

The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
1-805-688-4637
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June 2019

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Pastor Chris's Message



I had a really special privilege this last month to go and hear Rob Bell speak about joy, which is not a topic one usually expects from someone steeped in theology. In fact, I was surprised at how little theology was involved in the hour and forty-five minute talk he gave. I listen to Rob Bell's podcast often and have read most of his books, but this was the first time I was able to hear him speak at one of his events. And I have to say, he did not disappoint. At times I felt like I was at a stand up comedy show, at others I was holding back tears because of how relatable it was to the life of a pastor.

I'd like to share my own personal insight with all of you because while it's hard to relate to the experience of a pastor, these insights feel beneficial for the human experience in general. Let me explain:

About halfway through the talk, Rob Bell began sharing personal experiences he had as a pastor responding to emergency calls, something every pastor encounters regularly. He recalled visiting a person who had just been incarcerated, on 24-hour watch and was considered a danger; a family whose child was born premature at just a couple pounds and in intensive care; and sitting with another family whose teenage son had attempted suicide and ultimately wasn't able to be saved.

As I heard these stories that lump procured in my throat. It recalled my own stories as a hospital chaplain of sitting with a family whose son was held down by an undertow for 15 minutes while we prayed and watching him breathe his last; comforting the families of kids who were hit by stray bullets in Southside Chicago; baptizing babies who were stillborn; or all the nameless times of being with people in their most tragic moments of loss and anguish and grief.

I related to Rob when he wondered out loud how he could be immersed in moments like that and then in the span of an hour have to transition to being with his wife and kids and find joy in their presence. I related when he asked how it could be possible to balance one side of his life with that of the other and make it out okay.

While these are experiences that a pastor can relate to immediately and in many ways are unique, ultimately they reflect experiences of what it is to be human because the question remains: How do we find joy even in the midst of the tragedies of the world in general and in our lives in particular?

I think the way most of us respond to this is to turn one side off. We either live in the muck and succumb to a period without joy, or we avoid looking at pain and focus on that which we like. Rob Bell started his talk with a profound statement. He said that happiness is the absence of that which brings pain, or loss, or hurt, or anguish, but joy, true joy walks with all of those things. I really think this is the message of the cross, and ultimately of God's presence in our lives. God isn't the great problem-solver, but rather that which walks with us in the midst of need, that which helps us identify the spots of light that are present in the midst of pain, that which recognizes the temporal nature of darkness and points to the light at the other side, whatever shape that takes. And somewhere in all of that, we can still experience joy.

Christianity has never been about the elimination of pain, but rather how one walks with pain, and at times, makes meaning of pain. We tend to be dualistic people who believe that life operates in either/or's, but really, faith is about making sense of the paradoxes of life, the moments when experiences are both/and, and those things that seem polar actually exist along side each other.

The truth is that pain and suffering and loss will always be a part of the human experience. No amount of money, righteousness, goodwill, or intentionality will exempt any of us from pain. But at the same time pain doesn't exempt us from joy. In fact, holding up those glimmers of joy are sometimes the greatest avenues of navigating pain. It's how we can address a world in need while also experiencing a world of beauty. It's how we can tend to people who cry and still be a people who can laugh. It's how we can be a world that experiences doubt, by coming together and finding joy in asking questions. And it's how we can be present in a world that at times feels like it's getting worse, yet still point to the existence and power of love, that unquenchable force we call God.

**By That Glimmer,
Pastor Chris Brown**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

Happy Summer Bethania!!

We have transitioned Confirmation into more of a Youth Group format. Youth Group is meeting throughout the summer 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!

Throughout the summer we will go on various trips such as to the movies, the Escape Room, Space VR, hiking and camping, and maybe...even a Lock-In.

