

The Beacon July 2017

Bethania Lutheran Church
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Pastor Chris's Message



It is incredibly weird to me, although I imagine not a novel sensation for many of you, but this will be my last Beacon article solely as a husband. The next time I sit down to write an article there will be a tiny new soul in my life. I can't begin to imagine where my mindset will be the next time, or how little sleep I'll be on when I write it. And I imagine any of you reading this might be smiling at yourselves because you know all too well what Livier and I are in for. I may not know what those feelings will be like once that time comes, but I do know that everything will be different – that life itself will have changed for us... forever! You might even say transformed.

It's happened several times before – a transformation. When I first started driving, graduating from high school, moving to Chicago, getting married and committing to share my life with someone, and now this new transformation that really can come at any time now. While the degree of transformation is different between those moments above, they have one thing in common: transformations always create a change in one's life. A person is different before a transformation than they are after.

Which is interesting as it relates to our faith. Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [they are] a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, a new things have come." Paul describes our faith as a transformative experience, where the old things of before being in Christ are gone and new things have come about. It might be hard to understand what he means, yet we can all relate because we have all gone through transformative experiences in our lives, whether they are welcoming a new baby, starting a new career, getting sober for the first time, finding the courage to escape and abusive relationship, etc. There are moments, good or bad, which have transformed and shaped us to be different than who we were before those moments occurred.

Paul is describing the same feeling, only he is describing it in the first time he experienced this new faith in his life. Transformation through our faith is a little complicated for us Lutherans. Our more evangelical brothers and sisters believe in a saving moment when one accepts God into one's life and so they identify a pinpoint at which transformation might occur. Yet for us who believe that our salvation lies solely in Christ's action on the cross 2,000 years ago, pinpointing a moment of transformation is a little more difficult. So I ask you: Do you experience your own faith as transformative? One in which you were different before such experiences than you were after? And... do you want to?

I can't pinpoint a time in my life where I accepted Jesus as my savior. But I can pinpoint times where I have chosen to walk the path of unconditional love, compassion for

others, and commitment to the church in helping create more welcoming and inclusive sacred spaces in the world. And I have to say those moments were transformative for me. Those moments have reinforced why I'm part of the church, why I believe in God, and why I do what I do.

I think sometimes we forget that our faith is meant to be transformative and we get used to the static and routine nature of the church that can take hold. I invite you this month to consider if you've experienced your own faith as one of transformation. If not, then ask yourself if you want it to be. Lastly, I invite you to come talk to me about it. Tell me about the ways your faith has been transformative, or tell me about how you would like it to be. There's nothing to lose, and everything to gain.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth & Family Ministry

Greetings Bethania,

As some of you know, I will be on maternity leave this summer for six weeks. If you have any questions, please direct them to Pastor Chris.

We do not have events planned for the month of July due to a high vacation season.

Parents and guardians, mark your calendars for the **End of Summer BBQ Sunday August 13, 2017**. We look forward to seeing a lot of youth and families join us at this event so please spread the word. Registration for Sunday School will be conducted at the BBQ as well. More details on the BBQ to follow.

Sunday School will reconvene **Sunday, Aug. 20, 2017** and be provided during the evening service starting at 5pm.

Confirmation orientation will now be **Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017** at 3-4 pm in the Fireside Room prior to the evening service.

First and Second Year Confirmands first class will meet at **3 pm, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017** in the Fireside Room.

Youth Group will meet **Sunday Sept. 24, 2017** from 3-5 pm in the church Fireside Room.

This fall we will continue to team up with St. Mark's in the Valley on several youth group events and excursions.

**Blessings and kindness to you all,
Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown**

Bethania Preschool & After School Program

Our summer program, which began June 12, has a fully subscribed preschool enrollment continuing in our year round schooling and a waiting list. Summer Camp for school age students is focusing primarily on children from Kindergarten through third grade, though we continue to include Grades 4-6 students who enroll in our after school program during the school year. Again this summer, we offer these older students weekly themes for our craft, recreational and academic enrichment experiences. We are very appreciative of our creative teachers and assistants who constantly amaze us with their ability to nurture the mental, emotional and spiritual growth of our students.

The Preschool board, with the help of Nancy Puder's garden maintenance crew, recently added a mayten tree to the memorial bench area of the playground. It honors Myra Petersen's 26 years of service and leadership as long-time board chair and member of the Tuition Assistance Committee.

Myra brought exemplary judgment, wisdom, organizational skills and knowledge of community resources to her work on the board and is greatly missed since her retirement last year. Board members still regularly consult with her.

