

The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
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May 2019

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Pastor Chris's Message



In the continuing spirit of the Easter season and how God is revealed in the resurrection, as well as how God is revealed to us each and every day, I'd like to share some thoughts by our very own Steve Brown. This was a response I received after the sermon on Mary of Bethany washing Jesus feet with nard and tears. The text is John 12: 1-8. I can say that God has been revealed to me through Steve's insights. Thus I share it with his permission for all our church to benefit!

I thought, before you said it, that one of the reasons Mary wept is that she knew what was about to happen (don't women always know before us guys?). I think she also knew that the disciples had it wrong when they thought that Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem would end well.

They had seen him raise the dead, heal the blind, and walk on water.

How could they not believe, or at least hope, that he would enter Jerusalem, go to the temple, be recognized as the Messiah, overturn the rule of the Pharisees, and kick the Romans out? What she knew was that he wasn't there for that, but for something way deeper. Perhaps she wept for their naiveté and what would happen to them when Jesus was gone.

I also wonder about Judas. Was he simply a thief? Or was he also a frustrated zealot? Did he want Jesus to throw the Roman emperor and Roman soldiers out of Judea? Did he imagine Jesus raining down fire on them and restoring Israel? Did he hate the Romans and their Jewish collaborators so much as to decide to force Jesus's hand? Was he expecting Jesus to simply refuse to be arrested and crucified, to rise up and smite his attackers?

Mary knew he would not. Did she know why, perhaps, perhaps not. She was a poor woman in antiquity and she got it where the others did not. She wasn't distracted by attachment to how the story would turn out, nor by what role she might play. What she knew was love, unconditional and sacrificial.

So it is today. Those of us closer to the edge of survival often have a keener sense of what matters, what is really going on. On the other hand, we're hardwired biologically to seek security and defend it.

We're hardwired biologically to be tribal in our allegiances and sensibilities. We wouldn't have evolved to survive to the current era otherwise. So here we are, in this sprawling global civilization, with a maximum of 6 degrees of separation between us and the 7 billion plus other humans on the planet. Wired in ways that can harden the heart and define us and others. Being safe, fed, clothed, and sheltered can become a trap for the spirit, an early grave for the soul.

Indeed it can be argued that a significant share of religious communities around the world have fallen into this trap. In some ways the same trap that the disciples and Judas fell into. The difference

between Judas and the others may be that they surrendered to where Jesus was leading them, Judas did not.

You know, Jesus must have known that Judas was skimming. Why didn't he kick him out? Maybe, right up to the end, he hoped Judas would open his heart and mind to the truth of who Jesus was and why he was here.

Perhaps Mary wept even for Judas.

**Your pastor,
Chris Brown**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

Blessings to you Bethanians,

We have transitioned Confirmation into more of a Youth Group format. Youth Group is meeting May 5th from 3-5 pm in the Fireside Room. 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!

Confirmation Graduation will be Sunday, May 19th at 9 am. Photos will be taken with Confirmands and family then a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Sunday School is in the middle of this season's curriculum. We have dedicated classrooms set for ages 2, 3, 4, then Grades K, 1st, 2nd and Grades 3rd, 4th, 5th. Sunday School is every Sunday from 10-11 am. If you'd like to be a teacher please contact me.

VBS will be June 24th-June 28th from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm. The theme is "To Mars and Beyond". St. Marks-in-the-Valley will be coordinating with us again this summer. Please contact me if you're interested in decorating, donating supplies, helping with advertising, etc.

Blessings to you and your loved ones,

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

Bethania Preschool and After School

It's hard to believe this is the last month of our 2018-2019 School Year! The time always flies by!

We will be celebrating Mom this month at the Preschool. 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 love. These are the gifts to be treasured for a lifetime.

In May we also celebrate "Teacher Appreciation" week, May 6-10, 2019. The teachers will be receiving a small gift each day. Our staff is a special one and we need to acknowledge how much they are

appreciated. A preschool teacher's 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.

