



The Beacon

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

July 2023

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

I've been doing some reflecting lately—searching for a feeling, really. I think the impetus for this has to do with what experts are calling the “loss of institutional memory” due to the pandemic. The effects of the pandemic were so pervasive that at an institutional level we've forgotten how things were or how we used to do them before the pandemic. This phenomenon is being reported across the spectrum of institutions throughout the US. At Bethania, while I've often explored with members and council what we remember of how we used to do things, what I've been reflecting on lately is far more what it **FELT LIKE** when we did what we did before the pandemic. And I have to say folks, the feeling I keep coming back to is **JOY**.

I remember such joy prior to the pandemic. Now please understand, I'm not saying that feeling isn't here now, it's just accompanied more with the anxieties that developed over the last 3 years. I think we all have those feelings of anxiety now, which isn't bad, but I'm feeling called back to that pervasive feeling of joy and I would like to invite you all to help cultivate that as a community again.

As I think about the cause of a lot of the anxiety, at least for myself over the last 3 years, two causes come to mind. The first was the survival of Bethania. Churches were hit particularly hard by the pandemic and there was a deep fear of what might happen to here. We're beyond the pandemic now and we're going to be okay, so there's definitely relief. However, the second cause has been this perpetual outrage and anger towards others that came out of the pandemic—and I'm just as guilty as anyone of being overcome by this at times. But I'm tired of it, and I imagine you are too.

The blessing—and this is really what I've been reflecting on—is that when it comes down to it, I think Bethania can transcend these feelings and be something more. We've always been a church that has people from diverse spectrums and that continues to be such a gift. We don't need to get bogged down by ideological differences because we have more that we can come together in and celebrate and **enJOY**. My hope is that we can move forward into these spaces and find that pervasive joy that even transcends the obstacles of life and the pull of society to divide and outrage.

For us at Bethania, those feelings of joy have been centered in how we experience community with one another and how we share compassion with those around us. One of the blessings and curses that came from the pandemic was it sent us into more digital meetings of interacting with each other. It was a blessing because it saved lives when it was most necessary, and it's a curse because now when we can gather once again, we've become more dependent on digital mediums and being isolated.

However, to experience the joy and community that Bethania is so centered in, it does take some intentionality to show up, to fight the urge of relying on digital mediums, and be with one another in person. It takes intentionality to have human connection and conversation again after a time when that was stripped from us for so long. Not only do I think we can step into this way of life again, I think people are genuinely craving it! I especially want to emphasize the community aspect that is so central to our identity.

As we move forward through the summer and into our regular schedule in the fall, our plan is to have more space to just gather. Not so much with a mission other than to be in community and experience that joy I believe so many people are missing! Currently, our Bethania Lutheran Church Women's group is scheduling regular gatherings and these have been hysterically fun and well attended. Additionally we'll be having our End of Summer BBQ in August, a New Members Party in the near future, and other regular gatherings centered in just being together. And of course, while we'll always offer our worship service on YouTube, there's something special about coming and being there with your community and grabbing some coffee, treats, and conversation afterwards that's so meaningful.

As you hear about these, I want you to feel personally invited to show up. If you haven't been to church in a while, if you've been participating digitally, and if you have the ability to come, please do! I know it's become easy to stay home, but there is such a sacredness in being together, and it's going to take some intentionality to break out of the routines created by the pandemic. As I think about the future of The Church, I fundamentally believe the churches that can cultivate these community driven spaces are going to be the churches of the future. The blessing is this is who we were before the pandemic and it's really who we are now. So please feel invited to come and be part of these spaces and part of this pervasive joy at Bethania!

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

Faith in Action



“Stuff” Sale – Great Support for our fundraiser!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, helped and shopped at our “Stuff” Sale on June 10. We made over \$3,000! Proceeds from the sale will help the Tuesday Food Distribution program purchase supplemental food and supplies for our clients and keep the Blessing Box stocked.

