



The Beacon

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

March 2022

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

Pastor Chris's Message

Once, Martin Luther was asked what he would do if he knew the world was going to end tomorrow. He said, "I would plant an apple tree." It's a profound statement I think about a lot, but it's sticking in my mind now as we watch the situation with Russia and Ukraine unfold. I'm writing this Beacon article the day after Russia declared war against Ukraine and I imagine by the time it comes out in our March Beacon the situation will be somewhat different—hopefully for the better.

I've already received some calls from folks having some anxiety over the issue. It reminds me of a sermon I gave a few weeks ago about what to do when this big world of ours feels chaotic and outside of our control. Here we are watching on TV and social media a horrific moment that forces us to face uncertainty in the future and recollect awful moments of war and strife in our past, which can be a scary combination. What can we do?

"Plant an apple tree," said Martin Luther. This doesn't mean ignore what's going on in the world, but rather do something optimistic in the face of uncertainty. None of us can stop or improve what's happening in Ukraine. And it's important to know what's going on in the world so we shouldn't ignore it either. But in the face of this uncertainty, we can pray for peace and resolve. We can be compassionate towards those in our community. We can try to address needs around us that we have power to change. We can pray some more. We can mourn for the loss of life and those moments in our world where we fail to live in loving ways. We can come together with our communities in support and love. We can commit to actions that treat this world as though God created it and then declared it is good, and we can have faith that a world of goodness is still God's plan.

I know this probably doesn't seem very comprehensive, nor fulfilling. But this is also the start of Lent, the time of reflection on ourselves. It's the time we approach the cross and encounter a Christ Crucified, to experience, each year, that we live in an imperfect world. Every Lent we are reminded that these spaces of darkness exist, but they are not the final word—that light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it; that to get to the empty tomb, we must first walk by Calvary.

Somehow, I believe this will pass. But in the meantime, let us continue as though goodness and hope exist in the world. Let us continue to love one another, pray for Christ's kingdom to be present among us and through us, to envision a world of peace and reconciliation, let us have faith that God's plan for the world is still active and we are still able to participate in it. In our own way and with our own ability, let us plant an apple tree.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris

Youth and Children Program

Hola, me llamo Jessica Yacoub and I can't wait to meet you! I am a lover of people and believer in the power of community. I am bilingual and have been known to talk too loud and fast. I am mama to Alexa (19) and Nadia (18), partner to Kevin and am the oldest of 12 siblings (but let's save that for another day). Born and raised in Santa Barbara, I then moved around as an adult. Our familia has called the Valley home for 15 years. We have loved cheering on our girls at soccer fields, tennis courts and anywhere else they'll allow it.

I have worked as an early childhood educator, a case manager and a small business owner. Currently, I'm serving on the board of directors at Transition House. During the pandemic I went back to school and just completed my Masters of Arts in education, leadership and change.

I am excited to be here as your Director of Children and Youth Programs and look forward to learning from and serving the Valley's youth. I firmly believe in them and their infinite possibilities. I was raised in the Catholic faith but we broke up when I could not make peace with some of the church's interpretations of Christ's word. I have never stopped believing that a higher power cares for me. I am curious to see what's next on my faith's journey. I look forward to our time together.

Thank you (in advance) for trusting me with your children. I welcome your insight, input and support.

**Con Amor,
Jessica
530-867-3682**

Upcoming Youth and Children Events

Paint Party March 11 & 12 - We are giving the Fireside Room a facelift in honor of our youth. We want our youth to see the space (where we meet) as welcoming and purposeful. We would love for you to join us for a paint party. We will provide brushes, paint and pizza. You bring your joyful energy and we'll get the job done.

We are excited for the return of **Middle School Youth Group**. Together with St. Marks we welcome any youth to join us on March 13 from 3-5 pm in the Parish Hall. Pizza will be served. We will have a quick parent meeting at 2:30 pm prior to youth group.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 20th 2:30-4:30 pm** for a celebration of community at St. Marks to roll out our newly joined Children's and Youth Ministry. Everyone is welcome for bounce house, food and merriment. High School Youth especially welcome at 4 pm for introduction of our new high school youth group and calendar of events to follow.

