

The Beacon

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

April 2019

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463
email: bethanialutheranch@gmail.com



Pastor Chris's Message



Just the Beginning

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday. From the moment followers of Jesus started telling stories of his resurrection, the celebration of Easter became the pinnacle of the followers' year. Starting in the 1st century, followers of Jesus knew that there was something big about this moment in time when their Christ rose from the grave. Contrast this with Christmas, which was not celebrated as a Christian holiday for another 300 years or so.

Today, Christmas is a far more emphasized holiday, celebrated in various ways by Christians and non-Christians alike. This is probably due more to Christmas' current consumerist themes than its theological significance. But I have to wonder if we've also lost some sight of why Easter was such a big deal in antiquity.

This is difficult for us today. We have the privilege of not living under an occupying force, nor experiencing a great deal of systemic injustice or suffering. It is because of those realities that Easter became such a monumental celebration of the year.

For Jewish people in antiquity, there was a deeply embedded theological belief that God would reconcile the world unto the Godself. At this time, God would defeat the presence of evil and injustice in the world and all nations and tribes would acknowledge the oneness of God. This was not so much about a conversion experience, and had nothing to do with a cataclysmic cosmic battle between God and the devil, but rather about the end of suffering and pain in the world. Imagine being a people living under oppression, hearing the stories of what God will one day do.

One of those stories began around the 2nd century BCE and it was the belief that as God started this process of reconciliation for the world the dead would be raised to join in the divine event. As Jerusalem was living under occupation of the Greeks at this time and the Romans next, this was a theological belief that was present until the time of Jesus and his followers. When Jesus rose from the grave, this wasn't simply a consolation for followers that he wasn't dead, nor was it merely confirmation of a belief that death is not the final word in our lives, but rather it was a sign of something extraordinary that God was beginning.

The earliest followers of Jesus, and especially Paul, believed this divine reconciliation of the world was immanent, starting with Jesus' resurrection, and it would happen all at once. Paul writes with this immediacy in his letters. However, time has given way to this belief. As Christians have considered what this means, I believe it highlights that Easter is not an end of Jesus' time, but rather a beginning of something extraordinary that God is doing – and God's primary method is to work through people.

We treat Jesus as the centerpiece of God's work in this world, but I believe Jesus was a beginning, an institution of something bigger that we haven't fully grasped – and that's what Easter is about.

God's work is the same: an end to injustice and evil in the world. But instead of God doing this all at once, this process stretches across the human timeline and includes our effort, ingenuity, and heart.

Whenever we stand up for justice across the world, whenever we work towards greater reconciliation, and whenever we enact compassion, love, forgiveness, and grace in our own personal lives, we are living into this Easter story—this new beginning. My prayer for us is that we do not treat God's work as though it is separate of ourselves, that we do not sit on our hands merely carrying on with our lives waiting for God to show up. I pray that we can see our divine imperative in this story and be God's great reconciliation unto this world.

**With All My Love,
Pastor Chris Brown**

Ministry at Bethania

Youth and Family Ministry

Blessings to you Bethanians,

We have transitioned Confirmation into more of a Youth Group format. Youth Group is meeting April 14th from 3-5 pm in the Fireside Room. If you have a middle school to high school aged child looking to expand their education in faith and make some friends, they are welcome! Have them bring a friend too!

Sunday School has a new curriculum and we are excited to share. We have dedicated classrooms set for ages 2, 3, 4, then Grades K, 1st, 2nd and Grades 3rd, 4th, 5th. Sunday School is every Sunday from 10 am-11 am. If you'd like to be a teacher please contact me.

Youth & Families will be visiting Six Flags on Saturday April 6th. Admission prices vary but if you'd like to sponsor a student's admission ticket please contact me.

Lenten Soup Suppers will continue!! Each Wednesday until April 10, Pastor Chris hosts a dinner for our church community. Volunteers sign up to bring soup, salad, or bread as we enjoy a short service. Youth are expected to set up, serve and clean up, in return they may receive donations for their work.

Easter Chalk Drawing with Youth & Families!! I will pitch E-Z Up Tents, have ice water dispensers out, popsicles in a freezer chest and some snacks out. Every year Bethania gets more and more creative with the drawings. Meet us in front of church doors at 10 am on Saturday April 20th. We invite all members and friends to join in this fun activity.

