

The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
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September 2017

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Pastor Chris's Message

A White, American, Reverend's Response to the Violence in Charlottesville

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. I am a white, heterosexual, male, American and am probably among the most privileged people in the world. I'm also a Christian pastor and can fluently navigate between both sides of the political and theological spectrum with relative safety just by my appearance and profession alone.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. It is a faith that was born in the midst of hope that oppressed people found in their God. They were Jewish and they were Palestinian. They were subjected to the violent whims of great nations such as Babylon and Rome. It was from that fear and that oppression that they discovered a God who was present with them, who lived among them, and who suffered as they did so that they would know they do not suffer alone.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. But even those whom it was meant for, at times, were on the side of being the oppressors. The Jewish people in antiquity would have nothing to do with certain women, with people from Samaria or Tyre or Sidon. They would not congregate with those who were outside of their own social and cultural location. Until one of their own, a poor Rabbi from Nazareth, came along and wiped out those lines in the sand.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. It was meant for all those people to whom Jesus specifically reached out. The neglected widows and orphans, the outcast woman at the well, the marginalized community forced outside the gates of the city, the woman chased by a mob of men and church leaders, and the nations even his own people had cursed. It was meant for every person who has been set aside, pushed down, beaten, or categorized as being "less than" simply for what they looked like or where they were born. It was meant for those who were told God had abandoned them. It was meant for all those same people throughout history that Christian majorities diminished again and again: Jews throughout Europe, enslaved people from Africa, indigenous people in the Americas, Muslims in Palestine, People of Color in the US. The ministry and message of Jesus was meant for all those people throughout time that have been oppressed and marginalized by those in power. It was always meant for them.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. But here I am, a person of privilege and power, now a pastor and follower of Jesus. It wasn't meant for me, but it is a message I fundamentally embrace. It wasn't meant for most of the people in my church. But it is a faith we all embrace. And to embrace this faith that wasn't specifically meant for us, is to embrace its calling to follow in the steps of Jesus and reach out to all those for whom it was meant. It is to be a source of love, support, advocacy and validation for those who are still being set aside, pushed down, beaten, or categorized as "less than" simply for what they look like or where they were born or who they love.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. And I am called to help others see why perhaps it wasn't meant for them specifically either. For those of us for whom this is true, but who embrace it today, we are all called to help understand why this is so, and we are called to help others know who Christianity is specifically meant for today - and why. We are called to name the evils such as racism and bigotry in our society that seek to set aside, push down, beat or categorize others as "less than". And we are called to name that evil in ourselves.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. And it was not meant for the self-proclaimed white nationalist, alt-right, or Neo-Nazi people who marched in protest in Charlottesville recently. And Christianity is not meant to be a vehicle of violence, oppression, and marginalization such as that which these groups promote.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically, yet it can be. We believe in a God of redemption and reconciliation; a God who always seeks to bring people into God's community of love, justice, and grace no matter who they are or what they've done. Christianity is meant for anyone who believes that all people are children of God and deserving of love and worth simply because they exist. Christianity is meant for those who believe that all people, especially those who are marginalized and oppressed, are created in God's image and are inherently good.

The Christian faith was not meant for me specifically. Yet if I can try to understand that truth and help others like me who have been born into privilege and power understand it too, then maybe we'll see that God's love is meant for all of us.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

We have a very exciting year ahead of us for Youth and Family Ministry! Read below to see what we're doing and how kids can get involved!

Confirmation is off to a great start. Our confirmation class has grown to 12 kids this year and there's always an open place for more who are interested! Our first day of confirmation will be Sept. 10th at 3 pm in the Fireside Room. After that, we will meet the first Sunday of every month at 3 pm. Confirmation is a combination of learning about the Christian Faith and

putting that faith into action through service and fun activities. All kids grades 6 – 8 are welcome to join!

Youth Group will continue to meet on the last Sunday of every month. We're going to be restructuring the youth group a little to include more time to do fun activities and trips. We're also happy to announce that this year the high school youth will be fundraising for a trip to Houston next summer for the ELCA's National Youth Gathering. This is a lifetime experience where 30,000 high school youth from all over the country gather to worship, interact, and serve those in need in the Houston area. It's an expensive trip so the high school youth will need your help. Keep an eye out for upcoming fundraisers! Youth Group is available for anyone in high school.

