



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
603 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
www.bethanialutheran.net

October 2015

805-688-4637
email: bethania.lutheran@verizon.net



From Pastor Chris

PRIDE!!! It's a word that I overwhelmingly feel right now. As I sit at my desk writing this message for the October newsletter, I'm reflecting on Livier's first Danish Days and mine, and all I can feel is a strong sense of pride for this congregation and community to which we belong.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to get a personal tour of the Elverhoj Museum from Esther Bates. While seeing all of the Danish artifacts in the museum was amazing in itself, I was struck most by the diorama of Solvang. It was a beautiful rendition of what the town looked like in the 20s, but what I appreciated more than anything was seeing the heritage of the people I look out at every Sunday in worship. To see something, visually, that represents the stories I've been hearing from all of you about your experiences here in Solvang was, well, breathtaking.

Esther told me when the town of Solvang was founded, how integral it was that a congregation be created as well. This was a story I've read about, but being at Elverhoj, seeing this diorama and seeing all of the accompanying pictures of the town and the people, I was overcome with pride and honor to be part of something so rich and so much bigger than myself.

I'm so grateful to Esther for giving me this experience because as Livier and I experienced Danish Days for our first time I realized that this is not just a celebration of the Danish culture, but it's a celebration of the history of this town, a history within which Bethania is so interwoven. It's a celebration of so many experiences that many of you have gone through as you all belong to the story that is Solvang, and the story that is Bethania.

I'm not Danish and neither is Livier. And to be frank, I didn't know about Solvang when I received word that I would be interviewing for a church there. I knew that no matter where I was called to be a pastor, I would do my best to love the people there the way I experience God's love in my own life. But I can say with complete conviction, after being here for 6 months, and most especially after experiencing Danish Days, the love that I have for this community and this congregation feels so much bigger than myself, and all I can proclaim is pride – pride in being part of something so rich, even if it's a small part, pride in being part of an amazing story, pride in being enveloped in a culture that is so community-oriented and loving, pride in being part of what makes you, you!

So on behalf of Livier and myself, thank you. Thank you for letting us be a part of this congregation, thank you for letting us be a part of this story, and thank you for letting us be a part of your lives. I look forward to hearing more about this story to which we are a part of, to contribute something to that story ourselves, and to continue to grow as brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

Council Highlights - Sept. 17, 2015

*Council members were delighted to see so many people worshipping together and then participating in our first Day of Service on Sept. 13. Many thanks to Linda Marzullo and Donna Hinsbeeck for the organizational work that made it possible to complete 111 school kits, 136 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and several projects for our local People Helping People. Also thanks to Marie Jaeger and her daughters, Mindi Christian, Glenda Madrid and Betty Petersen for those wonderful and abundant aebleskivers.

*Council voted to hire Valley Gardeners to provide gardening services for the church. (Cost is \$550/month + supplies)

*Pastor Chris Brown reported that Alison Piligian and he are incorporating more church and community service projects into confirmation to help students not only learn about Lutheran theology but more fully experience their relationship to the church and the joy of service.

*Council voted to move \$20,000 of the \$93,000 in the General Fund Money Market account to a Thrivent Fund.

*Thank you to the many regular contributors to the church. Your efforts resulted in total offerings exceeding the budget in August and have church at 97% of this item in the budget at the end of 8 months.

*Watch for a New Member Sunday before too long, hopefully in October, so you can honor and meet several new members.

*Church Council is exploring ways we can expand “Bethania Opening to the Community.”

All Saints’ Sunday

Because All Saints’ Sunday falls on Nov. 1, 2015, we are printing a list of the saints we will remember and honor on Nov. 1. These saints died between Nov. 1, 2015 and Oct. 31, 2015.

Johnnie Rasmussen
Mildred Carlsen
Pat Olesen

Dorleen Simonsen
Bent Clausen
Svend Laugesen

Andy Narver
Verner Grunow
Ken Adamek

Ken Bebernes
David Wilson
Deanna Jacobsen

If there is a member of Bethania or a close family member whom we did not list, please contact Kristyl in the church office.

Diana Boltz will contact loved ones to light candles in memory of these saints.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. The group is discussing Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career by James M. Kittelson. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Choir is Back!!!!



The first choir rehearsal will be Oct. 1st at 7:30 pm. Our new pianist, Kathryn Imani, will be directing our choir starting this October. If you're already a member of the choir, or if you would like to join, please come to the first choir rehearsal on Thursday, Oct. 1st, at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.

