



## **The Beacon**

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

**June 2024**

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463  
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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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If you could go back in time to when you were graduating from high school, what would you tell your graduating self? I think about this a lot. Looking back and imagining going through a young life with the lessons of older life is hard to resist. I would tell myself several different things, not all of which I'll share here, but some of them would be that high school was only a small part of who I was and who others around me were and the life that lies ahead is going to be so very different. I would tell myself to seek out passion first, in both ongoing education and in how to navigate life in my 20s. And I would tell myself that rushing ahead to the next thing is not nearly as exciting or meaningful as the time spent with friends, family, loved ones, and even strangers will be in those years before career and a family of my own begin.

What I find interesting as I reflect is much of the advice I'd give my graduating self is advice that my current self could really stand to ingest. My generation is partly defined by an addiction to nostalgia (it's why Disneyland is still thriving), and while I might look back on my past with fantasies of "what I wish I had known then", truth is we all stand on a precipice of "right now" in which we can always choose how we take the next step. We can always reflect on and step into what we're passionate about in this stage of life. We can invest in relationships and our communities today. While there will always be people who remember who we were in our past, we can reflect on what values are important to us, today, and step into a way of being that reflects those values, regardless of our past. To stand upon the precipice of the present and take a new step forward is one of the most Christian things we can do.

When we look at the stories of Jesus, we consistently see him interrupt the dominating version of people's past and invite them into something new, something reflecting the values of God's kingdom and living a new life. And there's no one who stands out of this reach! Fishermen, prostitutes, Roman centurions and their collaborators, people outside the city walls, temple leaders and scribes. There isn't a point in the gospels you can point to and say, "that type of person is not invited."

We live in what feels like an angry world. Perhaps we can take a cue from all our recent graduates who, while I'm sure are aware of the underlying anger, dare to enter a new chapter of life with hope and resilience. If Jesus shows us anything, it's that at no matter what stage of life we find ourselves, no matter what exists in our past, today, we are always invited into something new, something that entails hope and resilience, something that utilizes compassion and love, something that calls us to look at what we're passionate and joyful about and use it to experience and share the kingdom of God. Every day can be a new day.

**In Christ's Newness,  
Pastor Chris Brown**



## Vacation Bible School

Thank you everyone who helped in donating and purchasing supplies for the summer 2024 VBS program.

A science supply list is coming soon.

### We hope to decorate on the following dates:

Monday 6/17 @ 5-7pm - Parish Hall

Tuesday 6/18 @ 5-7pm - Fireside Room

Wednesday 6/19 @ 5-8pm - Parish Hall

Thursday 6/20 @ 5-7pm - Parish Hall

Sunday 6/23 @ 12-5pm - Sanctuary/Hall

## Faith in Action

### Hike Against Hunger - June 9, 2024



### 2023 Hikers

Our annual **Hike Against Hunger** is Sunday, June 9th, starting at 8:30 am from Bethania to Nojoqui Falls Park.

Everyone is welcome. Invite friends and neighbors to participate or to sponsor you! This is another opportunity to fight local hunger with your personal donation, sponsoring a Hiker, and attending the BBQ.

We are asking each hiker to gather as many donations as possible, with a minimum donation requested of \$10.00 per hiker. Any hiker who raises over \$50 in donations will be honored with a free lunch. Sponsor sheets will be available in the narthex. All sponsor sheets and donations must be turned in the day of the hike.

There will be prizes for the most donations raised by Kids 12 and under, Teens 13-18, and Adults 18-59, Adults 60 and up. Winners will be announced during lunch at the park.

Proceeds from this event will be used to purchase items for Bethania's own Tuesday Food Distribution.

BBQ lunch will be available. (If you would like to attend but cannot afford the cost of the lunch, please contact Pastor Chris for a scholarship.) Enjoy walking, worshipping in nature, eating a fantastic BBQ lunch, playing games for kids, and more. Let's get a big crowd out there to celebrate a gorgeous day and a fantastic event!

For more information, please contact the church office at (805) 688-4637 or Linda Marzullo at (805) 688-5219.

