

# The Beacon July 2016

Bethania Lutheran Church

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## A Response to Our World



I imagine over the course of the last few weeks you've read or heard many responses to the shooting at the Pulse Night Club that happened on the morning of June 12. These responses have taken many forms, some of them reiterating old points, and some making really compelling points. Either way, when an act like this happens, it seems that we, as a society, desperately search for ways to make sense of it, to understand why, and then to find someone or something to blame. Meanwhile, 49 family members and loved ones are mourning beautiful lives that are gone, and 53 more who are trying to support those who survived with serious injuries and a very long road of recovery ahead. In this spirit, and as your pastor, I would like to give my own response.

First, I think most of us can agree that mass shootings have become a problem in our society. And after each incident over the last few years we've heard renewed calls for either tighter gun regulation, or a greater focus on mental health issues and their connection to each shooter. And while these conversations or points are made more and more loudly, the names of those who have died disperse into the faint memory our fast-paced world maintains – at least until the next shooting. As I look around and see the vehemence in these responses, it seems to me that there is a deep underlying anger all around. And it is through this anger that our ugliness tends to come out.

Almost instantly, a line in the sand is drawn and sides are either taken or forced. Republicans and Democrats fall to their sides demonizing the other; gun regulation proponents and opponents take their sides and demonize the other; Christians and Muslims take their sides and demonize the other. And now, in this last shooting, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer people (LGBTQ), who for a long time have been forced to the other side of the line in the sand, were the focus of this shooter's rampage, bringing to light the many ways LGBTQ people have been targeted for years and years.

I look at all this ugliness and wonder to myself, "What does God think about all this?" Does God have a side in the argument of gun regulation? Does God think Islam is inferior to Christianity? Does God declare certain groups of people profane because of who they love? To be honest, I think God grieves at the loss of any life. I think God is more saddened by any person being excluded, and truly celebrates when more people are included. I think the message we receive from Christ's ministry is that any person who has been pushed to the margins by society, for whatever reason, is the person we should reach out to the most and share with them God's radical grace and love.

Finally, I think a society that is so preoccupied with demonizing other people will inherently breed acts of anger, resentment, and violence. Whether a person is a Christian, a Muslim, an atheist, part of the LGBTQ community, a gun-lover, a gun-regulator, a Democrat, a Republican, an American, a European, Middle-Eastern,

Black, White, Lutheran, Catholic, Evangelical, or any other characteristic, if we simply loved one another the way Christ tells us to, that anger, resentment, and need for violence will dissipate.

If we want to look for someone or something to blame when these horrific moments happen, we should first look inward and search for any way that we have not loved others, regardless of who they are, the way Christ teaches us to love. We want to know who to blame and we want to find some kind of a solution to prevent these shootings from happening again, and we love to champion our own points on whichever side we take (I'm guilty of this too), but is it possible that Jesus was on to something when he said, "Bless your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."? Is it possible that if we disagree with people, we can still love them in such a way that our disagreement isn't even evident? Perhaps, if we worry more about loving all people, and left the judging to God, then maybe certain groups won't be such apparent targets, and genuine dialogue and progress can happen in our world. Maybe if we focused more on doing what Jesus tells us to do, and less time fretting over who's in or who's out, God's love will reach more hearts and souls than we could ever imagine. And I'll wager that God's joy will find a greater space if we get back to the basics, and simply tried to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds, and likewise, loved our neighbors as ourselves.

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

## **Council Highlights - June 22, 2016**

- Council discussed the Family Ministry position and decided to form a small group to work on clarifying the job description for the position.
- Council approved going ahead with all the renovations for the church office, with our thanks to all of our members for their generous support of the capital campaign to fund those projects. The work will be completed in the next few weeks, so look forward to checking out the renovations to the office. Any money needed to complete the project will be funded from our General Fund Gifts.
- Council is working with a couple from the Midwest who have offered to donate a collection of Royal Copenhagen bisque replicas of Thorvaldsen's statues of the apostles to find the best way to display these in our sanctuary.

