



## The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
621 Atterdag Rd  
Solvang CA 93463

October 2024

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

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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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## Prejudice of Love

I was raised to treat the Bible like an instruction manual. All you must do is read the Bible and do what it tells you and you're all good. And this makes sense when one remembers the parts of "care for the least of these" or "love your neighbor as yourself". It gets a little trickier when it says things like only divorce under the precepts of adultery should be allowed or if your children disobey you they should be stoned by the village. I was raised to treat the Bible as an instruction manual, but I guess I was trained not to take it too seriously, as well.

Still, what I inherently believed about the Bible was that it was static and objective. Part of the authority of treating the Bible like an instruction manual was the belief that the Bible was objectively and unquestioningly true and to be remotely critical was tantamount to blasphemy. It wasn't until seminary that some texts I'd heard over and over again in church became more significant. Take for example the story of Jesus healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. The Pharisees are present for this miracle and the moment it happens, instead of celebrating that one of their people has been healed, they chastise Jesus for doing such a miracle on the Sabbath. These Pharisees are the keepers of their own scriptures and they know them well. It clearly says to do no work on the Sabbath. Jesus knows the text as well and one might expect an exegetical response, so what do we get? "Torah was made for humanity, not humanity for Torah."

In a stark moment that we tend to miss, Jesus is saying that his sacred scriptures are not objective, unquestioning truths, but rather are meant in service of humanity, and goes even further to say in moments when they don't serve humanity, they can be questioned, even not followed. But that kind of opens the door to the entire Bible, doesn't it? Doesn't that mean we would have to go through the whole Bible over and over again to determine what serves humanity and what doesn't? And the answer is YES! In fact, this is a central practice of Judaism. The belief is that scripture speaks differently in different times to evolving circumstances. As a Jewish person, Jesus isn't being super radical here, he's stepping into the practices of his religion. Jewish people have been engaging in this practice for centuries. It's why we have the Talmud and the writings of Maimonides. Jewish people engage in this practice to this day, constantly trying to understand how the Hebrew Bible is speaking to them in this current age. They call it "Turning the Gem" because the Bible is so complex and meaningful, it takes on different beauty as one looks at it from different angles.

As Christians we weren't raised with this kind of permission, although I think we should allow it to ourselves. We see clearly that Jesus is willing to look at his own texts with a critical eye. With a cautionary note that it's easy to take our own interpretations of the Bible and make it say whatever we want, my recommendation is that we use the lens Jesus uses, which is a lens, or a prejudice, of love. The lens with which Jesus is critical of his own texts was always that of love. Is lawful to heal on the Sabbath? No. But is it loving? Yes.

Without becoming too afraid of this prejudice, take comfort in knowing that we've already done this as Christians. Slavery and women as property are both tenets of our sacred texts, tenets that Jesus nor any of the authors of the Bible repudiate, yet, as a society we have declared that neither of these are loving nor do they represent our values today. And as life evolves and new circumstances arise, the Bible will never become irrelevant, but through a prejudice of love will continue to speak profoundly to our world. Let us feel permissible in going to our sacred texts, and with a lens of love, ask how they are speaking to us today. If I may amend Jesus' words, "The Bible is to serve Jesus, not Jesus to serve the Bible." And the example in the Bible that we have of Jesus is God incarnate come to show us how to love one another more fully.

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

## Faith in Action

### **Day of Service - Sept. 8, 2024**

Thanks to our many volunteers (below) who helped assemble 152 school kits and 155 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will be delivered to Mt. Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo on Oct. 24, then to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse for shipment around the world.



Thanks to Rosemary Thomas for the picture.

## **Food Distribution at Bethania**

Bethania continues operating as a Food Bank of Santa Barbara County distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through drive up or walk up line each Tuesday. We serve people from all walks of life, and in all types of circumstances. Once a month we receive a USDA shipment, for which there is no charge. The rest of the weeks, Bethania purchases items and receives free produce from the Food Bank and other donors.

The SB Foundation just awarded us a \$12,500 grant to continue this work. As an all-volunteer run program, we are the most efficient food distribution in using monetary donations received in our area. We purchase food, and receive donations from supporters such as Veggie Rescue, El Rancho, Bob's Well Bread, and Baker's Table, Rite Aid, among others.

The number of households we have been serving for the past month has increased dramatically. And no – we don't know why, except for the cost of food and housing. This rise in numbers is concerning, as it means we must spend more to continue feeding those in need. We have been averaging over 250 households weekly. So, a huge thank you to all who contribute funds, bags, and garden produce – we need all the help we can get. The Blessing Box can also always use your contributions during the week, as it is a means to help people to make it through the week until the next Tuesday.

Speaking of help...If you would like to help on a Tuesday, please contact me. We appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. Our Tuesdays are split into shifts, with the unloading crew coming in at 9 am to help move items and get ready for the day. The truck(s) come around 1:15 pm when we unload and pack produce. Our most critical need right now is extra help in the evening for distribution (5:15-6:45 pm) – this is work that involves lifting boxes and bags and packing people's cars and carts. Clean up helpers are always welcome at the end of the night.

