

The Beacon January 2016

Bethania Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Chris

Greetings and Blessings,

I can't believe it's already the New Year! Time seems to fly faster and faster as we go on. It seems like it was just yesterday that I was interviewing with Bethania from my computer in Chicago. And in a blink of an eye here I am writing the January newsletter from my church office!

New Years is always an interesting time to me. I feel like whether we want to or not, it is a time that forces us to reflect on how the last year of our life has gone. We can look at the joys and blessings we have experienced through new relationships, big accomplishments or achievements, additions to our families, or just the beauty of a new day. We can also simultaneously take stock of some of the losses or difficulties we have experienced in the same areas with trepidation.

For Livier and me 2015 was a time of immense change. Over this last year we moved away from our friends in Chicago and the home we started our married life in, we have both started new jobs, moved into a new community, and have started on a pathway that we hope is quite long and offers some much-needed consistency.

While we have been here for eight months now it still feels brand new and the New Year seems to parallel the sense of a beginning that we're both experiencing. That being said, I don't know where each of your feelings are in the New Year, whether you're approaching it with the excitement of possibility, or perhaps with apprehension towards uncertainty or struggle. Wherever you are I would like to reiterate one of my first commitments to this church: I'm here for you.

If you have good news to share, or if you need someone to walk with you in any struggle or hardship you're going through, please reach out. My email and cell phone number are below and I give those out willingly because I want to be available to all of you in whatever your needs are. I love to talk over a beer, or over coffee. I can even be talked into breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

I know the New Year is always a time to plan or approach the future pathways of our lives with the thought that we can make changes to how we move forward. My ultimate hope in writing this letter is that you all know, whatever that pathway looks like you don't have to go it alone. And I pray that the 2016 year is one full of hope, joy, and blessings for all of you.

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

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Council Highlights - Dec. 17, 2015

*The following officers were elected for 2016 and will serve as the Council's Executive Committee:

President: Marilyn Larsen
Vice-president: Robert Laufer
Secretary: Robin Gehrs
Treasurer: Ron Walsh

*Pastor Chris reported that Ted Brameld, Amber & Shawn Whitney (children Kyser, Jordan and Cash) and Nora Ghamari. had expressed their desire to join the church. Church Council was delighted to accept these individuals into membership. Formal introduction of them and other new members to the congregation will occur periodically during the church year. In the meantime, please be sure to meet and welcome these new members.

*Council approved adding an Accident Insurance policy to keep claims away from our general liability policy and help cover expenses due to accidents on our property. The Preschool & After School will pay \$500 and the church \$410/year.

*The treasurer, Ron Walsh reported that the church is financially healthy with a net income of \$3,467 for November and a net income of \$699 for January-November 2015.

*Council thanked Lou Bender Fox for a beautiful, detailed repainting of the church's nativity scene. If you haven't already admired it in the courtyard, be sure to take a look before it is carefully stored for use next year.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet Jan. 27, 2015 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. The group is discussing Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career by James M. Kittelson. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Christmas Angel Project & Preschool Presents

A great big THANK YOU to all of the "Angels" out there who helped spread the joy of Christ's birth to the children at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. After finishing our wrapping party on Saturday Dec. 19, the gifts were delivered to Iglesia's Christmas Party on Sunday morning following their worship service. Pastor Patricia and "Santa" distributed the gifts to a room crowded with very excited children.

For most of these children, the gifts we brought are the only gifts that they will receive. I had the privilege of being able to attend both the worship service and the party this year. The worship service was filled with young families and lots of children. At the party, seeing these hard-working parents who were so relieved that their children were getting something for Christmas was very moving. They all sent greetings (in Spanish!) to their friends at Bethania.

With your help and donations, we gave Christmas gifts to a total of 23 children from Iglesia and 2 children from Bethania's Preschool program. The children who received gifts in the Preschool-After School Program were chosen by Director Eileen Knotts.