## **Adult Forum - July 10**

### **Kristine Pedersen to speak at Adult Forum on July 10**

Kristine Pedersen, who until recently has served as In Country Director of the Piyali Learning Center near Calcutta India, has returned home to Solvang and will speak at 11:00 in the Parish Hall on Sunday, July 10. Many members of Bethania have supported scholarships to girls and women who attend this center. This is an outstanding opportunity to hear first hand about one of Bethania's ministries and to learn about the progress that is being made and new developments in the program at Piyali.

## **Bethania Preschool & After School News**

### **Summer – Fun, Safe Time for Our Children; New Building Report**

Our preschoolers are busy doing activities that review and enrich their academic development this summer with many of them enrolled for an extended day.

Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoy a new set of themed activities each week, e.g. “International,” “Party in the U.S.A.” and “Mad Science.” Though there is no homework, reading activities are included with each theme.

City inspection of the new building occurred the last week in June and will be followed by Solvang Fire Department reviews. The last hurdle will be review by State Licensing. Then “move-in day” will finally have arrived, hopefully in July.

Our Board will be planning a dedication and reception for sometime in September. Please watch for the date of this event and plan to celebrate with church members, friends, our program’s children and parents.

- **Eileen Knotts**  
**Director, Bethania Preschool & After School**

### **Book Discussion Group**

The Book Discussion Group will meet July 27, 2016 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. The group is reading and discussing Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **ELCA Foundation**

#### **Life Income Agreements**

Life income agreements are available for people who want to make an irrevocable gift that will benefit ELCA ministries and congregations after death, while retaining an income interest during life or for a term of years. The ELCA Foundation administers a wide variety of such life income agreements that are in compliance with federal laws and state regulations that govern the issuance and administration of these agreements. These income arrangements include: **Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Unitrusts, and Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts**. For more information, contact our ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Greg Shepherd at: [gregory.shepherd@elca.org](mailto:gregory.shepherd@elca.org) or by calling (909)910-6823.

### **Gather Bible Study**

The monthly Bible study will be held on July 21 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge on the campus of Atterdag Village of Solvang. The topic is "Reconciliation." When we forgive, we can restore broken relationships. See John 20:19-23 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. This study is printed in the July issue of Gather magazine. For info or to get a copy of the lesson, call Anabelle at 688-4687.

# Great Summer Fun

Sponsored by your Outreach Committee!!  
Mark your calendars for these fun-filled events!

Theaterfest!

Wednesday, July 13th

Outreach is once again sponsoring a night at Theaterfest! Join us for the fun of theater under the stars as we gather for what promises to be a fun-filled performance of “Shrek—the Musical”!!



## Movie Nights!

This summer's movie nights should be better than ever! Plan to attend one or all three for great movies, good fellowship, Wine, cheese, and hors d'oeuvres

**Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**“The Martian”**

**Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**“The Way”**

**Starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez in the poignant, and uplifting story of a father trying to find a way to heal from an estranged relationship with his son.**

**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**“Imitation Game”**

**Starring Benedict Cumberbatch in the story of Alan Turing's role in the effort to crack Germany's enigma code during WWII.**

Childcare is provided  
With a special movie and popcorn for the children!

## End of Summer Barbeque!

Once again we will be hosting the barbeque luncheon on  
**Sunday, August 28th**

This will again be in conjunction with the very first day of Sunday School! These have proven to be a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to get together to share and visit over hamburgers, hot dogs and strawberry shortcake! Plan to join us this year where we plan to once again have some fun activities for the children.





## Growing towards a Good Harvest

It's that time of year! Check out what's available on the Produce Table before you head home or on your way to the coffee hour after the service. Donate whatever you choose towards the produce and other delicious items. All donations go directly to fight world hunger through the ELCA World Hunger campaign.