If you help in the evening, you get to see who is coming for the food and how much it means to them. People are so appreciative, and so grateful for what we can give them. It is heartwarming to hear children shriek with joy over receiving strawberries or popcorn or cereal – and to have their parents bless us for this work. We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission, which is making a difference in so many lives here in our area.

**–Linda Marzullo**  
**Chairman, Social Ministry Committee**  
**688-5219 (Work) or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)**

## Socktober Clothing Drive

Have you ever visited a recovery or homeless shelter? It is very humbling and distressing. During October, please gather your usable clean warm clothing & NEW socks for the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission. The SB Rescue Mission provides 57 beds for women and 115 beds for men in recovery and also experiencing homelessness. They also provide daily breakfast and dinner for their many visitors.

The SB Rescue Mission is in need of clean- usable warm clothing: socks (new), t shirts, long sleeved shirts, sweaters, jackets, pants, men's pjs & razors, twin sized sheets & blankets, small toiletries, and feminine hygiene products.

Boxes for collection will be in the Church Narthex & also Parish Hall during October. Thank you for your participation and also to Thrivent for their generosity.

Any questions or for pickups, please call Rosemary Thomas @ 805-350-2683.



### Sunny Fields Farm Stand

**Oct. 6** will be "Get Back to your Roots" and feature root vegetables from Babé Farms.

**Oct. 13** will be "Make a Difference Sunday." We will have a food drive for our Tuesday Food Distribution and our Blessing Box. This will officially close the Farm Stand for the season.

### Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing, Oct. 13, 2024

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Oct. 13 at 10:30 in the Parish Hall. Everyone – all ages and abilities - is invited to pack and make life better for a local senior.

Bags we make provide food for local seniors to eat while taking medications. The bags are delivered by Buellton Senior Center volunteers three times a week.

Please consider donating any items below. If you make a donation and earmark it "Brown Bag Breakfasts" so we can do the shopping. Any support is much appreciated! Items for BBB: Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins); Soft Granola/Cereal Bars and Soft Protein Bars; Oatmeal Packets (Protein type) or small Cereal Boxes or Cups; Fruit Cups or Applesauce; Pudding (non-refrigerated); and Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

–Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

688-5219, 688-3059 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)



## Chancel Choir Practice Has Resumed

Singers needed. If you can sing a part in tune, please consider joining the Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Share your gifts. Join the choir.

## Bethania's Piece Makers

The Piece Makers' last chance to reach our goal of making 65 quilts this year is Oct. 11. We will meet as usual from 9-12. We are really close to our goal and we would love for all of you to be part of it. The Blessing of the Quilts will be Oct. at the 9:30 service. Then we will pack them up for the Ingathering Oct. 24.



## Noisy Sunday is Coming Oct. 27, 2024 Bethania's Annual Halloween Bash

The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on Oct. 27. The offering will help cover some of the costs associated with the annual Halloween Party.

*Why do we need to ask for donations for the Halloween Party?* Here's why: Bethania has no line-item budget to cover the expenses of the Halloween Party. This is one of the biggest outreach events to children and young families that we hold during the year. While we sometimes even manage to make a few dollars, we would like help from the congregation in furnishing the food items and some of the prizes for the children.

At the Halloween Party, we also support some type of community service project as part of the "entrance fee". This helps the attendees remember that we are a church of outreach, to many different types of situations.

Everyone is invited to this party, regardless of their ability to pay.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. This offering will help make a child’s day fun and also educate them a little about what we offer at Bethania, and what we do for the community and the world.

So bring your coins and make a noise on Oct. 27th. Together, we can CHANGE so many things!

– Linda Marzullo

## Events and Occasions

# Fall Family Campout

## It’s not too late!

**October**  
**4-6**

**Lake Lopez**  
**Quail Area**



Reservations can be made directly with the campground ([slocountyparks.com](http://slocountyparks.com)).  
Please let Carol know your site number when you register, or if you need help.

Registrar: Carol Skoog

[carolskoog@yahoo.com](mailto:carolskoog@yahoo.com)

408-398-5673

Saturday Campers are welcome! Day use fee is \$12.

Join us for hiking, boating, potluck, campfire, games and fellowship.

Contact the registrar to let her know you will join us and we'll watch for you:)

## Coffee Hosts in October

**Thank you** to the people hosting coffee this month.

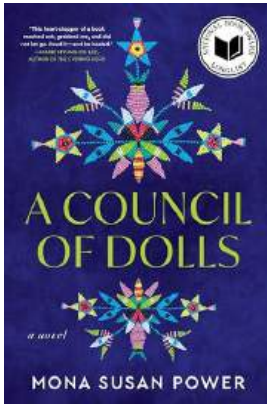
- Oct. 6** - Carol Lake & Marilyn Larsen
- Oct. 13** - Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- Oct. 20** - Harriett & Gene Madsen
- Oct. 27** - Marie Jaeger

## Theo Pub

Theo Pub is Thursday, Oct. 10, at 7pm at Solvang Brewing Co. We have a topic each month and questions to help us think and wonder together. You do not have to have an in depth knowledge of the Bible or Theology to participate, just an open mind and hungry appetite.



