

The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
1-805-688-4637
www.bethanialutheran.net

August 2018

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
email: bethanialutheranch@gmail.com



Pastor Chris's Message



The gospel is not a private announcement to private individuals about how to go to heaven when you die. The gospel is a public announcement to the whole world proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven has come and that God is now reigning over the nations through his Son Jesus Christ. – Brian Zahnd

I'm not sure what meaning you take from the above quote, but to help out, I'll tell you this about it: this quote isn't so much about how one chooses to interpret the Bible as much as it is about context – and context is everything!

This short quote from Reverend Brian Zahnd of Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, Missouri says more about how far our society has come from the time in which the New Testament was written than all of Luther's writings combined.

I would like you to wonder for yourself about the individualistic assumptions you've carried with you about our faith throughout your life. If you could even take a journey back in time and reflect on your assumptions about the work that God, especially God in Christ, has been doing and continues to do in our world. Do you find that you have assumed that Christ's purpose was about individual salvation? That God's grace is a gift given to each individual? That our response to that grace is about our own individual choices? If you've answered yes to any of these, as I have to all of them, odds are you have been raised in a faith that is a product of our own context, which celebrates the individual over the community. This isn't good or bad; it just is.

2,000 years ago this kind of assumption did not exist. Individualism was not a concept in the minds of those in antiquity, namely because to be an individual was death and to be part of a community was the key to survival. Everything written, learned, and understood in antiquity would have been from a communal mindset rather than an individual one. The directives from God, from the prophets, from Jesus would have been unquestionably for the communities who were sharing them and not the individuals living within them.

This might seem like a trite detail, but its implications are massive; so massive that our faith has been shaped more by this taken-for-granted detail than most anything else. Consider this: when Jesus tells us to love our neighbor, or give up our coat and give it to the poor, or to care for the orphan and widow, or to believe in him and receive the Bread of Life, or not to judge one another, or to forgive, or that the least among us will be the greatest, or that whoever lives by the sword dies by the sword (this list can go on and on), Jesus is not speaking to

us individually, but to us as a community. And not just us at Bethania, but every Christian across the world.

At some point, the Christian faith in the Western part of the world adopted the individualistic, consumerist model of its environment. People became less concerned about their community and more concerned about their individual salvation, heaven became less about a lived experience the community is called to know and more about a destination each individual is called to strive for, and the needs of the community, within which Christ calls us to experience his presence, fell to the wayside while the need of the individual took precedence.

Now here's the real ticker: imagine how different our world might be if we kept this communal understanding. Imagine the difference if we, as Christian-majority nations, took Christ's commands as communal commands, and not individual ones. Imagine how much we could have helped our communities if we pooled our human power and loved one another, together. It gives me chills thinking about it.

There's no time limit on when to start and the best place to start is with awareness. I'd be curious to know how this shapes your own understanding of your faith as you start to encounter God's word with this lens. And I'd be curious to know how this might give you a different call with how to interact with the world.

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

End of the Summer BBQ

Our annual End of the Summer BBQ will be Aug. 19th after the 9:30 service! Please join us once again for a time of fellowship, burgers and hot dogs, games, a bounce house, and hopefully a slip 'n' slide for the kids. As always, please bring a salad to share. If you would like to help out with setup, takedown, or serving/preparing food, please contact Pastor Chris.

See you all there!

New Worship Format Coming



Mark your calendars! We are starting our new worship format on Sept. 16. Our current 9:30 service will be at **9 am**, and we'll be adding a second service at **11am**. At **10 am** we'll have coffee hour, Sunday School, and Adult Forum. Make sure you're aware of the changes so you can participate in our new format! This is exciting news that we talked about at our last Congregational Meeting, so please make sure you're aware of the time change. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Worship Helpers Needed!

As most of you know, we'll be starting a new worship format after the summer session is over. Our current morning service will be moving to **9:00 am** and we'll be adding a second morning service at **11:00 am**. Between both services will be coffee hour, adult forum, and Sunday School. Our church is growing and we're ready to accommodate a more vibrant worship schedule, but we really need your help. We can't do this successfully with only a few people, so we're looking for different gifts our members can share! Below is a list of roles we need help filling for our upcoming service format. If you can help with any of these please let pastor know as soon as possible.

