

The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
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May 2018

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Pastor Chris's Message

There was once a man who was a devoted Christian. He went to church almost every Sunday, he ushered once a month, held a position on council and a couple different committees, tithed 10% of his income, and regularly volunteered for church events. He had grown up in this style, and for him, being involved in the routine of church life was a part of his identity. He was well liked by both his church family and his community.

This man probably could not be considered wealthy, but he lived a comfortable life due to the same obedience to routine in his career. He had lived in the same house for almost 30 years and aside from a mortgage that would almost be paid off, he did not have any debt and planned his retirement well.

He watched the news regularly and shared many of the same concerns about the rest of the world as his fellow Americans, but was also able to avoid letting those concerns penetrate the circle of his personal environment. The concerns that did affect him were the same as most people in his area: health, the occasional loss of loved ones, the fear that the world he built for himself might suddenly fall apart; but nothing so much as to cause any malcontent. If you were to ask this man if he had for want or need, both materially or spiritually, he would tell you no.

One Sunday this man was having an uncommon restless night. For some reason he could not seem to pass that thin line into the submission of sleep, but rather kept tossing from one position to another. As he inched closer to that submissive space something startled him and caused him to jump from any hope of slumber. He sat up in bed and standing there before him was Jesus. The man rubbed his eyes expecting this to be one of those weird dreams that existed between being awake and being asleep, but when he opened them again, Jesus was still standing there.

The Christ, the Messiah, the Son of Humanity was standing in his bedroom! What had he done to deserve the presence of all presence? Was this the moment that he was to depart this world and move into the next? Had Jesus come to escort him? He would take the journey if it was to be so, but something told him it was not. He had lived a life worthy of any Christian; maybe this was his reward. Maybe a man who lived life for his church and community deserved to be graced by the presence of Christ. But, why? Jesus must have something of great importance to tell him, just like the stories of old.

Imagining the story of Samuel with such obedience to his faith, the man spoke first, "Speak, for your servant is listening?" Jesus just looked back for what seemed like an eternity,

but was really only a moment. And then a smirk started to crawl onto his face, a smirk that had revelation behind it. Jesus' lips did not move but the man heard his voice in only a whisper. "You've gotten it wrong," the voice said. As soon as the voice had finished speaking the man was waking up to the sound of his alarm. He didn't know how long he had been asleep, but it felt like he had barely slept at all. Did that really happen last night or was it just a dream?

The man got out of bed and began his morning routine of getting ready for work. However, in the shower there were moments where he just stood there thinking about his dream. This happened again over breakfast and while he was getting dressed. On his way to work someone honked at him for not realizing a stoplight had turned green. He was 10 minutes late that day, which had never happened before. He could not make sense of why a dream would continue to affect him in such a way.

Work seemed to pass in spurts of slowed time and jumps ahead in which he didn't remember what he had done for the last 30 minutes. His wife noted his distance at dinner that evening, but he shook it off with the excuse of not getting enough sleep. He told her not to worry and left for his monthly church council meeting. Sitting around their conference table with people he knew as friends, they spoke of the monthly management of their church. Yet, in this space, for some reason, something was missing inside of him.

It's not that his church wasn't important or the work his friends were talking about at council was meaningless, but it was here in this moment that he felt the voice was pointing him to. For the first time as far back as his memory would allow, he felt a level of uncertainty about where he was and what he was doing. It was so overwhelming that he apologized and excused himself from the meeting and left to go home.

As he was driving, he could not stop thinking about that voice. "You've gotten it wrong?" What did he get wrong? Was it him, or was it everyone? Was it his church? Was it their work? Was it their beliefs? What had he gotten wrong? He had never questioned his faith before, but right now he couldn't find anything about it to fall back on and it was driving him mad; he wasn't even sure where he was driving. What had he gotten wrong? Was it his church, or was it The Church? He thought the way he had lived his life and the way he had committed himself to God had lead him to the gift of divine presence, but this didn't feel like a gift, it felt like punishment.

