



The Beacon

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

April 2021

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Pastor Chris's Message

I love happy endings. My favorite film is Forrest Gump and it has a beautiful happy ending. The movie starts with Forrest as a little boy getting on the school bus for the first time as he begins his difficult journey in life and the film ends with Forrest walking his son to the same bus stop with all the confidence and love he can bestow upon him. What makes this ending so happy and meaningful is we get to see the struggle Forrest goes through to get to this point. He's ridiculed for his perceived intellect, he loses his only friend in Vietnam, he loses his mother and biggest supporter, and he loses the love of his life in more ways than one. The peace he has at the end of the movie comes from so much struggle and resilience and remaining a kind and giving person throughout. The audience knows that not only does Forrest deserve it, but he's aware of how meaningful it is too. No wonder the film won best picture in an amazing year for film.



Easter is the happy ending for Christians. However, for a lot of Christians it's part of the story we try to rush to, often skipping over the cross and what we call "Good Friday". There's a part of the Easter story I particularly love. When Jesus resurrects from the dead, the first person he reveals himself to is Mary Magdalene, who is at his tomb weeping over his death. Unlike the rest of Jesus' disciples, Mary did not run away when Jesus is arrested. She sticks with him, being at the foot of his cross while he breathes his last. While the men in Jesus' entourage are cowering for fear of their lives, here stands Mary, weeping over the person she loves most.

I like to think Jesus appears to Mary first, not because she deserves it, but because his resurrection will bear the most meaning to her; because she witnessed the sorrow of his death so viscerally, she will experience his resurrection most powerfully. There is a moment after Jesus appears to Mary, where she is the only person in the world who knows he has risen—and I think Mary is the only person capable of holding on to this truth alone, even if but for a moment.

With this pandemic, our own Easter is on the horizon. When we finally get to this landmark of "post-COVID", there will be a point where we need to ask, "Where do we go from here?" For Jesus' disciples, when they all witnessed his resurrection they entered into a new world and asked where to go from there. What informed them was not to jump back into the way things were, but to reflect on what they had been through, including the stuff that was painful and a struggle. And their lessons were that in a world of inevitable pain and struggle, the central elements that create joy and beauty are love and compassion. As they ventured into a "post-resurrection" world, their ministry was centered on radical love and compassion, even in the midst of extreme pain and struggle, and I believe that's the true hope of Easter. I hope therein lies some truth for all of us as we reflect on where we go from here.

- Pastor Chris

A Letter from the Church Council

Dear Members and Friends of Bethania,

We write to you today to share some updates and an announcement. Council has spent this time consistently monitoring COVID cases in our area and guidance from Santa Barbara County Public Health so that we may feel safe when we resume in-person worship. It's been a difficult year with case numbers fluctuating quite a bit and offering little in the way of consistency. We know this has been difficult for all of us, but our number one priority has been to make sure that whatever we do, our congregants are safe.

Because of vaccine distribution and a significant drop in case numbers, combined with more favorable weather, it is with joy that we share Bethania will be starting outdoor, in-person worship on Sunday, April 11, at 9:30 am. For those who are unable to come in-person, or who do not wish to, we will be live-streaming the service on our YouTube page so that anyone can still participate.

In regard to worship in the sanctuary, President Biden has said that he expects vaccines to be available for any adult who wants them by May 1. If that timeline persists, we hope to be back in the sanctuary sometime in July. However, we will continue to look to county health for guidance in this area. In the meantime, please continue to wear masks and social distance. If you have not gotten the vaccine, please consider doing so, but, whatever choice you make is understandable.

We will be sending out more information about the outdoor service in the coming week. If you have any questions or comments, you may reach out to any of us on council. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time, and hopefully, the end is in sight.

Blessings,

Bethania Church Council

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Update on Worship Services

Great News! Bethania will be resuming in-person worship, outdoors, in the courtyard between the sanctuary and the Parish Hall. We will start on **April 11** at our usual time, **9:30 am**. We will be requiring masks at all times and social distancing between households. Please make sure if you're feeling unwell, to stay at home. You can also help by bringing your own chair, but we will have chairs available for those who don't. For those who wish to or have to continue worshipping virtually, we will be live streaming this service. PLEASE NOTE: this means you will NOT be able to watch the service at your leisure, but will have to tune into our YouTube page by 9:30 am pacific time. If you miss this service, it will be available on our YouTube page later on in the day. If you have any comments or questions, please contact the office.

Youth and Family Ministry

Happy Easter!!

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 later this year.

RECRUITING NOW!!!

