

# The Beacon June 2017

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## Pastor Chris's Message

### A Word of Thanks

I would like to spend this month's newsletter saying a word of thanks on behalf of Livier, our inbounding little girl, and myself. That was an incredible showing for our baby shower and we felt an outpouring of love from this community, which is what the Church is all about.

I want to say a special word of thanks to those who helped put it together. Thank you **Sheila Mee, Kathy Walsh, Malia Maurer, Heather Walsh, Ruth Jackson, Robin Gehrs, Donna Claytor, and Alex Glover!** Their hard work, creativity, and most especially their love brought this wonderful day to fruition.

I also want to thank everyone who donated money so we can buy our big ticket items, including the already purchased stroller. We don't know who contributed to those and so we want to give a big thank you in this newsletter, that way they can read how grateful we are. I imagine many of them signed the giant card, which we love.

Finally, I'd like to point out what happened that day because it was so action-packed that you may have missed it. We gathered as a church to welcome this little girl into the world with love, support, and much needed gifts. We were together as both morning service people and evening service people, but not only that, people who aren't part of the church that felt a strong enough connection to come and celebrate. There was food, laughter, joy, and love! Folks, that's the Church in a nutshell. That's everything the Church is meant to be. And how amazing of a time was it? For Livier and me, it was awesome!!!

I pray I can take all the love and support that Livier and I felt that day and just reciprocate it to all of you, and Lord knows I'll try, but for now, please know we are so grateful. We count ourselves blessed by being part of a community such as this and we already know how blessed this little girl is going to be growing up with so much love around her! As I've said before, we feel like this is home!

**With So Much Love,  
Pastor Chris**

## Ministry at Bethania

### **Youth & Family Ministry**

**Confirmation** will reconvene at the end of August. Our Confirmation Orientation is tentatively placed for Aug. 27, 2017 at 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. We will begin our new school year 2017-2018 with classes on the First Sunday of Each Month. The classes will be 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, which end in time for the evening worship service at 5:00pm.

**Youth Group** will reconvene end of September. We look forward to seeing more youth attend as we grow. Please spread the word that all high school youth are invited to join. See you back Sunday Sept. 24, 2017. We are discussing a service project to assist the Buellton Cats, an Atterdag Bingo excursion, and a book drive to help raise funds at Iglesia Santa Cruz of Santa Maria, so please collect as many books as possible all summer.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** is returning to Bethania for the week of June 26-June 30, 2017 in the evening! I have communicated and sent flyers to students, parents, and guardians. We are recruiting volunteers and would absolutely love to have the youth participate as Crew Leaders. For more details please contact Pastor Chris.

Next **VBS Planning Meeting Sunday, June 4 during coffee hour.** Please stay for a presentation Video and let's make more memories.

**End of Summer BBQ** tentatively on Sunday Aug. 13, 2017

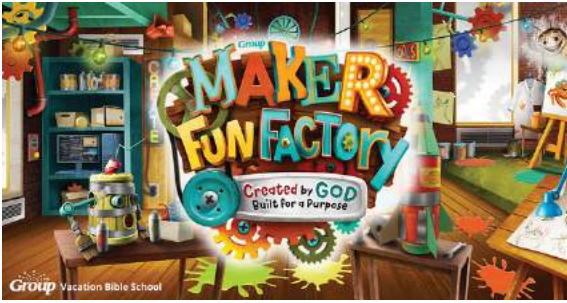
**Sunday School** will begin Sunday Aug. 20, 2017 and be provided during the evening service, 5 pm

If you have any questions, please contact (909)962-9366

**Kindness and Blessings to you all,  
Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry**

### **VBS is BACK!!!**

VBS is coming back to Bethania!! We are so excited to announce that we're starting VBS again, but we need everyone's help! VBS will be the week of June 26<sup>th</sup> in the evenings from 5:30-8:30 pm. But in order to do this we're going to need volunteers...and a lot of them! Please consider if you can help out with this. We're going to need people to help lead groups, opening worship, setup and cleanup, help provide dinner and snacks and so much more. We will have more information soon, but for now, if you can help please call the office and let Kristyl, Pastor, or Livier know. Thanks!