In addition, we delivered 390 pounds of food donations for Iglesia's food pantry (*see related article*). The three young ladies who helped unload the car were most excited about three things donated: a huge jar of peanut butter, packages of Top Ramen, and Dawn dishwashing soap! December's Noisy Offering funds will be used to

purchase gift cards for Foods Co. for Pastor Patricia to distribute as needed. The gift cards will be used by families to purchase items such as meat, vegetables, cheese and diapers.

A big thank you to all who donated, including Bethania members and friends. Thrivent helped with “seed money” towards the Wrap Party and Toy/Clothing Drive. Thank you all for being such blessings to these people in need.

Thanks also to Rosemary Thomas and crew who collected food outside of Nielsen’s market on Dec. 20. Over 500 pounds of food will go to Iglesia as well. We also received over \$200 to help purchase food.

- **Linda Marzullo**

Food Drive for Iglesia Continues!

Bring your donated items to the Parish Hall box

The people who attend Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria are the poorest of the poor. Iglesia is a mission start-up church based at Bethel Lutheran. We have become partners in their ministry and continue to support Pastor Patricia’s work. Iglesia serves many families in their congregation through their food pantry, which is a shed on the church grounds at Bethel. The most difficult months are to come, especially if the El Nino arrives as predicted.

If you would prefer to make a donation and have us do your shopping, please earmark your donation **Iglesia Food**.



Items most needed to re-stock the pantry for Iglesia families include:

5 lb. bags of white flour

5 lb. bags of rice

3 lb. bags of beans

Canola Oil (for cooking)

Canned chicken (no tuna, please!)

Peanut Butter/Jelly or Honey

Breakfast Cereal

Other items which are acceptable but not as critical:
Canned Fruit, Cup of Noodles, Soup, Canned Beans.
Diapers and Toilet Paper are also accepted.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Marzullo at 688-5219 or 451-5548; email vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Thank you so much for your support!

Gather Bible Study

The Gather Bible Study will be held Thursday January 21 at 10:30 am (note change of time) in the Atterdag Lounge next to Bldg. 14. The discussion will be based on Paul's encounter with Lydia in Philippi, a city in what is now Greece. See Acts 16:6-15. Paul wrote a letter to the Philippians from a jail cell. Yet he encourages them and expresses joy in their ministry. See Philippians 1:19-26 For info call Anabelle at 688-4687.

Ground Breaking Has Begun!



The Preschool has broken ground on their new building. KJ Concrete has set the forms for the foundation. The building should arrive the last part of January or early February.

Some preschoolers watch the progress on the other side of the fence. (Below)



Julefest Parade



Thanks to our parade crew who had an entry in Solvang's Julefest parade! They really sparkle and shine even when the weather is a little bit dreary.



Memorial/Tribute Gifts Fund

The Memorial/Tribute Gifts Fund Committee reminds all committee chairs that new applications for funding will be considered at their next meeting Tuesday Jan. 5, 2016 at 2 pm in the church office. Blank applications were sent to all committees in September and those are the form(s) to be used. Please be sure to submit applications that are **totally completed**. To make the decision making process fair, we need details provided for **all** questions. Some applications submitted in September were eliminated because specific answers weren't included, especially in the Budget section. For example: "items to be purchased, vendor(s) name(s) with quote of costs"... "items necessary for installation with names of providers and price quotes." We look forward to reviewing new applications at our January meeting. **For questions or help please call Liz Beeler 686-4783.**

New to Bethania, Welcome!



Pastor Chris introduces new members and Kathryn Imani, pianist, to the congregation on Nov. 22, 2015.

Pictured from left to right. Dan & Bridget Cassara, Lynn & Stewart Fries, Kathryn Imani, Sally Jones, Edel Schonfeldt, Ruth Korbin (seated) and Anna Cook, Pastor Chris.

Welcome one and all.

Making Change, for the Better: Noisy Sunday - Jan. 17, 2016

Our next "Noisy Sunday" offering will be on January 17th. The donations received will help build the **Preschool and After School Tuition Assistance Fund**.

The TAF helps families with the cost of tuition at our excellent Preschool or for After School care for working families. Fundraising for the TAF in December was short of the goal needed for the Thrivent match, and so we hope to help make up some of the shortfall with our Noisy Offering funds.

