

# The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
805-688-4637  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

## February 2018

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463  
email: [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)



## Pastor Chris's Message

### Sprouting Seeds

It's still early, but I've had some interesting experiences at the start of this year that have really fed and encouraged me and I wanted to share them with you in the hopes that the same encouragement that is in me can be experienced in you.

I want to preface these by saying that I was feeling some discouragement at the closing of our year. We had budgeted a deficit for 2017 because we decided to invest extra money and time into our ministries, and although I was intellectually prepared for our deficit, mentally and emotionally the numbers hit me harder than I expected. Coupled with the Thomas Fire and its effect on our attendance, our environment, and our community I partially felt like I was slipping into doomsday mode with our future – which is a ridiculous phase that happens at times.

I came into 2018 with this mindset, thinking about what we'll need to do to bounce back into positivity. Then I received our giving statement for the first Sunday – and it was more than we budgeted! And the following week was the same! The first sign of the New Year was that we continue to be a church that recognizes our blessings and gives back. I'm so grateful for your giving both in time and in resources so that through our blessings we can bless.

Another occupying force in my mind is always staking out our place as a church in this community. The reason is that not all churches are the same (even though many people think they are) and our church has a beautifully loving and inclusive theology. We accept both the universal brokenness of all people and God's universal love for all people, and that's a distinctive feature of our church in this community. For me this is the center of my expression as a pastor and Christian. It's what I try to convey to you and to our community on a regular basis.

That being said, I was recently standing in our parking lot and a car pulled in from the street. A young gentleman stepped out of the car and said, "Are you Chris Brown?" Uh oh! What had I done? I told him I was and he continued, "I'm one of your friendly neighborhood atheists. I just wanted to say I really like the work you're doing and please keep it up." I was stunned almost to silence. I thanked him and gave him my card and he smiled and went on his way.

This isn't to toot my own horn because I don't do anything out of the ordinary or beyond what our church understands. I share this to highlight our faith. We're not in the game

of converting people to Christianity. That kind of theology has a pretty nasty history in our country and a lot of people carry the knowledge of that history with them, I imagine, like this friendly neighborhood atheist does. Our theology can be summed up in knowing that God loves us despite anything and we're called to respond by simply loving others despite anything. In a world where horrible things have been done in the name of Christianity and our faith has been largely characterized as being exclusive and condemning – the opposite of Jesus' ministry – this was an affirmation that what we believe and how we act from that belief matters and bears meaning for others.

Finally, there's a rule of thumb in the ministry world that says it takes about 3 years for ministry seeds to start to sprout. I'm an impatient person and don't like to wait; I want seeds to sprout the moment they're planted. But it takes time to break down barriers and get to genuine relationships. Even though I walked into 2018 with a little discouragement, I can say that so far this year has been full of sprouting seeds. Our confirmation class has added three students just in the last month alone because they've heard about it from their friends, new members and long-time members are getting involved in committees, council, and various groups, our Youth Ministry Director is coordinating with our high schoolers to get to Houston and people are responding to those efforts, and we are a bustling church.

I want to pause time and rest in this moment for a while allowing it to fill me up, but I know that life moves in cycles. So this particular moment is one I'm going to take for what I can – encouragement that the Spirit is moving through us, through all of you! I hope you can look at these signs, these gleaming rays and sprouting seeds and find the same encouragement for the future that I have. The discouragement I felt at the end of the year is dissipating into the reminder that we believe in a God of death and resurrection, a God of cycles. We will have ups and downs, but God moves in all of it and our relationship as siblings in Christ is strengthened through anything. For now, I can just say that this year feels good for Bethania so far, and I'm blessed to journey through it with all of you!

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

## **Ministry at Bethania**

Greetings Bethania,

Vacation Bible School is just a few months away. The theme is "SHIPWRECKED." Meetings and a supplies list will be available soon. Last year we had a blessing of volunteers help us make the event such a hit. We look forward to another successful week!

Confirmation will be meeting Sunday, Feb. 11th from 3-5 pm in our Fireside Room. All middle school aged students are invited to learn more about the Bible and discover their own path in faith.

