santa deliver the gifts.

We also supported some local families whose children attend our own Bethania Preschool and After School Program with gifts. These families are our neighbors who are struggling with their financial challenges. The children were chosen by Director Eileen Knotts for assistance this Christmas season. We are very happy to be able to help some children who are attending our wonderful program based here at Bethania. In addition we helped a local family who is struggling have a much better Christmas together. Thank you, one and all.

Thank you all for your generous hearts and loving help with this project. With additional donated funds we were able to provide some food gift cards as well to some of the parents of our little Angels we had adopted. An extra special thank you to the gift delivery team of Gene Madsen and Don DeMeyer. Gene arranged to borrow the Valley Hardware delivery vehicle so that almost all of the gifts made it up to Santa Maria in one trip. Tom Wendt made the second delivery to help finish off the effort – thank you for helping us out at the end! Special Angels Lois and Don DeMeyer did additional shopping and helped out so much with this effort, including getting a Thrivent card to help with additional funds.

A heartfelt thank you to all the angels in our congregation and community who contributed in ways large and small to make this happen in 2020.

- Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry

Our Pews Are Full! (With Bags of Groceries)



(Thanks to Terry Delaney of Veggie Rescue for the picture of our Food Distribution ready to be handed out!)

Food Distribution Continues on Tuesdays

Feeding self needs a stomach. Feeding others needs a heart. It's ok if the former is smaller but make sure the latter is bigger. – Zaahid

I hope you are all very proud of Bethania's role in feeding our community members in need. Since March 24, 2020 we have distributed food to people who live right here suffering from food insecurity. We have done this without using any funds from Bethania or the church's Endowment Fund. ***I want to be clear on this point: we have not used any church money (money donated to finance the church's operations, projects or Endowment Fund) to fund this project. We receive USDA food from SB Co. FoodBank (which is no cost in the program we are in), and purchase all other food through donations received specifically for this purpose, i.e. Tuesday Food Distribution.*** Donations have been made in all amounts and from all sorts of people, including a donation from visitors to the area who happened by on a Tuesday when we were packing. In addition we have been fortunate to receive larger grants and donations from many individuals and entities, including but not limited to: SYV Rotary Foundation, Solvang Rotary, Los Olivos Rotary, Santa Ynez Valley Foundation, Santa Ynez Jewish Community, Bert Cohen Foundation, Cox-Winter Foundation, Montecito Bank & Trust, Visit Santa Ynez Valley and even our own ELCA synod leadership. These donations have made it possible for us to continue to provide the level of food assistance that has helped so many locally.

We could not do this without our fantastic volunteers, who work for hours doing very physical labor, in order to get the trucks unloaded, bags packed, produce sorted and bagged, bags and items into the waiting hands or vehicles of those who need our help. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and are of all belief systems. (Where else can you see a Rabbi getting bags ready while a professor is on his knees picking out the rotten oranges from a huge bin, next to an LDS Elder who is moving boxes into a Lutheran sanctuary?!) We come together, working hard and feeling joy in the knowledge that we are

helping people who need assistance. Our volunteers have huge hearts, and I am so proud to be able to say that we have worked together to make our Tuesday Food Distribution a special place for all.

Bethania continues operating as an Emergency USDA Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through drive up or walk up line each Tuesday. There are no restrictions on income or family size at this time. We serve people from all walks of life, and in all types of circumstances.

So many people coming through our Tuesday lines have expressed their appreciation and gratitude for this distribution, it is truly a life changing bag of food for so many. We see the need and are very blessed to be able to provide this service through our church facility to our neighbors who are struggling.

We can always use donations of protein items (canned chicken, tuna, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter) and staples such as canned vegetables, pasta and sauce, jelly, honey, cereal, soup and chili. Donations can be left in the church or you can contact me to drop off items. **We also distribute diapers and wipes, along with incontinence and feminine hygiene items, which are very needed.** Donations are appreciated in these areas also.

If you would like to help, please contact me. We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission as we head into a new year and new challenges.

