



The Beacon

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

July 2024

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.

A Message from Pastor Chris Brown

Sacred and profane. That's what all religions are about. Émile Durkheim is known as the father of sociology, and what started his interest in studying human behavior was religion. Both his father and grandfather were rabbis. Émile Durkheim's exploration of religion was so thorough and so ahead of its time that sociologists still use his definition of religion as the basis for ongoing exploration today.

Durkheim defined religion as any set of organized principles that help people both organize, and experience aspects of the world as sacred or profane. Think about your own faith experience, especially regarding how we, as Christians, talk about sin. We utilize this word to not only reflect on ourselves and our actions, but also that of others through the delineation of sacred or profane. When we talk about in vs. out, us vs. them, the saved or the unsaved, believers or unbelievers, baptized or unbaptized, we are placing people into categories of sacred or profane.

We do this because it's a part of our evolutionary makeup. It's how we categorize the world into the known and the unknown, which ultimately is a quest (whether legitimate or not) to categorize the world into the safe and the unsafe. I can understand why this started, in a time of tribalism and competing for resources, but it's hard for me to find the justification for this kind of selectivity today. As we navigate the sacred and the profane, we concurrently are able to place ourselves and others like us in the realm of sacred and better, and those different from us in the realm of profane and less than. We do this religiously, politically, and socially in so many ways, and I don't think it's making the world a better place. And it is fundamentally unchristian.

When we look at the ministry of Jesus, the practice of organizing the world into sacred and profane was just as robust as it is in our time. But here's the kicker: a primary hallmark of Jesus' ministry was to take what people thought was profane and make them sacred. Lepers, people with disabilities, hemorrhaging women, women in general, children, Samaritans, pagans, the poor, the imprisoned, the outcast, the tax collector, sinners, prostitutes, and on and on. It was the defining characteristic of his ministry that led the temple leaders to be so angry. "With what authority does he do this...?" "Look at him, he sits with sinners and prostitutes," "Who is my neighbor?"

What made Jesus so radical was not a new religion he was starting, but it was navigating a world in which others had categorized people as sacred and profane and erasing those lines. It was highlighting that all people are sacred and when people have that realization it transformed how they navigated their own, new world.

As we sit in this polarized time, I can't think of a better practice than the one Jesus brought into our world and called his followers to emulate. We have a world with defined lines of who's in and who's out, who is worthy and who is not, who is sacred and who is profane, and if we want to transform this world for the better and make it a more loving and compassionate place, if we legitimately want to do that, let us navigate it with an eraser, and simply show people they are sacred and loved.

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

Bethania Preschool and After School Summer Program

Our summer programs are off to a great start. The children will be engaged in arts & crafts, field trips and lot and lots of water play. So far, the school age children have been to Elverhoj Museum, Solvang Bakery, the Solvang Library, Hans Christian Andersen Park, Fudge Kitchen, and they even had a special onsite session from Coach Jason and Coach Cat from Allegiant Jiu Jitsu.

Hope your summer is going as well as ours and Happy Fourth!!

Lola Gonzalez, Director

Faith in Action



Sunny Fields Farm Stand*

The **Sunny Fields Farm Stand** is now open for the season. In addition to typical produce and baked goods, we will have an emphasis on special items each Sunday. Single items will be \$1 each. Other items will usually be priced between \$3-\$10. Larger items will be \$10 or more, individually priced.

July 7 **"Red, White & Blue"** - Celebrating Independence Day with Apple, Cherry, Blueberry Pie, Strawberries, blackberries, blueberries

July 14 **"Sourdough Sunday"** - Bread will be available and Starter (by request)

July 21 **"What's your Jam?"** - Homemade Jam

July 28 **"Succulent Sunday"** - Bring your succulents, find some new ones.

