



The Beacon

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

June 2022

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

Bethania's Mission Statement

We are a community of Christ-centered, welcoming, inclusive and multi-generational people rooted in God's faith, hope and love, called to advocate for justice, give to those in need, and share God's affirming love with the world.

Reflections from Pastor Chris

As I sit and write this Beacon article, it's May 24th—typically a week or so before it comes out. I knew I needed to finish this article by today so Kristyl could get the Beacon organized and sent out on time. I was prepared to sit down and write something about which I can't even remember, because an hour before typing this I read the news that a gunman walked into an elementary school in Texas and killed 14 little kids and a teacher, and wounded more than a dozen others. I don't want to write this, but I literally can't think of anything else right now. I can't help but think of Vesper, who is starting elementary school this August and the absolute despair I would feel if this happened to her.

I think to myself: I'm a pastor and I need to write something of hope in this moment, and maybe that hope will come in a few days, but I don't feel it right now. I don't feel it because I think I wrote something hopeful or preached something hopeful or said something hopeful at a rally the last time this happened. And here we are.

As the days from this event proceed, we'll learn more about the gunman, his motives, how he got the guns, the oversights and signs that were ignored, etc. People will lobby their opinions, they'll take their ideological sides in the matter, and in a few weeks, we'll move on to the next hot crisis story. Until this happens again. And I just feel crippled. I feel crippled because there are people passionately fighting to try and change a system that allows this to continually happen, and there are people passionately fighting to keep this system in place. I feel crippled because when I think of the everyday people like you and me, the masses, we've been pitted against each other by ideological entities that feel it's better for our society to be divided than it is to come together, that fear is a better motivational tool than hope or love, and we fall for it.

J. Krishnamurti once said, "It is no measure of health to be well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society." We are sick because we're the only developed nation that has this problem, and we've become well-adjusted because we won't even be talking about this in a few weeks. How did we get here? Do you ever wonder?

I wish I had something better to say right now, and I probably will in a few days, and as your pastor I probably should. But sometimes we need to give voice to that raw, helpless feeling, because maybe a lot of us are feeling the same way and no one is saying it out loud. And maybe that's the first point of unity in such a divisive world. Maybe it's one person saying they feel helpless, and tired, and despairing, and then someone else saying, "me too," and someone else saying, "me three". Jesus said, "Where two

or three are gathered, I am there among them.” Maybe two or three people from the opposite sides of the spectrum will sit down with each other in that unifying space of feeling helpless, not wanting a world like this anymore, realizing that they’re sitting together, and maybe that’s something?

What I’m finding a modicum of solace in right now is this: Jesus, a Palestinian peasant, a nobody, had a vision for a better world, and he didn’t share that vision with the powerful, but with the powerless—the everyday people, like you and me. And enough of them bought into that vision that they set out, and for a while, they made that vision a reality. It’s not ludicrous to think we can do the same, is it?

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

Resignation of Jessica Yacoub

I’m sad to share that Jessica has resigned as Director of Youth and Family Programs. Jessica has incredible expertise and gifts for this position. She’s a recent graduate from a Master’s Program in Education with an emphasis in Leadership and Change, as well as a degree in Early Childhood Development and Social Service Administration. Ultimately, she decided she would like to pursue something that could use these gifts in a more comprehensive way. While I’m sad she’s resigned, it was a respectful departure. She’s a member of our larger community and it will always be a joy to see her. Please keep her in your prayers as she seeks what’s next. Our Youth Program will continue undisturbed. We’ll be looking forward to some summer activities and getting started again in August. If you have any questions, please direct them to me.

**Thank You,
Pastor Chris**

Legacy Presentation Moving to New Date

Last month I dedicated my Beacon article to our Legacy Presentation by Lisa Higginbotham. I am really excited to have her come help us think about Bethania’s future in exciting ways, and I want to emphasize again, how important it is to come to this presentation. With COVID cases rising in our area, I have moved the presentation to **July 31st**, during coffee hour. I know we’re all being cautious right now and I’d rather have this presentation once this COVID wave dissipates. Please keep an eye out for information about the presentation in the coming weeks.

About 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.

Bethania Preschool and After School

Touch A Truck 2022 – Was a huge Success!

Thank you to all of Bethania members and friends who supported this event for the Preschool and After School Program. The day was warm and we had over 850 attendees! A record number! Folks had great fun exploring the vehicles



on display, getting faces painted, dancing through the bubble

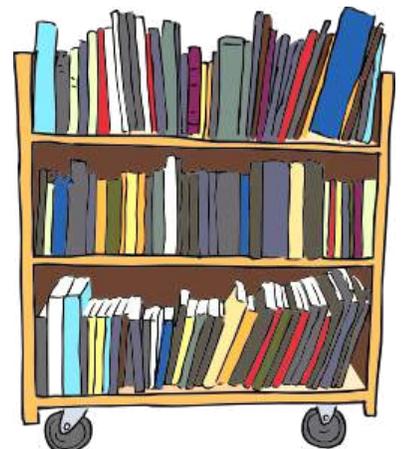


machine, riding on the mini fire truck and other activities. The school earned more money this year than in the past. Thank you again for the support of this ministry.