Sunday School will end June 2nd and return formally in late summer. We will have dedicated classrooms set for ages 2, 3, 4, then Grades K-5th. If you'd like to be a teacher this upcoming fall, 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. The registration link is available at the church website and paper forms are found in the sanctuary and Parish Hall. We will host a maximum of 12 preschool aged students and 60 elementary aged students. Decorating will begin in the Parish Hall on Monday June 17th, Wednesday June 19th, Thursday June 20th, and in the sanctuary and Fireside Room on Sunday June 23rd.

**Blessings to you and your loved ones,
Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
[\(909\)962-9366](tel:9099629366)
livierghamari@yahoo.com**

A VBS registration form is enclosed.

Vacation Bible School Registration Form

Thank you for your interest in joining Vacation Bible School. We are excited to have you take a voyage with us on our mission to Mars. It is important that we have some information from you so we may better organize the week. We take photos as well, so by signing below grants permission to take and use images on church announcements, advertisements, social media, newsletters, etc. at Bethania and St. Marks' In-The-Valley.

VBS Preschool participant max: 12 students

VBS Elementary participant max: 60 students

Registration forms or online registration will be accepted now until June 17th on a first come, first serve basis.

Please print the following information clearly and return to the Bethania church office.

Youth's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

School: _____ Upcoming Grade: _____

Name of Parent/ Guardian: _____ Cell: _____

Name of Parent/ Guardian: _____ Cell: _____

Primary Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone # _____ Relation: _____

Additional person dropping off/picking up child: _____

****VBS Volunteer Youth's Email: _____****

Will you be joining us for dinner from 5:30pm- 6:00pm?

Dinners are \$5.00 per night or \$20.00 for the week. Payment due the first night.

Check all that apply below:

Child: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Parent(s): Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Medical Information: food restrictions, allergies, medications, etc.

In case of medical or surgical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact parents or guardians of VBS participants. In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for the VBS Director or the designated person to secure all proper treatment for my child as named above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Holder: _____

Policy #: _____ Group Name/#: _____

Bethania Preschool and After School

As the school year comes to an end, I wanted to share with you what our goals are for the children that attend the Preschool program.

We are a preschool and do exactly what the name implies, we begin the children on their education. Here At Bethania the teachers work cooperatively to coordinate the learning progression of the children. Each class has a set of goals for the children to meet before moving up to the next class level.. We communicate with the various Kindergarten teachers in the Valley so that we are knowledgeable on what they expect for the children. The following is an overview of our goals here at Bethania Preschool.

DEVELOPMENT OF SELF:

Development of an image of the self as a unique and competent person

SOCIO-EMOTIONSL DEVELOPMENT:

The ability to interact with their world in a development of communication both verbally and non-verbally for child/child, child/adult and child/group interchanges/

PYSCHOMOTOR DEVELOPMENT:

An environment is provided that promotes controlled and coordinated use of large and small muscles, and increases eye/hand coordination

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Our lesson plans are designed to develop and utilize the curious questioning of the child. We strive to develop the child's ability to think, reason, infer and generalize.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

Children are given the opportunity to learn about God through stories, songs and chapel. We teach basic concepts from the Bible about Jesus, Church and Family.

I hope that this provides you with more knowledge about our program. Please stop by and visit us, we would love to share our preschool with you.

Don't forget about our Year-End Program Monday, June 3, at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Children with be introducing themselves and telling us about their future plans.

Piglet, "How do you spell love?"

Pooh, "You don't spell it, you feel it."

A.A. Milne

**Blessings,
Eileen**

Ministry in the Community and Around the World



Nancy Puder, Steven Brown, Donna Hinsbeeck & Barbara Kargard packing breakfasts

Brown Bag Breakfast for Seniors Packing Day



Jeanette McKibbin from Union Bank, Solvang Branch, Don De Meyer, Donna Hinsbeeck, Gene Madsen, Denise Morris & Kristyl Downey

We had a successful packing day and put together 200 brown bag breakfasts on May 5. Thanks to the Social Ministry Committee, members of the congregation for their attendance and nimble hands, Kristyl Downey for using a Thrivent Action Team Card for supplies, Gene & Harriett Madsen and Lois & Don De Meyer for delivering the breakfasts, and Jeanette McKibbin for volunteering from Union Bank, Solvang Branch. We're growing the support for this program and inspiring more people to get involved.

