



The Beacon

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

February 2023

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
email: bethanialutheranch@gmail.com

Bethania's Mission Statement

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.

Message from Pastor Chris

Christian Nationalism is not something we talk about a lot at Bethania. I don't feel our church has been caught up in the national discussions going on regarding Christian Nationalism, and I believe part of the reason are the roots of American Lutheranism born from a German/Scandinavian migration that happened quite apart from the Puritanical origins of migrants from England. The latter would take a greater hold in our country's identity, while the former would take hold among us American Lutherans. Puritans and pilgrims let go of their old-world identity as they embraced a unique one in the colonies, while a lot of Lutherans coming to America brought many of their customs and identities with them. We can very much see this in Bethania's Danish culture and roots today.

Even though Christian Nationalism isn't something we talk about a lot here at Bethania, it is a topic garnering more time and space in various circles throughout our society. I don't talk about my personal politics a lot, but one thing I staunchly believe in is the separation of Church and State. While I think the two can work together for the betterment of society, I do not believe they should come together in any kind of a permanent relationship. Unfortunately, we're starting to hear some of the proclamations, albeit, still in outlier voices. However, they are growing. Christian Nationalism is the melding of these two spheres. While one might say Christianity has positive values and it would serve the nation to give those values more influence, as a pastor I would be concerned about whose interpretation of which values are being used. Additionally, a more growing concern of mine is the rise of antisemitism in our country, which I believe has a relationship with the topic of Christian Nationalism becoming more prevalent. Our valley is not exempt as we remember the swastika that was graffitied on the high school just a few years ago.

I share all this to say that I'm not an expert in Christian Nationalism, its specific tenets, and its growing influence. It's not a topic I feel readily available to talk about with any authority, but I do experience some concern. A scholar I admire and follow has just released a book about Christian Nationalism and the need to respond to it. I've invited him to come and speak at Unorthodox on Feb 19 at 11 am and I would like to invite anyone from the congregation who is interested to come and join. I'm leaving a blurb on Dr. Bradley Onishi below.

- Pastor Chris



DR. BRADLEY ONISHI is a scholar of religion and cohost of the *Straight White American Jesus* podcast. His writing has been published in the *New York Times*, *LA Review of Books*, and *Religion & Politics*, among other outlets. He holds degrees from Azusa Pacific University, Oxford University, and L'institut catholique de Paris, and he received his PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara. A TEDx speaker and the author, editor, or translator of four previous books, Onishi teaches at the University of San Francisco and lives in the Bay Area with his wife and daughter.

Ash Wednesday and Soup Supper

Join us for a simple Soup Supper followed by an Ash Wednesday Service at Bethania on Feb. 22. Supper will be at 6 pm in the Parish Hall and the service will begin at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. If you would like to make soup or bring a loaf of bread, please contact Kristyl in the church office.

Lenten Soup Suppers

We will continue our Lenten Soup Suppers beginning March 1, at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. Lent is a time of preparation and reflection, which is done better in community. As in the past, our Lenten Soup Suppers will be a simple space for us to be present in this community more fully. We'll eat, we'll talk, we'll enjoy good food, and we'll experience the Divine in one another. I will post a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall as we get closer to March, so please consider signing up for Soup, Salad, or Bread.

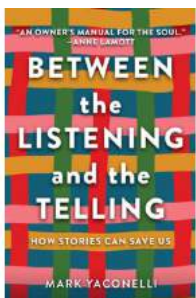
Annual Meeting, pt. 2

The Annual Meeting, pt. 2 will take place Feb. 26 in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 service. Among the items on the agenda are receiving the annual reports.

Theo Pub

Theology Pub will be gathering at Solvang Brew! We will gather at 7 pm around the fire pit on Feb. 9 and all are welcome to join. Come early to order delicious food and refreshing drinks.

Book Group



Bethania's Book Group is **back in person!** We gather on Feb. 16 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall and we'll be concluding our book, *Between the Listening and the Telling* and covering the last two chapters, 11 & 12. For those wanting to still join via Zoom, that will also be available, and a link will be sent out.

Youth Group News



You've Been Flocked!

FLAMINGO FUNDRAISING
SEASON IS HERE!

Feb 1 - Mar 31



HOW IT WORKS

Help support Bethania Youth Group's fundraiser to plant trees and clean our oceans while having a little pink flamingo fun! Make a donation and use the attached form to send a flock of pink flamingos to your friends', family members', or neighbors' front yard! The recipient will then have the opportunity to choose the next house (by paying a suggested donation fee of \$40). The recipient is not required to make a donation. The flock will be moved to the next house after 2 days regardless of a donation.