Our next trip will be to Boomer's in Santa Maria on Saturday Feb. 24th and we will depart from Bethania at 9:30 am. Also, we are planning a youth and family hike at the Sedgwick Nature Preserve on Saturday, March 10th.

Youth Group will meet Sunday, Feb. 25th from 2:30-4:30 pm in our Fireside Room. Where we will discuss further fundraising and our upcoming trip to Houston.

In Houston, we will participate in service learning projects, help empower Houston community partners to further their mission, and create a transformative experience for participants to return as agents of change in our community. It will be a great faith building and learning opportunity to be a part of. We still happily accept donations and are grateful for any amount. Please address offering envelopes with "Youth Fund" in the "Other" category. Please make checks out to Bethania Lutheran Church and write "Youth Fund" in the memo line.

I hope to see youth and families at our upcoming Fastelavn event on Sunday, Feb. 11th and at our Lenten Suppers each Wednesday starting 2/14-3/28. These are great events to take part in to experience more community. Plus, you don't have to prepare dinner- it's already made!

We appreciate all of your support, whether in the form of monetary donations, verbal affirmations or just wanting to help. We are so grateful to have a beautiful congregation to be our foundation of growth and change in the community.

**Blessings to you all,**

Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

[\(909\)962-9366](tel:9099629366)

[livierghamari@yahoo.com](mailto:livierghamari@yahoo.com)

**BETHANIA PRESCHOOL  
& AFTER SCHOOL**

*Presents a fundraiser event at*

**the  
Habit<sup>®</sup>  
BURGER GRILL**

205 E. Highway 246  
Buellton, CA 93427

**Monday 3/5/18, 4:00 pm -10:00pm**

*Join us and enjoy delicious Charburgers,  
sandwiches, salads and shakes*

**PRESENT THIS FLYER WHEN YOU ORDER AND WE WILL  
DONATE 20% OF THE RECEIPTS GENERATED  
TO YOUR ORGANIZATION!**



**2018 SYV Touch-A-Truck**  
**Saturday, March 3 from 10am-2pm**

**Pre-Sale Event Tickets Order Form**

*Avoid the lines and use priority entry!*

Now offering Pre-Sale Tickets for our  
 Bethania Preschool & After School families and friends!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (email address needed for order confirmation)

Ticket Order:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 per person  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 per family of 5

Donation:  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to support the SYV Touch-A-Truck event and  
 Bethania Preschool & After School programs

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment required with order form – please include  
 Cash or Check made payable to: Bethania Preschool

**Pre-Sale Ticket Order forms due by Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>  
 to the School Office**

**A family event for all ages!**

**Saturday  
 March 3  
 10am-2pm**  
 @ Bethania Preschool  
 611 Atterdag Road  
 Solvang



- 3 parking lots FULL of safety, construction, farming, & specialty trucks
- Bounce houses by M&J Jumpers • Face painting by Crystal
- Tower Pizza & Kona Ice food concessions • Petting Zoo
- Kids Safety Day activities - low-cost bike helmets from Cottage Hospital
- No horn hour from 10-11 am for sensitive ears
- Rain or shine event - everything is more fun with rain boots anyways!

**KIDS WILL CLIMB ON, SIT IN, EXPLORE & LEARN ABOUT  
 THEIR FAVORITE BIG TRUCKS AND VEHICLES!**

**TICKETS:**  
**\$5/person**  
**\$20/family of 5**  
**@ gate**

**For More Information:**  
 ✉ SYVTouchATruck@gmail.com  
 www.facebook.com/syvtouchatruck

To Benefit Bethania Preschool & Afterschool

## Ministry in the Community and Around the World

### **SouperBowl/Toilet Bowl Feb. 4 and “Chill-Out” for Iglesia**

Help Raise Funds for a Large Capacity Refrigerator for Iglesia. Iglesia Luterana needs a large capacity refrigerator to assist their members. Much of Iglesia's support consists of helping their people with basic needs, food, shelter, clothing yet the congregation is growing with many families and children. Their love and joy abounds! Our conference is working together to help Iglesia acquire a new refrigerator. Kristyl Downey is leading this Thrivent Action Team project. You may make a donation on Sunday, Feb. 4 at Coffee Hour or buy a raffle ticket \$5/each for a gift basket.

