



The Beacon

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

November 2021

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

Pastor Chris's Message

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Sometimes gratitude can be a difficult emotion to have. In moments of pain, struggle, loss, and depression, all feelings that have accompanied this pandemic, it's hard to find enough gratitude to overtake those other feelings. I share the words of Paul above because of Paul's context in writing them. Considered to be the earliest existing letter of Paul we have, in 1st Thessalonians he's writing in a time when he's just starting his ministry to the Gentiles. Rome is not exactly favorable towards Jesus or any of his followers, and Paul is dealing with daily struggles and needs. He mirrors the experiences of those in the churches he's establishing, people oppressed by Rome, living in poverty, simply trying to make ends meet. And yet, he concludes his letter by telling them to rejoice, pray, and to give thanks. Why?



I think we assume gratitude comes when things are going our way. What Paul is getting at here is that gratitude can be a powerful form of resistance and resolve when things aren't going our way. If we are in moments of struggle, need, despair, etc. and we can find spaces of gratitude, in a way it's as though those moments don't have ultimate power over us.

For Paul, the gratitude he experienced and tried to cultivate was that in even in the midst of struggle, the divine community was not only present, but it was powerful. These churches were connected to one another, and no matter what Rome did, they could care for each other. That realization and gratitude for Paul was what kept him going and it's what kept the first Christian communities going.

Now I'll be the first to admit that during this pandemic I've had my moments of despair. I've even had moments where I wondered if God is still calling me to parish ministry (don't worry, God is). It hasn't just been the pandemic, but the increasing polarization our country is experiencing. I took some intentional time in prayer, in therapy, with my wife, and decided I needed to recenter myself in the spaces in our community and our church in which I feel gratitude. Like Paul, those spaces for me were our divine community, as well as the work we're called to as we come out of this pandemic. I can't tell how helpful and meaningful this has been. And truth be told, the stuff that was getting to me, stuff with the pandemic, the polarization in our country, none of that's changed—it's all still there; it just doesn't have the same power it did.

The last few weeks I feel like I've been able to view with refreshed eyes that which I'm grateful for at Bethania: I'm grateful for our food distribution and all its volunteers; I'm grateful that worship services; both in-person and online have still been available and meaningful; I'm grateful for the spaces of community at Bethania in the midst of this pandemic such as coffee hour, the quilting group, and all our committees doing the work of the church; I'm grateful that our youth are gathering again in youth group and Sunday School; I'm grateful that this church is being run by a plethora of people still committed to its mission and ministries; I'm grateful for a community in which people know, love and care for each other;

I'm grateful for the 11 people who have joined Bethania last month; I'm grateful for the 30 children who received Bibles and CD's recently, as well as a church that still values families and their children; and I am grateful for every person, member and visitor at Bethania. This gratitude sustains me, reminds me why I'm a pastor, and encourages me to keep stepping in faith into the future.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

Youth and Family Ministry

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

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, Nov. 14 @ 4-6 pm in the Fireside Room.

El Camino Pines Winter Retreat is returning this January. Registration opening soon!