These breakfasts will be given to the critical needs' seniors who do not have food in the morning to take with their medications.

Noisy Sunday is coming June 23: Day of Service/Brown Bag Breakfasts Make Change Count

Our next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on June 23. This Noisy Offering will be used towards purchasing items for the Day of Service (Health and School Kits) which will be in September and the Brown Bag Breakfasts in July. We all really do "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some joyful noise on June 23rd. We can change someone's world with soap or notebook paper or a bag with breakfast items. So easy to do, and fun too!

Contact the office if you have any questions or have an idea for the Noisy Offering you would like to suggest in an upcoming month.

– Linda Marzullo

Produce Table Is Open!

Visit the Produce Table on Sundays between services, from approximately 10-11 in the breezeway by the Parish Hall. Check out the table and see what is available - everything from fresh strawberries, vegetables, pickles, flowers and plants, home-baked zucchini bread and more. Each week there will be something new, so don't forget to stop by.

Anyone can donate to the table. "Shoppers" take what you want and donate whatever you choose. All funds raised at the Produce Table will be evenly divided between ELCA World Hunger Projects (baby chicks, goats, fruit trees, water wells, etc.) and local hunger needs...this is a win-win for all of us!

We welcome contributions of items from all interested parties. Instead of garden or fruit tree bounty going to waste, offer to take excess produce off your neighbor's hands, and bring the items to the table.

Other ways to help:

Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings: Sign up to help with Harriett Madsen. Volunteers bring out the bags, set up the signs, and count and turn the money into the church office or a council member. Donate clean plastic bags for "shoppers."

Our Produce Table as a source of blessings to many: those who have excess produce, those who wish to have a little garden time, and those who love access to flowers, fruit and veggies that are farm fresh. Most especially we appreciate all of our generous donors (shoppers)!

Hunger in our County

"Working at the Food Bank with my kids is an eye-opener. The face of hunger isn't the bum on the street drinking Sterno; it's the working poor. They don't look any different, they don't behave any differently, they're not really any less educated. They are incredibly less privileged, and that's it."

- Chef Mario Batali

There are so many living right in our own county who are struggling to put food on the table. Our friends at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz are among those struggling, in addition to many people here in the Santa Ynez Valley. Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie at Iglesia continue to ask for help as their pantry is out of basic food needs for their members. If you can help by donating some of the items below, there is a box in the Parish Hall. Your donations are making a difference in a life and in families of hard-working people. You are helping to keep food on the table for the children of field workers who struggle to make ends meet.

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).

In addition, we are working to address some food insecurity issues here in our own Valley. To that end, we will be talking about new programs in the upcoming months. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for all our ministries at Bethania.

– Linda Marzullo

Hike Against Hunger

28 Hikers, walkers, bikers, runners all showed up April 28th for our annual event's almost 7 mile hike. A beautiful day, perfect hiking weather, and lots of wildflowers to cheer our hikers along the way. (See pictures later on in the Beacon)

Winner of the most pledges raised was Kristyl Downey, closely followed by Carolyn Schuit. Rick and Donna Ineman and Rod Nielsen prepared a delicious feast for all of those attending the lunch part of the day. Pastor Chris & Livier Brown hosted games and fun. Dan Cassara and Alan Needham acted as sweeper support, and Tom and Leann hosted the break camper.

Donations raised from this event will be used to help fight hunger around the world through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Thank you to all who participated, supported and enjoyed. Mark the date for next year: April 19, 2020!

Wanted: Thrivent Members

If you are a Thrivent Member, we need you! Every Thrivent member has the possibility of receiving seed money (\$250.00) for two projects a year. We would like to develop a list of those with eligible Thrivent memberships so that we can make sure our church and community benefit from the available funds. Please contact the church office to let us know if you are a Thrivent member.