It would be amazing if our church choir could grow and we could witness a host of voices giving glory to God along with our congregation. If you have any reluctance in singing in front of people, the choir is the best thing for you. Your voice will blend in with a melody of other voices, and I promise, it will be beautiful! So please come check out the choir!

Danish Days Parade Float

Despite the sweltering heat, we had a wonderful turnout for Bethania's parade float! With joyful singing of old Danish songs, signs representing our heritage and our welcome to all people, and enthusiastic members who came out to represent our church, we gave a great "Skål to All Our Generations!" (See pages 11, 12 & Back cover for pictures.)

Directory Update

If you had your picture taken for the recent pictorial directory, you are entitled to a complimentary directory. Please contact Kristyl in the church office if you have not yet received one.

Corrections: Please make the following corrections in the directory:
Ron & Kathy Walsh, 982 North Ridge View Dr, Orcutt, CA 93455-6318
Rosemary Thomas's email is rosemary361@comcast.net

ELCA Malaria Campaign Reaches \$15 Million

Thanks to people and congregations like us, the ELCA Malaria Campaign reached its fundraising goal of \$15 million. This will help protect countless lives from malaria, a preventable, treatable disease. Working with our Lutheran companions and partners in 13 African countries, we are bringing about lasting change. How?

2,000,000 people educated about Malaria	160,000 tested and treated (if positive)
50,000 nets distributed	32,000 preventative meds provided to pregnant women
12,000 households empowered economically	

All thanks to generosity from people like you!

Grief Group at St. Mark's

The Santa Ynez Valley Grief Group gathers at St. Mark's-in-the-Valley in Los Olivos on Monday, Oct. 19 (and the 3rd Monday of each month) at 4:15 pm in the Parlor, on the Courtyard. Local psychotherapist and St. Mark's parishioner **Dr. Doug Smith** facilitates the group. All are welcome at this non-sectarian program to regain strength after loss. The group has been meeting for well over 20 years and has been helpful to many. St. Mark's is at 2901 Nojoqui Avenue in Los Olivos. Ample parking is available on the street or in the parking lot.

Greetings from Iglesia Luterana

Greetings from your brothers and sisters *en Cristo* at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. Our mission church continues to thrive thanks to your faithful support and prayers. As the children's song says: "Our God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing our God cannot do!" With God's provision through your support, we share the Gospel in Santa Maria in Spanish and English. We thank you for:

G the **G**race you share with us
R Resounding support with financial gifts
A Acts of kindness: pantry food, grocery gift cards, school supplies, etc.
C Commitment to the Great Commission of Jesus:
"Go and make disciples of all nations..."
I Including us in your prayers
A Your "**A**mor" (love) for Jesus and for our church
S for **S**haring the Good News of Jesus with the Hispanic people of Santa Maria, CA.

Gracias, Love and Blessings,
Pastor Patricia Muran and Members of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Halloween Party **Saturday, Oct. 24**

5:30-7:30 pm in the Parish Hall

\$5.00 per person + 1 canned food donation or a pair of socks
Pizza Dinner, Dessert, Carnival Games & Prizes, Candy & Fun



****Planning Meeting: October 4 after Worship Service in the Parish Hall****

Everyone is invited to the Halloween Party to be held on Saturday, October 24. The party will have something for children of all ages – from infants to the 80's!

We will have a pizza dinner buffet from 5:30-6:30 followed by dessert. There will be games, candy, prizes and more. Children will receive a special treat bag.

This year we are also supporting the needs of People Helping People's food distribution program. PHP assists low income families and is in need of canned goods and boxes of cereal. Your donations will be delivered to

PHP's food pantry. Or you may bring a pair of new or slightly used clean socks, which we will deliver to the homeless.

Last year's event was attended by over 100 people. This is Bethania's biggest fall outreach event. Our goal is to connect with children and families in the area, promote Sunday School and Worship services and Bethania's work in the community.

We Need Helpers!! If you would like to help with the planning, setup, running games or cleanup, please contact Linda Marzullo at 688-3059 (eves.), 688-5219 (days) or vikingpressprint@verizon.net.

Thursday, Oct. 22: Muscle Power needed at 6 pm to move games and tables from storage

Friday, Oct. 23: Decorators and game setup people needed to help, 6:00 to approx. 7:30 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 24: 5:00-7:45 pm Helpers needed to run games, assist with keeping buffet tables filled, take photos and do a brief 15 minute "straighten up" for coffee hour table

Sunday, Oct. 25: 10:45 – 11:30 am Helpers needed to take down décor, put away games in garage, pack up items for closet/storage

We also need monetary donations to make this outreach event happen, in addition to bags of wrapped candy that children would like, and prizes for the games. Please drop donations at the church office or contact Linda Marzullo.