## Book Group



The Bethania Book Group is reading a book called A Council of Dolls by Mona Susan Power. From Amazon: *From the mid-century metropolis of Chicago to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people, to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, A Council of Dolls is the story of three women, told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried. A modern masterpiece, A Council of Dolls is gorgeous, quietly devastating, and ultimately hopeful, shining a light on the echoing damage wrought by Indian boarding schools, and the historical massacres of Indigenous people. With stunning prose, Mona Susan Power weaves a spell of love and healing that comes alive on the page.*

We will be discussing the last two sections on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 2pm in the Parish Hall. It's not a long book, so if you'd like to still join us, you can get a copy at The Book Loft.

## Bethania's Halloween Party Oct. 26. (See flier after the article)

The Christian Education Committee is looking for donations of:

- Candy (most needed)
- apples
- cuties oranges
- cans of beer
- 300 Plastic forks
- 300 Paper plates
- 200 Paper cups
- Ranch Dressing
- Italian Dressing

We are also looking for volunteers to help decorate and set-up games and crafts as well as prep in the kitchen. See calendar section.

# FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

Bethania Church  
603 Atterdag Rd

5:30 - 7:45pm



PIZZA, COSTUME CONTEST, GAMES, PRIZES, BOUNCE HOUSE,  
POPCORN, COTTON CANDY, ADULT BEVERAGES AND MORE!

\$8/person or \$30/Family  
+ a Shelf Stable Food Item



# Church Business

## Financial Statement - Period Ending Aug. 31, 2024

### Balance Sheet

	July 2024	August 2024	Change	Notes
Operating Acct	\$74,920	\$77,070	\$2,150	
Money Mkt Acct	\$141,267	\$141,296	\$29	
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0	
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,056,642	\$0	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Fixed Assets	\$1,880,047	\$1,880,047		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,152,976</b>	<b>\$4,155,155</b>		

### Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

August	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$26,066	\$21,741	\$4,326
Total Expenses	\$17,886	\$27,446	\$9,559
Net Income	\$8,180	-\$5,705	

### Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$21,552	\$17,181	\$4,371
Non-Members	\$789	\$818	-\$29
	\$22,341	\$17,999	

### Other Donations

Heritage Fund	\$80
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Endowment Fund	\$150
Food Distribution	\$1,610
Heritage	\$280
Hike for Hunger (Food Distribution)	\$100
LWR School Kits	\$40
Memorials	\$625
Noisy Offering	\$254
Produce Table (Farm Stand)	\$558
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$84

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

## 2025 Budget Workshop

The Budget workshop for 2025 will be Oct. 20 from 10:30-11:30 am in the Parish Hall. Join us in reviewing and discussing a draft 2025 Budget before the Annual Meeting in November.

### In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

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

The Family and Loved Ones of Kate Nielsen and Bill Hardy who passed away recently.

### October Calendar Items

**Please note:** Bethania's Calendar is accessible on-line from our web page [bethanialutheran.net](http://bethanialutheran.net)

#### 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

**6-10 pm** Dungeons and Dragons Teen Group in the Parish Hall

**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** Preschool Chapel in the Sanctuary

**5:30 pm** Yoga in the Parish Hall

**3:30 pm** School Age Chapel in the Sanctuary

**7:00 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.

continued on next page

**Friday, Oct. 4-6**

Fall Family Camp-Out at Lake Lopez

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**

**10:30 am** Committal Service for Bill Long: Oak Hill Cemetery

**6-9 pm** SYV Support Group: Fireside Room

**Thursday, Oct. 10**

**7:00 pm** Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Company

**Friday, Oct. 11**

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

**5-8 pm** Yom Kippur Observation in the Sanctuary

**Saturday, Oct. 12**

**9 am - 2 pm** Lunch in Honor of Bill Long: Parish Hall

**3 pm - 8 pm** Yom Kippur Potluck in the Parish Hall

**Sunday, Oct. 13**

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

**Wednesday, Oct. 16**

**5:30 pm** Preschool Board: Fireside Room

**Thursday, Oct. 17**

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

**7 pm** Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

**Sunday, Oct. 20**

Blessing of Quilts: Sanctuary during the 9:30 service

**10:30 am** Budget Workshop in the Parish Hall

**Friday, Oct. 25**

**5:30pm** - Volunteers are needed for game, kitchen, and crafts set-up for Halloween Party

**Saturday, Oct. 26**

**Halloween Party Set-Up and Decorate**

**9 am** - help with setting up games

Evening - Volunteers needed for games and serving food

**5:30 - 7:45 pm** Halloween Party

**Sunday, Oct. 27**

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

Clean-up after Halloween Party: Parish Hall

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Image by [WOKANDAPIX](#) from Pixabay