What had he gotten wrong? He needed an answer, he needed to find that place of certainty again. What had he gotten wrong? Now he started to say it out loud, "What have I gotten wrong, Lord? Speak to me again. Tell me what I'm missing. What have I gotten wrong? I go to church, I give my time and energy, I try to be a good person and ask for forgiveness when I fall short. I believe in justice and love for people and try to help when I can. Is all this wrong? What have I gotten wrong? WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN WRONG?!" He couldn't take it any more. He pulled to the side of the road and looked up to the heavens and screamed again, "WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN WRONG?!"

The stars looked beautiful that night. He couldn't remember the last time he had just looked at the stars. In the maddening whirl of his thoughts he had driven to the back hills just beyond his town without realizing it. The air was cool, but it wasn't uncomfortable and he

could hear the calm rustle of the wind. The chaos and discomfort of not knowing what this question meant was still present, but he felt a sense of peace come over him as he stood on the side of the road feeling the coolness of the night, looking at the stars. He remembered learning about constellations as a kid and how they guided the ancients in their travels, but he couldn't remember what any of them looked like. He just saw stars. They really were beautiful, almost glistening. As he continued to look, he could see a cluster of them resemble some kind of shape. Maybe it was one of the constellations of his past coming back to memory, but he wasn't sure. To him, they seemed to resemble a smirk.

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

Hi Bethania!!

Confirmation Day is upon us! **Sunday, May 6th** at our morning service. Please join us for cake and coffee at the reception as we celebrate the following students graduating.

Jeanelle Needham
Nolan Andersen
Jorgé Puder
Aria Riley
Grace Muñoz
Caden Bratt

We will formally reconvene Sunday, Sept. 9th in the Fireside Room.

But, over the summer I plan to have a lot of fun planned like beach trips, going to the movies, and creating havoc all over Bethania! Just kidding...

"Shipwrecked" Vacation Bible School will be July 16th-20th. Dinner served from 5 pm - 6 pm (\$5/meal or \$20/week) and camp will be 6 pm - 8 pm. Please register today as a participant or volunteer by visiting us at www.bethanialutheran.net

Here are some decorating supplies we will be collecting in July. Due to storage space, we can only collect in **July**.

- green plants (fake preferred; if alive, must be in a pot)
- fabric flowers
- brown craft paper
- large pieces of styrofoam
- wicker brown netting
- brown paper grocery bags
- gray & black spray paint
- pool noodles

Our flights and hotel are booked!! We are set for the **ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27th-July 1st**.

I am still working on trying to collect some more donations for our lunches and dinners! 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.

In Houston, we will participate in service learning projects and make a transformative experience for our youth participants. It will be a great faith building and learning opportunity to be a part of.

With God's Love,
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

This month at the Preschool we celebrate Mom!! Each class will be making their own special Mother's Day gifts to take home for mom.

Whether it be a lopsided frame, a crooked flower, or a slightly sticky card, each piece is made with a lot of love. These are the gifts to be treasured for a lifetime.

In May we also celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6–12, 2018. The Preschool & After School Board will be providing a special little something each day to show our teachers how much they are appreciated. A preschool teachers job is not just nine to five.

Many hours of preparation are put in every week to make the education of the children that attend the best possible. For many of us it is our passion to nurture, teach, respect and love the children.

Nothing is better than a child's smile or hug to keep us going.

"A bond between mothers and their children is one defined by love. As a mother's prayers for her children are unending, so are the wisdom, grace and strength they provide to their children." ~ President George W. Bush

Happy Mother's Day!!
Eileen

Look for the Produce Table in May...If...

If...I can get folks to sign up to man the table, and

If...I can get help on Saturdays during the heavy harvest season (July, August, September, October). I need help either morning or late afternoon, hoping for two folks per Saturday.

If...You can help by saving your CLEAN plastic bags for the produce table "Shoppers."