I will set up games for Hike for Hunger on Sunday April 28th. Please be prepared to get wet and messy!

VBS will be June 24th-June 28th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. The theme is "To Mars and Beyond". St. Marks-in-the-Valley will be coordinating with us again this summer. We still need Crew Leaders known as "Star Guides." Please contact me if you're interested in decorating, donating supplies, helping with advertising, etc. We will be conducting separate meetings in each station and role in the coming weeks.

Blessings to you and your loved ones,

Livier (Liv-EE-air) Ghamari-Brown
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
[**\(909\)962-9366**](tel:(909)962-9366)
[**livierghamari@yahoo.com**](mailto:livierghamari@yahoo.com)

Bethania Preschool and After School

April is the Month of the Young Child. 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 special time to refocus on why we are here and why we work with young children. Studies of preschool programs have shown that, overall, children who attend preschool programs are more prepared for school than children who do not attend preschool programs.

So we will celebrate here with spring, new life, new growth and of course Easter. Our classrooms will be full of spring projects, flowers, bugs and butterflies, April showers and baby animals. We will be growing flowers, painting rainbows and dying eggs.

I would like to thank everyone that helped with and/or attended our Touch-a-Truck Event. Once again it was a great success! We will be making some new additions to our School Age playground with the proceeds.

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” ~ John F. Kennedy

Happy Easter!

**Blessings,
Eileen**

Recycling for Preschool Emergency Fund

Do you know we recycle CA redemption plastic bottles and CA redemption aluminum cans for the “Hallum Fund,” at the Preschool and After School? This fund helps families pay their account should an emergency arise. The Hallum Fund is named after Barbara & Bud Hallum. Barbara was the principal at Jonata School and the president of our Preschool and After School Board for many years. Her husband Bud sorted aluminum cans and plastic bottles and took them to a recycling center and the money went into the emergency fund. Currently, Kristyl & Jim Downey recycle for the Preschool.

You, too, can support this endeavor. Simply bring CA redemption plastic bottles (water, soda, juice without caps - no milk jugs) and CA redemption aluminum cans to the buckets behind the door to the pantry/kitchen near the BBQ pit in the back parking lot.

We cannot accept other types of plastic (e.g. yogurt or medicine), steel or tin cans, or glass bottles - no wine, alcohol or beer, jars or trash.

**Thank you!
Kristyl M. Downey**

Ministry in the Community and Around the World

Noisy Sunday April: No More Hunger

The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on April 28th. Our donations from the offering will be used towards fighting our local hunger needs. We all really "make change for the better" with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some noise on April 28th. Together, we can **change** a hungry person's future.

– Linda Marzullo

This Month at Bethania and More!!!!

Wednesday Dinner Church

Our 5-week Lenten Dinner Church services continue on April 3rd & 10th. Share a meal of soup, salad, or bread for our Lenten Dinner Church on April 3 & 10. Water will be provided. Communion will be celebrated after dinner.

Theo Pub

Please join us for Theology Pub on April 11 at 7 pm at Solvang Brewing Company.

Scholarships Available for 2019 Graduates

Your Endowment Fund is offering scholarships to graduating seniors for education beyond the 12th Grade, be it community college, university or trade school. Application is open to persons who are pursuing education this fall and who are also active in the church life of Bethania. Prior scholarship recipients may also apply. Please submit your transcript and write an essay introducing yourself to the Endowment Fund Committee. The content should include a description of your past and present church participation at Bethania, the influence your faith has had in making everyday life decisions, ways your faith has determined educational and future goals and examples of your community service. Please also share your strongest memory of being part of the community which is Bethania Lutheran Church and why that one memory holds significance. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2019. They may be mailed or e-mailed to the church office or Carolynn Petersen, 1457 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang, CA 93463. Scholarship recipients will be selected and the funds distributed upon submission of proof of enrollment in the school of your choice. Funds will be distributed through your school for the scholarship awarded.

For anyone who does not have a standard application form, some will be available at the church office and also at Santa Ynez Valley Union High School.

Carolynn D. Petersen, Chairman, Endowment Fund

Book Club

The Bethania Book Club is reading and discussing *Paul Was Not A Christian* by Pamela Eisenbaum. All are welcome to join us Tuesday, April 16 at 2 pm, in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Holy Week



Palm Sunday - April 14, 2019

Services will be at 9 am & 11 am.

