



## The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
1-805-688-4637  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

**April 2023**

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463  
email: [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)

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## 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.

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## Message from Pastor Chris

At Unorthodox the last few weeks we've been going over the last week of Jesus' life and looking at both the understanding of Jesus' last week from a historical perspective (meaning what might be different than what the gospel writers tell us) and the story through the lens of the gospel writers who are writing anywhere from 40 to 70 years after Jesus' death. A recurring theme has been the realization that our theologies of Jesus death and resurrection are usually *contextless*. What do I mean by that? I mean that we typically grew up believing Jesus' death was to atone for our sins, and Jesus' resurrection was to give us "believers" everlasting life. Both of these assertions can be made without looking at the context in which these events happened, i.e. what was going on in Jerusalem and in the Greco-Roman world during this time. Not only do these theological assertions not consider context, I think they compel us to ignore context all together.

However, when we look at the context in which Jesus' death and resurrection happen, our theologies about why Jesus died and rose again open up to more understanding, and I believe, more connection to our world today. When we look at why Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of his death, when we look at the scriptural quotes he uses during this last week, we can't ignore that Jesus was taking a stand against the collusion of Jewish Temple leaders with Roman oppression, nor can we ignore that this had something to do with why he was killed.

Likewise, when we look at the context of his resurrection, at the commandments he gave to his disciples after he rose, we see that it has less to do with where one goes after they die, and more to do with how one chooses to live knowing that Jesus is still present. When we consider that the gospel writers are all sharing this story after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and after a concerted persecution of Jewish and Christian people, we can understand that the resurrection was not just about everlasting life, but about giving people hope and courage in the midst of horrendous circumstances. When we look back the lived experiences of people in the first and second centuries, we discover a resilience that is given birth and supported by this way of life of community, support, love, compassion, forgiveness, and caring for the least of these—all the things Jesus taught and lived out while he was alive—a way of life that was stronger than anything Rome could muster. When we look at the historical context of Jesus' death and resurrection, there's so much we simply cannot ignore because it resonates with our lived experiences today.

I can't tell you how many times I've needed to feel hope in the midst of chaotic, uncertain, sometimes horrendous circumstances. I can't tell you how many times I've felt that the powers and principalities (St. Paul's words) have felt too powerful to be overcome by love and compassion. And I can't

tell you how many times I've found that hope in knowing how it has created resilience within communities for centuries.

As your pastor it is that hope that I want to resonate with you when you think of Jesus' resurrection, the empty tomb, Easter Sunday. Whenever you are feeling that overwhelming sense of an uncertain world, I want you to remember our Lord who could not be contained by the power of his uncertain world, and I want you to remember that hope that has resonated with communities in real, lived-out ways for 2,000 years. I want you to remember that it wasn't just a promise of everlasting life, but more powerfully, the promise of our God to be present with us in our darkest moments, reminding us that darkness and death do not have the final say in our lives. We believe in a God of new life, a God of renewed hope, and a God who has been working through our ancestors beyond measure time and time again. Wherever you are at in this stage of your life, I pray that you can find hope in the promises of God, in this community that continues to abide with you, and in your pastor who loves you and is here for you. Easter blessings to you all. He is Risen Indeed!

**In Love,  
Pastor Chris**

## **Bethania Preschool & After School**

Our Preschool and After School children had a visit from the Leprechauns! These mischievous little people get into everything in the classrooms. They also leave behind a "pot of gold" for the children to enjoy. So far we have not been able to catch one in the "traps" we set, but we will keep trying!

We are excited to announce our 6th Annual SYV Touch-a-Truck fundraising event will take place in Bethania's parking lots on Saturday, May from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Funds raised will enable Bethania Preschool & After School to replace worn out playground equipment. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. If you are able to help please call the Preschool at 688-7077. Thank you.

The Preschool is having a rummage sale in the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 15 8am-12pm. We are asking for gently used clothing, kids and baby stuff. The monies generated from this Rummage Sale will be put towards the Preschool's tuition assistance fund. For donations, please call or text Elizabeth Breen at 805-350-1182 Thank you.

We already have families registering their children for Summer and Fall 2023-24 classes. Be sure your children, grandchildren and those of friends register as soon as possible to reserve a spot.

We will have the school age children with us during their Spring Break. They engage in spring arts and crafts, a field trip to the park, and indoor/outdoor games.

Each classroom will have an Easter party in April and children will enjoy hunting for Easter Eggs outdoors. Preschool will also be taking their Spring Pictures towards the end of April.