VBS is upon us and we need your help! In order to make this a wonderful event for the children of our community we need all the volunteers we can get. To encourage your excitement, here are the areas in which we need help, so please think of what you'd like to do and let Pastor, Livier, or Donna Hinsbeeck know how you'd like to help. The categories are:

Dinner Crew	Crafts	Drama	Games
Decorating Crew	Group Leaders		

We also need the following items:

Peg Board	Slinkys	Styrofoam Balls	Wet Wipes	Cement Forms
Velcro Strips	Polyester Fiberfill	Pool Noodles	Carpet Tubes	Rope Lights
Red Markers	Dryer Vents	Red Rope	Fishing Line	Large Funnels
Tennis Balls	Poster Board	Exacto Knives	Feathers	Nuts & Bolts
Gears	Balloons - 6", 9"	Colored Cellophane		Craft Sticks

PVC Pipe and PVC Glue

Galvanized or Plastic 5 gallon buckets

100% Wool Cloth and Wool Scarves

Zip Ties (assorted lengths)

Pie Tins, Coffee Cans (metal)

Bungee Cords, 18" and 30" lengths

Battery Operated LED Lights on wires

Air Conditioning/Heating Filters

Spray Paint in bright colors

Sheets of White Foam, Foam Slabs, pieces of solid Foam

Duct Tape - bright colors and designs in addition to the traditional gray

Metal Grilling Trays or Cookie Sheets (Dollar Store is a great place for these)

...and anything you think can be re-purposed to look like a factory part or machine!

Want some more inspiration?? Click on the link:

<https://www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/vbs/maker-fun-factory.do>

If you have any questions or comments, please call or email Pastor Chris! Thanks and we're looking forward to an awesome VBS!!!



# Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew number or name (for church use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_



In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Bethania Preschool**

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another school year. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethania Preschool and After School. The preschool blossomed from the ground work started by Bernice Dotz and many volunteers. The program was started to help working families in the Valley, and I am proud to say that we continue to focus on these families.

We will be celebrating the year with our annual Year End Program on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 in the Parish Hall. Each child will receive a letter of recognition for a job well-done and individually introduce themselves and tell us their "plans" for the future. This will be followed by the children singing about their preschool year.

Our Summer Program will begin June 12 and run through Aug.4. Look for us out and about Solvang as we visit many of the businesses in town.

**Blessings,**  
**Eileen Knotts, Director**

## **Ministry in the Community and Around the World**

### **Noisy Sunday is coming June 25: *Support VBS & Youth Fund! Make Change Count for Good***

Our next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Let's all make some noise and help support our VBS week and the Youth Fund. The youth have been very active lately, and will be helping out with our exciting week of VBS activities, "Maker Fun Factory". The "Maker Fun Factory" is a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. VBS has some costs associated with producing such an exciting week, including the Bible Activity packets and decor, and the funds from the Noisy Offering will help offset our expenses.

Thank you to all who helped to make May's "Noisy Sunday" a success. Donations from the special offering that day will be used to help meet the needs of Circle V Ranch Camp's summer campers. Circle V Ranch Camp needs help supplying children who come to summer camp, as 95% of the campers require a scholarship so that they can attend. (We will also be collecting items to support the camp in the Parish Hall.)

We all really "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make a noise on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We can **change** a child's world by introducing them to our VBS and the word of God in a fun and lively setting!

Contact the office if you have any questions, have an idea for the "Noisy Offering" you would like to suggest, or need more information about VBS.

**- Linda Marzullo**

## Food Drive for Iglesia's Pantry continues

On May 21<sup>st</sup> I delivered a load of food to the members of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria. The food items were donated by many individuals in the congregation, and other food items were purchased and brought to them that day with funds donated in the offering. All told, we delivered 292 lbs. of food items, diapers and feminine hygiene products. A class was in session, and as we brought in the items one little boy was so excited to see boxes of cereal. "Mama! Mama! Do you **see**?" he said excitedly, and then repeated in Spanish for others. A little girl popped up in her chair and started to dance when she saw some fruit snacks sticking out of one of the bags. A woman started tearing up, saying, "Gracias! Gracias!"

This is a beautiful thing we are doing for these people. They call the people of Bethania their "Angels". Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie have so many stories to share, some that will break your heart and some that help us remember we can make a difference. If you are interested in making a delivery yourself, please let me know.

I invite you to bring whatever food donations you desire to the box in the Parish Hall to help the members of Iglesia. I do ask, however, that you check for expiration dates on the food before donating.

Iglesia serves many families in their congregation through their food pantry, which is a shed on the church grounds at Bethel in Santa Maria. In addition, we contribute gift cards so that families may purchase items such as meat, fresh vegetables, dairy products and other necessities, such as diapers.

