



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
Church

ASSISTANT PASTOR

FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

1825 Alamo Pintado Road
Solvang, CA 93463
syvpc.org



THE INVITATION

140 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS. A NEW SEASON OF LIFE.

A generation waiting to be reached — and a church ready to reach them.

SYVPC is looking for an Assistant Pastor for Youth & Families who is ready to follow Jesus into the future He has in store for us. We are seeking a pastor who loves Jesus, loves people, loves the local church, and carries a particular passion for seeing young people and families encounter the life-changing power of the Gospel.

This role holds pastoral depth, leadership responsibility, relational ministry, and real room for creativity and initiative. You will not simply maintain a youth program. **You will help us build a ministry to the next generation that can become a defining part of our church's future.**

140 YEARS IN THE VALLEY	180–220+ SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	+50% GROWTH IN 18 MONTHS	3× CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN 18 MONTHS	\$0 DEBT — MORTGAGE PAID
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Something is happening at the Pres. And the timing could hardly be better.

S Y V P C

SOMETHING NEW IS HAPPENING HERE

A 140-year-old church experiencing new life.

Santa Ynez Valley Presbyterian Church — the Pres, for short — was the first Protestant church built in the Santa Ynez Valley, and our roots run deep into the spiritual story of this place.

But we aren't simply celebrating what God has done. **We're watching to see what He is doing now.**

For decades this church prayed for a moment like this one — for the day the Pres would come alive by the power of the Holy Spirit, reach families with the Gospel, and invest deeply in the next generation. We believe we are beginning to see that prayer answered.

Over the past 18 months the church has grown by **50%** under the leadership of Pastor Gunnar — **180 to 220+ worshipers** on a typical Sunday. More striking still, the number of **children and families with us on Sunday mornings has tripled.**

Each December our children and youth lead a **Nativity Pageant** in our sanctuary that welcomes **800+ guests** from across the Valley.

And in August we reached another milestone: **we paid off our mortgage. We are completely debt free.** That freedom, paired with our growth, means new resources — and a church united around spending them on the next generation.



We believe we are seeing signs of revival in our midst.
We don't claim to know exactly what God will do next.
But we know this: *we want to be ready.*



JOHN 4:35

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE FOR HARVEST

We're looking for a worker in the fields.

When Pastor Gunnar preached his first sermon at the Pres in March of 2025, the theme was Jesus' words in the Gospel of John: **"The fields are white for harvest."** Jesus told His disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send out workers to gather what He had prepared. It has become a fitting picture of the season we are entering.

There are families in this community who need the Gospel. Children growing up who need to know Jesus. Teenagers searching for identity, purpose, belonging, and hope. Students at the local high school with little connection to a church. Future leaders who need someone to believe in them, disciple them, equip them, and call them into the mission of Jesus.

God has been preparing the Pres for this moment.
Perhaps He has been preparing *you* for it.

WHO WE ARE

ROOTED — AND REACHING FORWARD

There is something special about the Pres. We carry a rich history, and yet there is a genuine sense of newness. Deeply rooted and looking ahead. Historic and hungry for what God might do next. Following the ancient paths, and eager to reach people who have never darkened the door of a church.

We believe a church can be both **rooted and relevant**, both **ancient and modern**, both **deeply established and genuinely expectant**.

Our unique DNA.

We know the theological culture of this church is distinctive. To us, it doesn't feel unique — **it just feels biblical**. We are gladly:

EVANGELICAL AND EGALITARIAN

BIBLE-PREACHING AND SPIRIT-FILLED

RIGOROUS AND VIBRANT

REFORMED AND RELATIONAL

We love the historic truths of the Christian faith, the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, and the depth of Presbyterian theology. We also believe the Holy Spirit is alive and active in the church today. We aren't an either-or church — we are all about the *both-and*.

Our identity is **Reformed, Evangelical, Egalitarian, Word-centered, and Spirit-filled**, and we are aligned with the Essential Tenets of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. For the right pastor this is not a set of doctrinal boxes to check. **It is the culture of our ministry.**



We want preaching that takes the Word of God seriously **and** depends on the Spirit of God deeply. Formation that engages the mind **and** worship that awakens the heart — without asking anyone to choose between the two.

WHAT WE ARE HERE TO DO

OUR MISSION

Glorify God by helping people
find and follow Jesus.

OUR VISION

To be a thriving, multigenerational church that reaches our whole Valley and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

OUR VALUES

These seven values shape how we lead, how we work together as a staff, and how we measure faithfulness in ministry.

