



The Beacon

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

April 2024

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
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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.

Pastor Chris's Message

Something weird has been happening to me... something I swore would never, ever, happen. I've started enjoying country music. You don't understand, I grew up in the Southern California 90s, where grunge music, mostly popularized by Nirvana, was firmly implanted in the psyche of my generation, where west coast hip hop reigned supreme, and a little Long Beach band called Sublime brought Ska into the mainstream. Not only was country music not in the wheelhouse of the SoCal vibe, I grew up believing it was antithetical to the endless summer, SoCal way of life.

Livier and I started watching the ever-popular TV show, Yellowstone, starring Kevin Costner, about a Montana ranch owner using Godfather methods to keep his family's ranch out of the hands of "outsiders". Cowboys haven't been this famous on TV since Dallas left the soap opera airwaves in '91. Yellowstone is a good show, highlighting some of the most beautiful landscapes in the United States, and in the background is an ongoing playlist of today's country music. While the drama onscreen occupied much of my attention, the music seeped into my subconscious until I remember thinking I don't hate this. Then I found the Yellowstone playlist on Spotify and decided to play it while I was driving to SLO, and figured I'd turn it off and get it out of my system once the drive was over, but I've been listening to it for a couple weeks now. I even found an artist I've become enamored with, Ryan Bingham. He's got a rusty voice and a raw sense of lyrical themes. Livier thinks I have a man-crush (I totally do).

The other day I sat back and genuinely wondered why I'm suddenly enjoying this new genre of music so much, a genre I've historically distasted. I found it was also paralleling a place I'm at in life where the lengthening days feel like time is slowing down just ever so slightly; enough to appreciate the warmer spring weather and the way the clouds dance over the mountains and back again.

I always felt my place was in the bustle of the greater Los Angeles area in which I was raised, with easy access to my favorite beaches, secret mom-and-pop eateries, concert venues, and of course the great cathedral known as Dodgers Stadium. But living in Solvang for 9 years now, the slowness of life is catching up with me in a meaningful way. I find myself craving presence in creation, the intentionality of conversation with church members, and the desperation that time slow down enough for me to appreciate my children where they are in this stage of life before they move onto the next. I feel removed from the exciting chaos of urban and suburban life and more entrenched in the connected slowness of this community of ours.

And that's why I've been enjoying country music so much lately. As I listen to various song lyrics, they aren't just about BBQ stains on white T-shirts, but about a slowness of life that exists perpetually in a different part of the country from which I was raised. Perhaps I'm a sentimental fool, but I feel like we lost time over the last few years, and I'm inclined to grasp as much as I can now, both as an ordinary guy, and as your pastor. I've been intentional on this Season of Joy and in gathering as a community because those moments pull us away from past and future and plop us squarely into now, where we can laugh, cry, love, support, and care for each other, where we can appreciate rare Spring rain, and the experienced novelty of radiant wildflowers as old as time. It's crazy to me, that anyone could possibly fathom a future otherworld having a monopoly on Heaven, when there's so much beauty and love around us right now. We feel it in the shifting experiences of life, the diversity of notes and chords striking us in different stages of growing older, and in the piercing joy of a friend or stranger's smile. And if we can transcend our anxieties about elsewhere and give ourselves the gift of right now with each other and with creation around us, we can experience it. I just wish it would go a little slower.

**In Christ's Presence,
Pastor Chris Brown**

Bethania Preschool & After School

April Month of the Young Child

This is a time to celebrate our young children. The purpose is to recognize and celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Although we celebrate these things every day here at the Preschool, it is nice to have a special time to refocus on why we are here and why we work with young children. Here at Bethania our staff is making efforts to ensure that children are getting what they need to grow up healthy and happy by providing a loving, safe and healthy environment each day. This month our classrooms will be full of fun, spring projects, bugs, butterflies, animals and April showers. We will also be growing flowers and painting rainbows.

The Leprechauns came to Bethania! Boy, oh boy, did they create chaos in the classrooms. What a celebration the children had this year! From setting traps, to collecting gold coins and cleaning up the messes the mischievous leprechauns left behind. This year the preschool ate their Lucky Charm cereal for morning snack together in the Parish Hall. Some of the children's responses: "Oh my gosh!", "That sneaky leprechaun!", "We're going to trap the leprechaun!", "The leprechaun made a mess!" and "He got away!"

This year Easter landed in the month of March and the kids had a blast finding Easter eggs around the school. Each Preschool class had their own Easter egg hunt outdoors as well as the After School program.

