



The Beacon

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

May 2022

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

Creating a Sustainable Future

Dearly Beloveds,

When I started at Bethania, I was humbled by the community I was becoming a part of. There was something sacred about the history of this church and how the important elements of that history were continuing to be lived out today. I was in awe that 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation people of the founders of this town and church were still so present. And I could feel how treasured these memories are and this history is by people today. Pretty quickly I felt a deep desire to make sure that our history was not only honored, but our traditions continue on in sustainable ways.

The biggest obstacle to this has always been money. The truth is our membership is growing and our ministries are vibrant. However, as time goes on, the cost of living goes up and much of people's income has stayed the same. People, en masse, simply don't have the level of income they had a few decades ago when most churches were thriving. The problem of income is not just an issue with Bethania, it's a problem across the board. At a recent meeting with our synod's new bishop, Bishop Brenda Bos, she said that we are living at a point where member offerings are no longer a sustainable method of income for church budgets, which means a lot of churches are going to have to figure out creative ways of supplementing what we used to rely so easily on.

I think a lot of churches would hear that news with trepidation. However, I don't. A few decades ago, our church leadership was smart enough to create an endowment fund, and through continued wisdom, that fund has grown to be quite healthy. Many churches today are scrambling to create what Bethania had the foresight to do long ago. What a gift!

At our most recent congregational meeting, we voted to change our Endowment Fund's bylaws so that the **distributable income**, not the principle, could be utilized for Bethania's ministries, if need be. Part of our strategy moving forward is to aggressively grow our Endowment Fund, so that the principle continues to be a source of growth, and annual distributable income can be a source for continuing Bethania's ministries. In a rapidly changing landscape, this does 3 things:

1. **It protects Bethania from the volatility of change**
2. **It grows the Endowment Fund so that the principle continues to be healthy and maintained.**
3. **It creates not only sustainability for Bethania as a church, but also for its history, traditions, and ministries.**

Point number 3 is what's been so important to me since I started. I want Bethania to outlive us all. It's such a special church, not just because of its history and traditions, but also how it continually serves as a space for the community to gather and experience life in that Danish Folk School way that was so

important to its founders, and how it continues to serve our community at large, especially those of need.

So, something we initially planned to do two years ago before the pandemic disrupted life, we're finally going to do next month. On June 12th, right after the 9:30 service, we'll be holding a Legacy Planning workshop with Lisa Higginbotham. She is supported by the ELCA and the Social Synod and she comes at no cost to our congregation. She will help us connect our joys and hopes at Bethania to our current endowment policy so that Bethania will continue to be vibrant in our community long into the future. I would ask as a personal favor to me, but more importantly, as a service to how much Bethania means to you, to please come to this workshop and hear Lisa's presentation and understand how you can help Bethania continue to be an integral source for community, for ministry, and for what makes our church so special. If you have any questions or comments, you can email or call, and please don't hesitate to do so.

I remain yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

Meet Lisa Higginbotham!



Lisa Higginbotham is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive and has successfully worked in the financial services industry for 25 years. Previous to serving in ministry, Lisa successfully ran her own professional practice as a financial advisor, specializing in retirement and legacy planning. In her current role, Lisa works directly with congregations, ELCA organizations, synods, and partnerships. Hoping to bring her experience and advocacy to each, she helps create gift and endowment policy, works directly with donors to help them express generosity, and transitions merging or closing congregations to fulfill their legacies by combining assets or disposition. Lisa hopes to use her experience and talent to create sustainability and ministry funding for the church! Lisa's passions are all family-centered, dedicating her personal time to her husband, family, and community. When not on a church campus, you can find her cooking for family, in her community garden, or raising monarch butterflies.

Youth and Children Program

Sunday School continues to be available for all elementary-age children. Caregivers are welcome to drop off children at 11 am. **Childcare** is also available at this time for any child 2-5 years old at the 9:30 service and "Unorthodox" Gathering at 11 am. Thank you to all our extraordinary and dedicated Sunday school teachers.

Vacation Bible School is back! Brought to you by St. Mark's in-the-Valley and Bethania, this week of faith, learning and community is sure to be a hit. You can sign up now for this FREE event on Bethania's website. Join us **July 11-15: Vacation Bible School**. This is from 5:30 to 8:30 pm Snacks provided.

