



The Beacon

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

September 2022

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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.

Message from Pastor Chris

I want to open my newsletter this month with two questions: when we approach ancient texts, whether it's Plato's Republic, the Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh, or the Bible, do you think it's important to try and understand those texts the way their original audiences understood them? And if so, how important would you say this kind of perspective might be? For me as a pastor, I feel it's one of the most essential tools I can use as I approach the Bible.

This tool has a name. It's called *Historical Criticism* and it was developed in the 17th century in the height of the Enlightenment Period. Historical Criticism is simply a way of trying to understand the perspectives of the people in the time in which an ancient text was written. It started within the secular world of the 17th century and took off. People started REading all sorts of ancient texts from this new perspective and the discoveries were magnanimous. In the secular world of anthropology, archaeology, and history, historical criticism is NOT controversial—it's accepted.

However, historical criticism didn't hit the Christian world until the 19th century, and it didn't take off until the 1950s—and it was extremely controversial. Here was the problem: literally hundreds of years of Christian theology, doctrine, and dogma was created in a time when historical criticism hadn't yet been developed. And when scholars, Christian and secular, started approaching the Bible from this new perspective, it had the capacity to upend a lot of sources in which the Church had staked its power.

For example, hundreds of years of theology interpreted the New Testament to say that *through belief in Jesus, one would go to heaven after they die*. It wasn't until when historical criticism was applied to the New Testament that scholars realized people in ancient Palestine had a different understanding of *belief*, and that ancient Judaism in the time of Jesus, while it believed in an afterlife, didn't focus a lot of attention on it. The Church had staked a lot of power on telling people they needed to spend their life attaining proper belief in Jesus so they could go to heaven after they die, and now, this new perspective was not only saying that's incorrect, but there's this whole mission and ministry of Jesus we've been missing out on.

This power struggle is still happening today. There are many church bodies out there who have outright declared historical criticism to be heretical. In fact, the idea that the Bible is inerrant was coined in 1915 as a response to historical criticism's advent in the Christian world. Prior to this, no church denomination had ever made the claim that the bible was inerrant. I would say this is the defining difference between churches in America today. It's no longer Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Calvary Chapel, Assemblies of God, etc. It's churches that use historical criticism when understanding the bible and churches that repudiate it. We've all been impacted by this struggle. Historical criticism didn't become a

utilized tool in the Lutheran world until the 1970s. That's why I spend so much time talking about the historical context of our readings in my sermons—because many of us, myself included, didn't grow up with the benefits of this integral tool, and there's this incredible world in the Bible and in the Jesus movement that we have not only not been taught, but more importantly, that speaks so wholesomely to our Christian life today.

Historical criticism is not an exciting phrase, but I go back to my initial question, how important do you think it is for anyone to try and understand ancient texts the way their original audiences did. You might say it's an integral way to approach any ancient text—that is until it begs to reshape thoughts about OUR ancient text. I conclude with what I believe is an important distinction: when Jesus was living, preaching, healing, and inviting people into a way of life, whether he had us in mind 2,000 years later, he was intentionally responding to the circumstances of his time. And if we want to live into this way of life as authentically as we can, then we should try to understand those circumstances as best we can—no matter how much they might change our current beliefs.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris Brown**

Youth Programs are Back!

Sunday School begins Sept. 11 at 11 am in the Fireside Room. Ages TK to 5th grade are invited engage in an interactive curriculum filled with stories, crafts, games, and lessons of God's enduring love. Youth older than 5th grade are invited to help as assistants. Contact Pastor Chris for more information.



t.b.d.
think. believe. do.

Youth Group will be moving in time and frequency. We will gather the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month in the Fireside Room from 5:30 to 7 pm, beginning on Sept. 28th. We're starting a new program called Think. Believe. Do. (t.b.d.) This program will help youth look at our faith in a more critical way and help equip them to ask questions rather than seek easy answers. There will also be plenty of time for games and food. Youth Group is for youth between grades 6 and 12. Contact Pastor Chris for more information.

Faith in Action

Food Distribution Continues on Tuesdays; Blessing Box use continues

Bethania continues operating as an Emergency USDA Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through drive up or walk up line each Tuesday. There are no restrictions on income or family size at this time. We serve people from all walks of life, and in all types of circumstances. We have people coming for food from teenagers up to 92 years old.

