

The Beacon May 2017

Bethania Lutheran Church
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Pastor Chris's Message

As I sit at my desk writing this letter I can find comfort in taking pause if I need to because I know the hustle and bustle of Lent and Easter are behind us for the year. It feels good to take a breath and know that I have the time and capacity to sit and reflect. Although I realize this is a temporary lull as a screaming, kicking, time and energy consuming blessing is on her way in a few more months.

However, within this lull I am finally able to get back to reflecting and planning on the road ahead for Bethania and what that looks like.

I've begun doing some research again on church growth and I've come across two interesting pieces of information I'd like to share.

The first is a recent survey from Gallup that was released April 14. The survey asked adults that represented the spectrum of church attenders across the United States why they went to church and the responses are rather insightful. Here are the top three responses: when asked what was a major factor in attending church 75% of people said it was the quality sermons, 64% said it was spiritual programs geared at children and high school age youth, and 59% said it was lots of community outreach and volunteer opportunities.

Of these three responses only one of them is an area in which I have exclusive control. Other than telling me I'm doing okay in the pulpit or totally bombing there's not much the congregation can do to provide quality sermons. However, the other two are areas that can only be done successfully as a church. To be a place thriving with volunteer opportunities and youth programs, we need people to help organize, teach, lead, or simply lend a helping hand.

The second piece of information is an article I read by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church, a California church with a membership of about 20,000 people. The article was written in 2013 and is called, "8 Step to Grow Your Church". I'm not going to recap the entire article, but just mention the number one reason he gives to grow a church. He says the primary barrier to church growth is that the church doesn't really desire to grow.

What he means is that while a church may say it wants to grow, often its actions don't match that desire. In other words, the people want the church to grow, but they don't want to be the ones to make it happen. Or another way to look at it is that small churches only know how to act like small churches, but must act like bigger churches if they want to see growth.

I'm not using this as a way to criticize our own church. As far as averages go, a church that worships at least 90 people a Sunday is an above average church. As a church that worships about 150 a Sunday, we're doing pretty well. I'm not as concerned with church growth, as I am with church sustainability. The Church in general is moving into new territory, and I'm convinced the only way it will be sustainable is if everyone is involved. The best thing for a church is for a pastor to be able to go on vacation, and aside from the sermon, no one knows he or she is gone.

So I would like each of you to consider this question: Do you really want Bethania to grow? If your answer is yes, then ask yourself, "How can I help make that happen?" We have some wonderful ways to be involved at Bethania, so please read on to see what they are. And if you feel like you have the desire, but you're not really sure what to do, I invite you to come chat with me about it, and I promise you we'll figure something out. I so look forward to the future of our church and I'm thrilled to continue to be here as your pastor. Thanks for your commitment to this church and its mission.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth & Family Ministry

Greetings to you all after an exceptional Easter season!!

Confirmation will meet for the last time of the school year on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 pm in our Fireside Room.

Youth Group will meet Sunday May 21, 2017 from 3:00-5:30 pm at the St Mark's in the Valley Parlor Room. We are meeting that weekend, instead of our usual last weekend of the month, in recognition of the Memorial holiday weekend. We look forward to seeing more youth attend as we grow. Please spread the word that all high school youth are invited to join.

Upcoming Events:

St. Mark's in the Valley May Faire will be Saturday May 6, 2017. St. Mark's preschool will host a fun outdoor event on their property, providing games, art, live music, crafts, live auction, food and more. For any questions please contact: Pete McCarthy (805)245-0303.

We have arranged for **all youth** to hike through part of the **Sedgwick Nature Preserve on Saturday, May 13, 2017**. We will be hiking with St. Mark's in the Valley youth, guided by a docent and Bethania's very own Meighan Dietenhofer! Because we have a docent guiding us, we need a definite headcount. We will provide cold water bottles, but please bring a snack or packed lunch during our tour. We will meet in front of Bethania at 7:45 am, carpool to the preserve and return around 12:00 pm. A small art session will be conducted at the end of our hike to commemorate our experience with nature. **Parents & Guardians - please contact me if you and your child can and cannot attend this excursion.**

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 Brown.

