



The Beacon

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

September 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.

A Season of Joy

I have to admit something: I've had a motive with my last two newsletters. In one way or another, the last two newsletters have focused on gathering together in joy. My July newsletter article focused on the feelings of joy I remember from all our activities prior to the pandemic, and my August newsletter article focused on neuroscientific research showing that slower, more intentional ways of connecting with people, i.e. like church gatherings, can combat the excessive usage of smart phones, social media, and digital media that are creating an epidemic of depression and anxiety. I wrote these two articles leading up to my September article because September is the start of our program year and it's a year I'm calling "A Season of Joy".

I'm ready folks. I'm ready to get back to our way of life of gathering in community, gathering in compassion for others, gathering in worship, gathering in conversation and connection, gathering in JOY. I've been talking about this in newsletters and sermons—something is happening in our world where folks are realizing, en masse, that being connected through digital means is not sufficient and living in a divisive and polemic way is not cutting it. It's weird to say this, but it appears to me that our church is poised to become an incredible response to a world looking for something. I don't think the church has been able to say this for a while, but truth is, what people are looking for is what we're all about.

I'm calling this a Season of Joy because human connection and the experience of community are one of the most joyful aspects of being human, and we've been missing this for a while, either because technology has advanced so quickly or because the pandemic pulled this rug out from under us. Gathering in community and joy has always been who we are at Bethania, and I can't say this anymore explicitly: it's time to get back at it.

My hope with this upcoming program year, this Season of Joy, is to focus on ways we've been gathering and new or renewed ways of gathering, primarily with an emphasis of just being together in community and joy. No other motive, just spending time with people you already know and love, and getting to know folks at Bethania who you haven't met. Keep an eye on your email, Beacons, and our social media accounts for upcoming events, and I'd like to request that you be intentional about

showing up. We're going to have wonderful gatherings throughout the year, but some events coming up soon that you can be aware of are our Day of Service, planned for Sept. 10, after the 9:30 service; the Bethania Prayer group starting Sept. 13 at 2 pm in the sanctuary; the Chancel Choir, starting practice on Sept. 13 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall Room; our Danish Days parade entry on Sept 16 at 2:30 pm; and our Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 1 at 5 pm in the Bethania Courtyard. We also have our regular gatherings: Sunday Worship at 9:30am, Unorthodox on Sundays at 11am, Book Group on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall, Theo Pub on Sept 14 at 7 pm at Solvang Brew, and the Food Distribution, every Tuesday at 9:30am, 1:30 pm, and/or 4:45 pm.

I'm genuinely excited about this upcoming year and looking forward to what we do at Bethania, but I could really use your help and here are some ways. **Be intentional.** I think we've grown used to the convenience of just being home, of having our routines disrupted. We all have this new piece of our psyche when we hear of an event coming up that tells us to just stay home. Be intentional and show up. I can promise you once you get there, you'll be happy you came. Your friends and community are here, and nothing can replace the feeling of physically being together. **Invite someone.** If you know someone that hasn't been to church or to Theo Pub or Book Group or Food Distribution in a while, call them up and invite them. There's so much meaningfulness and power in a personal invitation. **Give a ride.** If you have a family member who would love to come to church but they can't drive anymore or they have trouble getting pumped up to leave the house, go lend a hand and tell them you'll bring them to church. Not only are you helping them out, but you'll also find the joy for yourself in being there too.

It is a Season of Joy my beloveds and like any good thing, it takes intentionality and pushing oneself a little for it to be worthwhile. No good thing comes instantly. We have always been a church centered in gathering, in human connection, and in experiencing God in one another. This all took a hit during the pandemic, but it's time to get back to who we are.

**In Christ's Love,
Pastor Chris**

Bethania's Youth Group is back in action!

We'll be gathering typically on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month from 5 to 7 pm. **Our first gathering will be Sept. 10.** All youth between 6th and 12th grade are welcome to join. We spend most of our time playing games and having fun with one another. Our discussions this year are centered on values the youth find important and empowering. If you have a kid or friends who are interested, either contact Pastor Chris with questions, or just show up on Sept. 10th in the Fireside Room for our first gathering.