Vacation Bible School is set to run **July 11-15, 2022 6 pm - 8:15 pm**

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School



Each year our volunteers make this wonderful event possible and this year is no different. We need YOU! We are currently seeking volunteers. Please text, email or call me (contact information above) to let me know you are available to help in this specular event.

Currently we are collecting the items below for VBS:

Fake or real flowers and plants

Outdoor furniture cushions

10 beach balls

Brown paper bags (lunch and grocery size)

Green tropical leaf cut outs

Lanterns

Glow-in-the-Dark markers

2 kiddie pools

10 hula hoops

Brown craft paper (lots to make vines)

Tropical flower cut outs

Crafts Coordinator: Carolyn Schuit

Recreation Coordinator: Shane Silva

Science Coordinators: Alice & Robert Laufer

Assembly Coordinator: Pastor Chris Brown

Registration Coordinator: Donna Hinsbeeck

In need of a Bible Story Teller and Crew Leaders. Please email or call Jessica Jacouba (jessica@smitv.org or 530-867-3682) for more information.

Faith in Action

Communion Bread

Have you ever wondered what the story is behind the communion bread used by Pastor Chris each Sunday? Well, the Bethania Bread Bakers, a group of five church women each bakes 6 small loaves of bread once every 5-6 months from a yummy recipe used by the Minneapolis Luther Seminary for its communion. We welcome additional bakers for this easy task, which takes less than an hour to do. If you are interested in learning more, please call or e-mail Kristyl at the Church Office and I will call you.

- Nancy Emerson



Announcing Bethania's new Theo Cart!

At the coffee hour for 9:30 folks and in the narthex for 11:00 attendees will be the new Theo Cart. The collection of 30 books (and growing) includes such authors as Rob Bell, John Crossan, Bob Goff and Johann Hari. Books can be checked out for up to three weeks with a grace period after that. Whether you're looking for something lighthearted or serious, global or personal, these books by modern Christian authors are full of ideas to think about!

Read. Think. Grow.

2022 Food Distribution Numbers to Date

Jan. 4	161 Households	619 Individuals
Jan. 11	172 Households	647 Individuals
Jan. 18	167 Households	664 Individuals
Jan. 25	174 Households	667 Individuals
Feb. 1	164 Households	628 Individuals
Feb. 8	191 Households	759 Individuals
Feb. 15	181 Households	696 Individuals
Feb. 22	160 Households	643 Individuals

- Total Individuals served to date this year: 5323
- Average Number of Households served each week: 171

Food Distribution Shift times:

- 9:30-10:00 am - Moving items into position and bringing food from Pantry
- 10:00-11:30 am (approximately) - Packing bags in church
- 1:45-3:00 pm (approximately) - Finish bags with Food Bank items and bagging produce
- 4:45 pm Setting up for Evening Distribution (starting at 5:15 pm)

If you would like to volunteer at any of the shifts, please contact Linda at vikingpressprint@verizon.net. We need your help with this rewarding endeavor, helping our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity.

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: March 13th

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast 2022 packing day will be scheduled for March 13th. We will be packing in the Parish Hall starting around 10:30 am. Everyone is invited to help out – all ages and abilities are needed to help pack! In January we packed 773 bags and we will be running out of bags to give to local seniors sometime soon.

The bags we make provide food 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 to local seniors through the Buellton Senior Center.

If you would like to donate items, the 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 amount of 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)

Every contribution to this project helps make life a little better for a local senior. Thank you!

–Linda Marzullo
Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
805-688-5219, 805-688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count on March 27

“When women take care of their health, they become their best friend.” – Maya Angelou

For our Noisy Offering in March, and in honor of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day early this month (March 8), we will be collecting funds to help local women in need with feminine hygiene supplies. (Yes, this is an awkward subject for many – but let’s get over it.)

Why do we need to support this?

During our weekly food distribution, we are being asked quite frequently for feminine hygiene supplies. Members of Iglesia Luterana also constantly request feminine hygiene products. When funds are tight, these critical items are a costly reminder that women suffer more than men during times of financial insecurity. Recently I heard the story of a woman who is homeless in Buellton, who has been using old socks for her hygiene pads. (Yes, we sent some products along to help her.)