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School. To register, please go to www.bethanialutheran.net

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

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

Bible Story Teller: Linda Marzullo

In need of Crew Leaders. Please email or call **Jessica Yacoub** (jessica@smitv.org or 530-867-3682) for more information

Help us purchase supplies for Vacation Bible School. Here is our VBS amazon wish list:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/6KF0xJ8?ref_=wl_share

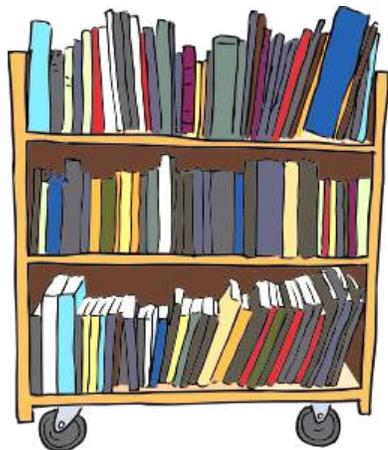
In working on the Fireside room, we noticed that many of the board games we have are not in great condition therefor we are seeking donations of new and gently used board games. Specifically requested: chess sets, Trouble, Clue, Guess Who and Jinga.

Upcoming Youth and Children Events

May 15 Middle School Youth Group @Bethania 3-5

May 15 Brown Bag Packing middle school youth help

May 21 Boomers 11:30 Youth (6-12 grade)



Faith in Action

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.**

Blessing Box

The use of the **Blessing Box** in front of our church has been a huge eye-opener as to how many in our valley are living on the edge. This appears to be an issue beyond the current COVID-19 crisis.

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

Whatever you use in your home – that is what we need for the Blessing Box! Items needed for the Blessing Box include canned and dried foods, snacks, cereal, coffee, condiments, cleaning supplies (such as dish soap, laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaners), cooking oil, personal care items, meal kits, tuna, chicken, mac & cheese...you get the idea. We have even been blessed with produce from local gardeners, eggs, home-canned jam and cakes from Albertson's.

Feel free to put your items (that do not require refrigeration) straight into the box on the Atterdag Road side of the church. Or contact the church office (805) 688-4637, or me if you like: (805) 688-5219 or (805) 688-3059. You may also email me at vikingpressprint@verizon.net if you need to arrange to meet.

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

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

- **Linda Marzullo**

Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution

Numbers are still rising. Here are the households and individuals we have served in the previous 5 weeks:

March 22	200 Households	838 Individuals	28 Households new-enrolled
March 29	195 Households	769 Individuals	19 HH new-enrolled
April 5	185 Households	707 Individuals	12 HH new-enrolled
April 12	197 Households	777 Individuals	18 HH new-enrolled
April 19	219 Households	890 Individuals	14 HH new-enrolled

- Total Individuals served to date, January-April 19, 2022: **11,672**
- Current number of households enrolled: **1,231**

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

Food Distribution Shift times:

- 9:30-10:00 Moving items into position and bringing food from Pantry
- 9:45-approx. 11:30 Packing bags in church
- 1:45-approx. 3:00 Finish bags with Food Bank items and bagging produce
- 4:45 Setting up for Evening Distribution (started at 5:15)
- 6:45-7:45 Clean Up

Produce Table

The Produce Table opens **Sunday, May 8**. Every week we will have fresh produce - fruit, vegetables, flowers, vegetable or flower starts, succulents, etc. - anything you wish to share - available. If you want to take something home, simply leave a donation in the jar on the table. Proceeds benefit hunger concerns. Please contact kristyl Downey at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637 to volunteer at the Produce Table in May.

May 8 - Kristyl Downey

May 15 _____

May 22 _____

May 29 _____

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: May 15

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast 2022 packing day is scheduled for May 15th. We will be packing in the Parish Hall starting around 10:30. Everyone is invited to help out – all ages and abilities are needed to help pack! *A special thanks to Carolyn Schuit and Elizabeth Breen who assisted with the March packing date, as I had a family emergency.*

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, 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
688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count on May 22

For our Noisy Offering in May, in honor and support of mothers everywhere, we are going to be using your donations to create a “Formula Fund”. We will be purchasing baby formula and gift cards to help mothers purchase formula for their babies.



Why do we need to support this?

During our weekly food distribution, we distribute formula. Baby formula powder costs between \$18-\$45 per can. While breastfeeding is the best for baby and the pocketbook, many mothers are unable to breastfeed or need formula to supplement breast milk for their baby’s health. Many young mothers are struggling to afford this additional cost. With the recent recalls on Similac products, the supply chain shortages, and rising costs, these women are asking for more and more formula – which is also harder and harder for us to find as well. The “formula fund” would help us purchase more formula and distribute gift cards to women when we do not have the formula they need, in the hopes that they can find it to purchase – even if it costs more than they can afford.