Nancy Emerson

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Noisy Sunday is Coming: July 23 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 Sept. 10th).

On July 23rd, 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! All it takes is a toss into our Noisy Offering buckets during the special offering. We also ask you to consider contributing 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..

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”.

Together, we can “change” our world, one coin at a time.

Linda Marzullo

Food Drive for Iglesia's Pantry Continues

Iglesia Luterana is a mission start-up church based at Bethel Lutheran. The members of Iglesia are mainly field workers, who depend on the strawberry crops and other picking jobs for income. Many of these families support extended family members who are single parents or parentless children. If you would like 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.

If you would like to donate, items most needed at this time to re-stock the pantry for Iglesia families include:

5 lb. bags of flour (maseca)
Peanut Butter

5 lb. bags of white rice
Canola Oil (used for cooking their tortillas)

3 lb. bags of Pinto beans

Canned chicken (*no tuna, please!*)

Canned Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans, Refried Beans, Peas, Mixed Vegetables)

Large cans of Hominy (*very popular and relatively inexpensive if you watch for a sale*)

Canned Soups (Chicken Noodle or Beef)

Breakfast Cereal and Breakfast Bars

Diapers (any size, age)

Items which Pastor Esteban could use for the Youth program:

Packaged Cookies

Microwave Popcorn

Snack Crackers

Juice (Apple Fruit Punch, Lemonade, Orangeade)

The list above is also in the narthex at church.

Thank you for making a difference to people who are struggling in our area, and supporting other Christians involved in a young, vibrant mission church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 688-3059 (home) or 688-5219 (work) or by email: vikingsprint@verizon.net

Linda Marzullo

Help Yourself As Well As Others

Check out the flowers, fruits, vegetables and other delicious items on the Produce Table before you head home or on your way to the coffee hour after the service. Donate whatever you choose knowing that all donations go directly to fight world hunger through the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts campaign. As of June 21st we have received \$499.00 in

donations. We are able to provide baby chicks, pigs, sheep, goats, heifers, clean water wells and fruit trees together with the knowledge and training on how to utilize them.

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 when you see a bumper crop! Help us fight World Hunger.

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: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Church Life

Summer Theo Pub

Theology Pub is continuing through the summer, but in its summer format. For July, and August there is no planned topic. It's a time for people to come with their questions, their topics, their doubts, or with whatever is on their mind. It's a safe space to talk about anything surrounding life or faith or whatever is on your heart. Gather with good friends, refreshing drinks, and great conversation every Second Thursday of the month (July 13) at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company. See you there!

Bethania Book Group

We are reading Against the Flow, The inspiration of Daniel in an Age of Relativism by John C. Lennox. We meet the third Wednesday of each month from 2-3:30 pm so next meeting will be July 19 in the Parish Hall.

Guitar Concert and Hosting Information

Song In My Heart Studio (SIMH) has organized an International Guitar Festival for the weekend of July 29; The event is collaboration of a well-known music school in Stuttgart, Germany, (Stuttgarter Musikschule), Pasadena Conservatory of Music and Song In My Heart Studio in Solvang. As part of this event a 35+ member guitar youth orchestra will perform Sunday evening, July 30th in the Parish Hall. This performance is open to public. SIMH cordially invites all members of the church to come and enjoy this unique experience. SIMH is looking for families that would like to host any of the talented young individuals for the nights of Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30. The youth orchestra consists of 35 students(age 14-19) and 5 teachers (3 of them have doctorate degree in guitar performance/Music).

Please direct all your questions about this event and hosting to:

Vahid Imani

Song In My Heart Studio www.simheart.com

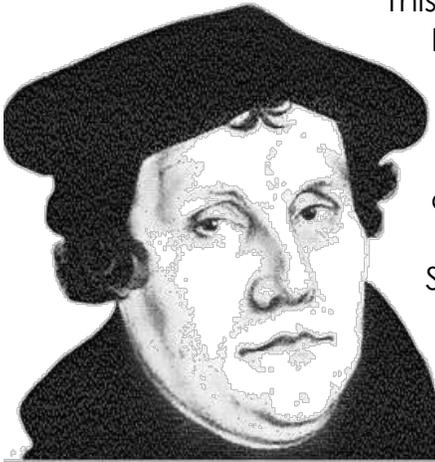
(805) 245-1996

vimani@simheart.com

Gather Bible Study

The July Bible Study will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge on the campus of Atterdag Village. The theme is "Stand With The Least of These". The Biblical passages are from Micah chapters 1 - 6 and Luke 6:20-25, and Paul's letter to Philemon 1:1-17. This study is printed in the July issue of the "Gather" magazine. All are welcome.

