

# The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
1-805-688-4637  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

# October 2018

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



## Context is Everything



### Did you know...

- The story of Cain and Abel is really a story about shepherding being replaced by farming in civilization?
- There are about 5 different authors of Genesis?
- Every time you read the word "hell", the actual word is Gehenna and it was a dumpsite outside of Jerusalem where lepers lived and found food?
- Of the 13 letters attributed to Paul, only 7 were actually written by him, and the other 6 were written in his name after he died?
- The Book of Revelation is not about the end of the world, but instead

is a commentary against the Roman Empire?

While there are minimal implications in some of these facts, there are much greater implications in how we read others. For example, the apocalypse genre in antiquity was highly allegorical and often used colorful language about God's powers toward those of the world. Its author, John of Patmos (not the same as John the disciple – more context!), was writing to Christians to remind them that God comes out victorious through the death of Christ against all oppressive forces on Earth. While many have taken this as a letter of fear and trepidation, it is actually a letter of hope for those experiencing persecution. That is why African slaves in America gravitated towards its message of victory and why so many African Christian songs use language from Revelation. The same can be said of people in Latin America in the 1970s and 80s.

However, among predominately Anglo-European people Revelation was interpreted as this manuscript for the coming end of the world. This might seem like simple fantasy, but because of this misreading of the last book of the Bible, actual American Foreign Policy towards the Middle East has been affected. Among Evangelicals, there is the belief that Israel needs to be restored to borders described in the Bible prior to Israel's defeat and exile by Babylon in the 6th century BCE, in order for the apocalypse to commence. For anyone who has read about the controversy over Jewish settlements in the West Bank, a lot of support for these settlements from Americans is founded in interpreting Revelation in this way. While I fully support Israel and its citizens' right to exist peacefully, I also believe God's desire is for humanity to coexist peacefully. I also fundamentally believe God weeps at the mistreatment of any person based on not reading the Bible in its own context.

My overall point is that there is a lot of weight in how we read this 2,000-year-old book. We all read the Bible subjectively, but there are great and sometimes grave consequences to those interpretations. What I hope to leave you with this month is not an overwhelming sense

when approaching your own reading of the Bible, but rather a new hope in how you read it. Every time you read scripture, ask yourself, "Who wrote this?", "Who were they writing to?", and "What was happening in their world when they wrote it?". Any New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Study Bible will give you the answers to these questions. You'll also find that these three questions not only change the way you read the Bible, but will also change how the Bible affects your perspective on life today. My ultimate hope is that you'll discover how alive God's Word truly is today!

**Pastor Chris Brown**

## **Blessing of the Animals**

Join us for our annual Blessing of the Animals  
Sunday, Oct. 7 at 4:30 pm!



Bring your animals, large or small, a stuffed animal, a picture,  
or a memento to remember.



Gathering at 4:30 pm  
Short service at 5 pm  
Refreshments to follow



## Ministry at Bethania

### Youth and Family Ministry

**Hello, Bethania,**

We are transitioning Confirmation into more of a Youth Group format. So our past students and incoming students can grow together. Students will still have the opportunity to be Confirmed at the end of their two year completion.

The acolyte sign-up sheet is available. Please contact me on which Sundays your child will not be able to attend. It is a fun and meaningful way for your pre-teens and teens to be involved in a church service. All youth group members are encouraged to sign up for this upcoming quarter.

Confirmation~Youth Group will be meeting Sunday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> in the Fireside Room from 3 pm-5 pm. Our trip to the local Escape Room has been rescheduled to Sunday Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> from 1pm-4pm. We plan to indulge in some snacks at a local eatery after. We will meet in the Bethania parking lot and walk into downtown, I hope to return to the parking lot by then if we "escape" in time.

Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Bethania Halloween Party! We encourage all youth and families to join in the fun, plus think of all that candy! We appreciate volunteers at the games, set-up in the days prior and take down the next day.

