



The Beacon

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

June 2021

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

Pastor Chris's Message

For better or worse, life sometimes gives us resets. When moments befall us that are so magnanimous you know things before will be different than things after life resets itself moving us into newness. Often these resets are so sudden it feels like we don't have much control in how things move forward once they have been reset. I think of deaths of loved ones as examples in sudden resets that feel outside of our control.

This pandemic is a reset. It has disrupted life for such an extended time that what was before seems distant. We've adapted to this pandemic lifestyle, whether we wanted to or not, and it has become our new normal. However, the reset that life is offering us is not in the adaptation to living in an active pandemic, but rather how we will live after it comes to an end. This pandemic, while changing rapidly at the beginning and now changing rapidly as it ends for our part of the world, didn't have the abruptness the death of a loved one might have. It lasted for over a year, a time of limbo, if you will. And yet, that limbo is what caused the reset because it has caused us to forget what normal was like before all this. My hope is that in the midst of such a challenging pandemic a silver lining might be the opportunity to pause and consider what kind of a society we want moving forward.

And so, I pose this to each of you: what do you think we, as a society and as individuals, should do with our reset? I imagine we can approach this question from an array of personal experiences, but being that we are a church and I am writing to fellow siblings in Christ, we must also take into account our Christian perspective as we think of how we move forward and what we do with this reset of ours. What did we take for granted? What values or vices has this time illuminated that we either need to cultivate better or let go of? What was important before that suddenly isn't so important now, and what did we learn in all this that's truly essential for ourselves and for our communities? How might this experience lead us to be the Church, God's presence, more authentically?

I'm not going to spend time sharing my thoughts on these questions because I want the focus to be your own thoughts and I truly hope you will spend time with each question. Consider them, think of answers to them, reflect so that as this pandemic winds down and we enter into life with this reset, we can be more intentional about helping create what we move into. And if you feel so inclined to share your answers, I would love to hear them.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris Brown



Youth and Family Ministry

Summer Greetings,

Virtual Sunday School on our Bethania YouTube channel ends for summer break. We will return for the fall session depending on regulations.

Events and fundraisers, like Space VR, Rummage Sale, Youth Bake Sale, etc. are being planned and restructured.

RECRUITING NOW!!!

Vacation Bible School will be **July 26-30, 2021**. Each year grows in success because of Bethania's helpful volunteers. Please let me know if you can help and THANK YOU to all the volunteers who willing be joining us so far!!!

THANK YOU Linda Grill for suggesting the Amazon Wish List. Please contact me for the link.

Still needing the following items:

Masking tape & Silver duct tape
White & Blue iridescent paper
Artificial Christmas trees

Stacks of white & blue & black paper
Polyester fiberfill/ batting

Sending abundant blessings,

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

Faith in Action

Readers Wanted

Would you read the lessons during the worship service on Sunday morning at 9:30 am? We need a few more people who would read once in a while. I can add you to my email list or I can call you. When I need readers, I send out a group email, usually at the beginning of the month. You can pick a Sunday and then I will send you the readings before your Sunday.

Please let me know.

Kristyl **805-688-4637** **bethanialutheranch@gmail.com**

The Produce Table Will be Open This Summer

Starting Sunday, June 6, the Produce Table will be open each Sunday after the Worship Service. And, in order to do so, we need volunteers to "run" it. Each person who takes a Sunday will get the materials from the closet in the Parish Hall and bring everything to the front of the church. Bethania's gardeners and friends in the community will bring their produce, vegetable starts, plants and flowers to the table.

After worship Bethania's "Greengrocer" will help people bag their produce and receive their donations. When everyone has been helped, the "Greengrocer" will count the Produce Table money and give it to the Pastor Chris to put in the Church Office. Proceeds benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Bethania's Food Pantry.

Please email Kristyl at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or call 805-688-4637 to select a date to run the Produce Table.

June 6, 2021	Kristyl Downey	July 4, 2021	_____
June 13, 2021	_____	July 11, 2021	_____
June 20, 2021	_____	July 18, 2021	_____
June 27, 2021	Elizabeth Breen	July 25, 2021	_____

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast: Watch for Next Packing Day

Our fifth 2021 socially distanced Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is tentatively scheduled for June 27th. Stay tuned for where we will be packing. The time will be following worship service, approx. 10:45.