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. They are very proud people who work hard, and who appreciate their brothers and sisters in Christ supporting them in their efforts to make a better life for their loved ones.

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.

We encourage everyone to become more educated about families who are the "working poor" and who struggle every day to feed their families in our area.

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**

**Canned chicken** (*no tuna, please!*)

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

**5 lb. bags of white rice**

**Canola Oil (used for cooking their tortillas)**

**3 lb. bags of Pinto beans**

**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: [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

– **Linda Marzullo**

## **Growing towards a Good Harvest**

It's that time of year! As of May 21<sup>st</sup> we have received \$253.00 in donations at the Produce Table. Check out what's available 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 Good Gifts campaign. We are able to provide baby chicks, pigs, sheep, goats, clean water wells and fruit trees together with the knowledge and training on how to utilize them.

What has the table featured lately? Flowers, strawberries, succulents, pickles, garlic scapes and Swiss chard.

Do you have an extra plant from a 6-pack you would like to donate? What about those extra seeds in the seed packet? How about some homemade jam you made too much of? 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!

## **BLCW Quilt Raffle**



The quilting group is selling raffle tickets for a quilt (multi-colored, geometric, 70"x80"). The proceeds will help the group buy much needed supplies like batting. Each ticket is \$1, or 6 for \$5. Kathy Walsh will be at coffee hour with the quilt and tickets. Tickets are also available in the church office during the week. The quilts made by the women are shipped to people all over the world through Lutheran World Relief.

## **Church Life**

### **Congratulations, Graduates!**

Congratulations to our High School Graduates Natalya Nielsen and Valerie Laufer. And special congratulations to our Endowment Fund \$1000.00 Scholarship Recipients: Brett Beehler, Valerie Laufer and Anders Navarro.

**Carolynn D. Petersen**  
**Chairman, Endowment Fund**

### **Summer Theo Pub**

Theology Pub is continuing through the summer, but in its summer format. For the months of June, 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 (June 8) at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company. See you there!

### **Bethania Book Group**

This is a great time to join the monthly 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 June 21 in the Parish Hall. We will read Chapters 5-8. You can order the book through the Book Loft or from Amazon.



## **PCPA at Solvang Festival Theater Wednesday, June 21 - "Beauty and the Beast"**

Bethania will be going as a group to Solvang Festival Theater on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to see the musical, "Beauty and the Beast."

If you wish to join the group, bring your checkbook to church on June 4<sup>th</sup> to reserve a space (center section) for only \$21.25. Checks can be made out to PCPA with the memo Bethania group rate .

Let Emily Abello know (688-1243) if you would like to go to the musical "Lend Me a Tenor" in July.

## **Gather Bible Study**

The June Bible Study will be held on Thursday, **June 22 at 10:30 am** in the Atterdag Lounge. The title for the summer sessions is "All Anew, Ready or Not." In 1 Samuel 17:1-18:9 we read Saul has been crowned king by popular request. The Philistines send the giant Goliath to challenge the Israelites. The young David uses his sling shot to do away with Goliath. Israel was at war against the Philistines. See the June "Gather" magazine for this and more.

## **Thumbnail Portrait - Maria and Christi Belle**

Maria was born in Santa Barbara to Teresa Cadena, a homemaker and real estate agent, and Guy Bellefeuille, a carpenter and cabinetmaker. Her mother passed away when she was two. Her father then remarried and the blended family consisted of twelve children "four -- four -- and four". Maria says the youngest just graduated from high school and the oldest is 44. Her family lived in Santa Barbara until Maria was in fourth grade at which time they moved to Ferndale, Washington (north of Seattle) and there she graduated from high school in 2004. She then lived in Seattle until she was 20 at which time she moved to Portland for one year. At age 21 she moved again - to the Santa Ynez Valley.



Maria has wonderful childhood memories of summers in California (including Yosemite), Glacier National Park in Montana, and Mexico. She was raised in a "big Catholic family" and spent lots of time with both sets of grandparents.

After Maria moved to the valley she worked at El Rancho Market. She then launched her professional career as a small business owner and entrepreneur by opening One Consignment (for children and expectant moms) at 240 East Highway 246 with her sister Jessica Yacoub in 2008. The sisters worked together there for three years and then Maria bought her sister out and became sole proprietor. The hot off the press news is that One has just been sold to a local family who plans to continue on with Maria's vision at this super popular store. Maria's next professional endeavor will be to join Christi at Gypsy Studios! (Keep reading for all the details!) She will do a lot of the behind the scenes work and help further develop the brand.