October is one of our fundraising months. We want to go to Minneapolis, MN in 2021 for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Our goal is \$1,200/per attendant. More on that soon!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

"Stop being afraid of what could go wrong, focus on what could go right"

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

### **Bethania Preschool and After School Fall Fundraising Event** **Get ready to Pick a Pumpkin!**

The children of the school have put their knuckles to the grindstone to produce pumpkins for our "Pick a Pumpkin" Chart. The way this works is individuals pick a numbered pumpkin off the chart and donate that amount of money to the fundraising event. The chart is numbered 1 – 100; if the number you wish to donate is taken we will accept multiple amounts for the same number or be creative and add numbers together! The money raised will go towards painting the classrooms, curriculum supplies and school age sports equipment. If all



the numbers are picked from our chart we will raise more than \$5,000! The chart will be up during the month of October and available on Sundays after Church. All pledged funds due by Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

There will be pledge cards to fill out on the chart, simply take your chosen pumpkin off the chart and write your name where the pumpkin was, then fill out a pledge card or place your contribution in the box in an envelope provided by the chart. We thank you for your participation in this event to improve our facility

and provide new experiences for the children.

## **Wanted: Simple Communion Bread Bakers**

No, we do not think the baker is simple but the communion bread recipe is **really** simple and quick to do. So, please join our four communion bread makers. One of us will be happy to show you this fail proof, no knead, no rise bread recipe and how to make it if you will just call or e-mail me at 805-693-1386 or [fnemerson@comcast.net](mailto:fnemerson@comcast.net).

- Nancy Emerson

## **Ministry in the Community and Around the World**

### **Next Social Ministry Meeting**

**Monday, Oct. 8th, 6:00 pm, Church Office**

If you are interested in making a difference in the world, think about attending the next Social Ministry meeting on Oct. 8 at 6:00 in the evening in the church office. We would love to have input and we welcome all who are interested. We also love having your support, so read the Beacon for ways to help.

Upcoming projects and areas of need:

- Blessing Box – Building box, Publicity, Stocking
- Assisting with Meals at Buellton Senior Center
- Bell Ringers for Salvation Army (December)
- Angel Gifts/Christmas Angel Wrap Day
- Setting next assembly/gathering event

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

**805-688-5219, 805-688-3059 or [vikingspressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingspressprint@verizon.net)**



## Helping Hands + Donated Supplies = WOW! “Day of Service”

Thanks to everyone who donated items, contributed to our Noisy Offerings, shopped, sorted, or helped with assembly day on Sept. 9. We completed 233 School Kits and over 108 Personal Care Kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief, and from their warehouses to people in need around the world. We completed 106 Senior Brown Bag Breakfasts for seniors in Buellton, and 90 “Blessing Bags” for the homeless and those in transition. Thanks to all of you!



Each and every one of us who contributed in some way to the completion of these projects is making a difference to the person who receives the kit. Your hands were in direct contact with someone in need, through the volunteer time and effort you put in, however large or small. Thank you all for your support of this important event.

To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. The purchase of the backpacks (which are what the items are packed into) as well as towels for the Personal Care Kits and some of the other contents of all types of kits was made possible through funds received from Thrivent Financial.



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

If you have any questions about this or any of our Bethania projects, contact the church office or **Linda Marzullo at work: 805-688-5219 or via email: [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)**

## Noisy Sunday is coming: Oct. 28 Making Change for the Better

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Oct. 28. The offering from that day will be used to help cover the some of the costs associated with the annual Halloween Party.

Why do we need to ask for donations for the Halloween Party? Here's why: Bethania has no line-item budget to cover the expenses of the Halloween Party. This is the biggest outreach event to children and young families that we hold doing the year. While we usually “break

even” (and sometimes even manage to make a few dollars), we would like help from the congregation in furnishing the food items and some of the prizes for the children.

At the Halloween Party, we also support some type of community service project as part of the “entrance fee”. This helps the attendees remember that we are a church of outreach, in many different types of situations.

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

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

So bring your coins and make a noise on Oct. 28<sup>nd</sup>. Together, we can change so many things!

– Linda Marzullo

## Produce Table

### We are within \$100 of our \$2,000 Goal!

As of Sept. 23, you have generously donated \$1,904.01 at the table to take home a wonderful variety of flowers, fruits and vegetables! Our \$2,000 gift to **ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge** will be matched! All good news.

If you have been operating on “credit”, now is a good time to make your donation count.

When we hit our \$2,000 goal, proceeds from donations will be used to fund local needs. Please continue to donate both for the produce you take home as well as bringing produce to the table.



Alice Laufer helping at the Produce Table

Would you like to run the table for a Sunday morning? 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 one of the few remaining Sundays by calling **Carolynn Petersen, 805-688-6243**.

This Month at Bethania and More!!!!