Around this time of the year, I enjoy taking the time to reflect and look back at when the children first started with us in August. I get to see how they have developed their skills here at Bethania and it is quite magical. I look back when one of our 2-year olds first began in August and we worked with that child on pronunciation of letters and sounds. Now when I walk through the classroom, I am greeted with "Hi Lola!" and open arms for a hug. It truly brings joy to my heart and soul when I see these children each day.

**Happy Spring to all!!  
Lola Gonzalez, Director**

# Holy Week

## Palm/Passion Sunday - April 2, 2023

We'll bless palm crosses and process into the sanctuary. During the service, we will hear the Passion According to Matthew.

## Good Friday, April 7 - 7 pm Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is a service characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles and by a "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in total darkness near the end of the service.

## Chalk Drawing, Saturday, April 8

We will be having chalk drawing in front of the church on Saturday, April 8. Chalk will be available, starting at 8:30 am. Blocks will be marked so our collective drawings will form a cross.



## Easter - April 9

Our Easter services will be held at 9 am & 11 am. Sunday School will be held during the 11 am service.

## Easter Cross for Flowers

The Easter Cross will be out Sunday morning at 8 am. Please bring flowers to decorate it and fill it up for the community to see!

## April - Easter Lilies

Once again, we have Easter lilies available (7 left as of March 30th). If you would like one, please fill out this form and return it with payment to the church office.



I/We would like to provide # \_\_\_\_\_ lily/lilies at \$9.50 each.

In memory of/In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed.



## Thanks to...

Thanks to our Holy Week crew: Diana Boltz, Melissa Eck, Kevin McConnell & Donna Ineman for preparations in the sanctuary and BLCW for hosting coffee our on Easter. And to our assisting ministers, readers, communion assistants, ushers and others.

## Faith in Action

### **Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: April 2**

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, April 2. 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!

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**

## **Quilting Group**

If you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt. Would you like to try it? In April we have two opportunities for you to help the Lutheran World Relief quilt program. On Friday morning, April 14, a group will meet from 9:30 to noon. Everyone is welcome to join us. Some people tie quilts and others use sewing machines to finish the edges. On Sunday morning, April 16 at the coffee hour we will be ready to tie more quilts. Go to [LWR.org/quilts](http://LWR.org/quilts) for more information about the history of the program that started in 1945.

## **Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count April 23**

For our Noisy Offering April 23, we will be using our coins and cash to help fight hunger locally.

### ***Why do we need to support this?***

- According to the U.S. Census' Household Pulse Survey for California (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>) for the past 3 months, 14.4% of all household respondents experience, sometimes or often, not having enough to eat. That means more than one in seven families are hungry.
- This computes to nearly 900 families in the Santa Ynez Valley who experience hunger each week!
- Since inception on March 24, 2020, our own Food Distribution has delivered over **1¼ million pounds of food** to needy families/households in our area.

- The Blessing Box has helped hundreds of people “get by” by being stocked daily with food items.
- Donations will help keep local people, right here in the Santa Ynez Valley.

We all “make change for the better” when we participate even in small ways. Thank you for helping fight hunger that our neighbors are facing.

– **Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry**

## **Food Needed - Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz**

Pastor Esteban and Angie are requesting help for their members, who need food. 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 will be helping a farm laborer 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 Pinto Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee

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**

## **April 30<sup>th</sup>: Hike Against Hunger** *Save the Date! Start getting your sponsors!* *Location/start time TBA*

Our annual **Hike Against Hunger** (formerly Hike for Hunger) is happening April 30<sup>th</sup>!

Hikers, walkers, bikers, runners, joggers, skaters...all are welcome. Invite friends and neighbors to participate or to sponsor you! Please consider this another opportunity to help fight local hunger, either by your personal donation or by sponsoring a Hiker, and attending the BBQ while congratulating the walkers with your cheers!

We are asking each hiker to try to gather as many donations as possible, with a minimum donation requested of \$5.00 per hiker. Any hiker who raises over \$50 in donations will be honored with a free lunch. Sponsor sheets will be available in the naRthex and the church office in early April. All sponsor sheets and donations must be turned in the day of the hike.

We will be having incentive prizes for the most donations raised by Kids 12 and under, Teens 13-18, and Adults 18-59, Adults 60 and up. Winners will be announced during lunch at the park.

Proceeds from this event will be used to purchase items for Bethania’s own Tuesday Food Distribution, which has been serving close to 200 area families weekly. With changes in the Food Bank programs, we must purchase more food items to keep these families healthy. All our purchases are made from donated funds and grants.

