



The Beacon

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

August 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.

Message from Pastor Chris

Summer as an adult has been such a weird experience. When I was a kid, summer was a magical time. School was over, which meant playing with neighborhood friends was extended into later hours; my family usually took some kind of a summer trip, which I almost always looked forward to; and days by a pool or at the beach became the norm. Even when I was in college, summer was a time of rejuvenation before the next semester started in the fall. However, as a working adult, summer just means it's a lot hotter outside as I try to do the same work I do in the spring, fall and winter.

Now of course I'm just being grumpy and pessimistic. The truth is as an adult I've begun to appreciate the seasons more, especially how they create a cycle of emotion within me. Even though summer doesn't create the same changes in activity it did when I was a kid, it still represents a time of freedom, emotionally. In our part of the country, we aren't confined in any way by weather. Daylight is longer and there doesn't feel like any need to stick to a dinner or bedtime routine. There's a casualness in the day that is brought on by openness that always feels like summer, even as an adult.

What I appreciate about the feeling of seasons (even though it may not always look like we have seasons in Southern California) is that by the end of the summer months, even though I enjoy the heat, the casualness of each day, the extended daylight, I'm always ready for fall. At the beginning of summer I don't want to hear about fall, but by the end of summer I'm always so ready for it. I'm ready for the cooler weather, the pumpkin patch, the fall colors, AND the routines of church that come with it. I'm ready for Sunday School, the Halloween Party, the Blessing of the Animals, the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, and the consistency of our community being back together again.

As we approach the month of August, those feelings are just starting to set in. Whether I'm prepared for it or not, I can't help but start to feel ready to leave summer and enter this next cycle of Fall. I'm curious, what is it like for you as you go through these seasons? What are you looking forward to, personally, and as a church? What things are you excited for? What things do you miss? What are you hoping comes back?

My work as a pastor is never just my work. Often it's our work, our experiences, and our growing together. As I ponder what this next program year might be like, I'm never alone in that pondering, but try to carry the wishes and hopes of all of us as we plan and move back into these routines.

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I would love to hear from you about what Fall means to you and what you're looking forward to as we start this new program year at Bethania. I'm always available by my cellphone, email and at the office so if you have anything on your mind that you'd like to share, please reach out.

I remain faithfully yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris

Bethania Preschool & After School

The school year came to an end and we welcomed the warm summer months of June and July. This year each classroom had their own end of the year celebration/graduation.

Miss Christina's class had a pizza party to end the year with a fun goodie bag for each child. Miss Monica's class celebrated with a unique performance outside in the courtyard area. The children sang songs and put on a very special dance performance to their favorite songs they've listened to this year!

Miss Mimi's class celebrated outdoors in the courtyard area with songs and special recognition certificates for each child.

Miss Wanda celebrated with her luau-themed graduation in the courtyard area.

This summer the Preschool and After School children made lots of art projects, participated in food activities, engaged in water play activities outdoors and went on local walking field trips in Solvang.

The new school year will begin for both the Preschool & After School on Thursday, Aug. 18 and we are busy preparing for it.

We will be hosting an open house for the Preschool on Wednesday, Aug. 17 from 9 - 11 am. This is a time for preschool families to come and meet the teachers and see the classrooms before the first day.

The Preschool & After School are kindly accepting any donation of back to school supplies such as markers, paper, pens, pencils, colored pencils, coloring books, chalk, bubbles or anything fun that you can think of for our kiddos. When dropping off items you can give me a call 805-688-7077 and I can come down and meet you.

Thank you for keeping Preschool and After School programs in your prayers. I am happy that we are able to provide care for the many families who are in need of child care.

Kindly,

Lola Gonzalez
Director

Faith in Action

Produce Table

Each week after the 9:30 service, we have fresh produce available, anything you wish to share - fruit, vegetables, flowers, eggs, plants, 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 August,

Next Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: 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, Aug. 28: Items for Kits

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Aug. 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, vikingsprint@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

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

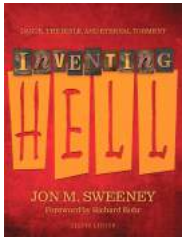
Doing a project is simple and fun. We can help with filling out the forms if you need help. Ask Kristyl for more info.

– **Social Ministry Committee**

Events and Occasions

Theo Pub

Theology Pub will be gathering at Solvang Brew! We're back to our normal schedule of the 2nd Thursday of the month and we'll be meeting at 7 pm on Thursday, Aug. 11th." 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!



Book Group

Bethania's Book Group has started a new book by Jon Sweeney called Inventing Hell. We will gather by Zoom on Thursday, Aug. 18, at 2 pm to talk about the first 4 chapters of the book. All are welcome to join us.