# Halloween Party!

*Food, Friends & Fun - All are welcome!*  
**Saturday, Oct. 27**



**Bethania Lutheran Church**  
603 Atterdag Rd., Solvang  
**5:30 – 7:45 P.M.**

*Come in Costume!*

**Admission:**  
**\$5.00 per Person**  
**or \$20 per Family**  
**PLUS Canned Food Donation or Socks**  
**To Benefit those in Need**



- 🔦 Pizza Buffet Dinner (5:30-6:30) 🔦 Dessert
- 🔦 Free Carnival Games & Prizes! 🔦
- 🔦 Bounce House, Popcorn & Cotton Candy!
- 🔦 Crafts, Treat Bags & more 🔦 *Bring a friend!*

*Reservations are Strongly Encouraged - so we don't run out of Goodies!*



RSVP to Church Office: 805-688-4637  
[bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)

(Reservations help us plan – you are still welcome without a call in!)





# Your Help Needed for Bethania's 2018 Halloween Party!

The annual Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> – and it's coming soon. We need volunteers of all types and abilities, to help make our party for the little revelers a fun and safe event.

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



## **Before the event...**

Publicity - Putting Posters Up, Newspaper info



## **Thursday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – 6:00-8:00 pm**

Muscle Power Needed - to help move tables and large items



## **Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – 6:00-8:00 pm**

Decorate/Setup



## **Saturday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-7:45 pm**

Party Helpers

We need your help with: Running Booths & Games - Pizza Dinner -  
Taking Photos — your Attendance at the Event!



## **Sunday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> after Coffee/Education Hour**

Clean Up Crew

## **Other needs:**



Donation of Bags of Wrapped Candy or Prizes  
Personally inviting people with children to attend

If you can help or would like to make a donation towards party costs, please contact the Church Office at 805-688-4637 or [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com) or Linda Marzullo (805-688-5219 W; 805-688-3059 H; 805-451-5548 C) or [vikingsprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingsprint@verizon.net)

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

## **Theo Pub**

Theology Pub meets Thursday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Enjoy sharing a beer, appetizers and your thoughts at Solvang Brewing Company.

## **Book Group**

Join us in the Parish Hall at 2 pm on **Tuesday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>**. *Please note the change of date.* We are reading 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 Thursday, Oct. 18 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge at Atterdag Village. The focus is on our relationship with others. We explore how Jesus' call to repentance is a call to turn back to the ways of God's reign on earth: justice, peace and mercy for the neighbor and the community.

This Bible study is in the October 2018 "Gather" magazine, pp. 18-25.

## "19 in 90 Campaign"



As many of you know, Bethania's sanctuary celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday July 8<sup>th</sup>. To honor our church's historic building, we set-up the "19 in 90 Campaign" to raise \$19,000 in 90 days to refurbish our church pews. Our 90 days are almost up and **we have raised more than \$19,000!** *If you have made a pledge, please bring your check or money to the church office before Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> so we can tie up all the loose ends.*

## All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday is Nov. 4. During the worship services, we will be lighting candles in memory of our family members who died between Nov. 1, 2017 and Oct. 31, 2018. Diana Boltz and Ruth Plambeck will be contacting people to light the candle for their loved one. Candle-lighting will be done at the service of your choosing.

## Save these Dates!

**November** (no set date) - Iglesia Christmas Wish Lists become available

**Nov. 20** - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**Nov. 25** - Noisy Sunday Offering, benefitting Iglesia Christmas Angels Project

**Dec. 16** - Iglesia Christmas Party Wrap Day for Angels Project

## 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 August 2018

### **Balance Sheet:**

The cash position was in the negative at -\$2,371 at the end of the month. This was due to a drop in monthly income from the budgeted amount. While this is a concern, it is normal for the month of August to be lowest income of the year.

The money market fund was up by over \$6,000 due to the addition of the "19 in 90" campaign to refinish the pews. The fund is at \$88,917.00.

The remainder of the balance sheet accounts are stable compared to the previous month.

All accounts are current, and there is no indebtedness to the church.

The balance sheet remains strong.

### **Profit & Loss, Budget Performance:**

#### **Income:**

Offerings for the month were \$2,109 below budget. However, offerings for the first 8 months were at 99% of budget. This is noteworthy, as we normally see a reduction in income for the summer months.

Other income for the month was over budget and significantly over budget for the first 8 months (129% of budget).