01 Biblical Faithfulness

Scripture is our final authority for life, ministry, and teaching.

02 Christlike Character

Who we are matters as much as what we accomplish.

03 Dependence on God

We pray first, and we expect the Holy Spirit to work.

04 Compassionate Care

We shepherd people, not programs.

05 Collaborative Communication

We work in the open, across ministries, without silos.

06 Faithful Stewardship

We steward time, money, and trust as gifts from God, and we pursue excellence in all of it.

07 Servant Leadership

We lead by serving, and we raise up others to do the same.



THE CAMPUS

BUILT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

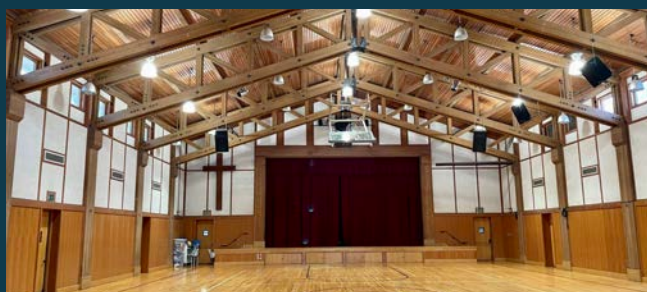
The mission field is right down the road.

Our campus sits in the center of the Valley, less than four miles from the local high school — and we have been investing in that opportunity.

- **A beautiful 700-seat sanctuary**, dedicated in 2008
- **Basecamp**, our newly remodeled youth building, designed for student ministry and relationships
- **A gym** with real potential for recreation, outreach, and community connection
- **Park-sized grounds** for gatherings, events, and outdoor ministry
- **Holy Grounds Cafe**, our coffee shop, open to the community all week long

This is more than a collection of facilities. **It is an environment for ministry.**

Only a small percentage of students at the local high school are committed Christians, and only one other church in the Valley runs a weekly youth program. **The need is great. The proximity is providential. The campus is ready.**



Our campus is also home to the **SYV Presbyterian Preschool** — a ministry of this church with about **60 students**, welcoming families from across the Valley onto our grounds every weekday.

Our vision is for this campus to be a hub year-round — a place where students come, belong, and discover that the church isn't just for their parents. It's for *them*.

THE ROLE

A FIRM FOUNDATION. A BLANK CANVAS.

You won't be starting with nothing — and you won't be inheriting someone else's finished vision either. **The building blocks are already here.**

What's already in place

- **Strong existing ministry** to children and youth on Sundays, Thursdays, and at on-campus summer camps
- **Alpha**, our evangelism course — **100 participants last spring**, with tracks for every age, including a middle school Youth Alpha
- **A volunteer team** eager to jump in
- **Church leadership** that has caught the vision
- **A church family** convinced that discipling the next generation is central to our calling
- **New financial resources**, because the church is debt free
- **A campus** with spaces built for this ministry

What's yours to build

You will have the opportunity to **plant a brand-new high school ministry from the ground up.**

- Lead and grow our middle school ministry
- Launch the high school ministry
- Recruit, train, and release volunteers
- Plan retreats and outreach events
- Cultivate relationships with local schools and churches
- Create environments students want to invite their friends into

You'll help shape the vision from the start.



SCOPE

BIGGER THAN YOUTH MINISTRY

How do we become the kind of church where students want to come, families want to belong, and volunteers want to serve?

Your influence will extend well beyond students. You will help shape a **unified vision for ministry to families**, invest in emerging leaders, and build relationships with our preschool families.

And because this is a pastoral position, you will **share in the broader pastoral ministry of the church** — Sunday leadership, preaching, pastoral care, weddings, and funerals. We're looking for a *pastor*, not simply a youth leader.



A TRUE PASTORAL PARTNERSHIP

We are a small staff, and everyone carries real weight. You would work most closely with **Gunnar Tesdahl** (Senior Pastor) and **Lauren Thill** (Executive Pastoral Assistant & Discipleship Lead), alongside **Alan Satchwell** (Worship Director), **Ruthy Gallo** (Children's Ministry Director), **Autumn Van der Linden** (Office Manager & Ministry Coordinator), and **Dennis Hartman** (Business Administrator).

We pray together and for one another, laugh a lot, and cover for each other when a week goes sideways. Over the past eighteen months we have watched God do remarkable things here — side by side.

You would be welcomed here as a **partner in the Gospel**, not simply a staff member. We are praying for the person God is already preparing for this role to join a thriving, unified, Christ-centered team.



THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

A REMARKABLE PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY

Wine country, ranch land, and the coast — all within half an hour.