FLOCKING INSURANCE

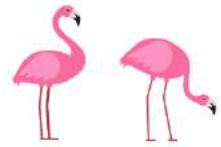
Protect your lawn from the flocks! We now offer flocking insurance for a donation fee of \$20. Fill out the attached form to protect your home.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PASTOR CHRIS AT
PASTOR@BETHANIALUTHERAN.NET OR PHONE
(626) 422-9967





You've Been Flocked!



Bethania Youth Group Fundraiser Order Form

SEND A FLOCK

Send a flock to a family member, a friend or a neighbor! You can send a gorgeous flock of pink flamingos for a one-time suggested donation of \$40. Return this form and donation in an envelope labeled "Flamingo Fundraiser" to the main office by March 31.

YOUR NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

FLOCK RECEIPT: _____

RECEIPT'S ADDRESS: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: _____ CASH CHECK

PURCHASE FLOCK INSURANCE

Protect your lawn from the flocks! We now offer Flock Insurance for a one-time suggested donation of \$20. Return this form and donation in an envelope labeled "Flamingo Fundraiser" to the main office by February 15.

YOUR NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: _____ CASH CHECK

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris by phone/text at (626) 422-9967 or by email at pastor@bethanialutheran.net.

Faith in Action

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Feb. 5

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 5. We will be packing in the Parish Hall starting around 10:30. Everyone is invited to help out – all ages and abilities are needed to help pack!

Unfortunately, with the higher cost of food and more seniors needing help, we have not been able to keep up with the demand lately. If you can come and help pack, either before worship services or after, please do!

The bags we make provide food items for local seniors to eat while taking medications. Usually our bags are used for breakfast meds and to guarantee a morning meal, afternoon snack or sometimes a late evening or midnight snack as one of the recipients let us know. Our breakfast bags are delivered three times a week to local seniors through the Buellton Senior Center.

If you would like to donate items, church is open daily (usually from 9-5) and you can drop off any donated items inside or at the church office, in addition to bringing items to us on packing day. You can also make a donation and earmark it “Brown Bag Breakfasts” so we can go do the shopping. Any amount of help is much appreciated!

- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
- Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
- Protein Bars
- Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)
- Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles
- Fruit Cups or Applesauce
- Pudding (non-refrigerated)
- Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Every contribution to this project helps make life a little better for a local senior. Thank you!

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

Iglesia Luterana Members Need Help

We received this message from Pastor Esteban at Iglesia Luterana. With the fields flooded, their members are struggling more than usual. Many have lost their entire incomes (*see related article, Food Distribution*).

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Dear Friends, Family and colleagues,

We hope that this email finds you well. We are sending this urgent email to ask for help for our community. The recent rains have washed away many of the fields and left our community jobless. The devastating rainstorms have turned almost all of the fields into rivers and many others have washed away the crops. We are asking for monetary donations to

help our fieldworkers cover some of their urgent needs. We usually don't ask for a lot but, we see the urgency in our people and know it's time to go to work. Our families need your help! Please help us help them.

Blessings,

Rev. Esteban Salazar
Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz
624 E. Camino Colegio
Santa Maria CA 93454

Please keep them in your prayers. If you would like to help, you can always donate through Bethania and earmark it "Iglesia" or send directly to Pastor Esteban and Angie.

– Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry



Food Distribution and Blessing Box

We have been seeing many new clients enroll and hearing so many heartbreaking stories the past few weeks. I ask myself, "Which story should I share? What can we do better?"

- Two of our regular clients who have been homeless, just managed to get a trailer and were living at Cachuma. The atmospheric river event destroyed their trailer. They are now homeless again, trying to get help from FEMA and others to restore their trailer, which is filled with mold. The woman has extreme health issues and the man is disabled. She said she can't believe how hard it is to go back to being homeless after having their own "home". And, in a hotel room, much of the food we give out cannot be cooked! What to do to help? – We found items they could microwave or eat out of the package. We will pray for them.

- An older gentleman (late 80s) came to distribution for the first time. He was upset that he had to ask for help – “This is the first time in all my years I have ever had to do this!” He and his wife had nothing but one can of soup and a bottle of water in their cupboards. He said, “We are so hungry. Is there something you can give me right now that I can take home and microwave so we can eat?” What to do to help? – We got him some ready to eat items, cheese and crackers and other easy things, told him to come again next week and we will try to round up other items. We will pray for him and his wife, who is not well.
- A woman who has been coming periodically stopped by and shared her heartache – her husband is a field worker who follows the crops. These workers go on a circuit, traveling to where they are needed. They came to work the strawberry fields and guess what – all workers have been let go (see related story on Iglesia). They are living in their car, parking in the Lompoc Walmart at night, trying to stay safe until they can get work and better their circumstances. “It is so cold at night,” she said. What to do to help? – We gave them items that did not need to be cooked (which the husband starting eating immediately, he was so hungry), gave them toiletries, and promised more help if she could come back. We will pray for them.