Sunday School is back and going strong. We have new teachers, an awesome curriculum, fun crafts, and entertaining videos. All kids grades K – 5 are invited and any youth in middle school are welcome to join as aides. Sunday School meets every Sunday evening during our worship service at 5 pm.

Lastly, keep your eye out for our youth and family events coming up. The first will be our annual Halloween Party in October. All families in the wider community are invited to all of our events to just have some fun together in a safe and friendly environment!

We look forward to an awesome year full of fun, community, and most importantly the experience of God's love! If you have any questions about our youth and family programs please feel free to call Livier Ghamari-Brown at (909) 962-9366.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

Check Out Bethania Preschool & After School

Next time you are at the church, please take a peak at the new play equipment in the Preschool playground next to the church office.

Thanks to a very successful Touch-A-Truck fundraiser and additional organizing during the August vacation by Lisa Petersen Kekeuwa and her family, the children are now busy climbing and sliding. We are ordering a giant checker and chess installation for the After School playground. Do watch for its arrival soon.

With fine staff in place, school is off to a good start. Our preschool is full with a long waiting list. Primarily kindergarten through 3rd graders are enjoying our before and after school homework, recreation, arts and crafts program.

Finally, with phone and internet hookups in place, I am now moved into the new office on the playground. Thank you to Ron Walsh for his help with the phone and Kevin McConnell for his help with the computer and moving furniture. One of its bonuses is my increased ability to monitor playgrounds, education building and parking lots. Please know I always welcome visits from church members.

Eileen Knotts, Director

We will be having a blessing and reception for the new Bethania Preschool Playground on Sept. 2nd at 10:30 am. Following a Blessing by Pastor Chris, there will be a little reception near the playground. All Bethania Preschool families, Bethania Lutheran Church members, and Touch-A-Truck event sponsors are invited to join us to celebrate the new structure. The new

playground was purchased with the proceeds of the 2016 and 2017 Touch-A-Truck events and we are excited to share the new addition to the school grounds.



Another addition to the playground...

To honor Myra Petersen's many devoted years on the Preschool Board, the board purchased a new tree for the playground. Myra, Bill and their great-granddaughter Ashlynn pose with the tree. Thank you, Myra, once again.

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Growing + Sharing + Giving = Caring

The Produce Table overfloweth! Thank you! And thank you for your generosity in picking up items from the table.

We have had beautiful flowers (gladiolas, roses, dahlias and zinnias), Armenian cucumbers, Japanese eggplant, fresh free-range eggs, zucchini, patti pan squash, tomatoes, peaches, apricots, plums, lavender sachets, zucchini bread and muffins, and MORE!

So far this 2017 season, we have forwarded \$1000 to the ELCA World Hunger "Good Gifts" program to provide baby chicks, sheep, goats, pigs, mosquito netting, a grove of fruit trees, 7,000 water purification tablets, and a community fish farm. (We might be able to fund a pregnant heifer!) Your gifts carry God's love to others, making a difference in their lives and in the world. More than 90% of your gift goes to this work, with less than 10% used for administration and fundraising costs for the ELCA "Good Gifts" program to fight world hunger. Not only are we funding these items with your donations, but we are also providing the education, training and support to help the recipients be successful with these "Good Gifts", and improve their lives. As of Aug. 20th we have an additional \$483 that has been donated for this program.

Please continue to share your bounty and keep the donations coming (and talk to your neighbors to share theirs, too!).

I will be needing helpers to work the table on Sunday morning, as well as to help me with the harvest in the next four weeks. If you can help out, please contact me.

-- **Carolynn Petersen 688-6243**

Grief Group Meets on 3rd Mondays

A Grief Group gathers Monday, Sept. 18 at **5:15 pm** in the parlor at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The group is led by our very own **Anna Cook**, who brings significant background and training to the leadership of the group. Please pass the word about this resource. All are welcome at this time of sharing to regain strength after loss.

Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie are working extremely hard to help their many church families and those they meet with the demands of living. This, in turn, gives us an opportunity to help those who are living in the mission field every day of the week through their work.

Iglesia serves many families in their congregation through their food pantry, which is a shed on the church grounds at Bethel. Iglesia is an ELCA mission start-up church based at Bethel Lutheran. The people who attend Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria are the poorest of the poor in the area.