Forty minutes north of Santa Barbara, the Valley is a stretch of oak-covered hills, vineyards, and working ranches shared by five small towns — Solvang, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, and Buellton. People come here on vacation. Some of us get to call it home.

A genuinely small-town life. Kids ride bikes to the creamery, you run into half the congregation at the grocery store, and Friday night high school football is a community event.

The outdoors, year-round. Hiking and camping in Figueroa Mountain and Los Padres National Forest, boating and fishing at Lake Cachuma, horse country in every direction, and sunshine most of the year.

Beaches and a city nearby. The Gaviota coast is a half-hour drive; Santa Barbara and its beaches, restaurants, and university about forty minutes; Los Angeles a couple of hours south when you want it.

Food, farms, and a Danish village. Farmers markets, family wineries, ranch-to-table restaurants, and Solvang's windmills and bakeries — a town that draws visitors from around the world and still feels like home on a Tuesday.

Good schools, close together. Strong local elementary schools feed a single valley-wide high school, so students and families are genuinely connected across all five towns.

An easy pace. No commute, no traffic, no sprawl. A five-minute drive to almost anything, and dark skies at night.

Don't just come to the Valley.
Come and love the Valley.

THE PERSON

THE KIND OF LEADER WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We believe ministry to the next generation is about far more than filling a calendar. It is about discipleship and evangelism, families learning to follow Jesus together, teenagers discovering that the Gospel is not merely something their parents believe but **good news that changes their own lives** — and ultimately about the glory of God. That's why we're willing to invest in this position. The person who thrives in it will likely be someone who:

WE LOOK FOR FIVE THINGS — THE FIVE C'S

Christ-Centered

Your own walk with Jesus comes first. You lead out of a living relationship with Christ, not out of technique, and your ministry will only ever be as healthy as that.

Character

Who you are matters as much as what you accomplish. You bring humility, integrity, emotional maturity, and a pastor's heart for people over programs — the person in the hospital, the teenager who feels unseen.

Chemistry

You fit this team and make it better. You break down silos, build shared ownership, and thrive in the second chair — taking real initiative while finding joy in advancing a vision you gladly share.

Competence

You can build, not just maintain. You know how to take an idea and turn it into a ministry that works, you preach well, and you raise up volunteers and emerging leaders rather than doing it all yourself.

Calling

You are called to pastoral ministry, not simply to a job in youth work. You genuinely love teenagers, parents, and children, and you see children, students, young adults, and older adults as one family — one church.

QUALIFICATIONS

WHAT YOU'LL BRING

- Master of Arts or equivalent from an evangelical, accredited seminary, or nearing completion
- Ordained, ordainable, or eligible for ordination in ECO
- Christ-like character and a strong relationship with the Lord
- 3–5 years of church staff experience in youth, family, or pastoral ministry
- Demonstrated ability to attract and disciple students and families
- Experience raising up and equipping effective volunteers
- A track record of building sustainable, growing ministry
- Strong preaching and teaching gifts
- Emotional maturity, relational warmth, and strong communication skills
- A clear sense of call to pastoral ministry
- Alignment with ECO's Essential Tenets and SYVPC's theological identity

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

Full time, exempt

- **Salary \$80,000–\$90,000**, depending on experience
- **Health insurance** for pastor, spouse, and children under 26
- **Paid vacation** starting at two weeks
- **One week** of personal study leave
- **Professional education** and ministry business expense account
- **10% of salary toward retirement**, if ordained
- **Designated housing allowance**, if ordained
- **Moving cost support**



YOUR NEXT CHAPTER

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CHURCH WITH DEEP ROOTS AND FRESH MOMENTUM...

If everything is already built, this probably isn't the job for you. If you're looking for a ministry to maintain, this isn't it either.

But if you want to serve where the fields are white for harvest — with a campus, a team, a debt-free budget, and a congregation that has prayed for this moment for decades — **there is something special happening here.**

Jesus told His disciples to pray for workers in the harvest. **We're looking for one.**

Come help us gather the harvest, disciple the next generation, and build a church where generations *find and follow Jesus* together.



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Church



NEXT STEPS

HOW TO APPLY

We would be glad to hear from you. Send the following materials to Dennis Hartman, our Business Administrator, and we will be in touch about next steps.

Please include

- Résumé
- Cover letter
- A written statement of faith
- A link to a recent sermon or teaching sample

Send to

Dennis Hartman
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Dennis@syvpc.org

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and the position will remain open until filled.

"Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

JOHN 4:35



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