Thumbnail Portrait - Martin Luther



This year marks the 500th year commemorating the Protestant Reformation in 16th century Europe. Martin Luther provided the impetus for this historical event in posting the 95 Theses and challenging the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Following is a brief biography of the founding father of our church.

Martin Luther was born on Nov. 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony in SE Germany. His parents were of peasant lineage, but his father, Hans, had success as a miner and ore smelter. He wanted his son to have a better life, so urged him to become a lawyer. He described his early schooling as "purgatory and hell" although he was a gifted student.

In 1501, Luther entered the University of Erfurt at the age of 13, where he eventually received a Master's degree in grammar, logic, rhetoric, and metaphysics—well on his way to becoming a lawyer.

However, in 1505, Luther had a life-changing experience that set him on a new course. Caught in a horrific thunderstorm where, fearing for his life, Luther cried out, "Save me, St. Anne and I'll become a monk." The decision to become a monk greatly disappointed his father, but Luther felt he must keep a promise. Luther was also driven by fears of hell and God's wrath, and felt that life in a monastery would help him find salvation. He dedicated himself to the Augustinian order, devoting himself to fasting, long hours of prayer, pilgrimage and frequent confession.

The young monk did not find the religious enlightenment he was seeking in the monastery. After attending a church conference in Rome, he became discouraged by the immorality and corruption of the Catholic priests.

He enrolled in the University of Wittenberg in an effort to suppress his spiritual turmoil. He excelled in his studies and received a doctorate, becoming a professor of theology at the university.

In 1513, while preparing a lecture on Paul's Epistle to the Romans he read, "The just will live by faith." He realized that the key to spiritual salvation was not to fear God, but to believe that faith alone would bring salvation. This period marked a major change in his life and set in motion the Reformation of the Catholic Church.

In 1517, Pope Leo X announced a new sale of indulgences, a method of payment purchased in order to have freedom from God's punishment for sins. "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory heavenward springs" was often quoted in the effort to raise funds. The money collected was to help build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On Oct. 31, 1517, an angry Martin Luther nailed a sheet of paper with 95 theses on the university chapel door. Though he intended them to be discussion points, the 95 Theses laid out a devastating critique of the indulgences as corrupting people's faith. Aided by the Gutenberg printing

press, copies of the theses spread through Germany within two weeks and throughout Europe within two months.

The church moved to stop this act of defiance. In October 1518 in Augsburg, Martin Luther was ordered to recant his 95 theses by the authority of the pope. Luther said he would not recant unless scripture proved him wrong. He also stated that he didn't consider the papacy had authority to interpret scripture. This led to his excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church in January, 1521.

In March 1521, he was summoned before the Diet of Worms, an assembly of secular authorities. Again, he refused to recant his statements. On May 8, 1521, the council released the Edict of Worms, banning Luther's writing and declaring him a "convicted heretic." This made him a wanted man and criminal.

Friends helped him hide out at the Wartburg Castle. While in seclusion, he translated the New Testament into the German language to give ordinary people the opportunity to read God's Word. Though still under threat of arrest, Luther returned to Wittenberg Castle Church in Eisenach, in May 1522. With the support of his many followers and German princes, he organized a new church, later called Lutheranism.

In 1525, he married Katharina von Bora, a former nun who had abandoned the convent and taken refuge in Wittenberg. Over the next several years they had six children. Katie helped support the family by farming and taking in boarders.

From 1533 to his death in 1546, Luther served as dean of theology at the University of Wittenberg. During this time he suffered from many illnesses and strains of the Peasant's Revolt in the countryside. Perhaps the emotional strain of being a fugitive might have been reflected in his writings. Some works contained strident language against Jews and Muslims. During a trip to his hometown, Eisleben, he died on Feb. 18, 1546.

Martin Luther's most important legacy was the doctrine of justification—God's act of declaring a sinner righteous by faith alone through God's grace. He also laid down a new form of worship service, including many of his own hymns to be sung by the congregation. Worshippers were able to read scripture in their own language, instead of Latin, the language of the priests. His Large and Small Catechisms were teaching tools, used to explain the new faith succinctly. Protestant reformers who followed him were inspired by his teachings.

We remember Martin Luther and his contributions to Protestantism each Oct. 31st, when we celebrate Reformation Day.