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

Thanks to Thrivent, I was able to organize a food drive to support our Blessing Box. Participants signed up to organize a food drive in their community and a limited number received a kit of Thrivent t-shirts and shopping bags to help with the food drive. Thrivent also made \$5 contributions to Feeding America for the participants who signed-up in their time-limited window.

We received over 14 bags of food, toilet paper, shampoo, soap, etc. and food is still coming in. Thanks to Melissa Eck, Sandra Tomasini and Stewart and Lynne Fries who cleaned out their pantry at home and donated several containers of food for the Blessing Box. Thanks to the community members at large (unknown) who dropped off donations in the narthex.

Our shelves are full as well as our hearts!

- **Kristyl Downey**

Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution

Tuesday Food Distribution continues each week. Please consider volunteering to help pack bags, produce, or work the evening distribution. **Shifts are at 9:30, 1:30 and 4:45.** This effort takes a lot of volunteers and can be so rewarding when you hear how we are making a difference. Below is one letter from a client, who shares why he started coming, and why he still needs help.

My name is Thomas and my family was in a very challenging financial situation when the Pandemic first hit. My wife was furloughed from her job and we fell behind on our bills as well as experiencing not having food to have well-balanced meals. I work in Buellton and was told about the Bethania Food distribution program and I believe I went as a client the second week after it started. I remember how well it was run and how nice the volunteers were. I'm a Christian, I felt so blessed and I started to believe that my prayers were being answered. I got off work early the following Tuesday and I was heading back to the Bethania Food Distribution Program and got there a little early. I asked Donna and Linda if the volunteers needed a little help and they both answered, "Yes, if you would like to help". Helping the other volunteers and seeing the look in the clients' eyes was a heartfelt experience. I started showing up to help every Tuesday with bagging vegetables, breaking down boxes, running empty pallets to the side of the church and loading boxes into the client's vehicles. It was an awesome experience working with the volunteers because everyone came together as a team and had the willingness to help wherever help was needed. I'm a disabled Vet also and this Bethania Food Distribution Program reminds me of my experience serving this country with dedicated servicemen and women.

In my personal opinion, this program still has as big of an impact it had two years ago. The program is very important to the community and I recognized the need for the program to continue bless so many needy families. My family hasn't quite recovered from the pandemic crisis and we definitely benefit from the blessings we are still receiving every Tuesday. I appreciate the Bethania Food Distribution Program, the participants, volunteers and so many others. People in the community also recognize the need to help other's by donating food, clothing and household items. This program is a role model for what's needed throughout the world, "LOVE & UNITY".

**Sincerely,
Thomas R.
5.16.2022**

Produce Table

The Produce Table opened **Sunday, May 8**. Every week we will have fresh produce available, anything you wish to share - fruit, vegetables, flowers, eggs, vegetable or flower starts, succulents, etc. 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 June.

June 5 - Marilyn Larsen
June 12 - Leigh Berenger
June 19
June 26

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: June 12th

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for June 12th. 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! The bags we make provide food items for local seniors to eat while taking medications.

We packed 479 bags last packing May 16th, and Gene and Harriett Madsen delivered 415 of them the next day to BSC due to the need. Our breakfast bags are delivered to needy local seniors three times weekly 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)



Please help pack on June 12th. 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 is coming June 26: Day of Service Projects in September Make Change with your Change!

Last month, someone dropped off a grocery bag with various containers of change in it at the front door of the office. If you would like the unique containers returned, please let Kristyl know. bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637.

Our next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on June 26. This Noisy Offering will be used towards purchasing items for the Day of Service (Health and School Kits) which will be in September. Donations of coins, cash or check are welcome.

Why are you asking now for September? We need to be able to start purchasing school items when they go on sale in July. And although September seems far away, with the amount of items we need to collect, time goes quickly!

How can I help beyond the Noisy Offering? We welcome people to pick up items to help (see lists below). Drop off in church entry or at the church office.

For Personal Care Kits:

Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20”x40” & 27”x52”), dark colors preferred
Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)
Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging – bulk buys can be repackaged by us)
Comb, sturdy wide toothed
Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

For School Supply Kits:

70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
Rulers with centimeters and inches
Pencil sharpeners
Blunt tip scissors
#2 Pencils – NOT SHARPENED
Ballpoint Pens (not gel) – Blue or Black ink
2-1/2” Erasers
Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

We all really do “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some joyful noise on June 26th. We can CHANGE someone’s world with soap, a toothbrush, pencils or notebook. So easy to do, and fun too!

– Linda Marzullo

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

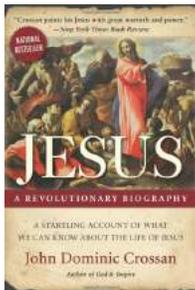
Events and Occasions

Theo Pub at Solvang Brew!