A Note About the Live Stream

Churches across the country are talking about their live streams because they're all experiencing the same thing. While people need live stream worship because it's the only way for them to catch the service, all churches are having significant portions of their congregations watching the live stream out of convenience. At Bethania we started the live stream prior to the pandemic for all our folks up at Atterdag and it was a fluid transfer when the pandemic started. But now the pandemic is over and all gathering restrictions removed. We will never take our livestream down because people need it, but if you've using the livestream out of convenience, please consider showing up in person. And please understand, if you're physically unable to come to worship, if you're still concerned about COVID, if you live out of the area, please always feel welcome to use the livestream. But if you've been live-streaming because it's more comfortable to watch from the couch with a cup of coffee, consider coming to church, and bring the coffee with you. I promise it will be worth it.

**Thank You,
Pastor Chris**

Sunday School Begins

Sunday School is starting back up for our program year. Our first day will be Sunday, Sept. 17, during the 11am Unorthodox Service. Bethania's Sunday School is a multi-age curriculum that incorporates stories, crafts, games, creativity and fun so that children our consistently engaged to learn about God's love for them and our world. Sunday School is available for all youth TK to 5th grade. Youth in 6th to high school are welcome to join as assistant leaders. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Chris.

Bethania Prayer Group

Come and join the NEW Bethania Prayer Group. Here we will gather and hold all our loved ones, friends, family members, and friends of loved ones in prayer. One of the most essential elements of our faith, prayer isn't just a petition to God, but God's petition to us to live deeper in community and to hold one another in love during moments of need. The Bethania Prayer Group will not only help us care for those among us, for those who participate, it will also draw us closer to one another. **The Bethania Prayer Group will gather twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 2 pm in the sanctuary. We will have our first gathering on Sept. 13.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Bethania Preschool & After School

We had a great start to the new school year. Although there are some tears at morning drop-off, parents can go about their day knowing that their child is working on transitioning to their new school environment, learning routines, getting to know one another and making new friends. September has us learning about apples, harvest, and orchards as well as our regular colors, shapes, numbers and letters. We will be doing lots of sequencing and patterning.

We welcomed Miss Cassidy teaching our 2.5-year-olds & 3-year old's. Miss Monica is now teaching our 4-year-old class and is also the After School lead teacher in the afternoons. Miss Christina continues to teach our 2-year-old and Miss Meme is now back to teaching our 3-year-old class.

Bethania Preschool & AfterSchool Fiesta Night Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9th from 5 pm-10 pm. Join us for an adult only night full of delicious food & drinks, live music, and a silent auction. All proceeds will go towards the enrichment of both our programs. A \$20 ticket gets you a meal and a drink. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase during the event.

Tickets available for purchase at the Preschool through Lola or Miss Angelica. Call us at 805-688-7077.

We are seeking items for our silent auction if anyone is interested in supporting our fundraiser, please give Lola a call at the preschool 805-688-7077. Thank you very much.

This month we will begin our chapel time with Pastor Chris and Miss Kristyl.

Children will be posing for the camera as they will have picture day later in the month.

**Best,
Lola Gonzalez
Director BPSAS**



HAPPY FIESTA!

SEPTEMBER 9TH

**ADULTS ONLY FIESTA
5:00-10:00
611 ATTERDAG ROAD**

MUSIC

• FOOD

• RAFFLE

**\$20.00 INCLUDES MEAL AND
A DRINK. ALCOHOL SOLD
SEPARATELY.**

**\$1.00 RAFFLE AND SILENT
AUCTION
TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

Faith in Action

Brown Bag Breakfast Packing is Sept. 3

Mark your calendar to help us pack brown bag breakfast items for needy local seniors on Sunday, Sept. 3 after the 9:30 service or before 11 am Unorthodox.

Our little brown bags are for SYV seniors who need to take medications in the morning with food, and would otherwise have nothing to eat with their pills due to financial constraints or physical limitations. This ministry continues to be a vital need for our area.

You can also help out by donating any of the following items. The church is open daily from 9-5 and you can drop off items inside. Or, you can drop them on the packing day.

- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
- 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 Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Your participation makes a difference in the health and happiness of someone living right here in our valley. Thank you!

Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

805-688-5219, 805-688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Last Call for Day of Service Items Before Sept. 10, 2023

Our "Day of Service" will be held on Sept. 10, an ELCA-wide event focusing on the needs of our communities and our world. We are collecting for assembly of Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits, School Supplies, and school supplies for local children.

Personal Care Kits 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 to natural or man-made disasters.

School Kits are given to children to help them have the supplies to be able to attend school. Imagine having to choose between eating a meal or purchasing a notebook. 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 and help us stock up!