Angie recently shared with me that many of their ladies cannot afford underwear for themselves, diapers for their children, or sanitary products. She said they are ashamed of their inability to afford these personal items, and the additional stress on the families when the women are afraid or unable to leave the house is heartbreaking. She also was telling me how the cost of detergent to wash their clothing (most wash at laundromats) has been difficult for many to afford.

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.

Items most needed at this time for Iglesia families include:

***Diapers (any size, age), Sanitary Pads/Tampons, Toilet Paper**

***Women's Underwear** (*new only, please*)

***Detergent (clothes) and Dish Soap**

5 lb. bags of flour (maseca)

5 lb. bags of white rice

3 lb. bags of Pinto beans

Canola Oil (for cooking tortillas)

Canned chicken (*no tuna, please!*)

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

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

Canned Soups (Chicken Noodle or Beef)

Breakfast Cereal and Breakfast Bars

Apple Juice

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 would like to make a delivery to Pastor Esteban and Angie, let me know and we can arrange it. 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

-Linda Marzullo

LWR Kit Assembly Day is Coming!

- **Set up night: Saturday, Sept. 9th, 7 pm - light snacks**
- **Assembly: Sunday, Sept. 10th, after morning service in PH**

Donations Still Needed!

We will continue to collect items for the final assembly day through Sept. 10th. Donation boxes are in the Parish Hall by the Sunday School office, or you may drop items off at the Church Office during the week.

Here are the items we are collecting. Keep up the good work!

Items needed are:

1. **Bath size towels** (light weight, between 20"x40" & 27"x52"), dark colors preferred
2. **Bars of soap** (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)
3. Toothbrushes - *WE HAVE ENOUGH, THANK YOU!*
4. **Combs**, sturdy wide toothed
5. **Nail Clippers** (with or without nail files)

For School Supply Kits:

1. 70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound) – *WE HAVE ENOUGH, THANKS!*
2. **Rulers** with centimeters and inches
3. **Pencil Sharpeners**
4. **Blunt tip scissors**
5. **#2 Pencils** - *Each kit needs 5 of these*
6. **2-1/2" Erasers**
7. **Pens** - Black or Blue INK pens (not gel) – *Each kit needs 5 of these*
8. **Box of Crayons** (16 or 24 count)

A short "**set up**" time will be held **Saturday, Sept. 9th at 7:00 p.m.** We will need helpers to set up tables, layout out supplies, band pencils and pens, and take off packaging. Snacks will be served.

As part of the ELCA "Day of Service" on Sept. 10, we will be assembling both School Kits and Personal Care Kits in the Parish Hall. All ages and abilities are welcome to help – you can be a part of the "assembly line" no matter what your age or skill level. There are plenty of spaces for willing workers! You can count, gather, wrap, tie, box...fun for all ages as we see the piles mount and boxes fill up.

Pastry + Helping Hands + Donated Supplies = Our 2017 “Day of Service” Event!

Plan to join others in assembling kits, creating cards and eating delicious pastry on **Sunday, Sept. 10th**. Following our worship service, we will meet in the Parish Hall to eat some delicious pastry, served by the Jaeger Family.

Then, once you have your strength fortified with coffee and pastry, help us assemble School Kit Backpacks and Personal Care Kits to ship to Lutheran World Relief! In addition to all of this, we want to hear from YOU - our Post-It idea wall will be the place where we ask you what things you would like to see Bethania tackle in social needs arena in the year to come. (Teddy Bear collection? More Undie Sundays? Support for Animals? Meal prep for homeless?) Give us your thoughts for exploration by Social Ministry teams - share your ideas and passions and help us make it happen.

As Pastor Chris mentioned last year, everyone who contributed in some way to the completion of these many 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 will directly touch those in need, by sending supplies and our compassion through Lutheran World Relief, and reaching out in new ways to others.

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

Noisy Sunday is Coming: Sept. 24th Make Change for the Better!

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Sept. 24. The offering from that day will be used to help cover the shipping costs of both the Personal Care Kits and the School Kits that we will be sending to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse. This offering helps Lutheran World Relief ship the kits to the people who need them. We send our kits to an “ingathering” day set up by LWR, so that there is no cost to us to ship them to the warehouse.