Numbers have been higher recently with the rise in the cost of food and gas, so we have been serving between 175-215 households the last several weeks. A lot of people in our area need help, and yes, you can make a difference!

Anything you use in your own home is something that can be donated and appreciated by someone else who can't afford it! We can use items in the Blessing Box or for Tuesday's Distribution. Donations can be left in the church or you can contact me to drop off items. We also distribute diapers and wipes, along with incontinence and feminine hygiene items, which are very needed. Donations are appreciated in these areas also.

If you would like to help on a Tuesday, please contact me. We appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. Our Tuesdays are split into shifts, with the unloading crew coming in at 9:30 to help move items and get ready for packing. Bag packers may come at 9:30 am or 1:30. Produce is also packed in the afternoon. Distribution helpers come around 4:45 for the evening distribution. Clean up helpers are always welcome at the end of the night.

We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission, which is making a difference in so many lives here in our area.

– Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

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

Helping Hands + Donated Supplies = *Our 2022 "Day of Service" Event!*

WE NEED YOU! Plan to join others in assembling School Kits and Personal Care Kits on **Sunday, Sept. 11th beginning around 10:45 a.m.** *(We also need helpers to set up on Saturday, September 10th at 4:30 p.m. - see info)* Following Sunday's 9:30 worship service, we will meet in the Parish Hall to start the assembly line for each project.

As part of the ELCA "Day of Service" on Sept. 11, we will be assembling both School Kits and Personal Care Kits in the Parish Hall. "Day of Service" is a church-wide event inviting everyone to do "God's Work – Our Hands." All ages and abilities are welcome to help with these projects – you can be a part of the "assembly line" no matter what your age or skill level. There are plenty of spaces for willing workers! You can count, gather, wrap, tie, box...fun for all ages as we see the piles mount and boxes fill up.

In addition to all of this, we want to hear from YOU - our Idea Wall will be the place where we ask you what things you would like to see Bethania tackle in social needs arena in the year to come. (Foster children needs? Undie Sundays? Support for Animals?) Give us your thoughts for exploration by Social Ministry teams - share your ideas and passions and help us make it happen.

Everyone who contributed in some way to the completion of these many projects is making a difference to the person who receives the kit. YOUR hands were in direct contact with someone in need, through the volunteer time and effort you put in, however large or small.

Thank you all for your support of this important event. Our Bethania members will directly touch those in need, by sending supplies and our compassion through Lutheran World Relief.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Day of Service Items Still Needed!



Our "Day of Service", an ELCA-wide event focusing on the needs of our communities and our world, is coming Sept. 11. We have been collecting items this summer for assembly of Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits and School Supplies. Thanks to those who have donated and given to the Noisy Offerings to support this project, we are in good shape, needing just a few more items.

Personal Care Kits help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence, and living in extreme poverty. When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything to natural or man-made disasters.

School Kits are given to children to help them have the supplies to be able to attend school. Imagine having to choose between eating a meal or purchasing a notebook. In the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Here are the items we still need donated:

For Personal Care Kits:

1. Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20"x40" & 27"x52"), dark colors preferred (at least 35 more needed)
2. Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit – LOTS NEEDED)
3. Combs – wide tooth (only need 25 more)





For School Supply Kits:

1. Ballpoint Pens (not gel) – Blue or Black ink (150 more needed)
2. Pencil Sharpeners (5 more needed)

Bring your items to the donation box in the church or to the church office by Friday, Sept. 9th.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Day of Service set up helpers needed!

- Set up night: Saturday, Sept. 10th in the Parish Hall at 4:30 pm - light snacks

A “set up” time will be held **Saturday, Sep. 10th at beginning at 4:30 p.m.** We will need helpers to set up tables, layout out supplies, band pencils and pens, and take off packaging. Snacks available to keep our workers going!

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Sept. 4th

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend on Sept. 4th. 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. The bags are delivered by Buellton Senior Center volunteers three times a week.

The grant funds we received are not going as far recently, due to the increase in food items (which we all have seen). If you are able to donate any items below, it would help tremendously. 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!