We are discussing a service project to assist Buellton, a book drive to help raise funds at Iglesia Santa Cruz of Santa Maria, and another Atterdag BINGO excursion during the summer.

If you have any other questions, please contact me directly at (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 26th in the evenings from 5-8. But 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!

Bethania Preschool Celebrates

We just finished celebrating Easter with parties in each preschool classroom and a pizza party for our school age children.

Now our Preschool is preparing for its Year End Program and **you are invited** to join parents and grandparents in honoring our young, enthusiastic children on Thursday June 1, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

It is always an exciting night for the children. Each child will be in the spotlight as they receive a special recognition certificate for a job well done. All the children will join together to share songs and poems they have memorized.

It is an evening full of laughter and joy.

Hope to see you there!

**Eileen Knotts
Director**

Endowment Fund/Scholarship Recipients 2017

See Your Endowment Fund at Work...

Come to Church on May 21st to join in celebrating our graduates as well as congratulating the three recipients of the 2017 Endowment Fund Scholarships. We had a very eclectic group of applicants this year, only one of whom is graduating from our Santa Ynez Valley Union High School.

We are fortunate to be able to award three scholarships of \$1000 each. These scholarships are made possible by earnings accrued from your investment (translate=gifts!) to the Endowment Fund.

I would urge you to utilize gifting to the Endowment Fund as a memorial gift or to honor someone special, knowing that your gift is safely invested and will continue giving in the years ahead.

Come to church on May 21st and learn who these recipients are and what their goals are for the future!!!

Carolynn D. Petersen
Chairman, Endowment Fund

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Noisy Sunday is coming 28th

*"You will learn a lot about yourself if you stretch in the direction of **goodness**, of **bigness**, of **kindness**, of **forgiveness**, or **emotional bravery**. Be a warrior for love." - Cheryl Strayed, Author of "Wild"*

Make Change Count!

Our next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on May 28th. Donations from the special offering that day will be used to help meet the needs of Circle V Ranch Camp's summer campers - see *related article*.

We all really "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday offerings! We have also made another "change": our Noisy Sundays will be on the **fourth Sunday** of each month.

So remember to bring your coins and make a noise on May 28th. By emptying your pockets of that loose change, you can make a difference to a child who wants to go to camp. Together, we can CHANGE the world!

- Linda Marzullo

Helping our Friends at Iglesia

Thank you to all who contribute shopping money and food items for the Food Pantry at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. With Bethania's support, we have really been helping make the lives of many families better.

Iglesia serves many families in their congregation through their food pantry, which is a shed on the church grounds at Bethel. The people who attend Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria are the poorest of the poor in the area. The majority of their people are field workers. Pastor Esteban was sharing some heart breaking stories about his members with Pastor Chris and me at a recent lunch get-together.

One of his members is a field worker who works broccoli fields. She leaves Santa Maria between 3 and 4 am each day, and is trucked to different fields in the state, returning at around 8 pm each evening. Her hands are blistered and raw. She is suffering from some serious medical issues, but does not have the funds or the time to get medical treatment. Thanks to those who have contributed, Pastor Esteban and his wife are able to provide her family one home-cooked meal twice a week for her children and her. This is a huge difference in her world.

Pastor Esteban and Pastor Chris are discussing setting up a new way to help with members of Iglesia's needs. We will have more information to come.

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, these items are the most needed by priority:

5 lb. bags of regular white flour or tortilla flour (maseca or minsa)

5 lb. bags of white rice

3 lb. bags of Pinto beans

Canned chicken (*no tuna, please!*)

Pasta specially the small kind like angel hair, alphabet, stars

Diapers (any size, age) and Wipes, Toilet Paper and Feminine Hygiene Products

Children's Clothing (please clean clothes only - gently used OK)

Canola Oil

Peanut Butter

Breakfast Cereal and Breakfast Bars, Snack Crackers

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 or have questions about possible donations, please feel free to contact me 688-5219 (work) or by email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

– **Linda Marzullo**

Be a Friend of Circle V

Noisy Offering May 28th supports this camp!