The children are also busy learning the songs for our annual Year End Program/Celebration on Monday June 3. Each day we practice in the morning, and the afternoon.

One of the songs we are singing is "Be Bold". After practicing one little girl came up to me and said "My grandpa is bold, he is totally bold...he doesn't have any hair!" This is a perfect example of why preschool teachers do what we do.

*All that I am or hope to be I owe to my mother.
~Abraham Lincoln*

Happy Mothers Day...
Eileen

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing Day Mark the Date: Sunday, May 5th – 10 am

Mark your calendar to help us pack brown bag breakfast items for needy seniors in our backyard on Sunday, May 5th during the 10 am coffee hour. These little brown bags get delivered to low income seniors in the Santa Ynez Valley. Our little brown bags are for those seniors who need to take medications in the morning with food, and would otherwise have nothing to eat with their pills.

You can also help out by packing and by donating any of the following items:

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars	Protein Bars
Oatmeal Packets (with protein) or Cups	Cup of Soups
Muffins or Baked Goods (plastic sealed, such as Hostess)	Fruit Cups or Applesauce
Small boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)	Protein Drinks

You can make a difference in the health and happiness of someone living right here by packing a bag or donating a few items. Thank you!

We will also be using a Thrivent Action Team Card to help this project.

Please pass the word along to your friends and other organizations. This really is a community project.

–Linda Marzullo, Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
805-688-5219, 805-688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

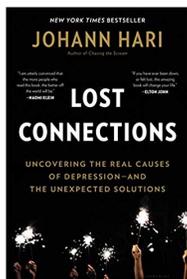
This Month at Bethania and More!!!!

Theology Pub

Theology Pub meets Thursday, May 9th at Solvang Brewing, Co. around the fire pit at 7 pm. This will be our last topic based conversation of the program year. Our topic this month will be “Ego.” For the summer months we will have open topic nights. See you there!



Bethania Book Group



You are invited to join Bethania's ongoing book group. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Parish Hall at 2 pm. We will be starting a new book in May (May 21) called Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression - And the Unexpected Solutions. Pastor has referenced this book several times and highly recommends it. We will be discussing the Prologue, Introduction, and Part I when we meet in May. If you would like a copy, please let the office know as soon as possible or order it from the Book Loft when you can.

Gather Bible Study

The “Gather” Bible study will meet May 16 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge at Atterdag Village. The group will be discussing “From Generation to Generation: Two-Way Blessings” found on pp. 24-29 in the May Gather magazine. If you need a copy, please contact Kristyl in the church office.

Celebration of Maria Jacobsen



All are invited!! The Armenian Community will be joining us once again to celebrate the life of Maria Jacobsen and honor all those affected by the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Community will be joining us on May 5th for our 11 am worship service and then providing lunch after a short commemoration at our Maria Jacobsen bust. If you cannot join us for the worship service, please make it a point to join us for lunch afterwards. This is one of our strongest relationships as Bethania and it would be meaningful to show our support and fellowship with our Armenian siblings.

Church Business

Council Report

The monthly Council meeting was held at 7 pm on March 21, 2019. Members present were: Emily Abello, Wendy Bevier, Pastor Chris, Bridget Cassara, Stewart Fries, Carol Lake, Carolyn Schuit, Ann Tucker, and Ron Walsh. Denise Johnson was not present for the meeting. Also attending were Carolynn Petersen and Sheila Mee.

Council members received reports from Endowment committee chair, Carolynn Petersen and from Memorial committee chair, Sheila Mee as part of the new on-going program of inviting committee chairs to make presentations about their committees to the church council.