## **Produce Table Make-Over\* and Opening - June 16, 2024**

The Produce Table is undergoing a brand refresh. A brand refresh is changing the image and concept but not the underlying core values. The new brand will be revealed on Sunday, June 16th, after the 9:30 service. It will reflect the new concept of a farm stand as well as a historical connection. The core values of supporting hunger programs will remain unchanged. Funds raised at the "Farm Stand" will support the Blessing Box and Bethania's Tuesday Distribution. Each Sunday will have a different theme as well as have regular items seen at a farm stand.

Small bags for produce will be \$5/each. Larger items will be \$10 or more, individually priced.

### **June Sunday Themes**

**June 16 - Opening Day and Reveal**

**June 23 - "Flower Power" - Bouquets, Plants, Gift Certificates**

**June 30 - Garden Art and More**

### **Other Sunday themes:**

**Sourdough Sunday**

**Farm Day**

**"What's Your Jam?"**

**Hygge (hyoo-guh)**

If you have any questions or would like to contribute items, please let Kristyl know, [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com), 805-688-4637 or see her in person.

**\* A Thrivent Action Team Project**

## **Bags, Bags, Bags!**

Thanks to everyone who has given us bags for our weekly food distribution program. Weekly, we use 200 brown paper grocery bags & 200 heavier-duty plastic for produce. Please drop them off in the boxes in the narthex. We appreciate this on-going collection of bags.

## **Noisy Sunday, June 23, 2024**

### **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!

On June 23rd, our jangling coins will be used to help purchase the most expensive parts of the school kits and personal care kits (Backpacks and Towels). This is so that we can purchase these items in bulk to get the most items for our kits. We will assemble kits on Sept. 8, "Day of Service" Sunday.

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. School kits help children to have materials for school. Personal care kits provide healthy living 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.

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.

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.

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)

*continued on next page*



**For School Supply Kits:**

- 70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
- Rulers with centimeters and inches
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt tip scissors
- #2 Pencils
- 2-1/2" Erasers
- 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: 688-5219 or via email: [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)



**Piece Makers Meet in June  
One Day, Three Times!**

Many quilts wait to be finished. This month we have three opportunities to help.

**June 14**

9 am 12 noon

1-3 pm

6:30-8:30 pm

Please let Lois know if you plan to attend - [lbdemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:lbdemeyer@gmail.com).  
As usual there will be snacks.

**Lutheran World Relief Provides Quilts to Stranded Baltimore Crew**

Check out this video on YouTube about Lutheran World Relief quilts.



## Events and Occasions

### Theo Pub - Solvang Brewing Company

#### June 13, 7pm - Around the Fire Pit

June – August is “Ask Pastor a Question” or “Open Topic” Night at Theo Pub. Bring your questions or topics about faith, theology, the Bible, life, etc. All are welcome!



### Bethania Book Group

The Bethania Book Group is starting a new book and there’s plenty of time to join. **We’ll gather on June 20, at 2pm, in the Parish Hall.** We’ll be discussing Part 1 of the book, called Spring.

The Measure is a New York Times Best Seller about mysterious boxes that show up at the doors of everyone 22 or older with a string inside that discloses how long that person will live. Following the lives of eight individuals, it’s a story about how the world navigates such radical knowledge.



## Congregational Business

### Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet

#### News from the Bethania Council Meeting - May 16, 2024

- Congregational giving continues to be strong, thanks be to God! While the operating account reflects substantial spending for the month, it is normal for there to be big fluctuations. Some bills are paid quarterly, for example.
- The Council has decided that while congregational giving continues to be strong, no monies will be received from Endowment Fund's distributable income. In fact, no monies have been received from the Endowment Fund since February. Should giving decrease substantially, the Endowment Fund will resume its monthly contribution to operating expenses as allowed by congregational vote in 2022.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please contact a council member.