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)

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: vikingsprint@verizon.net

Day of Service - Sept. 10, 2023

Join us for packing personal care kits and school kits. All of the items above will be packaged and prepared for the Lutheran World Relief shipping day in mid-October. We will meet after the 9:30 service.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed items, Thrivent Action Team Cards, shopped and helped with Day of Service.

Bethania Chancel Choir



Singers needed. If you can sing a part in tune, consider joining the Chancel Choir. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. The choir will sing at the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, Sept. 24. Expect a great experience. Share your gifts. Join the choir.

-Jim Skoog - 408-307-7209

Image by [Clker-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Noisy Sunday is Coming: Sept. 24

The next Noisy Offering on Sept. 24 will be used for shipping costs for school kits and personal care kits. After we pack these items, we deliver boxes of kits and the quilts Bethania Church Women have made to Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in Camarillo. From there there are delivered to a LWR Warehouse and then to people around the world.

Events and Occasions

Theo Pub

Theo Pub gathers Thursday, Sept. 14th, at 7 pm at Solvang Brew, around the fire pit and all are welcome to join. We gather the 2nd Thursday of every month and each month we have a new topic with questions of faith, theology, the Bible, etc. for us to consider and talk about. No one needs an extensive knowledge of the Bible or faith, just your thoughts. Arrive early to order delicious food and a drink and meet us at the fire pit!

Danish Days Parade

The **Danish Days parade** is coming up on Saturday Sept. 16 at 2:30 pm. The theme is "Come Together." Livier is getting a group of decorators and participants to join in creating the float in the back parking lot on Thursday, Sept. 14 and Friday Sept. 15.

Contact Livier for details.
livierghamari@yahoo.com
909-962-9366

Danish Days - Organ Concert - Sept. 16, 2023

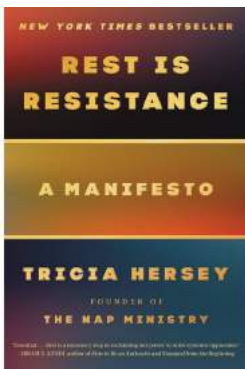
Bach's Lunch: An Organic Smorgasbord!



Favorite festival organist James Welch is “Bach” by popular demand for this year’s Danish Days celebration, playing on the authentic pipe organ at Bethania Lutheran Church, Saturday, Sept. 16, at 1 pm. A world-renowned concert organist, Welch’s concerts are always full of fun, with something for everyone—from the baroque to the contemporary, from the Old World to California. A direct descendant of Danes from Fjenneslev, Denmark (his grandmother was a Sorensen), he credits his Danish ancestors with his love for music.

The concert will demonstrate the lighter side of the organ, with folk tunes and some hits from opera and Broadway. And yes, there will be some Bach, too!

Get there early, because this event is often a standing room only affair.



Book Club

Bethania’s Book Group is continuing its reading of *Rest is Resistance*, by Tricia Hersey. There’s still time to jump in if you missed last month. We’ll be discussing Part 2 of the book. We gather on Sept. 21st at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. PLEASE NOTE, we’ll have a zoom link available, but the Zoom link is for those who cannot physically be present. If you’re able, try to come in person, it makes the experience a lot more meaningful.

September Coffee Hosts

Thanks to...

Lois & Don De Meyer for hosting coffee on Sept. 3
Ruth Plambeck and Vince and Ellen Pillow on Sept. 10

We are still looking for someone to host coffee on Sept. 17 and Sept. 24.

Bethania's Youth Group is back in action!

We'll be gathering typically on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month from 5 to 7 pm. **Our first gathering will be Sept. 10.** All youth between 6th and 12th grade are welcome to join. We spend most of our time playing games and having fun with one another. Our discussions this year are centered on values the youth find important and empowering. If you have a kid or friends who are interested, either contact Pastor Chris with questions, or just show up on Sept. 10th in the Fireside Room for our first gathering.

Produce Table in September

We have been enjoying fresh produce and flowers since June. People bring their produce for the produce table and others make a donation to take something home: flowers, succulents, plums, peaches, zucchini, etc. The proceeds this summer are supporting our weekly food distribution program.

Please let Kristyl know if you would be able to help out at the Produce Table:
bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637.

Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - Aug. 17, 2023

To be more informative and transparent, your Church Council is continuing to communicate news and publish 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 congregation.