SYV Touch-A-Truck



A family event for all ages!
Saturday
May 4th
10am-1:30pm

TOUCH A TRUCK
@ Bethania Preschool
611 Atterdag Road
Solvang

- 3 parking lots FULL of safety, construction, farming & city trucks
- NO horn hour from 10-11am 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

*To Benefit Bethania Preschool & Afterschool

Please join us for our annual fundraising event. Watch firsthand as the faces of children light up when learning about vehicles, climbing on them and honking their horns. This affordable and family-friendly event will feature all kinds of farming and construction equipment, military and public safety vehicles and others. I hope to see you out there!

All proceeds from this event support Bethania Preschool & After School and will directly go to enhance and enrich the outdoor programs for all the students.

SYV Touch-A-Truck May 4 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Tickets are available for purchase either online at givebutter.com/TouchATruck or in person with Lola at the Preschool or over the phone 805-688-7077 pay with credit card
Tickets \$7.50/person or a family of 5 for \$25

Love,
Lola Gonzalez
Director, BPSAS

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

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

Faith in Action **Bethania's Meals on Wheels**

Bethania's Meals on Wheels needs **substitute** drivers occasionally when it is our turn to deliver meals. Substitute drivers would drive for someone who can't do their scheduled route. Please contact Emmy Abello (abelloemily@gmail.com) if you are available to volunteer.

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.

Quilting in April

Blessed are the quilters for they shall be known as "Piece Makers." Our "Piece Makers" have been busy, we have 21 quilts completed and 5 quilts ready for the binding. This month we have 3 opportunities to make more quilts. Our usual time on Friday morning, April 12 from 9 am to noon, Friday evening, April 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 and Sunday, April 14 after the 9:30 service until we are ready to quit. Remember if you can tie a knot you can tie a quilt.

Events and Occasions



Theo Pub

Solvang Brewing Company

April 11, 7pm

Around the Fire Pit

Book Group

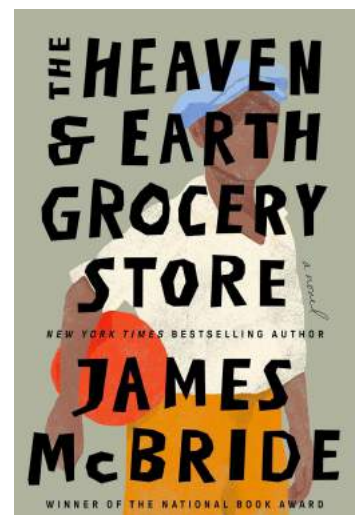
April 18, 2pm

Parish Hall

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

by James McBride

Reading and talking about Pt. 2





BETHANIA



POTLUCK SUPPER SERIES

**CACHUMA LAKE
CHURCH CAMPOUT
POTLUCK**

**SAT, APRIL 6TH AT 6 PM
CACHUMA LAKE
CAMPGROUND**



**Brown Bag Breakfast
Packing Sunday,
April 28 after the
9:30 service**

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council Meeting - March 21, 2024

At the March 21 meeting, the council awarded Pastor Chris an 11% raise in accordance with synod guidelines, as he begins his tenth year of service at Bethania.

The Council thanked Bill Zigler for installing a new 29-gallon hot water heater in the kitchen. Due to the age and inefficiency of the old one, it was replaced.

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 - February 2024

Balance Sheet

	January 2024	February 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$61,488	\$87,599	\$26,111
Money Mkt Acct	\$137,766	\$134,799	-\$2,967
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,056,642	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,466	\$1,878,466	\$0
Total Assets	\$4,134,462	\$4,157,606	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

February 2024	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$37,632	\$24,261
Total Expenses	\$23,850	\$27,221
Net Income	\$13,782	

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$26,876	\$18,181	\$8,695
Non-Members	\$3,541	\$818	\$2,723
Total	\$30,417	\$18,999	\$11,418

Other Donations

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$23
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Endowment Fund	\$1,050
Food Distribution	\$6,200
Noisy Offering	\$2
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$302

* \$3000 deposited on (2/18) to the Operating Account from the Endowment Fund

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

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

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 and 3:30 pm Chapel in the Sanctuary

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

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, April 5-Sunday, April 7

Church Camp-Out

Sunday, April 7

There will not be Unorthodox or Sunday School

12:30 pm SYV Wind Ensemble set-up for concert followed by the concert at **2 pm** in the sanctuary

Thursday, April 11

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, April 12

9 am - noon and **6:30-8:30 pm** Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Sunday, April 14

Quilting in the Parish Hall, after the 9:30 service

Thursday, April 18

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room

Friday, April 19-Saturday, April 20

Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood Convention in the Parish Hall

Friday, April 26

6-9 pm Decorate for an Event in the Parish Hall

Saturday, April 27

3-10 pm Event in the Parish Hall

Sunday, April 28

After worship, Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

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Welcome

Spring

Let's welcome all new beginnings

