



The Beacon

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

December 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.

Message from Pastor Chris

Vesper was our easy baby—the one who convinced us to have a second. Verona was the one who convinced us to stop after two. Even after Verona started sleeping through the night (meaning she didn't need to wake up and eat) she had a tough time sleeping in her room. She had terrible separation anxiety and if she would wake up in the middle of the night and we weren't there she would start to scream. I ended up researching how to help babies self-soothe and be comfortable if they wake up in the middle of the night and I found a tactic that a lot of sleep experts repeatedly encouraged and it ended up working great!

The trick was to go in her room, lay her back down, and just rub her back for about 5 minutes until she calmed down. Then sit next to the crib for another 5 minutes. Then go stand by the door for 5 minutes. Then walk out of her room. At first, the moment I stepped out she'd start to cry, so I'd go back in and just sit by her crib for a few minutes and then walk out again. This process lasted a few nights, but eventually she stopped crying when she would wake up. It was a realization for her at her young age that even though she was alone in her room, she wasn't really alone. Mommy or Daddy are just right on the other side of the door. As adults we can understand this intellectually, but for her it was a feeling of knowing that we were truly there and this feeling gave her the comfort in waking up and being able to fall back asleep on her own.

Advent is this way. A time of preparing for Christ to come into our world even though Christ has already come into our world. If Christ has already been here, why do we prepare for his coming each year during Advent? More than anything, I think it's that reminder we need that Christ is always here, even if we can't see him or feel his presence all the time. It's that reminder that even if the world around us feels scary, God is still with us. But this is an ongoing process that takes time to move from our intellectual understanding into an abiding feeling.

Advent calls us to realize several things. One, it calls us to look around and notice our environment. Christ's presence doesn't ask us to ignore the reality of the world around us, but rather to take stock of it. There's tremendous joy and love in this world and there's also concern and, at times, fear. Looking at the world realistically helps realize the second thing: that God is with us in all of this. God is with us in the community around us and God is with us in the created world reminding us that seasons are cyclical. Wherever there is winter, spring soon follows. Finally, the reminder that Christ is always with us not only gives us the courage to take stock of the world, but to navigate it in the way that Christ calls us; to go boldly through this world loving others, stewarding creation, and trying to make the world a better place because we know God is with us and God is our power.

I invite you this Advent to take some intentional time and reflect on the world around you, take stock of the world Christ comes into and notice the areas in which you need God most. What in your world needs more love, more compassion, more reminders that God is with you? How might Christ be coming into this world through you? How might God be using you to make this world a more loving and compassionate place? Advent is a process, not an instant realization. I pray that this process can be full of love and God's presence—a reminder that you are not alone and that God is pointing us to a more loving and peaceful world.

**In Christ's Love,
Pastor Chris**

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Times



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00pm Traditional Worship

11:00pm Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day Worship

*One Service at 10:30am with a light liturgy,
communion, and Christmas Hymns*



Little Christmas Eve - Dec. 23, 2022 Danish Service 6 pm

Join us on Dec. 23rd for our Danish Service. Pastor Anne-Grethe Krogh Nielsen will celebrate with us Danish hymns, liturgy, and sermon.

Poinsettias (18) are Available!

If you would like a poinsettia, please mail a check for \$10 to Bethania and fill out this form.



We/I would like # _____ poinsettias at \$10 each.
Name: _____
Dedication in Bulletin: _____

Phone #: _____

Youth Programs are Back!

Sunday School begins 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.



Youth Group will meet Sunday, Dec. 18 in the Fireside Room from 5:00 to 7 pm. We've started 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 at Bethania in December

Bethania continues operating as an Emergency USDA Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. We will be closed the last week of December, since the Food Bank will also be closed. (Yay! A Tuesday off!)

We have seen an increase in numbers the last few weeks, especially before Thanksgiving. Here are the figures through Nov. 22:

Households	Individuals	1 st Time USDA
175	679	175
161	635	78
236	998	105
292	1239	108

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: the unloading crew coming at 9:30 am to move items and get ready for packing. Bag packers come at 9:30 am or 1:30 pm. 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 vikingsprint@verizon.net

Christmas Angels & Preschool Presents: Calling all Angels!

Would you like to be an “angel” to a needy child? Dust off your angel wings if you would be interested in helping to make Christmas special for a child at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz or the Preschool this year.

Angel Wish lists will be available on Dec. 4th following the 9:30 worship service in the Parish Hall or by contacting Linda Marzullo (see *info below*).

Any way you can help, large or small, is appreciated...We have committed to adopting 92 little Angels from Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz and two families at the Preschool. With your help, we can make sure these children receive a Christmas gift and make their holiday happier.

