



The Beacon

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

March 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

I feel like we've hit a big reset on how we do church because of the pandemic. On one end that makes things difficult because we're figuring out what works and what doesn't again, but on another it offers each of a chance to step into some new territory that maybe we aren't used to or haven't done in a long time.

Lent is one of those opportunities. In my sermon for the first Sunday of Lent I spoke about intentionality. Lent is a space that asks us to do more with our faith than any other time in the church calendar and that's a good thing. It's a 40-day space of rededicating ourselves to God and community. I would like to invite you all into the practice of intentionality this year for Lent. I would like each of you to consider doing two things specifically, as well as be more intentional in ways that are unique to yourselves.

The two specifics I'd like you to participate in are the Lenten Soup Suppers and Sunday Worship. Lent is a time where we are asked to not just recommit to God, but to recommit to our community. I've shaped our soup suppers to have community as the foundational experience in which we just grow closer to one another. This year it will feature personal stories from members of the congregation, and I imagine these will be stories that we will all connect to with our own past experiences. And worship has always been meant as a communal experience. We confess together, we receive communion together, we are redeemed together. Worship is an experience that is only added to when it is experienced as community. This year I would like you to try and be present for the worship services and soup suppers you can make it to, not for the benefit of Bethania, but primarily for the benefit of yourselves. We are social creatures meant to be in community with one another and we are at our best when we are stepping into those communal experiences.

Lent and Easter are among the oldest practices of the church. Lent was especially a time where new believers intentionally focused on their devotion to God and committing to this way of life we are called to. It's always good to reorient ourselves on this path we're called to—to remind ourselves why we're followers of Jesus and to consider what this looks like in the coming year. Rather than going about our routines as we always do, I'd like to invite you to disrupt those routines and adding something devotional, something intentional, something you feel called to that can help you to grow in your relationship with God, your community, and this way of life. Maybe it's praying, meditating, walking in nature, calling a friend just to talk, volunteering at Food Distribution—something unique to you, but something intentional.

As I've said before, the Church is changing and we're entering a new world that we don't fully know how to navigate. Having a foundation with God and our community, I believe, will be integral in how we navigate this world. As long as we have each other and our relationship with the divine, I'm confident we're going to be just fine.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

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



One of the flocks of flamingos!

Faith in Action

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: March 5

You need to keep a roof over your head, utilities on, food in the fridge and keep up with your medication. But what if you can't afford all four? What do you do? The choices are difficult—and potentially dangerous for local seniors. Research shows that more than 20% of seniors must skip food or medication, unable to afford both – and that percentage is rising. Our Brown Bag Breakfasts are one way we can help these seniors take their morning medications with food.

Our bags are used for breakfast meds and to guarantee a morning meal, afternoon 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.

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for **Sunday, March 5**. We will be packing in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to help out – all ages and abilities are needed to help pack. If you can come and help pack, either before the 9:30 service, before Unorthodox, or during coffee time on March 5, please do!

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	Pudding (non-refrigerated)
Fruit Cups or Applesauce	
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

“God’s Hands” at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie are taking care of so many families and trying to meet so many urgent needs among the Oaxacan people they serve. This is very difficult to do with their limited church membership income. Most of their congregation can only contribute a dollar or so to the offering – they have no money. Listening to the Salazars’ many stories about their ministry, I can clearly see that they are “God’s Hands” in Santa Maria, working with the needy.

Most of the members of Iglesia Luterana are field workers and are struggling. The fields are flooded. Many crops that these workers tend are ruined. If you can contribute any of these items, you too can be “God’s Hands” for the hungry in Santa Maria. Your donations are making a difference in a life and in families of hard-working people. If you would like to make a financial donation, please be sure to earmark it for “Iglesia”.

Most Needed:

Dry Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee

Other needs: Snacks (such as Cookies) – Bottled Juice – Feminine Products – Shampoo – Laundry Detergent – Dish Soap – Bleach and Cleaning Products – Baby Diapers (All sizes especially 5&6)

Please pray for for all members of Iglesia who are struggling with hardships both financial and emotional in nature. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our friends at Iglesia.

– Linda Marzullo

Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count on March 26, 2023

For our Noisy Offering in March, and in honor of International Women’s Day early this month (March 8), we will be collecting funds to help local women in need with feminine hygiene supplies. (Yes, this is an awkward subject for many – but let’s get over it.)

Why do we need to support this?

During our weekly food distribution, we are being asked frequently for feminine hygiene supplies. Members of Iglesia Luterana also constantly request feminine hygiene products. When funds are tight, these critical items are a costly reminder that women suffer more than men during times of financial insecurity. Currently there is also a supply chain shortage of hygiene pads, which is driving the price up and making it harder for those with limited incomes to find the products they need. Feminine hygiene is not a luxury, but a necessity.

