

The Beacon

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

August 2019

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An Invitation to an Invitation



A question that always circulates in my mind is how to get more people from the community involved at our church. To be honest, I think our church is pretty incredible. The ministries we're a part of, the fun events we create, our inclusive and presence-focused theology are all not only meaningful, but I think most people, if they genuinely experienced them, would willingly participate. Part of the problem is that the Church doesn't have the best reputation and people don't trust a publicized church event when they see it. So I spend a good deal of time thinking about how to get people in the community to trust that there's no ulterior motive and we're really trying to just create some communal and meaningful experiences.

We advertise via print and social media pretty frequently and we are pretty intentional about creating events that are relevant and reflective of people today. Those are two of the bigger assumptions many people have when it comes to increasing participation from outside folks. And I think they're important so we do them. However, I came across some statistics that surprised me recently. 82% of unchurched people don't check out a church because of advertising or because the music is a certain way or because the service is a certain way, but because they are invited personally by someone they know. Concurrently, only 2% of regular church attenders invite someone to church or a church event.

So I would like to invite you to invite someone to church or a church event. I know this sounds like a daunting task. We're taught not to bring up religion. And I would say in thinking about inviting someone to church, do it from a genuine place. People are reluctant to go to a worship service, but they might feel more comfortable going to our End-of-Summer BBQ, or to Theology Pub, or to our Summer Film Series, etc. Our theology doesn't focus on evangelizing or converting people, but rather on creating spaces where community can be experienced and we have a lot of events with this motive.

Think about it: the vast majority of people come to a church event because they're invited, yet most churches don't utilize this concept. I never would have thought of it as a big idea until I read this statistic, but it makes sense. If someone is invited they know it's been a positive experience with you and that breaks through a lot of the baggage people carry about church. So consider inviting someone to church or to a church event. We have some great ones currently going on and some great ones coming up. I believe so much in this place, its mission, and its people that I honestly can't think of why someone wouldn't want to check it out.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris

Update on Pew Refinishing

Many thanks to all the members that donated to have our beautiful pews refinished. By now you have probably noticed that they have all been completed.

Recognition plaques are being ordered (for those who wanted to remember or honor special people in their lives) and will be installed within the next several weeks.

Again, thanks to the generosity of our members and their families.

Youth and Family Ministry

Hello 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 pre-teen/teen looking to expand their education in faith and make some friends, they are welcome! Have them bring a friend too!

Youth are going on various trips to the movies, beach, the Escape Room, Space VR, hiking and camping in the fall, and a Lock-In around November in our Fireside Room.

I'd like to take the time during the 11 am service on Sunday Aug. 18 to thank all the Sunday school teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Same day as End of Summer BBQ.

Sunday School time will be changing and taking effect Sept. 15th during the 11 am - 12 pm service. We will have dedicated classrooms set for ages 2, 3, 4, 5 then Grades 1st -5th. If you'd like to be a teacher this upcoming fall, please contact me.

Again, Vacation Bible School was out of this world and a huge success! We want to thank all of the volunteers who assisted as donors, decorators, food preparation, assistant crew leaders, crew leaders, station leaders, station assistant leaders, AV technicians, and preschool camp leaders.

Hygiene and School Kits are coming up in September. We'd like to see all Youth & Families attend this special Sunday to promote assistance and wellness for others in need.

Side Note: I am searching for a Marborg storage locker to help store decorations and youth group items. Please let me know if you or you know someone trying to donate.

**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**



With Hopes of Returning in January 2020 - Rummage Sale

With hopes of Returning in February/March 2020 - Youth Winter Retreat



Bethania Preschool & After School

The new school year will begin on Thursday Aug. 15 and we are busy preparing for it! Classroom are being “spruced” up and lesson plans are finalized.

We will be hosting an Open House on Aug. 14th. This is a time for our Preschool families to come and meet the teachers and see the classrooms before the first day.

Below is a list of the staff for this year at the Preschool & After School:

All staff meet or exceed state licensing requirements for education.