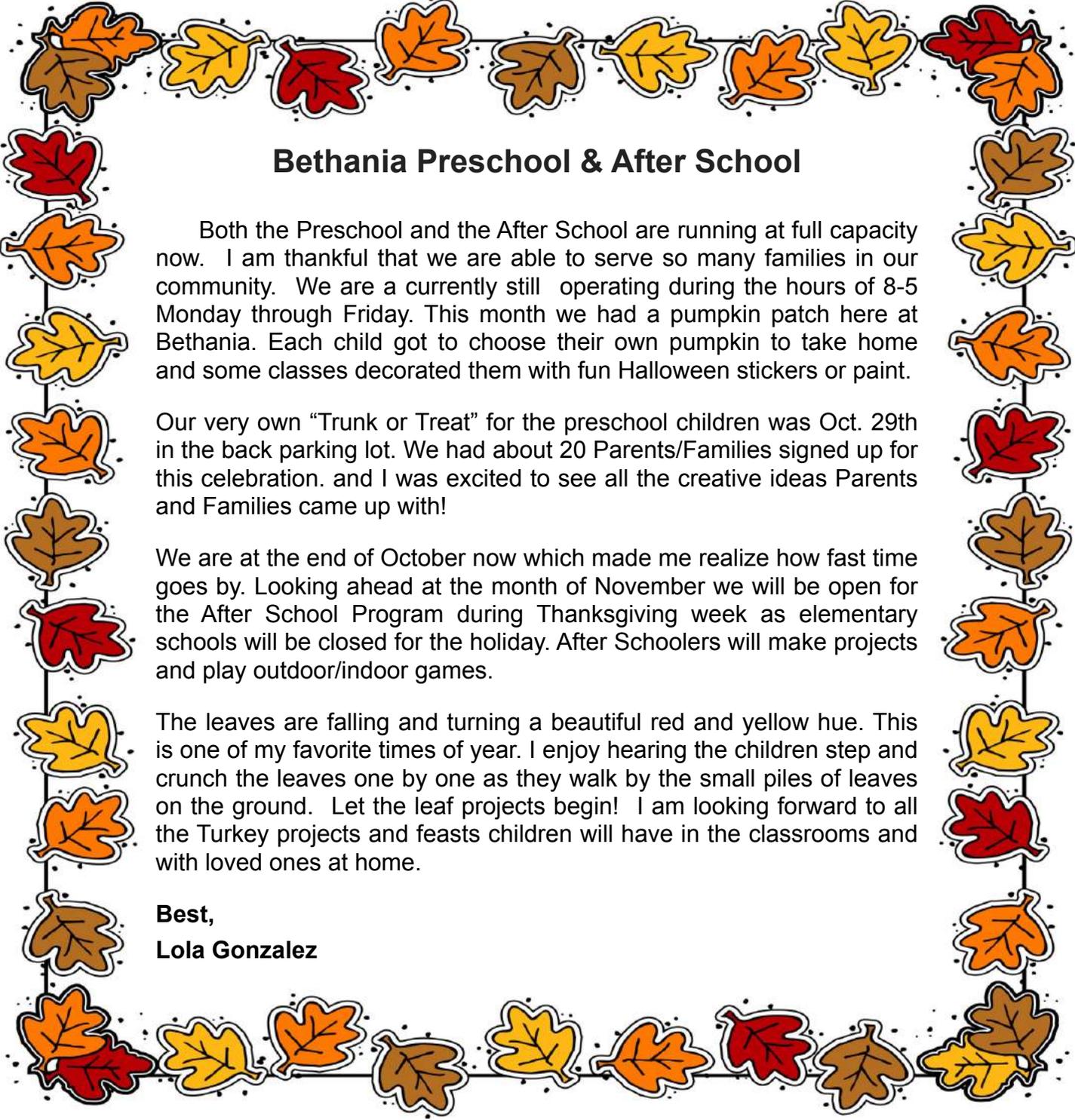
ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 24th- July 28th, 2022. Early Bird Registration has begun so please email if you'd like your high schooler to attend.

Early Bird Registration — \$350
Sept. 22, 2021 through Nov. 21, 2021

Regular Registration — \$390
Nov. 22, 2021 through Feb. 21, 2022

Late Registration — \$440
Feb. 22, 2022 through May 22, 2022

**Blessings,
Livier Brown
Director of Youth & Family Ministry**



Bethania Preschool & After School

Both the Preschool and the After School are running at full capacity now. I am thankful that we are able to serve so many families in our community. We are currently still operating during the hours of 8-5 Monday through Friday. This month we had a pumpkin patch here at Bethania. Each child got to choose their own pumpkin to take home and some classes decorated them with fun Halloween stickers or paint.

Our very own "Trunk or Treat" for the preschool children was Oct. 29th in the back parking lot. We had about 20 Parents/Families signed up for this celebration, and I was excited to see all the creative ideas Parents and Families came up with!

We are at the end of October now which made me realize how fast time goes by. Looking ahead at the month of November we will be open for the After School Program during Thanksgiving week as elementary schools will be closed for the holiday. After Schoolers will make projects and play outdoor/indoor games.