In 2014 Maria volunteered for a year with CASA in Santa Barbara (Court Appointed Special Advocate). When she is not at work she enjoys adventuring outdoors, day trips, spending time with family and small children, cooking (she likes to try new recipes and foods!), crafting, and travel. She has been to 42 of the United States. Her mother was born in Aguas Calientes, Mexico so she has spent and continues to spend much happy time there. This upcoming summer she and Christi will travel to Italy and Croatia which they are both very excited about.

Maria met Christi when she took a six-week series of art classes from her. Christi says "Maria had finally decided to do something just for her", and the rest is history. They were married at Bethania by Pastor Chris Brown on January 7, 2017 during a "dumping rain", but they both said the event was beautiful nonetheless. A very small, intimate reception followed at Industrial Eats in Buellton and a honeymoon to Tulum, Mexico.

Maria loves the church community at Bethania and mentioned Pastor Chris and Livier in such a warm way. She said "Coming to Bethania felt familiar but at the same time fresh, inviting, and loving." She says she feels the people there walk their faith.

Christi Schaeffer was born to Dan Schaeffer (a pastor and author) and Annette Schaeffer (currently a junior high history and social science teacher at Solvang School) in Orange County where she lived until she was 16. She has a younger brother and sister. From Orange County her family moved to Solvang where she graduated from Santa Ynez Valley Union High School in 2003. As a child she directed plays and carnivals with neighborhood children. They would charge admission and she says she "was an entrepreneur even from an early age!" The two things her family did most were going to Yosemite and going to Disneyland. Christi says she had been to each of them at least 21 times before she turned 21! (She says her dad liked to be predictable and never veered from that.)

Christi attended City College in Santa Barbara. She studied abroad in Florence which began her infatuation with Italy. She then went to the University of California Santa Barbara for one semester, then Cal State Fullerton, and graduated from Biola (a private Christian university) near Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership.

At age 19 she sold insurance for AAA in Santa Barbara, then worked as a customer service representative and gate agent for Sky West Airlines, and then as a graphic designer for a church. Christi was next employed by Olive Crest (a private nonprofit serving disadvantaged youth) in Orange, California where she oversaw the program of matching volunteers to clients and also did mentoring. She then worked in Pasadena for a marketing agency in a

fundraising capacity, representing rescue missions and catholic charities nationwide. Ready for a change of pace Christi began working as the tasting room manager at Kalrya Winery in Santa Ynez. Christi says the owners were “very accommodating and very generous” in helping her launch her latest career...Gypsy Studios: Vineyard Painting and Art Studio on Wheels. Christi is a mostly self taught artist but had taken some preparatory classes for a fine art degree while at SBCC. She looked around our beautiful valley and realized that many of the winery guests would love to have the experience of being outdoors in the vineyards and enjoying a glass of wine while she helped them paint. Thus Gypsy Studios was born with Christi providing a two and a half hour painting class including wine tasting. Christi loves that while all her attendees in one class have the same exposure to the same landscape each painting turns out uniquely. She is now also offering six-week beginner classes. Be sure to check this out at [gypsstudiosart.com](http://gypsstudiosart.com). And it gets even better – Christi and Maria will be having a Grand Opening in July at their brand new studio at 597 Avenue of the Flags, Ste. 103 in Buellton. New classes will begin there on July 18. They have many exciting and irresistible ideas and plans for children and adults alike, including remote retreats. Do check the website for all the details.

When Christi is not busy with Gypsy Studios (which by the way she said was named after her free-spirited life for so many years) she loves to be with animals (including fur baby Chloe, a King Charles/Spaniel mix rescue mutt). She says she “always wanted to be Dr. Doolittle”. She also loves painting, concerts, wine and beer tasting, dancing, spontaneous day trips, and going out to eat. When Christi was a child she rode and competed in Western equestrian events.

Christi loves to travel. During and after college she visited Chile, Mendoza (Argentina), India, Thailand, Australia, and most of Europe.

Since Christi grew up as a pastor’s daughter she was constantly involved in community service through her father’s Evangelical Free Church. She has also had professional affiliations with Visit Santa Ynez Valley and Visit Santa Barbara.