What Do we Know About Period Poverty in the United States?

Half of the population menstruates. We all know plenty of people that have a period. But not everyone knows that one in four people struggle to purchase period supplies due to lack of income. This is called period poverty, and chances are we each know someone who has experienced this need – a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend.

No student should have to miss school, no adult should have to miss work, and no person should have to miss out on daily life because they are unable to afford the basic necessities they require to thrive.

The lived experiences around menstruation for people living in poverty in the U.S. are quite similar to those in low-income and middle-income countries. Shelby Davies, a fellow in Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s Division of Adolescent Medicine, shares how this has impacted her patients in Philadelphia: *In spring 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic began to shut down access to many services, I was approached by a colleague about a patient who badly needed menstrual products but could not afford them. Knowing my interest in the area, my colleague asked if I had any resources to share. The patient was in her late teens and had reached out in a moment of crisis in need of free menstrual pads. Her family did not have money for pads, and she often needed to use toilet paper as a replacement, which was both annoying and embarrassing. She had also become quite dependent on the pads she receives from her school, which was now closed due to the pandemic. I was saddened to learn that there were so few local organizations that could offer assistance.*

Menstrual products are expensive in the U.S. In a **national survey** of 1,000 menstruating teens, 1 in 5 struggled to afford period products and 4 in 5 either missed or knew someone who missed class time because they did not have access to period products. Unfortunately, government benefits, such as the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), do not cover the cost of these necessary supplies. While the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act made period products medical expenses eligible for purchase with flexible spending accounts or health savings accounts, uninsured individuals cannot access this benefit. (Source for above paragraphs: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)

We all "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday offering. So send in your coins, cash and checks into the office and make some noise on March 26. Together, we can CHANGE a woman's world. Even a small donation or one coin can make a difference to someone in need.

"When girls are given the right tools to succeed, they can create incredible futures, not only for themselves but also for those around them." - Meghan Markle

– Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry

April 30th: Hike Against Hunger Returns!

The 2023 Hike Against Hunger is scheduled for April 30.

Hikers, walkers, bikers, runners, joggers...all are welcome. Donations raised from this event will be used to help fight hunger in our community. Please consider this an opportunity to help fight hunger, by sponsoring a Hiker, making a personal donation, and attending the BBQ and fellowship after the Hike.

More info to come in next month's Beacon – mark your calendars for the return of this beloved event!

Worship in a beautiful setting, a fantastic BBQ lunch, friendly competition, games for kids, and a great way to help fight against hunger around the globe. Invite your friends, your walking group, your service club, your teammates, co-workers, relatives...let's get a big crowd out there to celebrate a gorgeous day and a fantastic event!

If you would like to help with any area of this event (we need publicity help, set up, clean up, etc.) please contact the church office.

Reminder about Thrivent Action Team Cards...

You can use a Thrivent Action Team Card for any of these projects: to help with period poverty, Hike for Hunger, diapers, formula, quilts, etc. Ask your Thrivent representative of Kristyl Downey in the Church Office.

Quilts Around the World

Each year we make quilts, personal care kits, and school kits and send them to a collection point in Camarillo. From there they go to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse and then around the world. The map below shows more.



Events and Occasions

Secret Prayer Pals 2023-2024

March 2023

Dear Siblings in Christ,

You are invited to join Bethania Secret Prayer Pals 2023. This is our third year. Each year, we prayed for our pals anonymously, and some of us sent cards and had gifts delivered to their pal's front door just to let their pal know they were thinking of them. *But prayer is the most important part!* We kept our identities a secret until this month. **If you'd like to join us this year, please fill out the information below and return to Jan Zigler (280 First St. Solvang or janzigler@outlook.com) by March 15. You'll find out who prayed for you in March 2024 at the Reveal Party!**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

e-mail _____

Birthday _____ (no years required)

Favorite:

Color _____

Season _____

Flower _____

Hobbies _____

Author _____

City _____

Dream vacation _____

Are you celebrating any milestones this year? _____

Do you have a specific prayer request? _____

Anything else? _____

God's Blessings to you,

Jan Zigler

Lenten Soup Suppers

We 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. Pastor Chris posted a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, so please consider signing up for Soup, Salad, or Bread.

Theo Pub

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

Bethania Lutheran Church Women

Meals on Wheels Cookie Bagging



When: 7pm Tuesday, March 14

Where: Lois DeMeyer's house,
144 Manzanita Dr, Solvang

Please bring three dozen home-baked cookies of any kind ... or just yourself!

We will be bagging cookies for our Meals on Wheels friends for delivery on St. Patrick's Day. While we bag, we'll learn more about Meals on Wheels.

