



## The Beacon

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

May 2023

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

*"Nothing in the world perishes completely. Everything lives on after death—but in different forms, through a marvelous process of recycling. Why should humans...want to miss out on this process?" --  
Atheist Biologist at Xavier University*

This quote comes from the book we're reading in the Bethania Book Group, Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian. I don't know why, but the moment I read it, it gave me so much hope and comfort. Perhaps it's because this is from an atheist scientist who has no vested interest in the afterlife, but more so I think it has to do with someone whose knowledge is centered in watching life around them, and time and time again sees this cycle in the created world. If we can say that God created the cosmos, and our scientists who look at that cosmos in big and small ways see that life doesn't end, it becomes something else, I think we can say this is all part of God's plan, and this plan is directed at our human experience as well. I find hope in that.

This is particularly meaningful to me now because we are in the midst of a beautiful spring bloom after a much needed, and at times frightening, rainy season. Our land has gone through several years of drought and here we are witnessing blooms that can be observed from the International Space Station! Spring is always such a wonderful reminder and metaphor for life and I appreciate it so much more as I get older.

I think we all know from experience that there are moments in life where dark days feel endless, where it feels like things simply can't get better, and whatever we might be going through feels permanent. And the words of this scientist bring me comfort, that the cycle of life continues on. Painful moments aren't forever, but give way to small rays of sunshine and glimpses of buds on barren trees, all of which has the capacity to turn into vibrant blue skies and blossoms in the fields that reflect the rainbow. I find comfort that those who deny the existence of the divine can see it and those who have experienced the divine can see it too.

I hope in this time of spring the cycle of life for you is moving towards blue skies and colorful fields. But in case it isn't, I hope the comfort of a world that has gone through this cycle for thousands of years is a reminder that dark days, struggle, pain, fear, concern, none of it is permanent. And I hope you can rest in our faith that God who created the entire cosmos also sees you, and loves you, and is present with you, just as this community sees you, loves you, and is present with you. Happy Spring everyone!

**In God's Love,  
Pastor Chris**



**Saturday**

**MAY 6<sup>th</sup>**

**10am-1pm**

**@ BETHANIA PRESCHOOL  
611 Atterdag Road, Solvang**

- 🚧 **3 Parking Lots FULL of Safety, Construction, Farming & Specialty Trucks & concessions**
- 🚧 **Face Painting, Raffle items including a kid's tractor and other related items**
- 🚧 **NO horn hour from 10-11 AM for sensitive ears**
- 🚧 **Hot Dogs & Snacks available for purchase**
- 🚧 **Rain or Shine event** -- everything is more fun with rain boots on anyways!

**Presale Tickets available at  
805-688-7077**

Proceeds benefit Bethania Preschool Program

**Tickets:**

**\$5.00 Individual or  
\$20 for a Family of 5  
Get yours now!**

There will also be a raffle the day of the event. Raffle Items include: a John Deere pedal tractor, 2 kids packages with books, puzzles, lego set and cars, and several adult baskets with wine. Tickets are \$1 each and 6 for \$5, need not be present to win.

## Faith in Action

### Meals on Wheels

Bethania's Meals on Wheels is in need of substitute drivers to deliver meals for regular drivers who are unavailable. It will entail picking up the food from Atterdag and delivering to one of two routes on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Having two people working together works best.

If you are interested in helping out, please email ([abelloemily@gmail.com](mailto:abelloemily@gmail.com)) or call (805) 688-1243.

Thanks,  
Emily Abello

### **Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: May 7**

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, May 7. 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!

Thanks to Kief Adler who facilitated a large donation of Dave's Killer Protein Bars for our packing. If you would like to donate any of the items below, we welcome your support.

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](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)



## Noisy Sunday: Making Change Count May 28 Preschool and After School at Bethania

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on May 28th. Noisy Offering donations received that day will help support the Bethania Preschool and Afterschool program.

***What will our donations be used towards?***



**Our May Noisy Sunday offerings will be used to support our Preschool and After School Program.** Bethania Preschool / After School has been going strong for children and their families all year long. Bethania’s excellent program has been honored for all of its work and we are all so proud! As they are coming to the end of the school year, they could use some extra cash to help with so many things they need: new equipment, teacher supplies, snack items, summer events, you name it! They need to restock for the summer program and look forward to the fall.

You can also help by donating gift cards for the teachers to use, so they don’t have to purchase supplies out of their own pockets, such as from WalMart, Amazon, Michael’s, Office Depot, CVS or Rite Aid. (Drop your gift cards off in the church office for delivery or give to our amazing Preschool Director, Lola.)

We all really “make change for the better” with each Noisy Sunday. So send in your coins, cash and checks and make some noise on May 28th. Together, we can support our Preschool and our Teachers here at Bethania and show them some love!

– Linda Marzullo, Social Ministry

## Events and Occasions

### Graduations and Completion of Programs

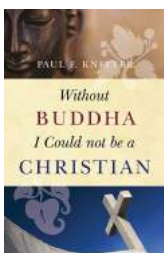
With graduations coming up, we’d like to acknowledge Bethania’s graduates and family members who are graduating or completing educational programs. Please contact Kristyl in the church office to submit information for the June Beacon.

### Theo Pub

We will gather at 7 pm around the fire pit at Solvang Brew Co. on May 11 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 May 18th at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. We're continuing our book called "Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian" by Paul Knitter. We'll be discussing chapters 5 & 6. For those wanting to still join via Zoom, that will also be available, and a link will be sent out.

## Music for 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 service on 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

*Bethania Church Women*

# *These* ARE A FEW OF MY *Favorite* THINGS *Party*

- Wednesday, May 17 at 7pm
- Carol Lake and Marilyn Larsen's – 886 Alisal Rd, Solvang

Bring three duplicates of *one of your favorite things* (under \$5 each) to trade for the favorite things of others. Perhaps you will discover some of your new favorite things, including new friends at Bethania Church!

- RSVP via call or text to Carol at 805-252-4257 by Tuesday, May 16.  
We hope to see you there!

## Work-Day

The cemetery committee will be having a short workday to spruce the cemetery up for Memorial Day from 9-11 am on May 27. Hope to see you there.



**Save the date!**  
**“Stuff” SALE is coming - June 10, 2023**  
 8:00 am to 1 pm  
 Bethania Parish Hall

**All Proceeds Support Bethania’s  
 Tuesday Food Distribution**

- ◆ Helping our neighbors with food insecurity, one bag at a time ◆
- ◆**Donate:** Drop off items Friday, June 9. **Please No Clothing or Early Donations!**
- ◆**Volunteer:** Help price & sort, June 9, and Volunteer to help at Sale day
- ◆**Shop June 10:** Find some great bargains and help us purchase food to “Stuff” Tuesday bags for our hungry neighbors!

Questions or to help:

Contact Church Office: 805-688-4637 or Linda: vikingpressprint@verizon.net, 805-688-4637.

**Church Business**

**Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet  
 News from the Bethania Council - April 20, 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 April Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- The plumbing problem (leaking drain line) under the church office has been repaired.
- The council approved the awarding of four \$1,000 scholarships upon the recommendation of the Endowment Committee.
- The council approved the \$6,000 contribution to Iglesia from the Endowment Fund.
- Approved the hiring of Angelique Gould as part time aide for the preschool
- Motion approved to establish a welcoming task force consisting of Pastor Chris, Linda Marzullo, Inge-Lise Pedersen, Josh Bratt, Diana Boltz and Kristyl Downey as part of the Reconciling in Christ program.
- Approved moving \$3,460.21 from the designated fund (estates and bequests) to the Endowment Fund.

The next Council meeting date will be Thursday, May 18, 2023 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

## Bethania Lutheran Church Notes for March Financial Statement Period Ending 3/31/23

### Balance Sheet

		March 2023	Change
Operating Acct	\$93,698	\$86,483	-\$2,628
Money Mkt Acct	\$129,231	\$126,203	-\$8,933
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$1,832,408	\$1,832,408	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,465	\$1,878,465	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,933,903</b>	<b>\$3,923,659</b>	<b>-\$10,244</b>

### Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

March 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$22,456	\$20,571	\$2,893
Total Expenses	\$29,863	\$29,176	-\$466
Net Income	-\$311	-\$2,737	

### Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$16,214	\$16,700	-\$486
Non-Memebers	\$778	\$720	\$58
	\$16,992	\$17,420	

Produce Table	n/a
Brown Bag	\$0
Food Distribution	\$6,025*
	*includes \$5,000 Synod Mission & Ministry grant

\* The cash position is still good with \$86,483 in checking and \$126,203 in the money market account.

\* 12 Unique Donors to Push Pay in March

## **Next Social Ministry Meeting – May 3 @ 6 pm**

The next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, May 3 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room**. The main topics for discussion will be:

- Hike Against Hunger review
- How to better serve those who come to Food Distribution and Blessing Box
- Stuff Sale: June 10th

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 and ours.

**Brenda Knudsen** is back at home after her hip surgery, hospitalization and recovery.

### **For Comfort in Grief...**

For the family and loved ones of Marie Ostertag. Marie passed away April 21, 2023.

For the family and loved ones of John Kari, Melissa Eck's cousin. John passed away April 23, 2023.

For the family and loved ones of Donny Moniot. Donny died passed away April 25, 2023.

### **Health and Other Concerns**

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



# May 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

Friday, May 5 - Preparations for Touch-A-Truck

## Saturday, May 6

10 am - 1 pm Touch-A-Truck on the property

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

## Sunday, May 7

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

## Thursday, May 11

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

## Friday, May 12

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

## Wednesday, May 17

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

7 pm Women's Gathering at Carol Lake's Home

## Thursday, May 18

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Friday, May 26 - 6 pm - Preschool Program in the Parish Hall

## Sunday, May 28 - Pentecost

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

## Monday, May 29

In honor of Memorial Day, the Church Office and Bethania Preschool and After School are closed.

## Monday, May 30

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

# The Beacon May 2023

Bethania Lutheran Church  
621 Atterdag Rd  
Solvang CA 93463

1-(805) 688-4637  
[bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

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

*Happy Spring!*



Image by Jill Wellington from Pixabay