



## The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
1-805-688-4637  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

June 2023

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463  
email: [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)

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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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### Message from Pastor Chris

Recently, a high school friend of mine reached out to me because they were church shopping in their area in Texas and wanted some input. They had been seeing a lot of the stuff I share on social media about our faith operating through the lens of compassion, inclusion, love, grace, and justice, especially for the least of these and she wanted to find a church and pastor with a similar theology, but she simply didn't know how to navigate the search. As a younger person, she was inclined to find a church with a more contemporary worship style, but she didn't know what their theology was like. In the instances where she checked out some of those churches, she quickly discovered they refused to allow women to be in any kind of leadership role. She thought about looking for a Lutheran church in her area. Like many people, she thought you had to be a die-hard Lutheran, and she didn't know what that meant. So she asked me, "How do I know the difference between all these denominations, non-denominations, etc.?"

I gave her a very lengthy answer, but it got me thinking about this question in regard to the Church in general. One thing I said to her, and it's the purpose of my newsletter today, is that denominationalism is practically meaningless today. You don't need to know a lot about the origins of the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, or any mainline protestant church to go and check one out. But what I really emphasized with my response was that churches today are far more distinguished by their *VALUES* than their denominational beliefs. Ignore what the denomination of a church is, and rather, go on their website and see what values are espoused in their statements. For example, our mission statement is right on the homepage of our website, and it reads, "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." The value that's really present in that statement is "Christ-Centered" but centered primarily in the way of life that Jesus calls us to, through service, love, inclusiveness, and compassion.

Ultimately, this was a novel way for her to think about "church-shopping", and I think it's a wonderful way for us to think of own identity. I share a lot in my sermons how we are a church that focuses more on Christianity as a way of life over a belief system, and at the center of that I think are our values; values that have been important to this congregation since its inception over 100 years ago. I would love to invite you to think of both our church and your faith life through the lens of values, perhaps over beliefs. What are the values that are important to you? How are those values reflected

in your relationship with our church community and in your daily faith life? How would like to see those values reflected more, if necessary?

I think it's fair to say, when we look at Jesus' ministry in the gospels, he doesn't spend a lot of time creating new systems of belief, but he spends a great deal of time both challenging the values of the world around him and trying to highlight the values of the kingdom of heaven. I wish the church would have keyed in on these lessons, or at least held on to them longer. But as I reflect on Bethania, both its place in our community now, and its presence in our community in the past, I think it's fair to say it has always been a church centered in values, and those values have carried it forward through many challenges and triumphs. I look at our church with such pride because of the values we're beholden to and the values we espouse in our gathering and in our ministry. I hope you can not only look at our story with similar pride, but also in how our story has shaped your personal values throughout your life here.

**In Christ's Love,**

**Pastor Chris Brown**

A vibrant yellow poster for a Vacation Bible School event. At the top, it reads "BETHANIA CHURCH PRESENTS" in small blue letters, followed by "ADVENTURE ISLAND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL" in large, bold, blue letters. The central illustration features a colorful toucan wearing a yellow hat, perched on a wooden sign that says "Adventure ISLAND" in a stylized font. Above the sign is a red banner with "DISCOVERY ON". The background includes a lighthouse on a tree, a purple feather, and blue waves. At the bottom, a dark purple banner contains the event details: "JUNE 26-JUNE 30 6:00-8:15PM" and "REGISTER AT www.bethanialutheran.net" on the left, and "FREE GRADES TK-5" and "SNACK PROVIDED" on the right. The footer of the poster reads "BETHANIA CHURCH 603 ATTERDAG ROAD, SOLVANG (805) 688-4637".

**BETHANIA CHURCH PRESENTS**  
**ADVENTURE ISLAND**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

DISCOVERY ON  
**Adventure ISLAND**

**JUNE 26-JUNE 30**  
**6:00-8:15PM**

REGISTER AT  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

**FREE**  
**GRADES TK-5**

**SNACK**  
**PROVIDED**

**BETHANIA CHURCH**  
**603 ATTERDAG ROAD, SOLVANG (805) 688-4637**



**VBS** is Monday June 26-Friday June 30 @ 6pm-8:15pm - No dinner involved, just snacks “**Discovery on Adventure Island**”. The registration site is live, 48 participants allowed.

We could use 1-2 more Crew Leaders, if you are available June 26-30 @ 6pm-8:15pm

Thank you all so much!  
The children will love it

VBS decorating team will be meeting soon to go over building a large structure in the Parish Hall

Contact Livier Ghamari-Brown [livierghamari@yahoo.com](mailto:livierghamari@yahoo.com) or 909-962-9366 or Donna Hinsbeeck [donna.hinsbeeck@rocketmail.com](mailto:donna.hinsbeeck@rocketmail.com) 805-686-1671 for more information or to volunteer.

## **We Want to Recognize Your Achievement!**

We will be doing our annual Recognition Sunday on June 4th, and we want to honor you or your loved one. Please let us know as soon as conveniently possible if there is a high school, college, graduate school, or trade school graduation happening, or any achievement such as a promotion, new job, retirement, etc. We would love to honor you during our 9:30 Worship Service with our love and prayers, so please contact us and let us know who and what to recognize.