Theology Pub will be gathering at Solvang Brew! We'll be getting together at 7 pm on Thursday, June 9th." For the summer months we do "Open-Topic Night" where you get to ask the pastor whatever you want or bring a topic for the group to discuss. And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!



Book Group



Bethania's Book Group is continuing a discussion of a Jesus, a Revolutionary Biography by New Testament scholar, John Dominic Crossan. 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.

Thanks to everyone for signing up to host coffee hour in June.

Anyone interested in signing up for coffee, June 12? Please call Kristyl or sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

June 5: Bethania Preschool & After School Board in honor of Annalisa Nearn - who will be moving out of the area soon.

June 12:

June 19: Robert & Alice Laufer

June 26: Glenda Madrid

Join us for a Special Coffee Hour! June 5th

Our dear friend and fellow servant to Bethania Lutheran Church, Annalisa Nearn is moving soon to Indiana to be closer to family. Please join us in honoring her service on Sunday, June 5th for coffee and refreshments hosted by the Cemetery Committee and Preschool Board . There will be a basket for cards or gifts available (nothing larger than a gift card, please).

Vacation Bible School Monday July 11-15 @ 6 pm-8:15 pm

VBS Supplies Needed:

1 Crew Leader and 8 assistants	1 large lantern	1 UV light
1 pack of Glow in the Dark markers	35% Hydrogen Peroxide (Sally Beauty in Lompoc)	
2 jugs of Potassium Iodide (Amazon)	1 large water jug	
48 snacks x 5 days= 250 individually packed snacks		

Decorators are meeting:

Tuesday June 14 @ 6-8pm

Tuesday June 28 @ 6-8pm

Wednesday July 6 @ 6-8pm

Thursday July 7 @ 6-8pm

Friday July 8 @ 6-8pm

Please call Livier if interested (909) 962-9366.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet Notes from May 19 Council Meeting

Jessica Yacoub, Director of Youth, presented a Handbook for volunteers and helpers. A motion was passed to accept the handbook.

The Memorials Committee presented a motion to fund a conference intern position for the amount of \$1,000. The motion was passed.

The classroom roof is in need of repairs. Coastal Roofing has presented a very reasonable estimate of \$36,000. The company graciously reduced the price \$6,000 because of our work in the valley. A motion was passed to accept the bid.

A motion was passed to create a Capital Campaign to raise \$30,000 for the roof repair.

A committee was formed to create a "Time and Talents" survey to go out to the congregation.

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

Period Ending 4/30/22

Balance Sheet

	February 2022	March 2022	Change	Notes
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	Notes
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 were from 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 Family Ministry Director /Youth & Children Ministry Director (Jessica) 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.

Mission Support Thank You



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



[**THANK YOU**]

To the members of
Bethania Lutheran Church
from the
Southwest California Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
In grateful appreciation for giving

\$17,289.04

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bishop Brenda Boos

Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Elizabeth C. Eaton

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Next Social Ministry Meeting: Wednesday, June 1st

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, June 1 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary**. Topics will include: Brown Bag Breakfast packings, Tuesday Food Distribution, Noisy Offerings, Day of Service, 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
805-688-5219, 805-688-3059 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 Hans Clausen. Hans passed away May 3, 2022.
The family and loved ones of the father of Melissa O'Guinn.

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 Pearsson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Sahde, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Tomi Izuno is cancer-free and thanks everyone at Bethania for their prayers.



Image of Pismo Beach Pier by [David Mark](#) from [Pixabay](#)

June 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

Wednesday, June 1

5 - 6 pm Miss Mimi's Preschool Class End of Year Ceremony in the Courtyard

6 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Thursday, June 2

5 - 6 pm Miss Monica's Preschool Class End of Year Ceremony in the Courtyard

Friday, June 3

5:30 pm Danish Sisterhood Convention in the Parish Hall

Saturday, June 4

All-Day Danish Sisterhood Convention in the Parish Hall

11 am Celebrating the Life of Lucille Wulff in the Sanctuary

BBQ for Lucille (following the service) at Hans Christian Andersen Park

Sunday, June 5 - Pentecost

10:30 am Coffee for Annalisa Nearn in the Parish Hall

Last Day of Sunday School

June Calendar Items, continued

Thursday, June 9

Last Day of 2021-2022 Bethania Preschool and After School Program
Re-Installation of Repaired Stain Glass Windows in the Sanctuary
7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, June 10

BPSAS is closed.
9 am-noon Quilting in the Parish Hall

Sunday, June 12

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

Monday, June 13

Start of Bethania PSAS Summer Program

Tuesday, June 14

6-8 pm VBS Prep Meeting in the Fireside Room

Wednesday, June 15

1-5:30 pm Wedding in the Sanctuary
5:30 pm BPSAS Board Meeting in the Fireside Room

Thursday, June 16

2 pm Book Group via Zoom
3- 5:30 pm Wedding in the Sanctuary

Saturday, June 25

SYV Pride Activities
11 am SYV Pride Parade in Solvang
Celebration of Life for Glen Jacobsen (time and location to be announced)

Tuesday, June 28

6-8 pm VBS Prep Meeting in the Fireside Room

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