I hope and pray that I am not the only one who thinks this project is worth continuing. No one has stepped up to the plate to take this project over, and at last month's Social Ministry meeting it was decided that it is so important we cannot let it go.

It has been running for many years, with each succeeding year building on the previous one. Last year you donated \$3900! \$2000 was given towards the ELCA World Hunger Appeal – Good Gifts Program (small animals, fruit trees, mosquito netting, water wells, etc. as well as the training to be successful) and \$1900 towards our local needs (SYV Extension of the Salvation Army received \$1500 and \$400 to Pastor Chris Brown's Discretionary Fund).

Having turned 80 last year, I sincerely need help with the harvest. Please consider what you can do to assist me in keeping this program alive.

We will have sign-up sheets when the table opens for "Business", or feel free to contact me with whatever assistance you are able to provide. Let's keep the Produce Table as a source of blessings to many: those who have excess produce, those who wish to have a little garden time, and those who love access to flowers, fruit and veggies that are farm fresh. Most especially we appreciate all of our generous donors (shoppers)!

**- Carolynn Petersen
688-6243**

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Piyali Scholarships Final 2018 Report

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1,655 to continue providing \$375 scholarships for 11-year olds, Rekha and Resha, who we began supporting 7 years ago (2012) when they enrolled in pre-kindergarten. In addition we provided three, \$175 scholarships for mothers enrolled in Piyali Education Center's literacy and vocational education program. \$380 was given to the school to help support its educational initiatives.

Nancy Emerson, BLCW Scholarship Chairperson

“Chill-Out” for Iglesia

Last month I reported that the raffle for Iglesia’s new refrigerator raised \$1355. I thought it would take a month or so to get the refrigerator, but it turned out I was able to buy it at Idler’s in Santa Maria and have it delivered to Iglesia a week later, the day before Easter. Since there was extra money, I asked Pastor Esteban and Angie what they would like. They asked for food for Easter. I was able to buy several hams, numerous packages of hot dogs, several dozen eggs, packages of candy, cookies, cans of coffee, bottles of instant coffee, bags of sugar, storage bags, and four gift cards for fresh food. The community of Iglesia shares food donations like these. After the Easter service, people took home bags of this bounty.



Angie Salazar and the new refrigerator

After the refrigerator was delivered and I dropped off the food, Pastor Esteban and Angie took the time to make me a burrito, refried beans and lemonade and talk for a while about their ministry at Iglesia. Many of you know that Bethania buys Christmas presents for the children of Iglesia each year. Bethania also supports Iglesia financially and with food, diapers, toilet paper and sanitary products. The congregation worships every week at Bethel Lutheran Church. After the service, Pastor Esteban and Angie hand out whatever food they can to anyone who needs it. They have a weekly Bible study with coffee and a light snack or lunch. They prepare meals in the kitchen at Bethel and take them to farm workers during the week as well as cook for various families who might need it. Pastor Esteban sees we have two hands - one with which to worship God and the other with which to help our neighbor.

I was glad to hear first-hand about this ministry and certainly glad to have done something to help Iglesia Luterana. I told Pastor Esteban and Angie that I have been blessed by helping them. By using a Thrivent Action card, I got raffle prizes and sold tickets. I was moved and uplifted to see so many people support this project: the congregations of Peace Lutheran, Lompoc; Gloria Dei, Orcutt; Bethel, Santa Maria; Mt. Carmel, San Luis Obispo; Calvary, Morro Bay; and of course, Bethania. I’m sure Hope, Atascadero and Bethel, Templeton would have contributed if I could have made it to them.

I am also grateful for donations from Ingeborg’s Chocolates, Casa Cassara for wine, and Olsen’s Bakery. The recipients of the five prizes were thrilled to win and help Iglesia at the same time.

- **Kristyl Downey**

Check out Iglesia’s newsletter and thank-you note on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Noisy Sunday - May 27th: Making Change Count

“When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, ‘Now is that political, or social?’ He said, ‘I feed you.’ Because the good news to a hungry person is bread.”