Council members present discussed a variety of topics including:

- Council installation to be conducted on 3/31/19
- Status of the new church directory
- Appointing a congregational financial audit team
- Methods for signing-up hosts for Sunday coffee time
- An update on our workers compensation insurance quote
- A review of the legal checklist for congregations
- Memory Walk progress from the Cemetery committee

The council also discussed the shortage of coffee time volunteer hosts in an effort to find an effective solution to this issue. It was determined that individual council members will take the initiative to contact people to enlist coffee volunteers.

The next meeting, normally to be held on 4/18/19, was rescheduled to 4/25/19.

The Peace of Christ be with you all,
Stewart Fries, Bethania Council President
805-245-0041

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet:

The cash in general checking has gone up significantly. This was due to fund transfers that were made in the designated funds. The transfers were noted, but the cash was never transferred. That has now be rectified and the result is the increase in the general checking, and the decrease in the money market fund.

The money market fund is down due to the transfer of cash to the general checking. It should be noted that several of the transfers are actually from 2018. The result is that all of the designated fund re-cap balances are correct and the cash accounts on the balance are correct and current.

All liabilities are current, and there is no indebtedness.

The only remaining liability is the pension liability (which is normal) of \$2,483.

Profit & Loss, Budget Performance:

Income:

Fundraising income (Fastelavn) was less than half of budget.

Other income was at 76% of budget largely due to lack of rental income from events.

Offerings were up for the month by \$875, however, offerings for the first three months were down by nearly \$2,000.

Other receipts were up by \$2,609 largely due to the transfer of funds from the designated fund worksheet (money which had not been previously recorded as income).

Overall for the month we were \$505 below budget for the month, and \$5,258 below budget for the first three months.

Expenses:

Fundraising expense was up due to Fastelavn event.

Benevolence was at 96% of budget.

Salary and benefits were up at 106% of budget. Some of this increase is due to last year's expenses being paid in January and we have also paid some expenses for April in March.

Staff expenses are under budget at 87%.

Office administration expenses are at 111% of budget year to date. This was primarily due to several annual expenses that hit in January through March.

Property expenses are down slightly for the month, but over budget for the first three months by 23%. Utilities were up for the month (largely due to rain and cold), but are at 99% of budget for the first three months.

All other expenses are at or below budget for the month and for the first three months.

Overall we sustained a loss of \$3,526 for the month, but had a net revenue over expenses of nearly \$20,000 for the first three months. This was all due to transfers from other funds into the general fund.

Overall:

We transferred money from the money market fund three times during the first three months. While we still have some operating reserves, they are getting smaller each month. We anticipate significant offerings this month (April) because of Easter, but we need to be aware of our giving each month to continue the ministries God has called us to. Thanks to all our faithful servants that sustain Bethania in its mission.

Ron Walsh
Treasurer

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

The family and loved ones of Hans Knudsen. Hans died April 17. The service remembering and celebrating his life will be May 4 at 2 pm in the sanctuary.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Thora Mae Andersen, Tony Bell, Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Nancy Clemons, Kerstin Emerson, Belle Hoger, Duane Lamberton, Ethel Litwiler, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ralph Marks, Howard Petersen, Margaret Vang, 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, Annette Clausen, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, David Eck, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Sheldon & Pat Green, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Joe Martin, Bobby McGee, Sarah Monedero, Brian Merrick, Rocky Miller, Denise Morris, Denny Norrenbrock, Marie Ostertag, Myra Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Joyce Purvis, Audrey Robinson, Jesse Tovar and Robert Workman

Congratulations to our Graduates! And Our Grand-Graduates!

Congratulations to Caroline Thomas, granddaughter of Tom & Carolynn Petersen. Caroline is graduating from Westmont College, May 4, 2019.