Ushers	Readers	Welcome Team	Cantors
Worship Assistants	Bread Bakers	Sunday School Teachers	

My request as you think about helping is to remember, I, as pastor, am not Bethania - you are! We are people of many gifts and talents and Christ calls us to use those talents to bring God's love and grace to our community and this world. None of the above roles are weekly and whatever help you can give would be amazing! I'm so happy we're moving back into such a vibrant format, but to stay vibrant, we'll need your help, so please prayerfully consider how you would like to help out and let me know.

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

11am Family Service

Starting on Sept. 16 we will be adding a Family Service every Sunday at 11am. It will be a traditional style service with a welcoming space for children to hang out and a Children's Lesson at the beginning of every service. Please share with any friends and family members about our second service and its time!

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

Hello Bethania,

Houston was amazing!! What a meaningful and powerful trip we were able to experience together. We thank you all for your support in helping us get there. I am currently making a slideshow to present during a coffee hour after church. Please join us Sunday August 5th in the Parish Hall as we share some photos and stories of our days in Houston.

Confirmation will formally reconvene Sunday, Sept. 9th in the Fireside Room. Incoming sixth graders are welcome to join our class this fall. Please contact me to be added to the roster. Over the summer we plan to go on several trips and outings.

End of Summer BBQ will be Sunday, Aug. 19th. We happily encourage children and families to come enjoy some delicious food and community. I'll be hosting some water games on the grass as well to beat the heat.

See you all at church and throughout our community,

Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
[\(909\) 962-9366](tel:9099629366)
livierghamari@yahoo.com

Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Here's an incredible way that you can help out! We need Sunday School teachers for our new Sunday School program! We have a new curriculum that will be easy to follow and kids will thrive in this new engaging class. But we really need your help to make it a success and include more of our families around the community. Please consider helping out with Sunday School. The more teachers we have sign up, the better of a rotation we can use! Please help out and be a part of the seeds of faith that are planted. If you can help out with Sunday School, please contact Livier Brown at (909) 962-9366, or at livierghamari@yahoo.com.

Sunday School is Coming!

Sunday School is starting up again on Sept. 16 at 10am. We have an awesome new curriculum that incorporates Bible stories, arts & crafts, and games in an engaging environment that kids are sure to love. Sunday School will be for children ages 2 to 5th grade, so register now! To register, call (805) 688-4637. And please tell your friends and family!

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Noisy Sunday is Coming: Aug. 26th Help us with "Day of Service" Projects

Our next Noisy Sunday will be Aug. 26. We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items for our "Day of Service" projects. This year we are boosting our efforts to make a difference in our community and our world by assembling Personal Care Kits, School Kits, Blessing Bags and Brown Bag Breakfasts for Seniors (see related article). Remember to save the date of Sept. 9th and invite community friends to attend and support this effort!

Help us purchase some of the items needed by tossing your change into the bucket on Noisy Offering Sunday, Aug. 26th.

We also ask you to consider contributing other needed items. (See related article which includes lists of needed items.) Collection area will be in the Parish Hall or you can drop items at the church office.

Our "Day of Service" projects will make a difference in lives here in the Santa Ynez Valley and around the world. Please consider donating items in addition to giving us some of your change. Together, we can "change" our world, one coin at a time.

– Linda Marzullo

Day of Service Items Needed!

Our "Day of Service," an ELCA-wide event focusing on the needs of our communities and our world, is coming in September. We will be collecting items this summer for assembly of Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits, School Supplies, Blessing Bags and Brown Bag Breakfasts for Seniors.

Personal Care Kits help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence, and living in extreme poverty. When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything to natural or man-made disasters.

School Kits are given to children to help them have the supplies to be able to attend school. Imagine having to choose between eating a meal or purchasing a notebook. In the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Blessing Bags are items that will help the homeless or those in transition through a rough patch without a permanent shelter.

Brown Bag Breakfasts will be assembled to make sure that Seniors who are in financial need or who require assistance with meals have something to eat for breakfast. Many medications must be taken with food in the morning.

Here are the items we are collecting. Watch for sales and help us stock up!