We will gather in front of the church for the Blessing of the Palms, the Processional Gospel, and then inside the sanctuary recount the Passion of Our Lord According to Luke

Maundy Thursday - St. Mark's, April 18, 2019

6 pm Supper in Stacy Hall
7 pm Service in Stacy Hall



Good Friday - April 19, 2019

The service on Good Friday will be at 7 pm in the sanctuary.



Wing-Chi Poon, Wikicommons

Easter - April 21, 2019

Services will be at 9 am and 11 am.



Bring Flowers for the Easter Cross

The Easter Cross will be in front of the church and ready for you to place flowers in it.

Easter Lilies

25 Easter Lilies will adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Each lily is \$8. Your dedication will be included in the Easter bulletins. Please fill out this form with payment to Kristyl in the Church office.



I/We would like # _____ of Easter Lily/Lilies in honor of/In memory of

_____.

My/Our Name: _____

Phone: _____ Payment of \$8/lily enclosed.

Gather Bible Study

The "Gather" Bible study will meet April 18 at 11:30 am in the Atterdag Lounge at Atterdag Village. The group will be discussing Session 4 "Seeing the risen Christ, coming to faith" found on pp. 25-30 in the April Gather magazine.

Hike Against Hunger

New name, same mission: The Hike Against Hunger (formerly Hike for Hunger) is happening April 28th. Hikers start from Bethania and travel 6.9 miles to Nojoqui Falls Park picnic area.

Hikers, walkers, bikers, runners, joggers...all are welcome. Our donations raised from this event will be used to help fight hunger around the world by sending our donations to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Please consider this another opportunity to help fight hunger, either by your personal donation or by sponsoring a Hiker, and attending the BBQ.

We are asking each hiker to try to gather as many donations as possible, with a minimum donation requested of \$5.00 per hiker. Any hiker who raises over \$25 in donations will be honored with a free lunch when they arrive at the park. Sponsor sheets are available in the narthex and the church office after April 1st. All sponsor sheets and donations must be turned in the day of the hike.

We will be having incentive prizes for the most donations raised by Kids 12 and under, Teens 13-18, and Adults over age 18, and first arrival (walkers only) award. Winners will be announced during lunch at the park.

BBQ lunch will be available for \$10.00 per person. Please make your reservation with the church office by April 22 so we can plan. (If you would like to attend but cannot afford the cost of the lunch, please contact Pastor Chris for a scholarship.)

Worship in a beautiful setting, a fantastic BBQ lunch, friendly competition, games for kids, and a great way to help fight against hunger around the globe. Invite your friends, your walking group, your service club, your teammates, co-workers, relatives...let's get a big crowd out there to celebrate a gorgeous day and a fantastic event!

If you would like to help with any area of this event (we need publicity help, set up, clean up, etc.) please contact the church office.

Drivers Needed for Bethania's Meals on Wheels Program

Bethania provides meal delivery for three days (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) every seven weeks. The three routes usually take about two hours, give or take, picking up meals at 10:30 . Volunteers can ask for the same day each time period or put their names on a substitute list. Training is provided.

Please contact Emily Abello at abelloemily@gmail.com or 805 688-1243 to help us fulfill our responsibility in helping the community in this important work.

40 Days/40 Items Challenge Continues until Easter Sunday

What if Lent could be a time of radical generosity as well as spiritual discipline? What if each one of us donated 40 items to help others? This is the question posed by Pastor Chris and the Social Ministry Committee this year.

We are challenged to designate one item during the 40 days of Lent for giving, and place it in a bag. Here are some suggestions:

- 40 items of clothing
- 40 canned/dried food donations
- 40 brown bag breakfast items (juice, granola bars, applesauce, fruit cups)
- 40 pieces of "silver" (you choose the denomination)
- 40 toiletries for those in need (shampoo, soap, lotion, razors)
- 40 items for our troops overseas (see <https://www.we-support-the-troops.org> for items)
- 40 of _____

...you get the idea. As you place each item daily, say a prayer or a Bible verse to keep your focus on the challenge.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you are a generous God and that you give us so many good things. We are sorry that we are not always generous with others. Please help us to be kind, to do our very best, and to be generous when we are helping others. Amen.