The beauty of the Noisy Offering is that all our small change working together makes a big difference.

During “Noisy Sunday”, any change you would like to get rid of from the bottom of your purse or pockets may be tossed into the bucket. This “noise” (coins) is used to “Make Change for the Better” by helping to fund projects such as building the Tuition Assistance Fund, which in turn helps our local families.

Thank you all for your support of this endeavor. We can make “change” one coin at a time!

- **Linda Marzullo**

Just so you know...December’s Noisy Offering collected \$176 for Iglesia Luterana’s for pantry. Thank you everyone who made some “noisy change!”

In Our Prayers, In Our Hearts

The friends and loved ones of Jean (Mrs. Erik) Pedersen. Jean died Nov. 10.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Steven Boyd, Ben Cassara, Caylin & Katy Corlee, Armando Franco, Ellis McDaniel, Bryan, Jennifer & Jayce Petersen

Other Prayer Concerns: Suzanne Asselstine, Esther Bates, Jim Blanton, Joe & Pat Bode, Brian Coover, Kay Corlee, Dorrie Crooks, Nanette Dacuy-cuy, Dolores Dederding, Lisa Demeter, Lois De Meyer, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Jack Fujimoto, Dolores Gehrs, Chris Gideon, Arla Hoj, Michael Jech, Robert Jennings (friend of Fred & Genie Machetanz), Jennifer Juel, Chris Kaping, Melissa Kargard, Richard Lindekens, Rick Marzullo, Marjorie Mee, Denise Morris, Patricia Myers, Roger Myers, Ned Nelson, Helen Nielsen, Marie Ostertag, Marc & Laurie Owens, Grete Parma, Jensen Paulus (baby), Audrey Robinson, Scotty Sexton, Rose Skytt, Lee Statom, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Cora Vandecar, Tina Walen, Ann Wallace, Betty Wilkes, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson, Robert Workman

Nativity Set Gets a Makeover

Thanks to Lou Fox Bender for “brushing up” the figures of the Nativity. Thanks also to Kevin McConnell for making one of the Wise Men more “stable.”



Preschool Program



Thanks to Director Eileen Knotts, the Preschool teachers and children, the Parish Hall was filled with music, smiles and joy on the evening of Dec. 9. Pastor Chris blessed the program and doubled as photographer as well.



Re-Gifting



Did you receive a gift for Christmas that you did not need? Did you re-gift it to someone else? Re-gifting, once frowned upon, has become an acceptable practice in recent years.

Re-gifting has always been acceptable to God. When blessed by God with more gifts than we need, He asks us to share those gifts with others and especially those in need.

After a lifetime of accumulating assets, we may have more assets than our loved ones need. If you have been blessed in this way, you have an opportunity to joyfully re-gift some of those assets to the continued work of your Lord and Savior here on earth.

We call this type of re-gifting, “planned giving”. With the help of our ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Greg Shepherd, you will be shown ways that you can re-gift to the church and other charities without reducing your gifts to your loved ones. You will also learn ways to reduce taxable estate assets, and at the same time, be able to provide for ministries for which you have a passion. Create your legacy!

To learn more, you may contact
Greg at: (909)910-6823 or
gregory.shepherd@elca.org.

Scholarships for Piyali School Girls & Young Women

January is the month we donate to the PACE Scholarships, visionary education for girls and literacy and vocational education for young women, including mothers, in Piyali, India near Kolkata (Calcutta). This program was developed by Deepa Willingham, a Solvang resident and immigrant from India.

Please check out the narthex bulletin board for letters from last year's 5 recipients. Scholarships provide schooling plus health and nutritional services for girls from 5-14 and are \$375/girl. We have been sponsoring 2 girls since they began school. The literacy and vocational education is a 12-18 month program. Its scholarships are \$175/woman for the course. We sponsored 3 women.

Kristine Pedersen, who grew up in our church, is the American in charge of the Piyali programs. She will be returning in May and we will look forward to her update.

