



The Beacon

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

August 2021

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Pastor Chris's Message

What is a Christian's role in society? Is it private? Public? A combination? Circumstantial? I've been thinking about this a lot lately. If 260 million of the 330 million people in this country say they're Christian, and if, with those numbers, we were able to solve hunger, houselessness, or poverty, should we? Should that work be relegated to whatever we choose in our individual lives, or is Christianity's compulsion to join together with other Christians, something like a society, and solve these issues? Or is concern for the welfare of the human being's soul enough to suffice Jesus' command to "love others the way I've loved you"?



Genuinely consider those questions. There was a time where the influence of a gathering of Christians did not extend beyond the village or town. During that time, resources were dependent on the climate or circumstances of that town and the levels of hunger correlated with how much food was able to be harvested. That's not the case anymore. Towns are not isolated from one another, and global trade is commonplace so that the food supply is fed by countries all over the world. We don't have a food shortage in our country. As humans, we have the resources and technology to end hunger, poverty, and houselessness. And yet, two-thirds of the human population suffer from hunger. What do you think Jesus has to say about our role as Christians in responding to this? Again, what is a Christian's role in society?

I'm proud of where our church has stood regarding the ministries we choose. We do not go out into our community seeking to evangelize, but rather we follow the guidance of that Franciscan proverb: Preach the gospel in all things and if necessary, use words. Our Food Distribution volunteers do the most incredible job responding to hunger in our valley and this ministry is such a blessing to our community. At the same time, I'm cognizant that our church is doing this as a singular entity and by ourselves we cannot end hunger in our community. Knowing the hearts of our Food Distribution leaders and volunteers, I feel confident in saying that if given the choice of continuing this ministry or ending hunger entirely, they would all choose to end hunger. While that seems like a fantastical question, what if it's not? What if it's merely about a shift in our hearts?

I fundamentally believe this is where Jesus comes in. Jesus doesn't give us a direct plan for solving these problems, he simply says, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." Jesus' focus seems to be on creating a shift in heart, which is why he so often talks about love. Perhaps Jesus focuses on the heart because he knew the world would evolve, and thus, our ability to respond to these problems more efficiently would evolve as well. And so the question remains, What is a Christian's role in society? Maybe this is a question the world could benefit from if all followers of Jesus stopped for a moment and pondered its response.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris

Masks Required

Dear Siblings in Christ:

By now many of you have probably heard that the County of Santa Barbara has once again mandated masks to be worn indoors until further notice. While this is unfortunate news, it clearly shows that the Pandemic is still with us and infecting many new people in our communities.

Your Church Council (including Pastor Chris) have reviewed this mandate, and have voted to reinstate the wearing of masks for all indoor activities, including worship services, effective this Friday, Aug. 5, and continuing until the mandate is changed by the County.

While we realize that over 95% of our worshipping members and visitors are fully vaccinated, we also must remember that we are called to be followers of Christ, and that we must lead by example. Let us all lift up our community, and most especially our health care workers, in our prayers as we all deal with this resurgence of the Pandemic.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this decision. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or any other member of the Church Council.

Peace of the Lord be with you all,

Ron Walsh
Congregation Council President

Youth and Family Ministry

Hello Bethania,

Childcare during services provided in the Fireside Room until we are allowed to share the indoor preschool classrooms. Sunday School curriculum will return in September.

The Annual Rummage Sale has been converted to an impromptu Garage Sale on Saturday, Aug. 7th from 8 am-12 pm due to so many items accumulated over the last year and a half. If you'd like to assist please call me. Proceeds go to ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, summer 2022!

Due to seasonal heat, trips to Space VR and Escape Room will be in the evenings. Youth Bake Sale will be held in the coming months.

Vacation Bible School went perfectly!!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who donated items and/or their time to make this a special week for many children!

continued on next page...

Donna Hinsbeeck, Josh Bratt, Jasmine Day, Glenda Madrid, Mindi Christian, Pastor Chris Brown, Carolyn Schuit, Diana Boltz, Jan Zigler, Heidi Morss, Shane Silva, Monica Dunn, Louie Martinez, Tasha Morphy, Courtney Tan, Abigail Sample, Melissa O'Guinn, Jenn Henderson, Dane Meyer, Ron Walsh, Kathy Walsh, Marilyn Larsen, Alice Laufer, Robert Laufer, Brenda Knudsen, Caro Stinson, Avy Bratt, Kaitlyn Kelleher, Annie Hecker, Ali Willis, Robby Petersen, Kaitlyn Petersen, Kayla Bento, Ainsley Peterschick, Aria Riley, and Christine Pickavet and the Preschool staff for accommodating us each day!!!