Eileen Knotts ~ Director - 30 years at Bethania	(38 years Early Childhood Education)
Wanda Piatt ~ Preschool Teacher - 25 years at Bethania	(33 years ECE)
Angelica Jimenez ~ Preschool Teacher - 19 years at Bethania/ECE	
Christina Corona ~ Preschool Teacher - 14 years at Bethania	(16 years ECE)
Melissa Gould-Paz ~ Preschool Teacher- 8 years at Bethania	(17 years ECE)
Anahi Uribe ~ Preschool Teacher ~ 4 years at Bethania/ECE	
Diana Solorzano ~ Preschool Aide/After School Teacher ~ 4 years at Bethania	(14 years ECE)
Fabiola Garcia ~ Preschool & After School Aide ~ 3 years at Bethania	(5 years ECE)
Lola Gonzalez ~ After School Lead Teacher ~ 2 years at Bethania	(7 years ECE)
Linda Moralez ~ Preschool/After School Aide ~2 years at Bethania	(4 years ECE)
Claudia Tovalin ~ Preschool Aide ~ 5 years at Bethania	(10 years ECE)

Looking forward to a great year!
Eileen

Saying Goodbye...

This year Bethania Preschool & After School said goodbye to two long time board members, Helen FitzGerald and Nancy Emerson.

Helen was on the board for 22 years. She was a vital part of our fundraisers for the 22 years on the board and also 8 years before that. She worked tirelessly at our Silent Auctions, preparing and serving many BBQs with her family. She and her family donated the large tree on the Preschool playground and also the flagpole in memory of her grandfather J.P. Skov, who helped build the church and was the first Sunday School teacher, and her aunt, Gerda Rasmussen, who was the first organist here. Her logic and reasoning were an asset to our board. In honor of her many years of service to us, a Mimosa tree has been planted on the School Age playground.

Nancy was a board member for 15 years. Her grant writing, handbook updating, and over all knowledge of the requirements needed for our literature was truly appreciated. She was always there for the Preschool & After School when we needed a hand. To thank Nancy for her many years of service, a star has been purchased in her name.

Both ladies attended every program and school event we had. Their tireless help will be missed.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easier to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."
~Fred Rogers

Eileen

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Noisy Sunday is Coming: Aug. 25th Help us with "Day of Service" Projects

Our next Noisy Sunday will be Aug. 25. We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items for our "Day of Service" projects. This year we are boosting our efforts to make a difference in our community and our world by assembling Personal Care Kits, School Kits, and Brown Bag Breakfasts for Seniors. Remember to save the date of Sept. 8th and invite community friends to attend and support this effort!

Help us purchase some of the items needed by tossing your change into the bucket on Noisy Offering Sunday, Aug. 25th.

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

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

Day of Service Items Needed!

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

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

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

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

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

For Personal Care Kits:

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

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

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

Comb, sturdy wide toothed

Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

For School Supply Kits:

70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)

Pencil sharpeners

#2 Pencils – NOT SHARPENED

2-1/2” Erasers

Rulers with centimeters and inches

Blunt tip scissors

Ballpoint Pens (not gel) – Blue or Black ink

Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

For Brown Bag Breakfasts:

Small boxes of Cereal or Oatmeal

Protein Drinks (Atkins, Boost, Ensure) or

Small juices, such as Sunny Delight or V8

Pudding Cups (non-refrigerated)

Fruit Cups

Soft Protein and Granola Bars

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

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

Produce Table: What Do We Need?

As of July 21st you have generously donated A LOT of different items resulting in a huge variety on the table. Please continue to bring from your garden and check out your neighbor's garden! To date, you have also donated a total of \$1,224.88. We will be distributing these amounts between the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Program and local hunger needs during the month of August! The Good Gifts program provides baby chicks, pigs, sheep, goats, clean water wells and fruit trees to people around the world. Recipients are also trained on how to utilize these "good gifts".

What do we need???

Your continued support of the Produce Table!

CLEAN Plastic Bags like you get at the drugstore, or Taco Bell/Taco Roco

Talk to Harriett Madsen if you are able to take a turn managing the Produce Table

Thank you for all of your donations and support!

-Carolynn Petersen

Coming Up at Bethania!!!!

Mark Your Calendars

There has been enough concern expressed about our first worship service being too early that council has voted to move back to a 9:30 am start time.

Beginning Sept. 15, Bethania will have two services, one at 9:30 am and the second at 11 am. Please mark your calendars for this change.

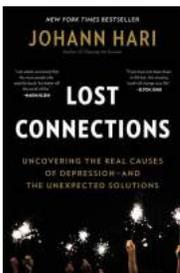
Bethania's Getting an App

We're very excited to announce that Bethania is getting its own smartphone app. We're working with a company called Pushpay who helping develop the phone application with a set launch date of September 15. This app will be a wonderful new tool to reach out to folks who don't make it to Sunday service, but are connected to a lot of Bethania's ministries and events. Be on the lookout for the launch of the new Bethania app!