Circle V Ranch Camp is traditional summer camp with activities including hiking, swimming, nature, archery, drumming, arts & crafts, painting, sports, campfires, skits & songs. Programs are designed for each camper to participate in innovative and enriching outdoor experiences that build self-esteem, expand knowledge and appreciation of others, nature and God. Campers stay in cabins or conventional canvas tents and enjoy 3 nutritious daily meals served family-style in the Dining Lodge—supervised by caring, trained counselors and long-time staff. Campers are mostly inner-city children who have never before experienced camp or nature activities. Circle V Ranch Camp embraces youth-centered programming and is committed to the growth and development of children through positive, meaningful and rewarding activities.

Circle V Ranch Camp was founded by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Los Angeles in 1945, and has been located on 30 acres in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County's Santa Ynez Valley since 1990. The camp is at 2550 Hwy. 154 - right here in our backyard. The "Friends of Circle V" were founded in early 2012, all volunteers who support the mission of Circle V Ranch Camp in the Santa Ynez Valley—to provide a traditional, sleep-over summer camp experience in a safe, nurturing environment for kids ages 7-13. There are no dues to become a "Friend" of Circle V—just a commitment to help!

Most children who attend (or want to attend) Circle V Ranch Camp need financial assistance. Of the 1,255 campers who attended in Summer 2013, 95.5% received full or partial scholarships known as "camperships" to help their family pay the fees. (Camperships are around \$450 per child, with family's paying a percentage according to a sliding scale.)

We will begin collecting items to help meet the camp's needs for this year in the Parish Hall. We will also be donating a "Noisy Offering" on May 28th towards purchases for their needs.

Among the items needed include:

- 50 Sleeping Bags
- 50 Sweatshirts/Jackets
- Sports Equipment: Soccer Balls, Basketballs, Volleyballs, Arrows, Jump Ropes
- Arts & Crafts Supplies: Paint, Lanyard Spools, Beads, Yarn, Glue, Clay, Wax
- 75 Beach Towels
- Children's socks and underwear (all sizes)
- 100 Flashlights
- Hair Brushes, Combs and Hair Ties

****Complete Wish List in the Parish Hall****

Year-round opportunities to volunteer & contribute work/wealth/wisdom are available at Circle V. For more information about becoming a Friend of Circle V Ranch Camp, please contact: Nadine Melancon, Chair, Friends of Circle V, 805-693-9706 or melancons@verizon.net. For information about camper fees, applications and campership details, contact: Ray Lopez, Camp Director, 805-688-5252 or rlopez@svdpla.org. You can also

visit the Website www.circlebranchcamp.org. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law; the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a legally recognized 501(C) 3 non-profit charity. Tax ID #95-1644622

Whatever we can help contribute will make a difference in the life of a child who needs this experience. Please contact me if you have any questions about the camp or donation needs: 688-5219 (work) or vikingpressprint@verizon.net.

- Linda Marzullo

Final Report on 2017 Piyali Learning Center Scholarships

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send \$1,858 to PACE Universal for the Piyali Learning Center. \$1,275 funded scholarships for our two 10-year olds, Rehka and Reshma, whom we have sponsored since they entered kindergarten in 2012 (\$375 each) and our three young women, Arabi, Rama and Suparna (\$175 each) in the literacy and vocational program. The additional \$583 will help with the school's expansion to serve more students.

Thrivent Financial Helps Church, Preschool and Hike for Hunger

A Thrivent Action Team Grant provided "Live Generously" T-shirts plus \$250 toward expenses for Hike for Hunger. Thrivent members, we appreciate you directing your 2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars to the church (\$492 to date) and preschool (\$336 to date). Please encourage your family members who have Thrivent products to direct \$s to us, too. Be sure to check about \$s you have available online (thrivent.com) or by phone (1-800-847-4836) and ask for Choice Dollars.

Watch for It!!

The Produce Table will be starting sometime on Sunday mornings in May...with strawberries, flowers, plants, pickles, and whatever else we can come up with. We will once again be waging the fight against world hunger through the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts program. This means that your donations will become baby chicks, goats, sheep, cows, fruit trees, mosquito netting, water wells and more together with the training to make a success of these gifts.

