

The Beacon

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

January 2019

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Pastor Chris's Message



New Year's always presents the idea in our minds that we get to start over. The pathway of the previous year seems to end right at midnight on Jan. 1, and a blank page opens in which we get to take the lessons of the previous year and stake out a new path in the upcoming year. It's another example of the subjectivity of the human psyche on the circumstances around us, but ultimately I think it is a positive one.

We need those spaces in our lives where we are called to reflect on what has been so we can consider what could be. This one time of year inevitably brings us to that place, putting on us the task, once again, of hoping for a better or different future.

Truth is, not much has really changed from Dec. 31 to Jan. 1. The earth will revolve around the sun in more or less the same pattern, many of the macro patterns from 2018 will continue on into 2019, and much of the emotionality we experienced in 2018 will, in some way, be with us in 2019. Yet, we can't help but have the refreshed feeling of a new year and the ability to start over. Although circumstances remain roughly the same, we are able to look on the past, take from it what we want, and choose a new future.

This was also meant to be the effect of Christ on the world around him. As Jesus says in Matthew 5:17, "Do not think I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish, but to fulfill." Jesus did not come to start something new, but to offer a refreshed perspective on what already was. In his time, Jesus was pointing to what God's covenant with the Jewish people was always meant to be, and through Christ's "New Covenant", offer a way to live into that original covenant more fully.

My point in sharing this is that we always live with the past – what matters is how we allow our past to accompany us into our present and our future. Once a year we allow this to happen with welcoming in the New Year and the hope of moving into a new future, but Christ offers us this path always. As one who sought to look into his people's past and seek a future that lived into a fuller relationship with God, Christ offers us multitude of ways to reflect on our own past, what was good, what could be different, and to always seek a way forward where we can live into a fuller relationship with God and neighbor.

Grace, my beloved, is simply allowing our past to teach us without destroying us. That's what Jesus offered in his time and it's what he continues to offer in our own. In this New Year I pray you can experience that grace. I pray you can take your past with you in a way that teaches and allows you to live more fully into your relationship with God and neighbor. And I pray that you can experience this grace not just at the beginning of the year, but throughout and always.

**Happy New Year and Abundant Blessings,
Pastor Chris**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

Happy New Year Bethania,

We have transitioned Confirmation into more of a Youth Group format. **Youth Group** is meeting **Sunday, Jan. 13th** in our Fireside Room from 3-5 pm. If you have a middle school to high school aged child looking to expand their education in faith and make some friends, they are welcome! Have them bring a friend too!

The youth will have a **Movie Nite** in our Parish Hall on **Sunday, Jan. 20th from 5-8 pm**. We will enjoy pizza, snacks & drinks.

Youth's Annual Rummage Sale will be **Saturday, Jan. 26th from 8 am 12 noon**. We will allow items to be dropped off that Wednesday through Friday before the sale starting at 6 pm - 8 pm, so as to not disturb preschool hours. Please donate **gently used** household items, electronics, movies, bedding, clothing, shoes, furniture, etc. Please no books or undergarments.

In February: **Youth Retreat to El Camino Pines is 2/8/19 - 2/10/19** where the youth and I will take part in a mission project, nature walks, recreational sports, and stay in cabins. Cost to attend for the weekend: \$145 for early bird registration (ends 1/18/19) then \$155 registration.

Parents and guardians please let me know the events your child/ren will be attending.

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

Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

[\(909\)962-9366](tel:9099629366) livierghamari@yahoo.com

Bethania Preschool and After School

Happy New Year from the Preschool and After School!!

Thank you for donating to our programs. Your support of the Preschool & After School is greatly appreciated. Through your donations we are able to provide the children attending with the best possible care as well as an exceptional learning environment.

Also thank you to our awesome Property Committee. Getting boards replaced, light bulbs changes, plumbing fixed, it is all just a phone call away.

We will be learning about winter and hibernation this month as well as continuing with our alphabet, colors, shapes, numbers, concepts and so much more. January is when we see a huge jump in the children's cognitive learning.

We continue planning for our **Touch-a-Truck event** coming up on **Mar. 2, 2019**. If you are interested in helping please call the preschool office at 805-688-7077.