Why do we need to ask for shipping cost donations instead of using those funds for creating more kits? Here's why: We plan to make 200 School Kits and over 100 Personal Care Kits. According to LWR, the approximate processing and shipping cost for each kit is as follows:

LWR Mission Quilt: (per quilt \$2.25)

LWR School Kit: (\$1.40 per kit)

LWR Personal Care Kit: (\$2.65 per kit)*

*Your gifts to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, for Personal Care Kits, also helps LWR cover the cost of providing a tube of toothpaste for each kit

Your quarters, dimes and nickels (and hopefully some dollars!) will help us ship both types of kits, which are desperately needed right now, according to LWR.

The August Noisy Offering total was used for purchasing items for Bethania Preschool and After School Teachers, and for additional needed kit items. Thank you for helping meet the needs of children and teachers, right here in the valley.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. So bring your coins and make a noise on Sept. 24th. Together, we can CHANGE the world!

– Linda Marzullo

Church Life

Giving Options

Financially, there are several ways to support Bethania. You can contribute by cash or check in the Sunday offering, in person in the church office or by mail. You can make donations via PAYPAL on the church website (www.bethanialutheran.net under “Giving.” You can have a set amount automatically withdrawn from your account and given to Bethania via “Simply Giving.” Come by the church office and I can give you a form. And, the newest “Giving Option” is an electronic version called “**Give+**”. Give+ is a giving app available on-line and on your phone. Visit the App Store or Google Play and you can make a donation to Bethania from your device. You can customize it how you want it: one-time, once a month, once a week, and the amount.

Any way you support Bethania we appreciate it!

- **Kristyl Downey, Office Manager**

From time to time, we will profile one of the funds at Bethania and describe what each fund does.

General Fund: This is the mission and ministry that Christ has called us to here at our church. Gifts to the general fund support all of the programs and ministries that happen at Bethania. Our pastoral services, music and worship, outreach, Christian Education, visitations to our home-bound members, plus many more. This is the core funding for Bethania Lutheran Church.

Our thanks to Ron Walsh, Bethania's Treasurer, for writing these descriptions in Sept. 2015.

Worship & Music

Worship and Music Committee is looking for one or two volunteers to join our committee. We meet usually five to six times a year. Summers are off. Our meetings aren't too long. We really like to receive input on our Worship services and how we prepare for all our important dates (Christmas, Easter, etc.). If interested, please call Diana Boltz 735-2274.

Bethania Book Group

We are reading Against the Flow, The inspiration of Daniel in an Age of Relativism by John C. Lennox. We meet Sept. 20th from 2-3:30 pm in the Parish Hall.



James Welch Pulls Out All the Stops! Danish Days Weekend Saturday, Sept. 16 at 1 pm

Favorite festival organist James Welch is "Bach" by popular demand, playing on our authentic pipe organ. He's a world-renowned organist whose concerts are full of fun, with something for everyone—from the baroque to the contemporary, from the Old World to California music. Yes, there will be some Bach, too! A direct descendant of Danes from Fjenneslev, Denmark, he credits his Danish ancestors for his love of music. Get there early--this event is often standing-room-only.

Recommended Donation: \$5/person

Theo Pub is Back!!!!

As our program year kicks off again, I'm happy to announce that Theo Pub is back in full swing. We will be meeting the 2nd Thursday of every month at Solvang Brewing Company to share our thoughts and questions around a topic. This month we will be talking about Hell! Is it a real place? An experience? What is its history? What does the bible say about it? Everyone is welcome to join us. There is no need to have any biblical background or a specific faith tradition. Your thoughts and presence are most welcome! We will meet at 7pm outside by the fire pit on Sept. 14th. Invite any friends or family members you think might enjoy something like this. See you there!

Gather Bible Study

The Gather Bible Study will be held Thursday Sept. 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the Atterdag Lounge, located in Atterdag Village. The topic is "The Apostles' Creed", session 1, entitled "We Believe in God". This study is printed in the Sept. issue of Gather magazine, pages 22-27. All are welcome.

Holy Land Tour

Pastor Russ and Jeanie Gordon invite you to join them on a tour of the Holy Land in April 2018. Walk where Jesus walked. See the Biblical sites of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee and more! If you are interested, email Pastor Russ at slogordons@charter.net or call him at 805-704-2199.