Excerpt From “New research reveals how much the average woman spends per month on menstrual products”

By Allison Sadlier // SWNS // September 6, 2021

New York office - 646-873-7565 / usnews@swns.com

Half of women have experienced "period poverty," according to new research.

A survey of 2,000 women (aged 18–55) found that 49 percent have faced a lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets, hand washing facilities and/or waste management. And results revealed that four in five think period poverty is a real problem.

Sixty percent of respondents admitted to budgeting in order to afford sanitary items and 79 percent have made have made sacrifices or gone with less in order to afford their necessities.

A permanent resolution to period poverty might be a ways off, but top solutions chosen by those surveyed were donating products to homeless shelters and food banks (62 percent) and having the companies that produce sanitary items donate them as well (53 percent).

“As studies have shown, many women find feminine hygiene products overpriced, which of course only proves that the image of period poverty is real,” said Danela Žagar, The Brand Manager for INTIMINA. “Moreover, it not only brings financial issues to the table, but also drags behind strong feeling of stress, which can lead to health problems and lower self-esteem.”

We all “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offering. So send in your coins, cash and checks into the office and make some noise on March 27. Together, we can CHANGE a woman’s world. Even a small donation or one coin can make a difference to someone in need.

– Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry

You are invited to join Bethania Secret Prayer Pals

We’re beginning our second year in March! Why pray regularly for another person?

- ❖ It strengthens your prayer habit
- ❖ It strengthens your faith to see prayers answered
- ❖ It strengthens bonds between believers
- ❖ It increases your communication with God
- ❖ It allows you to participate in God’s work
- ❖ It can succeed where other means have failed

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*I’d like to invite you to join the Bethania Secret Prayer Pals for 2022. Last year, our first year, twelve people participated in praying intentionally for someone in our group. During the year, **we prayed for our pal**, and some slipped cards or gifts into the mail for their pal. But prayer is the most important part! **We all kept it a secret until February when I hosted a Reveal Your Prayer Pal Tea Party. If you are willing to join us this next year, please fill out the information below and return it to me, Jan Zigler, before March 31, 2022.***

Secret Prayer Pal Information Sheet

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

e-mail _____

Birthday _____ (no years required)

Favorite:

Colors _____

Season _____

Sport _____ Team _____

Hobby _____

Author _____

City _____

Are you celebrating any milestones this year? _____

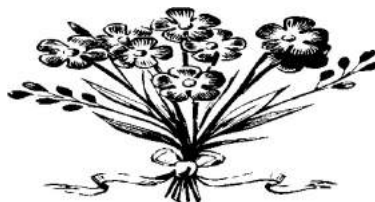
Do you have a specific prayer request? _____

Anything else? _____

This year, some time in April, you will receive information on the person you will be praying for this next year, 2022-2023 (remember to keep it a secret).

Please return this information to me at 280 1st Street Solvang or janzigler@hotmail.com.

God's Blessings to you.



Events and Occasions

Ash Wednesday

We will start our Ash Wednesday practice with a soup supper in the Fireside Room. Join us for a simple soup supper with salad and bread at 6 pm. Following the soup supper, worship will take place in the sanctuary at 7 pm.

On the following Wednesdays in Lent (March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6), the soup supper services will take place in the Fireside Room at 6 pm (Yoga meets in the Parish Hall).

Pastor Chris will have a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for soups, salads and bread for the Lenten Soup Suppers.

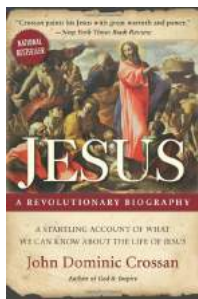
Lenten Soup Supper and Bible Study



This year, Lenten Soup Suppers are back! We will be gathering every Wednesday at 5:30 pm over a simple meal, followed by this year's Lenten activity, a bible study dedicated to **"The Kingdom of God."** As in the past, I will have sign-up sheets for folks to sign up to bring either soup, salad or bread. We will gather each Wednesday in Lent in the Fireside Room. Please look out for the sign-up sheet and we'll see you there!

Theo Pub at Solvang Brew!

Theology Pub will be gathering once again at Solvang Brewing Company! We'll be getting together at 7 pm on Thursday, March 10. And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!