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

- Food distribution numbers have been going up again. On the 15th, over 270 households with 1,108 family members were served.

- The air-conditioning in the preschool wing broke down and was replaced.
- Authorized a new drain line to be installed next to the office and the garage driveway to keep water from flooding into the office basement.
- We received confirmation that the Employee Retention Tax Credit that we are applying for will be in the amount of nearly \$42,000, to be split between the Preschool and the Church. We should receive the money in the next 6-8 months. This credit is part of the CARES Act.
- Approved a letter to be sent to all members regarding our offerings for the first 7 months of the year.
- We will not be offering Zoom sessions for the council meetings in the future, unless there is an exceptional need requested.
- With our new program year beginning in September, we are embarking on our “Season of Joy” to celebrate getting together in worship, small group ministry, and a prayer group starting as part of moving forward in community and compassion, and caring for all.
- Approved the hiring of Cassidy Berry, and Megan Morgan for the preschool.
- Set the date of Nov. 5 for the Annual Meeting, Part 1.

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

Questions, if any, about these discussions, decisions, or messages should be addressed to a council member (below) preferably in writing.

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

Financial Statement Period Ending 7/31/23

Balance Sheet

	June 2023	July 2023	Change
Operating Acct	\$83,311	\$89,510	\$6,200
Money Mkt Acct	\$125,620	\$122,686	-\$2,934
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	\$3,919,904	\$3,923,169	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

July 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$19,881	\$20,521	-\$640
Total Expenses	\$20,495	\$25,915	\$5,420
Net Income	-\$614		

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$16,333	\$16,700	-\$367
Non-Members	\$1,623* <small>*(1300 single donation)</small>	\$720	\$903
	\$17,956	\$17,420	

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$207
Brown Bag	\$0
Cemetery	\$500
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Facilities Fee	\$0
Food Distribution	\$2,039
Iglesia Food	\$50
Memorials	\$185
Noisy Offering	\$152
Produce Table	\$366
School Kits	\$10

* The cash position is still good with \$89,510 in checking and \$125,686 in the money market account.

* \$3000 was transferred from the Endowment Fund to the operating account

Next Social Ministry Meeting

The next Social Ministry meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 6 at 6 pm in the Fireside Room. We discuss Food Distribution, the Blessing Box, Brown Bag Breakfasts, Produce Table, Day of Service and more! Join us if you are interested in extending the hands of Christ in the community.

Aprons, Anyone?

I am looking for 3-5 aprons to have on hand in the kitchen for various cooking, serving and cleaning purposes. If you have some old ones to spare, find some at a thrift shop, or are willing to make some, please let Kristyl know.

bethanialutheranch@gmail.com

805-688-4637

Come in to the office.

Did You Know?

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.

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.

Grieving

The family and Loved Ones of ...

George Johnson who passed away Aug. 23, 2023.

Elmer Dotz who passed away Aug. 24, 2023.

Health and Other Concerns

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

September Calendar Items



Image by yeon woo lee from Pixabay

Wednesdays

Chapel resumes...Sept. 13 at **11:30 am and 3:30 pm**
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

Saturday, Sept. 2

6 pm Set-up for Brown Bag Breakfast in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Sept. 3

10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

Monday, Sept. 4 - Labor Day

The church office and BPSAS are closed.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

6 pm Social Ministry Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Sept. 7

7:30 pm Four Norsemen quartet practice in the sanctuary

Friday, Sept. 8

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Saturday, Sept. 9

3-10 pm BPSAS Fiesta in the Parish Hall and the courtyard

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

Sunday, Sept. 10

10:30 am Day of Service Assembling in the Parish Hall

5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Monday, Sept. 11

10 am Organ tuning in the sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept. 13

2 pm Prayer Group meets in the Sanctuary

6 pm Danish Sisterhood Mtg in the Fireside Room

7 pm Choir Practice in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Sept. 14

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Help decorate our float for Danish Days

Friday, Sept. 15

6-8 pm SYV Airport Board meets in the Parish Hall

Saturday, Sept. 16

Help decorate our float for Danish Days

1 pm Danish Days Organ Concert

2:30 pm Danish Days Parade

Sunday, Sept. 17

11 am Sunday School weekly in the Fireside Room

1 pm Boltz Event in the Parish Hall

Monday, Sept. 18

5:30 pm Linda Johansen Travel Mtg in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 20