Vacation Bible School will be **July 2021**. Each year grows in success because of Bethania's helpful volunteers. Please let me know if you can help.

Still in search of the following items:

Masking tape & Silver duct tape

X-Large cardboard boxes to build a bridge

White & Blue iridescent paper

Artificial Christmas trees

Stacks of white & blue & black paper

White & Blue fairy lights

Polyester fiberfill/ batting

Thank you Don Thompson for the 2 pairs of adult size rain boots! Thank you Betty Petersen for the x-large cardboard box!

Sending abundant blessings,

Livier Ghamari-Brown, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

livierghamari@yahoo.com

[\(909\) 962-9366](tel:(909)962-9366)

Bethania Preschool & After School

We are celebrating April, the month of the young child! April has been designated the Month of the Young Child, designed to highlight the unique needs and rights of young children and their families. We know that about 90% of the brain is developed by age 5 and the first 1,000 days (3 years) are a window of opportunity to invest in the future of our community.

That means that all activities young children engage in – from mundane daily routines like brushing their teeth, to exciting adventures like watching a live puppet performance – can have a lasting impact on their growth and resilience.

Here is a list of activities to do with your young child. One for each day of April. Or for those of you without a young child available, do them yourself and have some fun!

1. Chalk your driveway leaving messages for neighbors.
2. Prepare your meals & snacks together.
3. Music & Movement Family Dance Party
4. Super Science. Does it float or sink?
5. Movie & Popcorn
6. Play your favorite music.
7. Count how many squirrels you see in your neighborhood.
8. Pajama Day! Make a blanket fort!
9. Go for a drive and find red objects.
10. Make a card for a friend.
11. Super Science. Make Slime!
12. Have a tea party.
13. Make a sock puppet.
14. Art project collage with recycled materials
15. Act out your favorite nursery rhyme
16. Learn about a favorite author or artist
17. Bike, trike or stroll or hike.
18. Place piles of salt, sugar & flour on a plate. Feel & practice writing the ABC's in it.
19. Call a friend
20. Listen to music and draw/decorate your name
21. Act like your favorite animal.
22. Make window art with paint or colored tape.
23. Go on a walk collecting nature items to make a picture or sort them
24. Finger paint using pudding or cool whip
25. Super Science collect rocks! Sort, count & paint
26. Play music as you blow bubbles
27. Read a favorite story & draw a picture of it
28. Take Selfies with flowers
29. Lay outside, look at the clouds and find shapes
30. Prepare for May Day make baskets of flowers to give to friends & family

Most of all have fun!!!

I will close with one of my favorite quotes:

"Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me."

— Fred Rogers, television personality

Eileen

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday at St. Mark's

St. Mark's is inviting us to their Maundy Thursday service April 1 at 5:30 pm. The service will be held outdoors in their courtyard and on-line.

Good Friday - Tenebrae Service

The Tenebrae Service was recorded and will be available on Friday, April 2.

Chalk Drawing

We will be having chalk drawing in front of the church on Saturday, April 3. Chalk will be available all day and blocks will be marked so our collective drawings will form a cross. Please bring something to sit on or kneel on, water and snacks. The sanctuary will be open for breaks.

Easter Vigil at St. Mark's

St. Mark's is also inviting us to the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3 at 7:30 pm outside and on-line.

Easter

There will be two in-person services on Easter, one at 9 am and one at 11 am. Both will be in the parking lot. Please email us (bethanialutheranch@gmail.com) or call 805-688-4637 to make a reservation. The service will also be recorded and available on YouTube later Sunday afternoon.

Easter Cross

The Easter cross will be in front of the church on Easter morning out all day. Please feel free to bring flowers and place them in the cross. Each year it gets more and more beautiful.



Faith in Action

Lenten Challenge:122 Kits Packed!

Thanks to the few but mighty packers who showed up on March 28th, we assembled 122 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. With your donations and the items we had left over from last fall, these kits will help LWR provide much needed care to those in need around the world. Nancy and Fred Emerson used their Thrivent Project card grant to purchase the majority of the towels, which was a huge help.

LWR has a huge shortage of these personal hygiene kits in their warehouse, and have asked for assistance creating more. They rely on people like us to keep them supplied, so that they can supply areas globally when disasters strike. Current shortages are due to the pandemic, with churches and groups not being able to gather together to assemble.

Natural disasters such as earthquakes and refugee camps are typical distribution areas for these kits. With the advent of COVID-19, many people need more assistance with basic hygiene supplies. A few simple items can mean the difference between sickness and health, and life and death.