This is a fun and memorable event - mark your calendar and plan to bring some friends!

Helping Hands + Donated Supplies = LWR Kits

Our First "Day of Service" Event



Photo by Robin Gehrs

Thanks to everyone who donated items, contributed to our Noisy Offerings, shopped, sorted, or helped with assembly day on September 13. We completed 111 School Kits and 136 Personal Care Kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief, and from their warehouses to people in need around the world. We also had many "helping hands" work on projects from People Helping People.

As Pastor Chris mentioned during his sermon that day, everyone who contributed in some way to the completion of these projects is making a difference to the person who receives the kit. **YOUR** hands were in direct contact with someone in need, through the volunteer time and effort you put in, however large or small. Thank you all for your support of this important event. Our Bethania members directly touched those in need, by sending supplies and our compassion through Lutheran World Relief.

When LWR distributes these kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. 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.

Your donations reach places like Syria, where LWR recently distributed 6,350 School Kits to families affected by the ongoing conflict. To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between

getting an education or not. The purchase of the backpacks (which are what the items are packed into) as well as some of the other contents of both types of kits was made possible through funds received from Thrivent Financial.

We will be finalizing the delivery of the projects to a collection point in October, along with the quilts made by our own Bethania Quilting Group.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingsprint@verizon.net

Host Danish Choir Members

On Thursday, Oct.15, a Danish Girls Choir from Grenaa, which is near Aarhus, will be doing a concert at Bethania at 7 p.m. and staying overnight in Solvang. The choir, has performed in Germany, England and Poland but this will be their first trip to the U.S. as a group. This means there is an opportunity for you to enjoy getting to know a pair of married couples or to girls - age 14-21 years old, fluent in English - by hosting them in your home overnight and providing breakfast before returning them to the church. You will meet them and take them home after the concert, but will know ahead of time who you will be hosting. To host, please contact Nancy Emerson in person or call or e-mail her at 693-1386 or fnemerson@comcast.net

Noisy Sunday: Oct. 18th Make Change for the Better

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Oct. 18. The offering from that day will be used to help cover the some of the costs associated with the annual Halloween Party. *Why do we need to ask for donations for the Halloween Party?* Here’s why: Bethania has no line-item budget to cover the expenses of the Halloween Party. This is the biggest outreach event to children and young families that we hold doing the year. While we usually “break even” (and sometimes even manage to make a few dollars), we would like help from the congregation in furnishing the food items and some of the prizes for the children. At the Halloween Party, we also usually support a canned food drive during this event. If there is any profit from this event, we will split the proceeds between Bethania’s Youth Fund and supporting a charity.

Each child receives a special treat bag that has information about Bethania, our worship services, Sunday School, and more. Everyone is invited to this party, regardless of their ability to pay. We also offer scholarships to Preschool families who may need the assistance.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. This offering will help make a child’s day fun and also educate them a little about what we offer at Bethania, and what we do for the community and the world.

So bring your coins and make a noise on Oct. 18th. Together, we can **change** a lot of things!

– **Linda Marzullo**

Preschool & After School News: September & October

Thanks to Kevin and Lori McConnell, the shed on the playground was broken down into its parts and transferred to their property for reuse. The storage container in the back parking lot currently holds trikes and supplies. Following the enthusiastic approval by Solvang's Board of Architectural Review, API is adding the roof to the 51' X16' new building and getting ready to transport it with CA Highway Patrol escorts down Highway 101 when foundation and utilities are ready. Meanwhile, after our traditional one-week August vacation, both the Preschool and After School greeted returning and new students.

Our continuing staff, affectionately know as "Miss" by students and parents - Christina Corona, Angelica Jimenez, Wanda Piatt, Stephanie Diaz, and Candi Villard - provided a warm welcome. They were joined by new staff members, Emely Solorano. and Melissa Gould who started in September.

One of our aides, Leslie Gomez, is leaving for new higher education adventures. Stephanie Diaz is going to work part time while she pursues her higher education. Both received Endowment Fund scholarships to recognize their academic achievement and their dedicated service to this very important program of our church.

We welcome several new staff members, Nicole May, Melissa Gould and Emely Solorzano who join Christina Corona, Angelica Jimenez, Wanda Piatt, Stephanie Diaz and Candice Villard in teaching our current enrollment of 94 children.

