



The Beacon

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

October 2021

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

Pastor Chris's Message

Fall is usually the time our church prepares for its normal activities of the program year. It typically compliments the personal routines we tend to find ourselves in as we let go of summer and move through the next three seasons. For obvious reasons this Fall is not like those of years prior to the pandemic, however, it's not like the Fall we had last year either, in which a vaccine was not readily available and much of society was still on lockdown. As this pandemic stretches on longer than any of us have expected, I feel like we're finding ourselves in spaces needing to create some adaptability with what remains of this unprecedented time of COVID.

I'm not entirely sure what that means, as flexibility has become a necessity during this time. It does not mean we're going back to the way things were prior to the pandemic. There are still activities we can't do yet, like our annual Halloween Party. But it does mean that there are activities and ways of being community at Bethania that we can enjoy, as long as we are adapting to the safety still required. As we move into the program year of Bethania, I really want to encourage everyone to consider getting somewhat back into the swing of things.

Our worship service has been gathering every Sunday, with masks required, and it's been nice to be present with our church folks again. Coffee hour is also back, and that space of sitting in community has been very meaningful, including donating to the Produce Table and enjoying the harvest that our church members bring every Sunday. Our 11:00 service, Sunday School, and Youth Group are resuming, also with safety measures, and again it's just felt good to be present with people in these times.

Our social ministry has not only not stopped during the pandemic, it has thrived and continues to do so. It's been a wonderful space of being God's hands and feet in our valley as well as a space of community with church members and folks who are not part of Bethania.

My point is that as this pandemic continues, we, as society, are learning how to adapt to it and how to get back into the swing of things in safe ways. It's of utmost importance that all our members feel comfortable and I would never pressure folks to enter into situations that might not feel safe, but I want to encourage folks to get back into some of the stuff at Bethania to the levels that they're comfortable. This pandemic has been indescribably difficult, but the spaces of community that I've been able to be a part of during this time have been so helpful.

One last offer I want to extend is that I know many of you have been worshipping from home through our YouTube channel. I know this helps us at least worship as a community, but I know for those of you worshipping at home there are things that don't completely translate, such as communion. While we have virtual communion as part of the service, and we'll continue to do so, if anyone would like me to bring communion to do them, I'd be more than happy to do so, but please reach out and let me know.



I hope you're all holding up okay. I know this has been tough and we still have a long road ahead of us, but please know your church community is here for you and your pastor is here for you. Please keep praying for one another, our church, our community, and our world. We will one day look back on this time as something that has profoundly shaped us and brought God's presence into new light, but until that time, Bethania will keep worshipping God, loving others, and being present in any way we can for us all.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris

Youth and Family Ministry

Hello Bethania,

Sunday School is provided in the Fireside Room and childcare is provided in the Nursery.

Youth Group meeting on Sunday, Oct. 10th @4-6 pm in the Fireside Room. Confirmation will be taught in the first half. Paintball Trip at The Shack in Santa Maria on Saturday, Oct. 23rd. Parents are welcome to help carpool.

Bible Gift Sunday is on Sunday Oct. 17th during services and coffee hour hosted by Christian Education Committee.

In lieu of our Annual Halloween Party, we are hosting a Movie Nite on Saturday Oct. 30th at 6:30 pm. We ask that you bring your own chair/blanket, snacks/drinks, wear masks upon entry and keep distanced on the Bethania Preschool playground lawn. Costumes are encouraged and popcorn provided. Free to attend and donations are welcome. Occupancy will be limited, so first come, first serve.

ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 24th- July 28th, 2022. Early Bird Registration has begun so please email if you'd like your high schooler to attend.

New white shelf was brought in to store the new ceramic bisque ware from *Art Spot on Wheels*.

El Camino Pines Winter Retreat may be returning this January. Stay tuned!

It's with a heavy heart that I leave my position at Bethania. This pandemic has shown many truths, which made me realize life is short and the time I have with our daughters at this age is even shorter. I pray we find someone with energy, charisma, patience and grace to lead and grow this ministry. My goal is to stay an active church member and volunteer at Sunday School and events. I thank you for the memories I'll cherish and the relationships built in our church and community.

All my love and blessings,

Livier Brown

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

livierghamari@yahoo.com

(909) 962-9366

Be sure to see the photos (credit Livier) of our youth in action on the next page =====>



Youth Group at Day of Service and Lunch

Ron and Kathy Walsh donated some recreation equipment to the youth.



Livier made welcome gifts in September for newcomers.

Faith in Action

Food Insecurity in the SYV and Beyond

Bethania's Emergency USDA Food Distribution site is every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. We purchase items for our clients as well as using food provided by FoodBank. In addition to this service, the Blessing Box is open 24/7 to serve the needs of those in our community. We stock it with donated items and through donated funds which help us provide everything from cereal to laundry soap to canned ham and chicken and peanut butter and jelly.

Last Tuesday we were setting up to start packing the bags in the morning. A man was walking by and starting yelling at us that we "... are part of the problem! No one wants to work because you give out food for free!" I have also heard these comments:

- People in line are driving nice cars and don't need the food, they have plenty of money.
- People who come to the food distribution are lazy.
- Food distribution only helps illegals and Mexicans.
- The food is being resold once the people get it.

Here are some facts:

- **The majority of the people who come to receive food on Tuesday are working.** Many of them come straight from work, in their work clothes, which is why we offer distribution later than other places.
- People who come to the food distribution: **disabled, elderly, divorced or separated moms with kids, single parents, houseless and those on limited fixed incomes with health issues.** All different races and ages.
- **Tuesday Food Distribution is meant to supplement the weekly meals.** What the clients receive may help stretch out their budget, but there is no way to keep a family of 2 or 4 or 7 fed on what they receive each week.
- **Working full time at \$13 or \$14/hour** (California minimum wage depending on size of company) a person will make approximately \$2250.00 per month – if they work all the hours and if they get that pay rate. Sounds like a lot, right? Think about: Car payments, gas, insurance, rent, food costs, child care...FORBES said in September 2021 that this is not a living wage.
- Rents in Solvang for a 2 bedroom apartment – if you can find one available – currently start at around **\$2400.00 a month and increase from there.** Buellton is a little better but still high. Houses are over \$3000.00 a month. Someone just told me they decided to leave where they were living in Santa Ynez – because the front door would not shut and rodents kept coming in and they couldn't find anything else to rent.
- **Affordable Housing is scarce.** This past week we had more homeless people come through our line than before. Due to the skyrocketing values of property, houses are being sold and tenants are losing their homes – and there just aren't that many replacement rentals available. If you are staying at a hotel – your money is gone very quickly, and you become houseless.
- **Nice cars in line don't mean a thing.** Maybe that nice car is the only one they could get when their old car broke down. (Did you know there is a shortage of used cars available to purchase?)

Maybe they got into a lease for a new car and are having trouble making the payments. Maybe the “nice car” is the kind landlord who is picking up food for their tenants because their tenants have no car (yes, that is happening). Maybe that “nice car” is a neighbor of an elderly woman who can’t leave her home, and is kindly bringing her food (yes, this happens a lot).

- **Do you have to choose between food, rent and working or keeping your baby in childcare?** Some of our clients are having to make that choice every week. Food distribution helps them manage a little better.

I hope this helps clear up some misconceptions about food insecurity here in the SYV and I hope these facts help you talk to anyone who doesn’t understand how vital this program is to people in our area.

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 am and then another crew to help pack the bags and sort produce after 1:45 pm. Unloading/moving helpers can come at 9:30 am or 1:30 pm. 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 these projects, which are 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

InGathering Oct. 21 from 2-4 pm Mt. Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo

Each year after our church women make quilts and we make personal care kits and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, we take all these items to Mt. Cross Lutheran Church in Camarillo. “An InGathering is a local collection of Quilts and Kits during which groups in the surrounding area combine all their completed quilts and kits onto a truck or box car that delivers them to one of LWR’s warehouses. Typically, InGatherings take place once each year, usually around the same time and in the same place” (Lutheran World Relief website) and save shipping costs by bringing them to a consolidated location.

We are grateful for our drivers who take these materials to Camarillo. Last year Bob Jensen and Bridget Cassara helped us out and joined others from our area. We also take materials from Hope Lutheran Church in Atascadero.

Noisy Offering is coming: Oct. 24 Make Change for the Better

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Oct 24. The offering from that day will be used to help offset expenses for Youth Gatherings at Bethania.

What is coming up? Halloween Movie Night, Paintball Event, Pizza Get-Togethers... Your quarters, dimes and nickels (and hopefully some dollars!) will sponsor those events.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. So bring your coins and make a noise on Oct. 24th. Together, we can *change* the world!

– Linda Marzullo

The Produce Table Continues!

The Produce Table is 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.



[openClipart-Vectors from Pixabay]

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

Thanks to these volunteers for helping at the Produce Table:

Oct. 3 Rikka Rasmussen

Oct. 10 Jan Zigler

Oct. 17 Jan Zigler

Oct. 24 Kristyl Downey

Oct. 31 Marie Jaeger

We are grateful for all of the wonderful produce we have received and the support of volunteers and donors.

Thank you to everyone for your support!

Kristyl Downey

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: *Scheduled for Oct. 3rd*

Our next 2021 socially distanced Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Oct. 3. We will be packing in the Parish Hall starting at 10:45. Everyone is invited to help out.



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. Our breakfast bags are delivered three times a week.

If you would like to donate items, church is open daily (usually from 9-5) and you can drop off any donated items 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 Bars | Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins) | Soft Granola/Cereal Bars |
| Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles | Oatmeal Packets (Protein type) | Fruit Cups or Applesauce |
| pudding (non-refrigerated) | | |
| Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange) | | |

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

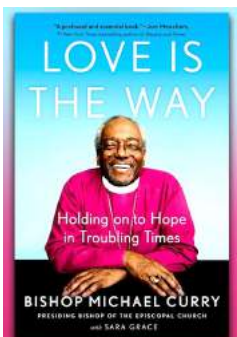
Events and Occasions

Theo Pub at Solvang Brew!

Theology Pub will be gathering once again at Solvang Brew! We'll be getting together at 7 pm on Thursday, Oct. 14th." And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!



Book Club



Bethania's Book Group will be starting a new book, Love is the Way, by Bishop Michael Curry. We'll be discussing the introduction and chapter 1. The book group day is also changing to the **3rd Thursday** of the month, so we'll be gathering via Zoom on Oct. 21, at 2 pm. If you would like to join, you can purchase a copy at The Book Loft, and a link will be emailed out and posted on social media.

Halloween Movie Night

Join us Saturday, Oct. 30, at 6:30 pm for our first Family Halloween Movie Night. We will be showing a family friendly Halloween Movie on our projector. Costumes are encouraged, bring blankets/lawn chairs to sit on, make sure you bundle up, and bring any fun drinks or snacks you may want. We'll be offering popcorn for anyone who would like. The event is free, but donations are welcome.

Coffee Hosts Wanted!

Would you like to provide some treats for coffee hour on Sunday? We are looking for people to provide baked goods for our time after worship. Some one makes the coffee and you would put out cups, plates, sugar, etc. Put out your treats, serve, then clean-up and put things away. It's a great way to provide a welcoming, social place to talk and enjoy one another's company. Sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall today.

We have these dates available:

Oct. 24 _____

Oct. 31 _____

Nov. 7 _____

Nov. 14 _____

Nov. 21 _____

Nov. 28 _____

Church Business

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

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

- The council approved the appointment of Kevin McConnell as Property Committee chair for the church.
- Approved the employment of Dania Diaz as a Preschool Aide

- Livier Brown announced her resignation as Family Ministry Director as of Oct. 31.
- Pastor Chris reported he had not gotten any response to postings for the position. He will assume the responsibility after Livier resignation. He will need the help of the congregation council and the congregation to fulfill some of the duties (VBS, Halloween Party, etc.).
- Oct. 17 is Bible Gift Sunday, with 34 recipients.
- There will be a Halloween Movie night with “Nightmare Before Christmas” to be shown on the grass area of the Preschool playground.
- Approved a quote to replace the fence between the office garage and the next door neighbors. \$5,672 to be split between the church and the property owners.
- We received one quote to replace the draperies in the Sanctuary, and will get a second quote.
- Received a quote of \$6,260 to pour concrete in the courtyard. Council asked for a quote on using flagstone instead. Will also get a second quote for concrete work as well as flagstone.
- Oct. 10 will be Pastor Appreciation Sunday, with the Council providing snacks and a program honoring Pastor Chris.

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 August 2021 Financials

BALANCE SHEET

	Aug 2021	July 2021	Change
Operating Acct	\$37,832	\$45,742	
Money Mkt Acct	142,318	142,299	
Petty Cash Acct	100	100	0
Fund Accounts	2,007,563	2,007,563	0
Fixed Assets	1,852,376	1,857,376	
Total Assets	4,040,189	4,053,080	

Current Liabilities	314,784	333,447	
Equity	3,725,405	3,728,983	
Total Liab/Equity	4,040,189	4,062,430	

PROFIT & LOSS ACTUAL VS BUDGET

August 2021	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	23,820	24,853	
Total Expenses	25,202	25,303	
Net Income	-963	-450	

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position is still good with \$142,317 in the money market account

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- The first 8 months offerings are down by \$11,000. Without the Endowment fund support, we would be in serious trouble. 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

Social Ministry Meets Oct. 14 @ 6:00 pm

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend our next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee on **Thursday, Oct. 14 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room.**

Meeting Agenda items include: Food Distribution/Brown Bag Breakfasts planning, Idea Wall implementation, getting ready for Angel Gifts, Thrivent card applications and more.

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

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.

The family and loved ones of Fred Day, Jasmine's dad. Fred died Sept. 26.

Emily Abello, Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Kristyl Downey, Melissa Eck, Sheldon & Pat Green, Shannon Hazard, Belle Hoger, Jennifer Howell, Tomi Izuno, Glen Jacobsen, Jeanne Labarge, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Eric and Mallory Oftebro, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrrson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Thank You – *Mange Tak!*

BIG "Thank You's" to:

- **Anne Twigg**, for helping us manage excess produce after Tuesday by taking it to the Solvang Senior Center and using it for cooking or giving out to those who could use it.
- **Frank Moore**, for fixing our food distribution cart when it had a flat tire with a nail – and filling in big time when Bill Zigler was gone. (Yes, Bill, we missed you.)
- **Kevin McConnell**, for vacuuming on a Tuesday night when we were exhausted after Food Distribution (and also practicing his solo so we got a special concert).
- **Kristyl Downey**, for her skill in the office and helping to keep us motivated around the church.
- **Livier Brown**, for coming up with new ways to engage with the youth and her dedication to growing the Youth Program.
- **Chuck & Shirley Stacy**, for being more than willing to do any task in a jovial manner: translation work, rubber banding of pencils, bag packing – they are ready to help.
- **Pastor Chris and Josh Bratt**, for being the guys who take care of the snakes on the playground and re-homes them!
- **Cavan O'Neill**, for being able to figure out how to take care of the organ pedal that wasn't working and giving us a mini organ concert when he was practicing.
- **Volunteers** – who are the glue that holds us all together and make the good stuff happen!

**With deep gratitude,
Linda Marzullo**

Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:30 am Produce Table in the Breezeway & Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

11:00 am Unorthodox Gathering in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Sunday School in the Fireside Room

Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm - The Church Office is open.

Mondays

6:00 pm Art Spot on Wheels in the Parish Hall

8:00 pm AA in the Fireside Room

Tuesdays

9:30 am Prepare and Organize for Food Distribution

1:30 pm Arrival of Food from FoodBank in the Front Parking Lot

1:30 pm Food Distribution Packing in the Church, Produce Sorting & Bagging in Front of the Church

5:15 - 6:45 pm Food Distribution on the Laurel Side of the Church and
on the Courtyard Side of the Church

6:00 pm Yoga in the Fireside Room

Thursdays

12:30 - 6:30 pm Office Hours for Kristyl (so she can go to band practice at 7 pm)

7:00 pm Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble in the Courtyard

Sunday, Oct. 3

10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Oct. 10

4-6 pm Youth Group Meets in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Oct. 14

6:00 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

7:00 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company Fire Pit

Sunday, Oct. 17

Bible Presentation Sunday at 9:30 Worship Service and 11 am "Unorthodox" Gathering

Thursday, Oct. 21

2:00 pm Book Group via Zoom

7:00 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, Oct. 23

Paintball Trip at The Shack in Santa Maria

Saturday, Oct. 30

6:30 pm Youth and Family Movie Night on the Playground (see Youth and Families report)

Photos - Day of Service

(Credit Denise Morris)



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October 2021

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