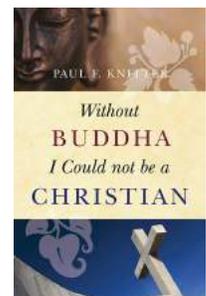
RSVP to Lois DeMeyer

805-698-0091 or

lbdemeyer@gmail.com

Book Group

Bethania's Book Group is Back in Person! We gather on March 16 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. We're starting a new book called "Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian" by Paul Knitter. We'll be discussing the first two chapters. This is a great book to jump into the Book Group with, so please join us! For those wanting to still join via Zoom, that will also be available, and a link will be sent out.



Coffee Hosts in March

Thanks to our March Coffee Hosts:

March 5: Caro Stinson

March 12: Coffee in celebration of Barbara Pedersen's 90th Birthday

March 19: Emily Abello & Ilse Popma

March 26: Marilyn Larsen & Carol Lake

Coffee Hosting

Recently, we have had some discussion about coffee hosting. Pastor Chris and I (Kristyl) thought it would be a good idea to print the Coffee Hour Hosting Guide in The Beacon. This will familiarize people who have not hosted before and are considering it and re-familiarize it with those who have hosted coffee before.

Coffee Hosting Guide

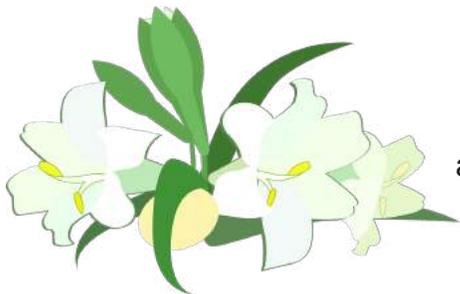
Thank you so much for volunteering to serve as Coffee Hour Host. We hope this information will be helpful.

1. Bob Jensen or Caro Stinson will set-up the coffee pot and start it for you.
2. Coffee hour attendance is about 25 people so plan to provide approximately 30-40 pieces.
3. The serving table is 96" x 30". A tablecloth, flowers, etc. are optional.
4. Please place small napkins (from the pantry) and arrange your serving dishes so that two lines can be served at the same time. We also have small plates and forks. Also, place an offering basket at the start of the line (basket in pantry).
5. Near the coffee cart is a small table (48" x 28") which is your option to cover or not. On this table place:
 - 8 oz. coffee cups and small juice cups (pantry)
 - Water from the small spigots in the kitchen. Pitchers are in the pantry.
 - Sweetener and sugar packets, creamers, coffee stirrers (cabinet to left of stove)
6. Set-up can be done before church begins and often the coffee host leaves the service after communion to finish set-up and check the tables before people arrive.
7. ***Clean up, please! Return all unused supplies to their original storage area. Clean off tables. Clean the coffee pot. Everyone needs to dry sweep the floor under and around the tables where people eat and neat the coffee table.***
8. ***Clean the sink (with Comet or Bon Ami) where you emptied the coffee.***
9. Offering \$ should be given Donna Hinsbeeck on Sunday or to Kristyl Downey in the church office.

Questions? Kristyl Downey, 805-688-4637.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Would you like to provide an arrangement of flowers in the sanctuary? It can be given in memory of, in honor of someone or an occasion, just for fun (Kristyl made a Fastelavn arrangement) or no reason. Please let Kristyl in the office know. She will put something in the bulletin if you like.



And Coming Up in April - Easter Lilies

This year we will have 25 Easter lilies in church. We are letting you know ahead of the April newsletter because easter is April 9. Be sure to look for an email form the church and announcements in the Sunday bulletin probably around March 19.

Image by [Nina Garman](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Church Business

Endowment Fund Scholarships Available

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that educational and vocational scholarships will once again be available for the fall semester. Applications are open to persons who will be, or are currently attending college or vocational training this fall, and who are also active in the church life of Bethania.

We invite you to apply by writing an essay introducing yourself to the committee. The content should include a description of your past and present church participation with Bethania, the influence your faith has had in making everyday life decisions, ways your faith has determined educational and future goals, and examples of your community service. Please also share your strongest memory of being part of the community which is Bethania Lutheran Church and why that one memory holds significance.

For anyone who does not have a standard application form, some will be at the church office as well as the high school.

Pertinent Dates:

March 17th: Applicant's due date to submit or mail applications. (SYVHS students only.)

March 31st for non-SYVHS applicants.