Items we need:

- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
- Soft Granola/Cereal Bars and soft Protein Bars
- Oatmeal Packets (Protein type) or small Cereal Boxes or Cups
- 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 is coming: Sept. 25th Make Change for the Better

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on September 25. The offering from that day will be used to help cover the shipping costs of both the Personal Care Kits and the School Kits that we will be sending to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse. This offering helps Lutheran World Relief ship the kits to the people who need them. We send our kits to an “ingathering” day set up by LWR, so that there is no cost to us to ship them to the warehouse. ***(Assembly day is scheduled for Sept. 11th - see related articles)***

Why do we need to ask for shipping cost donations instead of using those funds for creating more kits?

Here’s why: We plan to make 100+ School Kits and hoping for 100 Personal Care Kits. According to LWR, the approximate processing and shipping cost for each kit is as follows:

LWR Mission Quilt: (per quilt \$2.25)

LWR School Kit: (\$1.40 per kit)

LWR Personal Care Kit: (\$2.65 per kit)*

*Your gifts to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, for Personal Care Kits, also helps LWR cover the cost of providing a tube of toothpaste for each kit

Your quarters, dimes and nickels (and hopefully some dollars!) will help us ship both types of kits, which are desperately needed, according to LWR.

The August Noisy Offering total was used for purchasing items for our Day of Service projects, which are the school kits and the personal care kits.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. So bring your coins and make a noise on Sept. 25th. Together, we can CHANGE the world!

– Linda Marzullo

New on the Theo Cart - The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts, by Gary Chapman

On special occasions, my son loves to buy his wife expensive jewelry, which usually lies forgotten in a drawer. What she **really** likes is when he washes her car and fills it with gas. In this classic Christian book on relationships, counselor Gary Chapman describes five love languages and encourages the reader to discover their own and their partner’s: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service and physical touch. Though most of the examples in the book come from marriage relationships, they apply to any affectionate relationship in which someone wants to show their love in a meaningful way to the recipient. Check it out!

- Jan Zigler

Produce Table Continuing into the Fall

The Produce Table is doing well is continuing into the months of fall. Please bring any produce you would like to share to the Produce Table located hear the Parish Hall on Sundays before the 9:30 service. Proceeds benefit the ELCA World Hunger Program.

We have had Brenda Knudsen's zinnias, Carolynn Petersen's Christmas cacti, Babe Farm root vegetables, tomatoes, peaches, rhubarb, pink ladies, geranium plants, sunflower seeds, and zucchini. What's coming up? Fuji and Red Delicious apples (Kristyl's trees are loaded), tomatoes and more! Plants and cut flowers will also be appearing.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at the Produce Table, donated produce or contributed money.

If you would like to volunteer at the Produce Table, please contact Kristyl (bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637) or sign-up at the Produce Table.

September Produce Table

Sept. 4 - Jerry Mackey
Sept. 18 - Available

Sept. 11 - Marie Jaeger
Sept. 25 - Available

Events and Occasions

Theo Pub

Theology Pub will be gathering at Solvang Brew! We're back to our topic-centered Theo Pub's and our first topic of the program year will be "I and Thou vs I and It". We will gather at 7 pm around the fire pit on Sept. 8, and all are welcome to join.

Book Group



Bethania's Book Group will continue its discussion of Inventing Hell by Jon Sweeney. We will gather by Zoom on Sept. 15 at 2 pm and will be discussing chapters 5-7. Everyone is welcome to join.

Coffee Hosts in September

If you would like to host coffee, please call Kristyl or sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. The next available dates are in October.

Thanks to our September Coffee hosts:

Sept. 4 - Justine Holmlund
Sept. 11 - Lisa, Allan & Henrik Laugesen
Sept. 18 - Ron & Kathy Walsh
Sept. 25 - Terry & Roger Billings