Our annual **SouperBowl/Toilet Bowl** will also take place on Feb. 4. Bring canned goods, boxes of dry food, toilet paper, women's hygiene products, diapers, and more to support Iglesia's food pantry. Vote for your favorite team by donating these items. Who will win? The Eagles? The Patriots? The ads? Iglesia Luterana wins! See the article later on in the Beacon for more information.

Iglesia is also inviting all of us to their annual **Festival of Light** on Feb. 4 at 12 noon if anyone can make it. After the service, there will be food and music. It promises to be a joyful celebration.

### **Food Drive Continues for Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz**

You are invited to bring donations to the box in the Parish Hall to help the members of Iglesia. Iglesia serves many families in their congregation through their food pantry. In addition, we contribute gift cards so that families may purchase items such as meat, fresh vegetables, dairy products and other necessities, such as diapers. Thanks to your donations, our most recent two trips totaled almost 200 pounds of food donated!

Iglesia Luterana is a mission start-up church based at Bethel Lutheran. Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie are very enthusiastic and have so many exciting plans to develop the scope and mission of Iglesia Luterana. The members of Iglesia are mainly field workers, who depend on the strawberry crops and other picking jobs for income. During this time of year, their incomes are minimal. Many of these families support extended family members who are single parents or parentless children. They are very proud people who work hard, and who appreciate their brothers and sisters in Christ supporting them in their efforts to make a better life for their loved ones.

If you would like to contribute funds to this project and have us do the shopping, you can earmark your donation “IGLESIA FOOD” and drop it in the offering plate or at the church office.

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

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

**5 lb. bags of white flour**

**3 lb. bags of Pinto beans**

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

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

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

**Canned Soups (Chicken Noodle or Beef)**

**Breakfast Cereal and Breakfast Bars**

**Juice (Apple Fruit Punch, Lemonade, Orangeade)**

**5 lb. bags of white rice**

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

**Snack Crackers**

**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*)

**Peanut Butter**

**Diapers (any size, age)**

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

## **Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count on Feb. 25**

*A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money.*  
- John Ruskin

January's "Noisy Offering" helped raise funds to provide food items for members attending Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria. Thanks to your generosity, we are working to stock the cupboards of families who are truly in need in our area. Rest assured, you are making a difference in a child's life with your quarters and dimes.

**The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on Feb. 25th.** Our donations from the offering will be used to help support the families at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz (*see related article about the food drive*). In addition to needing help with food items, the members of Iglesia confront many other daily challenges. Many of the families have health issues, for which there is no funds for medical care. Recently, a mother of four was killed by a drunk driver in a three car accident, and there were no funds for the funeral. The father underwent brain surgery following the accident. Pastor Esteban and his wife helped supply meals for the children, and helped arrange for their care.

Pastor Esteban has helped many by cooking meals and delivering them weekly to needy families. They have also served lunches to field workers as part of an outreach. The Pastor and his wife are running into different types of needs every day. They have no "discretionary funds" to help with situations such as medical bills, unexpected death, support for single mothers, and more. Hopefully we can help build a small fund to help with these needs in some way through our donations.

"Make change for the better" this Noisy Sunday. Bring your coins and make some noise on Feb. 25. Together, we can CHANGE a family's world, right here in our area.

**- Linda Marzullo**

## Piyali Learning Center Scholarship Drive Continues

Recently, four Santa Ynez Valley High School students went to the Piyali Learning Center in a large village near Kolkata, India. They were able to spend three weeks with Deepa Willingham, founder of PACE Universal and meet the students and women we sponsor: Rekha and Reshma and Rama Naskar, Suparna Naskar and Arabi Sarada. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to sponsor all of them for only \$1,275/year. Our goal is to raise these funds during January and February so they can reach the school in a timely manner.

