



The Beacon

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

July 2022

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.

Invitation to Return to Gathering

My Dearest Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you all from our God in whom we live and move and have our being. The last two years have been characterized by change. The only consistency I've felt has been the consistency of everything changing all over again. It's made it extraordinarily difficult to plan church events and gatherings and try to return to our activities that were so central to our identity prior to the pandemic.

Over 2 years into this pandemic, there's definitely some relief. Not only are COVID vaccinations readily available, but also the availability of booster shots for adults, and now, vaccine eligibility for children 6 months and older. More and more antiviral drugs have helped doctors treat COVID patients and with increases in cases, deaths and hospitalizations among vaccinated people are remaining low. COVID will be with us for a long time, but with these tools we have the ability to plan better for the future and, hopefully, gather once again.

At the start of the pandemic, we were seamlessly able to transfer our worship to digital mediums since we were already live-streaming for our Atterdag residents. We were even able to invest in some better equipment and provide a higher quality video, which I know many of our folks enjoy. One of the tools YouTube offers is the ability to see how many computer screens tune into the service each week, and Bethania's average is about 55 screens, which means even more people, as multiple people can watch one screen.

I've spoken to other pastors that I'm friends with and have asked them about their in-person worship attendance, and like us, it's still down from before the pandemic, but by percentage, it's higher than ours. I've also asked what their viewership is like for their online services, and surprisingly, it's very low—unlike ours. Their reasoning: the quality of their online worship is very poor, whereas ours is pretty good.

We will always offer online worship. We started it for our Atterdag folks and we'll continue not just for them, but for people tuning in from out of the area, people whose mobility has made it difficult to come each morning, people who are still concerned about COVID, etc. It's important that we offer equitable ways for people to tune in that takes into consideration reasons they might not be able to come, or not comfortable coming to worship. However, I'm worried some people are using our online worship out of convenience rather than need. And so if that's you, I'd like to invite you to come back to worship in

person. The last thing I want is for anyone to feel guilty, so please understand this as an invitation, not a requirement. We miss having everyone in worship and we know that it's going to take a long time for people to feel comfortable again. But if comfort or physical ability is not an issue for you, please consider joining us in person once again, and experiencing your community in worship. And if you have any questions or concerns, always feel comfortable reaching out to me.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris**

Legacy Presentation with Lisa Higginbotham, July 31

A reminder for everyone that Lisa Higginbotham, Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA will be joining us for a Legacy Presentation on July 31, right after the 9:30 service. She will be helping our members look at ways of helping Bethania remain financially sustainable long into the future. Please make sure you plan on coming to this as we really need our members' support. We will also be having "Temple Talks" on July 17 and July 24 during coffee hour featuring stories of Bethania's value to our members, so please consider coming to worship and coffee hour during these weeks.

About Lisa Higginbotham!

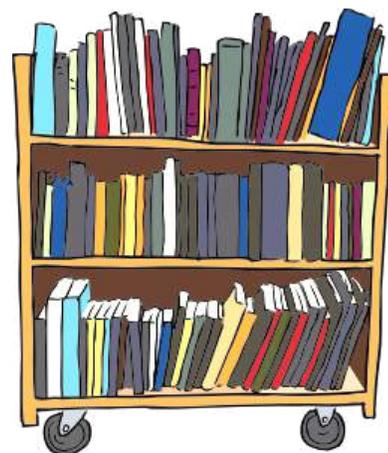


Lisa Higginbotham is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive and has successfully worked in the financial services industry for 25 years. Previous to serving in ministry, Lisa successfully ran her own professional practice as a financial advisor, specializing in retirement and legacy planning. In her current role, Lisa works directly with congregations, ELCA organizations, synods, and partnerships. Hoping to bring her experience and advocacy to each, she helps create gift and endowment policy, works directly with donors to help them express generosity, and transitions merging or closing congregations to fulfill their legacies by combining assets or disposition. Lisa hopes to use her experience and talent to create sustainability and ministry funding for the church! Lisa's passions are all family-centered, dedicating her personal time to her husband, family, and community. When not on a church campus, you can find her cooking for family, in her community garden, or raising monarch butterflies.