This year we will be on our own fundraising-wise; Thrivent Financial will not be assisting since that local matching program ended in 2016 and we were very grateful for the \$1 for every \$3 boost! So, be generous with your produce as well as with your donations!! Watch the courtyard after worship for the beginning of the season. If you have transplants, extra seeds, bulbs or just "one too many" of a 6 pack, bring them to the Produce Table for a swap!

As a heads up, I will be celebrating my 80th Birthday this year...and that translates to this being my last year chairing the Produce Table. I feel this is a great part of our ministry to our world as well as being personally enjoyable for me!! I am hoping the Congregation feels the same about this ministry and someone will step up to chair the Produce Table in 2018. Give

me a call if you are interested. I would be happy to share information/experience with anyone interested in continuing this important Outreach to our world as well as our community. We also support locally, when we switch over to benefitting Santa Ynez Valley Extension of the Salvation Army in the Fall. If you are interested and would like to train with me over the next months, give me a call.

A plus...in the past there were applications, etc. to fill out for the matching funds; this step will no longer be needed!

Volunteers are needed and appreciated. You can sign up to help cover the table for a Sunday by **callingCarolynn 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!

As always, we thank you for your generous support with produce and donations to this important project.

- **Carolynn "Still Plays in Dirt" Petersen, 688-6243**

Church Life

Baby Shower for Pastor Chris and Livier

The baby shower for Pastor Chris and Livier is **Sunday, May 7** after the 9:30 worship service. Everyone is invited to attend!

If you would like to contribute to a larger item (we've already purchased a stroller) you will be given an opportunity to sign a card and make a donation in lieu of buying an individual gift. We ask that this gift be in cash rather than a check. You may give your donation to Sheila Mee, Robin Gehrs or Kristyl Downey. If you cannot make it to church or the office, please call Kristyl and she will come to you.

Diaper Raffle - As part of the Baby Shower for Pastor Chris and Livier, it has been decided to ask people to bring a bag or box of diapers (all sizes) and in return the person would receive a raffle ticket. During the shower the ticket number will be called and that person wins a nice prize. Please bring the diapers on the day of the Shower – May 7, and be sure to receive a raffle ticket.

Volunteers Needed, Wanted and Appreciated

After church on Sunday, we have coffee and treats during coffee hour. There are several Sundays in need of someone to bring goodies and serve them. Bob Jensen makes the coffee. Kristyl can provide you with guidelines to help you. Please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall and Kristyl will contact you before your Sunday.

Readers for the lessons during the 9:30 am service are also needed. If you would like to help, please contact Kristyl in the office at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637.

**Thanks in advance,
Kristyl Downey**

Theo Pub

Theology pub is meeting in May 11th for its last structured gathering before moving into its summer gathering. During the summer we'll be meeting at the same time and place but without a chosen topic. It'll be a time to just gather and chat about whatever is on your mind. For the month of may, plan on joining us at Solvang Brewing at 7pm out by the fireplace.

Bethania Book Group Starting New Book

This is a great time to join the monthly Bethania Book Group as we will be starting a new book. 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 May 17 in the Parish Hall. We will read Chapters 1-4. You can order the book through the Book Loft or from Amazon.

Gather Bible Study

The May Bible study will be held on Thursday, May 18 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge. Read the 10 Prayerful Reflections on pp. 22-40 of the May Gather magazine. Choose one that is most meaningful to you and why. If you do not have the magazine, call 688-4687 for a copy .

Thumbnail Portrait - Jasmine Day & Aria Riley

Jasmine was born in Columbia, South America. She spent her first 5 ½ months in an orphanage and a foster home. Her parents, Ken and Kathleen Day, brought her back to the USA after filling out many pages of paperwork . A sister, Emily, is six years older than she.

Jasmine's father was in the Air Force so they moved around a lot while she was growing up. Her parents bought a house in Woodstock, which became their retirement home when her dad retired from the military. Her mother is a retired nurse and knitter/seamstress/crafter extraordinaire.