Thank you to everyone who donated, packed and supported this project. We will do another packing in the fall, so if you come across any of the needed items and would like to donate them, we will store them until our packing date.

Personal Care Kits contain:

1. Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20"x40" & 27"x52"), dark colors preferred
2. Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)
3. Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging – bulk buys can be repackaged by us)
4. Comb, sturdy wide toothed
5. Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

-Linda Marzullo
Chair, Social Ministry Committee

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast: April 18th Next Packing Day

Our third 2021 socially distanced Brown Bag Breakfast packing day will be on April 18th.

Times for setup and packing will be announced closer to date, since we are going back to outdoor worship. 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.

In March we packed over 800 bags. Currently the deliveries to seniors are amounting to 80 bags three times a week. We used some of our grant funds from the Kei Lin Foundation to purchase the items, who is supporting us again this year.

We are very grateful to those who also donated items to be packed. We couldn't do this without everyone helping in some way. YOU have all made a difference in the lives of these seniors. Every item you donate, every dollar you contribute, goes directly to helping a local senior. This is definitely a team effort – every contribution and every packer counts.

The bags we make up are intended to provide items for local seniors which can be eaten while taking medications and to guarantee a morning meal, afternoon snack or sometimes a late evening or midnight snack as one of the recipients let us know.

The church is open daily (usually from 9-5) and you can drop off any donated items you would like inside or at the church office in addition to bringing items to us on packing day. You can also make a donation and earmark it "Brown Bag Breakfasts" so we can go do the shopping. Any and all help is much appreciated.

- 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)

Each bag created by us makes a difference in the health and happiness of someone living right here in our valley.

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

Food Distribution Continues on Tuesdays

We celebrated our one year anniversary of the creation of our Tuesday Food Distribution – and now we are into the second year. We began this monumental undertaking on March 24, 2020. March 30th we were featured on KCOY to celebrate our one year anniversary – which was a surprise to all of us working hard to get the food out to our clients.

The continued need for the food distribution right here in the SYV is eye opening for all of us. Our volunteers and donors make this huge effort continue to be possible. We could not have done any of this without our wonderful volunteers and the support of so many donors.

Bethania's Emergency USDA Food Distribution site is every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through drive up or walk up line. 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.

Here are the numbers we served for the first four weeks of March:

March 2	322 Households	1209 Individuals
March 9	364 Households	1390 Individuals (91 first time this month)
March 16	348 Households	1357 Individuals (52 first time this month)
March 23	344 Households	1314 Individuals (49 first time this month)

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 appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. Our shifts will be at different times during April, so contact me to let me know if you are interested in volunteering.

We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission, which is making a difference in so many lives here in our area.

–Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

688-5219 (Work), 688-3059 (Home) or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Flowers for Residents of Atterdag and Friendship House



Image by _Alicja_ from Pixabay

Three “flower angels” (Caro Stinson and Nancy and Sarah Puder) make up small bouquets of flowers and take them to residents of Atterdag Village (all levels of care) and Friendship House. If you could like to assist the angels, you can give them small jars (for example, jars for jams or olives, canning jars, shrimp cocktail glasses, “Oui” brand yogurt glasses, spice bottles, etc.), small bottles and small vases. Simply call Caro Stinson at 805-245-4951 or Nancy Puder 805-448-7404 and they will pick them up at your convenience.

We thank everyone who has dropped off vases and jars!

Noisy Sunday April 25: Blessing Box Food Items

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on April 25th. With the hope of outdoor worship and the ability to drop off your donations at the office, everyone should be able to participate.

Our BLESSING BOX is hopping! We have helpers who stock the box usually beginning at 5:30 am through late evening. The Blessing Box enables people in the community to access assistance at any time, without any stigma, from the items within it. We have been encouraging the community and users of the box to donate a “blessing” when they are able, to help keep it stocked.

Special thanks to these helpers who keep the box stocked and ready: Elizabeth Breen, Kristyl Downey, Donna Hinsbeeck, Josh Bratt, Jan and Bill Zigler, Linda and Rick Marzullo, Denise Morris, members from St. Mark’s, and the Hospital employees – and many others.

With all the use of the box, from young kids to single adults to families and even a 90 year old gentleman, we need to keep a supply of items to keep it filled. Items needed include canned and dried foods, canned chicken, tuna, ham, sardines and Spam, snacks, cereal, coffee, cleaning supplies – basically whatever you use in your household, we would like to have to distribute. You can drop items off in the church between 9-5 daily, or contact me if you like: (805) 688-5219 at work. You may also email me at vikingpressprint@verizon.net.