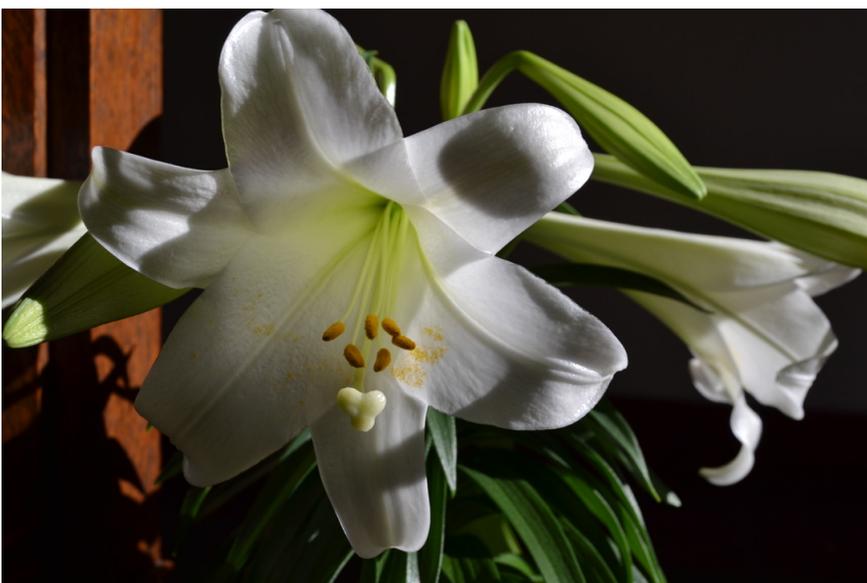
Please let us know of your high school, college or program graduate or grand-graduate and we will acknowledge them in the June Beacon.

Photos - Signs of Spring Signs of Hope





Roses, Chalk Drawings and Easter Lilies



Photos by
Kristyl Downey

Will the Produce Table Be Up and Running??

The short answer to that is “**Yes!**” – the longer answer to that is, “**With Your Help!**” The table will be opening sometime in May...watch for it! With your help we can continue to wage our fight against hunger in both our Valley and in our world. Remember, all funds raised at the produce table help others.

Harriett Madsen will be scheduling the Sunday morning staffing. 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, easy and enjoyable way to help out each week during the growing season. Look for Harriett at church or email her at [**ghmadsen40@gmail.com**](mailto:ghmadsen40@gmail.com).

Everyone can help by saving clean plastic bags and donating them to the table. Anyone who has extra flowers, fruits, veggies, plants and/or seeds to share can bring them to the table.

Fruit trees should be in much better shape this year with the wonderful life-giving rains and all in all we are looking forward to a productive garden year – in spite of the gophers. Check out all your neighbor’s trees as well – they just might like to contribute excess fruits and produce rather than let them go to waste on the ground. So be sure to ask.

As always, we thank you for your generous support with produce and donations to this important project.

- **Carolynn “Still Plays in Dirt” Petersen, (805) 688-6243**

Social Ministry Meets May 13 at 6 pm

Our next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held Monday, May 13 at 6 pm in the Church Office. We will wrap up the Hike Against Hunger (April 28) and the latest Senior Brown Bag Breakfast packing day (May 5).

Agenda items include:

- Produce Table – how to keep it going this year by inspiring garden plantings/volunteers
- Possibly Serving at Buellton Senior Center: Saturdays/Dinner/Lunch
- Update on food needs for Iglesia/Harley Davidson food collection event
- Our next quarter’s projects to help others

If you are able to help or have any ideas, please contact me and let me know. Everyone is invited to these planning meetings – we are all involved in being the hands and feet of Jesus to the world.

– **Linda Marzullo**
Chairman, Social Ministry

Noisy Sunday is coming May 26: Support VBS & Youth! Make Change Count For Good

Our next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on May 26. Let’s all make some noise and help support our VBS week and the Youth. The youth have been very active lately, and will be helping out with our engaging week of VBS activities. VBS will be June 24th-June 28th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. The theme is “To Mars and Beyond”. VBS has some costs associated with producing such an exciting week, including the Bible Activity packets and decor, and the funds from the Noisy Offering will help offset our expenses.