Having hard-working parents as role models, Jasmine knew that she was expected to do well. She went to Family School, College Elementary School, Dunn School, SYVU High School, as well as an Independent Study Program through the University of Nebraska. She began working at Los Olivos Dance Gallery at age 17 and continued working there for the next ten years. Dance has been her passion since she started taking lessons at age 10. She likens dance to “my version of praying.”



After high school graduation, Jasmine continued her education at SB City College, Hancock, and Cal Poly, with summers at UCSB. She earned an MA in Education with Single Subject in Biology. She later took courses for a Multi-Subject credential so that she could teach and be on the same school schedule as her eleven-year old daughter, Aria.

She taught kindergarten and drama at Los Olivos Elementary and also a science online course for Olive Grove School. Three years later found her teaching 4th grade at Solvang Elementary and this year, 5th grade. She plans to get an administration credential in the future.

In her spare time, she enjoys walking around Solvang, going to movies, singing show tunes, cooking, and traveling with Aria. Travel destinations have included Hawaii, San Francisco, Sea Ranch and NYC.

Past summers have found her doing choreography for the summer Arts Outreach Broadway shows, but this summer she plans to go with her sister to Utah for a visit with her uncle.

Jasmine recently joined Bethania because she feels it is an inclusive church, with a practice of loving everyone. She would like to start a student tutoring program through the church to help needy students who are falling behind in their studies. Bethania welcomes both Jasmine and Aria to our faith community.

Aria Riley

Aria was born and raised in the Valley. She followed her mother to Los Olivos and to Solvang School, where she is currently in the 6th grade. She is a good student who is involved in many activities: rock climbing, dancing, boxing, weight-lifting, Arts Outreach shows, and volunteering at Friendship House. She has two cats and a small dog named Peeta.

Aria is in confirmation classes at Bethania and wants to be baptized here. She has been singing with the church choir for several months.

She has two sets of grandparents living nearby which means that she has her own fan club for various performances and sports. The grandmas teach her how to cook, bake, sew, and knit, while the grandpas tell her stories about their childhood and teach her how to golf. Jim and Nadine Riley attend Bethania regularly and her father, Anton, is a member here also.

Aria has made a lot of friends at Solvang School. Some of her friends are Walker (aka Walkie), Gracie, Tabitha (aka Tabby), Cyana (aka CC), Shea, Lina, Sophia, and Diana. They have group sleepovers almost every weekend and like to walk into town together.

Aria loves to spend time with her friends at Friendship House She made a great friend, Paul, who sadly passed away in 2016. She currently spends time with Dorothy Marylin, Jack, Charlotte, and especially Jean. She paints their nails, does puzzles, play dominoes and looks forward to her weekly visits.

Congregational Business

Concerning Overnight Use of Back Parking Lot

As many of you know there are times in which we have families or friends of church members who stay in our back parking lot for a few nights in an RV or something similar. This is a nice amenity we're able to offer with such a large space. However, we do need to make sure we are protecting our preschool and after school kids as well. We've instated a policy that if anyone is going to stay overnight in the parking lot, we need to know in advance who they are so we can run routine back ground checks. If you have a family member or friend who you are inviting over, please check in with the office first. Thanks for your understanding.

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 it's chair or as someone who would like to help out, please contact Pastor Chris at 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.

How to Get Involved

Want to be involved in the life of the church, but you're not sure how or where to start? Here's a list of ways to be involved at Bethania:

Social Justice Ministry

This is really the future of the church because so many people are interested in social justice. Recently our social justice ministry has been lead by Linda Marzullo, but she's always looking for people to get involved.

Activities Team

One of the best ways to invite people to join our church is to first invite them to an event we're hosting. If you'd like to help create and organize a few fun events throughout the year, the Activities Team is the place for you!

Visitation Team

This is one of the best ways to experience the presence of God in another person. The Visitation Team is responsible for visiting our homebound members. You receive a list of a few people to visit each month at your own schedule. This is not only one of the most meaningful ministries at Bethania, but also one of the most rewarding.