Why is formula out of stock everywhere?

The lack of raw ingredients has forced manufacturers to slow production. To compound the formula shortage of 2022, the reduced volume of formula products that is being manufactured is taking longer to make its way onto store shelves. This is largely due to supply chain problems and labor shortages.

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 May 22. Together, we can CHANGE a growing baby’s world. Even a small donation or one coin can make a difference to someone in need.

– Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry

Your Donations at work: Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

With the rise in food insecurity here in our beautiful valley, the problem is also constant for our friends at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. Their members are the people who actually pick produce for us all to eat, and so it seems inconceivable that they are not able to afford food for themselves.

We are helping them with feeding families, including many households headed by only one parent. Many families have been abandoned by one of the spouses because of stress, alcoholism, illness and despair, and left to fend on their own. This is especially the case for a lot of women with small children.

If you can help by donating some of the items below, please leave items in the box in the sanctuary, take to the church office, or contact me for drop off. Your donations are making a difference in a life and in families of hard-working people. If you would like to make a financial donation, please be sure to earmark it for "Iglesia" when donating.

Most Needed:

Dry Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee – Snacks (such as Cookies) – Bottled Juice – Feminine Products – Shampoo – Laundry Detergent – Dish Soap – Bleach and Cleaning Products – Baby Diapers (All sizes especially 5&6) – Formula (Enfamil Yellow)

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our friends at Iglesia.

– Linda Marzullo

Events and Occasions

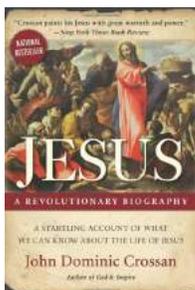
Calling All Graduates!

Are you a member of Bethania about to graduate from high school, or college or complete a training program or certification? Or, if you have a close family member about to graduate, please let us know. We will highlight our graduates in the June Beacon.

Theo Pub

Theology Pub will be gathering once again at Solvang Brew! We'll be getting together at 7 pm on Thursday, May 12. 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 2 pm on Zoom. This month we will be discussing parts 5 & 6.

A FAMILY EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

Saturday

May 14th

10am-1pm

**@ Bethania Preschool
611 Atterdag Road**

Solvang



TICKETS:

\$5/person

\$20/family of 5

@ gate

- 3 parking lots FULL of safety, construction, farming, & specialty trucks
- NO horn hour from 10-11AM for sensitive ears
- Helmet fittings offered with purchase of \$10 helmet
- Hot dog & Snack concessions, Body Art & Glitter Tattoos, Quilt Raffle and more!
- Rain or Shine event- everything is more fun with rain boots anyways!

**KIDS WILL CLIMB ON, SIT IN, EXPLORE & LEARN ABOUT
THEIR FAVORITE BIG TRUCKS AND VEHICLES!**

PreSale Tickets – Avoid the lines! Available on

www.facebook.com/syvtouchatruck

For More Information:

SYVTouchATruck@gmail.com

To benefit Bethania Preschool & Afterschool

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council Meeting - April 21, 2022

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

- The Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) conducted Pastor Chris's evaluation for the previous year. All were in agreement that we are blessed to have Pastor Chris as our pastor, and that he has done a remarkable job in the face of the pandemic, and other challenges.
- Council approved the minutes, financials and treasurer's statements from February and March.
- Approved the appointment of Leigh Berenger as Treasurer and authorized her as a signer on our accounts.
- With the opening of the campus for rental groups in June, Pastor asked if anyone knows of someone willing to work as a site supervisor, please let him know. This is a paid position.
- SYV Pride will be holding a Pride event on June 25th and Bethania will be one of the sponsors. Pastor Chris is using his discretionary funds for this sponsorship.
- Push Pay was briefly discussed, and it was reported that that this program is working well for Bethania. Approximately 35 + people use this every month/week.
- Bill Zigler reported that we may have a possible roof leak above classroom 8 – he will get it inspected.
- We are considering updating our Mission Statement and adding a vision statement to it. It will go to the congregation at its November 2022 meeting.