–Linda Marzullo
Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
688-5219 (Work), 688-3059 (Home) or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

NOTE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: In the Jan. 5-18, 2021 issue of the **Santa Ynez Valley Star**, an article written by staff at the Star states that Bethania funds 50% of the food and FoodBank funds the other 50%. Like Linda mentions in the article above, Bethania does not provide any money from our General Fund, Endowment Fund or any other account to purchase food. Money to purchase food comes 100% from donors, foundations and charitable groups. FoodBank provides Bethania with food at no cost. Ron Walsh further explains the funding in an article later in the Beacon. Bethania only pays Waste Management for an additional weekly dumpster pick-up for cardboard due to the Food Distribution Program.

Blessing Box

You may bring canned and boxed food to the Blessing Box located on Atterdag Rd. You may also drop off fresh produce. The Blessing Box is always open. People in our community help themselves when they need to. If you have a lot of food to donate, please contact Linda Marzullo.

Food Needs at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

Our friends at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz currently have 32 families who are currently in quarantine due to COVID-19. Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie are taking care of these families by bringing them meals and helping with their other needs, in addition to supplying weekly lunch which they take to field workers and distributing food to those in their congregation who are in need. The congregation members at Iglesia are among those who are truly struggling, along with many people here in the Santa Ynez Valley. The people who do the work to put food on the tables for all of us do not have enough to eat – something to think about.

Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie continue to ask for help for members of Iglesia as their pantry is out of basic food needs for their members. Iglesia could also use additional financial support at this time to

help put gas in their van so they can travel, buy needed items (such as diapers, sanitary napkins and formula) and help with emergencies. If you can help by donating some of the items below, please leave them in the box in the sanctuary or contact me for drop off. Your donations are making a difference in a life and in families of hard-working people. If you would like to make a financial donation, please be sure to earmark it for "Iglesia".

If you are able to make a run with a load of items, please let me know.

Urgently needed: Dry Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee – Snacks (such as Cookies) – Bottled Juice – Feminine Products – Shampoo – Laundry Detergent – Dish Soap – Bleach and Cleaning Products – Baby Diapers (All sizes especially 5&6).

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for all our ministries at Bethania.

– Linda Marzullo

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast: January Packing

Our next socially distanced packing day will be in January, date to be confirmed. Check the bulletin and emails for confirmation of date and time. We will pack in the church, maintaining strict distancing and sanitizing procedures. If you feel able to help, please be aware that you will need to follow our guidelines for this project in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Kei Lin Foundation, we will be able to continue our Brown Bag Breakfast program for 2021. This is a huge relief since we know that funds are tight for us all. Their grant will make it easier to create the healthy breakfast bags that our local senior count on.

The bags we make up are intended to provide items which can be eaten while taking medications and to guarantee a morning meal (and sometimes an afternoon snack). Some SYV seniors are living in such difficult circumstances that they do not have enough food for their meals and medication-taking needs. We have made it a priority to help these seniors be more secure by providing our little brown bags, which the Buellton Senior Center currently distributes.

We continue to collect items for the bags from those who are able to donate. The church is open daily (usually from 9-5) and you can drop off items inside. Or, you can leave them at the church office when open or drop them off on the packing day. You can also make a donation and earmark it "Brown Bag Breakfasts" so we can go do the shopping.

Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)

Protein Bars

Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles

Pudding (non-refrigerated)

Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars

Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)

Fruit Cups or Applesauce

Thank you for your support of this project. Your help, in whatever way you are able, 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

Assign Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a contract holder with Thrivent, you have “**Choice Dollars**” to assign each quarter. Please make the effort to elect one of several entities near and dear to Bethania’s heart. You can direct dollars to Bethania Preschool & After School, Bethania Lutheran Church or Atterdag Village of Solvang.

Please also remember that as a Thrivent Member you are allowed to activate two “**Thrivent Action Team Projects**” (\$250 each) per year. The Church Office can help you with the paperwork and could make some project suggestions.