"Children see magic because they look for it." ~ Christopher Moore

Blessings,

Eileen

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Social Ministry in 2019

Wow – what a December! We completed our Christmas Angel Project, rang the bell for our local Salvation Army kettle, had the largest Noisy Offering ever (\$731.50 for Iglesia food needs), and finished up the SYV Wine Tasting Room food drive collection (480 pounds of food collected and delivered).

In the first quarter, planned projects include:

Quilt Raffle to support our quilting group (January)
Brown Bag Breakfasts for Seniors
Support the Troops collection

If you are interested in making a difference in the world, think about attending the next Social Ministry meeting will be held January 14th at 6 pm in the church office. We would love to have your input 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

805-688-5219, 805-688-3059 or vikingsprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count on Jan. 27

**No one person can change the world, but one and one and one add up.
-Sylvie Guillem**

December's "Noisy Offering" helped raise funds to provide food items for members attending Iglesia Luterana in Santa Maria. Thanks to your generosity and a special coin stash that needed cleaning, we raised \$731.50 to help with our Angel Project and to stock the cupboards of families who are truly in need - what a blessing. A special thank you to Harriett Madsen who cleaned all of those coins for us – you are the best!

Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie were sharing stories of what the lives of their parishioners are like, and of their daily struggles. I cannot say it often enough, thank you for supporting this ministry. You are making a difference in a child's life with your quarters and dimes. You are helping to keep food on the shelf for the children of field workers who struggle to make ends meet.

The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on Jan. 27th. Our donations from the offering will be used to help purchase another round of food items for Iglesia families, and possibly be used to-

ward our next Brown Bag Breakfasts packing day, when we pack sack breakfasts for delivery to seniors.

We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some noise on Jan. 27. Together, we can CHANGE a family’s world, right here in our area. Even one donation or one coin can make a difference to someone in need.

– **Linda Marzullo**

Cannabis: Present and Future in Santa Barbara County

Those living in the Santa Ynez Valley already know we have cannabis growing near Highway 246 west of Buellton and along Santa Rosa Road. Applications for County permits and licenses have surfaced in additional neighborhoods. If your neighborhood is not yet involved, it may well be in the near future.

WE Watch is sponsoring an informational lecture, Cannabis: Present and Future in Santa Barbara County, on Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 pm in the Parish Hall for all Valley residents. Our goal is to help everyone better understand how both California and Santa Barbara County are involved in regulating cannabis as the result of the legalization of cannabis in our state.

In December, WE Watch asked that the County Board of Supervisors consider review and revision of portions of the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance. This may occur as soon as mid-February. WE Watch focuses on land use issues. It has no position on the use of cannabis.

Dennis Bozanich, Santa Barbara County Deputy Executive Officer and the most knowledgeable person about cannabis in the County, will give a lecture and answer your questions. He will discuss the following cannabis matters:

- *Background information
- *Compliance Plan for licensed operators
- *Enforcement Plan for unlicensed operators
- *Local permitting and licensing, including land use permits and business licenses,
- *Cannabis taxation
- *California state licensing
- *Challenges facing us in our County

This is your opportunity to learn more about what is and will be happening in the unincorporated areas of the County with cannabis cultivation, nurseries, micro-business, distribution, manufacturing, testing and retail.

Please attend so all of us can be well informed as we work together on this issue.

This Month at Bethania and More!!!!

Fastelavn Meeting

We had an amazing Fastelavn Festival last year and it's time to start planing again. If you have any passion or gift or desire for fundraising or event planning, please join us for our first Fastelavn meeting of the year.

Jan. 15, 7 pm, in the Fireside Room

For any questions, please contact Mindi Christian

Long-Range Planning Committee

The Council has appointed a select committee to analyze and update the long-range plan for Bethania. The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has been charged with the task of discerning long-range goals that will enrich our members, help our church grow and strengthen our ministries, within the overall guidance of our mission statement which reads:

We are a community of Christ-centered, welcoming, inclusive and multi-generational people rooted in God's faith, hope and love, called to advocate for justice, give to those in need, and share God's affirming love with the world.