*We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! **So send in your coins and cash and make a joyful jingle to help fill the Box on April 25^h.** Together, we can CHANGE our world.*

– Linda Marzullo, Chair
Social Ministry Committee

Hike Against Hunger ***Possibly later this year***

We aren't quite ready to return to our favorite activities – which unfortunately includes our Annual Hike Against Hunger as a group. The Hike has been an April highlight for years at Bethania and in the community.

Of course, you are welcome to walk, run or bike the beautiful almost 7 miles to Nojoqui Falls Park and make a donation to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal on your own. Or even to challenge your friends. Be creative and let us know what you decide to do.

We were going to challenge people to get sponsors and try this out – but as we are hoping to hold the hike sometime later this year, we urge you instead to enjoy the spring off, get out into nature, and admire God's most beautiful creation...Wildflowers!

Thanks to all for their love of this yearly event. Don't give up hope – we are almost able to do it again.

Events and Occasions

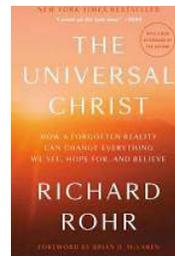
Virtual Theo Pub



Theology Pub will be gathering on Zoom on April 8 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

Bethania's Book Group will be continuing its discussion of Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*. If you would like to join, we'll be discussing chapters 11-14 on April 22 at 2 pm on Zoom. You can order the book through The Book Loft or online, but please consider shopping local. A Zoom link will be sent out by email and posted on social media the week of our first meeting so folks can join the discussion.



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief is back!!

Lois De Meyer has offered space at her home 144 Manzanita, Solvang and set up tables for those interested in tying quilts on Wednesday April 7. The first shift will tie from 10 - 12 am and the second shift from 1-3 pm. You may let Lois know you plan to attend by calling 805-688-3932. There are plenty of tops ready to be tied prepared by Shirley Heap and Lois. And we all know there is a great need for the quilts.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council March 18 Meeting

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 March Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- The opening for in-person worship was again discussed. The council felt that re-opening in the sanctuary might be possible in July. We discussed the possibility of outdoor in-person worship services, hopefully after Easter Sunday. More information to follow.
- It was decided that the Congregational Annual Meeting on April 11, would be in-person, outdoors at 1 PM with Zoom link for those that cannot attend in person.
- The amount that was due to Pastor Chris for his Housing Equity Allowance was less than the \$10,000 reported last month. The exact amount was \$8,661.46, and that has been paid to Pastor Chris.
- We discussed and approved a period of time at the beginning of each Council meeting to allow for congregational input via Zoom. A link for the Zoom meeting will be distributed each month and any member who wishes may address the Council during that public comment period.
- Voted to move forward with the lot-line adjustment for the Parsonage. The cost is approximately \$7,000 and will be funded through the property projects designated funds. This will allow us to have the Parsonage separated from the industrially zoned church property.
- Nominated Josh Bratt as the Synodical Representative He will be placed in nomination at the congregational annual meeting on April 11.
- In other business we approved a renewal for the bookkeeping contract, and the workers compensation policy for the church and preschool.

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

Emily Abello (805) 688-1243	Jasmine Day day.jasmine@gmail.com	Lori McConnell (805) 331-7971
Wendy Bevier (805) 680-1521	Lynne Hemming (805) 698-9886	Ann Twigg (805) 350-1922
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736

Treasurer's Report

Notes to Financial Statements

February 2021 Financials

March 16, 2021

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position is still strong with \$60,000.00+ in the checking account.
- The church now has over \$4,000,000 in total assets. There is no long term debt.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- Offerings for the month were under budget by \$3556.

Expenses:

- Salaries and other expenses are under budget, with expenses being well controlled.

Thank You's, Acknowledgements & Announcements

New Life for Old Roses



Gerda Willis is grateful to Carolynn Petersen who saved the roses from in front of the church office when we re-landscaped a while ago. Carolynn Petersen took them home, potted them and nursed them back to health. Then she and Brenda Knudsen gifted them to Gerda (for her 97th birthday!) to be planted by Jerry Olsen. Now they will have a second chance to bloom again and beautify Gerda's yard.

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 for the Family and Loved Ones of Gladys Jorgensen. Gladys died March 14, 2021.

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Greg Braund, Melissa Eck, Kerstin Emerson, Chris Frederiksen, Sheldon & Pat Green, Shannon Hazard, Belle Hoger, Suzanne Hollrah, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, 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 Pearron, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Joyce Purvis, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.



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Preschool/After School
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Outdoor Worship Services - Easter Sunday
9 am & 11 am - RSVP 805-688-4637