Book Group

Bethania's Book Group will be starting a new book this month, by New Testament scholar, John Dominic Crossan, called Jesus, a Revolutionary Biography. If you've ever been interested in the historical Jesus of Nazareth, come join our group. We gather the 3rd Thursday of every month at 2PM on Zoom. Order your book at The Book Loft or online.

“Stuff” SALE

March 5, 2022
8:00 am to 1 pm
Bethania Parish Hall



STUFF A BAG Special!

12:30-1:00

Purchase our bag for \$5.00 and take home whatever fits inside!

50% - Large Items Half Price after 12:30 – 50%

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT

Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution

◆ Helping our neighbors with food insecurity, one bag at a time ◆

◆ **Donate:** Drop off items Thursday, March 3,
5:30-7:30 pm or Friday, March 4, 5:30-8:00 pm.

PLEASE, NO CLOTHING!

◆ **Volunteer:** Help price & sort, March 3 & 4, and
Volunteer to help at Sale day

◆ **Shop March 5:** Find some great bargains and help
us purchase food to “Stuff” Tuesday bags for our
hungry neighbors!

Questions or to help:

Contact Church Office: 805-688-4637 or Linda: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Arla Hoj Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 1 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend the service for Arla which will be held in the sanctuary. A reception in the Parish Hall will follow the service.

Endowment Fund Scholarship Available

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that educational and vocational scholarships will once again be available for the fall semester. Applications are open to persons who will be, or are currently attending college or vocational training this fall, and who are also active in the church life of Bethania.

We invite you to apply by writing an essay introducing yourself to the committee. The content should include a description of your past and present church participation with Bethania, the influence your faith has had in making everyday life decisions, ways your faith has determined educational and future goals, and examples of your community service. Please also share your strongest memory of being part of the community which is Bethania Lutheran Church and why that one memory holds significance.

For anyone who does not have a standard application form, some will be at the church office as well as the high school.

Pertinent Dates:

March 18th: Applicant's due date to submit or mail applications. (SYVHS students only.)

March 31st for non-SYVHS applicants.

For further information, contact David Hemming.

David@1valley.com (805) 680-7078

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - Feb. 17, 2021

Present: Pastor Chris, Jan Zigler, Carol Lake, Ron Walsh, Lori McConnell, Emily Abello, Jessica Yacoub

Present by Zoom: Josh Bratt, Jasmine Day, Anne Twigg

Absent: Wendy Bevier

Guests: Linda Marzullo, Denise Morris

Call to Order 7:05 pm Emily Abello gave devotions

The new Family Ministry Director, Jessica Yacoub was introduced.

Consent Agenda:

Jan moved Emily seconded that the items be approved as presented. M/S/C unanimously.

Old Business:

Linda Marzullo gave a brief report on the Food Distribution, which is still feeding many families. They have received a \$2500 grant from Montecito Bank and Trust as well as another gift of \$1000. They are having a "Stuff Sale" on March 5 with money going to the purchase of food.

Linda also asked for guidance as to how to distribute the money received from the Produce Table. Ron moved, Lori seconded that \$1000 go to ELCA World Hunger and the remaining go to Iglesia Food Program. M/S/C unanimously.

Bill Zigler reported on the progress of the stained glass windows. They should be ready this next week, however, they will come back smaller because of lead degradation. He has contacted someone who can help with this problem. Pastor Chris wants to get an e-mail vote on the cost for completing the windows. Heritage Fund will pay for the repairs.

Pastor's Report:

One new family has joined Bethania.

The parsonage needs new front and back doors. Allan Laugesen will do the work for \$2880. Ron moved, Josh seconded that we approve up to \$3000 for the door replacement. M/S/C unanimously, Pastor Chris abstained.

Family Ministry Director's Report:

Jessica Yacoub reported on what she has been doing in her first weeks on the job.

Pastor Chris moved, Jan seconded that we approve the update to the Fireside Room. He and Jessica will choose the paint colors. M/S/C unanimously.

New Business:

Committee Liaison Assignments:

Emily – Christian Ed.	Wendy – Altar Guild	Anne - ?
Josh – Social Ministry	Carol - Memorials, BLCW	Lori – Endowment
Jan – Preschool, Cemetery	Ron - Property	
Jasmine – Long Range Planning		

A motion came from the Preschool Board to approve Melissa O'Quinn to the Preschool Board, Pastor Chris seconded. M/S/C unanimously.