In May we packed 675 bags. Currently the brown bag breakfast deliveries go to seniors are three times a week.

A mighty packing crew of 13 packed all of those bags. The crew included two visitors who had attended worship that morning. They were from San Jose and were intrigued. They went to Olsen's to get pastry and coffee, and came back to pack with us until the very end. Thank you, Cheryl and Wendy!

The bags we make up are intended to provide items for local seniors to eat while taking medications. Usually our bags are used for breakfast meds 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)	

We are very grateful to those who donate funds and also purchase 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.

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

Food Distribution Continues on Tuesdays

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 press time. We serve people from all walks of life, and in all types of circumstances.

Here are the numbers we served for the four weeks of May:

May 4	355 Households	1364 Individuals
May 11	333 Households	1296 Individuals (103 first time this month)
May 18	327 Households	1226 Individuals (65 first time this month)
May 25	352 Households	1435 Individuals (85 first time this month)



Produce from the FoodBank

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, at the church office or you can contact me to drop off items. **We also distribute diapers and wipes, along with incontinence and feminine hygiene items.** Donations of any of these products are greatly appreciated.

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. We need people to set up and pack some of the items in the morning at 10:30

and then another crew to help pack the bags and sort produce after 1:45. Unloading/moving helpers can come at 9:30 or 1:30. The evening distribution needs people who can lift heavy items and put things into cars, so if you are able to help, we would love to have you.

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
vikingspressprint@verizon.net

NOTE: We still need brown grocery bags.

Food Delivery from FoodBank



Noisy Sunday is Coming: June 27th Backpacks & Towels that will travel the world...

What is our donated change going to change this summer? We are going to help Lutheran World Relief make the world better for others, one backpack and one personal care kit at a time!

We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items to make up Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. (Assembly day will be Day of Service in September).

On June 27th, our jangling coins will be used to help purchase the most expensive parts of the kits (Backpacks and Towels). This is so that we can purchase these items in bulk to get the most items for our kits.

Send your quarters around the world in the form of a kit! All it takes is a toss into our Noisy Offering buckets during the special offering. We also ask you to consider contributing other needed items (See *related article*) as the summer rolls along and the special sales happen. You can drop items at the church office or contact me to arrange delivery.

LWR kits are a meaningful way to make a difference. By joining our coins and our donations together, we can turn ordinary items in extraordinary gifts. We will be helping children to attend school through our gifts of school supplies. We will be keeping people healthy in places where there is no access to soap and toothbrushes.

These items also help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes, fires and floods. Kits are also sent to those fleeing to escape violence, and people living in extreme poverty. Our donations made into kits show we care.

Together, we can “change” our world, one coin at a time, one “Kit of Care” at a time.

– Linda Marzullo
688-5219 or vikingspressprint@verizon.net

Personal Care & School Supply Kit Items Needed!

We will be collecting items this summer for the “DAY OF SERVICE” assembly of Personal Care Kits and School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

You can help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence, and living in extreme poverty. When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and refugee camps are typical distribution areas for these kits. Around the world people suffer each day because of lack of basic hygiene. In refugee camps and in the world's poorest communities, a few simple items can mean the difference between sickness and health, and life and death.

Why school supplies? Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Here are the items we are collecting. Watch for sales this summer!

Items needed are:

For Personal Care Kits:

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)

For School Supply Kits:

70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)	Rulers with centimeters and inches	
Pencil sharpeners	Blunt tip scissors	#2 Pencils
2-1/2" Erasers	Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)	

Bring your items to the donation box by the Sunday School office or to the church office.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Blessing Box

Recently we received a large donation of items from Food Bank, who wanted to contribute to the Blessing Box. Two pallets of items came which we have been merging into the box: vitamins, cleaners, Swiffers, coffee, detergent, air fresheners, shampoo, tea tree oil...so don't be surprised if you see a big assortment out there.