Theology Pub

Theology Pub meets Aug. 8 at 7 pm 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



Please join our monthly Book Group as we continue to read Lost Connections. This has been an incredible book discussion so far and even if you haven't read the book please feel free to join us.

Aug. 20 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall

Gather Bible Study

The Gather Bible Study will meet Aug. 15 at 10:30 am Atterdag Lounge in Bldg. 14 at Atterdag Village of Solvang. Topic: "Esther: Session 3" - Book of Esther Chapters 8 - 10

This study is in the July/August issue of "Gather" magazine, pp. 28-33.

All are Welcome!

Bethania Summer Film Series

Our Summer Film Series continues on Aug. 4, at 5 pm. We will be showing the movie "Mary Magdalene", starring Rooney Mara and Joaquin Phoenix. The film explores what a lot of archeology is recovering about the historical Mary Magdalene. Tradition has treated her as either a saved prostitute or demon exorcised woman, but archaeological discoveries are beginning to show that she was probably one of the foremost leaders of the Jesus movement that history has tried to cover up. Popcorn and water will be provided, but feel free to bring drinks (beer, wine, non-alcoholic) and snacks of your own.

End of Summer BBQ

Join us for our annual End-of Summer BBQ on Aug. 18, after worship. We will have ONE service that day at 9:30, and the BBQ will start at 11am. Burgers and hotdogs will be provided, but please bring a salad to share.

Church Business

Message from the Church Council

June 27, 2019 Meeting:

Council members present discussed a variety of topics including:

- Attendance at annual Synod Assembly
- Fundraising Committee Meeting
- Conducting a Code of Conduct Inventory
- Status of pew plaques
- Push-Pay Contract

July 18, 2019 Meeting:

Members present were Emily Abello, Wendy Bevier, Pastor Chris, Bridget Cassara, Stewart Fries, Carolyn Schuit, and Ron Walsh. Denise Johnson, Carol Lake and Ann Tucker were not present for the meeting. Also attending were Donna Hinsbeeck and Don Thompson.

Council members received reports from the Farstrup-Mortensen committee chair, Donna Hinsbeeck, and from the Property Committee chair, Don Thompson, as part of the 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:

- Attendance at annual Synod Assembly
- Fundraising Committee Meeting
- Update on Code of Conduct Inventory
- Update on status of pew plaques
- Update on Push-Pay Contract
- Proposed Volunteer Party
- Preliminary review of Long-Range Planning Survey

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

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

Treasurer's Report for June 2019

Balance Sheet:

The cash position is strong with \$13,020 in cash at the end of the month.

The money market fund balance has been reduced by over \$20,000. That is due to the payment of expenses in the remodel of one of the bathrooms in the parsonage. The corresponding entry is an increase in the asset value of the Laurel street property.

Profit and Loss, Budget Performance:

Income:

Offerings for the month were over budget by \$13,439 – praise God! For the first six months of the year they were over by \$5,370.

Income from all sources for the month were up by \$15,714, and up for the first six months by \$5,000.

Expenses:

Benevolence was on budget

Salaries and benefits were over budget by \$1,789 for the month and up by \$5,800 for the first six months.

Office administration was on budget for the month.

Property expenses were over-budget due to deposit for liability insurance being paid in June and an increase in outside maintenance expenses.

All other expenses were at or below budget.

Overall:

For the first six months of the year Bethania operated in the black and all liabilities were current with no debt.

- Ron Walsh, Treasurer

Social Ministry Meets Aug. 12 @ 6 pm

Our next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held Monday, Aug. 12 at 6 pm in the Church Office.

Agenda items include:

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

Day of Service Planning (Sept. 8)

Thrivent Cards – encouraging people to use them

Update on community food needs and our new plan

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 comfort during grief for the family and loved ones of David Eck. David died July 10. The service remembering and celebrating his life was held July 26 here at Bethania.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Thora Mae Andersen, Gordon LaBarge, Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Kerstin Emerson, Jenie Galindo, Kathy Hackler, “Hank,” Belle Hoger, Glen Jacobsen, Ruth Korbin, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ralph Marks, Mike Murray, Denny Norrenbrock, Bob Petersen (brother of Tom), Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Joyce Purvis, Craig Schorr, Mark Simone, Lou Vitelli, David & Yolanda Yanez, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Andy Blanton, Barbara Boyd, Annette Clausen, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Sheldon & Pat Green, Jennifer Howell, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Joe Martin, Bobby McGee, Sarah Monedero, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrrson, Myra Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Jesse Tovar and Robert Workman

Social Ministry Presentation to Church Council, July 18, 2019

Mission Statement:

As Christians we are called to advocate for justice, give to those in need and share God's love.