On Easter Sunday, April 21st, everyone will bring their donations to the church to be received and blessed before distribution – a powerful statement of what we can change with just a little discipline. We ask that you enclose a paper with any specific donation group you may have in mind inside your bag.

By Easter Sunday, you will have shared your abundance with those in our community who are struggling just to get by. Win-Win!

–Linda Marzullo
Chairman, Social Ministry
688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Church Business

Treasurer's Report

BALANCE SHEET:

The cash position in the general checking is very low at \$161. Fortunately, we were able to pay all of the bills for the month of February. This cash position is one of the lowest we have had in recent months.

The money market fund remains strong with \$128,700. It is possible we will need to move some of these funds to the general checking in March.

We have not yet adjusted the balance sheet to reflect the end of 2018 balances and that is being done this month (March).

All liabilities are current with the exception of the pension liability of \$2,843.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

INCOME:

Other income for the month was down by \$546 largely due to lack of facility use income.

Offerings were down by \$857 for the month and at 92% of budget for the first two months.

Total income for the month was \$886 below budget, and we are at 89% of total income for the first two months.

EXPENSES:

Benevolence was below budget, but this is a function of offerings being below budget.

Salaries and benefits were over budget by \$449 for the month and were at 107% of budget for the first two months. (This was largely due to the prior month when December bills were paid in January).

Staff expenses were over budget due to Pastor's continuing education expenses during the month of February.

Office administration expenses were up by \$504. This was due to the fact that we had to renew our payroll subscription service (\$650) this month.

Property expenses were up by \$1,203 for the month. The largest portion of this overage was a \$760 plumbing bill for the toilet in the kitchen. Other amounts came from janitorial services from December and January. Overall we are at 130% of budget for the first two months.

Utilities were up for the month by \$250. This can be attributed to the cold and rain we experienced the entire month. For the first two months we are at 96% of budget.

All other expenses were at or under budget for the month and for the first two months.

Overall expenses were 106% of budget, and we sustained a deficit of \$10,282 for the month.

For the first two months we incurred a \$8,166 deficit.

OVERALL:

The first two months of the year were difficult months in terms of cash flow and extra expenses. The cash from 2018 kept us from being in a cash deficit position, but we may find ourselves in that position during the month of March. It is very possible we will need to move funds from the money market fund to the general checking to pay our bills.

Social Ministry Meets April 8 @ 6 pm

Our next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held Monday, April 8 at 6 pm in the Church Office. Topics will include planning for the Hike Against Hunger April 28th and the next Brown Bag Breakfast packing (May 5th).

We will also be having a serious discussion about the future of the Produce Table. If you are able to help, please contact me and let me know. We really need growers in order to continue this project! We also need volunteers to staff the table on Sunday mornings through the growing season.

–Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry

688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingsprint@verizon.net

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

For Comfort During Grief

For the Family and Loved Ones of **Maria Livier Gomez**, Livier Ghamari-Brown's Grandmother. Maria died March 18, 2019.

For the Family and Loved Ones of **Helen Nielsen**. Helen died March 27. Her service will be April 15 at 10:30 here in the sanctuary.

Immediate Prayer Concerns: Thora Mae Andersen, Tony Bell, Brianna Ceballos, Denise Chaboya, Kerstin Emerson, Armando Franco, Belle Hoger, Lennon Jones, Duane Lamberton, Myra Petersen, Jackson Tomasini, Lou Vitelli, David & Yolanda Yanez, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad

On-Going Prayer Concerns: Andy Blanton, Pat Bode, Barbara Boyd, Annette Clausen, Caylin, Katy & Kay Corlee, David Eck, Terri Elwess, Ida FitzGerald, Chris Frederiksen, Debbie Fritts, Patrice Fuller, Chris Gideon, Sheldon & Pat Green, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, Michael Jech, Robert & Gail Jennings, Betsy & Steve Logan, Joe Martin, Bobby McGee, Sarah Monedero, Brian Merrick, Rocky Miller, Denise Morris, Denny Norrenbrock, Marie Ostertag, Doyle Phillips, Audrey Robinson, Jesse Tovar and Robert Workman

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing Day Mark the Date: Sunday, May 5th – 10 am

Mark your calendar to help us pack brown bag breakfast items for needy seniors in our backyard on Sunday, May 5th during the 10 am coffee hour.