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



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

We would be happy to have your Angelic assistance for any of these children. If you are interested in sponsoring a child through the Christmas Angel or the Preschool Presents Projects, donations of any amount are welcome. If you would prefer to do the shopping on your own, or make a contribution of an item on a child’s wish list, please let Linda Marzullo know. All of the children/families have specific needs and/or requests we are going to try to fulfill, based on their “wish lists”. Contact Linda Marzullo if you would like to be an Angel and adopt a child through fulfilling their wish list.

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

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Dec. 4th

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, December 4. 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 brown bags we make have been flying out the door at the Buellton Senior Center, due to more seniors needing food assistance and requiring breakfast bags. The high cost of food is really hurting a lot of our neighbors who are elderly and on fixed incomes. These bags provide food items to seniors who need to take medication with food. Many of them cannot afford this additional cost.

If you are able to donate any items below, please drop it by the office or deliver 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!

A special thank you to the Christian Science Society, who recently granted us additional funds for this ministry. And thanks to Kristyl Downey, who did all the grant work!

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)

Plan to come and make a difference for a local senior who is struggling with food insecurity. 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 vikingsprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Dec. 18th. Noisy Offering donations received that day will be used to purchase diapers, diaper rash cream, powdered formula and baby food. Consider this offering another way to recognize the birth of baby Jesus!

What will our donations be used towards?

Donations on Noisy Sunday will be used to purchase items to help struggling families keep their babies healthy, clean, fed and nurtured. For many of these families, finding funds to purchase diapers and formula are a struggle. Depending on which style of diaper, a good range to estimate for a monthly disposable diaper budget is between \$150-275 per month. The average monthly cost for powdered formula for babies is \$400 to \$800. Specialty formulas, such as those that contain hydrolyzed proteins, may cost even more.

We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some noise to help celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus – and the birth of little miracles everywhere on Dec. 18th. Together, we can CHANGE a child’s world!

– Linda Marzullo

Events and Occasions



Danish Sisterhood Family Christmas Party

The Danish Sisterhood Christmas party will be on Sunday, Dec. 11, in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 5:30, dinner is at 6:00. To-go dinners are available for pick up. Baked goods and Christmas crafts will be for sale at the boutique. Special guests: Pastor Chris will read the Christmas story and Santa Claus will come to hear Christmas wishes from the children!

Entry is \$5 for children 8 and under, \$15 for everyone else.

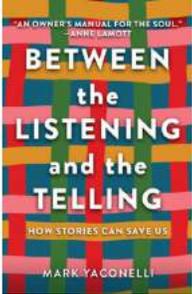
RSVP to Jan Zigler: Call or text 559-740-3676.

Theo Pub - Dec. 8th

Theology Pub will be gathering at Solvang Brew! We will gather at 7 pm around the fire pit on Dec. 8th, and all are welcome to join. Come early to order delicious food and refreshing drinks.



Book Group



Bethania's Book Group is **back in person!** And we're reading a new book, *Between the Listening and the Telling*, by Mark Yaconelli. This is a wonderful book about the power of telling stories. If you're looking for a light-hearted and meaningful book to join the Book Group with, this is the one. **We'll be gathering on Dec 15 at 2PM in the Parish Hall** and discussing chapters 5-8. For those wanting to still join via Zoom, that will also be available, and a link will be sent out.

Coffee Hosts in December

If you would like to host coffee, please call Kristyl or sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

Thanks to our December Coffee hosts:

Dec. 4 - Ann Tucker
Dec. 18 - Carolyn Schuit

Dec. 11 - Livier & girls
Dec. 25 - No coffee

Christmas Angel Wrap
Sunday, Dec. 18th
Beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Christmas Fun - Gift Wrapping for Iglesia

Bring yourself and your willing hands and joyful hearts. Everyone is welcome, whether you want to wrap, sing, have coffee and watch...we have 92+ children to wrap presents for, and we need your help! We provide the paper, boxes and tape - you help do the wrapping of the gifts our Angels have purchased, and have some fun at the same time.

We will be enjoying Christmas music, coffee, and fellowship as we wrap gifts for needy children from Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria (*see related article*). The gifts will be going to the children who have been sponsored through the Christmas Angel Project. All wrapped gifts will be delivered to Iglesia that afternoon, courtesy of the borrowed use of the delivery truck from Valley Hardware.

We invite people of all ages to come and help WRAP up this project by wrapping some gifts for children. Help us spread the Christmas Spirit to our neighbors!

For more information about this project or to help with delivery or Angel gift purchases, contact the church office or **Linda Marzullo at work 688-5219, or email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net**.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet
News from the Bethania Council Meeting - Nov. 17, 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 November Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Bill Zigler reported that he has recruited Kevin McConnell, Keif Adler (a retired contractor), Allan Laugesen, and Don Popma to serve on the Property Committee.
- The "Empty Bowls" fundraiser for the food distribution raised nearly \$10,000, and an additional grant of \$4,000 was received.
- The Conference Fall Assembly will be held on Dec. 3rd from 10 am – 12 Noon at Gloria Dei in Santa Maria. If you have an interest in going, please call Pastor Chris.
- Pastor reported that there will be one service on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM.
- There will be three fundraisers next year – Fastelavan Feb. 11, an Octoberfest (date to be determined) and a craft fair in November .
- Feb. 26, 2023 is the date for the Annual meeting, pt 2.
- The next Council meeting will be Dec. 17th at Carol Lake's home.