Doing a project is simple and fun. We also have ideas for the church which could use some "start up" funds if anyone is agreeable to helping with their seed money. We can help with filling out the forms if you need help. Kristyl recently did a Thrivent project for the brown bag breakfasts, so you can ask her about it also.

– **Social Ministry Committee**

This Month at Bethania and More!!!!

Summer Giving

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

As we approach the summer, our thoughts turn to vacations, trips to visit out of town relatives, weekend getaways, and other great recreational opportunities that come with living in our beautiful community. All of that means that many of us will not be in church on a regular basis. However, we must remember that the church doesn't take a vacation! We count on our generous member's financial support as much during the summer as we do throughout the rest of the year. As you pack for that trip, prayerfully remember your regular offering giving to Bethania so that we can continue the mission and ministry that God has chosen for us. God asks us to give of the first fruits, even during the summer.

Ron Walsh, Treasurer

Theology Pub

Theology Pub meets June 13th at 7pm at the Solvang Brewing, Co. The summer months are open topic night so bring your questions, your topics to discuss, or anything else!

Book Group: Lost Connections

Even if you missed last month's Book Group, please feel comfortable still joining in. We'll be discussing chapters 5-8 of Johann Hari's, Lost Connections. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2 pm in the Parish Hall.

Gather Bible Study

The "Gather" Bible study will meet June 20 at 10:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge at Atterdag Village. The group will be discussing "For Just Such a Time as This - Esther the Queen: Voices in the King's Court," found on pp. 22-28 in the June Gather magazine. If you need a copy, please contact Kristyl in the church office.

Pentecost is June 9.

During the 9 am service people will be reading the lessons in other languages. If you would like to participate by reading in a language you are familiar with, please contact Diana Boltz at 805-588-2512.

Since red is the color of the day, we invite you to "wear the spirit!"

Congratulations to...



Vlad McConnell for being accepted into the Army. Vladimir shipped out May 19. He will be at Fort Jackson, SC for basic training for 9 1/2 weeks, and he will go to Fort Sill, OK for his job training as a fire specialist.

- Photo (Kristyl Downey) of Vlad's Blessing, May 19.

Congratulations also to Ian Crossett, Marilyn Larsen's grandson, who is graduating from high school in Maryland in June. Ian will be attending USC in the fall.

Church Business

Treasurer's Report for April 2019

Balance Sheet:

The cash position is good at \$5,641 in the general checking account and \$103,579 in the money market fund.

The furnishings and fixtures line item for the church building has been increased due to the completion of the pew refinishing project.

There is no indebtedness and all liabilities are current with the normal exception of the pension liability.

Money was transferred from the designated funds to pay the remaining balance on the pew restoration.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Income:

The largest increase in the other income line was from the transfer of funds (\$20,344) from the designated funds to cover the expenses for the pew restoration project. None of the funds were counted as income until this month. The offsetting expense is on the balance sheet with the increase in furniture & fixtures for the church building.

Offerings for the month were down by \$2,722, and are down by nearly \$5,000 for the first four months of the year. This is a concern, as our income is not keeping up with our expenses. The main reason we are ahead in total revenue is due to the transfer of funds from the money market fund. However, we have limited resources to continue these transfers and must rely more on offerings, rentals, and special events to meet our general expenses.

We will need to carefully monitor our income and expenses in the next few months as we go into summer, when giving typically goes down.

Expenses:

Benevolence expenses are slightly below budget due to decreased offerings.

Salaries and benefits are over budget by \$2,000 for the month. Part of the reason is that we paid the guest pastor for May in April, and paid much of March's worship musicians in April. This accounted for \$2,300 of the increase.

Office administration expenses were over budget due to several one-time expenses. Property expenses were over budget by \$1,190. We paid the property tax expenses this month, and we have hired a new custodial service and they are more expensive than the previous service. We also had several maintenance projects that impacted the budget.