Please invest in education for the future of these girls and women, which strengthens families and villages. Write your checks either to the church or directly to BLCW with PACE project on the notation line.

“Sock-it-to-Me Sunday” - 5th Sunday of January (31st)

Bring new socks to the Parish Hall the fifth Sunday of January for another “Sock-it-to-Me” Sunday. Socks will be delivered to the homeless in our area.

Reasons for homelessness range from unemployment, underemployment, addiction, illness or just difficult life circumstances.

To those people we were able to help with contributions, we shine some light from our caring Lord in their lives – with the simple gift of socks and underwear. Thank you for helping with your many kind donations.

- **Linda Marzullo**

Thank You's

Dear Bethania,

I would like to thank you for the scholarship money once again! I've already started at Hancock and am really enjoying it.

Sincerely,
Tyler (Piligian)

Tyler received a scholarship from the Endowment Fund to help with his college education.

Theology Pub

Theology Pub will meet at the Solvang Brewing Company on the Third Wednesday of every month and will next meet Jan. 20, at 7 pm. We'll either be in the Windmill Room or out in the patio by the fireplace. This is also a great way we can support one of our local businesses so bring your appetites and feel free to order some of their delicious food. For questions, call or email me! I look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Chris

Thrivent Update

In addition to Lois De Myer's Thrivent Action Team Project for the Iglesia Wrap Party, we had three more projects in December: Rosemary Thomas (Iglesia Food Drive at Nielsen's Market, Blanket Drive for Iglesia & People Helping People), Nancy Emerson (Quilter group materials).

Thanks to some new donors this month, we now have 32 Thrivent benefit members directing Choice Dollars to our church and Preschool & After School. With \$370 directed to the church in October its total is now \$2,965. These funds help the General Fund. The Preschool received \$678 in October and its total is now \$9,643. Its gifts are currently being used for tuition assistance and the new building.

If you don't know if you have Thrivent Choice Dollars or have not yet tried directing them to your favorite registered charity, it is as easy as calling the national Thrivent office at 1-800-236-3736 and asking for the Choice Dollars department. If you want to direct Choice Dollars to local organizations, the official names are Bethania Church, Bethania Preschool, and Solvang Lutheran Home.

Nancy Emerson
Thrivent Congregational Advocate

Thumbnail Portrait - Sally Jones



When you walk into Sally's customized cottage, you are immediately impressed with her sense of color and style. The walls are painted in cheery colors, the furniture comfortable and cozy, and her own landscapes adorn the walls. She believes that living at Atterdag is a new chapter in her life.

Previously, she lived at the Pork Palace, a working ranch off Highway 101, for almost 50 years. This was quite a departure in life style for a girl reared in the urban sprawl of L.A. She and her husband George moved to the SYV in 1965. At first they raised Peruvian Paso horses in partnership with George's father, but after moving to the ranch, they began breeding pigs.

George started an insurance business in Solvang. He also collected old signs and artifacts from businesses in Solvang. These signs are hung outside and inside the remodeled dairy barn, which serves as a marvelous party hall. Their four sons helped with the pigs, the sale of which provided the funds that enabled them all to attend college. Son Randy and family have moved into Sally's home, as well as overseeing the operation of the ranch.

Randy has Hometown Insurance in Buellton, Allan has Santa Ynez Real Estate in Solvang, and Bob is an animal nutritionist in North Carolina. Their son, Gordon, died of

cancer when he was a student at Stanford. All told, she has eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Sally graduated with a BS in Nursing from Stanford, but was too busy raising sons and remodeling ranch buildings to pursue that career. She taught nursery school at the old Presbyterian Church for about 8 years, taking her children with her on the job. Later, when the boys were older, she became the community club leader for the valley 4-H clubs. She had this job for 15 years.

Sally has been involved with the Santa Ynez Valley Women Hikers for over 20 years. She fondly remembers hiking in Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and local mountains. A broken back, two replaced knees and nerve damage have curtailed her hiking, although she gets around very well.

Taking an art class at Hancock College was the impetus for her interest in creating beautiful watercolor and oil paintings. Her garage is currently being changed into an art studio. You may see her at various scenic spots around the valley painting with her plein aire painter friends.