Items needed are:

For Personal Care Kits:

Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20"x40" & 27"x52"), dark colors preferred

Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)

Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging – bulk buys can be repackaged by us)

Comb, sturdy wide toothed

Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

For School Supply Kits:

Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)
 Ballpoint Pens (not gel) – Blue or Black ink

Pencil sharpeners
 Blunt tip scissors

For Blessing Bags (items must fit in large ziplock bag)

Socks (wool or thermal preferred)
 Band-aids (big ones to cover blisters are nice)
 EmergenC, Airborne, chewable multivitamins
 Tuna/chicken salad cracker kits
 Tissues
 Wet wipes (individually packaged)
 Breakfast bars or cereal bars (soft is better)
 Peanut Butter crackers
 Snack cups/applesauce/pudding cups
 Water, juice boxes

Gloves that can be layered
 Deodorant
 Lip balm/chapstick
 Sunscreen
 Toothbrush and toothpaste
 Beef Jerky
 Mints or Gum
 Raisins/dried fruit
 Lotion

For Brown Bag Breakfasts:

Small boxes of Cereal or Oatmeal
 Small juices, such as Sunny Delight or V8

Muffins (closer to the event)

Bring your items to the donation box by the Sunday School office or to the church office.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 805-688-5219 or via email: vikingsprint@verizon.net

Where are we on the Produce Table?

As of July 29th you have generously donated \$1,127.29 to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Program. These funds provide baby chicks, pigs, sheep, goats, clean water wells and fruit trees to people around the world. Recipients are also trained on how to utilize these “good gifts”.

We still need volunteers to man the table on: Aug. 12, 26, Sept. 2, 16, and onward.

This easy job entails setting up the table, helping bag people's choices, and counting and turning in the funds collected at the end of the coffee hour. It is a fun and enjoyable way to help out each week during the growing season. You can sign up to cover the table for a Sunday by calling Carolyn Petersen (688-6243).

Clean plastic bags are still needed for our “shoppers” to take home their produce. Please bring them to the table on Sunday or deliver to the office.

Don't forget to check out what's available on the Produce Table before you head home from Church or on your way to the coffee hour after the service. Donate whatever you choose towards the produce and other delicious items available.

Soon we will also be needing help harvesting at Carolynn's garden on Wednesdays and/or Saturdays. If you are able to help with the harvest, let Carolynn know.

Check your garden and ask your neighbors for items to share...and help us fight World Hunger!

“We Support the Troops” Donation Collection Day Saturday, Aug. 18th, 9 am-2 pm in the Parish Hall

We are hosting a Donation Collection Day on Saturday, Aug.18th, from 9 am-2 pm for SYV We Support The Troops. On the fourth Wednesday of each month, Santa Ynez Valley We Support the Troops Inc. prepares approximately 100 “care packages” for American service members stationed in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and South Korea. The group is looking for donations to help them meet the needs of soldiers serving overseas.

The recipients are usually but not always connected to someone from the Santa Ynez Valley, whether it's a relative, a friend or a co-worker. Troop members send letters requesting things such as jerky, wet wipes, shampoo and body wash, batteries, and sanitary items for women. The current list is also available at their website www.we-support-the-troops.org. or at <https://www.bethanialutheran.net>.

Since 2004, “We Support the Troops” has been providing the care packages at no cost to our men and women in military service. This all-volunteer effort is charged with soliciting the generous donations of supporters, purchasing the necessary goods desired, packaging and mailing to our troops. Each box sent includes a personal letter. 100% of donated funds are used to support this effort.

Volunteers gather on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Bethania to prepare and pack the boxes to be shipped. Volunteers are always welcome; contact Caro Stinson at 805-245-4951.

Wish List for Care Packages

Ground Coffee (bags, 8-16 ounces)	Beef Jerky (any flavor)
Mixed Nuts, Pistachios, Almonds, Cashews	Protein bars (individually wrapped)
Healthy snack bars (individually wrapped)	Gum
Hard Candy (no chocolate)	Chapstick or Lip Balm
Drink mix to flavor water (individual serving packets)	5-Hour Energy Shots (1.93 oz)
Sunscreen (up to 6 oz, non-aerosol)	Shampoo (up to 6 oz)
Conditioner (up to 6 oz)	Deodorant (up to 6 oz, non-aerosol)
Personal or Baby wipes (singles/30 count packs or less)	Soap bars
Toothbrushes (individually packaged)	Toothpaste
Bath Gel (up to 6 oz)	Body Lotion (up to 6 oz)
Hand Sanitizer (up to 6 oz)	Feminine hygiene products
Foot Powder (up to 6 oz)	Batteries (AA, AAA, C or D)
Anti-fungal Foot Powder or Cream (no aerosol)	
Boot Socks (black or brown crew length)	

All items must be unopened in original containers.