Many treasures were found at the stuff sale and we were grateful for all the donated items. Many collectibles were snatched up by happy shoppers, as well as every-day items that were affordable for all. “Stuff” we could not sell went on to benefit Rescue Mission in Santa Maria.

An army of volunteers helped in so many ways – advertising, advising, sorting, pricing, selling, clean up... My thanks to all but at the risk of leaving someone out, here are some of those who helped: Carolyn Schuit, Donna and Marcel Hinsbeeck, Josh Bratt, Denise Morris, Betsy Sansby, Anna Cook, Vincent Perez, Alisa and Carla, Melissa Bates...and many others.

With all the great help and wonderful donations, we were happy with the effort and the help that it gave to providing our neighbors food. Thank you, thank you to everyone.

Linda Marzullo
Social Ministry Chairman
Tuesday Food Distribution

Community Networking Fair – July 29th at 5:30 pm

We are working on helping people get empowered to overcome food insecurity with a new event: Community Networking Fair. This will be our first attempt at bringing together local experts in Recruiting (Chumash and Pipefitters Union), Finance (Montecito Bank & Trust), Social Services, and more to help people who need to overcome some of the challenges they face. We will be sharing a delicious dinner, cooked by Rick Ineman. Following dinner, we will be learning about different areas which may help.

We could use your help! Do you speak Spanish? Could you help us set up before the event or clean up after? Are you savvy with computers? Would you like to help us provide child care? Would you like to provide a salad or dessert for our meal? Do you have another talent that would help our neighbors? Let us know – we would love to have your assistance. Contact Linda Marzullo or Dave Wong, and help us help others.

Linda Marzullo, vikingpressprint@verizon.net, 805-688-5219 Work
Dave Wong, dave.wongx@gmail.com, 408-505-3385



Community Networking Fair

July 29th

*An Event to Help People Overcome
Food Insecurity*

Hosted by:
Bethania Lutheran Church
603 Atterdag Road, Solvang

No-Cost Dinner served 5:30-6:15 pm

Presentations begin at 6:15 pm

Child care provided

Bethania Tuesday Food Distribution program is working on
helping people get empowered to overcome food insecurity
with a new event:

Community Networking Fair

This will be our first networking fair bringing together local experts in

- **Job Recruiting** (Chumash Casino and Pipefitters Union)
- **Finance** (Montecito Bank & Trust)
- **Social Services** (SB County Dept. of Social Services)
- **and more...**

to help people who need to overcome some of the life challenges they face.

**We will be sharing a delicious dinner, cooked by Rick Ineman,
and educating our guests about different areas which may benefit them.**

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Food Distribution and Blessing Box

With the Food Distribution closed for two weeks due to VBS and the 4th of July holiday, our volunteers are getting a much-needed break. Numbers for food assistance have remained high (over 200 households per week) and the paperwork is just as high. We have been purchasing items three weeks out of the month, since Food Bank is now only giving us items from the USDA one week a month – so, we are spending more money and feeding more people with less help. Contributions are always appreciated!

Some of the stories we hear can break your heart. Recently there have been prayer requests for many who have health issues and surgeries. It is special that these people ask us to pray for them and share their pain. A young woman with three children, one about 6 and the others aged 1 and 2, told us her husband left her. She has no job skills, no income and is living on people's couches with her children. She needed some clothes for her kids (which we found for her), baby items, toilet paper and toothbrushes. Another woman had a similar story but had no place to live or stay. Her husband decided to return to Mexico and left. She is an agricultural worker, with three children, living in her car. Several of our volunteers were trying to find her a shelter she felt safe in. She was hoping we knew of one in Solvang, where she "feels safer than in Santa Maria" with the children. Unfortunately, that does not exist here.

The Blessing Box always needs items – but right now, consider donating items that do not have to be cooked on a stove or can be heated easily in a microwave. Quite a few people are able to stay in a motel for a night or two occasionally, including a teenager last week who had to leave his home and was excited that we had cereal and boxed milk to offer him among with other items in the Blessing Box. Or, donate some items for our pantry so we have things available when the need comes up. Someone out there can use a "blessing" from Bethania – and we never know when they will arrive for help.