Upcoming

August 4 "Farm Day"

August 25 "Celebrate? Zucchini" - including zucchini bread, cookies and a contest for the biggest zucchini (by weight) and decorate a zucchini

If you have any questions or would like to contribute items, please let Kristyl know, bethanialutheranch@gmail.com, 805-688-4637 or see her in person. You may also bring items each Sunday.

***Thrivent Action Team Project**

Bags, Bags, Bags!

Thanks to everyone who has given us bags for our weekly 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. We appreciate this on-going collection of bags.



Piece Makers Meet July 12

Our quilt-making group will be meeting July 12 from 9 am - noon.

Please let Lois know if you plan to attend - lbdemeyer@gmail.com. As usual there will be snacks.

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Tentatively set for July 14

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, July 14 (subject to change to the following week). 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! We need to provide around 210 bags each week to keep our local seniors healthy. Last month, we had not packed enough and they ran out – and yes, we did hear how much those seniors count on our bags! Thanks again to Kief Adler who facilitated a large donation of Dave's Killer Protein Bars for our packing.

If you would like to donate, these are the items we need. You can bring them on packing day or drop off at the church office.

Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins

Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)

Fruit Cups or Applesauce

Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars/Protein Bars

Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles

Pudding (non-refrigerated)

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 vikingsprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday, July 28th: Items for Kits

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on July 28th. Our “joyful noise” will be helping to send a child to school. In many countries, the family must provide all the items needed to attend school: paper, ruler, pencils, pens, etc. It is incredible to think about how we can change someone’s life by providing pens, pencils and paper. Or how we can help someone keep healthy by providing a bar of soap and a towel. These are small things that add up to a much larger picture. When we collect the items for completing our Day of Service kits, each kit we complete helps someone who is struggling with their daily challenges.

We have started collecting the items below, and will purchase more items from any “Noisy Sunday” or designated donations we receive. If you would like to donate items, you may purchase them and drop them in the narthex, deliver to church office, or contact Linda Marzullo for pick up (805-688-5219, vikingpressprint@verizon.net).

The completed kits will be distributed globally by Lutheran World Relief to areas most in need. This also includes areas of the U.S. We will be packing them on our Day of Service Event, Sept. 8th.

Here are the items we are collecting. Watch for sales this summer!

Items needed are:

For Personal Care Kits:

Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20”x40” & 27”x52”), dark colors preferred
Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)
Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging – bulk buys can be repackaged by us)
Comb, sturdy wide toothed
Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

For School Supply Kits:

70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
Rulers with centimeters and inches
Pencil sharpeners
Blunt tip scissors
#2 Pencils
2-1/2” Erasers
Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

Bring your items to the donation box by the Sunday School office or to the church office.

“Make change for the better” on Noisy Sunday! Send in your donated items, check, coins or cash and make a joyful noise as we work together. Because together, we can CHANGE our world!

– Linda Marzullo, Chair
Social Ministry Committee

Events and Occasions

You are invited—

BUNCO

It's Bunco time again!
Everyone's
a winner—
\$5 gets you fun,
fellowship and dessert
Come and bring a friend!

Thursday, July 11
6:30-8:30 pm
Terry Billings' house
579 Valley Oak Road
Solvang
RSVP: call or text Terry
at (805) 895-2522

Theo Pub

June – August is “Ask Pastor a Question” or “Open Topic” Night at Theo Pub. Join us at Solvang Brew on July 11, at 7pm around the firepit and bring your questions or topics about faith, theology, the Bible, life, etc. All are welcome!