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

Notes for September Financial Statement Period Ending Oct. 31, 2022

	September 2022	October 2022	Change	Notes
Operating Acct	\$53,669	\$61,746	\$8,077	
Money Mkt Acct	\$88,605	\$120,710	\$32,105	* includes \$10k from donor for Food Dist
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0	
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	\$0	
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,466	\$1,878,466	\$0	
Total Assets	\$4,223,668	\$4,263,849		

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

Offerings

September 2022	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$30,396	\$22,603	\$7,793	
Total Expenses	\$23,506	\$25,293	\$1,787	
Net Income	-\$4,309	-\$1,868		

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$19,878	\$16,000	\$3,878	
Non-Members	\$1,050	\$700	\$350	
	\$20,928	\$16,700	\$4,228	

Produce Table	\$91			
Brown Bag	\$0			

* The cash position is still good with \$61,746 in checking and \$120,710 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Offerings were \$4,228 over budget for October :)

Payment for Endowment Fund Contributions made for Jan & Nov 2022 (\$6000 total)

All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.

Overall income was 93.83% of the budget.

Overall expenses were at 96.51% of the budget.

Next Social Ministry Meeting – Dec. 7th

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 7th at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room.**

We need committee members to help us shape the direction of our ministries! Please consider joining us on this committee. Topics for the meeting will include: Christmas Angel Gifts, Tuesday Food Distribution, Brown Bag Breakfast packings, Review of Fund Raising and Grants, Blessing Box and more.

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

Communion at the Rail

Altar Guild is considering resuming communion at the rail on the first and third Sundays each month. We would like to use the small silver cups again. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers to wash the cups after the service and put them away. We also need volunteers to hold the tray during the service and transport the soiled cups into the kitchen. Altar Guild is also looking for more volunteers to set up and assist with communion. If you are interested, please email Diana Boltz at aboltz5@verizon.net or call and leave a voice mail or text 805-588-2512. The white paper cups currently used for Communion are recyclable and have a broad rim which makes for easier pouring. If you would like to donate to help with their purchase, please mark your donation "for Altar Guild communion cups".

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 of Comfort During Grief

For the family and friends of Roger Nielsen. Roger died Nov. 13, 2022. The service celebrating his life was held Nov. 21, here at Bethania.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Jake & Anya Knotts, Betsy Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Stewart & Sheila Mee, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrison, Tom & Carolynn Petersen, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, Steve Thomas and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Grateful for Generosity

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser and the "Grateful Goods" Arts and Crafts Sale. Both were very successful events that raised funds to help us buy food for food distribution and the blessing box. Special thanks to Donna Hinsbeeck, Carolyn Schuit, Denise Morris, Kristyl Downey, Jan Zigler, Bill Zigler and Josh Bratt for above and beyond help at the "Grateful Goods" sale.

Right before their school break for Thanksgiving, Solvang School children also contributed a total of 1161 canned items from their food drive (organized by Allison Spanier) to the pantry. There was also food donated by a family who moved. It was incredible!

So many have been so generous – thank you for your generous hearts and giving to those who are in need. We are truly blessed to be in such a great community.

- **Linda Marzullo**

December 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

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

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

Thursdays

7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Dec. 4

7 am Elverhoj Museum Preparations in the Kitchen for Christmas Party

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

Christmas Angel Lists for Children at Iglesia - Available at Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

1 pm Friends of the Library in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 7

2 pm Celebrating the Life of Kathleen Hainline in the Sanctuary

6 pm Social Ministry Committee in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Dec. 8

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, Dec. 9

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

6 pm Preschool Christmas Program in the Parish Hall

Saturday, Dec. 10

Danish Sisterhood prepares for Christmas Party in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room and Kitchen

Sunday, Dec. 11

2-6 pm K. Imani Student Recital in the Church

5:30 pm Danish Sisterhood Family Christmas Party in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 14

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

Thursday, Dec. 15

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council at Carol Lake's and via Zoom

Sunday, Dec. 18

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

10:30 am Iglesia Christmas Wrap:PH

5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Wednesday, Dec. 21

9 am D. Boltz & M. Eck decorate the sanctuary

Friday, Dec. 23 - Little Christmas Eve

6 pm Danish Service in the Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

4 pm Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

11 pm Candle Light Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

10:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

No Unorthodox Gathering

Tuesday, Dec. 27

No Food Distribution

Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

Noon Deadline for submissions to the January 2023 Beacon



Photos - All Saints' Sunday, Empty Bowls Fundraiser, Common Goods Arts & Crafts Sale





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