For further information, contact David Hemming, Endowment Chairman

David@1valley.com

(805)680-7078

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet **News from the Bethania Council - Feb. 16, 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 February Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Bill Zigler, Property Committee - Chair, shared that a lot of work has been completed around the campus, and that a possible church-wide work day will be organized in the spring. Further details will be announced.
- The Reconciling in Christ committee met for the first time to begin the process of moving us towards becoming a Reconciling in Christ Church. Committee members are Josh Bratt, Linda Marzullo, Kristyl Downey, Diana Boltz, and Inge-Lise Pedersen. More information will be available as we move forward in this 12-18 month process.
- Fastalavn Celebration was great success with over 100 people attending and a net of \$2,500 on the event.
- Ash Wednesday service will be on Feb. 22, at 7 pm, preceded by a soup supper at 6 pm. Soup suppers will be held every Wednesday during Lent at 6 pm.
- We discussed the condition of the curtain in the Parish Hall, and will be investigating getting it replaced.
- The youth group fundraiser, Flamingo Flocking, is going well with 17 homes so far being flocked with Flamingos! They are raising funds for environmental cleanup of some of our beaches.
- The next Council meeting date will be Thursday, March 16th at 7 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 January Financial Statement - Period Ending 01/31/22

Balance Sheet

	December 2022	January 2023	Change
Operating Acct	\$94,621	\$91,070	-\$3,551
Money Mkt Acct	\$149,727	\$138,164	-\$11,563
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,465	\$1,878,465	\$0
Total Assets	\$4,325,740	\$4,310,626	\$15,115

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

January 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$18,043	\$20,572	-\$2,529*
			*does not include Endowment Fund
Total Expenses	\$28,356	\$25,262	\$3,094
Net Income	-\$10,313	-\$4,690	-\$5,623

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$14,991	\$16,700	-\$1,709
Non-Members	\$238	\$720	-\$482
	\$15,229	\$17,420	-\$2,191

Produce Table	n/a		
Brown Bag	\$0		
Food Distribution	see below		

Cash position is still good with \$91,070 in general checking and \$138,164 in money market

** 36 Unique Donors to Push Pay in January

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

Endowment Fund contributions were moved below the line (\$3,000)

Next Social Ministry Meeting – April 5 @ 6 pm

The next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, April 5th at 6 pm in the Fireside Room**. The main topics for discussion will be:

- Hike Against Hunger Planning
- How to better serve those who come to Food Distribution and Blessing Box
- Future Projects

We need committee members and friends to help us choose how to make change and impact our society for good. 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 vikingpressprint@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.

For Comfort During Grief for the family and loved ones of Lee Statom. Lee passed away Feb. 18.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, "Kira", 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, Rick Shade, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

March 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 Fireside Room (during Lent)
6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper in the Parish Hall

Thursdays

7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, March 1

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

Saturday, March 4

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

Sunday, March 5

10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall
12 noon Property Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Tuesday, March 7

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

Thursday, March 9

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, March 10

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Sunday, March 12

2 am Daylight Saving Time Begins
2 pm Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble Band Concert in the Sanctuary
5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Tuesday, March 14

7 pm Meals on Wheels Cookie Packing at the home of Lois De Meyer

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom
7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Tuesday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 26

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service
5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Monday, March 27

noon Beacon Deadline - Please submit articles and calendar items to Kristyl in the church office.

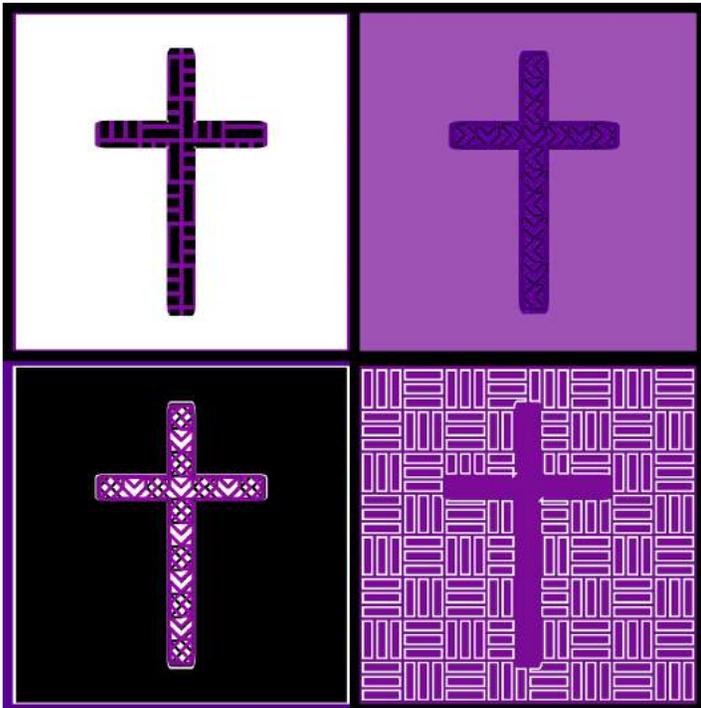
The Beacon

March 2023

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

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

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



LENT -
A TIME FOR
REFLECTION,
PAUSE AND
INTENTIONALITY