Some of the Action Team Projects that have been completed through Bethania’s members in the past: materials for Lutheran World Relief, Day of Service projects, Touch-A-Truck for the Preschool, Vacation Bible School, Youth Rummage Sale, Brown Bag Breakfasts, Iglesia Angel Project, buying Iglesia Luterana a new refrigerator, buying a new basketball hoop for the After School program, buying playground supplies for the preschool and markers for the school age children, our Hike-For-Hunger barbecues, and more.

Events and Occasions

The following list appeared in the bulletins on Christmas Eve. We are listing it also in the January Beacon in case you didn’t come to the services.

Poinsettias Given by

Lisa Blanton in loving memory of her parents James & Rena Blanton,
brother David Blanton and dear friend Sandi Severson
Gerda Willis in memory of Paul Willis

Norm & Suzanne Iversen in memory of Oswald & Herdis Iversen

Denise Johnson in memory of Sam Johnson and in memory of Lewis & Margaret Moniot

Liz & Bruce Beeler in memory of their daughter Amy

Wendy Bevier honoring health care workers

Marilyn Larsen & Carol Lake in memory of loved ones

Karen Bell in memory of Tony Bell

Don & Ilse Popma win honor of their friend Don Born who passed away suddenly in 2020

Jan Simonsen in memory of Dorleen & Hank Simonsen

Kristyl, Jim & Sean Downey in memory of Freddy & Earl Downey and Mike Downey
and Flora, Wilbert McGaw and Kyle McGaw

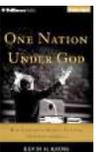
Virtual Theo Pub



Theology Pub will be gathering on Zoom on Jan. 14 at 7 pm. An email will be sent out with the link to join on Zoom and we’ll post the link on social media. See you then!

Book Club

Book Club will be continuing its discussion of One Nation Under God by Kevin Kruse. If you would like to join, an email will be sent out with the Zoom link. We’ll be gathering virtually on Jan. 28th and discussing part III. You can get the book at The Book Loft or Amazon, but please consider supporting our local businesses.



Church Business

Church Office

Due to the most recent restrictions for our area, the Church Office is not open. We are getting mail and checking phone messages and email. So please keep in contact and we'll figure out a way to handle requests. We will be doing business remotely until circumstances allow otherwise.

Virtual Worship Service and Sunday School

Each week a worship service, led by Pastor Chris, is recorded, as well as a Sunday School lesson taught by Livier Ghamari- Brown and uploaded to YouTube. Check in on our Facebook Page and be a part of Bethania's virtual community!

If someone you know would like to be added to our email list to receive the links, please let us know at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com.

Council Meeting Report - December 2020

The December 2020 monthly Council meeting was held at 7 pm on Dec. 17, 2020. Members present were Emily Abello, Wendy Bevier, Pastor Chris, Stewart Fries, Lynne Hemming, Carol Lake, Lori McConnell, Carolyn Schuit, and Anne Twigg. Josh Bratt and Jeanelle Needham were not present. The church business manager, Ron Walsh, was also present.

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

The council discussed:

- Change in choir and music director position
- Resumption of indoor prerecorded services
- Update on the increased demand for Food Distribution
- Reactions to the "News from the Bethania Council" included with the last Beacon
- Reactions to the Financial Appeals letter dated 11/30/20
- Council members stepping down from the council and nominating committee recommendations
- Utilization of janitorial closet

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021.

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

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet **News from the Bethania Council**

To be more informative and transparent, your Church Council is continuing the new process of communicating news and publishing decisions we have made via the Beacon. Our goal, each month, is to announce major decisions taken by the council to help everyone stay abreast of issues facing the church. Questions, if any, about these discussions, decisions, or messages should be addressed to a council member preferably in writing.

From the December, 2020 Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Music and Choir Director. Upon the resignation of Kathryn Imani for personal reasons, the church has engaged the services of Joyce Michaels in the position of Music and Choir Director. These services will begin when the Coronavirus restrictions have been eased.