No aerosol products.

Keep in mind the boxes used to send the items to soldiers are: 12" x 12" x 5 ½" inches – items must fit inside (Large Priority Mail box)

Out and About...

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!**

"19 in 90 Campaign"

As many of you know, Bethania's sanctuary celebrated its 90th birthday on July 8th. To honor our church's historic building, we are kicking off the "19 in 90 Campaign" in which we will raise \$19,000 in 90 days to refurbish our church pews. We're asking the congregation to sponsor a pew, which costs \$600 to refurbish. This can be done per member, family, or co-sponsoring a pew and it can be done in honor of a loved one, in memoriam of a loved one, or just because. We will also be putting in plaques for anyone who sponsors or co-sponsors a pew, which can be written in honor of a loved one or family. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris. As of Aug. 7, we have 15 of 32 pews covered by donations. Let's keep up the good work!

Theo Pub

Theology Pub meets Aug. 9 at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company. Eat, drink and share your views.

Book Group

Aug. 14 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall

We are reading Introduction and Chapters 1-3 of How (Not) to Speak of God by Peter Rollins. He is the founder of the Ikon community in Northern Ireland.

Gather Bible Study

The Gather Bible Study will be held on Thursday, Aug. 16 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge on the campus of Atterdag Village. The topic is "The Expressions of Prayer", based on Romans 8:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. The study is printed in the July/August Gather magazine pp. 38-42. Come and join us!

Organ Concert

Danish Days is around the corner...**Sept. 14-16, 2018** and Bethania will feature Jim Welch for an organ concert on Saturday, Sept. 15. Jim Welch has performed here for Danish Days for several years. We welcome him once again this year. See the September Beacon for more information.

St. Paul's 4th Missionary Journey

Pastor Russ and Jeanie Gordon are hosting a cruise of the Mediterranean aboard the Norwegian Jade, along with Bishop Guy Erwin, departing **Sept. 11, 2019**. Stops include Rome, Malta, Mykonos, Santorini, Athens, Corinth, and more. Bishop Erwin will be offering evening lectures on St. Paul's 4th Missionary Journey. Brochures are in the narthex or church office. Or contact Pastor Russ at 805-704-2199 for more info.

Church Business

Treasurer's Report June 2018

Balance Sheet:

The cash position is significantly lower than the \$10,000 threshold we would like to see on the balance sheet in the general checking account. You will also note that the money market fund has dropped by nearly \$15,000. This is due to the significant expenditures we experienced in the month of June. We purchased the new stoves (over \$7,500) remodeled the boys bathroom (approximately \$4,700), remodeled the girls bathroom (\$2,200), and did some electrical repairs. The reduction in the cash in the money market fund is offset by the increase in the fixed assets of the church.

All liabilities are current with the exception of the normal pension liability.

In spite of the reduction of the cash, the balance sheet remains healthy.

Profit and Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

Offerings for the month were \$2,335 below budget, but are at 99% of the year to date.

Other income was \$1,100 over budget for the month and \$8,000 over for the first 6 months.

Other receipts were over budget by \$657 for the month.

Overall income for the month was \$559 below budget for the month, but we are at 113% of budget for the first six months.

Expenses:

Salary and benefits for the month was \$975 below budget, and for the first six months at 97% of budget.

Staff expenses were well controlled at 87% of budget for the first six months.

Office administration was below budget by \$233 for the month, and at 93% of budget for the first six months.

Property expenses were below budget for the month, but are 105% of the budget for the year. Due largely to increased repairs and property taxes.

Utilities were below budget by \$337, but are still at 105% of budget for the year.

Youth committee expenses were significantly over budget due to the Houston trip, but funds were contributed for that purpose and therefore offset the expenses.

Overall expenses for the month exceeded income by nearly \$5,000, however total income for the first six months exceeded expenses by \$7,000.

Overall:

Bethania continues to be a blessing to the community, to its members, and to the world. While offerings were down for the month of June, that is fairly normal for us. We all need to be mindful that the church's expenses continue through vacation periods, and that we depend on our members generous support for our mission.