Mask Policy:

After some discussion, Pastor Chris moved, and Emily seconded that we change our policy to "Mask Optional". M/S/C unanimously.

Council is serving coffee on Feb. 27 for the Congregational Meeting. Anne and Carol will set up. Everyone needs to bring something for coffee.

Next meeting will be March 17, 2022. Pastor Chris will do devotions.

Adjourned 8:20 pm with The Lord's Prayer

**Respectfully submitted,
Carol Lake, Secretary**

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	Jan Zigler (559) 740-3676	Anne Twigg (805) 350-1922
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736

Notes to Financial Statement - Feb. 14, 2022

BALANCE SHEET

	Dec. 2021	January 2022	Change
Operating Acct	\$77,681	\$68,201	• \$8,480
Money Mkt Acct	\$141,007	\$137,184	• \$3,823
Petty Cash Acct	100	100	0
Fund Accounts	2,007,563	\$2,202,827	\$195,264
Fixed Assets	1,852,376	1,852,376	0
Total Assets	\$4,078,728	\$4,261,690	\$182,962

PROFIT & LOSS ACTUAL VS BUDGET

January 2021	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$20,145	\$22,573	• \$2,428
Total Expenses	\$23,480	\$24,598	• \$1,117
Net Income	• -\$3,335	• -\$2,025	• -\$1,310

Balance Sheet:

The cash position is still good with \$66,201 in checking and \$137,184 in the money market account

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

- Offerings for the month were below budget by \$1,163
- We did not take the \$3,000 Endowment Fund contribution for the month
- Overall income was at 89% of budget
- Salaries and benefits were slightly below budget for the month
- Office administration was slightly over budget for the month
- Property expenses were below budget for the month
- Utilities were up significantly during the month (over budget by \$715) largely due to the cold weather, and the usage of the heater in the sanctuary during food distribution
- All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.
- Overall expenses were at 95% of budget.

Next Social Ministry Meeting: Wednesday, April 6

The March meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be postponed until April 6th, due to the Stuff Sale and Ash Wednesday. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room.**

An informal wrap-up meeting after the Stuff Sale will be held sometime in March.

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.

Last month we reported that Frank Kristofferson passed away. He is Sandra Tomasini's uncle not dad. We apologize for any confusion.

For Comfort During Grief for the family and loved ones of Genie Machetanz. Genie died Feb. 18, 2022.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Carl and Christine Ekman, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoyer, Jennifer Howell, Tomi Izuno, Linda Johansen, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Denise Morris, 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.

March 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

1:45 ish 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

6:00 pm Lenten Soup Suppers in the Fireside Room

Thursdays

Kristyl will be works from 11 am - 6 pm to attend SYV Wind Ensemble practice.

7-8:00 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall and on-site

Wednesday, March 2

Lent Begins

6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper in the Fireside Room

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service in the Church

Thursday, March 3

5:30-7:00 pm Drop-Off Items for Stuff Sale in the Parish Hall

Friday, March 4

5:30 -8:00 pm Drop-Off Items for Stuff Sale in the Parish Hall

Saturday, March 5

8 am-1 pm "Stuff" Sale in the Parish Hall

6-8:30 pm Song in My Heart Recital in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 10

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

Friday, March 11

9 am - noon Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Friday, March 11-Saturday, March 12

Youth Group Paints the Fireside Room

Sunday, March 13

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

3 pm "Abe Lincoln" Presented by Friends of the Solvang Library in the Fireside Room

2:30 pm Parents of Middle School kids Meeting in the Parish Hall

3-5 pm Middle School You Group in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, March 16

5:30 pm Bethania Preschool & After School Board Meeting in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 17

2:00 pm Book Group via Zoom

7:00 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Friday, March 18

Deadline for Endowment Fund Scholarships in the Church Office

Saturday, March 19

1 pm Service Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Arla Hoj in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall

2:30-4:30 pm Celebration of Community - Joined Children and Youth Program at St. Mark's

4:00 pm Introduction of High School Youth Group at Celebration of Community (see above)

Sunday, March 27

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

2 pm Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble Concert in the Sanctuary

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