Miss Wanda's Pre-K class visited Sommerset Farms on Sept. 17, and enjoyed a wonderful train ride and berry picking. We will be visiting the Pumpkin Patch this month for a walk through the corn maze and to pick a pumpkin of our own to take home. On Oct. 30th, at 10:00 you are invited to join us as we walk in costume to Atterdag Village to visit the "Grandmas and Grandpas" there. We will be singing some Halloween songs, and trick or treating. A fun time is had by both the children and the residents. Upon our return, each classroom will have a Halloween celebration.

To better accommodate our after school students' schedules, and reach more children, Pastor Chris and I moved the Afterschool Chapel to Thursdays at 2 p.m. Preschool Chapel remains at 11:30 on Wednesdays. Miss Kristyl joins us and leads our songs. Please join us if you are able.

Eileen Knotts
Director

Produce Table Keeps on Growing!



As of September 13th, thanks to the generosity of our growers, buyers and helpers, you have donated \$2,232.77 towards our fight against World Hunger! Many thanks to all who made the ELCA "Good Gifts" program so successful. Now we are going to grow our Produce Table support for local needs. We have already "reaped" \$131.00, which will be used in the Santa Ynez Valley. We will assist with funding the SYV extension of the Salvation Army in their local work through donations given at the table. Deputy Charlie Uhrig works hard all year to provide assistance in many different areas, and your donations will make a difference to those who live right here. (*More information to come in Sunday bulletins and the November Beacon.*)

Keep on shopping, growing and talking about the wonderful fruits and vegetables available in the patio after worship each Sunday. With every tomato tasted and pepper picked, we are "growing" in our ability to help

others. Any questions? Do you want to help? Please continue to share your bounty (and talk to your neighbors to share theirs, too!). We can use volunteers on Sundays to staff the table (an easy job).

-- **Carolynn Petersen 688-6243**

Reformation Sunday is Oct. 25 - Remember to wear red in celebration!

Thank You's

Dear Bethania Members,

Thank you for the gift card from the Noisy Offering. This will be a great help to go towards the hundreds of dollars I spend out of pocket each year for classroom supplies.

Sincerely,
Bruce Pedersen

Dear Congregation and Endowment Fund at Bethania Lutheran Church,

I was very happy to learn that I was a recipient of a scholarship from the Endowment Fund. I am writing to thank you for your generous, financial support towards my higher education.

I am a Liberal Studies major who plans to pursue a teaching career in the elementary level. I am currently a transfer student in my junior year and plan to graduate in 2018. After graduation, I will seek employment at one of our local public school with hopes of inspiring other students to achieve a higher education.

By awarding me a scholarship from the Endowment Fund, I am able to concentrate on what is important for me, education. Your financial generosity has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal and has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goal just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Diaz

Theology Pub

I am so excited to announce the beginning of Bethania's first **Theology Pub!** If you don't know, Theology Pub is a way for people to get together at a casual place, like a pub, and talk about God, faith, theology, doubts, questions, or whatever comes to mind. It's structured to help lower some of the walls we approach church with, and hopefully, be more open to some less restrictive conversation. This is **NOT** a bible study, a worship service, or an attempt at evangelism. This is simply a way we can get together and be ourselves. You don't need any prior theological knowledge. Just come with a willingness to have a good time. All are welcome!



Theology Pub will meet at the Solvang Brewing Company on the Third Wednesday of every month. Our first Theology Pub will be Oct. 21st, at 7pm. We'll either be in the Windmill Room or out in the patio by the

fireplace. This is also a great way we can support one of our local businesses so bring your appetites and feel free to order some of their delicious food. For questions, call or email me! I look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Chris

Thrivent Thriving

Thrivent Action Team projects underway or completed include Little Dresses for Africa, Day of Service-Lutheran World Relief kits, Halloween Party.

Both Thrivent benefit and Thrivent associate members are eligible to apply for Thrivent Action Team projects. A benefit member can do two each year while an associate member can only do a total of three projects. If you are a Thrivent member, please talk with me about how you can use these resources to help with church or community benevolence projects.

(693-1386)

Well, this past month, the church received \$487 Thrivent Choice Dollars, while it was the Preschool that drew a blank. What happens is that Thrivent benefit members' Choice Dollars become available in different months during the year and some give to both church and preschool, others to just one of these entities. Be sure to check at least quarterly, either online or by calling Thrivent at 1-800-236-3736 to see if Choice Dollars have been posted to your account, then direct them.

Nancy Emerson

Thrivent Congregational Advocate



Danish Girls Choir from Grenaa, Denmark
Oct. 15 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary
Invite Your Friends!

Thumbnail Portrait - Kathryn Imani

by Emily Abello

Kathryn was born in Fresno and grew up in rural Sanger, nearby. Her mother is a pianist and her sister, a singer. Her husband, Vahid, is a classical guitarist. Is it any surprise that her two sons share the familial talent and love for the arts-- David being involved in dance and theater and Andrew playing electric guitar.