Bethania continues operating as a Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. We will be back working on July 11th. 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 three shifts, with the morning crew coming in at 9:00 to pack bags, unloaders and produce packers around 1:15 – and USDA packers on the last week of the month. Distribution helpers come around 4:45 for the evening distribution. Clean up helpers are always welcome at the end of the night.

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), 688-3059 (Home) or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Personal Care & School Supply Kit Items Needed!

Noisy Sunday, July 23rd: Items for Kits

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on July 23rd. 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. 10th. 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 – NOT SHARPENED please!
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

Events and Occasions

BLCW Invites you to

Bible Trivia Bingo

- Who's buried in Lazarus' tomb?
- How long ago did AD start?
- Does one use catsup with locusts?
- Why didn't the unicorns make it to the Arc?
- What was Jesus' last name?
- In Hebrews, who's making the coffee?

Monday, July 10

6:30-8:30 pm at Rikka's:
284 1st Street, Solvang

Hosts: Cheryl Heredia
and Rikka Rasmussen

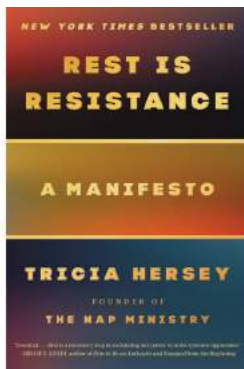
Wine and dessert will be
served

RSVP phone or text to
Cheryl: 714-450-5487

Theo Pub

It's Summer so we're doing Open Topic Night at Theo Pub. This is your chance to bring your own topic for the group, or, to ask Pastor Chris anything you've always wondered about the Bible, our faith, theology, Biblical history, etc! This tends to be some of the most exciting conversations as we don't know where each night's topics will go. Come join us at **Solvang Brew on July 13, at 7pm** around the fire pit! See you there!

Book Club



Bethania's Book Group is starting a new book called Rest is Resistance by Tricia Hersey. We'll be reading the Introduction and discussing it when we gather on July 20 at 2PM in the Parish Hall. If you want to join in you can purchase the book through The Book Loft or another vendor, but consider shopping local.



May Clean-Up at Solvang Cemetery

On May 27 the cemetery committee along with some wonderfully willing helpers spruced up the cemetery and placed flags on the graves of our Veterans for Memorial Day.

Thank you all for your help.

**Sincerely,
Betty Petersen , chair**



Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - June 22, 2023

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:

- There was input from a congregation member who asked about the possibility of a new pictorial directory. Council will consider this at an upcoming meeting.
- Food distribution continues to serve over 200 families and 1,000 family members each week. There will be no food distribution on the June 27th due to VBS, and no distribution on July 4th. The Solvang City Council awarded a \$10,000 grant to our food distribution, as well as receiving \$16,000 from the Hike Against Hunger and \$3,000 from the Stuff Sale.
- There is a church-wide clean-up day scheduled for Sept. 10 to address a number of projects such as cleaning windows, painting etc. It will be held immediately after the Day of Service packing of school kits and personal hygiene kits.
- Council approved the hiring of Hayley Renteria as part-time preschool aide.
- The council approved a motion from the Property Committee to form a long-range property committee to review usage of all of our spaces on the campus.

The next council meeting will be held on July 20th at 7 PM in the Fireside Room.