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

Thursday, Sept. 21

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Sunday, Sept. 24

Noisy Offering

5-7 pm Youth Group meets in the Fireside Room

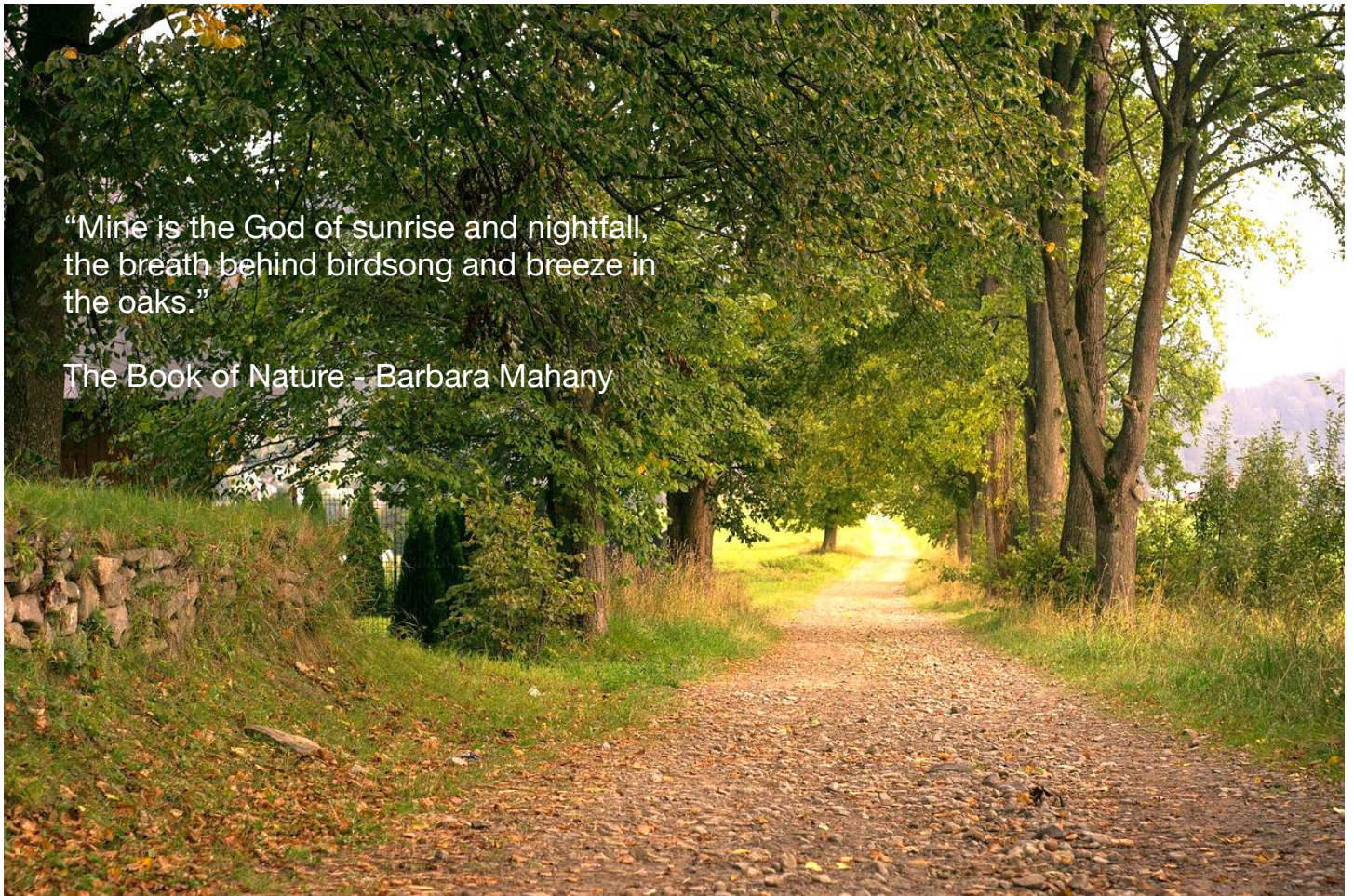
Wednesday, Sept. 25

Noon - Beacon Deadline

Saturday, Sept. 30

Fund for Santa Barbara meets in the Parish Hall

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



“Mine is the God of sunrise and nightfall,
the breath behind birdsong and breeze in
the oaks.”

The Book of Nature - Barbara Mahany