



## **The Beacon**

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

**March 2024**

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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### **Pastor Chris's Message**

You may not know this about me, but I tend to be kind of a negative person. When it comes to scenarios or expectations of people I don't know well, I tend to think outcomes will be negative more often than positive. I think it's a defense mechanism in preparing myself not to be disappointed when things don't turn out well. For some reason, this doesn't impact my relationships with people I know—I'm pretty good at seeing the "beloved child of God" in people at a personal level. But overall, I'd say I'm a "glass is slightly half-empty" kind of a person. And.... I don't think I'm alone in this. In fact, I think this is how most people are, and I think perhaps it's because of the same defense mechanism of not wanting to be disappointed.

The Christianity I grew up with fits into this mold as well. I was raised to look at the world through the eyes of "good vs. evil", those who believe as worthy and righteous and those who don't believe as unworthy and corrupt, and an outlook of the world moving perpetually in a negative direction until God shows up and finally fixes everything for the last time.

And then there's Easter. I'm finding that Easter is God's hopeful and positive outlook of the world. Jesus enters into this time and place where the Jewish people are living under pretty bad conditions due to Rome. People are being taxed beyond their ability, and anyone who steps out of line is dealt with swiftly. Jesus is among his own people who are living in a dark, negative, world hoping for someone to pull them out of it. And we see in the Bible the way they think God will pull them out of this despair is by fighting violence with violence; by being even bigger and more dominating than Rome. Jesus enters Jerusalem with his followers assuming this moment to be at hand. And then he's captured. And then he's nailed to the cross. I imagine the negative perception of his followers hit a peak in this moment. The world couldn't possibly be any darker. And then there's Easter.

It's as though God, who operates with a cosmic time rather than our temporal time, was letting God's people know that we don't have to enter into the cycle of negativity. We don't have to play the game of tit-for-tat in order to get the outcomes where we end up on top. I think Easter shows us that through this compassionate and loving way of life, we can enter into the negativity of the world and things will be okay. We can create positive change and break cycles of anger, resentment, revenge, and despair, but it takes intentionality, patience, and a commitment to this loving, positive, way of life.

Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians, “If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain.” In other words, Easter is this cosmic confirmation that this way of life we are called to ultimately plays out. Jesus willingly walks into a violent and angry world, never raising a hand, but remains committed to this positive, loving way of life, and over and over again, calls his followers to imitate him. It may feel like a risk to do this in the world today, but if we believe Easter is real, then Easter is the exclamation point on where this way of life leads us and the world—it’s not to anger, vitriol, and death, but to love, community, and life. Sometimes, I really need to remind myself of the power of this story.

**Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chris**

## **Lenten Soup Suppers Story Telling: Grace**

During our weekly Lenten soup suppers, and as we did last year, we’ll share stories from our lives. The theme for our story telling this year will be Grace. We tend to think of Grace in Lutheran terms of moments when we should have negative consequences, but someone extends grace and love instead. But Grace can also be any moment of someone extending a kindness when least expected. It’s the opposite of quid pro quo, it intersects this idea that relationships should be transactional, and Grace is any action of kindness or love given without motive or need of a response.

If you have a story (about 5 min. long) from your life where someone extended Grace to you, or where life extended Grace to you and it was an impactful moment, please consider sharing your story. Please contact Pastor Chris.

