

The Beacon January 2017

Bethania Lutheran Church 603 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463

805-688-4637

email: bethania.lutheran@verizon.net

www.bethanialutheran.net



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas Eve and Day, and I hope this New Year brings in the hope of new beginnings and renewed blessings. As we move into the 2017 year, I'm really looking forward to the continued and new ministries we get to be a part of and all the exciting joys to come. The focus of my newsletter this month is an exciting event we get to be part of with St. Mark's in the Valley.

Every January our country dedicates the 3rd Monday to honor the Civil Rights Leader and Reverend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the spirit of his work, this month the Episcopal Church of the United States of America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have joined together to share in the diverse ways we are called to be part of the ministry of the church and God's presence in this world. More than 50 years after The Civil Rights Movement, our two churches probably seem much more similar than they did back then, and joining in our diversity might

not be as readily apparent as it would have in one point in time. While we might look similar as denominational churches, our sanctuaries and ministries are filled with individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences, social and economic environments, and stories that make up who we are. And in a world where we are still fighting many of the same battles that were fought in the Civil Rights Movement, it's so important and meaningful that we can experience our unity through the love of Christ.

So it's my joy to announce that this month Bethania and St. Mark's will be participating in a pulpit exchange. Father Randall Day has invited me to preach at his pulpit and, likewise, I have invited him to preach at ours. This is a small part of what our two national churches are engaging in as an attempt to nationally bridge our communities in our diversity and shared identity as brothers and sisters in Christ. I'm overjoyed to take part in this with the St. Mark's Community, and I know they are as well. I look forward to this shared experience and our shared ministry with St. Mark's .

**In God's Blessings,
Pastor Chris**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth & Family Ministry - New Year Greetings!!

Our confirmation class continues to meet every first Wednesday from 5-7 pm in the Fireside Room. We have had two more kids join our first-year confirmation program, which brings us up to six kids this year! They're all enjoying the class and each shares a wonderful faith at every gathering.

There are two exciting events I'd like to share for the month of January. The first is a **Family BBQ here at Bethania on Jan. 21st from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm**, for any families in the valley that would like to attend. We will have games for all ages, face painting, a bounce house, a magic show presented by The Great Faulkini, and hot dogs, hamburgers, and snacks for all who come. There's no cost to attend and please invite any other families and friends you might think would enjoy this community gathering. We could still use some help with setup, takedown, food items, and assistance during the BBQ. If you would like to help out, please call me at (909) 962-9366. Also, we would like to ask for RSVPs so we can know how much food to provide, so if you

would like to come, please call the Bethania office at (805) 688-4637 and let us know how many will be coming. We look forward to seeing you there!

The second event is the next gathering of our joint **Youth Group** with St. Mark's on Jan. 29th at 3 pm. This month we will be meeting at **Bethania's Fireside Room** for a "S'mores Night". We will gather around some games, activities, and most especially, making our own S'mores to enjoy. All high school youth are invited to participate. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (909) 962-9366.

I hope this New Year brings joy and blessings for you all!

**Love and respect to all beings,
Livier - Director of Youth & Family Ministry**

Bethania Preschool & After School

Bethania Preschool and After School would like to thank the following donors to our annual Christmas Greetings Fundraiser. Their donations will benefit the preschools Tuition Assistance Fund to help enable children to attend our program.

Merry Christmas From:

Neal & Emily Abello	Andy & Thora Andersen	Anonymous
Bruce & Liz Beeler	The Downey Family	David & Melissa Eck
Fred & Nancy Emerson	Ken & Helen FitzGerald	Lorna Hansen
Shirley Heap	Donna Hinsbeck	Richard Jensen
Marjorie Johnson	Danny & Eileen Knotts	Hans & Brenda Knudsen
Fred & Barbara Kovol	Barbara Marsh Klein	Fred & Genie Machetanz
Rick & Linda Marzullo	Stewart & Sheila Mee	In Memory of Bernice Dotz
Patrick Meyer/Rikka Rasmussen		Michael L. Murray
Annalisa Nearn	Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Nielsen	Barbara Pedersen
Birgitte & Steve Pedersen	Bill & Myra Petersen	John & Betty Petersen
Tom & Carolyn Petersen	Margaret Rasmussen	Helen & Janet Townsend
Ron & Kathy Walsh	Gerda Willis	

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Food Drive for Iglesia's Pantry

You are invited to bring donations to the box in the Parish Hall to help the members of Iglesia. The people who attend Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz 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 their ministry. Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie, are very enthusiastic and have so many exciting plans to develop the scope and mission of Iglesia Luterana. Iglesia serves many families in their congregation through their food pantry, which is a shed on the church grounds at Bethel. In addition, we contribute gift cards so that families may purchase meat, fresh vegetables, dairy products and other necessities such as diapers.