Feel free to put your food items that do not require refrigeration straight into the box on the Atterdag Road side of the church. Or contact the church office, or me if you like: (805) 688-5219 or (805) 688-3059. You may also email me at vikingpressprint@verizon.net if you need to arrange to meet.

Items needed for the Blessing Box include canned and dried foods, snacks, cereal, coffee, condiments, shelf stable milk, protein items, cleaning supplies (such as dish soap, laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaners), cooking oil, personal care items, meal kits, mac & cheese...you get the idea.

THANK YOU to all who have contributed items, donated, and helped to keep this project going. Our goal with the Blessing Box was to have anyone in the community be able to access assistance at any time, without any stigma, from the items within it. Special thanks to Elizabeth Breen, Donna Hinsbeeck, Carolyn Schuit, Kristyl Downey and Rick Marzullo, Jan Zigler and many others who are all assisting in keeping our "mighty pantry on a post" filled for people who need it.

If you or someone you know is in need, please be aware that food is available at Bethania in the Blessing Box 24-7 as well as at our USDA Tuesday Food Distribution, which is held from 5:15-6:45 each Tuesday.

If you are interested in helping to keep the box stocked, just drop off your items in the box itself or at the church office. You can also contact us for a day/time to sign up to help check the box – or just make a point of stopping by at a time good for you to see that it is filled. Thank you to all who already do this!

- Linda Marzullo

“God’s Hands” at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

Recently I delivered some food items, baby formula and cleaning supplies to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz, along with Bethania members’ monetary donations to their food ministry. While there, I was privileged to meet this man and his boys, who helped unload the car. I learned that one of the boys has been so depressed with his life that he has tried to kill himself several times. Pastor and Angie were going to take all the boys to the ocean for their very first time this past week. They are trying to keep the boys busy and occupied to take their minds off the hardships their family is enduring every day. Both parents work in the fields.

Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie are taking care of so many families and trying to meet so many urgent needs. This is very difficult for them with their limited income. Most of their congregation can only contribute a dollar or so to the offering – they have no money. Listening to the Salazars’ stories, I can clearly see that they are “God’s Hands” right in Santa Maria, working with the needy. Some of the young children think Pastor is actually God. He always corrects them, telling them he is merely God’s worker, or God’s Hands.

We learned of a young couple (both maybe 19 years old) who had twin girls, Bridget and Brenda. They were living in a garage, sleeping on the concrete. No beds, no furniture, no supplies...they needed clothing, formula, diapers. Someone donated a lounge chair so that the family could sleep up off the floor (there is no room for cribs, dressers, beds). The babies both developed breathing problems and were air lifted to the Neonatal unit in Fresno. We continue to pray for this family who is struggling so much. Thanks to Elizabeth Breen and her miraculous network and Bridget Cassara, we managed to quickly pull together items to help this family.

If you can help by donating some of the items below, please leave them in the box in the sanctuary, take to the church office, 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”. Iglesia has also applied for matching funds from the ELCA. Watch for more information coming soon.

Most 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).

Please pray for for all members of Iglesia who are struggling with hardships both financial and emotional in nature. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our friends at Iglesia.

– Linda Marzullo



A family from Iglesia helps unload the food we delivered.

Social Ministry Meets June 18 @ 5:30 pm

Anyone who is interested in invited to attend our socially distanced outdoor meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held **Friday, June 18, at 5:30 pm at the church.**

Agenda items include:

- Food Distribution / Food Pantry
- Brown Bag Breakfast Packing
- Produce Table
- Blessing Box
- Assistance to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz
- Day of Service LWR projects

Everyone is invited to these planning meetings – we are all involved in being the hands and feet of Jesus to the world.

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

Events and Occasions

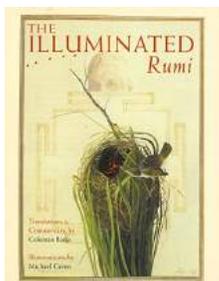
Virtual Theo Pub

Theology Pub will be gathering on Zoom on June 10th at 7PM. An email will be sent out with the link to join on Zoom and we'll post the link on social media. This will be our first "Open Topic Night" of the summer months so come with your questions or topics to share. See you then!