– **Bishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican bishop and social activist**

April's “Noisy Offering” helped to raise funds to help support Pastor Chris' Discretionary Fund. Thank you for helping our Pastor assist with many needs in a confidential manner.

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on May 27th. Our donations from the offering will be used as Bethania Youth's Offering as part of their commitment to the ELCA Youth Gathering in June.

These donations will be part of making a difference in the lives of farming families around the world. The ELCA World Hunger's “Global Farm Challenge” will be a focus at the Youth Gathering. All Youth groups attending the gathering will be able to donate their offerings and have a chance to participate at the Interactive Learning Space in the NRG Center. Youth and young adults will have the chance to experience an unforgettable immersion activity which will show them what it's like to be a smallholder farmer around the world.

Where will our money go? Gifts to ELCA World Hunger support projects in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. Why the focus on farms? 80% of the world's food is produced on small farms. One-half of the world's 815 million undernourished people live on farms. Without access to resources and training, farming families can themselves often go hungry. And unexpected events, such as drought, flooding, conflict and more, can make it difficult for family farms to survive hard times.

Think about how important small farms are to feeding the world: 4/5 of the world's food is produced on small farms that rely mainly on family labor. In addition, think of how many Americans were living in food-insecure households in 2016 – an astonishing 41.2 Million!

Your donations will help the Youth Group from Bethania learn more about the problem of World Hunger and the issues for family farmers. To learn more, visit ELCA.org/globalfarmchallenge.

“Make change for the better!” Bring your coins and make some noise on May 27. Together, we can support our Youth, help families who farm, and make the world a little less hungry.

– **Linda Marzullo**

Social Ministry Meeting - May 14th at 6 pm

Our last meeting was a flurry of exciting ideas and plans to make a difference in the lives of others. Some of the topics we talked about included: Tutoring, Homeless Outreach, Service Industry Workers, Jail Ministry, Housing Needs, Outreach and Activities for those struggling with Addiction, Support the Troops, Harvesting Produce and more. If you are interested in making a difference in the world, think about attending the next Social Ministry meeting in the church office. This is when our brand-new committee will be meeting and working on our ideas for the coming months. We would love to have input from anyone interested. Pastor

Chris strongly believes that social ministry is the future of the church and the area most interesting to younger people. Help build a foundation that will help others and bring our church into the next few decades with new involvement in our community.

-Linda Marzullo

688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Iglesia's Food and Personal Care Needs

Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz serves many families in their congregation with what they need daily to survive. The people who attend Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria are the poorest of the poor in our area.

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.

Food Drivers/Shoppers Welcome! If you would like to make a trip to Santa Maria to deliver some food, please contact me and let me know. Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie are very friendly and so appreciative of what we do to help the families in their congregation.

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, these items are the most needed by priority:

5 lb. bags of Masa (corn) or White Flour

Bags of Dried Pinto Beans

Canned Chicken (no tuna, please!)

Diapers (any size, age)

Laundry Detergent

Breakfast Cereal and Breakfast Bars

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)

5 lb. bags of White Rice

Canola Oil

Feminine Hygiene Products

Cleaning Supplies

Peanut Butter

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

Events and Happenings

Bethania's Book Group

Bethania's book group is reading and discussing [What is the Bible?](#) May 8 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall.

Koinonia – A Gathering

Koinonia is a Greek word that is translated usually into communion – that thing we do every Sunday. But its meaning is much more expansive. It's also meant to convey the divine connection we feel with God and with neighbor. It's an intimate word meant to highlight the deepness the community of the Church experiences. This is the name of the small group gathering that meets at 5 pm in the Fireside Room on Sundays. We're going to do a small meditation, a bible study, some discussion, prayers and communion. We welcome anyone who wants to join. It'll be casual and communal. Please invite anyone you think would also be interested. **Come As You Are, Loved As You Are!**

Theo Pub

Theology Pub meets May 10 at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company. Enjoy the beer, the appetizers, the company and the discussion. Everyone is welcome.