End of the Summer BBQ is back!

Join us for our annual tradition of closing out the summer with a BBQ, community, and fun! Our End of the Summer BBQ will be August 28. After service, hang out with some snacks and good company and we'll serve food at 11:30! Also, PLEASE bring a salad or side dish to share.

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We also need help! If you can help in these areas, please let Pastor Chris know.

Setup: Putting up chairs, tables, and easy-ups

Take-down: Putting away chairs, tables, and easy-ups, and a light cleaning

Grilling: Grilling hotdogs and hamburgers

We will also have a bounce house and the playground open so invite any friends or family members and bring the kids! See you there!

Coffee Hosts in August

If you would like to host coffee, please call Kristyl or sign-up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

Solvang Theater Fest - Into the Woods

There is space for just two 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. Please call Emily Abello ((805) 688-1243) to see if the two tickets are still available. Cost is \$27.50 per person. Checks can be made out to PCPA.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council July 21st 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 July Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Pastor Chris reported on a meeting with the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network. They are willing to help us with grant funding, and able to offer many new resources that we do not currently have. It was a very positive meeting and we look forward to working with them. Pastor also reported that he has four people who would like to work collaboratively with him on the Unorthodox service.
- The stained glass windows will be installed on July 28th.
- We decided to bring back the end of summer BBQ on Sunday Aug. 28th. We will need help with set up and clean up. More information will be coming soon.
- Council approved the hiring of a new Teacher's Aide for the Preschool.
- We also hired a new cleaning service for the church, who will clean the sanctuary every Wednesday and the church office twice a month. They will also clean after events in the Parish Hall.
- Response to the Time & Talents Survey has been good so far. An electronic version has also been sent out.

- Livier Brown reported that there is an ongoing problem with people parking in their driveway and going in to the church parking lot and preschool parking lot. Solutions were discussed, and we will move forward with ideas.
- The Legacy Planning event will be accessible by Zoom as well as in person. We encourage everyone to participate in this important that can help to insure Bethania's future.
- Council voted to request funding from Memorials, Endowment and the Property Projects, funds if we do not raise the entire \$30,000 to repair the roof. So far we have raised nearly \$20,000 of the amount needed. We are hopeful that the remaining gifts will come in so we do not have to utilize other funds.

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

Notes for June Financial Statement Ending June 30, 2022

Balance Sheet

	May 2022	June 2022	Change	Notes
Operating Acct	\$53,545	\$58,433	\$4,888	
Money Mkt Acct	\$127,899	\$122,026	-\$5,873	
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0	
Fund Accounts	\$2,202,827	\$2,202,827	\$0	
Fixed Assets	\$1,852,376	\$1,852,376	\$0	
Total Assets	\$4,236,748	\$4,235,763	-\$985	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

June 2022	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$19,218	\$32,713	-\$13,495	
Total Expenses	\$22,767	\$30,043	-\$7,276	
Net Income	-\$3,533	\$2,669	-\$6,203	

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$11,999	\$16,000	-\$4,001	
Non-Members	\$460	\$700	-\$240	
	\$12,459	\$16,700	-\$4,241	<i>Budgeted 2022 \$105,300 (YTD \$92,582)</i>
Produce Table	\$100			
Brown Bag	\$50			
Roof Capital Campaign	\$16,725			Goal \$30,000

* The cash position is still good with \$58,433 in checking and \$122,026 in the money market account.

Profit & Loss Budget Performance:

- * Endowment fund contribution will be paid in July for June (\$3000).
- * Payment of \$1175 + \$1374 for General Liability Insurance for 2022.
- * Facilities Use was up by \$717 over the \$208 budgeted.
- * All other expenses were at or below budget for the month.
- * **Overall income was 87.25% of the budget.**
- * **Overall expenses were at 97.38% 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 Hoyer, Jake & Anya Knotts, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Denise Morris, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Sahde, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

August Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Unorthodox Gathering in the Sanctuary

Monday - Friday

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

Mondays

8:00 pm AA in the Fireside Room

Tuesdays

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

Wednesday, Aug. 3

6:00 pm Social Ministry Committee in the Fireside Room

Friday, Aug. 5-17

Preschool and After School Program is closed.

Sunday, Aug. 7

10:30 am Assembling Brown Bag Breakfasts in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Aug. 11

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, Aug. 12

9 am - noon Quilting in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Aug. 17

9-11 am BPSAS Open House

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

Thursday, Aug. 18

2022-2023 BPSAS begins

2 pm Book Group via Zoom

7 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Aug. 28

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

11:30 am End of Summer BBQ on the grounds

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The stained glass windows have been reinforced and are back in their place.

Be sure to come to church and see them in person.

They look great!