**In God's Abundant Blessings,  
The Church Office**

## **Congratulations to our 2023 Graduates!**

### **High School**

**Jorge Puder**, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

**Aria Riley**, Family Partnership Charter School

**Grace Muñoz**, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

**Emily Rodriguez** (Miss Christina's daughter), Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

**Felix Rodriguez**, (Miss Christina's son) Refugio High School

**Aleena Madrid**, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School

**Ashlynn Benedict** (Sheila Benedict's granddaughter), High School in San Bernardino

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## College/University

**Tricia Ann Larsen Crossett** (Marilyn Larsen's daughter) -  
second Master's degree, Johns Hopkins University in Applied and Computational Math

**Ian Christian Lars Crossett** (Marilyn Larsen's grandson),  
Bachelor's degree in Physics and Computer Science, University of Southern California

**Monica Dunn**, AA in Early Childhood Education Ed., Allan Hancock

**Eddie Lundberg**, - Bachelor of Science in BRAE  
(bio research agriculture engineering) and a minor in Agriculture Business,  
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

**Reid McCormick** (Gene & Harriett Madsen's son in-law) -  
second Master's degree in Legal Studies, University of Arizona

**Katelyn Soliman** - Master's degree in Clinical Psychology, Antioch University Santa Barbara in  
December 2022

## Training Programs

**Sevin Laufer**, final graduation from the Navy Nuclear Power Training -  
now a fully qualified nuclear operator

## Faith in Action



### **Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: June 4**

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, June 4. 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!

If you would like to donate any of the items below, we welcome your support.

Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)

Protein Bars

Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles

Fruit Cups or Applesauce

Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars

Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)

Pudding (non-refrigerated)

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](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)





# "Stuff" SALE

**June 10, 2023**

**8:00 am to 1 pm**

**Bethania Parish Hall  
603 Atterdag Rd.  
Solvang**

**STUFF A BAG  
Special!  
12:30-1:00**

Purchase our bag for \$10.00  
and take home whatever  
fits inside!

## **All Proceeds Support Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution**

◆ Helping our neighbors with food insecurity, one bag at a time ◆

**Donate:** Drop off items ONLY on **FRIDAY, June 9th, 11 am-7 pm** **PLEASE, NO CLOTHING or BROKEN FURNITURE!**

**Volunteer:** Help price & sort, June 9 and at Sale Sat.

**Shop:** Find some great bargains and help us purchase food to "Stuff" Tuesday bags for our hungry neighbors!

### **Questions or to help:**

Contact Church Office: 805-688-4637  
or Linda: [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)



**June 9th** - Drop off items for Stuff Sale, receiving 11 am-7 pm in the Parish Hall. Volunteers needed to help set up and price

**June 10th** - Stuff Sale, 8-1. Volunteers needed to help at sale, clean up.

## **Noisy Sunday is Coming: June 25th Backpacks & Towels that will travel the world...**

What is our donated change going to change this summer? We are going to help Lutheran World Relief make the world better for others, one backpack and one personal care kit at a time!

We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items to make up Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. (Assembly day will be Day of Service in September).

On June 25th, our jangling coins will be used to help purchase the most expensive parts of the kits (Backpacks and Towels). This is so that we can purchase these items in bulk to get the most items for our kits.

Send your quarters around the world in the form of a kit! All it takes is a toss into our Noisy Offering buckets during the special offering. We also ask you to consider contributing other needed items (*See related article*) as the summer rolls along and the special sales happen. You can drop items at the church office or contact me to arrange delivery.

LWR kits are a meaningful way to make a difference. By joining our coins and our donations together, we can turn ordinary items in extraordinary gifts. We will be helping children to attend school through our gifts of school supplies. We will be keeping people healthy in places where there is no access to soap and toothbrushes.

These items also help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes, fires and floods. Kits are also sent to those fleeing to escape violence, and people living in extreme poverty. Our donations made into kits show we care.

Together, we can “change” our world, one coin at a time, one “Kit of Care” at a time.

– Linda Marzullo  
805-688-5219 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

### **Personal Care & School Supply Kit Items Needed!**

We will be collecting items this summer for the “DAY OF SERVICE” assembly of Personal Care Kits and School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

You can help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence, and living in extreme poverty. When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and refugee camps are typical distribution areas for these kits. Around the world people suffer each day because of lack of basic hygiene. In refugee camps and in the world's poorest communities, a few simple items can mean the difference between sickness and health, and life and death.

Why school supplies? Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Here are the items we are collecting. Watch for sales this summer!

*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. 2-1/2" Erasers
7. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

Bring your items to the donation box by the Sunday School office or to the church office.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 805-688-5219 or via email: [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

If you can help with a Thrivent Action Team Project that would be of great help, especially with towels.