The table is qualifying for \$400 for the ELCA World Hunger Project and \$300 for the Salvation Army-SYV Extension, BUT this is a \$1.00 for every \$3.00 raised match by Thrivent. So, to receive the full \$400 for the ELCA we need to raise \$1200, and to receive the \$300 for our local needs we must raise \$900. We can do it - please be generous, check your yard and your neighbors' yards for possibilities for the Produce Table, and remember to stop by each Sunday and see what we have.

**Volunteers are needed and appreciated.** You can sign up to cover the table for a Sunday by **calling Carolynn Petersen (688-6243)**. This easy job entails setting up the table, helping bag people's choices, and counting and turning in the funds collected at the end of the coffee hour. It is a fun, easy and enjoyable way to help out each week during the growing season.

Check your garden and ask your neighbors for items to share...and help us fight World Hunger!

## Mark your Calendars for these Social Ministry dates:

- July *Personal Care & School Kit Collections continue:*  
 Need Thrivent members to sign up for starter funds for backpacks and towels  
 Collection continues for Personal Care  
 (toothbrushes, combs & nail clippers)  
 & school kit items (focus on #2 pencils, 2-1/2"  
 erasers, pencil sharpeners,  
 boxes of crayons, 16 or 24 count)
- July 17 Noisy Sunday offering: Purchase of bath towels  
 for Personal Care Kits
- August Kit collection continues: school supplies (focus  
 on 70 sheet college-ruled notebooks  
 (spiral bound, rulers with centimeters and inches,  
 pencil sharpeners, blunt tip scissors
- August 21 Noisy Sunday offering
- September Kit collection continues: bath size towels (light  
 weight, between 20"x40" & 27"x52"),  
 dark colors preferred, bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)  
 and any other needed items
- Sept. 18 Noisy Sunday offering - Donation towards LWR shipping cost of kits
- Sept. 25 Day of Service: Assembly of kits



## **Noisy Sunday is Coming: July 17 Backpacks & Towels that will travel the world...**

What is our change going to change this summer? We are going to help Lutheran World Relief make the world better for others, one coin and one kit at a time!

We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items to make up Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. (Assembly day will be September 25<sup>th</sup>).

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, our jangling coins will be used to help purchase the most expensive parts of the kits: towels and backpacks. This is so that we can purchase these items in bulk to get the most items for our kits.

Send your quarters around the world in the form of a kit! It's so easy, all it takes is a toss into our noisy offering buckets during the special offering. Plan to contribute other needed items (See related article) as the summer rolls along and the special sales happen. Collection area will be in the Parish Hall or you can drop items at the church office.

During "Noisy Sunday", any change you would like to get rid of from the bottom of your purse or pockets may be tossed into a bucket. This "noise" (coins) is used to "Make Change for the Better" by helping to fund upcoming Social Ministry projects.

LWR kits are a meaningful way to make a difference. By joining our coins and our donations together, we can turn ordinary items in extraordinary gifts. We will be helping children to attend school through our gifts of school supplies. We will be keeping people healthy in places where there is no access to soap and toothbrushes. You can 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 by making these "Kits of Care".

If you have an idea for a project for "Noisy Sunday", let me know. Together, we can "change" our world, one coin at a time.

– **Linda Marzullo**

## **Personal Care & School Supply Kit Items Needed!**

We will be collecting items this summer for an assembly day of Personal Care Kits and School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

Personal Care Kits provide basic hygiene tools to those in need. When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and refugee camps are typical distribution areas for these kits. The same is true for the School Supply kits. Honduran children recently received 13,000 school kits. "Words cannot express what an honor it is to be your arms extended to these families in the poorest of the poor areas that we are working in, it is truly an honor to serve together with you in meeting these great needs." –CGM /LWR

Around the world people suffer each day because of lack of basic hygiene. In refugee camps and in the world's poorest communities, a few simple items can mean the difference between sickness and health, and life and death.

Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but 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 are collecting. Watch for sales this summer!

*Items needed are:*

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

For School Supply Kits:

1. 70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
2. Rulers with centimeters and inches
3. Pencil sharpeners
4. Blunt tip scissors
5. #2 Pencils
6. 2-1/2" Erasers
7. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)



Bring your items to the donation box by the Sunday School office or to the church office.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: [vikingspressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingspressprint@verizon.net)

## **In Our Prayers, In Our Hearts**

**Immediate Prayer Concerns:** Wayne Countryman, Pat Green, Linda Marzullo, and Norma Pedersen

**Other Prayer Concerns:** Esther Bates, Jim Blanton, Joe & Pat Bode, Annette Clausen, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Nanette Dacuy-cuy, Dolores Dederding, Don DeLaney, Robin Denny, Lois De Meyer, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Dolores Gehrs, Chris Gideon, Arla Hoj, Michael Jech, Robert Jennings (friend of Fred & Genie Machtetanz), Chris Kaping, Richard Lindekens, Ethel Litwiler, Rick Marzullo, Ellis McDaniel, Jeff McConnell, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Helen Nielsen, Marie Ostertag, Marc & Laurie Owens, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Scotty Sexton, Rose Skytt, Lee Statom, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Cora Vandecar, Tina Walen, Ann Wallace, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson, Robert Workman

## Thank You's



*We received the following thank you from Circle V Ranch Camp. In addition to the items donated by church members as mentioned in the letter, our Noisy Offering in May contributed \$250.00 towards campers' needs.*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the staff and especially the children who attend Circle V Ranch Camp, I want to thank you for your very kind and generous donation of sleeping bags, beach towels, flashlights, jump ropes and water pistols.

Please know that Circle V Ranch Camp greatly appreciates your support and commitment that gives youth the opportunity to make new friends, experience the great outdoors and grow in faith. Your desire to support youth is evident with your generous donations every summer. I, along with all of the staff at Circle V, are blessed and grateful for all you do. Thank you for being a Friend of Circle V Ranch Camp. May God continue to richly bless all of you.

Sincerely,

**Nadine Melancon**  
**Committee Chair**  
**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**Circle V Ranch Camp**

## Another Thank-You

Dear Members of the Endowment Fund,

Thank you for awarding me your generous scholarship. I truly appreciate the support you have provided me and feel proud that I was chosen as your scholarship recipient. I look forward to new experiences at UCLA and will always be thankful for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
**Mia Andersen**

## Theology Pub – Summer Style

Theology Pub is continuing in the summer, but in a much more casual way. We're still meeting on the third Wednesday in July and August at 7pm. My plan is to show up at the Solvang Brewing Company and if anyone wants to show up and chat about whatever comes to mind, great! If not, I'll have a beer myself, and go home. Last month, just one person showed up and we ended up having a great conversation, so I encourage anyone who wants come to please drop by! Skol!

- Pastor Chris



## Thumbnail Portrait - Marti & Teddi Steyer

Hot off the press! This delightful couple is the very newest official addition to our Bethania membership roster. They literally had the Request for Membership paperwork in their hands as I approached to ask them if they would be willing to share their story.

Martin was born in Westfield (near Houston), Texas. His father was a Lutheran pastor and his mother was a homemaker. He grew up with one brother and three sisters. Martin attended prep school at St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas where

coincidentally he was friends with Teddi. After St. John's he went on to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He and Teddi were married in St. Louis in 1951.

Martin was then called to a congregation in Savannah, Georgia where he stayed for seven years. Their congregation included many from a local Army/Air Force base. Teddi said "It was a lovely place with lovely people." Then Marty was asked to open new congregations in the Deep South, Carolina, Kansas, and Georgia. This happened over the next 20 years.

Eventually they came to Santa Maria, California where Martin was the pastor at Lutheran Church of Our Savior for two decades. In 2014 they moved to Atterdag Village. Teddi said "It was hard for us to leave Santa Maria but we are so happy here now." Martin served on the Board of Youth Ministry for the National Lutheran Church and is also a published author.