- Ron Walsh

Next Social Ministry Meeting Monday, Aug. 13th, 6:00 pm, Church Office

At our July meeting we discussed the progress of our different activities and focused on the following upcoming events:

Donation Drop-Off Day — Saturday, Aug. 18th – 9 am - 2 pm for SYV We Support the Troops at the Parish Hall. This group sends care packages monthly to deployed military. To view the list of items needed, check their website (www.we-support-the-troops.org) or elsewhere in the Beacon or the church's website for a current list. Letters to our soldiers are always welcome!

Day of Service - Sunday, Sept. 9th, 10:45 am. We will be packing School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Blessing Bags (for homeless and transitioning families), and possibly Brown Bag Breakfasts for Seniors. DonationS Needed – see requested items in the Beacon and on our website.

We are working hard on getting the “Blessing Box” ministry up and running this month. Give a blessing, take a blessing – if you can give canned goods to support our shelf ministry, please drop them by the office. We will need to stock our “box” when it is completed.

Pastor Chris reported on the Youth bringing our donations to support “Farmers to the Youth Gathering” in Houston and the emotional interactive displays that were featured. Thank you to all who helped by contributing to the Noisy Offering for this event.

We have been discussing areas of need in the SYV. A large need is for Meals on Wheels Drivers (both Buellton and Solvang), and help for Pam Gnekow at the Buellton Senior Center. If you can help, contact the church office or the Senior Center.

If you are interested in making a difference in the world, think about attending the next Social Ministry meeting on **Aug. 13th at 6:00** in the evening, in the church office. We would love to have input from anyone interested and we welcome all who are interested. We also love having your support, so read the Beacon for ways to help.

Help us 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

“Thank You’s”

To Bethania:

My family and I would like to thank the congregation at Bethania for allowing us to celebrate my 90th birthday, the 90th anniversary of my baptism and Bethania's Dedication Anniversary (July 8, 1928) on Sunday July 8, 2018. It was a memorable day!

Growing up in Solvang and the Lutheran church has always been so special to me. I'm grateful my parents, Emil and Hulfred Jensen, chose to settle there in 1927.

Affectionately,
Else Jensen Statom

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

For Comfort during grief for the family and loves ones of...

Curtis Lee - Curtis died July 4. The Service Remembering and Celebrating his life was here at Bethania on July 11.

Joe Bode - Joe died recently. His service was held July 27 at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Bruce Beeler, Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Marlo & Summer Cochrane, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Joe Downey, Marion Hallum, Barbara Kargard, Bobby McGee, Nancy Waite and Lou Vitelli

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Andy Blanton, Pat Bode, Barbara Boyd, Angela Cerda, Annette Clausen, David Eck, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Pat Green, Kathy Hackler, Glen Jacobsen, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Chris Kaping, Kate Knotts, Duane Lamberton, Ethel Litwiler, Betsy & Steve Logan, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Roger Myers, Denny Norrenbrock, Sue Mauk Olsen, Marie Ostertag, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Robin Schatan, Else Statom, Stephanie Statom, Jean Stelling, Jesse Tovar, Chris Walsh, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman



August 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CH = Church PH = Parish Hall FR = Fireside Rm BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool OFC = Office	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang		1	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship:CH 10:45 am Coffee Hour:PH 10:45 am Produce Table:Breezeway 5 pm Koinonia: FR	6 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	7 7 pm Yoga:PH	8 12:45 pm Quilting: PH	9 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship: CH 10:45 am Coffee Hour:PH 10:45 am Produce Table:Breezeway 5 pm Koinonia: FR	13 6 pm Social Ministry Mtg:OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	14 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Yoga:PH	15 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC	16 10:30 am Communion, Gather Bible Study:AV 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship:CH 10:45 am Produce Table:Breezeway 11 am Annual BBQ 2 pm FMLS Mtg: FR 5 pm Koinonia: FR	20 Beacon Deadline 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	21 7 pm Yoga:PH	22 9 am "Support the Troops":PH 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering: CH 10:45 am Coffee Hour:PH 10:45 am Produce Table:Breezeway 5 pm Koinonia: FR	27 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	28 7 pm Yoga:PH	29 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC	30	31	

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bethanialutheranch@gmail.com
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Preschool/After School
1-(805)688-7077
bethaniaps@verizon.net



Annual Church BBQ
Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018
11 am - Bring a salad to share.