To contribute funds to this project and have us do the shopping, you can earmark your donation "**Iglesia Food**" and drop it in the offering plate or at the church office. We have applied for assistance from Thrivent Financial

in conjunction with the Christmas Angel Gift Project, which will also help us to purchase food items for Iglesia during the first part of 2017.

The most needed items at this time to re-stock Iglesia's pantry include: 5 lb. bags of white flour, 5 lb. bags of white rice, 3 lb. bags of Pinto beans, Canned chicken (*no tuna, please!*), Peanut Butter,,Breakfast Cereal and Breakfast Bars, Canned Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans, Refried Beans, Peas, Mixed Vegetables), Large cans of Hominy, Canned Soups (Chicken Noodle or Beef), Diapers (any size, age), Toilet Paper. *Items for the Youth program:* Packaged Cookies, Microwave Popcorn, Snack Crackers, Juice (Apple Fruit Punch, Lemonade, Orangeade)

Thank you for making a difference to people who are struggling in our area, and supporting the people at Iglesia. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 688-3059 (home) or 688-5219 (work) or by email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

– **Linda Marzullo**

Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count - Jan. 15, 2017

"Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment." - Jean de la Bruyère

December's "Noisy Offering" helped raise funds to provide food items for members attending Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$420.00 to help stock the cupboards of families who are truly in need - what a blessing! Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie were sharing with me many stories of families they have visited, who have had nothing to feed their children that night. At one home with 6 children, Angie actually looked in their cupboards and was shocked to find that they were bare. I cannot say it often enough, thank you for supporting this ministry. You are making a difference in a child's life with your quarters and dimes. **The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on Jan. 15th.** Our donations from the offering will be used to help purchase another round of food items and food gift cards for the families at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz (*see related article*). We all really "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some noise on Jan. 15. Together, we can **change** a family's world, right here in our area.

Church Life

Theology Pub Meets Jan. 12, 2017

Theology Pub continues Jan. 12 at the Solvang Brewing Company at 7 pm. Keep your eyes open as we may be in the Windmill Room if it's too cold outside. We've had some amazing conversation and everyone is invited to join us. Just a refresher, no one needs extensive knowledge to participate in Theology Pub. Come as you are, and join us for refreshing drinks, delicious food, and great conversation!

Read a Good Book and Share Your Ideas!

We are reading and discussing a new book on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 2 pm, Parish Hall. It is [The Naked Now - Learning to See as the Mystics See](#) by Richard Rohr. To learn more about Richard Rohr, an internationally recognized ecumenical teacher, please visit the Center for Action and Contemplation website, www.cac.org.

Bethania Preschool & After School

“Bernice Dotz’s Dream,” the new Preschool & After School Building was dedicated on Dec. 4. Several members of Bernice’s family were on hand for the celebration. And, now the building can be occupied.



State Licensing has approved the building for use! The move from the current office to the new one will take place in January 2017.



The After School Program also has a new basket ball hoop, basketballs, tennis balls, football and



soccer ball. Thanks to Kevin McConnell, Dalton Beard, Sean and Kristyl Downey and Thrivent Action Team for



providing and assembling the improvements for the play area.



Gather Bible Study

The January Bible study will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge. The focus will be on Christian faith as explained by Paul in his letter to the Galatians, chapters 1 & 2. This study is printed in the January Gather magazine, pp. 30-35. For a copy of this lesson call Anabelle at 688-4687.

Southwest California Synodical Women of the ELCA Winter Gathering Caring for Those who Care

Save the date and plan to attend this informative event to be held Saturday, Jan. 28 in the Parish Hall. Women from our Southwest Synod will arrive in Solvang to attend. Registration begins at 9:30am with a breakfast at 10:00 am. This event features a panel discussion on being a caregiver - with Russ Gordon Family Therapist, Rev. Chris Brown, Nola Huss MSN,RN FNP and Suzanne Hollrah, MA in Clinical Psychology. Breakfast and Program at 10:00 Cost is \$10.00. Please register with Brenda Knudsen by Jan. 21, 2017.

Bethania has Angels as Members



Thank you to all of our Christmas Angels who helped with the gifts for our 54 Iglesia children and the 4 Preschool/After School children. This was the largest Christmas Angel event yet with 58 children to shop for, and I am so proud to say that Bethania members and friends really stepped up to this challenge.