When Christi first came to Bethania it did not feel familiar to her as she had grown up in a very conservative congregation which interpreted the Bible literally, but at the same time had a casual atmosphere. She soon became more comfortable and says “Bethania was so welcoming and everyone was very kind and warm”. She is “excited about Bethania’s future and all the new things in the works”. And we are excited that you Maria and Christi Belle are a part of that future!

**- Robin Gehrs**

## **Congregational Business**

### **Fundraising Team**

Think about any non-religious nonprofit organization. One thing they have in common is they all fundraise. Every one of them has to fundraise for their operations. Yet most churches do little to no fundraising. This is almost an untapped area in church life today. Council has gotten together and decided it would be helpful if Bethania were able to start a Fundraising Team of anyone who would be interested in offering this as a part of their time and talent for the church. And the sky's the limit here. The team could focus on one large fundraiser a year or several smaller fundraisers throughout the year. The best part is that since this is an area we don't really deal in, there's nowhere to go but up. If you'd like to join the Fundraising Team, either as its chair or as someone who would like to help out, please contact Pastor Chris at [pastor@bethanialutheran.net](mailto:pastor@bethanialutheran.net) or (626) 422-9967.

### **Getting the Beacon**

In the interests of cost savings, we are going to send The Beacon electronically if possible. If you do not have email or would prefer to keep getting the mailed, paper version of The Beacon, let Kristyl know.

### **Congratulations Other Graduates!**

#### **Santa Ynez Valley Union High School**

Kyra Glaus (granddaughter of Bill & Myra Petersen)

#### **John Hopkins School of Nursing**

Maia Bradley (Wendy Bevier's daughter) with A Master's Degree in Nursing

### **Thank You's**

#### **Thank You**

Our sincere thanks to everyone for the many kind words, beautiful cards and messages, offers of help and words of comfort during this very difficult time. Your thoughts and prayers are much appreciated and a source of comfort for us both.

**With deep gratitude,  
Marilyn and Carol**

#### **Another Thank You!**

Thank you Bethania Lutheran Church congregation for throwing us a spectacular baby shower on Sunday May 7. The baby shower planning committee went above and beyond in organizing such a fabulous event. We were showered with an abundance of love and support. The food and cake were delicious, the decorations were darling, and the

attendance was overwhelming. We can honestly say that is the largest card we have ever received on any occasion in either one of our lives. We feel so blessed to know you and look forward to having our little girl grow within such a welcoming community. You embraced us not only as part of your church family, but feel as though we are family now. We are very grateful and look forward to her arrival this July.

- Livier & Chris

## Photos (Statues and Baby Shower)



## Endowment Fund Scholarship Recipients and High School Graduates



## In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

**Immediate Prayer Concerns:** Brianna Ceballos, Pat Green, Kathy & Calvin Hackler, Pat Knotts and Marty Steyer

**Other Prayer Concerns:** Robin Adkins, Esther Bates, Joe & Pat Bode, Annette Clausen, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Dolores Dederding, Don DeLaney, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Dolores Gehrs, Chris Gideon, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Chris Kaping, Kim Kenton, Kate Knotts, Carol Lake, Richard Lindekens, Ethel Litwiler, 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, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Tina Walen, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

### For the family and loved ones of...

**Ellie Andrews** who died April 22. No services were held per Ellie's request.

**Gary Lake** who died April 30. A service remembering and celebrating Gary's life will be held at 1:30 pm on June 3 at Hans Christian Andersen Park.

**Jack Larsen** who died May 1. Jack's burial service was private.

**Marian Petersen** who died May 13. Marian's service is tentatively set for June 16 at 12 noon here at the church. Please look for an email to confirm this or come to church in June.

**Matt Hatch** who died May 20. His service will be held June 10 at 11 am at Solvang Cemetery, followed by lunch in Hans Christian Andersen Park.

**Cora Vandecar** who died May 25. A service celebrating and remembering her life is being planned at the time of the newsletter being printed.

