



The Beacon

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

May 2024

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.

What Do You Want to be When you Grow Up?

In a recent sermon I shared a story of a conversation I had with a parent of one of our former preschoolers who is now in high school. The conversation was about this anxiety the student was going through regarding what they're going to focus on in college. Do any of you remember that pressure? I remember the idea that I would need to make that decision in high school before even applying to college. When I did get to college, we had to do orientation, and I remember the kids that had already declared their major got to go to orientation and register for classes before kids like me, who hadn't declared yet. It didn't seem fair, especially, when I did go to register and a lot of classes were already full.

I kind of marvel at how much we're told we need to make decisions about who we are and what we're going to do for the rest of our lives, both at a young age, and just in general. Wouldn't it be amazing if we celebrated people who know what they're passionate about and know what they want to pursue early on as well as those who just want to take a journey of discovery? What if we also celebrated the idea of not knowing? Or the idea that human growth is multifaceted and not just a linear progression?

When I was getting ready to interview at Bethania, the paperwork Bethania had to fill out ahead of time kept referencing this guy named Grundtvig over and over again and so to prepare for my interview I figured I should look up who he is and what he's about. Thank God, because it not only helped me out in the interview, but I loved what I discovered. A school model that focuses on learning for life, discovering and utilizing passion, and learning for the betterment of the community? What a novel (not really novel) idea.

I share all this to say, I think the world would be better if we approached each day from a place of discovery, or a journey, a place where we expect growth in one another instead consistency. What if we were given the grace to change our minds or given the expectation that who we were five years ago might not be who we are right now. Would we be gentler with one another? More understanding in moments of conflict? When we talk about God's grace, I imagine this is how God approaches each of us. I don't think God expects us to have life figured out at 18 any more than God expects us to have life figured out at 65.

I imagine God might see us in moments of agony or distress or frustration, and knows this is only a reflection of a point in our lives and growth and evolution is a given. Heck, I'd even wager that part of the reason many folks don't change or grow is because we lump people into categories of "that's just how they'll always be," and we might be more courageous in admitting faults if given the grace to change. Maybe this all starts with encouraging our youth into spaces of discovery, rather than spaces of needing to figure it out.

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

Bethania Preschool & After School



SPY TOUCH A TRUCK

Get up close with construction, safety, farming, and specialty trucks across 3 parking lots! Climb on, honk horns, and explore the thrill of being in the driver's seat.

MAY 4
10AM-1:30PM

- ✓ QUIET HOUR AT 10AM
- ✓ RAFFLE
- ✓ FACE PAINTING
- ✓ HELMET FITTINGS
- ✓ FOOD

TICKETS & INFO: GIVEBUTTER.COM/TOUCHATRUCK

SPONSORED BY:



ATTERDAG VILLAGE
JULIA TIPOLT STATE FARM
NEARN & ASSOCIATES
NIELSENS BUILDING MATERIALS
SORENSEN & ASSOCIATES
THRIVENT FINANCIAL
VALLEY HARDWARE

Faith in Action

Bags, Bags, Bags!

We need bags for our 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.

Blessing Box Items Needed

The use of the **Blessing Box** in front of our church has been a huge eye-opener as to how many in our valley are living on the edge. If you or someone you know is in need, please be aware that food is available at Bethania in the Blessing Box 24/7 as well as at our USDA Tuesday Food Distribution, which is held from 5:15-6:45 each Tuesday.

Whatever you use in your home – that is what we need for the Blessing Box! Items needed for the Blessing Box include canned and dried foods, snacks, cereal, coffee, condiments, cleaning supplies (such as dish soap, laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaners), cooking oil, personal care items, meal kits, tuna, chicken, mac & cheese...you get the idea. We have even been blessed with produce from local gardeners, home canned jam and sweets from Albertson's.

Feel free to put your items (that do not require refrigeration) straight into the box on the Atterdag Road side of the church. Or contact the church office (805) 688-4637, or me if you have questions or want to drop off to me: (805) 688-5219 or (805) 688-3059. You may also email me at vikingpressprint@verizon.net if you need to arrange to meet.

THANK YOU to all who have contributed items, donated, and helped to keep this project going. Our goal with the Blessing Box was to have anyone in the community be able to access assistance at any time, without any stigma, from the items within it. Special thanks to Elizabeth Breen, Donna Hinsbeeck, Carolyn Schuit, Kristyl Downey and Rick Marzullo, Scarlett, Jan and Bill Zigler and many others who are all assisting in keeping our "mighty pantry on a post" filled for people who need it.

If you are interested in helping to keep the box stocked, just drop off your items in the box itself or at the church office. You can also contact us for a day/time to sign up to help check the box – or just make a point of stopping by at a time good for you to see that it is filled. Thank you to all who already do this!

- Linda Marzullo

Letters of Support to City by May 28th

Our grant request for funding assistance for our weekly food distribution to the City of Solvang is coming up for discussion on May 28th. We would love to have letters of support for this vital ministry sent to the City Council. Currently we are serving over 800 Solvang residents weekly with food, items for the elderly (incontinence, Ensure) and infants (formula, baby food). We provide food to SYV residents who are struggling with food insecurity due to low paying jobs and high rents – these are the people who help to keep our town and area running.