- Council Changes.
 - Stewart Fries and Carolyn Schuit have decided to step down from the Council. The Nominating Committee is canvassing potential replacements. The protocol is that the Council will appoint “interim council members” until a full slate of council members can be advanced and approved at the next congregational meeting. The matter of appointing interim council members will be taken up at the January 2021 Council meeting.

 - All other council members have agreed to extend their service on the Council until a full slate of council members can be advanced and approved at the next congregational meeting.

 - Wendy Bevier has asked to be relieved as Secretary of the Council although she has agreed to remain on the Council. The matter of a replacement Secretary will be taken up at the January 2021 Council meeting.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these topics, please contact one of the council members below:

Emilly Abello	Stewart Fries	Lori McConnell
Wendy Bevier	Lynne Hemming	Carolyn Schuit
Josh Bratt	Carol Lake	Anne Twigg

Treasurer's Report - November 2020

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position remains strong with \$44,722 in the general fund after paying all liabilities for November.
- The money market fund is down by \$3,000 from the previous month due to the movement of cash from the funds for food distribution.
- All liabilities are current with the exception of the pension liability, and the church has no indebtedness

Profit and Loss, Budget Performance:

Income:

- Under other income, the \$10,000 represents two months of support from the Endowment Fund.
- Offerings continue to be below budget (by \$4,801 for the month of November, and below budget for the first 11 months by over \$23,000.) It is interesting to note that non-member offerings are up by 24% for the first 11 months and member offerings are down by 12% during the same period.
- Total income for the month was up by \$2,825 due to the double payment from the Endowment Fund.
- Total income for the first 11 months was down by \$20,000 at 92%

Expenses:

- Salaries and benefits were slightly over budget by \$509 for the months, but are under by \$9,048 for the first 11 months (that takes into account reducing the salaries paid for the preschool through the PPP loan)
- Staff expenses for the month were under budget by \$663 and were at 72% of budget for the first 11 months.
- Office administration expenses were under for the month and for the year as well.
- Property expenses were down for the month by \$208 and well below budget by \$10,000 for the year. This is largely due to curtailing nearly all outside maintenance services.
- Utilities are under budget for the month and at 92% of budget for the year to date.
- All other expenses are at or below budget for the year.
- Overall expenses for the year are below budget by nearly \$26,000.

Overall:

We continue to see reduced member offerings, which is a major concern as we move to the end of the year. We have reduced expenses significantly and will continue to do so through the end of the year.

A Letter from Our Business Manager

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

To say that 2020 has been a challenging year for us would be a gross understatement! Since March we have been unable to worship in person, or conduct any of our normal activities. What we all thought would be a “temporary shelter in place” became the new normal for nearly a year...and who knows how much longer this will last.

Through it all, with God’s Grace, Bethania has survived and in many cases, thrived as we ministered to our members and our community. Our on-line worship experiences, our Senior Brown Bag Breakfast program, our Emergency Food Distribution, the Blessing Box, converting our garage into a food pantry, and our wonderful Angel Project in support of Iglesia’s children and families all have shown that the members and friends of Bethania Lutheran Church supported these missions with their time, talents and financial resources. Praise Be To God!

In the past several months there have been question asked about the funds to operate the church the Endowment Fund, and the funds for the food distribution. I would like to address these funds and hopefully explain how they relate to each other.

The church’s operating budget is related directly to the income and expenses to the mission and ministry of our church. The operating budget pays the salaries for our staff, the utilities to keep our doors open, our liability and property insurance, our maintenance both inside and outside of the church grounds, our music programs, our Sunday School programs, our benevolence to the Synod and other programs, our office administration, our worship supplies, our outreach programs, and yes, even some taxes that we must pay. (It should be noted that we were able to reduce these expenses by between 15-20% since March.) All of these expenses are funded primarily from member and non-member giving, from rental usage of our facilities by non-church groups (which has been nearly zero this year), and from fund-raising (which has been largely curtailed this year as well). Thanks to the generosity of our members (and even non-members, especially in the month of December where we saw over \$50,000 donated in just that month), and from the Endowment Fund contributing nearly \$30,000 to the church’s operating fund, we will come very close to balancing our budget for 2020! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The Endowment Fund was created as a way for members to give to Bethania through their estate and wills as a way to insure the continued operations of the church in the future. The funds are invested through the ELCA funds, and Thrivent Financial Funds, and only the earnings (and usually only a portion of those earnings) on the funds are used for distribution, so the fund continues to grow for the future. The fund gives scholarships to students from Bethania to further their college education, gives to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz to support their ministry, supports special projects for the church and preschool, supports Santa Ynez Cottage Hospital Foundation and other worthwhile community projects. The Endowment Fund has its own committee, independent of the Church Council, and reviews requests from the Council and other church bodies.