Come out and enjoy walking to benefit hungry households! BBQ lunch will be available. Please watch for more info to come. (If you would like to attend but cannot afford the cost of the lunch, please contact Pastor Chris for a scholarship.)

Worship in a beautiful setting, a fantastic BBQ lunch, friendly competition, games for kids, and a great way to help fight against hunger. 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 at (805) 688-4637 or Linda Marzullo at (805) 688-5219.

## Reminder about Thrivent Action Team Cards...

You can use a Thrivent Action Team Card for any of these projects: to help with period poverty, Food Distribution, Hike for Hunger, diapers, formula, quilts, etc. You can also help VBS and Preschool/After School. Ask your Thrivent representative or Kristyl Downey in the Church Office.

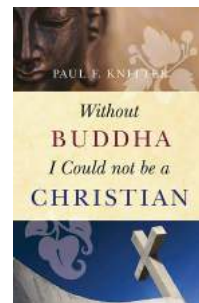
## Events and Occasions

### Theo Pub

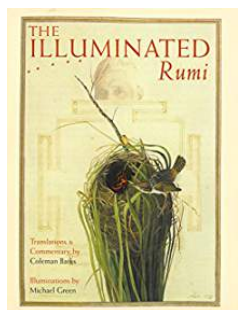
**Theology Pub will be meeting on a different week this month!** We will gather at 7PM around the fire pit on April 6 and we'll be talking about Jesus' commandment to "love one another as I have loved you", and all are welcome to join. Come early to order delicious food and refreshing drinks.

### Book Group

Bethania's Book Group is **back in person!** We gather on April 20 at 2PM 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 chapters 3 & 4. There is still time to jump into the Book Group with this book, so please join us! For those wanting to still join via Zoom, that will also be available, and a link will be sent out.



### New on the Theo Cart



Come, whoever you are! Wanderer, Worshipper, lover of learning, Come.

This is not a caravan of despair.

It doesn't matter if you've broken your vow a thousand times, still Come, and yet again

Come!

*The Illuminated Rumi* is a beautifully translated (Coleman Barks) and illustrated (Michael Green) book of poetry written by the popular 13<sup>th</sup> century Turkish philosopher and scholar, Jalaluddin Rumi. As the author says, "Rumi's passionate and playful poems find and celebrate sacred life in everyday existence. They speak across traditions, to all peoples, and today his relevance and popu-

larity continue to grow...When Rumi died, he was mourned by Christians and Jews, as well as Muslims and Buddhists...his whole life was a witness to the boundless universality of the Heart.”

Bethania’s book group enjoyed this book in summer 2022. Are you curious to know more? Would you just like to look at the artwork? Check it out!

## Preschool Rummage Sale



**Babies & Kids Rummage Sale**

Bethania Lutheran Church Parish Hall  
603 Atterdag Solvang

Sat. April 15 8am-12 pm  
FREE to the public

**DONATIONS NEEDED!! - Gently used clothing, kids and baby stuff!**

To Donate Text:  
805.350.1182.

All proceeds benefit Bethania Lutheran Preschool & Afterschool Programs

## Coffee Hosts in April

Please sign-up to host coffee on one of the available Sundays in April. Thanks to Anna Cook, BLCW and the Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood for hosting coffee this month.

April 2 (Palm Sunday):	Anna Cook
April 9 (Easter between services)	BLCW
April 16	<u>Available</u>
April 23	Danish Sisterhood & Brotherhood
April 30 (Hike for Hunger)	<u>Available</u>

## Music for April 16 and May 14

I'm happy to share that we've had a wonderful couple join our church, Jim and Carol Skoog, and Jim just happens to play the organ. He will be playing for our 9:30 worship services on April 16 and May 14 while Lisa takes some vacation time. Please join me in worship as we are immersed in the music of our beautiful organ again and join me in welcoming the Skoogs to our community.

- Pastor Chris

### Church Business

#### Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - March 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 March Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Pastor reported that the food distribution was awarded a grant from the Synod in the amount of \$5,000
- The Executive Committee (Ron Walsh Leigh Berenger, Carol lake & Jan Zigler) conducted Pastor Chris's review for 2022. The review was conducted in accordance with the Synod guidelines. Pastor has done a wonderful job this last year and all were in agreement that he fulfilled the goals that were set jointly by him and the Church Council in 2022.
- Bill Zigler reported that the material for a steel fence between the Parish Hall and the parsonage was on site, and would soon be installed (barring weather considerations).
- Pastor gave a report on Push Pay (our on-line giving platform). It has been very effective and on an average is being used by approximately 120 donors regularly.
- There will be two services on Easter Sunday one at 9 am and the other at 11 am.
- The next Council meeting date will be Thursday, April 20th 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 02/28/2023