For Rekha and Reshma (\$375 each) your gifts fully fund:

- books and supplies
- nutritious meals
- medical care and hygiene kits
- transportation to and from school,
- school uniforms and shoes,
- after-school activities.

For Rama Naskar, Suparna Naskar and Arabi Sardar (\$175 each), your gifts fully fund:

- adult education and literacy classes
- vocational training
- on-site child care services
- educational supplies
- micro loan training
- business micro loan after completion of program

This is the investment opportunity of a lifetime – for you and for them!

### - Nancy Emerson and Bethania Lutheran Church Women

Please fill out the form below and include your check made out to Bethania Lutheran Church or BLCW.

#### Piyali Learning Center Scholarships

Name\_\_\_\_\_

\*E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

If no e-mail, phone #, please\_\_\_\_\_

## Who Will Win Bethania's 2018 Souperbowl-Toiletbowl?

**Feb. 4th** during coffee time following worship

Get ready for February 4<sup>th</sup> for SUPERBOWL LII by warming up your throwing arm at Bethania's **Souperbowl-Toiletbowl!** Enjoy coffee and a snack after worship while you "vote" for your team. Whether you are a Patriots, Eagles, or "Just Watching for the Commercials" fan, your donations will count toward a "win". Each canned food item or roll of toilet paper or dollar donated will count as a point. Each "point" donated towards the Eagles or the Patriots, who are playing in this year's Superbowl, will inch that team closer to the Bethania Souperbowl-Toiletbowl win...a distinct honor for any team. You can even "vote" your preference for only watching the commercials! **Bring your donations of soup, toilet paper or any canned or dried goods** to the Parish Hall and "throw" them for your team's win. (Monetary donations will also be accepted, if you prefer for us to do your shopping.) All items will be delivered to Iglesia Luterana.

"Souperbowl-Toiletbowl" Donations will be given to Iglesia Luterana's members to help meet their needs this winter while the fields are dormant. They need help to make it through these months when the field work is slow and their employment is down. Help us have fun "playing" in the Souperbowl-Toiletball so Iglesia can "win" on Superbowl Sunday! Play in the Souperbowl-Toiletbowl and make a difference in a life with your efforts.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Marzullo at 688-5219 (work) or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

## Events and Happenings

### Book Group

As you read Rob Bell's What is the Bible? to prepare for our February book group meeting on Feb. 13 at 2 pm (Parish Hall or office depending on weather), please read Chapters 1-7. This is a wonderful time for new people to join the book group as this will be our first session with a book that Pastor Chris is excited to share with members. You can order the book from the Book Loft or online.

### Theo Pub

Theology Pub meets Feb. 8 at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company. Enjoy the beer, the appetizers, the company and the discussion. Everyone is welcome.

### Gather Bible Study

This month the Gather Bible study is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge at Atterdag Village. The topic is the preaching of John the Baptist, found in Luke 3:3-17. See the January/February "Gather" magazine, pages 30-35.



## Fastelavn Is Back!

Fastelavn the Danish Mardi Gras will be returning to Solvang! Celebrated for centuries in Danish lands and communities Fastelavn fell from favor in Solvang somewhere in the 1970's or 80's as people's ideas of fun entertainment went to hair products, Disco, Pac Man, and Designer Jeans. But the time is right for Fastelavn to return to Solvang, Sunday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Save the date.

Fastelavn celebration centers on breaking wood barrels to free a toy cat and candy. Think of it like a Danish piñata. However this barrel is no Paper Mache' and colored tissue paper. This idea of breaking wood barrels comes from the same people who thought up Vikings. There will be three barrels, one for the men, one for the women and one for the children. The three winners will be crowned! Other games for the family will be available. There will be a raffle and silent auction to benefit the property maintenance.

Danish Dog Dinner \$8 adults, \$5 children under 10, and free to 3 and under, will feature the adult plate an all beef super size dog, regular size on children's plates. Plates come with green and potato salad, chips and carrots. Playing along with a very current trend in Denmark is to decorate the dog with many toppings picked from a wide selection of, why not put that on a Hot Dog!