Your Help Needed for Bethania's 2017 Halloween Party!



The annual Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28th – and it's coming soon. (Hard to imagine with the hot weather!) We need volunteers of all types and abilities, to help make our party for the little revelers a fun and safe event.

Please consider if you are available to help in any of these areas:

Muscle Power - to help move the large items

➤ Thursday, Oct. 26th – 6:00-8:00 pm

Decorate/Setup

➤ Friday, Oct. 27th – 6:00-8:00 pm

Party Helpers

➤ Saturday, Oct. 28th - 5:30-7:30 pm

We need your help with running **Booths & Games - Pizza Dinner - Taking Photos – Donation of Bags of Wrapped Candy or Dessert items – your Attendance at the Event!**

Clean Up Crew

➤ Sunday, Oct. 29th after Coffee time

We will be having a meeting in October to talk about our plans for this year's event – watch the bulletins for more info. Other needs include taking posters out for publicity and personally inviting people with children to attend.

If you can help or would like to make a donation towards party costs, please contact the Church Office at 688-6487 or bethanialutheranch@verizon.net or Linda Marzullo (688-5219 W; 688-3059 H; 451-5548 C) or vikingspressprint@verizon.net

This is one of our biggest outreach to families with children during the year – please help us make it fun for all!

Thumbnail Portrait - Ruth Sorensen Connett

Ruth was born and raised on a farm in Ringsted, Iowa, a Danish community in northern Iowa. Her three brothers and one sister all pitched in to help their father run the farm. When the two oldest boys joined the Army in WWII, the girls took over their jobs. Everyone was patriotic at this important time in history.

After high school graduation, Ruth went to Grandview College in Des Moines. Her classmates were Clayton Nielsen and Marian and Carlo Petersen. During the war, most of the students were girls. After two years at Grandview, she entered Iowa State Teachers' College, where she earned her teaching credential. One of her professors told her about the need for teachers to go to Europe to teach the children of American servicemen. This really ap-



pealed to her, but she had to teach for three years stateside before going overseas. She satisfied these requirements by teaching at Webster City, Iowa and Fairmont, Minnesota.

Ruth taught for four years at schools in Kaiserslautern, Darmstadt, and Kassel Germany.

She moved to Washington, DC, where her three children were born: Joe, Kris, and Liz. Later, the family moved to Glendale and La Canada, where Ruth went back to teaching.

Upon retirement from teaching, Ruth volunteered at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. This "job" lasted for 22 years and gave her a sense of satisfaction in helping others.

Ruth had visited Solvang many times before she moved here. Her aunt and uncle, Paul and Astrid Christiansen, hosted the family at their Solvang home when they came to Bethania in 1948 to attend lectures similar to the Farstrup-Mortensen series of today. She also visited them when they lived at the Solvang Lutheran Home.

Moving to Atterdag Village, Ruth finds many things to her liking: a cozy apartment, good friends, exercise classes, walks in the neighborhood.

Ruth recently joined Bethania and is pleased with the faith community and Pastor Chris's helpful sermons. Having a grandfather, uncle, and brother in the Lutheran ministry, she is comfortable with the church and its teachings. You will find her sitting with her friend, Anabelle Dalberg, most Sundays. Give her a warm welcome when you see her next Sunday!

- Emily Abello

Congregational Business

Council Highlights - Meeting of August 2017

- Council discussed the continuing issue of lower than anticipated member giving.
- At the request of the Endowment Fund Committee Council recommended that the Heritage Fund consider approving funding for this prioritized list of items:
 - #1. Doors for the front of the church
 - #2. Pew Cushions
 - #3. Refinishing of the pews
- Council accepted a gift from the Gehrs of a Luther rose banner for the sanctuary.

Marilyn Larsen, Council Secretary

A Letter from Our Treasurer

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

If you have read my Treasurer's Reports for the past several months, you know that Bethania is blessed with many faithful servants and givers. While we have not always met our monthly giving numbers, we have always met our financial obligations. In recent months two faithful members have given significant donations above their normal offerings that have enabled us to continue to offer the mission and ministry that God has called us to here in our community.