The LRPC intends this to be an interactive exercise between the committee, the council and the congregation. It will involve multiple interactions with the congregation including surveys, interviews and questionnaires.

We anticipate that this will take considerable time to do as well. We ask for your participation, your patience and your cooperation to help us reach conclusions based on the overall desire of our congregation.

If you have any questions about the LRPC please feel free to call **Pastor Chris at 626-422-9967** or **Stewart Fries (LRPC Chair) at 805-245-0041**.

Book Club

The Bethania Book Club is reading and discussing a new book this month in conjunction with our 2019 Farstrup-Mortensen topic, "Was Jesus a Christian?" The book we are reading is by one of our speakers, Pamela Eisenbaum, called *Paul Was Not A Christian*. All are welcome to join us as we meet the second Tuesday of the month (Jan. 8) at 2 pm, in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Theo Pub

Theo Pub meets Thursday, Jan. 10 at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company. Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation about a topic shared by Pastor Chris.

Gather Bible Study

The "Gather" Bible study will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge at Atterdag Village. The topic is "Meetings with Jesus." It is taken from the Gospel according to John. Read the January issue of "Gather" Magazine pp. 22-27 for a deeper understanding of John's Gospel.

Where is Piyali and Why is It Dear to Our Hearts?

January is the month we join together with our local founder of PACE International to fund scholarships for girls and young women at the Piyali Learning Center in a village near Kolkata, India. As of 2018, the school enrolled 227 girls and 75 women in the programs described below. You will find more information, including photos and letters from recipients, on the Parish Hall bulletin board

We have provided education for Rekha and Reshma at the Piyali Learning Center since they were 4 years old. 2019 will be our 8th year and they will be in 5th grade. For \$375/year per girl, we cover all their expenses - teacher, books, supplies, transportation, meals, uniforms, shoes, health care and hygiene kits, after-school enrichment program.

In 2013, when the women's literacy and vocational training program was added to education for girls, we provided one scholarship. We are now up to three scholarships/year. For \$175/year per young woman (many are mothers of girl students), we fund all expenses - teachers, supplies, on-site child care, business loans available upon graduation (generally 1 1/2 - 2 years)

Our goal is to raise \$1,275 this month so we can continue to provide 5 scholarships. Bethania Lutheran Church Women (BLCW) sponsor this effort, but it is a church-wide project.

We invite you to invest in these students' future by writing a check to Bethania Lutheran Church with a notation on its Memo line: "Piyali Scholarships."

Teach a girl. Feed a village.

There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

- Kofi Annan

Church Business

Thank You's

Without our volunteers for Altar Guild, the Worship and Music Committee would not be successful. I want to thank our committee members Melissa Eck, Wendy Bevier, Lou Bender, and Pastor Chris for their hard work.

Also I want to thank all the people who help set up and assist Communion for all our services. The committee depends on you and truly appreciates your dedication. I especially would like to thank Ruth Plambeck for her help during the All Saints and Pentecost services, Thora Mae Andersen and her family for putting up the Advent Wreath and the Easter cross, Linda and Rick Marzullo for assisting Little Christmas Eve service, and the following people who regularly assist at Communion: Betty Petersen, Marie Jaeger, Caro Stinson, Melissa Eck, Barbara Kovol, Robert & Alice Laufer, Donna Hinsbeeck, Lois De Meyer, Wendy Bevier, Lou Bender, Allison Piligian, the McConnell Family, Joshua Bratt, Jasmine Day, and all those whom I have asked to help out. You are all appreciated!

Thank you to all our other worship volunteers: acolytes, greeters, readers, ushers and assisting ministers. We couldn't do this without you!

**Diana
Boltz, Committee Chair**

Bethania has Angels as Members

Thank you to all of our Christmas Angels who helped with the gifts for our 64 Iglesia children and the 3 Preschool/After School children. This was another large Christmas Angel event, with all of these children to shop for, and I am so proud to say that Bethania members and friends really stepped up to this challenge.