Food Distribution funding comes primarily from the community at large, civic organizations, service clubs, foundations, grants, and other church groups. **Over 98% of the funds donated to this project are from these sources, and are restricted only for use in the food distribution program.** Linda Marzullo has tirelessly contacted people and groups and has raised nearly \$50,000 for this project. While the majority of the food that is distributed comes from the Santa Barbara County Foodbank, (which is donated through Feeding America and the USDA), she routinely purchases items to supplement what the Foodbank gives us. She also has purchased diapers and wipes which are given to families that need them. There are nearly 75 volunteers involved in this ministry and well over half are

not members of the church, but are community members that believe in our mission. We have been distributing food for the past 41 weeks, and the need still continues. On an average Tuesday evening, we will serve approximately 300 families with 1,200 family members. That translates into 12,300 families, 49,200 family members, and over 300,000 pounds of food since we started. Bethania is truly the hands and feet of Jesus during this pandemic. We give thanks for our great volunteers and to the hundreds of people and organizations that have funded this ministry.

It should be noted that the church's operating budget does not directly fund this effort, but does contribute by paying the extra utilities. The Endowment Fund has not contributed to the food distribution, but has funded the church during this time to allow us to continue all our ministries, including the food distribution.

Please hold up all these ministries in your prayers.

If you have any questions regarding the funding sources of these programs please do not hesitate to call our treasurer Lori McConnell or me.

In the Peace of the Lord,

Ron Walsh
Business Manager

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 an Loved Ones of ...

Pastor Glenn Hetland - Pastor Hetland died July 23, 2020. Pastor Hetland served Bethania as interim pastor before Pastor Tarkki was called.

Pat Bode - Pat died in mid December 2020.

Betty Ulinder - Betty died Jan. 1, 2021. Betty was a friend of Donna Claytor.

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Greg Braund, Annette Clausen, Kerstin Emerson, Chris Frederiksen, Sheldon & Pat Green, Shannon Hazard, Belle Hoger, Suzanne Hollrah, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Gladys Jorgensen, Jeanne Labarge, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Stewart Mee, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Robert & Shelly Myers, Roger Myers, Eric and Mallory Oftebro, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearsson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Vince Pillow, Joyce Purvis, Tim Reed, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, Clay Tremblay-McGaw and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Thank You's and Other Notes

We received a Christmas card from Robert E. Jennings who has been on our prayer list. He wished us a "Merry Christmas and many of God's blessings in the New Year. I am so grateful for your continued prayers as I go through another round of chemotherapy for stage IV lung cancer."

**Thankful,
Robert E. Jennings**

Dear Bethania Family,

We are so grateful for your YouTube worship services, for Pastor Chris's sermons, and your outreach to the community. You are an inspiration.

**In God's Peace & Love,
Lance & Monique Poldberg**

To Bethania -

Rob and I would like to donate to the food distribution fund. Such a great thing the church is doing. With the holidays coming up (Thanksgiving and Christmas) we would like to help air families in need. Thinking of how much our Far Far (Robert) loved his church we are blessed to be able to donate at this time.

Robert & Janet Petersen
***We would like to donate this in his name.**

Photos



Don De Meyer & Gene Madsen
with Delivery van for Iglesia's
Christmas Angels (above)
Pastor Salazar (right)



The Beacon

January 2021

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Be a
Blessing!

[Lisa Fotios](#) from [Pexels](#)