Traditionally for Fastelvan children come dressed in fairy tale costumes and parents aren't much fun and don't dress in costume. Today's children come in fairy tale, super hero or animal costumes. There will be a face painter and fun adults can come in costume or wear a mask. Be there Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 2018!

If you'd like to help with our Fastelavn Fundraiser (Feb. 11 5:00 - 8:00 pm) here are some areas you can be involved:

Set up	Decorating/decorations	Kitchen/Dinner
Advertising/ticket sales	Judging Costume contest/prizes	Silent Auction items/set up
Clean up		

If you'd like to help out please email Glenda Madrid at [Glenda\\_madrid@hotmail.com](mailto:Glenda_madrid@hotmail.com)

## **Farstrup-Mortensen Lectures 2018**

### **Feb. 23-25, 2018 - "Unbelievable God?"**

Most of us have wondered: Is there a God? What is God like? What does God do? Can God see everything? Why is there evil in the world if God is all-good, all-knowing and all-powerful? These and other questions will be addressed by this year's two distinguished, world renowned speakers, professors **John Caputo** and **Brandon Scott**. Both of them are excellent and very engaging speakers. They will challenge us to think outside of the box, and they will also challenge each other.

Join us once again in the best Grundtvigian tradition. Our Bishop Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin will join us for the entire weekend and preach on Sunday. For more information and to register on-line please see <http://fmlectures.org>

**Rev. Dr. Jarmo Tarkki**

### **Tips for Doing Sunday Coffee Hours**

Having just done a coffee hour and talked to people about how to do one, if you have never done one you may wonder just what is required and hesitate to sign up to do this task.

1. Despite it being called "Coffee Hour," you do not make the coffee (nor does it last an hour). Our coffee lover and dedicated volunteer, Bob Jensen, comes early every Sunday, sets up and plugs in the coffee pot plus making tea and doing some other set up tasks. Bob can show you where items are stored. Another long-time, faithful volunteer is Caro Stinson, who does all the buying of coffee and supplies using the food table basket money,

2. Food possibilities are varied and DO NOT have to be home baked. We have excellent baked goods at our bakeries and supermarkets. Here are some suggestions: cookies, quick breads, Danish Kringle, coffee cake or cake + non-sweets like the Danish treat of hard rolls with butter, Havarti cheese & optional raspberry jam; vegetable tray, apple & orange slices, tangerines, cheese slices, cheese & crackers.

3. It does help to have two people share responsibility for obtaining food, serving it and pouring coffee. Ask at coffee hour for someone to work with you. Some people may no longer be able physically to do the coffee hour but would gladly contribute food or money to those able to do the Sunday work. Please email the Church Office if you want to do this or can be their "doer".

4. How much food do you need? Coffee hour is popular and attendance ranges from about 60-100 each Sunday with more on special days like Easter, Confirmation, etc. Bring about 180-200 or more pieces. The more varied the food you bring, the more sampling people will do. Kringle "sells out" fast. Anything not needed can be put in the freezer in the kitchen after labeling it "church." It becomes back-up food.

5. People really appreciate those who do coffee hour, so please add your name to the coffee hour calendar on the food table. You will receive more detailed instructions.

**- Nancy Emerson**

# Thank You's

## From Iglesia Luterana

Dear Pastors and Congregations (of the Central Coast Conference),

We would like to thank everyone for your love and support throughout the year especially during the Christmas season. Your love is reflected in our children's faces as they receive their gifts of love that have been sent. Your love is very appreciated by all of us at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. May the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ always live in your hearts. Thank you! Muchas gracias! Shindavino! (sheen dove in oh - thank you in Mixteco).

**Blessings,  
Pastor Esteban Salazar  
Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz**

## To: The Endowment Fund Committee of Bethania Lutheran Church,

Dear Members of the Endowment Fund & the Congregation at Bethania Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000 to the Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital Foundation (SYV-Patient Care Fund). Together, we are working to ensure that every resident of our community has convenient access to patient care unsurpassed in quality and compassion.