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	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 - April 20, 2022

Balance Sheet

	February 2022	March 2022	Change
Operating Acct	\$61,127	\$57,179	-\$3,948
Money Mkt Acct	\$137,642	\$140,728	\$3,086
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,852,376	\$1,852,376	\$0
Total Assets	\$4,254,072	\$4,253,210	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

March 2022	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$22,425	\$22,613	-178
Total Expenses	\$26,796	\$24,741	-1424
Net Income	-\$4,371	-\$2,128	-1602

Balance Sheet

* The cash position is still good with \$57,179 in checking and \$140,728 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

- * Offerings for the month were above budget by \$2885.84 (\$246, which were non-members).
- * The endowment fund contribution was made on April 1st (it is not reflected in March statements)
- * Overall income was 96.39% of the budget.
- * Salaries and benefits were over budget by \$2243.79 for payment to the Director of Youth & Children Programs JessicaYacoub for \$3645 (Feb & March). However, Salary & Benefits are on budget for 1Q.
- * Office Administration was over budget for the month due to the Chamber of Commerce yearly payment (\$150) and envelopes orders from Viking Press Print (\$68). As a result, the overall month was over by \$71.
- * A credit of \$1374 for General Liability Insurance for adjustment 2021.
- * Gas Bill was \$1569.60 (\$567.51 budgeted) due to the heat left on when the windows are open.
- * Christian Education Committee is over budget due to Vacation Bible School materials cost of \$222.78 (zero budgeted).
- * All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.
- * Overall expenses were at 97.82% of the budget.

Food Distribution Review

The Food Distribution quarterly review meeting will be held **May 4 at 6:00 pm**. All interested people are invited.

This meeting is to review the challenges and successes from previous months, grant updates, and talk about direction in the upcoming months. Ideas, input and questions are welcome.

– **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 David Martinez**. David died April 2, 2022. The service remembering and celebrating his life was held here at Bethania on April 11.

The **family and Loved Ones of Lucille Wulff**. Lucille died April 13th. The service remembering and celebrating her life will be **Saturday, June 4 at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary**. A barbecue lunch at Hans Christian Andersen Park will follow the service.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Jennifer Howell, Tomi Izuno, Linda Johansen, Jake & Anya Knotts, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Denise Morris, 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.

Mathilde and Matthieu in Solvang, April 2022

You've probably seen cyclists on Hwy 101 loaded down with stuff and wondered how and why someone would ride with such a load. Our valley is right on the bicycling route from Vancouver, Canada to Argentina, one leg of a bicycle route around the world. This is one reason why American and international cyclists ride through here regularly. Others may just ride for a weekend, a week or a month. A non-profit organization called Warm Showers matches cyclists with hosts all over North America. Cycle hosts provide a warm shower and a bed or a camping spot in someone's yard, usually for one night. A meal is optional, though always greatly appreciated. Cyclists are frugal, interesting, adventuresome and usually young people who are very grateful for a place to stay on their odyssey. The less they spend, the more of the world they can experience on a bike. You can view their profiles on warmshowers.org before deciding to host. For more info, check out the website or contact Bill Zigler.



Coffee hosts in May

Please take a moment and sign-up to host coffee hour after the worship service. If you are interested, please sign-up on the coffee schedule posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Available dates in May:

May 1 - Jan Zigler
May 8
May 15 - Emily Abello for her 80th birthday
May 22 - Marie Jager
May 29

Thank you to everyone who is hosting in May.

Bethania's Usher Team

Greetings Bethania Friends,

You are invited to join Bethania's Usher Team. Our responsibilities are clear and simple, and it takes very little time beyond normal attendance at church. Directions are hanging in the vestry, and I will happily provide training at your convenience or serve with you during your first usher experience. Oh, and you get to ring the bell, if you like. Our goal is to have a few more ushers so that we would serve only once per quarter. Questions? **Call or text Bill Zigler at (559) 333-4080.**

May Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
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

Thursdays

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

Tuesday, May 3

6:00-8:00 pm VBS Meeting in the Fireside Room

Wednesday, May 4

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

Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day

Produce Table Starts

Monday, May 9

5:30 pm Touch-A-Truck Planning Meeting in the Fireside Room

Thursday, May 12

7:00 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, May 13

9:00 am - noon Quilting in the Parish Hall

Prepare for Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, May 14

10:00 am - 1 pm Touch-A-Truck on the premises

Sunday, May 15

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

3-5 pm Middle School Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Wednesday, May 18

5:30 pm BPSAS Board Meeting in the Fireside Room

Thursday, May 19

2:00 pm Book Group via Zoom

7:00 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, May 20

Noon Beacon Deadline

5:30 - 8:00 pm Outside Group in the Parish Hall

Saturday May 21

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Miss Wanda's Class Graduation Ceremony in the Courtyard

11:30 am Middle School Youth Group Boomers Trip

Sunday, May 22

Noisy Offering

Monday, May 23

6:00 - 7:30 pm Linda Johansen Travel Meeting in the Parish Hall

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day

The Church Office and Bethania Preschool and After School are closed.

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May 2022

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Image from Pexels