The leaves are falling and turning a beautiful red and yellow hue. This is one of my favorite times of year. I enjoy hearing the children step and crunch the leaves one by one as they walk by the small piles of leaves on the ground. Let the leaf projects begin! I am looking forward to all the Turkey projects and feasts children will have in the classrooms and with loved ones at home.

Best,
Lola Gonzalez

Faith in Action

News from Tuesdays

The weather is getting cooler – nights are getting longer – and more people are coming to our Tuesday Food Distribution. With the prices of food and gas increasing, we are seeing another increase in people coming to the food distribution over the past few weeks. Not surprising, when according to recent surveys in the state of California, ***the majority of families choose to give up food over anything else when money is tight.***

A woman who receives food on Tuesdays was also picking up for a family of 5. She asked me if we had diapers for one of the children, which we did have, and she asked for a few other items to help out a struggling family. She explained that the head of the household is the mother of 4 girls and the mother is not working. Her annual income is less than our lowest income requirements for a household of one person (\$30,268.00 by USDA limits). The reason she isn't working is that the father was caught molesting the girls and taking videos of them. She is afraid to leave them alone. His court case keeps getting postponed and it has been over a year since the criminal charges were made. She plans to return to work once he is found guilty and sent to prison. But for now, her friend said, "Your family at this church is giving this family of scared girls food to eat and hope for the future." That's powerful – that Bethania's food bags and our care and concern can help someone only a few of us will ever meet feel safer and have some hope.

Since beginning our "enrollment" (when Food Bank changed the forms and made us start keeping an ongoing record of attendance by household size, age, race, etc.) at the start of the Food Bank's new year, we now know we are serving close to 750 unique households, just since we starting enrolling names in late August. Our numbers guru, Dave Wong, gave us a graph showing that for the population of our area, the projected amount of households in the SYV that are having at least one event of food insecurity each week is 930. This is based on the most recent California survey of 9 million participants who answered "Sometimes Not Enough To Eat / Often Not Enough to Eat or Not Enough to Eat" in the previous 7 days of 12% two weeks ago.

"Santa Ynez Valley has approximately 32,000 residents. Our average household size (served at Bethania) is 4 people. At a 12% food insecurity rate, then $(32,000 / 4) \times 12\% = \mathbf{930}$ local households are going hungry every week."

What can you do to help?

- Pray for strength and health for our many volunteers.
- Become a volunteer. We have times available all day long - 10:00 morning packing, 1:30 afternoon packing, 4:45 pm distribution, 7:00 pm cleanup – each and every week!
- Donate food items to the Blessing Box or Food Distribution
- Do you have a Thrivent card? Do a project to help food distribution clients: Use your grant gift card to purchase items such as Baby Food, Baby Formula, Diapers, Wipes, Incontinence Supplies, Feminine Hygiene items, Ensure – or even use it to purchase your favorite items for us to pack on Tuesdays!
- If you are connected to an organization outside of Bethania or have friends who wonder how they can help, ask them for a donation. Donations can be made on the Bethania webpage through Push Pay or sent to the church office, earmarked "Tuesday Food Distribution." We are the only Food Distribution that has no paid staff or salary expenses or rental expenses to cover, which means we are the most efficient distribution with any funds donated!

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. This service for our community is making a difference to so many lives here in our area. I hope you are all very proud of the work we are doing.

–Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

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



Image by [b0red](#)
from [Pixabay](#)

Christmas Angels & Preschool Presents: Calling all Angels!

Would you like to be an “angel” to a needy child? Dust off your angel wings if you would be interested in helping to make Christmas special for a child at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz or the Preschool this year. Any way you can help, large or small, is appreciated...We have committed to adopting 80

little Angels this year so far. With your help, we can make sure these children receive a Christmas gift to make their holiday happier.