In 2nd Corinthians 9:6-8, Paul writes "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiencyⁱⁿ in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." I believe that God gives generously to Bethania so that we may in turn be generous in fulfilling our callings. God never asks from us something God has not already given. We are grateful to all who give, according to their means.

Some members have asked me about different ways to give to Bethania. Here are few ideas for you to ponder.

- Consider Simply Giving (an on-line way to make your contributions weekly or monthly having it directly deducted from your account). Thrivent Financial has the forms available on-line. You won't have to remember to write a check, it's already done for you!
- Other funds at Bethania include the Heritage Fund (a fund specifically used for the preservation of our sanctuary), memorial funds (in memory of someone, or a way to honor someone), and the Endowment Fund (a permanent fund that distributes its income to various ministries of our church.)
- Giving to the Endowment Fund can include several ways of giving: A direct bequest from your estate; a remainder bequest from your estate (the remainder bequest is fulfilled after all other provisions of your giving through your estate have been fulfilled); gifts of appreciated stock (if you sell and would have to pay capital gains, this is a good way to lessen your tax obligation); gift of appreciated property (if you have property that is currently not being utilized, it could be given to the church, then sold and the proceeds placed in the Endowment Fund); naming the church as a beneficiary of an insurance policy; if your IRA minimum required distribution is more than you need, a portion can be donated to the church and a tax deduction may apply.

However you give and whatever you give, please know that we are only returning to God, what He has first given to us.

God's Blessings to All of You
Ron Walsh, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report/July 2017 Financial Statement

Balance Sheet:

- The cash position has come up significantly from last month, to a balance of \$13,703 an increase of over \$6,000.
- The money market fund remains unchanged from the previous month.
- Total all cash is \$105,962.
- All liabilities are current, with the exception of the usual pension liability of \$1,718.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

Income:

- Offerings for the month were \$16,204 (budget was \$17,500) or \$1,297 below budget. Non -member offerings were also below budget.
- Year-to-date offerings were \$7,335 below budget. This is a concern, as we are approaching the last half of the year and will need to make up not only this deficit, but try to reduce the anticipated deficit for the end of the year.
- Facility use fees, however, were up again for the month (\$1,833 compared to a budget of \$533). Income for the first 7 months was \$9,429 compared to budget of \$5,225.
- Child care reimbursements were up, as the Preschool paid their share of liability insurance for the year during July.
- Overall income was up by \$6,970 due to the two items noted above.

Expenses:

- Benevolence is on budget.
- Salary & benefits were below budget by \$1,172 for the month, but remain over budget for the first 7 months by 4%.
- Staff expenses were below budget for the month and are at 83% for the first 7 months.
- Office administration expenses were below budget for the month by \$889 and have leveled off at 100% of budget for the first 7 months.
- Property expenses were under budget for the month, and are at 100% of budget for the first 7 months.
- Utilities were up slightly for the month, but are 94% of the budget for January - July.
- Christian Ed budget is up due to Vacation Bible School being completed and all bills paid in July.
- All other categories are at or below budget.
- Total income exceeded total expenses for the month by \$6,260. However, expenses exceeded income for the first 7 months by \$9,884. 74% of that figure relates directly to the \$7,335 below budget in offerings.

Overall:

While our financial position improved somewhat in July over June, we still need to be aware of member and non-member giving. We still remain below budget in these two areas. As we approach the last month of the summer, let us all remember to keep current in our giving.

Thanks be to God for all of you!

Ron Walsh, Treasurer

Thrivent Financial Update

Brian Boyle, our area's excellent Thrivent Financial Representative, has opened an office in Santa Barbara. This means that, in addition to his visits to your home, you can meet with him when you are in Santa Barbara. Its location is off Patterson Road, near Goleta, at 5290 Overpass Road, Suite 115. The phone number is 805-692-1122.

To date for 2017, Thrivent Choice Dollars directed to the church total \$530 and to the Preschool are \$1,003. Preschool donations help buy classroom and playground equipment plus supporting tuition assistance to very low and low income children from working families.

If you have not yet directed your Choice Dollars, it is very easy. If you use a computer, you can visit www.thrivent.com, go to your account, see your Thrivent Choice \$s, and direct them to listed charitable causes, e.g. Bethania, Bethania Preschool, Solvang Lutheran Home. Or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-236-3736, ask for Choice \$s and talk with a national staff person.