The members of Iglesia Luterana are primarily of indigenous Oaxacan descent; most do not speak English but may be able to get by with some Spanish, as their primary language is a native dialect. Their pastor communicates in Spanish and those who speak only the indigenous dialect(s) have the Spanish

translated to their language by others. They attend a start-up church about 40 miles north of us located on the premises of Bethel Lutheran Church in Santa Maria. The parents of these children struggle during the off-season months to have enough food for their families and other necessities. Christmas presents are non-existent for the majority of these children. We worked with their pastor and his wife, and the children's "wish lists" they dictated to church helpers, to purchase as many of their wants as was possible. We concentrated on focusing on warmer clothing and shoes with the inclusion of at least one toy for each child. In total we were "Christmas Angels" to 54 children of both genders, ranging in age from newborn to age 19. The presents were wrapped and delivered to the church in three vehicles for distribution to the children. The joy of the children and the gratitude of their parents is overwhelming, as the only gift that most of them will get was from our "angels".

We also supported three local families whose children attend our own Bethania Preschool and After School Program with gifts. These families are our neighbors who are struggling with their financial challenges. The children were chosen by Director Eileen Knotts for assistance this Christmas season. We are very happy to be able to help some children who are attending our wonderful program based here at Bethania.

By focusing our drive on working together for the goal of meeting the needs of each child, we accomplished more. We encouraged people of all ages and abilities to participate. All sizes of monetary donations were given, ranging from spare change to \$200. We promoted the concept of "we can do the shopping for you" so that people who did not have the time or were physically unable to go shopping could participate. Thankfully we had many wonderful people agree to shop for their "adopted" child, which really helped with the task.



Additional donated items received which did not meet the "wishes" or guidelines for the children were distributed to other church families in need, and shelter families.

I believe we are inspired to give generously with the knowledge of the difficulty many of these families face. They work hard at picking fruit and vegetables in the fields, and struggle with acceptance in so many areas of their lives, including trying to be accepted by the Spanish-speaking Latino majority. Even though their fieldwork is hard and the pay is not high, they still

feel proud to be able to work hard and give their families better lives than they had in Oaxaca. Their hard work, positive outlook and gratitude for even the smallest things in their lives inspire us to do our best to help others, even if our donations are small on their own. It is a privilege to be able to help them and their families in a small way. We are also grateful to be able to share the love of Christ during the Christmas season with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you all for your generous hearts and loving help with this project. An extra special thank you to: my gift delivery team (Rick Marzullo, Eric and James Thomas, Stewart and Sheila Mee); Special Angels Lois and Don DeMeyer; Christian Education Committee members Donna Hinsbeeck, Caro Stinson, Brenda Knudsen, Alice Laufer, Barbara Kargard; Pastor Chris and Livier Brown; Carolynn Petersen and all the angels in our congregation and community who contributed in ways large and small...including helping to wrap all of these gifts!

-Linda Marzullo

(Angel Photographer - Denise Morris)

New Members!

If you would like the contact information of our recent new members, please contact Kristyl in the Church Office and she will get their info to you.

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

For Comfort and Care for the family and loved ones of Kirk Ewell. Kirk died in December.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Brianna Ceballos, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Pat Green, Julie McDougall, Addison Meaux

Other Prayer Concerns: Esther Bates, Joe & Pat Bode, Annette Clausen, Nanette Dacuy-cuy, Dolores Dederding, Don DeLaney, Lois De Meyer, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Dolores Gehrs, Chris Gideon, Kathy & Calvin Hackler, Marion Hallum, Arla Hoj, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Chris Kaping, Kim Kenton, Kate Knotts, Richard Lindekens, Ethel Litwiler, Linda & Rick Marzullo, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Helen Nielsen, Marie Ostertag, Marc & Laurie Owens, Norma Pedersen, Doyle Phillips, Jonathan Poldberg, Mac Redfern, Audrey Robinson, Lee & Else Statom, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Jean & Bill Stelling, Cora Vandecar, Tina Walen, Ann Wallace, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

Congregational Business

Council Meeting

- Council met for its final meeting of 2016 at the home of Nancy Emerson on Dec. 15th.
- New members for 2017, Ann Tucker and Ken Faulk, were welcomed, and departing members Alma Lancaster and Nancy Emerson were thanked for their service with cards from Council.
- Marilyn Larsen was thanked for her 4 years of service as Council President with a lovely Christmas cactus from the Council members.
- A new Executive Committee was elected to serve for the 2017 church year. Your new leaders are:

President: Robert Laufer
Secretary: Marilyn Larsen

Vice-President: Ken Faulk
Treasurer: Ron Walsh

Please congratulate them, pray for them, and wish them well as they begin their service to our congregation.

- A new list of revisions to the Constitution from the Synod was approved by Council to be presented to the congregation for approval at our February annual meeting. These are mostly roster revisions and do not effect our congregation but need to be in our constitution to meet Synod requirements.
- Pastor Chris presented the decision from Christian Education that Sunday School will be moving to the 5pm service beginning Jan. 8th. The decision was made because there are many more children attending the evening service than the 9:30 service and it was agreed that Sunday School should be offered where the need is.