The Blessing Box always needs items – but right now, consider donating items that do not have to be cooked on a stove or can be heated easily in a microwave. Or, donate some items for our pantry so we have things available when the need comes up. Someone out there can use a “blessing” from Bethania – and we never know when they will arrive for help.

Bethania continues operating as an Emergency USDA Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. If you would like to help on a Tuesday, please contact me. We appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. Our Tuesdays are split into shifts, with the unloading crew coming in at 9:00 to help move items and get ready for packing. Bag packers may come at 9:30 am or 1:30. Produce is also packed in the afternoon. Distribution helpers come around 4:45 for the evening distribution. Clean up helpers are always welcome at the end of the night.

We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission, which is making a difference in so many lives here in our area.

– Linda Marzullo
Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
688-5219 (Work), 688-3059 (Home) or vikingsprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday: Let's Show Some Love in February!

The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on Feb. 26. Noisy Offering donations received that day will help us support field workers who have lost their jobs due to storm damage. They could really use some love.

What will our donations be used towards?

Our February Noisy Sunday offerings will be used to support members at Iglesia Luterana and those who come to Tuesday's Food Distribution. Field workers everywhere are in big trouble, with a complete loss of income. Many are unable to stay in their rentals and are now homeless. People are parking in their cars in the Walmart lots, as there is no other safe parking area for those without shelter.

People coming to Tuesday's Food Distribution need:

Deodorant, Shampoo, Razors, Toothbrushes/Toothpaste, Wipes, Food items that do not have to be prepared (Jerky, Dried Fruit, Tuna Kits, Cheese & Cracker packs, Peanut Butter, Nuts, Shelf Stable Milk), Gift Cards for food places like Subway, McDonalds, Jack in the Box, Albertsons.

People at Iglesia Luterana need:

Funds for rent and utilities, Diapers, Feminine Hygiene products, Flour, Maseca, Canola Oil, Dried Pinto Beans, Sugar, Small Pasta (to make soup), Coffee, Shelf Stable Milk.

You may deliver these items to the church entry, the office, contact me for pickup, or bring them on the 26th.

We all really "make change for the better" with each Noisy Sunday. So send in your coins, cash and checks into the office and make some noise on February 26. Together, we can show our neighbors some love!

– Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry

Events and Occasions

Coffee Hosts in February

Thanks to our February Coffee Hosts:

Feb 5: Glenda Madrid
Feb: 12: _____
Feb. 19: _____
Feb. 26: David & Lisa Pedersen

If you would like to host coffee on Feb. 12 or Feb. 19, please call Kristyl or sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

Fastelavn

Celebration

Bethania Lutheran Church
Saturday, February 11, 2023

Parish Hall doors open at 5:30 pm

Dinner served at 6:00 pm

*Join us for a Danish Hot Dog Dinner with all the fixings,
Beer, wine and sodas at an additional charge
Costume Contest and Raffle Prizes!!*

Please keep costumes family friendly*

All are welcome!!

However, tickets are limited, so get yours early!

Tickets: Adults \$15

Children 4 - 10 \$10

Children under 4 - Free

Tickets can be purchased at the church office,

by calling 805-688-4637 or email bethanialutheranch@gmail.com

or online: bethanialutheran.net



Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - Jan. 19, 2023

To be more informative and transparent, your Church Council is continuing the new process of communicating news and publishing decisions we have made via the Beacon. Our goal, each month, is to announce major decisions taken by the council to help everyone stay abreast of issues facing the church. From the December Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- The Council approved the hiring of Rebecca Aguilar Huerta as an aide for the Preschool.
- The council voted to move the Christmas Eve 11 pm service to 10 pm in coming years.
- Voted for Council Officers for 2023: Ron Walsh, President; Jan Zigler, Vice-President; Leigh Berenger, Treasurer; and Carol Lake has an additional year of her term remaining as Secretary.
- Fastelavn returns after a three year absence on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are now on sale through the website, from the church office, or after services on Sunday. Tickets will not be available at the door.
- The financial statements for the end of 2022 showed a net revenue over expenses of nearly \$14,000. Thanks be to God for our faithful members and non-members who gave of their talents!
- Pastor Chris reported that the youth group is going really well with 10-14 kids participating. They will be having a fundraiser to raise money for environmental groups, as they are passionate about our earth. He also reported that we had approximately 250 in attendance at our Christmas services, beginning with the Danish Little Christmas, and concluding with service on Christmas day.