Faith in Action

Announcing Bethania's new Theo Cart!

At the coffee hour for 9:30 folks and in the narthex for 11:00 attendees will be the new Theo Cart. The collection of 30 books (and growing) includes such authors as Rob Bell, John Crossan, Bob Goff and Johann Hari. Books can be checked out for up to three weeks with a grace period after that. Whether you're looking for something lighthearted or serious, global or personal, these books by modern Christian authors are full of ideas to think about! **Read. Think. Grow.**



Letter to Food Distribution Volunteers

My name is Edith Saglie and have lived in Solvang for several years. When the Covid pandemic hit in 2020, one of the best things that happened was getting to benefit from the food distribution service through Bethania Church. Being on a very tight income, and suddenly finding myself losing the one very small source of income that I had as a Spanish tutor due to the global shutdown, I suddenly found myself in dire financial need. Being able to obtain food on a regular, dependable basis became crucial for me. And it remains so, as the cost of essentials and the most basic food needs have gone way up.

I feel blessed to have been able to benefit from Bethania's food program since spring of 2020, and to this day. The staff is wonderfully nice, caring and empathetic. I have been able to source food weekly, and with dignity. It is amazing to know that, even as social situations continue to put a strain on my everyday expenses, Bethania remains a dependable source for something as basic yet as essential as food. I pray that this program continues, as it is a major benefit to me and to my community.

Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution News

Food Distribution will be closed the Tuesday, July 12th (the week of Vacation Bible School), as we transform the campus into "Adventure Island" for our campers.

Tuesday distribution has seen some variations but mainly an increase in the amount of people we serve, possibly due to rising food and fuel costs. Here are the most recent numbers:

April 26	206 Households	809 Individuals	11 HH new enrolled
May 3	163 Households	657 Individuals	11 HH new enrolled
May 10	168 Households	668 Individuals	14 HH new enrolled
May 17	181 Households	746 Individuals	13 HH new enrolled
May 24	175 Households	701 Individuals	18 HH new enrolled
May 31	190 Households	746 Individuals	14 HH new enrolled
June 7	168 Households	665 Individuals	13 HH new enrolled
June 14	209 Households	867 Individuals	16 HH new enrolled

- Total Individuals served to date, January-June 14, 2022: **17,531**
- Current number of households enrolled: **1,360**

- **We need your help** with this rewarding endeavor, helping our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity.
- **If you would like to volunteer** at any of the shifts, please contact Linda at vikingsprint@verizon.net.

Food Distribution Shift times:

- **9:30-10:00** Moving items into position and bringing food from Pantry
- **9:45-approx. 11:30** Packing bags in church
- **1:45-approx. 3:00** Finish bags with Food Bank items and bagging produce
- **4:45** Setting up for Evening Distribution (started at 5:15)
- **6:45-7:45** Clean Up



Image by [Jill Wellington](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Produce Table

The Produce Table opened **Sunday, May 8**. Every week we have fresh produce available, anything you wish to share - fruit, vegetables, flowers, eggs, vegetable or flower starts, succulents, etc. If you want to take something home, simply leave a donation in the jar on the table. Proceeds benefit hunger concerns. Please contact Kristyl Downey at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637 to volunteer at the Produce Table in July

July 3	Marilyn Larsen
July 10	Harriett Madsen
July 17	Kelli Lundberg
July 24	<i>Available</i>
July 31	<i>Available</i>

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: TBA + Aug. 7th

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast 2022 packing day will be scheduled for a (hopefully cool) evening in July – stay tuned! The packing after that is scheduled for Aug. 7th. 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! The bags we make provide food items for local seniors to eat while taking medications.