Her other hobbies are playing bridge and reading for two book clubs: one reading classics and the other, contemporary works.

Before her husband, George, died of cancer, the two of them traveled around by motorhome to most of the United States and the Canadian maritime provinces. They had been married 50 years. She hopes to take some trips with her Atterdag neighbors, once she gets into a routine.

Her loyal dog, Barney, is her seventh standard poodle. She likes the breed for their intelligence, no shedding, and no odor. Her grand-daughter, Madison, is one of the daily walkers for the big boy.

When Sally made the move to Atterdag, it seemed logical for her to join nearby Bethania. Although she was Episcopalian for many years, she sees many similarities between the church services. She looks forward to watching Pastor Chris grow into his new role and enjoys getting to know the members of our parish. Welcome her to our Bethania family the next time you see her in church on Sunday.

Wrapping up the Produce Table



Deputy Charlie Uhrig accepts the check from Pastor Chris for the Salvation Army, Santa Ynez Valley Extension.

to Bethania and its Produce Table.

Thanks to all of you - \$2,000 was given to the ELCA WORLD HUNGER GOOD GIFTS program providing all kinds of livestock, baby chicks, water purifiers, mosquito netting and fruit tree orchards. AND, \$1205.00 was given to the Santa Ynez Valley Extension of the Salvation Army to meet our local needs. That final number just keeps climbing with continuing donations of persimmons and limes, etc.!

Thank you again!!

Carolynn Petersen

Wrapping up the Produce Table for the year, I want to recap the summer success story and give thanks to all who shared their bounty with the rest of us. A special thanks to my "wingmen" Jerry Mackey and Sheila & Stewart Mee, as well as Rikka Rasmussen and Melissa Bates who harvested my garden for the Sunday Produce Table when I was not in town!

A story from the Table...one rainy Sunday morning, not long ago, a woman and her dog were walking through our parking lot when I arrived from Worship Service to finish setting up the Table. She handed me a very soggy \$5.00 bill she had found on the pavement and said, "Please add it to your Table!" We inspire others as we give through the Table, in ways seen and unseen, with so much support.

Also a special thank you to Rosa (the Strawberry Lady on Alamo Pintado Road) for her generosity

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room OFC = Office AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang				1 New Year's Day - The Church Office and Preschool/After School is closed.	2
3 9:30 am Worship: CH 9:30 Sunday School: FR	4 8 pm AA: FR	5 2 pm Memorials/ Tribute Gift Cmt: OFC	6 Epiphany 11:30 am Chapel:CH	7 2 pm Chapel: CH 7:30 pm Choir Practice: CH	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship & Bible Presentation: CH 9:30 Sunday School: FR 11 am Adult Forum: FR	11 7 pm Finance Cmt: OFC 8 pm AA: FR	12	13 11:30 am Chapel:CH 12:45 pm Swing/Quilting Group: PH	14 2 pm Chapel: CH	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: PH 9:30 Sunday School: FR 11 am Adult Forum	18 8 pm AA:FR	19	20 Beacon Deadline: OFC 7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Company	21 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 2:00 pm Chapel: CH 2:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg: FR 7 pm Council: FR 7:30 pm Choir: Practice CH	22	23
24 & 31 9:30 am Worship: CH 9:30 am Sunday School: FR "Sock it to Me" Sunday: PH	25 8 pm AA:FR	26	27 2:00 pm Book Discussion Group: PH	28	29	30

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SOLVANG CA

Pastor: Chris Brown
Office Manager: Kristyl Downey
Preschool/After School Director:
Eileen Knotts

Church Council:
Pastor Chris Brown
President: Marilyn Larsen
Vice-President: Robert Laufer
Treasurer: Ron Walsh
Secretary: Robin Gehrs
Nancy Emerson
Tom Dimmette
Barbara Kargard
Alma Lancaster
Robert Laufer
Kevin McConnell

Sunday Schedule
9:30 am Worship
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Adult Forum

Happy New Year!

May 2016 be full of blessings and love!