After high school, she went to Pacific Union College for two years before transferring to UCSB, where she earned her degree in psychology. In Santa Barbara, she studied music with Lana Bodner and started teaching piano, privately. (She had been teaching piano since the age of 14.)

Kathryn started grad school at San Diego State, researching neurological structures in mathematical problem solving. She dropped the program when writing her thesis, preferring to teach, instead. At Escondido Adventist Academy, she taught piano on campus, in addition to having private students. She met her husband, Vahid, at



the Adventist church she was attending. They married in 1991, and had two sons, David and Andrew, born two years apart. The family moved to Laguna Niguel, where Vahid took a position with a dot com company. When the company folded, the family moved to the valley to be near Kathryn's sister and family and her mother and stepfather, who were living here. A grandfather and aunt lived at Atterdag Village.

Teaching music at Family School, playing piano at the Presbyterian church, teaching at Los Olivos School, and giving piano lessons were a prelude to opening "A Song in My Heart" studio in 2006. Presently, she and Vahid teach over 100 students in piano and guitar, following the Suzuki method of musical immersion and ear training. Their students range in age from three years of age to eighty. Focusing on quality, the students are encouraged to attend an adjudication session once a year in Los Angeles.

Being a Seventh Day Adventist, Kathryn worships in Santa Barbara with a small congregation. She is passionate about learning the scriptures, and celebrating religious holidays such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Her religious beliefs can be summed up as "One Lord, one baptism, one God and Father of us all."

Kathryn loves the old hymns, J. S. Bach, and doing research on church history. She has not played in a liturgical setting before, but likes the orderliness of the repetition. She appreciates being part of a church where so many people do so much work for the community without seeking recognition.

Thursday, Oct. 1st at 7:30 is the date set for the first choir practice. She is thrilled to be in a church that loves to sing, believing that "singing is the most life-giving thing to do."

When not involved in some facet of music, the family loves to travel, mostly to New York City to visit son, David, who is working on Broadway, doing social media for a company there. Their other son, Andrew, is attending Santa Barbara City College, studying finance. A recent vacation in Istanbul offered an opportunity to visit Vahid's family from Iran.

The members of Bethania are thankful and happy to have Kathryn make beautiful music on the piano and lead us in singing. She will be playing the second and third Sundays of the month. Give her a warm welcome when you next see her!

Westmont College Lectures

Interested in attending some great lectures? Check out the lectures at Westmont College. All events are free and open to the public, and you can find speaker bios and up-to-the-minute information on our website, westmont.edu/institute/lectures.

Photos from the Danish Days Parade (Photos by Victor McConnell)



October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 2 pm Chapel: CH 7:30 pm Choir Practice: CH	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship: PH 9:30 Sunday School: FR 11 am Adult Forum 11 am Halloween Mtg: PH	5 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg:OFC 8 pm AA	6	7 11:30 am Chapel:CH	8 2 pm Chapel: CH 7:30 pm Choir Practice: CH	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship: PH 9:30 Sunday School: FR 11 am Adult Forum	12 7 pm Finance Cmt. Mtg:OFC 8 pm AA: FR	13	14 11:30 am Chapel:CH 12:45 pm Swing/Quilting Group: PH	15 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 2:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg: FR 7 pm Danish Concert:CH 7 pm Council Mtg:FR	16	17 1 pm Farstrup- Mortensen Cmt. Mtg: FR
18 9:30 am Worship: PH “Noisy Offering” 9:30 Sunday School: FR 11 am Adult Forum	19 8 pm AA:FR	20	21 11:30 am Chapel:CH 7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Company	22 2 pm Chapel: CH LWR In- Gathering @Mt.Cross, Camarillo 7:30 pm Choir: Practice CH	23	24 5-7:30 pm Halloween Party: PH 
25 Reformation Sunday-Wear red! 9:30 am Worship: PH 9:30 Sunday School: FR 11 am Adult Forum	26 8 pm AA:FR	27	27 11:30 am Chapel:CH	29 2 pm Chapel: CH 7:30 pm Choir Practice: CH	30	31

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Pastor: Chris Brown
(805)688-4637
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Church Council:
Pastor Chris Brown
President: Marilyn Larsen
Treasurer: Ron Walsh
Annalisa Nearn
Alma Lancaster
Kevin McConnell

Vice-President: Barbara Kargard
Secretary: Nancy Emerson
Tom Dimmette
Robert Laufer
Youth: Vladimir McConnell

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