While we have been spending the same amount of our grant each time we pack so far, we are able to purchase less and less items due to rising costs. If you could help by donating any of the items below, a local senior would much appreciate your assistance. You can also make a donation and earmark it “Brown Bag Breakfasts” so we can go do the shopping. Any amount of help is much appreciated!

If you would like to donate items, church is open daily (usually from 9-5) and you can drop off any donated items inside or at the church office, in addition to bringing items to us on packing day.

We need:

- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
- Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)
- Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
- Protein Bars
- Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)
- Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles
- Fruit Cups or Applesauce
- Pudding (non-refrigerated)
- Small bags or packages of “little extras”, such as crackers, cookies, fruit strips, gummies

Please plan to help pack on Aug. 7th. 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 vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Noisy Sunday, July 24th: Items for Kits

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on July 24th. 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. 11th**. Watch for more info.)

Items needed are:

For Personal Care Kits:

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



For School Supply Kits:

1. 70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
2. Rulers with centimeters and inches
3. Pencil sharpeners
4. Blunt tip scissors
5. #2 Pencils
6. Ballpoint (not gel) Pens, Black or Blue ink
7. 2-1/2” Erasers
8. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

“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

Your Donations at work: Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz

With the rise in food insecurity here in our beautiful valley, the problem is also constant for our friends at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. Their members are the people who actually pick produce for us all to eat, and so it seems inconceivable that they are not able to afford food for themselves.

We are helping them with feeding families, including many households headed by only one parent. Many families have been abandoned by one of the spouses because of stress, alcoholism, illness and despair, and left to fend on their own. This is especially the case for a lot of women with small children.

If you can help by donating some of the items below, please leave items in the box in the sanctuary, take to the church office, or contact me for drop off. Your donations are making a difference in a life and in families of hard-working people. If you would like to make a financial donation, please be sure to earmark it for "Iglesia" when donating.

Most Needed:

Dry Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee – Snacks (such as Cookies) – Bottled Juice – Feminine Products – Shampoo – Laundry Detergent – Dish Soap – Bleach and Cleaning Products – Baby Diapers (All sizes especially 5&6) – Formula (Enfamil Yellow)

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our friends at Iglesia.

– Linda Marzullo

Opportunities to Serve

At Bethania, we all know that we couldn't do what we do without volunteers. Volunteers are the heart and lifeblood of the church. Volunteering also has benefits for the individual. You can feel good, confident and compassionate when you make a difference in the lives of others.

In that light, we often ask for volunteers to serve in different capacities. It may seem routine or commonplace to see our volunteers who help with the food distribution; read, serve communion or usher every week; host coffee or the Produce Table; or our occasional events like "Touch-A-Truck" or VBS, but all of the volunteers keep Bethania running and hold our community together. So, if you are looking for a place or opportunity to serve please contact the church office and we will help you. Currently, we are looking to increase our pool of people helping on Sunday mornings.

We have a message from Bill Zigler who coordinates the ushers:

Greetings Bethania Friends,

You are invited to join Bethania's Usher Team. Our responsibilities are clear and simple, and it takes very little time beyond normal attendance at church. Directions are hanging in the vestry, and I will happily provide training at your convenience or serve with you during your first usher experience. Oh, and you get to ring the bell, if you like. Our goal is to have a few more ushers so that we would serve only once per quarter. Questions? Call or text Bill Zigler at (559) 333-4080.

We are also looking for volunteers to read the lessons, host coffee, or host the Produce Table. If you take just one Sunday once in a while that will help immensely.

- Kristyl Downey
Office Manager

Wanted: Thrivent Members

If you are a Thrivent Member, we need you! Every Thrivent member has the possibility of receiving seed money (\$250.00) for two projects a year. Please contact the church office to let us know if you are a Thrivent member and would be willing to help with a project. Some of our needs are listed below:

- Bath Towels for Health Kits
- Backpacks for School Kits
- Diapers/Wipes Drive for Tuesday distribution
- Food for the Blessing Box

Doing a project is simple and fun. We can help with filling out the forms if you need help. Ask Kristyl for more info.

– **Social Ministry Committee**

Events and Occasions

Theo Pub on Different Week

Theology Pub will be gathering at Solvang Brew! Because VBS is the second week of July, we'll be getting together at 7 pm on Thursday, July 7th." For the summer months we do "Open-Topic Night" where you get to ask the pastor whatever you want or bring a topic for the group to discuss. And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!



Coffee Hosts in July

Thanks to Ann Tucker who has signed up to host coffee July 3.

Please call Kristyl or sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

July 3	Ann Tucker
July 10	Available
July 17	Available
July 24	Available
July 31	Church Council

Flowers for Sunday Worship

Occasionally, people provide flowers for worship. It honor a person or occasion, remember someone, or just because you want to. Please contact Kristyl in the office (bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637) and she can put something in the bulletin about the special flowers you provide.

It can be an arrangement from a florist, the farmer's market, the store or your yard.

We always appreciate nature's beauty in the church.

Solvang Theater Fest - Into the Woods

There is space for 19 people to attend PCPA Theater Fest's production of "Into the Woods" on Wednesday, Aug. 31st. The musical play features fractured fairytales woven together in the storyline. Emily Abello will be selling tickets after church services on July 24th, July 31st, and Aug. 7th. Cost is \$27.50 per person. Checks can be made out to PCPA.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council June 16th Meeting

To be more informative and transparent, your Church Council is continuing the new process of communicating news and publishing decisions we have made via the Beacon. Our goal, each month, is to announce major decisions taken by the council to help everyone stay abreast of issues facing the church. Questions, if any, about these discussions, decisions, or messages should be addressed to a council member preferably in writing.

From the June Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Vacation Bible School (July 11-15) has already filled all 48 spots, and has a waiting list; we still need back-up group leaders – please contact Livier Brown if you are able to help.
- Emmy Abello announced we have 19 tickets available for "Into the Woods" on Aug. 31. Please call Emmy to reserve tickets.
- Lisa Higginbotham (Synodical Gift Planner) will be with us on July 31 to help us develop a vision and planning for the future of Bethania. She will give the presentation after the 9:30 service. Please plan on attending.
- Bill Zigler reported that the stained glass window project has been delayed due to the availability of the trim that needs to go around the windows. Possible install date the week of Aug. 8-12.
- Pastor Chris met with a representative of the Santa Barbara County Food Action Coalition. He will have a follow up meeting with them on July 21 to discuss how we can work with them on our food distribution ministry.
- Pastor announced that we have hired a site supervisor (help when we have rental groups). He worked with us previously.
- We approved the Time & Talents Survey that will be distributed to all church members in the coming months.
- Approved motion from Preschool Board to add Elizabeth Breen as a new board member.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these topics, please contact one of the Council members below:

Emily Abello (805) 688-1243	Jasmine Day day.jasmine@gmail.com	Lori McConnell (805) 331-7971
Wendy Bevier (805) 680-1521	Jan Zigler (559) 740-3676	Anne Twigg (805) 350-1922
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736

Bethania's Financial Statement Period Ending 5/31/22

Balance Sheet

	<u>April 2022</u>	<u>May 2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operating Acct	\$56,105	\$53,545	-\$2,560
Money Mkt Acct	\$133,847	\$127,899	-\$5,948
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	
Fixed Assets	\$1,852,376	\$1,852,376	
Total Assets	\$4,245,255	\$4,236,748	-\$8,507

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

<u>May 2022</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Total Income	\$23,872	\$25,603	-\$1,731
Total Expenses	\$26,967	\$24,389	-\$2,578
Net Income	-\$3,094	-\$1,214	-\$4,307

Offerings

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
General Fund	\$13,904	\$16,000	-\$2,096	
Non-Members	\$228	\$700	-\$472	
	\$14,132	\$16,700	-\$2,568	Budgeted 2022 \$87,600 (YTD \$80,122)
Produce Table	\$194			
Brown Bag	\$80			

The cash position is still good with \$53,454 in checking and \$127,889 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

\$5948 deduction from the Money Market Account was for Designated Funds.

Endowment Fund contribution were two deposits (April & May) = \$6000, instead of \$3000 budgeted

Nielsen Building Materials for \$1556.99 was for a new door in the parsonage.

Payment of \$1175 + \$1374 for General Liability Insurance for 2022

Utilities were over budget by \$927 due to increased electric bill.

All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.

Overall income was 95.17% of the budget.

Overall expenses were at 102.56% of the budget.

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

We uplift in prayer the following people in our congregation and community. May we minister to and bless all who need God's help.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Jennifer Howell, Tomi Izuno, Linda Johansen, Jake & Anya Knotts, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Denise Morris, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearnson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Sahde, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Thank You – *Mange Tak!*

BIG "Thank You's" to:

- **Angel on a Bike (you know who you are)**, for donating coins that netted \$57.88 for Food Distribution needs.
- **Dedicated Brown Bag Breakfast packers**, who show up to help get those bags packed and into seniors' homes, especially Don & Ilse Popma, Lois DeMeyer, Jan Simonsen, Kristyl Downey, Donna Hinsbeeck, Denise Morris, Leigh Miller, Gene & Harriet Madsen, and others.
- **Josh Bratt**, for being the backbone (literally) on Tuesdays – setting up, moving, packing, shepherding, vacuuming, etc. etc. Thank you!
- **Donna and Marcel Hinsbeeck**, for the generous donation of their time and skills...and so much church support.
- **Pastor Chris**, for letting two women who were having a hard time stay as long as they needed in the sanctuary to pray one night.
- **Bill and Jan Zigler** for their dedication to keeping the Blessing Box stocked at 6 pm most nights.
- **The Prayer Chain**, for actively praying for those who need prayers from our loving "chain". (If you want to join, contact Kristyl at the church office – you will feel the difference around you!)
- **Coffee Hosts**, who donate their time and goodies so we are encouraged to talk after worship service and build our community.
- **Our Church Council**, who help make decisions that keep the church going.
- **Volunteers** – who are the glue that keeps everything together. We LOVE Volunteers!

July Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Unorthodox Gathering in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Sunday School in the Fireside Room

Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm - The Church Office is open.

Mondays

8:00 pm AA in the Fireside Room (AA will not meet July 4 or July 11.)

Tuesdays (Food Distribution will not happen July 11)

9:30 am Prepare and Organize for Food Distribution

1:30 pm Arrival of Food from FoodBank in the Front Parking Lot

1:45 ish pm Food Distribution Packing in the Church, Produce Sorting & Bagging in Front of the Church

5:15-6:45 pm Food Distribution on the Laurel Side and Courtyard side of the Church

Thursdays

5:30-6:30 pm Yoga in the Fireside Room (for the summer)

7:00-8:00 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall (The Boy Scouts will not meet July 14 because of VBS.)

Monday, July 4 - Independence Day

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

Tuesday, July 5

5:30 pm VBS painting, hanging fish line, registration in the Fireside Room/Parish Hall

Wednesday, July 6

5:30 pm VBS building Volcano, lighthouse, puppet stage in the Fireside Room/Parish Hall

6:00 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Church Office

Thursday, July 7

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company (change to the first Thursday in July, this month only)

Monday July 11-Friday, July 15

6 pm-8:15 pm Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 17

Legacy "Temple Talk" during Coffee Hour

Wednesday, July 20

5:30 pm Bethania Preschool & After School Board Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, July 23

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Wedding & Baby Shower in the Fireside Room

Sunday, July 24

9:30 am Service and Baptism, Legacy "Temple Talk" During Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 31

10:30 am Legacy Presentation in the Parish Hall

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Happy Summer!