Gather Bible Study - May 17 at 10:30 am

Join the Gather Bible Study in the Atterdag Lounge on the campus of Atterdag Village. The title is "All Are Welcome." We will explore Bible passages that encourage hospitality, such as Luke 10:38-41 (Martha & Mary), I Samuel 1:19-17 (Hannah & Eli) Ruth 1:6-17 (Ruth and Naomi) Luke 7:36-50 (the woman who washed Jesus' feet). These are included in the May issue of "GATHER" magazine pp. 20-24.

Mother's Day-May 13 at the 9:30 Service

We will honor the women in our lives with a gift of a carnation. We will also have a heart out in front of the church for flowers so we can remember our mothers who have gone to their heavenly home. Happy Mother's Day one and all!

Isaiah 66:13 "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

Blessing of Graduating Seniors

We would like to invite all our church family to a special service to honor and celebrate our high school seniors. We will gather as the body of Christ to celebrate in all their hard work and recommit our support to them in the next chapter of their lives. The Senior Blessing will be during our morning service on Sunday, May 20th. We will have a time after the service with cake and refreshments to personally congratulate them share any well wishes.

Baccalaureate - May 20

Please Save the Date and encourage all SYV Graduating Seniors and their Families to Attend. Any seniors that would like to speak, sing, play music, dance or do a skit are encouraged to do so, but, it is not mandatory.

Baccalaureate
Sunday, May 20
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Presbyterian Church, Ballard

Baccalaureate is a celebration of the students' lives and of God's blessing for the future of our graduates. All Graduating Seniors from the Valley, along with their family, friends and community members, are invited to attend Baccalaureate. There will be a reception following with light refreshments

Graduation



Congratulations to our graduates listed below. If there is someone who should be included, please contact Kristyl in the Church Office. We will print those names in the June Beacon.

High School

Owen Andersen, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School
Kurt Beehler, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School
Justin Berry, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School
Eddie Lundberg, Orcutt Academy
Sarah Puder, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

College

Emma Andersen, Cal Poly - Bachelor's Degree
Russell Beehler, Chico University - Bachelor's Degree
Justin Jonas, University of Oregon - Bachelor's Degree
Colin Schoen, University of California, Berkeley - Bachelor's Degree
Kyle Schoen, University of Texas, Austin - Bachelor's Degree

Other Programs

Brett Beehler, Allan Hancock College Fire Academy
Mike Anderson, 2nd part of B-52 training, Shreveport, Louisiana

Pentecost - May 20

Pentecost is May 20, when we, as a church celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created.

During the service that day we will hear people "speaking in tongues." If you would like to read a scripture reading in another language, please contact Diana Boltz during worship before May 20. She and Ruth Plambeck will get a reading to you.

Church Business

Treasurer's Report March 2018

Balance Sheet:

The checking account balance in the general operating fund shows a negative balance of \$1,823. This is largely due to the payment of the airline tickets for the Houston youth trip. The cash for the trip is currently in the designated fund account and should be moved over this month.

The Money market fund went down slightly as the Farstrup-Mortensen lecture series had \$5,395 in income and \$8,549 in expenses.

All liabilities are current, with no debt, with the exception of the normal pension liability of \$2,291.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

Offerings for the month were below budget by \$194 for the month. For the first three months, offerings were \$1,565 below budget or 97% of budget.

Other income for the month was up by \$1,347, and total income for the month was up by \$1,025. Total income for the first three months was up by \$12,501. However, of that amount, \$6,973 was for special benevolence and was paid out in prior months.

Facility use receipts were over budget for the month by \$1,396.

Expenses:

Salary and benefits were slightly over budget by \$328. This also included a guest pastor stipend of \$375 (paid in March, but not realized until April). For the first three months the salary & benefits were at 96% of budget. Staff expenses were within budget. Office administration was on budget for the month and were at 86% of budget for the first three months.