The members of Iglesia Luterana are primarily of indigenous Oaxacan descent; most do not speak English but may be able to get by with some Spanish, as their primary language is a native dialect. Their pastor communicates in Spanish and those who speak only the indigenous dialect(s) have the Spanish translated to their language by others. They attend a start-up church about 40 miles north of us located on the premises of Bethel Lutheran Church in Santa Maria. The parents of these children struggle during the off-season months to have enough food for their families and other necessities. Christmas presents are non-existent for the majority of these children. We worked with their pastor and his wife, and the children's "wish lists" they dictated to church helpers, to purchase as many of their wants as was possible. We concentrated on focusing on warmer clothing and shoes with the inclusion of at least one toy for each child. In total we were "Christmas Angels" to children of both genders, ranging in age from newborns to age 16. The presents were wrapped and delivered to the church in two vehicles for distribution to the children. The joy of the children and the gratitude of their parents is overwhelming, as the only gift that most of them will get was from our "angels".

We also supported some local families whose children attend our own Bethania Preschool and After School Program with gifts. These families are our neighbors who are struggling with their financial challenges. The 3 children were chosen by Director Eileen Knotts for assistance this Christmas season. We are very happy to be able to help some children who are attending our wonderful program based here at Bethania.

We encouraged people of all ages and abilities to participate. All sizes of monetary donations were given, ranging from spare change to \$200. We promoted the concept of "we can do the shopping for you" so that people who did not have the time or were physically unable to go shopping could participate. Thankfully we had many wonderful people agree to shop for their "adopted" child, which really helped with the task. Additional donated items received which did not meet the "wishes" or guidelines for the children will be distributed to other children or used next year.

Thank you all for your generous hearts and loving help with this project. An extra special thank you to: my gift delivery team (John and Chris Jones, Rick Marzullo); Special Angels Lois and Don DeMeyer; Christian Education Committee members Donna Hinsbeeck, Caro Stinson, Brenda Knudsen, Alice Laufer; Social Ministry Committee members; and all the angels in our congregation and community who contributed in ways large and small...including helping to wrap all of these gifts!

-Linda Marzullo

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

We hold in prayer the family and loved ones of

Steen Pedersen who died Dec. 2, 2018

Carol Burtness who died Dec. 8, 2018

Bill Petersen who died Dec. 20, 2018



Immediate Prayer Concerns: Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Steve Cochran & Michelle Massey, Kerstin Emerson, Pam Fisher, John Groh, Belle Hoger, Marion Hallum, Lennon Jones, Betsy & Steve Logan, Joe Martin, Bobby McGee, Sarah Monedero, Jean Stelling, Tiffany Thomas, Lou Vitelli, David & Yolanda Yanez, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Andy Blanton, Pat Bode, Barbara Boyd, Angela Cerda, Annette Clausen, Marlo & Summer Cochran, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, David Eck, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Armando Franco, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Sheldon & Pat Green, Kathy Hackler, Jennifer Howell, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Kate Knotts, Duane Lamberton, Ethel Litwiler, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Clayton Nielsen, Denny Norrenbrock, Marie Ostertag, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Jesse Tovar, Chris Walsh, Alisha & Anna Marie Wilson and Robert Workman

Check Writing Schedule for 2019

Please keep this schedule on hand. Requests for reimbursement or disbursement need to be in the office by the dates below in order to receive a check signed and available, especially if a check is needed in advance of a certain date.

<u>Date that requests need to be in office</u>	<u>Checks signed and available</u>
Jan. 9	Jan. 14
Jan. 24	Jan. 30
Feb. 8	Feb. 14
Feb. 22	Feb. 27
Mar. 8	Mar. 14
Mar. 22	Mar. 28
April 9	April 12
April 24	April 29
May 9	May 14
May 23	May 30
June 10	June 14
June 24	June 28
July 10	July 15
July 24	July 30
Aug. 9	Aug. 14
Aug. 26	Aug. 30
Sept. 9	Sept. 13
Sept. 24	Sept. 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 14
Oct. 24	Oct. 30
Nov. 11	Nov. 14
Nov. 21	Nov. 29
Dec. 9	Dec. 13
Dec. 23	Dec. 30

Treasurer's Report November 2018 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet:

The operating cash account (general checking) had a negative balance of \$1860 at the end of November. This was largely due to offerings over the last two months being below budget by over \$5,000.