Here is a sample letter. Feel free to adjust to reflect your thoughts. Please be positive and appreciative when you send your letter in. You do not have to be a Solvang resident to send in a letter; all letters will help us with this grant. You may email them to: Council@cityofsolvang.com and CC CityClerk@cityofsolvang.com, or mail them to: City Clerk, City of Solvang, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA 93463.

Dear City Council Members:

I am writing to ask you to approve the grant for the Food Distribution provided through Bethania Church. As one of the volunteers for this endeavor I can testify that we are providing food to the members of our community who work in our local bakeries, hotels, vineyards and restaurants. We serve the people who clean our homes and take care of our yards. We serve school teachers, handymen and seniors trying to survive on fixed incomes. The City has supported our senior center, the theater, the Rotary Club for the Fourth of July, etc. This is no different as it is simply another way of supporting our community. Approving this grant helps our local businesses and it supports our local citizens who struggle to make ends meet in today's environment.

I urge you to approve this funding.

***Most sincerely,
Kief Adler, Solvang resident***

Thank you!

Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry

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

Noisy Sunday, May 26th: Let's Help Moms!

The “**Noisy Sunday**” offering will be used to purchase diapers, diaper rash cream, powdered formula and baby food to give out at our weekly food distribution. Consider this another way to honor the mothers around us!

These items help struggling families keep their babies healthy, clean, fed and nurtured. For many of these families, finding funds to purchase diapers and formula are a struggle. Depending on which style of diaper, a good range to estimate for a monthly disposable diaper budget is between \$150-275 per month. The average monthly cost for powdered formula for babies is \$400 to \$800. Specialty formulas, such as those that contain hydrolyzed proteins, may cost even more.

We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Offering! So bring your coins and make some noise to help celebrate mothers and their hard but rewarding work. Together, we can CHANGE a mother's – and a child's - world!

– Linda Marzullo

Piece Makers Meet in May



The Piece Makers are a blessed group. Our community has been very generous donating 7 boxes of fabric and sheets to use for backing. We have 27 completed quilts, 19 tops and backs ready to tie and 21 tops that need to be matched with backing fabric.

Can we finish more than our average 50 quilts this year? With your help we might get 75 done. We have 2 opportunities to tie quilts in the parish hall each month. The second Friday of the month, **May 10**, from **9 am to noon** and from **6:30-8:30 pm**. Snacks are always available.

Events and Occasions



Santa Ynez Valley Hymn Sing with Orchestra

Westmont College Orchestra Tour 2024

Sunday, May 5th at 7:00 pm

Solvang Festival Theater

420 2nd Street, Solvang, CA 93463


Free Admission ~ No Tickets Required ~ Open Seating ~ Outdoor Venue

Theo Pub

Solvang Brewing Company

May 9, 7pm

Around the Fire Pit



BLCW invites you and a friend!

**Cinco de Mayo
Dinner & Games**

Relax and enjoy dinner,
try Mexican Lasagna,
play games.

Thursday, May 9, 6:00-8:30
at Carol Skoog's
3325 Erica Place, Lompoc

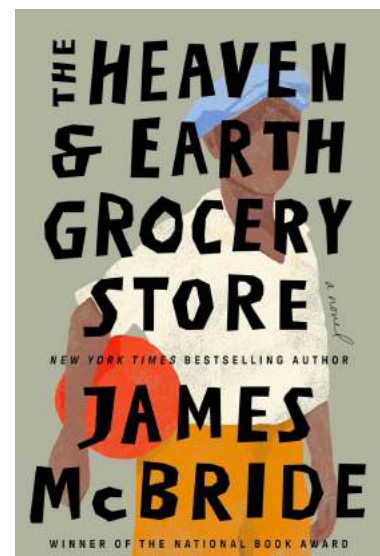
RSVP: (408) 398-5673 or
carolskoog@yahoo.com

* Let Carol know if you have food sensitivities.

Book Group

May 16, 2pm - Parish Hall

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store,
by James McBride
Reading and talking about Pt. 3



Confirmation Sunday

Join us Sunday, May 19, at the 9:30 service for Confirmation Sunday. We'll be celebrating several of our youth who will be making commitments to both our community and this way of life of love and compassion we've been called to. Join us for the service and a reception in the Parish Hall to follow.

Pentecost - May 19

During the service, we will read the lessons in a variety of languages. The lessons and a simple guide to when to read will be printed and available at the start of the service. If you have never done this before, please contact the Church Office. You also invited to wear red for worship.

Cemetery Work-Day

We hope you can join us for a short cemetery workday to get it spiffed up for Memorial Day before the flags are placed. Saturday, May 25 from 9:00-10:30 am. Please bring a rake and/or broom if you have them.

Thank you,
The Cemetery Committee

Mark your calendars: The Hike Against Hunger is coming Sunday, June 9. Look for more information coming soon.