Property expenses were up for the month by \$772 largely due to some outside maintenance expenses for the church. However, for the first three months the expenses are at 907% of budget. Utilities for the month were under budget by \$339. For the first three months, utilities were over budget by \$1,139 largely due to increased electrical and natural gas usage during the first two months of very cold weather.

All other expenses were either at or below budget for the month and below budget for the first three months with the exception of the youth fund, which spent \$3,674 for the Houston servant trip (airfare).

Overall:

Bethania's members continue to support the mission and ministry through their stewardship. We are blessed to have faithful members and staff who truly show the love of Jesus to our community.

- Ron Walsh, Treasurer

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

For prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Denise Birkholm... Denise died April 6, 2018.

A memorial will be held on May 19, 2018 at 11 am at Nojoqui Falls Park Area B with lunch following. Please RSVP on Facebook Denise Birkholm Memorial event or email erikabirkholm@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to Viking Charities, the Solvang Danish Days Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Andy Blanton, Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Ruth Jackson, Else Statom, Clay Tremblay-McGaw, Chris Walsh

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Joe & Pat Bode, Barbara Boyd, Angela Cerda, Annette Clausen, Mary Conners, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, David Eck, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Pat Green, Erling Grumstrup, Kathy Hackler, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Chris Kaping, Kate Knotts, Duane Lamberton, Stephanie Larrabee, Ethel Litwiler, Betsy & Steve Logan, Rick Marzullo, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Denny Norrenbrock, Marie Ostertag, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Jean Stelling, Jesse Tovar, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

Church Bulletin Board

I hope that many of you have enjoyed the pictures of activities around Bethania that have been posted on our Bulletin Board in the narthex of the church this past year. I have tried to get pictures of most of the many events at, or sponsored by the church, to highlight them. However, it is impossible for me to make it to every event held at Bethania, so if you or your group has an event, I would very much appreciate it if you would find someone who could take pictures and then send them to me by email. I want to be able to highlight the wonderful things that we at Bethania do and sponsor so that our members, our visitors, and everyone who comes in to the church can see what a vibrant and active congregation this is.

My email is: mm103larsen@comcast.net

If you have pictures from an event, please share them with me so that I can, in turn, share them on our Bulletin Board.

**Thank you so much,
Marilyn Larsen**

Live Generously

One of our Bethania and Thrivent Financial benefit members recently asked me if one could direct Thrivent Choice Dollars each year. The answer is "Yes." See below for details.

One of the benefits of having Thrivent Financial products is that, as a brotherhood society, it shares its brotherhood tax benefits, thus modeling "Live Generously" through its charitable giving. It is a major financial contributor to Habitat for Humanity and enables Thrivent members to volunteer on Habitat builds worldwide. Also, members indicate charitable organizations they favor for direct Thrivent charitable giving via national level periodic surveys.

At the individual member level, Thrivent enables members to "Live Generously" in two ways. Benefit members' products generate Thrivent Choice Dollars each calendar year so one needs to periodically check "My Thrivent Account" online (thrivent.com) or by phone (1-800-847-4836) and ask Thrivent to "direct" available Dollars to your favorite charities enrolled in this program. You must "spend" a given year's Dollars by March 31 of the following year. Local eligible charities include Bethania, Bethania Preschool and Solvang Lutheran Home.

A second program in which any Thrivent member can participate is Thrivent Action Team Grants. Bethania's Thrivent members have filled out a simple application online to obtain these grants for the following church charitable projects: Hike for Hunger, Preschool Playground Equipment, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Personal and School Kits, Halloween Party, Iglesia Christmas Angel and Refrigerator projects. The team is volunteers helping with each project. The \$250 grant is not directly applied as a cash contribution, but is used to buy materials, food, flyers, etc. for the fundraising or service activity.

Please call me (693-1386) if you need help with Choice Dollars or Action Team Grants. To learn more about Thrivent's 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.