Utilities are on budget.

All other expenses are at or below budget.

Overall:

While we are able to meet our expenses, we are using reserves to do so. We continue to pray for solutions to our financial needs. God has called us to ministry in this place and in the world. We ask his guidance in finding the resources to do His work.

- **Ron Walsh, Treasurer**

Social Ministry Meets June 10 @ 6 pm

Our next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held Monday, June 10 at 6 pm in the Church Office.

Agenda items include:

Produce Table: encouraging growers, shoppers, community and distributing proceeds to others

Possibly Serving at Buellton Senior Center: Saturday/Wednesday Lunch

Update on community food needs and our new plan

Next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day (July 14th)

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

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

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

For the family and loved ones of Duane Lamberton. Duane died May 16, 2019.

For the family and loved ones of Howard Petersen. Howard died May 17, 2019. The service remembering and celebrating his life will be June 7 at 11 am in the sanctuary, followed by a lunch in the Parish Hall

For the family and loved ones of Tony Bell. Tony died May 19, 2019. There will be a service remembering and celebrating the life of Tony at Bethania on Thursday, June 6 at 2 pm followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Concerns: Thora Mae Andersen, Gordon LaBarge, Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Nancy Clemons, Kerstin Emerson, Jenie Galindo, "Hank," Belle Hoger, Ruth Korbin, Ethel Litwiler, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ralph Marks, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Lou Vitelli, David & Yolanda Yanez, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad

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, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Myra Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Joyce Purvis, Audrey Robinson, Jesse Tovar and Robert Workman

Photos - Signs of Spring Signs of Hope Hike Against Hunger



The 2019 Hikers Against Hunger



Dan Cassara, Livier Ghamari-Brown,
Denise Morris & Linda Marzullo -
getting ready for the
Hike Against Hunger



Pastor Chris, Vesper and Josh Bratt having fun



Can't wait to eat!

Confirmation



Back Row left to right: Pastor Chris, Sean Downey & Avanel Bratt
Middle Row - Left to right: Garrett Berry & Stephanie Pedersen
Front Row: Livier
Photo by Ron Walsh



Photo by Kristyl Downey



Pastor Chris & Livier at the altar and cake pictures by Ron Walsh



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day		Friday	Sat'day
FR = Fireside Rm OFC = Office PH = Parish Hall CH = Church AV = Atterdag Village	BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal			31 6-8 pm Decorat- ing for Event:PH	1 2-10 pm Private Event:PH
2 9 am & 11 am Wor- ship:CH 10 am Coffee Time & Produce, Last Day of Sunday School:PH	3 7 pm BPSAS Program:PH	4 7 pm Mankind Project:FR 7 pm Yoga:PH	5 9:30 am Staff Mtg:OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH	6 2 pm Service for Tony Bell: CH, recep. after: PH	7 Service for H. Pe- tersen: CH, Lunch: PH	8
9 Pentecost Wear red! 9 & 11am Worship:CH 10 am Coffee Hour & Produce Table:PH	10 6 pm Social Min.Mtg:OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	11 6 pm Fundrais- ing Mtg:FR 7 pm Yoga:PH	12 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 12:45 pm Quilting:PH	13 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	14	15
16 Father's Day 9 & 11am Worship: CH 10 am Coffee Hour & Produce Table: PH	17 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	18 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Mankind Project:FR 7 pm Yoga:PH	19 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC	20 10:30 am Communion, & Gather Bible Study:AV 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC	21 12 n Beacon Deadline: OFC	22
23 9 & 11 am Worship & Noisy Offering:CH 10 am Coffee Hour & Produce Table:PH	24 Vacation Bible School	25 Vacation Bible School	26 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC Vacation Bible School	27 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH Vacation Bible School	28 Vacation Bible School	29
30 9 & 11 am Worship: CH 10 am Coffee Hour & Produce Table						

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June 2019

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Vacation Bible School
June 24-28, 2019
(see inside for details)