The next Council meeting date will be Thursday, Feb. 16th at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

Questions, if any, about these discussions, decisions, or messages should be addressed to a council member preferably in writing.

Jan Simonsen 805-319-8652	Leigh Berenger (310) 877-8418	Lori McConnell (805) 331-7971
Karin Baty 612-229-8172	Jan Zigler (559) 740-3676	Anne Twigg (805) 350-1922
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736

Notes for December Financial Statement - Period Ending 12/31/22

Balance Sheet

	November 2022	December 2022	Change
Operating Acct	\$63,292	\$94,621	\$31,329
Money Mkt Acct	\$141,101	\$149,727	\$8,626
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,980	\$1,878,465	-\$515
Total Assets	\$4,285,787	\$4,285,787	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

December 2022	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$58,405	\$37,113	\$21,292
Total Expenses	\$27,410	\$27,652	-\$242
Net Income	\$30,994	\$9,461	\$21,533

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$47,532	\$30,000 (includes \$5000 grant from a family foundation)	\$17,532
Non-Members	\$2,986	\$1,200	\$1,786
	\$50,518	\$31,200	\$19,318
Produce Table	n/a		
Brown Bag	\$0		
Food Distribution	see below		

* The cash position is still good with \$94,621 in checking and \$149,727 in the money market account.

* 4 Unique Donors to Push Pay in December

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

* Offerings were \$18,418 over budget for December

* All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.

* **Overall income was 103.9% of the budget**

* **Overall expenses were at 97.5% of the budget**

Food Distribution - December

\$5,000.00 Family Foundation Grant

\$955.00 Other Donations

\$20.00 Common Goods Arts & Crafts Sale

Total: \$5,975.00

Next Social Ministry Meeting – Feb. 1 at 6 pm

The next Social Ministry meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1st at 6 pm in the Fireside Room. The main topics for discussion will be:

Dealing with the changes in the USDA Program, Food Bank and new Food Rules
How to better serve those who require additional assistance
Housing: Information from Pastor Chris and Unorthodox presentation
Review of fund raising needs

We need committee members to help us shape the direction of our ministries! Please consider joining us on this committee. 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 vikingspressprint@verizon.net

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

We uplift in prayer the following people in our congregation and community. May we minister to and bless all who need God's help.

Prayers of Comfort During Grief for the family and loved ones of Svend Lindegaard

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Jake & Anya Knotts, Betsy Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Stewart & Sheila Mee, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrson, Tom &Carolynn Petersen, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

February Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary and **Sunday School** in the Fireside Room

2nd & 4th Sundays - 5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Monday - Friday

9 am - 3 pm - The Church Office is open.

Mondays

8:00 pm AA in the Fireside Room

Tuesdays

9:30 am, 1:45 pm, and 5:15-6:45 pm Food Distribution Shifts on the Laurel Side

Wednesdays

Chapel 11:30 am & 3:30 pm in the Sanctuary

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

Thursdays

7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 1

6:00 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, Feb. 4

6 pm Set-Up Parish Hall for Brown Bag Breakfast Packing

Sunday, Feb. 5

10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 8

5:30 pm "Touch-A-Truck" Planning Meeting in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Feb. 9

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, Feb. 10

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

6 pm Set-Up for Fastelavn Celebration in the Parish Hall

Saturday, Feb. 11

5:30 pm Fastelavn Celebration in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 15

5:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Thursday, 16

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Friday, Feb. 17

6-9 pm Decorating the Parish Hall for Feb. 18 Event

Saturday, Feb 18

1-9 pm Event in the Parish Hall

Sunday Feb. 19

11 am Unorthodox - Dr. Bradley Onishi in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday

Noon Deadline for submissions to the February 2023 Beacon

6 pm Soup Supper in the Parish Hall

7 pm Service in the Sanctuary

Saturday, Feb. 25

9:30 am - noon Council retreat in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Feb. 26

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

10:45 ish Annual Meeting, pt. 2 in the Parish Hall

5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

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February 2023

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1-(805) 688-4637
bethanialutheranch@gmail.com
www.bethanialutheran.net

Preschool/After School
1-(805) 688-7077
bethaniaps@verizon.net



Bethania Lutheran Church
Saturday, February 11, 2023
Parish Hall doors open at 5:30 pm
Dinner served at 6:00 pm