The money market fund is less than last month, as we transferred money from that account into the general checking to overcome the loss of revenue, and be able to meet all payable expenses.

All accounts are current, with the usual pension liability. The church has no indebtedness and a balance of over \$3,710,177 in combined liabilities and equity.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

Offerings were \$2,350 below budget for the month. However, offerings were at 101% of budget for the first 11 months.

Other income was up due to a transfer of \$8,000 from the money market fund which had previously not been recorded as ordinary income.

Other receipts were up by \$1,782 due to the Interfaith Thanksgiving service contributions for fire relief. That same amount went out as Other Benevolence.

Total income for the month was up by \$5,900 (again due to the transfer of funds from the money market fund recognized as ordinary income).

Overall income for the first 11 months was at 111% of budget.

Expenses:

Benevolence was up due to the Thanksgiving offering as described above.

Salaries and benefits were up by nearly \$1,000 for the month, but were at 100% of budget for the first 11 months.

Staff expenses were up due to an unplanned continuing pastoral education workshop (mandated by Synod for first call pastors which would have been budgeted for 2019, but occurred in the month of November).

Office administration expenses were on budget for the month and for the first 11 months.

Property expenses were over by \$1,400 for the month due to repairs and improvements to the parsonage, and an increase in outside maintenance services and were over budget for the first 11 months at 105% of budget. Utilities were slightly under budget for the month and are at 98% of budget for the first 11 months.

Outreach committee expenses were over budget by \$828 due to the printing of offering envelopes (these will last us well into the 2019 year).

Youth fund expenses were up as we paid the bills for the Halloween party in November but recognized the income in October.

Overall, we sustained an \$11,000 loss for the month of November. However, our net income over expenses for the first 11 months was \$4,869.

Overall:

While November was a difficult month for expenses and lowered income, we remain hopeful that we will be able to balance our budget for the year. We thank God for all of our faithful members who support Bethania with their time and talents. Our ministry to our community and world is truly our calling from the Lord, and we are responding!

- Ron Walsh, Treasurer



December Photos



Above & Right: BLCW Lunch
Photos by Kristyl Downey



Above: 4 pm Christmas Eve Acolytes
Photo by Livier Ghamari-Brown

Above: Endowment Fund Presentation to SYV Cottage Hospital Foundation, Photo by Kristyl Downey

Photos from the Angel (W)rap



Thanks to Ron Walsh for the photos.





January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Sat'day
		1 New Year's Day The Church Office & BPSAS are closed.	2	3	4	5
6 Epiphany 9 am & 11 am Worship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Time	7 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	8 Bethania's 91st Birthday 5:30 am Yoga:PH 7 pm Yoga:PH 7 pm Christian Ed. Mtg:OFC	9 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 12:45 pm Quilting: PH 7 pm Choir:FR	10 9:30 am Conf. Clergy Mtg:PH 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH 5:45 p Touch-a- Truck Mtg:FR 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	11	12
13 9 & 11am Worship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Hour 3-5 pm Youth Group :FR	14 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	15 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Fastelavn Mtg:OFC 7 pm Yoga:PH	16 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir:FR	17 10:30 am Communion, & Gather Bible Study:AV 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC 7 pm Community Mtg: PH	18	19
20 9 & 11 am Worship:CH 10 am Sunday School & Coffee Hour	21 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA: FR	22 Beacon Deadline: OFC 7 pm Yoga:PH	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 Set-Up for Rummage Sale: PH	25 Set-Up for Rummage Sale: PH 6 pm Wedding Rehearsal: CH	26 Rummage Sale 9 am - noon:PH 5 pm Wedding: CH
27 Noisy Offering 9 & 11am Worship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Hour	28 6:30 pm Tai Chi: PH 8 pm AA	29 7 pm Yoga:PH	30	31		
			FR = Fireside Rm OFC = Office PH = Parish Hall CH = Church	BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool SME = St. Mark's Episcopal	AV = Atterdag Village	

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January 2019

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Jan. 26, 2019

8 am - 2 pm in the Parish Hall

Contact the Church Office for more information