Jan Simonsen (805) 319-8652	Leigh Berenger (310) 877-8418	Ingelise Pedersen (805) 688-3836
Karin Baty (612) 229-8172	Jan Zigler (559) 740-3676	Rikka Rasmussen (805) 453-8535
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Carol Skoog (408) 398-5673

## Financial Statement - Period Ending April 30, 2024

### Balance Sheet

	March 2024	April 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$88,020	\$73,727	-\$14,293
Money Mkt Acct	\$152,702	\$151,537	-\$1,165
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,055,335	-\$1,307
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,466	\$1,878,466	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,175,930</b>	<b>\$4,159,164</b>	

### Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

April	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$21,702	\$21,741	-\$39
Total Expenses	\$28,925	\$28,696	\$229
Net Income	-\$7,224		

### Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$17,683	\$17,181	\$502
Non-Members	\$565	\$818	-\$253
	\$18,248	\$17,999	\$249

### Other

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$100
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Endowment Fund	\$50
Facilities Fee	\$1,475
Food Distribution	\$3,235
Noisy Offering	\$178
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$638

If you have any questions please reach out to Leigh Berenger / Treasurer Bethania / 310-877-8418



## Coffee Hosts

Thanks to everyone for volunteering in June. We are looking for a coffee hour host for June 23.

June 2: Christian Education - Recognition Sunday

June 9: Jan Zigler

June 16: Carolyn Schuit

**June 23: Available**

June 30: Ruth Plambeck

If you would rather buy some cookies or desserts, please let Kristyl know. You can drop them off at the office and someone will put them out for the Sunday you sign up.

## Did You Know...?

**Kevin McConnell** studies physics in his free time?

**Lori McConnell** in her "free time" does crafts including resin and jewelry making, makes patterns for Danish Christmas ornaments and continues to learn and practice Danish?

**Kristyl Downey** has started baking sour dough bread (to be featured at The Farm Stand aka The Produce Table) and has given some of her starter (Russell from the movie "Up") to Melissa Bates and one of the Preschool Teachers?

**Gene Madsen** found an Open On-Line Course, "A History of Denmark from the Viking Age to the 21st Century." <https://danmarkshistorien.dk/en/open-online-course>. It is a 9 module course, available in English and in Danish. Check it out if you want.

## In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

We uplift in prayer the following people in our congregation and community:

Carol Aides, Frank Amby, Andy Blanton, Dyann Driggers, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Loretta McConnell, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Kate Pearsson, Tom & Carolyn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Judy Stamat, Hayes Robert White and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

The **family and loved ones of Erwin Ostertag** who passed away May 16, 2024. The service celebrating and remembering his life was held May 23 here at Bethania.

## June Calendar Items

**Please note:** Bethania's Calendar is accessible on-line from our web page [bethanialutheran.net](http://bethanialutheran.net)

### Sundays

**9:30 am** Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**10:30 am** Farm Stand in the Courtyard area, starting June 16

**11:00 am** Unorthodox in the Sanctuary

### 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

### Sunday, June 2

Recognition Sunday

### Wednesday, June 5

**6 pm** Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

### Friday, June 7

Bethania Preschool and After School closed

**5-8 pm** Private Party in the Parish Hall

### Sunday, June 9

**8:30 am** Hike Against Hunger begins and goes to Nojoqui Falls Park

### Thursday, June 13

**7 pm** Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

### Friday, June 14

**9 am-noon** Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

**1-3 pm** Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

**6:30-8:30 pm** Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

### Sunday, June 16 - Father's Day

"Farm Stand" opens

**Wednesday, June**

**5:30 pm** BPSAS Board in the Fireside Room

**Monday, June 17**

5-7 pm Decorate Parish Hall for VBS

**Tuesday, June 18**

5-7pm Decorate Fireside Room for VBS

**Wednesday, June 19**

**Touch-A-Truck Meeting in Miss Monica's Classroom**

5-8 pm Decorate Parish Hall for VBS

"Little Shop of Horrors" at Theaterfest - Bethania Group

**Thursday, June 20**

**2 pm** Book Group in the Parish Hall

**5-7 pm** Decorate Parish Hall for VBS

**7 pm** Council in the Fireside Room

**Sunday, June 23**

**Noisy Offering** during the 9:30 service

**12 noon - 5 pm** Decorate the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall for VBS

**Monday, June 24-Friday, June 28**

6-8:15 pm VBS in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room, Sanctuary and Playground

**AA, Food Distribution and Yoga Do Not Meet**



Image by [Kenya Aguirre](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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Welcome Summer!

Image by Michelle Raponi from Pixabay