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

I am all done with chemo. On Aug. 8, I got the news that my latest scan and biopsy show no evidence of disease. Dr. Penn and I started crying at the same time. It has been 3 years, 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days since I was diagnosed. Words can not express how much we appreciate all the love, prayers and support we received. I still need the TPN nutrition and hope my new plumbing will start working now that the chemo is over. I probably won't be posting any more, just enjoying my new lease on life.

Lois DeMeyer

Welcome to Henrik Laugesen, born on Aug. 3, to parents Lisa & Alan Laugesen. Henrik weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz.

For Don DeLaney's family and loved ones. Don died Aug. 20.

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

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

Thank You's

Karis Jorgersma came in to the church office and expressed her volumes of appreciation and gratitude for the financial and emotional support from the congregation given to her and her boyfriend after they lost their home and belongings in the Whittier Fire. She wants everyone to know how much it means to her to have this help during this time. She is now living in a tiny home on West Camino Cielo and hopes Outdoor School will rebuild as soon as possible.

Pam Nelson also expressed her thanks for the help she and her husband received. They don't know how they would manage without all the help from Bethania, the community and GoFundMe. It is a great blessing to be in a community that can help when there is a need such as this. Pam and Cookie have just found a guest house in Ballard to live in.

Thank You!

I would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to everyone who attended the End-of-Summer Barbecue on Sunday, August 13th. We had a wonderful crowd of people and beautiful weather and I believe everyone had a great time! The bounce house and water slide were a great success! Thank you, Pastor Chris!

Another enormous "Thank You" goes out to all the people who helped us get ready and set up: Karen Johnson, Sheila Thompson, Emmy Abello, Carol Lake, Tone Anderson, Donna Hinsbeeck, Ann Tucker, Don Thompson, Mike Anderson and Kevin McConnell.

Our barbecue team also deserves a big thank you for their work: Kevin McConnell, Don Thompson, Ron Walsh, and Mike Anderson. They did a great job!

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who chipped in and helped with the cleanup and getting everything taken down and put away! There were too many to name but so many of you helped out it was wonderful and so very much appreciated!

**With my sincere appreciation,
Marilyn Larsen, Outreach Chair**



Barbecue Pictures



Barbecue Crew



Quilt Crew



VBS Crew





God's work.
Our hands.

September 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room OFC = Office AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal Church				1	2 10:30 am Playground Equipment Dedication
3 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	4 Labor Day Office and Preschool/ After School are closed. 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA:FR	5 11:30 am Chapel: CH	6 3:30 Chapel: CH	7 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Sup- port Group:PH	8	9
10 ELCA Day of Service 9:30 am Worship: CH LWR Kit Packing, etc. 3-5 pm Confirma- tion: FR 5 pm Sunday School: FR 5 pm Evening Wor- ship: CH	11 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	12 11:30 am Chapel: CH 3:30 pm Organ Tuning: CH	13 12:45 pm Quilting/ Sewing: PH	14 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group:PH 7 pm Theology Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	15	16 1 pm Danish Days Organ Concert: CH 2:30 Parade
17 9:30 am Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR 5 pm Evening Worship: CH	18 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	19 11:30 am Chapel: CH	20 2 pm Book Discussion Group: PH 3:30 Chapel: CH	21 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group:PH 7 pm Council: FR	22 12 noon Beacon Deadline: CH	
24 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 5 pm Evening Worship: CH 5 pm Sunday School: FR	25 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 6:00 pm Tai Chi: PH 8:00 pm AA: FR	26 11:30 am Chapel: CH	27 3:30 Chapel: CH	28 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Support Group: PH	29	30

THE BEACON
September 2017

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bethaniaps@verizon.net

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

Church Council:
Pastor Chris Brown
President: Robert Laufer
Vice-President: Ken Faulk
Treasurer: Ron Walsh
Secretary: Marilyn Larsen
Tom Dimmette
Robin Gehrs
Barbara Kargard
Kevin McConnell
Ann Tucker

Sunday Schedule
9:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Worship
5:00 pm Sunday School

Danish Days
Organ Concert
1 pm Sept. 16 in the
church
Danish Days
Parade
2:30 pm
Sept. 16