Sending love,

Livier Ghamari-Brown

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

livierghamari@yahoo.com

(909) 962-9366

Bethania Preschool and After School

From Our Incoming Director

Hi, my name is Lola Gonzalez; I am excited to be serving as the new director at Bethania Preschool & After School. I grew up in the Santa Ynez Valley my whole life and I am a proud mother of 3 beautiful girls all who attend Solvang School and our very own After School program. Bethania has been a blessing for me and my family in many ways. I feel very fortunate to be able to work at a place where I can see my daughters play and grow. I have been working here for the past 3 years as the After School lead teacher. I have an educational background in Early Childhood Education which led me to take on leadership positions in my career. I am very thankful for this promotion as the director. I am excited to see myself grow in this new position and continue to help the little ones in the community be loved and supported. I genuinely love and care for all the kids. I have built some great relationships with them and their families and I am so happy to be guiding the next generation of "Bethanians." I want to take this moment to thank you all for your support in my decisions and I look forward to getting to know all you.

Lola Gonzalez

Bethania Preschool & After School Director

From Our Out-Going Director

As I am writing this I am thinking, "Wow, this is my last Beacon article..."

Through the years I have tried to share with you the Incredible program that is Bethania Preschool & After School. It has filled my life with so much joy, laughter and love, I can't begin express it all. I thought I would end with a repeat of my first Beacon article. (Yes I have it...I am a bit of a pack rat!)

"I want to share with you a little about our goals here at the Child Care. We are a Preschool and do what that name implies. We are a stepping stone in preparing children for their school experience. The teachers here work cooperatively to coordinate the learning of the children. Each class has a set of goals for the children to meet before moving up to the next class level. We communicate with the various Kindergarten teachers throughout the Valley so that we know what they expect from a child entering their classrooms. The following is an overview of our goals here at Bethania Preschool.

DEVELOPMENT OF SELF:

Development of an image of the self as a unique and competent person.

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The ability to interact with their world in a development of communication- both verbal and non-verbal for child/child, child/adult, and child/group interchanges.

PSYCHOMOTOR DEVELOPMENT:

An environment is provided that promotes controlled and coordinated use of large and small muscles, and increases eye/hand and eye/foot coordination.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Our lesson plans are designed to develop and utilize the curious questions of a child. We strive to develop the child's ability to think, reason, infer and generalize.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

Children are given the opportunity to learn about God through stories, songs and chapel. We teach basic concepts from the Bible about Jesus, Church and Family.

I hope that this provides you with more knowledge about our Preschool Program here at Bethania. Please stop by and visit us, we would love to show you around!"

There it is, my first article. I am proud to say that these are still the goals here. We strive to make the child's experience here the best possible.

I want to thank everyone for their support and interest through the years.

I will miss this greatly....

"May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of his hand."

Blessings,

Eileen

Eileen Knotts Recognized by the City of Solvang



On July 12, Miss Eileen was honored by the Solvang City Council with an official proclamation celebrating her 30 years as Bethania's Preschool and After School Director. If you would like to watch the dedication, [click here](#). The proclamation begins at the 28 minute mark and it's a few minutes long. We're so happy to see Miss Eileen honored in this way!

Enjoy!

Thanks to Livier for the Photos!



Faith in Action

Meals on Wheels

Bethania's Meals on Wheels team is in need of a couple of people who could be a substitute driver and deliver Meals on Wheels for Route 1 on Wednesday. If you are willing to be a substitute, please give Emily Abello a call at 805-688-1243 if you can volunteer for this position.

The Produce Table Will be Open This Summer

The Produce Table opened June 6 and will be open each Sunday after the 9:30 worship service or come early before the 11 AM Unorthodox Gathering. 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 the Produce Table Volunteer (PTV) will help people bag their produce and receive their donations. When everyone has been helped,

the PTV 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.

Aug. 8	Kristyl Downey
Aug. 15	Marie Jaeger
Aug. 22	_____
Aug. 29	_____

We are grateful for the rhubarb, zinnias, boysenberries, zucchini bread, squash and more.

Thank you to everyone for your support!

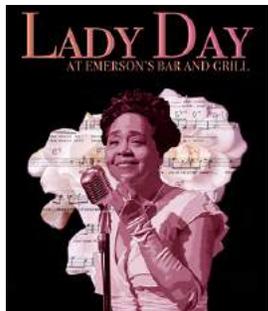
Kristyl Downey

Events and Occasions

Theo Pub

Theology Pub will be gathering once again at Solvang Brew! We'll be getting together at 7PM on Thursday, Aug. 12. The summer months are "Open Topic" night, so bring your own questions or comments. And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!