Preschool Building Roof

The roof over the preschool building has been repaired and ready for rain. Thanks to everyone for supporting the Roof Capital Campaign.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council Meeting - Aug. 18, 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 July Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- The roof on the Preschool wing of the church was completed on time. Thanks to the generosity of our members, \$26,600 was raised and the remaining \$3,400 was contributed by the Memorial Fund. It should be noted that Coastal Valleys Roofing owner, Rick Payne, also installed rain gutters all around the building at no charge to us.
- The stained glass windows have been reinstalled and look great!
- We are still researching options and costs for the parsonage fencing.
- The back parking lot fencing has been redone, and shared cost with the neighbor – our cost was \$1,600.
- Conference Intern, Laura Kreuger, (who was introduced last week) will preach on Sept. 11.
- Sunday School will begin on Sept. 11, with six teachers returning.
- Pastor Chris will be working with the youth group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings.
- We accepted the resignation of Jasmine Day from the Council, with our thanks for her devoted service.
- The council voted to confirm Jan Zigler as the new vice-president.
- The council also appointed Leigh Berenger to fill the vacancy with Jasmine's leaving.
- Pastor Chris is now the Dean of the Central Coast Conference of the Southern California Synod, which will take some of his time and require some travel.

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	Leigh Berenger (310) 877-8418	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

Statement in Support of St. Mark's

As many of you may know, the Pride Flag which was flown at St. Mark's was recently stolen and subsequently burned. In response to that hateful act, your Council drafted the following statement of support:

The hate shown to St. Mark's and the LGBTQ+ community through the theft and burning of pride flags is unacceptable. Those recent events have threatened and negatively impacted the LGBTQ+ community. The Bethania community loves and welcomes all and stands for oppressed and subjugated communities everywhere. We send love and prayers and will continue to work to support St. Mark's and the LGBTQ+. Hate is learned and should have no place in the Santa Ynez Valley. These behaviors are rejected outright by the Bethania church community. Bethania affirms the rights and safety for the LGBTQ+ community and stands with them and is committed to creating safe spaces in all that we do.

Notes for July Financial Statement Period Ending July 31, 2022

Balance Sheet

	June 2022	July 2022	Change
Operating Acct	\$58,422	\$60,372	\$1,939
Money Mkt Acct	\$122,026	\$130,792	\$8,766
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,852,376	\$1,878,466	\$26,090
Total Assets	\$4,235,763	\$4,272,556	\$36,793

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

July 2022	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$25,032	\$22,603	\$2,429
Total Expenses	\$23,735	\$24,392	\$657
Net Income	\$1,887	-\$1,789	

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$14,809	\$16,000	-\$1,191
Non-Members	\$179	\$700	-\$521
	\$14,988	\$16,700	-\$1,712
Produce Table	\$185		
Brown Bag Breakfasts	\$80		
Roof Capital Campaign Goal of \$30,000	\$26,200	as of 08/21/22	

* The cash position is still good with \$60,372 in checking and \$130,791 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

- * Endowment Fund contribution was paid in June & July (\$6000)
- * All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.
- * Overall income was 90.28% of the budget.
- * Overall expenses were at 97.37% of the budget.

Next Social Ministry Meeting – Moved to Oct. 5th

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 5th**. Topics will include: Brown Bag Breakfast packings, Tuesday Food Distribution, Noisy Offerings, Day of Service results, 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.

Prayers for comfort for the family and loved ones of Edith Plam. Edith passed away July 11. The service celebrating her life will be Nov. 5th at 11 am in the sanctuary.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Jake & Anya Knotts, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Denise Morris, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrrson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Sahde, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Grocery Bags

The **Food Distribution Program** is looking for heavy plastic grocery bags (the reusable kind). These bags are used for the fresh produce we receive from Food Bank.

Kristyl in the office is looking for a lot of **brown grocery bags**. These are needed for shredded paper so it can be put in our blue recycling barrels.

September Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Unorthodox Gathering in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Sunday School (starting Sept. 11) 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

Chapel 11:30 am & 3:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Thursdays

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Sept. 1

5:30 pm Christian Education Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Sept. 4

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

Monday, Sept. 5 - Labor Day

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

Thursday, Sept. 8

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Saturday, Sept. 10

Set-up for Day of Service in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Sept. 11 - Day of Service

10:30 am Assembling School Kits and Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 14

6-9 pm Danish Sisterhood Preparations for Danish Days in the Fireside Room

Monday, Sept. 19

6 pm Linda Johansen's Travel Group Mtg. in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 21

5:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Sept. 25

9:30 am Worship Service - Noisy Offering

Wednesday, Sept. 28

5:30 to 7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room



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

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