The not-for-profit Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital provides a variety of comprehensive healthcare services, surgical services, out patient and inpatient care, and a 24/7 emergency departments. These services and others are made possible in large part by the caring support of donors like Bethania.

Again, Thank you for your thoughtful donation.

**Sincerely,  
June Martin  
Foundation Administrator  
Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital Foundation**

## Thrivent Choice Dollars Help Church and Preschool

In 2017, Thrivent benefit members, whose Thrivent insurance and annuities generate Choice Dollars, directed the following amounts:

### **To Bethania Lutheran Church - \$823**

These gifts help the church with its General Fund expenses.

### **To Bethania Preschool & After School - \$2,452**

These gifts are designated for the Fundraiser and Tuition Assistance Funds.

If you are a Thrivent benefit member, you can call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Choice Dollars or access your account via [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) to learn if you have Thrivent Choice Dollars available to direct.

You have until March 31, 2018 to direct 2017 Choice Dollars to the church, preschool, Atterdag Village or other enrolled charitable organizations.

If you are not familiar with Thrivent Financial, it began in the Midwest in the 1800s as Brotherhood Societies for Scandinavians, Germans and other Lutherans who, as immigrants, could not obtain insurance for their families. Over the years it grew to be national in scope as two Brotherhood Societies. These merged in 2001 to become Thrivent Financial Services, a Fortune 500 organization, known for its ethical behavior and solid financial management. To learn more about its services, please contact our area's Financial Representative, Brian Boyle, 805-692-1122, whose office is in Santa Barbara, or go online to [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).

## **Treasurer's Report November Financial Statement December 2017**

### **Balance sheet:**

- The general checking cash account shows a negative balance of \$2,485. Essentially, we had no operating cash available at the end of 2017. We did not have any checks returned, as we held some of the bills until January to wait for cash from 2018 deposits. This is the second month in a row that we have had a negative balance in the general checking account.
- The money market went up to \$100,276 in December. We will be transferring money out of this account in January to insure an adequate cash position for the first two months of 2018.
- All liabilities are current with the normal exception of the pension liability.
- Due to the deficit in the operating fund, we sustained a loss of net asset value of \$15,640 for the 2017 year. The church balance still remains strong, but having a net asset value loss is something we need to be aware of and do our best to ensure it does not happen again.

### **Profit & Loss Statement:**

#### **Income:**

- Regular envelope offerings were \$25,769 for the month compared with \$17,500 budgeted. Non-member offerings were \$1,399 compared to \$1,202 budgeted. However, for the 2017 year, offerings were \$210,170 compared to a budget of \$217,000 (-\$6,830).
- Other income was the bright spot for 2017, with \$45,025 in income compared to \$36,100 budgeted.
- Other receipts were up by \$1,451 for the year.
- Total income for the year was actually over the budget. \$277,121 compared to \$271,700 budgeted (increase of \$5,421).

## **Expenses:**

- Benevolence was over budget due to directed gifts by members of the congregation for special projects. \$23,707 compared to \$22,500 budgeted.
- Salary and benefits were over budget \$7,755. The most significant items were increases in worship musicians (\$20,450 compared to \$16,000 budget); increases in pastor benefits (\$21,893 compared to \$18,800 budget).

It should be noted that these increase in benefits were the result of increases in medical coverage, and addition of Vesper to pastor's medical coverage.

- Staff expenses were below budget, office administration was below budget, utilities were below budget, meeting expenses were below budget, Christian education was below budget, and Social Ministries were below budget.
- Property expenses were above budget (\$29,680 compared to \$28,550 budget). The largest portion of the increase was moving janitorial supplies out of office supplies and into the property accounts, and an increase in liability insurance.
- Outreach committee expenses were up (\$2,612 compared to \$1,500 budget). The largest increase was due to ordering new brochures for the church. This expense actually covers two years, and will not be repeated in 2018.
- Worship & music committee expenses were up (\$4,740 compared to \$4,275 budget).
- Overall, we sustained a \$15,645 deficit at the end of 2017. This compares to a planned deficit of \$16,550 deficit.