Worship Team

This is simply a way to be directly involved in the worship service. We're looking for people who could share musical talent, read scripture, assist Pastor, usher, assist with communion, and/or help lead our evening worship.

Sunday School

Imagine a Sunday School that took up several of our classrooms and spanned every age group. That can't happen unless we have people to help teach. We already have a wonderfully planned curriculum – we just need teachers. Our Sunday School program has moved to our

evening service so availability would be during this time.

Fundraising Team

We're starting a new aspect of fundraising at Bethania and we're starting from the ground up. We're looking for people with any fundraising experience or any desire to help/lead our fundraising team.

Family & Youth

We have a Youth and Family Ministry Director and we're doing some awesome things with youth and family again, but we always need people to help with events

Property Committee

Maybe your talent or desire is to work with your hands or to find people who do. We always need more people to join the Property Committee to help with issues that come up with church property

Managing Church

We also have several committees tasked with managing the operations of the church and we're always looking for people to help out. They are Worship and Music, Christian Ed, Finance, Endowment, Cemetery, Preschool, and Council.

If you'd like to help out in any of these areas, just call the office and ask for Pastor Chris. The hardest part is saying "yes" – everything else you'll receive help with. It can be a little scary trying something new, but you'll find this to be meaningful. You'll be involved in being God's presence in this community and you'll have some wonderful relationships. If you'd like to help, call (805) 688-4637 and talk to Pastor Chris.

Church Office Email

Please note the church has a new email address: bethanialutheranch@gmail.com If you have not been getting weekly emails from the church office, please contact Kristyl at the address above. Also, check your junk mail, spam or trash to see if emails from Bethania have not made their way into your inbox.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

Gabrielle Heron (granddaughter of Roger & Anne Nielsen)

Kyle Jonas

Natalya Nielsen

Kaylee Wulff (granddaughter of Eric Wulff)

Lompoc High School

Valerie Laufer

High School (other places)

Kathryn Crossett (granddaughter of Marilyn Larsen)

Ryan Johnstone, Jacksonville, Florida (Lisa Blanton's nephew)

Nordhoff High School

Kirsten Hoj (granddaughter of Arla Hoj)

Tamalpias High School

Kira Mae Kargard (granddaughter of Frede & Barbara Kargard)

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Chase Hemming (Bachelor's degree)

Chico State

Russell Beehler (Bachelor's degree - officially finishing in the fall)

San Diego State University

Jessamyn Boltz (Master's degree, Public Health in Epidemiology)

Combat Systems Officer Program, Pensacola, Florida

2nd Lt. USAF Mike Anderson (Mike & Tone Anderson's son)



If there are other graduates graduating this year, please let Kristyl in the office know.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

We recently received your gift of \$214 to Lutheran World Relief. Your donation helps people like Dugar Lumbagaol, a 62 yr. old father of five and coffee farmer in Indonesia. In a cooperative, Dugar and others have participated in trainings on how to grow good quality coffee and increase their yields. Farmers like this learn better ways to farm and earn more income.

On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve, please accept my thanks for your generous support and partnership. May God bless you!

**Warm regards,
Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief**

Photos



To the left: Chalk Artists

Below: 2017 Hike for Hunger



Council Highlights - April 20, 2017

Council will be getting together Thursday May 25th to discuss growing leadership at Bethania.

After reviewing concerns about the placement of a Pantry Cupboard on the side of the church, council took a small tour of the property to consider alternative sites. It was decided that placing the cupboard on the south side of the office building would meet the criteria of camera monitoring, lighting, and public accessibility. Council voted to proceed with designing a cupboard in the office location that would be able to handle weather exposure, and approved the funds for submitting plans to Solvang Board of Architectural Review.

It was reported that a visitor on Easter expressed sensitivity to mold in the church and a suggestion was made about possible remediation in the church basement. Subject was tabled for further investigation.

Memorials Committee

In April, the Memorials Committee approved two expenditures: two silver-plated common cups for communion - up to \$200 and a vacuum for the church facilities - \$459.99

The committee will next meet at 2 pm on July 11, 2017 in the church office.