## **Council Highlights - May 18, 2017 Meeting**

- Council approved hiring Sarah Pereverziev and Jennifer Curriden as Site Supervisors for outside events held on church property. They will be paid \$30 per hour which will be paid by the group renting the facilities.
- Council approved a 30% raise in Facility Use Fees to help offset the cost of hiring Site Supervisors as we will be paying Unemployment and Worker's Compensation taxes for them.
- Council agreed to work with a general contractor to assess the issues of maintenance needed in the parsonage and come up with a list of needed repairs in order of urgency . There are several issues that need to be addressed because of many years of neglect in the property.
- Ron Walsh, treasurer, reported that he is working with our insurance agent to add a special Fine Arts rider to our policy to cover the new Bertel Thorvaldsen statues.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Larsen, Council Secretary**

## **Treasurer's Report - April Financial Statement**

### **Balance Sheet:**

- The most significant change to the balance sheet is the addition of the cemetery property (\$200,085). The balance sheet now contains all of the church's assets, which is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and IRS directives. As a result, the total assets of the church are \$3,505,062.
- The cash position has improved to \$17,711. This is an increase of over \$6000 from the previous month.
- All liabilities are current with the exception of a \$121 Payroll Clearing Liability and \$1600 pension liability.
- The church's balance sheet is very healthy.

### **Profit & Loss Budget Performance**

#### **Income**

- Offerings exceeded the budget by \$2,556 (\$20,359 actual compared to \$17,802 budgeted)
- Total income for the month was \$26,358 compared to a budget of \$21,984. The period of January through April shows \$90,932 versus \$90,516 budgeted. That translates into a slightly more than 100% of the budget.
- However, regular envelop offerings of members is 97% of budget. That was an improvement of 3% over the previous month.
- Facility use receipts continue to be strong at 128% of budget.

## **Expenses**

- Benevolence is up due to increased offerings during April. Total benevolence is 111% of budget.
- Salary and benefits are up by \$736 for the month and 105% of budget. Several areas account for this increase, worship musicians were above budget largely due to extra services for Easter. The pastor's salary increase (as approved by church council) went into effect in April.
- Staff expenses are 82.7% of budget (these expenses include payroll taxes, worker's comp, travel expenses, etc.)
- Office administration was below budget for the first time in several months. Overall office administration is at 108% of budget.
- Property expenses were up by \$744 due largely to the tax bill that was paid this month and outside maintenance services paid this month (increase usage of the Parish Hall). Overall property expenses are at 97% of budget for the first 4 months.
- All other expenses are either at or below the budget for the first 4 months of the year.
- Total expenses for the first 4 months were at 102% of total budget. This was an improvement of 2% over the previous month.

## **Overall**

Bethania's financial position improved over the previous month. Easter fell in April and brought increased offering as well as having a fifth Sunday in the month. Bethania continues to carry out its mission and ministry thanks to the dedicated members, their financial support and great pastoral and staff leadership. God continues to bless Bethania as we carry out his work in our community and beyond.

**Thanks be to God**  
**Ron Walsh, Treasurer**

## **A Note about the Summer**

**Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:**

As we approach the summer, our thoughts turn to vacations, trips to visit out of town relatives, weekend getaways, and other great recreational opportunities that come with living in our beautiful community. All of that means that many of us will not be in church on a regular basis. However, we must remember that the church doesn't take a vacation! We count on our generous member's financial support as much during the summer as we do throughout the rest of the year. As you pack for that trip, prayerfully remember your regular offering giving to Bethania so that we can continue the mission and ministry that God has chosen for us. God asks us to give of the first fruits, even during the summer.

**Ron Walsh**  
**Treasurer**





## June 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	HCAP = Hans Christian Andersen Park			1  7 pm Preschool Program:PH	2  Synod Assembly Begins...	3  1:30 pm Service for Gary Lake: HCAP
4 Pentecost 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am VBS Volunteers Mtg:FR 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	5 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	6	7	8 9:30 Clergy Mtg: Hope, Atascadero  7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	9	10 11 am Service for Matt Hatch: Solvang Cemetery, followed by lunch at HCAP
11 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Adult Forum: FR 11 am Finance Cmt. Mtg:OFC 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	12 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	13 11:30 am Chapel:CH	14 12:45 pm Quilting/ Sewing: PH	15 10 am Communion: AV 7 pm Council: FR	16 11 am Service for Marian Petersen: CH Lunch:PH	17
18 Father's Day 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	19 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR 5:00 pm Grief Group: SME	20 12 noon Beacon Deadline: OFC	21 2 pm Book Discussion Group: PH  "Beauty & the Beast": PCPA	22 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV  1:30 pm Pre- school Brd Mtg: FR	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	26 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 5:30 - 8:30 pm VBS	27 5:30 - 8:30 pm VBS	28 5:30 - 8:30 pm VBS	29 5:30 - 8:30 pm VBS	30 5:30 - 8:30 pm VBS	

**THE BEACON**  
**June 2017**

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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: 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**



**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 26 - June 30**  
**5:30 - 8:30 pm**