Other receipts were below budget for the month but were over for the first 8 months.

Total income for the month was \$3,862 below budget. However, total income for the first 8 months was 107% of budget, \$198,381 compared to \$184,38 budgeted. (**Note:** the figure we show as below budget for the months explains the negative balance in the general checking for the month.)

#### **Expenses:**

Benevolences were on budget for the month, and over for the first 8 months.

Salaries & benefits were slightly below budget for the month and are at 98% of budget for the first 8 months.

Staff expenses were below budget for the month, and are at 79% of budget for the first 8 months.

Office administration expenses were below budget for the month (by \$173) and reflect 95% of budget for the first 8 months.

Property expenses were slightly below budget for the month, but were at 105% of budget for the first 8 months.

Utilities were under budget by \$157 for the month, but were over budget at 102% of budget for the first 8 months.

Christian Education was under budget for the month, but is 138% of budget for the first 8 months. This was due to the VBS expenses, but they were offset by the increase in income for VBS.

Worship & Music expenses were over budget for the first 8 months largely due to the organ maintenance line item.

Overall expenses for the month were below budget by \$1,850. However, for the first 8 months were at 107% of budget. This is offset by the 107% of income for the first 8 months.

**Overall:** Bethania continues to be a vibrant, healthy congregation. Our members support the ministries of the church and we are a blessing to the community and the world. Thanks be to God for all of our wonderful members and staff.

## **In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers**

**Immediate Prayer Concerns:** Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Marlo & Summer Cochrane, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, John Groh, Marion Hallum, Duane Lamberton, Betsy & Steve Logan, Bobby McGee, Sarah Monedero, Jean Stelling, Lou Vitelli, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad

**On-Going Prayer Concerns:** Andy Blanton, Pat Bode, Barbara Boyd, Angela Cerda, David Eck, George Eckman, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Pat Green, Kathy Hackler, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Kate Knotts, Ethel Litwiler, Brian Merrick, Daniel Morozov & Jesse Gonzalez, Marilyn Larsen, Denise Morris, Denny Norrenbrock, Marie Ostertag, Bill Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Else Statom, Stephanie Statom, Jesse Tovar, Nancy Waite, Chris Walsh, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

# Bethania in Action



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Collection and Assembly for  
"We Support the Troops"

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Danish Days Float & Crew

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# October 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	2	3 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir:FR	4  5-8 pm Solvang City Council Forum:PH	5	6 11 am Central Cost Conference: Gloria Dei, Orcutt
7 9:00 am Worship:CH 10:00 am Education Time, Coffee Hour & Produce Table 11 am Worship:CH 4:30 pm Blessing of the Animals: Courtyard Area	8 6 pm Social Ministry:OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	9 7 pm Christian Ed. Mtg:OFC 7 pm Yoga:PH	10 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 12:45 pm Quilting: PH 7 pm Choir:FR	11 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship:CH 10:00 am Education Time, Coffee Hour & Produce Table 11 am Worship:CH	15 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	16 7 pm Yoga:PH	17 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir:FR	18 10:30 am Communion, Gather Bible Study:AV LWR In-Gathering 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC	19  Beacon Deadline: OFC	20
21 9:00 am Worship:CH 10:00 am Education Time, Coffee Hour & Produce Table 11 am Worship:CH	22 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	23 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Yoga:PH	24 9 am "Support the Troops":PH 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir:FR	25 6-8 pm Set-Up & Decorate for Halloween Party: PH	26 6-8 pm Set-Up & Decorate for Halloween Party: PH	27 5:30-7:45 pm Halloween Party: PH
28 <b>Reformation</b> Noisy Offering 9:00 am Worship:CH 10:00 am Education Time, Coffee Hour & Produce Table 11 am Worship:CH	29 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	30 7 pm Yoga:PH	31 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir:FR			
		FR = Fireside Rm OFC = Office	CH = Church PH = Parish Hall	BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal	AV = Atterdag Village of Solvang

# THE BEACON

## October 2018

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621 Atterdag Rd  
Solvang CA 93463

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Preschool/After School  
1-(805)688-7077  
[bethaniaps@verizon.net](mailto:bethaniaps@verizon.net)



HALLOWEEN PARTY

SATURDAY,  
OCT. 27, 2018

5:30 - 7:45 PM

IN THE PARISH HALL

DINNER ~ GAMES ~ CANDY ~ PRIZES