## **Overall:**

When we presented the 2017 budget (which contained the aforementioned \$16,550 deficit), it was our hope and prayer that we could overcome this deficit with increased member giving and increased fundraising efforts. Unfortunately, this did not happen. However, we were able to trim almost \$1,000 off that projected deficit.

Bethania continues to be God's presence in our community, and reaches out to all in a loving and welcoming environment. The increased usage of our facilities has had an impact on our visibility in the valley. Our outreach programs of family ministry, music, youth programs, and community events demonstrates God's loving presence in a real way.

Our balance sheet and assets remain strong, as does our commitment to God's calling us to ministry to all. Thanks be to God for all of our wonderful members and staff who make this all possible. As we move forward in 2018, let us all strive to balance our budget, increase our ministry, and be mindful of all the gifts the Lord has given us – gifts that we now share with others.

**- Ron Walsh, Treasurer**

## Thrivent Choice Dollars Help Church and Preschool

We will have one more financial report from Thrivent in early January but after 11 months, Thrivent benefit members, whose Thrivent products generate Choice Dollars, have directed the following amounts :

### **To Bethania Lutheran Church - \$823.**

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## Where is the Church's Entry Light?

If you have looked up and seen that the church's entry light is missing, it is in Santa Barbara at Steven Handelman's custom lighting fixtures studio being repaired.

His examination of the light fixture revealed that its frame was made of copper. He is replacing broken glass, cleaning intact glass, frame and bracket, adding a hinge for easy access to the bulb, replacing the socket, and adding a small LED bulb. Meanwhile Erickson Electric is bringing the wiring connection up to code, adding a sensor so he can be ready to attach the fixture and bracket when it is fully restored to its original beauty. The Heritage Fund is funding this project.

Research by Esther Bates at the Elverhoj Museum indicates that the fixture was installed at or near the time the church was completed. (Electricity came to Solvang in 1923.) If anyone has additional information about the fixture's history, please call the Church Office.

**Nancy Emerson**

## 2018 Check Writing Schedule

For those of you who are chairs of committees, or committee members, or need reimbursement for church expenses, please be aware of the schedule below.

In order to give our bookkeeper the time necessary to prepare and print not only our payable, accounts, but also payroll checks on the same days, we are going to use the following schedule for the balance of the year:

### Check requests in office by 12 noon:

January 24  
Feb. 13  
Feb. 26  
Mar. 12  
Mar. 28  
Apr. 10  
Apr. 25  
May 11  
May 25  
Jun. 12  
Jun. 26  
Jul. 10  
Jul. 26  
Aug. 10  
Aug. 28  
Sept. 11  
Sept. 25  
Oct. 10  
Oct. 26  
Nov. 12  
Nov. 26  
Dec. 12  
Dec. 26

### Dates Checks written & signed:

January 29  
Feb. 16  
Feb. 28  
Mar. 15  
Mar. 30  
Apr. 13  
Apr. 30  
May 15  
May 31  
Jun. 15  
Jun. 29  
Jul. 13  
Jul. 31  
Aug. 15  
Aug. 31  
Sept. 14  
Sept. 28  
Oct. 15  
Oct. 31  
Nov. 15  
Nov. 30  
Dec. 14  
Dec. 31

By using this schedule we maximize the time our bookkeeper spends on writing our checks, while getting the payroll prepared in a timely manner. If you have requests for checks, please use this schedule for getting the requests in to the office. Your cooperation in keeping to this schedule is very much appreciated.

If a need arises to write checks during the period between the regular schedule, we will make every effort to accommodate that need.