Thank you to all who helped to make April’s “Noisy Sunday” a success. Donations from the special offering that day will be used to help meet the needs of hungry people in our area, including local seniors.

We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some joyful noise on May 26th. We can CHANGE a child’s world by introducing them to our VBS and the word of God in a fun and lively setting!

Contact the office if you have any questions, have an idea for the NOISY OFFERING you would like to suggest, or need more information about VBS.

– Linda Marzullo

Iglesia Food Needs

No one person can change the world, but one and one and one add up.

-Sylvie Guillem

Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria continue to ask for help as their pantry is out of basic food needs. They are asking for our continued support, as many of their people don’t have enough food due to lack of work. Although the situation is finally improving with the arrival of spring, many of their people are going without basic necessities in order to keep paying rent so that they have a place to live. There are so many who are feeling desperate, and unfortunately the church does not have enough income to help them out financially.

Urgently needed are:

Dry Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee – Snacks (such as Cookies) – Bottled Juice – Feminine Products – Shampoo – Laundry Detergent – Dish Soap – Bleach and Cleaning Products – Baby Diapers (All sizes especially 5&6).

Pastor Esteban Salazar and his wife Angie have been sharing stories with us 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 life and a families of hard-working people. You are helping to keep food on the shelf for the children of field workers who struggle to make ends meet.

If you are able to make a delivery to Santa Maria, please contact either myself (vikingpressprint@verizon.net / 805-688-5219) or Carolynn Petersen (805) 688-6243.

– Linda Marzullo

Many Thanks for all the Blessings

Our 40 Days-40 Items Challenge showed those who participated just how easy it is to help others. Thanks to all who participated, whether you brought your donations to church on Easter Sunday or delivered them to charities directly. Here are some of the items we received at the altar on Easter Sunday:

Toothbrushes – Nail Clippers – Soap – Combs – Shower Shoes/Flip Flops – Shoes and Boots – Purses - Clothing – Blessing Bags for Homeless – Items for Soldiers (We Support the Troops) – Movies – Senior Center Thrift Store Donations – Weights – Breakfast Bag Items – Food 189 lbs. - Toilet Paper 5 lbs - Clothing 146 lbs.

Many thanks also to whoever blessed our ministry to the community beyond us before our collection day by gifting: 80 pairs of girls' socks, 40 pairs of boys' socks, 35 pairs of men's socks, 133 training pants/diapers, 40 bars of soap and 48 toothbrushes. These items were shared between Bridgehouse and families at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz.

It is amazing what we can do with just a small effort. Thank you to all who participated, sorted and delivered the donations.

- Social Ministry Committee

MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Sat'day
FR = Fireside Rm OFC = Office PH = Parish Hall CH = Church AV = Atterdag Village	BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal	1 9:30 am Staff Mtg:OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH	2	3 6 pm BPSAS CPR Class: FR	4 2 pm Service for H. Knudsen: CH
5 9 am & 11 am Wor- ship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Time 10 am Brown bag Breakfasts:PH 3-5 pm Youth Group: FR	6 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	7 7 pm Yoga:PH	8 9:30 am Staff Mtg:OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 12:45 pm Quilting:PH	9 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9 & 11am Worship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Hour	13 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	14 7 pm Yoga:PH	15 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH	16 10:30 am Communion, & Gather Bible Study:AV 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC	17	18
19 9 am Worship & Con- firmation:CH 11 am Worship:CH 10 am Sunday School & Coffee Hour.	20 12 n Beacon Deadline: OFC 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	21 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Yoga:PH	22 9 am Support the Troops:PH 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir Prac- tice: PH	23 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH	24	25
26 9 & 11 am Worship & Noisy Offering:CH 10:30 Coffee Hour:PH	27 Memorial Day OFC & BPSAS are closed. 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA	29 7 pm Yoga:PH	29 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir Prac- tice: PH	30	31	

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May 2019

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May is Here!