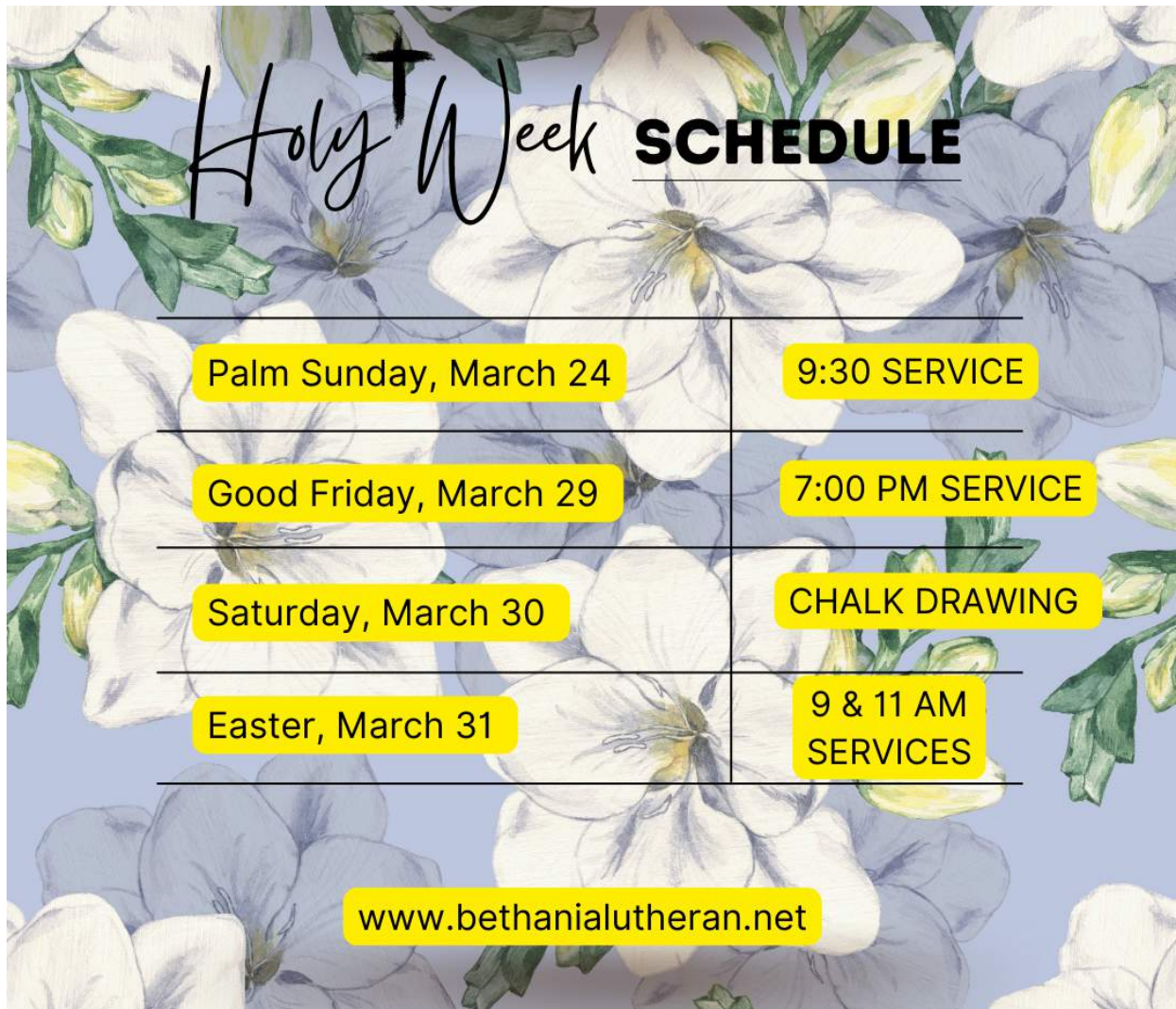
**Soup Suppers continue March 6, 13 & 20 at 6pm. Sign-Up in the Parish Hall for folks for soup, salad, or bread.**

## **Easter Lilies**

Easter lilies are \$20/each. If you would like to place one or more in the church, please fill out this form, enclose payment and return to the church office before March 25.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I would like # \_\_\_\_\_ of lilies. I would like the dedication to read \_\_\_\_\_.

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



## Faith in Action

### **Bethania's Meals on Wheels**

Meals on Wheels needs substitute drivers for delivering food every six weeks. Please contact Emmy Abello ([abelloemily@gmail.com](mailto:abelloemily@gmail.com)) if you are available to volunteer.

### **Twice the Quilt-Tying Fun in March**

Blessed are the quilters for they shall be called Piecemakers. We just received another donation of fabric from Sheryl Morris. It is great to have so much fabric to piece together. Our next quilting opportunity is Friday, March 8 from 9-12. We also have Friday evening March 22 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. There are many videos on You Tube from Lutheran World Relief on a variety of topics including how the quilts touch lives all over the world. Remember, if you can tie a knot you can tie a quilt. Quilt-tying takes place in the Parish Hall.

### **Bags, Bags, Bags!**

We need bags for our Food Distribution program. Weekly, we use 200 brown paper grocery bags & 200 heavier-duty plastic for produce. Please drop them off in the boxes in the narthex.

# Noisy Sunday: 50th Anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger Program

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” —1 John 3:18

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever. Join us and be part of the story of our next 50 years together — boldly and faithfully pursuing God’s promise of a just world where all are fed. The ELCA World Hunger Program supports: agriculture & nutrition; health care & disease prevention; income & savings; and education & training. (ELCA World Hunger web site)

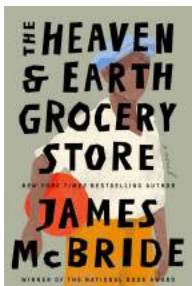
On **March 24th** our **Noisy Offering** will support the ELCA World Hunger Program. Through the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts program, we can buy a goat for \$50, chicks for \$10, rooster for \$15, a fish farm for \$250, honey bees for \$20, or a community garden and bees for \$220, for example.

## Events and Occasions

### Theo Pub

Theo Pub is resuming this month and we’ll be meeting at Solvang Brew on Thursday, March 14, at 7pm around the fire pit. Come early to order food and drinks. You don’t need a vast knowledge of the Bible or theology to participate, just an open mind and a desire to connect with others.

### Book Group



Bethania’s Book Group is continuing our novel called, The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, by James McBride. We’ll be discussing the rest of Part 1 on March 21, at 2pm in the Parish Hall. There’s still plenty of time to purchase the book and join us. You can purchase the book at Amazon or The Book Loft, but please consider shopping locally.

## Endowment Fund Scholarships Are Due

For anyone who might not receive a standard SYVUHS application form, some will also be available at the church office. Pertinent Dates: March 15<sup>th</sup>: Applicant’s due date to submit or mail applications to Bethania Lutheran Church. For further information, contact David Hemming, Endowment Chairman David@1valley.com or (805)680-7078.





The **Bethania Supper Series** invites you to join us on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for a St. Patrick's Day theme featuring a LOADED Baked Potato and Salad Bar! After dinner, enjoy a rousing game of Bingo with prizes! St. Patrick's Day activities for kids as well.

Doors open at 5:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6pm.

Reservations requested by Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet will be in the church office during the week and at the coffee hour after the 9:30am service on Sundays. Guests are asked to bring their own beverages. Lemonade and water will be provided.

Hope you can join us!

## World of Song Sing Along & Refreshments March 23rd, 7pm at the Parish Hall

Emmy Abello will be playing all of the old favorites from the World of Song book. Many of us grew up singing these songs - let's sing them again! This event is put on by the Solvang Sisterhood Lodge. There is no requirement for having singing ability or knowing the songs - just bring your enthusiasm for an evening of fun and great memories. Call or email Lori McConnell 805-331-7971 or [lori@hwy246.net](mailto:lori@hwy246.net) if you have questions.

## February Birdwatching

Thanks to Neal Abello for leading a small group to birdwatch in Hans Christian Andersen Park. our next Outdoor Activities will be hiking at the Church Camp-Out in April.



**Church Family Campout** - April 5-7 at Lake Cachuma County Park. The last dates for pre-registering in person will be Sunday March 17 & 24 at Coffee Hour. Please register by March 24th.



# A family event for all ages!

**Saturday**

**May 4th**

**10am-1:30pm**



**@ Bethania Preschool  
611 Atterdag Road  
Solvang**

- 3 parking lots FULL of safety, construction, farming & specialty trucks
- NO horn hour from 10-11 am for sensitive ears
- Helmet fittings offered with purchase of \$10 helmet
- Concessions, face painting, quilt raffle and more!
- Rain or shine event - everything is more fun with rain boots way!

**KIDS WILL CLIMB ON, SIT IN, EXPLORE & LEARN ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE BIG**

**TRUCKS AND VEHICLES!**

**TICKETS:**  
**\$7.50/person**  
**\$25/family of 5**



For More Information:  
[SYVTouchATruck@gmail.com](mailto:SYVTouchATruck@gmail.com)

\*To Benefit Bethania Preschool & Afterschool

## **Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council Meeting - Feb. 15, 2024**

\*The Council is reading and discussing the book Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus.

\*The Council authorized Bill Zigler to change the hot water heater in the kitchen with one that is more energy efficient.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please contact a council member.

Jan Simonsen (805) 319-8652	Leigh Berenger (310) 877-8418	Ingelise Pedersen (805) 688-3836
Karin Baty (612) 229-8172	Jan Zigler (559) 740-3676	Rikka Rasmussen (805) 453-8535
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Carol Skoog (408) 398-5673

# Financial Statement - January 2024

## Balance Sheet

	December 2023	January 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$73,084	\$61,488	-\$11,596
Money Mkt Acct	\$147,701	\$137,766	-\$9,935
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts (below)	\$1,832,408	\$2,056,642	\$224,234
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,466	\$1,878,466	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,931,759</b>	<b>\$4,134,462</b>	

## Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

January 2024	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$22,628	\$22,785	\$157
Total Expenses	\$29,295	\$28,120	-\$1,175
Net Income	-\$6,667		

## Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$18,610	\$18,181	\$429
Non-Members	\$816	\$818	\$2
	\$19,426	\$18,999	\$431

## Other Donations

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$550
Brown Bag	\$221
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Facilities Fee	\$65
Food Distribution	\$3,120 \$690 from Empty Bowls Fundraiser \$1000 Community West Bank \$1430 Donations
Noisy Offering	\$2
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$216

\*\* \$119,974 (Cemetery Fund) & \$94,339 (Endowment Fund) & \$9,921 (Heritage Fund)

\*\* The increase in both the Cemetery Fund & Endowment Fund are the result of the stock and bond market increases for 2023.

If you have any questions please reach out to Leigh Berenger / Treasurer Bethania / 310-877-8418

## **In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers**

We uplift in prayer the following people in our congregation and community.

**For Prayers During Grief** for the family and loved ones of Alma Lancaster who passed away Feb. 21, 2024.

### **Health and Other Concerns**

Carol Aides, Frank Amby, Andy Blanton, Dyann Driggers, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Loretta McConnell, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Erwin Ostertag, Kate Pearrson, Tom & Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Renate Sanders, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Judy Stamat, Hayes Robert White 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

**11:00 am** Sunday School in the Fireside Room

### **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**

**6 pm** Lenten Soup Suppers (March 13, 20)

**11:30 am and 3:30 pm** Chapel in the Sanctuary

**5:30 pm** Yoga in the Fireside Room (March 13 & 20)

**7 pm** Choir Practice in the Parish Hall

### **Thursdays**

**Noon** - Lisa Blanton practices in the Sanctuary

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

**Fridays** - **8:30 am** Jim Skoog practices in the Sanctuary



**Friday, March 8**

**9 am - noon** Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

**Saturday, March 9**

Empty Bowls

**Sunday, March 10**

**2 am** Daylight Saving Time Begins

**Thursday, March 14**

**5:30 pm** Touch-A-Truck Mtg in the Fireside Room (also March 28)

**7 pm** Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

**Saturday, March 16**

**5:30 pm** St. Patricks Day Potluck Dinner in the Parish Hall

**Wednesday, March 20**

**5:15 pm** BPSAS Board Meeting in Miss Monica's Classroom

**Thursday, March 21**

**2 pm** Book Group in the Parish Hall

**7 pm** Council in the Fireside Room

**Friday, March 22**

**6:30-8:30 pm** Quilt-Tying in the Parish Hall

**Saturday, March 23**

**7 pm** World of Song Sing-Along in the Parish Hall

**March 24 - Palm Sunday**

**9:30 am** Service in the Sanctuary

**March 29 - Good Friday**

**7 pm** Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

**Saturday, March 30**

Chalk-Drawing in front of the Church

**March 31 - Easter**

**9 am & 11 am** Worship Services in the Sanctuary

**The Beacon March 2024  
Bethania  
621 Atterdag Rd.  
Solvang CA 93463**



*Happy Easter!*