Image by [Alexander Lesnitsky](#)
from [Pixabay](#)

Book Club



Bethania's Book Group will be starting a new book in June called "The Illuminated Rumi." We're exploring the best way to purchase the book so we'll send an email when we find out with reading sections for June. If you would like to join, we'll be meeting on Zoom on June 24th at 2PM and a link will be sent out.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council May 20th 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 May Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Much discussion was held regarding in-person worship. With the availability of vaccines for all, and the fact that many of our members have already been vaccinated, the Council voted to resume in—person worship at full capacity beginning Sunday, May 23rd. Masks will still be required for all those attending; offerings will not be passed, but plates will be stationed at the rear of the sanctuary for offerings. The service will still be live-streamed for those not able to worship in person.
- The food distribution continues to serve the needs of over 1,100 persons each week. We believe it will continue for one to two months before we transition to the food pantry operation. With expected changes in state licensing requirements for the preschool, we will again be able to open our facilities to the community, and that will require changes in the food distribution program.
- The Council reviewed Pastor Chris's evaluation (conducted by Past President Stewart Fries, Congregation President Ron Walsh, Vice-President Jasmine Day, Secretary Carol Lake, and Treasurer Lori McConnell). We all agreed that Pastor Chris has been a blessing to our church and our community, and that he has exceeded our goals and expectations for him. Accordingly, the Council approved a 4% salary increase for him, which is within the guidelines established by the Synod and keeps his compensation package within the salary range for his tenure, and supported by the profile of our Congregation.
- Pastor Chris reported he is now back in the office full-time after resolving their child-care needs.
- Vacation Bible School will be held July 26th to July 30th from 6 PM to 8:30 pm. Unfortunately, food service will not be available this year due to COVID 19 concerns.
- Council voted to purchase protective covers for the two grand pianos (the newest one in the Sanctuary, and the older one which will now go into the Parish Hall), at a cost of approximately \$600 for both.

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

Emilly 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

**Bethania Lutheran Church
Notes to Financial Statements
April 2021 Financials**

BALANCE SHEET

	Apr 2021	Feb 2021	Change
Operating Acct	\$55,891	\$58,006	-2115
Money Mkt Acct	139,645	144,541	-4896
Petty Cash Acct	100	100	0
Fund Accounts	2,007,563	2,007,563	0
Fixed Assets	1,853,041	1,844,091	-8950
Total Assets	4,056,240	4,063,250	-7010
Current Liabilities	385,028	389,974	-4946
Equity	3,671,211	3,673,276	-2065
Total Liab/Equity	4,056,240	4,063,250	-7010

PROFIT & LOSS ACTUAL VS BUDGET

April 2021	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	20,062	25,203	
Total Expenses	22,145	26,465	
Net Income	-2065	-1262	

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position is still good with \$55,000+ in the checking account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- We were under budget by over \$5,000 in income (mostly offerings) for the month, and under budget by over \$13,000 for the first four months of the year. Endowment is committed to helping if necessary.

Expenses:

Salaries and other expenses are under budget, with expenses still being well controlled. Expenses overall are under budget by 10% for the first four months of the year.

Other News

Gerda Willis Completes a Thrivent Project!

A huge THANK YOU to Gerda Willis, who used her Thrivent grant card to provide us with diapers to give out to those in need. With the able assistance of her daughter Joanne Clark, she got the diapers from Costco and helped us make a lot of families happy. If you have a Thrivent card, it is easy to get \$250.00 towards any project you care about. Contact the church office if you have questions.

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



Congratulations to our Graduates!

Marilyn Larsen's granddaughter Kate Crossett graduates from Rensselaer Polytechnic University in Chemical Engineering and will be in a graduate research program at the University of Colorado at Boulder.



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 Russell Tomasini (Rick's dad) who died April 20, 2021

The family and loved ones of Chip Orton (Carol's husband) who died May 14, 2021

The family and loved ones of Jacqui Doane, (friend of Kristyl Downey). Jacqui died May 24, 2021.

Other prayer concerns...

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Melissa Eck, Kerstin Emerson, Chris Frederiksen, Sheldon & Pat Green, Shannon Hazard, Shirley Heap, 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 Pearsson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

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