CHANGE to July Book Group

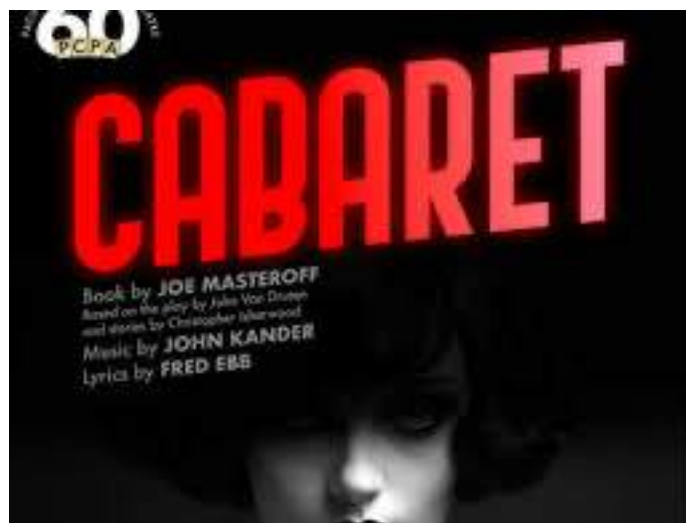


The Bethania Book Group is starting a new book and there's plenty of time to join. **Instead of meeting on the third Thursday, July 18, we will be meeting on the 4th Thursday, July 25.** This is because Pastor will be in New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. We'll be discussing Part 2 & 3 of the book, called Summer and Autumn.

The Measure is a New York Times Best Seller about mysterious boxes that show up at the doors of everyone 22 or older with a string inside that discloses how long that person will live. Following the lives of eight individuals, it's a story about how the world navigates such radical knowledge.

Cabaret

Bethania is going to another musical at PCPA Theaterfest on Thursday, August 15th. Email Emmy at abelloemily@gmail.com if you wish to sign up. She will be at church on July 14th, 21st and 28 if you wish to reserve and pay \$32/person to see CABARET .



Congregational Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet

News from the Bethania Council Meeting - June 20, 2024

The Council approved the Endowment Fund Committee's motion to give \$10,000 to The Senior Center to help defray the costs of operating expenses. This decision was made in light of the fact that the City of Solvang did not give them a grant this year for the first time in many years.

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

May Financial Statement Period Ending - May 31, 2024

Balance Sheet

	April 2024	May 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$73,727	\$65,700	-\$8,027
Money Mkt Acct	\$151,537	\$138,244	-\$13,293
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,055,335	\$2,056,642	\$1,307
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,466	\$1,880,047	\$1,581
Total Assets	\$4,159,164	\$4,140,733	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

May	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$24,582	\$25,285	-\$703
Total Expenses	\$27,964	\$27,721	\$243
Net Income	-\$3,382		

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$20,099	\$17,181	\$2,918
Non-Members	\$1,386	\$818	\$568
	\$21,485	\$17,999	\$3,486

Other Donations

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$98
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Endowment Fund	\$70
Facilities Fee	\$700 (Danish Sisterhood/Brotherhood Convention)
Food Distribution	\$3,470
Memorials	\$20
Noisy Offering	\$125
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$150

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:

Carol Aides, Frank Amby, Andy Blanton, Dyann Driggers, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Loretta McConnell, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Kate Pearrison, Tom &Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Judy Stamat, Hayes Robert White and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.



Image by [Klaudia Olejnik](#) from [Pixabay](#)

July Calendar Items

Please note: Bethania's Calendar is accessible on-line from our web page bethanialutheran.net

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:30 am Sunny Fields Farm Stand in the Courtyard area

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary

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

5:30 pm Yoga 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.

Thursday, July 4- Friday, July 5

The Church Office and Preschool/After School Program are closed.

Thursday, July 11

6:30 pm BLCW Bunco Night at Terry Billings' home

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, July 12

9 am-noon Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Saturday, July 13

Birthday Party: Parish Hall, Fireside Room, Kitchen, Courtyard

Sunday, July 14

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

Tuesday, July 16-Saturday, July 20

ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering in New Orleans

Thursday, July 18

7 pm Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

Thursday, July 25

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall

Sunday, July 28

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

The Beacon July 2024
Bethania
621 Atterdag Rd.
Solvang CA 93463



Image by [Stefan Schwehofer](#) from [Pixabay](#)