### Balance Sheet

	January 2023	February 2023	Change
<b>Operating Acct</b>	<b>\$91,070</b>	<b>\$93,698</b>	<b>\$2,628</b>
Money Mkt Acct	\$138,164	\$129,231	<b>-\$8,933</b>
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$1,832,408	<b>-\$370,419</b> <b>due to stock market losses</b>
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,465	\$1,878,465	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,310,626</b>	<b>\$3,933,903</b>	<b>-\$376,723</b>

### Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

February 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$24,864	\$21,972	\$2,893
Total Expenses	\$25,175	\$24,709	<b>-\$466</b>
Net Income	<b>-\$311</b>	<b>-\$2,737</b>	\$2,427

### Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$17,481	\$16,700	\$781
Non-Members	\$339	\$720	<b>-\$381</b>
	\$17,820	\$17,420	<b>-\$400</b>

\* The cash position is still good with \$93,698 in checking and \$129,231 in the money market account.

\* 42 Unique Donors to Push Pay in February

# Our Work Reaches Others in So Many Ways

Hello Pastor Chris and fellow congregants,

My husband and I have lived in Santa Barbara for the past 47 years, but grew up in Iowa and still have many family members & friends there, so it will always be home. My sister & I grew up in Lost Nation, Iowa, & attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We are also ¼ Danish, so I had to bring my sis and her friends to Solvang when they visited a couple weeks ago. I picked up a church newsletter on my way out of your beautiful church, which we visited on March 8<sup>th</sup>. I was drawn to your article about Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz & wanted to donate to their cause. My 3 younger sisters & I grew up on a farm in Iowa, which we rented, & some years the crops were not as good as others due to lack of rain, an overabundance of rain, early frost, etc., so my heart goes out to the farm workers.

Thank you for helping sponsor the struggling farm workers in the Santa Maria area. Please use the enclosed check wherever most needed & I will be praying for this ministry.

Also loved the “Flamingos in Your Yard”, including the insurance policy against placement of such, to benefit your youth program!

**Blessings to you all,  
Sydney Bush**

## 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 Joyce Sheffer, former member of Bethania. Joyce passed away March 11, 2023. Her obituary may be found at <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Joyce-Sheffer/#!/Obituary>

### Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Rev. Sandi Albom, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, “Kira”, Jake & Anya Knotts, Brenda Knudsen, Betsy Logan, Ariana Macias, Stewart & Sheila Mee, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Erwin & Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrison, Tom & Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

## April 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 - 7:00 pm** AA in the Fireside Room

**Tuesdays - 9:30 am, 1:45 pm, and 5:15-6:45 pm** Food Distribution Shifts

**Wednesdays** - 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel in the Sanctuary  
5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

**Thursdays** - 7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

**Saturday, April 1** - 6 pm Set-Up Parish Hall for Brown Bag Breakfast Packing

**Sunday, April 2** - 10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

**Monday, April 3** - 4 pm Endowment Fund Mtg. in the Sanctuary

**Tuesday, April 4** - 5:30 pm "Touch-A-Truck" Planning Meeting in the Fireside Room

**Thursday, April 6**

5 pm SYV Jewish Community Passover Seder in the Parish Hall

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

**Friday, April 7** - 7 pm Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, April 9**

9 am & 11 am Easter Services in the Sanctuary, 11 am Sunday School in the Fireside Room

**Monday, April 10** - 5:30 pm Touch-a-Truck Mtg. in the Fireside Room

**Friday, April 14** - 9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

5 pm Set-up in the Parish Hall for Preschool Rummage Sale

**Saturday, April 15** - 8 am - noon Children's Rummage Sale in the Parish Hall

**Sunday, April 16** - Quilting at Coffee Hour - Help tie a quilt or two.

**Tuesday, April 18** - 5:30 pm "Touch-A-Truck" Planning Meeting in the Fireside Room

**Wednesday, April 19** - 5:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg. in the Fireside Room

**Thursday, April 20** - 2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

**Friday, April 21** - 5:30 pm Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood in the Parish Hall and Kitchen

**Saturday, April 22** - 8 am - 4 pm Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room and Kitchen

**Sunday, April 23**

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

**Monday, April 26**

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

**Sunday, April 30**

Hike Against Hunger - Time and Location to be determined

**The Beacon**  
**April 2023**

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**Easter Services - April 9, 2023**  
**9 & 11 am**  
**11 am Sunday School**