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

Jan Simonsen 805-319-8652	Leigh Berenger (310) 877-8418	Lori McConnell (805) 331-7971
Karin Baty 612-229-8172	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 May Financial Statement - Period Ending 05/31/23

Balance Sheet

	April 2023	May 2023	Change
Operating Acct	\$90,353	\$81,892	-\$8,461
Money Mkt Acct	\$127,505	\$127,988	\$483
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$1,832,408	\$1,832,408	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,465	\$1,878,465	\$0
Total Assets	\$3,928,831	\$3,920,853	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

May 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$16,190	\$20,771	-\$4,581
Total Expenses	\$26,458	\$27,521	-\$1,063
Net Income	-\$10,268		

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$12,941	\$16,700	-\$3,759
Non-Memebers	\$76	\$720	-\$644
	\$13,017	\$17,420	

Produce Table	n/a
Brown Bag	\$0
Food Distribution	\$905
Hike for Hunger	\$13,319
Facilities Fee	\$200 Imani Piano Recital
Noisey Offering	\$266

* The cash position is still good with \$81,892 in checking and \$127,505 in the money market account.

* 36 Unique Donors to Push Pay in May

Thank You's

Dear Bethania Church Family

I would like to thank all of those who offered prayer on my behalf, telephoned or sent cards during my illness - which turned out to be a hip surgery with major complications. I am now home with a caretaker when needed and physical therapy. I am making steady improvement. I was able to be back in the pew on June 25th and hope to become more active.

I was blessed with good care at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and Atterdag Care Center.

It is a blessing to live in this valley with so many caring people.

Brenda Knudsen

Thank You VBS Volunteers!!!

We want to send out a very special thank you to all our VBS volunteers! This is such a huge production, and it takes so many people to make it come to life! We had a tremendous VBS this year and the kids had a blast. This could not have happened without all the people who helped decorate the Parish Hall and turn it into a tropical island, complete with a volcano and a working lighthouse! Thank you to all our station leaders who made each day so interactive and exciting. Thank you to all our crew leaders, assistants, and registration leader for making sure each day went smoothly and joyfully. And a special thank you to Livier Ghamari-Brown, who has spent countless hours planning, decorating, organizing, scheduling to make this come to life. She does it for the kids, but we couldn't do this without her each year, so thank you! If you see a VBS volunteer, please share your gratitude with them. They've helped bring such life and joy to Bethania through VBS each year!

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 and ours.

For Comfort During Grief for the Family and Loved Ones of Margaret Rasmussen. Margaret passed away June 11, 2023. The service remembering and celebrating her life was held June 21, 2023.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Hayes Robert White, Andy Blanton, Fred Emerson, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoyer, "Kira," Betsy Logan, Ariana Macias, Loretta McConnell, Stewart & Sheila Mee, Betty McCaffrey, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Erwin Ostertag, Kate Pearson, Tom & Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Did You Know?

...that **Carolyn Schuit** has a 1971 Shasta Compact Trailer and is a vintage trailer aficionado? (Pictured at the right - Carolyn at the Vintage Trailer Rally in Pismo)



...that **Kristyl Downey** started reading The Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan two years ago and is now on book 11 (of 14)?



...that **Kief Adler** is a licensed pyrotechnic operator and shot the Solvang Rotary fireworks last year and will do so again this year? (at left - Kief at a fireworks event)

If you have something about yourself you would like to share, please let Kristyl know. (bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or (805-688-4637). We'll print some "Did You Know?"s from time to time in the Beacon. We'd be happy to print a photo as well.

July Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Produce Table

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary in the Fireside Room

Monday - Friday - 9 am - 3 pm - The Church Office is open.

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

Tuesday, July 4

The Church Office and Bethania Preschool & After School are closed.

Friday, July 7

5:30 pm Dungeons and Dragons in the Fireside Room

Thursday, July 13

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

8 pm Bright Star at Solvang Theaterfest

Friday, July 14

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, July 19

5:30 pm Preschool Board Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Thursday, July 20

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Sunday, July 23

Noisy Offering

Wednesday, July 26

Noon - Beacon Deadline

Friday, July 28

5:30 pm Dungeons and Dragons in the Fireside Room

Saturday, July 29

5:30 pm Community Networking Fair in the Parish Hall

The Beacon July 2023
Bethania
621 Atterdag Rd.
Solvang CA 93463



To plant a garden is to believe in
tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn