



The Beacon

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

October 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.

Summary of Congregational Meeting

Dear Beloveds,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for not only coming to the congregational meeting in such a great number, but also for the wonderful participation in thinking about this next year at Bethania. Thank you all so much! I have such a great feeling about this upcoming year!

For those of you who were unable to make it, I want to give a brief recap so that you're both aware of what happened and can look forward to participating. The subject of the meeting was to think about the joy of church life prior to the pandemic, spanning the decades that some have been part of this church, to the few years right before when new people joined. With that joy in mind, I said emphatically, "We went through 3 years of the pandemic, and it's over and it's time to get back to our church life again." We have always been a church that has not just gathered for worship on Sundays, but also throughout the week and year to just be together in joy. I also talked a little about how the Lutheran church was always meant to be a communal church, being run by the congregation, not the pastor. So with that in mind, I created several groups to sign-up for to help create various gatherings and activities, all created and run by our community. Those groups are:

Camping

Events

Fundraisers

Outdoor Activities

Cooking Classes

Welcoming Committee

Parades

Worship & Music

After describing each one, I asked those present to walk around and sign up for any group they would ENJOY helping create and plan. I gave 10 minutes for folks to do that. Then I asked everyone to gather into those groups, choose one or two conveners/facilitators of the group and a date to meet up and start planning. I can't describe how great a turnout it was and how much excitement was in the room about these groups and what these various gatherings will be like. The focus here is really to simply be with each other in community, to experience God's presence, to get away from the polarization and isolation from digital and social media, and to be community. I truly believe this is the future of the church and I believe people will be looking for these kinds of spaces as we move on.

If you were not able to be at this meeting, no worries! I want you to think about a few things regarding what this means for you. 1) If you would like to be involved in the planning or creation of any of these, please reach out to me and I'll get you connected with the group. 2) If you would like to participate in any of these, just keep an eye out on your email and future Beacons because we will be publicizing these events when they're ready to roll out and all you have to do is show up. 3) If you feel like these sound like things you would love to help create and plan, but you're just not able to right now or anymore, don't fret, your job is to just show up and enjoy these gatherings when they come about. 4) If you have any idea that you would like to create that isn't on this list, something you think people would really enjoy gathering around, please contact me and let's talk about it.

All in all, it was a great meeting and if you couldn't be there, you didn't miss out. This is just the beginning of a renewed step at Bethania to be a community church that gathers in joy and is open to anyone who wants to join. We were gathered by folks who've been here most or all their lives, and folks who've recently joined. We were gathered by people from various generations and backgrounds and there was laughter and excitement and it's only just beginning. So there's plenty of time to jump in if you want to help plan, and there will be plenty of opportunities to participate in these gatherings when they start. If you have any other questions or comments about any of this, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chris Brown**

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. 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, contact Pastor Chris with questions.

Be sure to see the calendar section of The Beacon for specific dates each month.



We are also accepting dried goods and boxed goods as well as “canned goods.”

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.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Bethania Preschool & After School

This month we will be learning about Fall and Halloween Fun. We will be taking our annual trip to the Solvang Farmer Pumpkin Patch to learn about pumpkins, walk through the corn maze and of course pick the best pumpkins. Each child will get a pumpkin and each classroom will get one as well.

On Oct. 31st we will have our annual Halloween Parade to Atterdag Village to share our costumes and sing some songs for the “Grandmas & Grandpas” there. Always a fun time! We will return to the Preschool and each class will have a Halloween party. Watch for us walking up the hill around 9:30.

October is here and we have kicked off our fundraiser with Charleston Wrap. Every purchase makes a difference towards our fundraising goal to purchase outdoor playground equipment for the preschool and after school program.

Bethania Preschool & After School Organization ID: **25271**

Go online to SHOP and help us reach our GOAL today! With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone!

Happy Halloween!

Love,

Lola Gonzalez
Director BPSAS

Faith in Action

Brown Bag Breakfast Packing is Oct. 1 & Oct. 29

Mark your calendar to help us pack brown bag breakfast items for needy local seniors on Sunday, **Oct. 1 & 29th**. (The Annual Meeting, pt. 1 will be Nov. 5th when we would normally do Brown Bag Breakfast packing.) 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)

Protein Bars

Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles

Pudding (non-refrigerated)

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

Soft Granola/Cereal Bars

Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)

Fruit Cups or Applesauce

In September, we packed 547 bags. We need 600 to meet Buellton Senior Center's monthly need.

Weekly Food Distribution

Our weekly food distribution is still taking place. The food we distribute comes from stores and Food Bank of Santa Barbara County, (paid for completely by donations and grants), bread donated by Bob's Well Bread of Los Alamos, produce from Veggie Rescue and Food Bank, and food from El Rancho Market, Solvang. Once a month, we get USDA food from Food Bank.

In September we provided food to:

Sept. 5th	196 Households	816 Individuals
Sept. 12th	202 Households	813 Individuals
Sept. 19th	196 Households	774 Individuals

Recently, we asked for grocery bags (brown paper and plastic) and had a tremendous out-pouring of support! Thank you - to everyone! **And, we are still accepting donations of brown paper grocery bags - as well as the smaller bags with handles that people at Atterdag Village sometimes get for their meals.**

If you are interested in volunteering on Tuesdays, please contact **Linda Marzullo** at **805-688-5219**, **805-688-3059** or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Morning Packing: 9-10:30 am

Afternoon Unloading Off

Trucks: 1:15 pm

Afternoon Packers for Bags &

any Produce: 1:30 pm

Evening Distribution:

4:45 pm moving things

5:05 meeting and 5:15 pm

distribution begins.

Clean up: 6:45-7:30 pm



Photo at right....A first in the Food Distribution line - a horse!



Bethania Chancel Choir

Singers needed. If you can sing a part in tune, consider joining the Chancel Choir. The choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Expect a great experience. Share your gifts. Join the choir.

-Jim Skoog - 408-307-7209

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



Quilting Group

Our quilting group has been very busy this year and we have 50 quilts ready to ship to Lutheran World Relief this month. We hope everyone will be at the Blessing of the Quilts at 9:30 Oct. 8. We will meet Friday Oct. 13 at 9:30 to finish a few more quilts to ship. We have a lot of fun with members and non-members participating. Everyone is invited.

I think it would be fun to have a unique name for our group and am open to suggestions. Some from other churches are the Sew and Sews, Piece Makers, Chat and Sew, Sewing Bees, Stitch and Chatter, and the Nutty Knotters. I'm sure we can come up with something clever. Email suggestions to Lois De Meyer at lbdemeyer@gmail.com

- Lois De Meyer

Photos by Jan Zigler



Noisy Sunday is Coming: Oct. 22, 2023

The next **Noisy Offering** will be **Oct 22, 2023**. Our noisy funds, collected during the 9:30 service, will support the Halloween Party. Don't be afraid to throw your change, cash and checks into the bucket and make change so our youth and families have a "scary" good time!

Events and Occasions



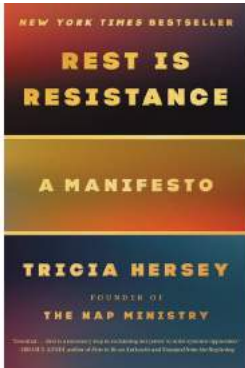
Blessing of the Animals

Bethania will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 1 at 5 pm, in the courtyard. Please bring your beloved pets, pictures of pets who are no longer with us, or stuffed animals your children love. We will honor their presence in our lives with a short blessing service followed by a small reception.

Theo Pub

Theo Pub gathers Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 pm at Solvang Brew, around the fire pit and all are welcome to join. We gather the 2nd Thursday of every month to discuss 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!

Book Club



Bethania's Book Group continues 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 3 of the book. We gather on Oct. 19th 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.

Celebration of Life Gatherings

We will celebrate and remember the life of **Agnes Larsen on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 10 am** in the sanctuary followed by a lunch in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We are also celebrating and remembering the life of **George Johnson on Friday, Oct. 27 at 11 am** in the sanctuary followed by a lunch in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.



BLCW Invites you to



A HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

*A costume is what we require,
But you can be your heart's desire.*

*A princess with a golden crown,
An athlete or a circus clown.*

*A kitty cat, a fox, or bear,
A werewolf with some facial hair?*

*A creature from a fairy tale,
Some sort of glamorous female.*

*By now you get the big idea,
Please do come—we hope to see ya!*

Thursday, October 26

6 to 9 pm at Terry Billings' house

597 Valley Oak Road, Solvang

Gather with old friends and meet new ones!



RSVP/questions: phone or text to Terry
@ 805-895-2522

October Coffee Hosts

Thanks to the following people for hosting coffee:

Oct. 1 - Carol Lake and Marilyn Larsen

Oct. 8 - Mindi Christian

Oct. 15 - Betty Petersen

Oct. 22 - Glenda Madrid

Oct. 29 - Available

Produce Table in October

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.

All Saints' Sunday is Coming, Nov. 5

All Saints' Sunday is Nov. 5 - the day we remember our loved ones who passed away between Nov. 1, 2022 and Oct. 31, 2023. At Bethania, we light candles on the altar in memory of these people. If you would like to light a candle on All Saints' Sunday, please let the church office know - bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637.

Dia de Los Muertos Remembrance

We will also have a Dia de los Muertos altar in the front of the church during the last part of October and the first part of November. We invite you to bring copies of photos and any mementos of any loved ones who passed away.

Making a Joyful Noise (Unto the Lord)!

What a wonderful concert on Sept. 16! During Danish Days, Jim Welch performed “Bach's Lunch: An Organic Smorgasbord!” to a full house. After a hiatus of four years, it was an amazing treat as the sanctuary was filled to the brim. During my introduction of Jim Welch, I said Pastor Chris wants us to create a season of joy here at Bethania and in the community. Mr. Welch then tied his remarks to mine as he talked about the program notes and one piece called, “Joyful, Joyful” by Robert Hobby. At the end of the program, Mr. Welch played “The Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah and the audience stood and faced the organ loft and sang along. It truly was uplifting and joyful.

Be sure to attend next year’s concert in September 2024!

- Kristyl Downey



Church Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council - Sept. 21, 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.

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

- Discussion was held about placing cameras in the Sanctuary and Narthex to help with security of the property. The cost is fairly minimal and the cameras would record activity to cloud storage. We have had several people staying in the Sanctuary after it was closed. As there were differing opinions, it was decided to add this as a topic of discussion at the Congregational Meeting on Nov. 5th
- The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) documents have been filed with the IRS. The timeline for the refund is 6-8 months
- Pastor Chris reported that there are discussions underway with Iglesia Luterana, Bethel Lutheran and the Synod/Conference. Pastor Estaban is considering being ordained in the North American Lutheran Church, and not continuing in the ELCA. Bethel Lutheran is holding a meeting to vote on whether to include Iglesia Luterana as an NALC congregation as part of Bethel. This would probably mean that Synodical and Conference support would end. More information will be coming in the near future.
- The Reconciling In Christ committee has decided not to pursue the Reconciling in Christ process at this time. However, they put forward a welcoming statement to reflect the already ongoing nature of our work at Bethania. That statement is as follows "As an expression of God's love, we welcome all people to every facet of church life and affirm our shared humanity regardless of who you love, how you identify, where you were are from, your ability level, socio-economic status, or your age" The Council approved this welcoming statement. This statement will be especially helpful in pursuing grants, as organizations are asking for these kinds of statements of groups they fund.
- The council approved the rehiring of Debborah Gutierrez as an aide for the preschool and Lisset Terrazas as a teacher for the preschool.

The next council meeting will be held on Oct. 19, 2023 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 Aug. 31, 2023

Balance Sheet

	July 2023	August 2023	Change
Operating Acct	\$89,510	\$75,758	-\$13,752
Money Mkt Acct	\$122,686	\$112,178	-\$10,508
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$1,832,408	\$1,832,408	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,465	\$1,878,466	\$1
Total Assets	\$3,923,169	\$3,898,910	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

August 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$15,686	\$20,622	\$4,936
Total Expenses	\$29,039	\$26,405	-\$2,634
Net Income	-\$13,354		

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$12,997	\$16,700	-\$3,703
Non-Members	\$335	\$720	-\$385
	\$13,332	\$17,420	-\$4,088

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$4
Brown Bag	
Cemetery	
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Facilities Fee	\$200
Food Distribution	\$3,865
Iglesia Food	
Memorials	\$100
Noisey Offering	\$2
Produce Table	\$191
School Kits	
Lutheran World Relief	\$25
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$335

* The cash position is still good with \$75,758 in checking and \$112,177 in the money market account.

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

Social Ministry Committee Meeting

The Social Ministry Committee will meet Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 6 pm in the Fireside Room.

Connections

During our special “Season of Joy” Congregational meeting on Sept. 24, some of our planning groups have set a time to meet for making connections.

“Events” - Oct. 10 at 6 pm in the Parish Hall

“Outside Activities” - Oct. 19 at 12:30 pm for lunch in Buellton (location to be announced)

“Camping” - Oct. 20 at 11 am in the sanctuary

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.

Health and Other Concerns

Carol Aides, Frank Amby, Andy Blanton, Dyann Driggers, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Loretta McConnell, Stewart & Sheila Mee, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Erwin Ostertag, Kate Pearrrson, Tom & Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Judy Stamat, Theresa Tannasacoli, Steffany Thomas, Hayes Robert White and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

Thank You's

Thanks to Anna Cook and Marie Jaeger (and an anonymous donor) for donating aprons to the church kitchen. We are grateful that they responded to my request in the last newsletter. Some are hanging on hooks near the pantry and others are in a drawer by the sink and window that face the BBQ pit.

- Kristyl



October Calendar Items

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:30 am Produce Table outside the Parish Hall & Coffee Time in the Parish Hall

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Sunday School 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

11:30 am and 3:30 pm Chapel in the Sanctuary

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

7 pm Choir Practice 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

Sunday, Oct. 1

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

5 pm Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard

Wednesday, Oct. 4

6 pm Social Ministry Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Oct. 5

5:30 pm Christian Education Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Oct. 6

6-8 pm Decorate in the Parish Hall for Saturday event

Saturday, Oct. 7

10 am - 10 pm Event in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Oct. 8

9:30 am Blessing of Quilts in the Sanctuary

5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room

Tuesday, Oct. 10

6 pm "Events" Planning Meeting in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 11

2 pm Prayer Group meets in the Sanctuary

Thursday, Oct. 12

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, Oct. 13

9:30 am Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 18

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

Thursday, Oct. 19

12:30 pm "Outside Activities" Planning Mtg. (location tba)

1-4 pm InGathering of Lutheran World Relief Materials, Mt. Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room and via Zoom

Friday, Oct. 20

11 am "Camping" Planning Mtg. in the Sanctuary

3:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

5:30 pm Halloween Party Set-up in the Parish Hall and Fireside Room

Saturday, Oct. 21

9:00 am Set-up and Decorate for the Halloween Party in the Parish Hall and outside

3:30 pm Wedding in the Sanctuary

5:30 - 7:45 pm Halloween Party at Bethania

Sunday, Oct. 22

Noisy Offering

After coffee hour, clean-up after the Halloween Party in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 25

10 am Celebration of Life Service for Agnes Larsen in the Sanctuary

11 am Luncheon in the Parish Hall

Noon - Beacon Deadline in the Office

2 pm Prayer Group in the Sanctuary

Thursday, Oct. 26

6-9 pm Women's Halloween Costume Party at Terry Billings home, 597 Valley Oak Rd, Solvang

Friday, Oct. 27

11 am Celebration of Life Service for George Johnson in the Sanctuary

Noon Luncheon in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Oct. 29 - Reformation Sunday

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

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Bethania
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Solvang CA 93463



Image by [Susanne Jutzeler, Schweiz](#)  [suju-foto](#) from [Pixabay](#)