- Nancy Emerson, Thrivent Congregational Advocate

Live-Streaming

At 9:30 am Sundays we worship together at Bethania. We also live stream the service so people at Atterdag Village can see it. We make bulletins so they can follow along. The streaming is available at the different levels of care at Atterdag. You can also live-stream the service on a computer or device whether you're at home or traveling. Please let your friends and family know this service is available. Simply go to YouTube and search for Bethania Church, Solvang. You can also see past recordings.

Pantry Items

Some items in the kitchen pantry seem to be no longer needed or used. Please review the list below and let Kristyl in the Church Office know if there are items that need to be kept. If you would like to view the items, they are currently being stored at the far end of the pantry. After May 15th, the items will be disposed of.

- Small green plastic coffee maker
- 3 Institutional size pots and assorted lids
- 2 Electric roasters
- Three section insert for oval chafing dish
- Plastic shoe boxes
- Hot air popcorn maker
- Punch bowl ladle
- Chocolate fondue fountain
- Electric ice cream maker
- Large glass vases
- Glass dessert plates and cups

Thank-You's

Dear Pastor Chris and Congregation of Bethania Lutheran Church,

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication towards Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. We appreciate all the work and effort that was put into helping us get a new refrigerator. We would like to especially thank Kristyl Downey and Linda Marzullo for making this wonderful miracle happen. May the Lord Jesus Chris keep blessing you greatly! Thank you very much!

Blessings always,

Pastor Esteban Salazar
Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

"I will send down showers in season: there will be showers of blessings." **Ezekiel 34:26**

Last Note

We had a perfect picture day for the Hike-For Hunger, April 22. Walking was cool, weather beautiful, the food delicious, games fun-all surrounded by nature. If you sponsored someone on the hike, please submit your donation to Kristyl in the Church Office or via the Sunday offering. Proceeds benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Photos



Left: The Last Dinner Church



Youth and Families Hike at Sedgwick Ranch



Above: Hike-For-Hunger
Livier and Bubble Blowing Challenge



Left: Rick Ineman -
Cook Extraordinaire



Above: Pool Noodle Fight, Pt. 1
Right: Enjoying the BBQ



Left: Dave Brown, Vesper and Dominique Ghamari find some shade.

Right: Sack Race



Left: Who will blow a bubble first?



May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Rm BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool OFC = Office Church	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang	1	2 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	3 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH	4	5
6 Confirmation 9:30 am Worship:CH 10:45 am Coffee Hour:PH 5 pm Sunday School: Rm 6 5 pm Koinonia: FR	7 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	8 2 pm Book Group: PH	9 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm 12:45 pm Quilting: PH Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	10 9 am Conf. Clergy Mtg 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	11	12
13 Mother's Day 9:30 am Worship: CH 10:45 am Coffee Hour:PH 5 pm Sunday School: Rm 6 5 pm Koinonia: FR	14 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	15	16 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	17 10:30 am Communion: AV 10:30 am Gather Bible Study:AV 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH 7 pm Council Meeting: FR	18	19 11 am Gathering for Denise Birkholm: Nojoqui Falls Park
20 Pentecost Wear red! 9:30 am Worship & Honoring Seniors:CH 3 pm Baccalaureate: Presby. Church 5 pm Sunday School: Rm 6 5 pm Koinonia: FR	21 Beacon Deadline 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	22	23 9 am "Support the Troops":PH 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	24 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 3-5 pm Youth Group:FR 5 pm Sunday School: Rm 6 5 pm Koinonia: FR	28 Memorial Day-The Church Office and BPSAS are closed. 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	29	30 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel: CH 7 pm Choir:FR	31 12 noon-2 pm Jodi House:PH		

THE BEACON

May 2018

Bethania Lutheran Church
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Preschool/After School
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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

Confirmation - May 6
Mother's Day - May 13
Pentecost & Celebrating
Graduates - May 20



Bouquet of Flowers: By Flor4UIWolfgang RothBlumenwerkstatt Roth - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8823360>