Excerpted from Biography.com and Wikipedia

Emily Abello

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Congregational Business

Thank You's

Dear Members of Bethania Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for choosing me as one of the recipients for the Endowment Scholarship. This will really help me achieve my goal of one day becoming a full-time fire fighter!

Sincerely,
Brett Beehler

Dear Friends and Members of Bethania,

On behalf of Iglesia Santa Cruz we thank you for all that you do for our community! We appreciate your generosity and pray that God gives you double of what you gives us and will keep giving us. Thank you for your financial support!

Blessings,
Community of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Brianna Ceballos, Pat Green, Kathy Hackler

Other Prayer Concerns: Robin Adkins, Esther Bates, Joe & Pat Bode, Annette Clausen, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Dolores Dederding, Don DeLaney, Lois De Meyer, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Dolores Gehrs, Chris Gideon, Sharon, Sarah & Casey Harris, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Chris Kaping, Kim Kenton, Kate Knotts, Carol Lake, Stephanie Larrabee, Curtis Lee, Richard Lindekens, Ethel Litwiler, Steve & Betsy Logan, Anne Mansfield, Linda & Rick Marzullo, Amber Mee, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Helen Nielsen, Marie Ostertag, Marc & Laurie Owens, Doyle Phillips, Jonathan Poldberg, Audrey Robinson, Jean & Bill Stelling, Carol Summit, Dave & Theresa Tannascoli, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Tina Walen, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

Treasurer's Report - May 2017 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position in the general checking has improved \$2,000 over the previous month and the money market fund has remained stable (\$91,401). These are good indicators of our church's fiscal health.
- The only remaining asset to be listed in the balance sheet are the value of the statues and platforms (approximately \$13,000) that were dedicated this past month. They will be reflected in the June balance sheet.
- All liabilities are current with the exception of the usual pension liability.
- The balance sheet is very healthy.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

- Regular offering for the month of May was up \$1,806 over the budget. Praise God!
- The offering receipts for the first five months were at 100% of budget. (\$90,115 versus \$89,991 budgeted)
- Facility usage fees continue to be strong at 172% of budgeted income for the first five months of the year. If this trend continues, we will easily surpass the \$8,500 year end budget (We are currently at \$7,801).
- Total income for the month was \$3,167 over the budgeted income, and is at 104% of the budget for the first 5 months of the year. (\$116,896 compared to \$112,874 budgeted)

Expenses:

- Benevolence for the month was up due to increased offerings
- Salary and benefits for the month were up \$1,759 over budget; this is due to the salary increase that was approved by the Congregation Council for the church's office manager, Kristyl Downey.
- Staff expenses were below budget for the month, and are 83% of the budgeted amount for the first five months of the year.
- Office administration expenses were under budget for the second month in a row, and are now only slightly over budget at 102% for the first five months.
- Property expenses for the first five months are well-controlled at 98% of the budget.
- Utilities were \$383 under budget for the month and are 85% of budget for the first five months.
- All other expenses were either at or under budget for the month.
- Overall our expenses for the first five months were at 102% of budget, however our income was at 104% for those same months.

Overall:

Through the first five months of the year, Bethania is in a healthy financial position. Thanks be to God for our wonderful members who have supported the mission and ministry of our church, and for the leadership of our faithful servants, Pastor Chris, Livier, and Kristyl who keep it all together in the Name of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ron Walsh
Treasurer



July 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room OFC = Office AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal Church					1
2 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH	3 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	4 Independence Day Office is closed.	5	6 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group:PH	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Finance Cmt. Mtg:OFC	10 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	11 2 pm Memorials Cmt. Mtg. OFC	12 12:45 pm Quilting/ Sewing: PH	13 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group:PH 7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH	17 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR 5:00 pm Grief Group: SME	18	19 2 pm Book Discussion Group: PH	20 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group:PH 7 pm Council: FR	21 12 noon Beacon Deadline: OFC	22
23 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH	24 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:00 pm Tai Chi: PH 8:00 pm AA: FR	25	26	27 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group:PH 1:30 pm Pre-school Brd Mtg: OFC	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 8 pm Guitar Concert: PH	31 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:00 pm Tai Chi: PH 8:00 pm AA: FR					

THE BEACON

July 2017

Bethania Lutheran Church
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Solvang CA 93463

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

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

Church Council:
Pastor Chris Brown
President: Robert Laufer
Vice-President: Ken Faulk
Treasurer: Ron Walsh
Secretary: Marilyn Larsen
Tom Dimmette
Robin Gehrs
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



Summer Worship
Schedule
Sundays
9:30 a.m.
5:00 p.m.