These little brown bags get delivered to low income seniors in the Santa Ynez Valley. Our little brown bags are for those seniors who need to take medications in the morning with food, and would otherwise have nothing to eat with their pills.

You can also help out by packing and by donating any of the following items:

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars	Protein Bars
Oatmeal Packets or Cups	Cup of Soups
Muffins or Baked Goods	Fruit Cups or Applesauce
(plastic sealed, such as Hostess)	Protein Drinks
Small boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)	

You can make a difference in the health and happiness of someone living right here by packing a bag or donating a few items. Thank you!

We will also be using a Thrivent Card to help this project.

Please pass the word along to your friends and other organizations. This really is a community project.

–Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Other Items of Interest

Save the Date for the **73rd Annual Danebod Folk Meeting**, Aug. 21-25, 2019, at the Danebod Folk School in Tyler, MN. Registration materials will be mailed in early May and will also be available on-line at danebodfolkmeeting.org. A Wednesday afternoon field trip will be offered to the Tru-Shrimp headquarters in Balaton, MN. Tentative lecture topics are Danish Values in an American Culture, Updates on Eyewitness Palestine, Soil Health, Mental Health, Children's Literature, History and Music of Leonard Bernstein, NAFTA & USMCA, Eastern European History, and When Religionless Faith Meets Faithless Religion in Joy. The Museum of Danish America "Hygge" traveling exhibit will be set in the Stone Hall during the meeting. Saturday evening entertainment will be an ensemble representing The ASI Spelmanslag fiddling group, including Ross Sutter, a Swedish music historian and accomplished guitar player.

Bethania in Pictures



Clouds and Sun at Bethania

Fastelavn



Cat-Court: Left to Right
Clayton Johnson, Cat-Prince; Sean Downey, Cat-King, and Marie Jaeger, Cat-Queen



Sturdy Cat-Barrel by
Gene Madsen



Cat-Centerpieces



Vesper Brown with her Moana hook, kids getting ready for the costume contest



Erling Grumstrup, 98 years strong, takes a whack at the barrel.



April 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn'day	Thursday	Friday	Sat'day
	1 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	2 9 am Organ Tuning:CH 7 pm Christian Ed. Mtg: OFC 7 pm Yoga:PPH	3 9:30 am Staff Mtg:OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 6 pm Dinner Church:PH	4	5	6 Youth Trip to Six Flags
7 9 am & 11 am Worship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Time	8 6 pm Social Min. Mtg:OFC 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	9 7 pm Yoga:PH	10 9:30 am Staff Mtg:OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 12:45 pm Quilting:PH 6 pm Dinner Church:PH 7 pm Choir:PH	11 7 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Co.	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9 & 11am Worship:CH 10 am Education Time & Coffee Hour 3-5 pm Youth Group: FR	15 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	16 2 pm Book Group: PH 7 pm Yoga:PH	17 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH 7 pm Choir:PH	18 Maundy Thursday 10:30 am Communion, & Gather Bible Study:AV 6 pm Supper/ 7 pm Service:SME	19 Good Friday 7 pm Service: CH	20 10 am Chalk Drawing in front of the church
21 Easter 9 & 11 am Worship:CH 10 am Sunday School & Coffee Hour.	22 Beacon Deadline: OFC 5:15 pm Grief Group: SME 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA: FR	23 7 pm Yoga:PH	24 9 am Support the Troops:PH 9:30 am Staff Mtg: OFC 11:30 am & 3:30 pm Chapel:CH	25 2 pm BPSAS Brd. Mtg:PH 7 pm Council Meeting: OFC	26	27
28 Hike For Hunger 9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering:CH 10:30 Coffee Hour:PH 11:30 am Hike For Hunger BBQ	29 6:30 pm Tai Chi:PH 8 pm AA	30 7 pm Yoga:PH	FR = Fireside Rm OFC = Office PH = Parish Hall CH = Church AV = Atterdag Village	BPSAS = Preschool & AfterSchool	SME = St. Mark's Episcopal	

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bethaniaps@verizon.net

Holy Week Services



Easter Services, April 21
9 am & 11 am at Bethania

Palm Sunday, April 14

9 am & 11 am at Bethania

Maundy Thursday, April 18

St. Mark's In-The-Valley

Episcopal Church

6 pm Supper/7 pm Service

Good Friday, April 19

7 pm at Bethania