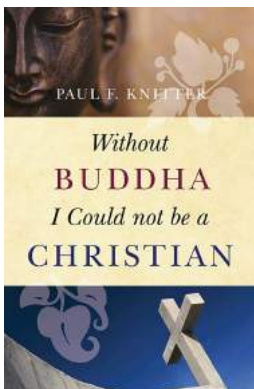
## Events and Occasions

### 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 June 8, at 7pm** around the fire pit! See you there!

<p><i>you are invited!</i></p> <p><b>BUNCO</b></p>  <p>To have June-Gloom fun is our goal, Some Bunco dice we will roll. Five dollars the price, Dessert will be nice, And water or wine for a skaal!</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 14, 7-9pm Lois DeMeyer's house 144 Manzanita Drive Solvang RSVP: call or text Lois at 805-698-0091</p> <p>Bethania Lutheran Church Women</p>
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### Book Group



Bethania's Book Group is wrapping up its discussion on "Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian," on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2PM in the Parish Hall. We'll be discussing chapter 7 and the conclusion. Please join us in person for our conversation and the choosing of our next book.



## Church Business

### Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - May 18, 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 May Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- The concrete work at the entrance to the church is completed, but needs to cure for a couple of weeks before it can be used.
- We are considering options for a new directory – possibly digital, or printed copy without photos. More information to come.
- The Reconciling in Christ task force has been meeting, and educational opportunities to learn more about their work will be held during the summer.
- Pastor Chris reported that we have had 6 new members join the church in the last two months, all from the Unorthodox service.
- Council approved the hiring of Megan Morgan as a part-time aide for the Preschool.
- Pastor Chris reported that we have had a neighboring resident who has been harassing the food distribution volunteers. It escalated on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, when he walked into the church seeking a confrontation with one of our volunteers – the police were called and he was separated from our volunteers. In order to protect our volunteers, a temporary restraining order has been filed.

Please note that the date of the next Council meeting has been changed to **June 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 April Financial Statement - Period Ending 4/30/23

## Balance Sheet

	March 2023	April 2023	Change
Operating Acct	\$86,483	\$90,353	\$3,870
Money Mkt Acct	\$126,203	\$127,505	\$1,302
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$1,832,408	\$1,832,408	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,465	\$1,878,465	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,923,659</b>	<b>\$3,928,831</b>	

## Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

April 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$21,106	\$22,551	\$1,445
Total Expenses	\$26,228	\$25,661	-\$567
Net Income	-\$5,122		

## Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$18,317	\$18,000	\$317
Non-Memebers	\$1,049	\$800	\$249
	\$19,366	\$18,800	

Produce Table	n/a
Brown Bag	\$0
Food Distribution	\$6,025* - includes \$5,000 grant from SYV Rotary Club Foundation
Hike for Hunger	\$2,465
Use of Facilities Fees	\$2,025
Noisy Offering	n/a

\* The cash position is still good with \$90,353 in checking and \$127,505 in the money market account.

\* 35 Unique Donors to Push Pay in April

# Thank You's

## From the Social Ministry Committee...

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in the Hike Against Hunger this year! It was a smashing success with \$16,000 raised to support the Tuesday Food Distribution Program. Currently we are helping around 230 families each week, and that costs money! We had 29 Hikers and so many sponsors, it was amazing. Hikers went above and beyond to get pledges - this year marked the most community involvement and support we have ever had. Special thanks to Rick and Donna Ineman, who created a delicious BBQ lunch and made it all look so easy. Kristyl Downey was a huge help getting donations for our prizes for the Hikers, and Pastor Chris and Livier were champs at leading the games. Hoping we get back to Nojoqui Park again next year!

## From the Elverhoj Museum...

**Dear Pastor Chris and friends at Bethania,**

The "Passage to Sweden" film event was a wonderful success! Approximately 200 people attended the April 30<sup>th</sup> film screening and discussion. I was especially pleased with the multigenerational participation.

Thank you for embracing the concept when it was first proposed and welcoming the community into the church Parish Hall.

**With appreciation,  
Esther**

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## 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 Edward Laufer, Robert Laufer's brother.

### Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, "Kira", Betsy Logan, Ariana Macias, Stewart & Sheila Mee, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Erwin Ostertag, Kate Pearsson, Tom &Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Margaret Rasmussen, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

## June Calendar Items

### Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

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 - 7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Saturday, June 3 - 6 pm Set-Up Parish Hall for Brown Bag Breakfast Packing

Sunday, June 4 - 10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

### Thursday, June 8

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

### Friday, June 9

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

11 am - 7 pm Drop-Off and Set-Up for Stuff Sale in the Parish Hall and Fireside Room

### Saturday, June 10

8 am - 1 pm Stuff Sale in the Parish Hall and Fireside Room

### Sunday, June 11

Afternoon/Evening Mary Beth Woodward Student Recital in the Sanctuary

### Thursday, June 15

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

### Wednesday, June 21

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

### Thursday, June 22

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

### Sunday, June 25

Noisy Offering

### Monday, June 26

Noon - Beacon Deadline

### Monday, June 26-30

Vacation Bible School

# Photos from the Hike Against Hunger (Kristyl Downey & Pastor Chris - hikers in front of the church)





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## June 2023

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**Preschool/After School**  
**1-(805) 688-7077**  
**[bethaniaps@verizon.net](mailto:bethaniaps@verizon.net)**



Image by [joeiancg](#) from [Pixabay](#)