The **CHRISTMAS ANGEL** project helps the members of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz by providing Christmas gifts for needy children who attend the church. Iglesia is a mission start up church currently based at Bethel in Santa Maria, which serves the very poorest of the farm workers who often live in difficult circumstances. Oftentimes families share one bed or live in someone else’s garage without heat or running water. Many of the children may not have shoes, warm clothing or enough to eat. Agricultural conditions, weather and the economy directly affect these hard-working families, especially during the winter months. As we enter into the slow growing season, these families are even further behind in their ability to have enough food to eat, let alone provide Christmas gifts for their children. *(The Noisy Offering on Nov. 28 will help support the Christmas Angels/Preschool Presents gift purchases - see related article.)*

Even closer to home, the **PRESCHOOL PRESENTS** project helps to support local families who attend Bethania Preschool and After School program. These local families are chosen by our Preschool Director Lola Gonzalez Your donations will assist us in purchasing gifts and other necessary items for local children, to help these families who require some assistance to make their child’s Christmas special. If you would like to shop for a Preschool child or make a donation to this project, you can earmark it “Preschool Presents”. *(This is a different donation from the Preschool Scholarship Fund.)*

We would be happy to have your Angelic assistance for any of these children. If you are interested in sponsoring a child through the Christmas Angel or the Preschool Presents Projects, donations of any amount are welcome. If you would prefer to do the shopping on your own, or make a contribution of an item on a child’s wish list, please let Linda Marzullo know. All of the children/families have specific needs and/or requests we are going to try to fulfill, based on their “wish lists”. As soon as we receive the “wish lists” we will be able to coordinate meeting the children’s needs. An email will be sent out once we have the names and our little Angels’ most desired items! Contact Linda Marzullo if you would like to be an Angel and adopt a child through fulfilling their wish list.

Email questions to Linda at vikingpressprint@verizon.net, call her work 688-5219 or contact the church office.

Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
Protein Bars
Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles
Pudding (non-refrigerated)
Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)
Fruit Cups or Applesauce

Every item you donate, every dollar you contribute, goes directly to helping a local senior and making their life just a little bit better, one breakfast bag at a time.

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

Events and Occasions

Fall Time Change

It is time to “fall back” and set your analog clocks back an hour at bedtime on Nov. 6th. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am Sunday, Nov. 7. Electronic devices reset automatically.

All Saints' Sunday

On Nov. 7 at the 9:30 service, we will light candles in memory of the following people who have died between Nov. 1, 2020 and Oct. 31, 2021:



Pat Bode
Felix Finn
Mary Connors
Chauncey Peterson
Gladys Jorgensen
Joan Sorenson
Russell Tomasini
Dona Diacono
Marion Kallum
Kerstin Emerson

Chris Fredericksen
Barbara Thompson
Margaret Vang
Fred Kovol
Torben Jensen

(continued from previous page)

*Ken Labarge
Jared Johnson
Michael Areia
Fred Day
Michael Tsch
Jacqui Doane
Margaret Barlow*

All others we name in our heart



We invite everyone to come to church and remember all our saints.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Bethania will join St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the Santa Ynez Valley Jewish Community and others for our community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 6 pm. in St. Mark's sanctuary. A reception in Stacy Hall will follow the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

First Sunday in Advent

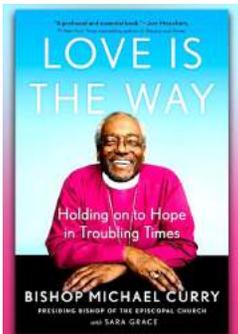
Advent begins Nov. 28. The Advent wreath will be near the pulpit and the garland will be draped below the organ pipes. Join us we prepare in word and song for Christmas.

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, Nov. 11th. And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!



Book Club



Bethania's Book Group is reading and discussing Love is the Way, by Bishop Michael Curry. We'll be discussing the introduction and chapters 3-5. The book group day is also changing to the **3rd Thursday** of the month, so we'll be gathering via Zoom on Nov. 18th, 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.

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 or contact Kristyl in the Church Office.

We have Nov. 28 _____ available for hosting.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council Oct. 21st Meeting

To be more informative and transparent, your Church Council is continuing to communicate 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.

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

- Linda Marzullo addressed the Council reporting on the food distribution. We are discussing how to utilize the food pantry. We currently have 727 families on our list of recipients.
- A celebration honoring Livier for her work as our Family Ministry Director has been planned for Sunday, Nov. 21 following the 9:30 service.
- We are still waiting on final quotes from two vendors for replacing the draperies in the Sanctuary.
- Approved the expenditure of \$5,750 to replace the furnace in the Parsonage. Funding to come from the Property Projects account with no impact on the operating budget.
- Approved the 2022 Draft budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting Part 1 on Nov. 14th.
- Approved the expenditure of \$6,750 to remove the old grass in the courtyard and pour concrete for better utilization of the space. Funding to come from the Property Projects account with no impact on the operating budget.

Questions, if any, about these discussions, decisions, or messages should be addressed to a council member preferably in writing.

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	Anne Twigg (805) 350-1922
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736

Notes to Financial Statement Sept 2021 Financials

BALANCE SHEET

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Change
Operating Acct	\$52,032	\$37,832	+\$14,170
Money Mkt Acct	135,943	142,318	-\$6,375
Petty Cash Acct	100	100	0
Fund Accounts	2,007,563	2,007,563	0
Fixed Assets	1,852,376	1,852,376	0
Total Assets	4,048,014	4,040,189	0
Current Liabilities	319,942	314,784	+45,158
Equity	3,728,072	3,725,405	+\$2,667
Total Liab/Equity	4,048,014	4,040,189	+\$7,825

PROFIT & LOSS ACTUAL VS BUDGET

September 2021	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	25,126	26,553	-\$1,427
Total Expenses	22,846	25,255	-\$4,129
Net Income	2,280	1297	+\$983

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position is still good with \$52,032 in the operating account and \$135,832 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- We did not have to take a draw from the Endowment Fund this month

Expenses:

- Expenses are still very well controlled

- Submitted by Lori McConnell, Treasurer

Social Ministry Meets Nov. 17 @ 6:00 pm

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend our next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee on **Thursday, Nov. 17th at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room.**

Meeting Agenda items include: Food Distribution and fundraising, Produce Table Report, Brown Bag Breakfasts, Christmas 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.

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, 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 Pearrson, Bent Pedersen, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Thank You! – *Mange Tak!*

Thank you so much to everyone who came to the Pastor Appreciation Celebration, who shared words of kindness, who gave gifts, or who gave cards. And thank you to the church council for putting it on. It was a wonderful celebration, and I was overcome with gratitude and joy. I can't believe how quickly 6 years has gone by. It was incredibly touching to reflect on those 6 years, especially in light of the words shared by those who spoke. I count myself blessed to be your pastor and I'm so grateful for all of you. Thank you for welcoming Livier, the girls and myself into your lives and trusting us with these responsibilities at Bethania. I love you all and look forward to what's to come.

In Love,
Pastor Chris



Thank you to everyone who has brought vases and small jars to Nancy Puder and Caro Stinson for their small bouquets. Currently they have all that they can store so please don't bring any more to the church or the office. Feel free to recycle them, give them to a thrift shop or share them with flowers to your friends.

Thanks to...

Brenda Knudsen, Bob Jensen, Bridget Cassara and her friend Nanette Mendez for loading up our Lutheran World Relief quilts, personal care kits and school kits as well as the boxes from Hope, Atascadero. We are grateful to Nanette and Bridget for driving the materials to Mt. Cross in Camarillo. They managed to fit everything in Nanette's truck and trailer.



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

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

1:45ish 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 and Courtyard side of the Church

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

Thursdays

11:30 - 6:30 pm Office Hours for Kristyl (so she can go to band practice at 7 pm)

Sunday, Nov. 7 - All Saints' Sunday

2:00 am Daylight Saving Time Ends

9:30 am All Saints' Candle Lighting Ceremony

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

Thursday, Nov. 11

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

Sunday, Nov. 14

Annual Meeting, pt. 1 in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 am service

4:00-6:00 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Nov. 18

2:00 pm Book Group via Zoom

7:00 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, Nov. 20

SYV Craft Market in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Nov. 21

10:30 am Appreciation Coffee for Livier Ghamari-Brown in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Day - The Church Office and Bethania Preschool and After School are closed. They will also be closed Nov. 26.

Sunday, Nov. 28

1st Sunday in Advent

Photos

Youth Group Photos (Pastor Chris and Livier Ghamari-Brown)



Bible and CD Presentation
(Livier Ghamari-Brown)



Food Distribution Phots (Ron Walsh)





Quilts and Kits for Lutheran World Relief
(Allison Piligian, Lois De Meyer and
Kristyl Downey)



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