**Ron Walsh, Treasurer**

## In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

**Immediate Prayer Concerns:** Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Ida FitzGerald, Patrice & Herb Fuller and Bobby McGee

**Other Prayer Concerns:** Robin Adkins, Baby Leo (Iglesia Luterana), Mark Bates, Lise Bates, Joe & Pat Bode, Barbara Boyd, John Camp, Annette Clausen, Mary Connors, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Dolores Dederding, Niels Djaernes, David Eck, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Chris Gideon, Pat Green, Kathy Hackler, Sharon, Sarah & Casey Harris, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Berdella Johnson, Steve Johnstone, Chris Kaping, Kim Kenton, Kate Knotts, Duane Lamberton, Stephanie Larrabee, Ethel Litwiler, Betsy & Steve Logan, Rick Marzullo, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Helen Nielsen, Marie Ostertag, Doyle Phillips, Jonathan Poldberg, Audrey Robinson, Jean & Bill Stelling, Carol Summit, Dave & Theresa Tannascoli, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Tina Walen, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

## A Couple of Photos...



Two pictures of Carolynn Petersen and Pastor Chris presenting a check to Charlie Uhrig for the Salvation Army from the Produce Table proceeds. Thanks to Ron Walsh for the pictures.





# February 2018



Each year we present world-class scholars and educators who present reasoned and scholarly interpretations based on current evidence. Join us for fellowship and fascinating discussion in the best Grundtvigian tradition.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House Group:PH	2 2 pm BPSAS Brd Mtg:PH	3
4 9:30 am Worship: CH 10:45 am Coffee Hour & CHill-Out forIglesia, SouperBowl/Toilet Bowl:PH 5 pm Koinonia: FR	5 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 7 pm Worship & Music Cmt. Mtg:OFC 8 pm AA: FR	6 7 pm Christian Ed. Mtg:FR	7 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	8 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	9	10  Set-Up For Fastelavn: PH
11 9:30 am Worship: CH 3-5 pm Confirmation: FR 5-8 pm Fastelavn Party: PH	12 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	13 2 pm Book Group: PH	<b>14 Ash Wed.</b> 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 12:45 pm Quilting/ Sewing: PH 6 pm Soup Supper:PH 7 pm Worship Service:CH	15 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH 6 pm Touch-A- Truck Mtg: FR 7 pm Council Mtg:FR	16	17  9 am FM Lectures Mtg:FR
18 9:30 am Worship 11 am Annual Meeting: PH 5 pm Sunday School: Rm 6 5 pm Koinonia: FR	19 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8:00 pm AA: FR	20 12 Beacon: Deadline: OFC	21 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 6 pm Lenten Soup Service: PH 7 pm Choir:FR	22 10 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH	23  FM Lectures: PH	24  9:30 am Youth Trip to Boomers  FM Lectures:PH
25 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 11 am FM Lectures Panel:PH 2:30-4:30 Youth Group:FR 5 pm Sunday School: Rm 6 5 pm Koinonia: FR	26 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8:00 pm AA: FR	27	28 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 6 pm Lenten Soup Service: PH 7 pm Choir:FR	CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Room BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool OFC = Office Church	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang	

**THE BEACON**  
**February 2018**

**Bethania Lutheran Church**  
**603 Atterdag Rd**  
**Solvang CA 93463**

**(805)688-4637**  
**bethanialutheranch@gmail.com**  
**www.bethanialutheran.net**

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

Pastor: Chris Brown  
Office Manager: Kristyl Downey  
Preschool/After School Director:  
Eileen Knotts  
Director of Youth & Family:  
Livier Ghamari-Brown

Council:  
Chris Brown, Pastor  
Robert Laufer, President  
Stewart Fries, Vice-President  
Ron Walsh, Treasurer  
Wendy Bevier, Secretary  
Bridget Cassara  
Robin Gehrs  
Denise Johnson  
Barbara Kargard  
Ann Tucker

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

★ ★ ★  
**FASTELAVN**



**BETHANIA CHURCH**  
**603 ATTERDAG RD**  
**SUN FEB 11 5 TO 8 PM**  
**DANISH DOG DINNER**

Beer and Wine Additional

- Games
- Prizes
- Costume Contest
- Face Painting
- Raffle
- Silent Auction

**TICKETS: ADULTS \$8.00**  
**CHILDREN 3-10 \$5.00** ★

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CHURCH OFFICE 688 4637  
WWW.BETHANIALUTHERAN.NET

★ ★ ★  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
★ ★ ★