Members: Linda Marzullo, Chairman; Bridget Cassara (Council Liaison), Jasmine Day, Josh Bratt, Marcia Galbraith, Donna Hinsbeeck, Harriett Madsen, Lori Parker, Carolynn Petersen, Tara Uhrig, and Kristyl Downey

What is the Social Ministry Committee?

It is designed not to be a social outlet or for social events, although our events can be "social". "Social" in our name refers to Society in general. Social Ministry is the congregation's link to others, a conduit to helping serve people both in our immediate area and beyond. Social Ministry offers us opportunities to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus in the world.

History of Social Ministry at Bethania:

Bethania members have long been involved in Social Ministry, even if there was not an official committee. Many church-affiliated groups such as Danish Ladies Aid and Vesper Guild were committed to doing social ministry and social justice work. Danish Ladies Aid rolled bandages in the 1940s and later. In the 50s and 60s, Bethania members helped get tractors to farmers in need in Denmark. In the 70s, Bethania members helped resettle two Vietnamese and Cambodian families. Social Ministry committee organization became more structured and our members clipped coupons as a project to help fund Solvang Lutheran Home. We collected soup can labels to fund Native American schools on reservations. Karine Hvingleby's efforts to provide health and sex education services in Ethiopia were supported. Disaster relief assistance was implemented as the need arose. Serving meals at Transition House was organized. Whether because of depression-era memories or farming memories, many of our members have had a passion for hunger issues. Hike for Hunger was organized, an event that continues strong until today. The idea of the Produce Table took root. Heifer Projects and LWR projects have long been supported, along with ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

What we are doing this year:

Noisy Offerings \$1266.50 to date in 2019 have benefitted these projects -

Jan: Iglesia Food \$180/Feb. Support the Troops \$194/March Domestic Violence Solutions \$185/April Food Needs (BBB + Iglesia) \$189/May VBS \$284.50/June Brown Bag Breakfasts/Day of Service projects \$234.

Iglesia Food Ministry, Support the Troops Collection Day, 40 Days-40 Items during Lent, Hike for Hunger (\$2288.44 donated to ELCA WH), Produce Table, Day of Service (LWR School Kits and Personal Care Kits), LWR support, Christmas Angel Project, Gifts for PreSchool Families.

Future plans:

Expansion of Brown Bag Breakfasts for Seniors – Completed 629 at the July packing, 1223 total to date in 2019 (924 bags needed at a minimum monthly to meet the critical need), received grant from Vikings (\$1500), grant from SYV Rotary (\$500), New Frontiers (\$175), other support; Blessing Box, Food Insecurity Concerns, plans for Food Pantry.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Sat'day
FR = Fireside Rm OFC = Office PH = Parish Hall CH = Church	BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool AV = Atter- dag Village	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal		1	2	3
4 9 am & 11 am Wor- ship:CH 10 am Coffee Time & Produce Table 5 pm Movie Night: PH	5 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	6 7 pm Yoga:PH 7 pm Mankind Project: FR	7 9:30 am Staff Mtg:OFC	8 2 pm BPSAS:PH 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	9	10
11 9 & 11am Worship:CH 10 am Coffee Hour & Produce Table	12 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	13 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Yoga:PH	14 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 12:45 pm Quilting:PH	15 11 am Com- munion, & Gather Bible Study:AV 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship: CH Coffee Hour & Pro- duce Table 11 am End of Sum- mer BBQ	19 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg: OFC 8 pm AA: FR	20 12 noon Beacon Dead- line: OFC 7 pm Yoga:PH 7 pm Mankind Project: FR	21 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC	22	23	24
25 9 & 11 am Worship & Noisy Offering:CH 10 am Coffee Hour & Produce Table	26 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	27 7 pm Yoga:PH	28 9:00 am Support the Troops:PH 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC	29	30	31

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END OF SUMMER BBQ SUNDAY AUG. 18, 2019