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

With care for the family and loved ones of Mary Mathiasen - Mary died April 18. The service remembering and celebrating her life was held April 28th.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Brianna Ceballos, Pat Green, Pat Knotts, Gary Lake



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, Kathy & Calvin Hackler, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Chris Kaping, Kim Kenton, Kate Knotts, Richard Lindekens, Ethel Litwiler, Linda & Rick Marzullo, Amber Mee, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Helen Nielsen, Marie Ostertag, Marc & Laurie Owens, Marian Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jonathan Poldberg, Audrey Robinson, Jean & Bill Stelling, Carol Summit, Cora Vandecar, Tina Walen, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

Treasurer's Report - March Financial Statement April 8, 2017

Balance sheet:

- Once again, we are seeing a depletion of the cash account in general checking. It now stands at \$11,808. This is a concern, as we had hoped that we would have enough cash reserve to offset the anticipated deficit for 2017 of \$18,575. If this balance continues to erode, we may be in the position to review expenditures and take action to reduce certain expenditures.
- The money market fund remains at \$92,481. Some of these dollars are other funds that we maintain (Farstrup-Mortensen, etc.) so they are not available to the church general fund.
- All assets are listed and are current.
- All liabilities are current with the exception of the usual pension fund liability.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income

- Regular member offerings were \$3,394 below the budget (\$14,106 vs. \$17,500 budgeted). For January through March, we were at 92% of budget.
- Non-member offerings for the month was \$197 below budget, however, January through March non-member offerings were at 104% of budget.
- Overall offerings were at 92% of budget for the first three months of the year.
- Other receipts, such as facility usage and miscellaneous, were \$297 above budget for the month, and at 103% of budget for the first three months.
- Overall income was \$3,958 below budget or 94% of budget.

Expenses:

- Benevolence was down due to offerings being down for the month, or 97% of budget.
- Salary & benefits were slightly over for the month (\$90), and over budget at 104%. (As noted last month, the primary amount over budget was for guest pastors.)
- Office administration was under budget by \$204 for the month, but still remain over budget for the first three months.
- Utilities were slightly under budget for the month and remain at 82% of budget for the first three months.
- Property expenses were over budget for the first three months at 112%. However, an additional unexpected repair expense to the parsonage of \$956 for the month contributed to the excess.
- All other expenses were at or under budget for the first three months.

Overall:

While we are meeting our current obligations, it is concerning that our member giving is under the budget both for the month, and for the first three months. As members of the congregation, we must carefully consider our giving patterns and give the "first fruits" to God. Bethania is growing and reaching out with new ministries that God has called us to. May God guide us as we prayerfully consider how to respond to His call to be faithful stewards. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

- Ron Walsh, Treasurer



May 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	2 11:30 am Chapel:CH 7 pm Christian Ed:OFC	3 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 5-7 pm Confirmation: FR 7 pm Choir: FR	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Baby Shower: PH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	8 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	9 11:30 am Chapel: CH	10 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 12:45 pm Quilting/ Sewing: PH 7 pm Choir: FR	11 7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	12	13 7:45 am Youth and Families Meet at church to carpool to Sedgwick Reserve
14 Mother's Day 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Finance Cmt. Mtg:OFC 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	15 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	16 11:30 am Chapel:CH	17 2 pm Book Discussion Group: PH 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	18 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 7 pm Council: FR	19 12 noon Beacon Deadline	20
21 9:30 am Worship: CH 11 am Forum: FR 3 pm Youth Group: SME 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	22 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	23 11:30 am Chapel:CH	24 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	25 1 pm Pre-school Brd Mtg: PH	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	29 Memorial Day-The Church Office and Pre/After School Program are closed. 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	30 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am Chapel:CH	31 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR		SME = St. Mark's Episcopal Church	CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room OFC = Office AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang

THE BEACON
May 2017

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Solvang CA 93463

Address Correction Requested

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Preschool/After School
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bethaniaps@verizon.net

US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #12
NON-PROFIT ORG
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

**Worship Services at
Bethania**

9:30 am & 5:00 pm

Sunday School at 5 pm