Theaterfest

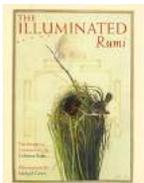


Emily Abello is organizing another trip to PCPA Theaterfest this summer. The play is "Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill" featuring music of Billy Holiday on Aug. 27th. Cost is \$38.75. If you are interested, please give Emmy a call at 805-688-1243 to reserve a place.

Food Distribution Volunteer BBQ

Our Food Distribution has been feeding people in this valley for over 70 weeks, and we would like to thank all our volunteers who have made this possible! We will be having a BBQ on August 29 for all our Food Distribution volunteers, down in Hans Christian Andersen Park at 12:30PM. We will have hamburgers, yummy sides, cool beverages, and some raffle prizes to give away. So if you have volunteered for the Food Distribution please join us!

Book Club



Bethania's Book Group will be continuing The Illuminated Rumi. We'll be discussing chapters 7 & 8. If you would like to join, we'll be meeting on Zoom on August 26th at 2PM and a link will be sent out.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council July 15th 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 July Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- The double door refrigerator in the kitchen stopped working, and could not be repaired. We purchased a new refrigerator and it was installed within a week of the old one going out.
- The council voted to utilize unrestricted donations to purchase part of the new refrigerator (\$2,900 and voted to ask the memorial fund for the remaining \$1,900.
- Plans for Vacation Bible School are well underway and we have 45 children registered to attend, with only three remaining spots available.
- Danish Days is returning in September and a discussion was held regarding the organ concert. After deliberation, the Council voted to not hold the concert this year due to the still uncertain status of the pandemic and the possible large crowd of people from out of town in attendance.
- Livier Brown is now working full-time and will resign as our Family Ministry Director. Pastor will post the position after VBS, and Livier will remain until a replacement is found.

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

Bethania Lutheran Church
Notes to Financial Statement
June 2021 Financials
July 12, 2021

BALANCE SHEET

	June 2021	May 2021	Change
Operating Acct	\$52,206	\$59,723	-7517
Money Mkt Acct	145,185	136,802	8383
Petty Cash Acct	100	100	0
Fund Accounts	2,007,563	2,007,563	0
Fixed Assets	1,857,376	1,853,041	4335
Total Assets	4,062,430	4,056,240	6190
Current Liabilities	333,447	385,028	-51,581
Equity	3,728,983	3,671,211	57,772
Total Liab/Equity	4,062,430	4,056,240	6190

PROFIT & LOSS ACTUAL VS BUDGET

April 2021	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	22,026	25,903	3877
Total Expenses	25,892	25,846	46
Net Income	-3866	56	-3810

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position is still good with \$52,000+ in checking and \$145,185 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- We were under budget with regular offerings. Endowment is committed to helping over the summer and would like an update in September.

Expenses:

- Expenses are still well controlled, although expenses have gone up due to many normal operations resuming

Thank You

To my Bethania Family,

Thank you so much for my amazing retirement celebration!

Pastor Chris, your words in both your sermon and at the party touched me deeply. Thank you for understanding the importance of children to me.

Mindi, Robyn, Jonathan, Caleb and Macie the decor was beyond wonderful! You transformed the Hall into my own Disneyland. The time and talent you put in to making the day memorable is a gift that I will hold in my heart. Mange tak!

Thank you to my Board for planning the event and also for your work in the kitchen and beyond. You are a group of amazing people who have given me so much help and support through the years. In good times and bad you were always there for me. I am truly thankful for you all.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to everyone that donated to my retirement gift. Your generosity is overwhelming and I will never forget it.

Thank you so much to everyone for allowing me to be a part of Bethania for 30 years. It was an honor to be a part of the lives of so many children in their formative years.

Miss Eileen

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 Brenda and Bridget, infant twins at Iglesia Luterana.

Brenda and Bridget passed away recently.

The family and loved ones of Barbara Thompson. Barbara died June 30th.

The family and loved ones of Kerstin Emerson. Kerstin passed away July 5th.

The family and loved ones of Chris Fredericksen. Chris passed away July 8th.

The family and loved ones of Margaret Vang. Margaret died July 18th.

The family and loved ones of Fred Kovol. Fred died July 24th.

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Kristyl Downey, Melissa Eck, 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, Eric and Mallory Oftebro, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

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