Teddi was born in Pueblo, Colorado. Her father was also a Lutheran pastor. Her mother was a teacher before she had children and then a homemaker. Teddi grew up with two sisters. The family moved to St. Louis, Missouri when Teddi was 15.

She attended prep school at St. John's College and then went on to Harris Teacher's College (also in St. Louis). Teddi was a first through sixth grade teacher for disadvantaged children in a parochial school in St. Louis. She was involved not only with her students during school but outside of school as well.

Teddi and Martin have three children. Marty (Patty) lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington and is self-employed. Peter (Dee) lives in Ventura and is a hospital administrator. Julie (Tom) lives in Atascadero and is an accomplished artist and a high school teacher. Teddi and Martin have six grandchildren! When asked about family memories Teddi said she especially remembers fondly a driving trip from Wichita, Kansas to Colorado which included camping and hiking.

Teddi is also an accomplished artist. She paints in oils and has shown and sold her paintings for years. Pastor Russ invited her to have a showing at Bethania which she very much enjoyed being able to do. Her inspiration was her father who was also an artist. Teddi studied art in college and enjoys painting many subjects including landscapes and still life. She likes painting plein air (outdoors) whenever she can.

When asked for a reflection on Bethania they both said without reservation “We felt right at home when we came here!” If you have not already met Martin and Teddi be sure and look them up soon. I know you will find them just as delightful as I did. Welcome Martin and Teddi!

- Robin Gehrs

## **Treasurer’s Report for Month of May 2016**

### **Balance Sheet:**

- Cash position continues to be strong with \$36,765 in general checking and \$94,693 In money market fund
- Fixed assets remain constant, although will change in the next month due to improvements to the facilities and the addition of the new preschool building
- All liabilities are current with the exception of a pension liability of \$1,641

### **Profit and Loss Budget Performance:**

#### **Income:**

- Offerings for the month of May were up \$1,261 over the projected budget or 104% of budget for January to May.
- Total income was up by \$2,250 or 108% of budget for Jan. to May.
- Of particular note is the use of our facilities by outside groups – we have already exceeded the year end budget with \$5,082 in income versus a budget of \$3,000. We are truly becoming a resource for the community.

#### **Expenses:**

- Synodical and other benevolence support is up by 13% over projected budget for Jan. to May.
- Salaries and benefits are at 94% of budget for Jan.to May - this is largely due to not filling the Family Ministry Director position yet.
- Staff expenses are under budget at 80% of budget.
- Office administration expenses are up by 24% over budget.
- Property expenses are at 76% of budget for Jan. to May.
- Utilities are up by 16% for Jan. to May – increased water bills and increase in trash collection make up the majority of the overage.
- All other expenses are within budget or below.

#### **Overall:**

- Total income for the month of May exceeded expenses by \$6,979
- Total expenses for Jan. to May were 96% of budget
- Bethania Lutheran continues to operate in a sound fiscal manner, with revenues exceeding expenses and continued faithful support from its members. To God be the Glory!

**Ron Walsh**  
**Treasurer**



# July 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship: CH	4 Independence Day - The Office and Bethania Summer Program closed. 6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Finance Cmt. Mtg: OFC 11 am PACE:FR	11  6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	12	13 12:45 pm Sewing/Quilting Group: PH  8 pm Shrek: The Musical: Theaterfest	14	15	16
17  9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Adult Forum: FR	18  6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	19	20  7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Company	21 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 2:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg: FR 7 pm Council: FR	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship: CH 7 pm Movie Night: PH & FR	25  6 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	26	27  2 pm Book Discussion Group: PH	28	29	30
31  9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Adult Forum: PH & FR						CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room OFC = Office AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang

# THE BEACON July 2016

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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**  
**Kevin McConnell**

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