Marilyn Larsen
Church Council President

Treasurer's Report for November 2016

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position has declined in part due to two months of benevolence being paid in November (we did not submit benevolence payment to Synod in October).
- All liabilities are current with the exception of the pension fund liability.
- Cash position is normal for this time of the year.
- There was a slight decline in net income (-\$1,473) for the month (again due to double benevolence payment).

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- Regular member offerings were down \$2,816 from budget. Non-member offerings were up \$367 for month. Overall offerings were at 100% of budget for the first 11 months.
- Other receipts were up by \$854.
- Child care reimbursements were up, as pre-school paid share of cost for liability insurance this month.
- Facility use receipts continue to be strong, with nearly \$6,500 in net income for the first 11 months.
- Overall, income for the first 11 months is at 103% of budget.

Expenses:

- Benevolence (synod support) is up as we paid two months (October & November) in the month of November
- Salary & benefits are up \$741 over budget (family ministry director position fully funded). However, overall salary & benefits are at 97% of budget through the end of November
- Staff expenses are down, with 80% of budget through November
- Office expenses are up slightly over budget for the month, but remain at 125% of budget for the first 11 months of the year.
- With the exception of utilities, all other expenses are at or below budget.
- Expenses for the month were over budget, but were at 99% of budget through November
- There was a slight surplus of \$2,252 for the month of November.

Overall:

Bethania continues to be in a healthy financial position. God has blessed us richly as a congregation with good stewards who contribute their time and talents to the Lord. Expenses are well controlled and reflect good stewardship of the gifts that our members give to support the work of the Lord in our community. Thanks Be To God!

Letter About the 2017 Budget

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

At our Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 20, we elected new leadership for our church, approved changes to our Constitution and By-Laws, and approved the budget for 2017. Thanks to all who attended and gave their support to all of these important decisions.

The 2017 budget is a budget of faith, as it shows a deficit of \$18,575. This is an exciting budget for us, as it reflects our commitment to the Family Ministry Director position, and an outreach of a second service, as well as increased budget for youth activities and a Vacation Bible School! After that meeting, several members asked how we could eliminate that deficit.

How do we as a faith community respond to God's call to these ministries through our giving? I have referred to this budget as the "Mustard Seed" budget, as we must have the faith of the mustard seed, which is a very small seed, but grows into large plants that spread rapidly. We are blessed with approximately 145 family giving units that support Bethania Lutheran Church through their weekly (or monthly) offering. If each of these giving units would consider an increased gift of \$2.50 a week, (\$130 a year) we would eliminate the proposed deficit. For less than the cost of a glass of wine, or a latte' our "Mustard Seed" will grow and flourish as we reach out to the community and continue to nourish our own members and their families.

We know that many of our members are on a fixed income and may not be able to increase their giving, and we are grateful for their faithful offerings. For those that are able, we ask for God's guidance and wisdom as we all prayerfully consider this faith budget going forward in 2017.

Thanks be to God for all of you!

Ron Walsh
Treasurer



January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH	2 8 pm AA:FR	3 11:30 am Chapel: CH 6-7 pm BBQ Planning: FR	4 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 5-7 pm Confirmation: FR	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR 5 pm Evening Worship: CH	9 6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	10 11:30 am Chapel: CH	11 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 12:45 pm Quilting/ Sewing: PH 7 pm Choir: CH	12 7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Company	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 11 am Adult Forum: FR 11 am Finance Cmt. Mtg: OFC 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	16 6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	17 11:30 am Chapel: CH 6-8 pm Art Class: PH	18 2 pm Book Discussion Group: PH 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 5:45 pm Touch- a-Truck Mtg: FR 7 pm Choir:FR	19 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 7 pm Council: FR	20	21 11 am - 2 pm Church BBQ: PH
22 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	23 6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	24 11:30 am Chapel:CH 6-8 pm Art Class: PH	25 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	26 1:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg: PH	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship & Bible Presentation: CH 3-5 pm Youth Group: FR 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	30 6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	31 6-8 pm Art Class: PH			CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room	OFC = Office AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang

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January 2017

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Solvang CA 93463

Address Correction Requested

(805)688-4637
bethania.lutheran@verizon.net
www.bethanialutheran.net

Preschool/After School
(805)688-7077
bethaniaps@verizon.net

US POSTAGE PAID
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NON-PROFIT ORG
SOLVANG CA

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

Church Council:
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President: Robert Laufer
Vice-President: Ken Faulk
Treasurer: Ron Walsh
Secretary: Marilyn Larsen
Tom Dimmette
Barbara Kargard
Kevin McConnell
Ann Tucker

Sunday Schedule
9:30 am Worship
11:00 am Adult Forum
5:00 pm Worship
5:00 pm Sunday School