2023 Hikers

Theaterfest in June

Once again, Bethania will be going as a group, to see PCPA's "Little Shop of Horrors" at Solvang Theaterfest on Wednesday, June 19th at 8:00 pm. It is a musical comedy involving a plant from outer space. The cost is \$32 (saving over \$10) and payment will be due May 26th.

Emmy be will outside church after services on May 12, 19, and 26. Bring your cash or a check made out to PCPA for \$32 to reserve your space. Carpooling from church will be available.

Questions? Contact Emmy at abelloemily@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to everyone who donated snacks and supplies!

Requested Materials:

Artificial Christmas trees (to be borrowed)
Any artificial plants
Masking tape
Decorators to cut out bushes & trees from green paper
Puppet Stage (ask Donna)
2 ropes
small bale of hay



Bible Storyteller
2 Crew Leaders
5 Crew Leader Assistants

Registration is available on the church website: <https://bethanialutheran.net>

**Thank you,
Bethania's Christian Education Committee**

Danish Days Sewing Circus

Join Alice Laufer, and a couple of her sewing ringers, to make your own Danish Days dress. Dates and times will be for this summer. Suggest picking up fabric you like from Rasmussen's, as fabric is now 50% off. For the bodice 45 inch wide, one yard. For the skirt 45 inch wide 3 3/8 yards. For the apron 55 inch wide 1 5/8 yards. Get pattern 8448 Burda in your size. Any questions, ask Alice 805 268-6991.

Time to Plan for Bethania Church Family Campout at Lake Lopez Oct. 4-6, 2024.



Each camper needs to **reserve your own campsite.**

- We encourage everyone to **reserve sites in the inside loop** of the Quail area to facilitate group activities.
- Reserve online (as soon as possible)** at <https://reservations.slocountyparks.com/reservation/camping/>
- After you've made your reservation, please **notify Carol Skoog** at carolskoog@yahoo.com so you can receive information and updates as our planning progresses. Please provide your campsite number.

Next Social Ministry Meeting - May 8, 2024

The next Social Ministry meeting will be May 8 at 5:30 pm. The main topics for discussion will be:

- "Hike Against Hunger" fundraiser planning
- Setting the date for the next Community Networking Fair
- Brown Bag Breakfast packing
- and more

We need committee members to help us shape the direction of our ministries! Please consider joining us on this committee. We are all involved in being the hands and feet of Jesus to the world.

–Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry

688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingsprint@verizon.net

Congregational Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet

News from the Bethania Council Meeting - April 18, 2024

At the April meeting, it was noted that:

- Member giving continues to be strong
- Security cameras and smoke detectors are being installed in the sanctuary.
- Council has received one bid for replacing the stage curtain in the Parish Hall and will pursue others.

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 3/31/24

Balance Sheet

	February 2024	March 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$87,599	\$88,020	\$421
Money Mkt Acct	\$134,799	\$152,702	\$17,903
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,056,642	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,878,466	\$1,878,466	\$0
Total Assets	\$4,157,606	\$4,175,930	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

March 2024	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$26,284	\$22,396	\$3,888
Total Expenses	\$33,136	\$27,470	-\$5,666
Net Income	-\$6,852		

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$22,185	\$17,190	\$4,995
Non-Members	\$1,151	\$820	\$331
	\$23,336	\$18,010	\$5,326

Other Donations

Bethania Heritage Fund	\$1,245
ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Easter Lily	\$180
Endowment Fund	\$150
Facilities Fee	\$175
Food Distribution	\$23,667 included is \$10k ELCA World Hunger Grant & \$9502 Empty Bowls
Memorials	\$600
Noisey Offering	\$168
Thrivent Choice \$ Fund	\$115

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

Thank You's

To the community of Bethania Lutheran -

Thank you so much for welcoming
me during my work deployment to California!
I feel blessed to have found a wonderful
Church and community, especially during
the Lent season. Thank you for everything,
and I hope to see you again soon!

God's peace,

-Sally

P.S. My Danish great grandmother would
have been pleased to know I spent time
in Solvang!

Sally was working at Vandenburg Space Force Base for a while recently.

Thank You from The Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble

Dear Pastor Brown,

The Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble and its members would like to thank you for your considerable generosity in allowing us to hold our Spring Concert in your beautiful facility. We have already received many positive comments from a most appreciative audience. The entire experience went smoothly thanks in large part to the efforts of Kristyl Downey. We cannot thank you enough for allowing us to carry out our mission: to provide a quality music experience available free to the general public. Thank you again for allowing us to carry out that mission at Bethania Lutheran Church.

Please accept the enclosed check as a small token of our appreciation.

Sincerely,

Doug Bube, Treasurer

Santa Ynez Valley Wind Ensemble

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, Erwin Ostertag, Kate Pearnson, Tom & Carolynn 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 Renate Sanders**. Renate passed away April 16. The service celebrating and remembering her life will be at **9:30 am on Wednesday, May 8**, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

May Calendar Items

Please note: Bethania's Calendar is accessible on-line from our web page bethanialutheran.net

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary and Sunday School in the Fireside Room

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

Saturday May 4

10:30 am - 1 pm Touch-A-Truck all over the church property

Sunday, May 5

7 pm SYV Hymn Sing with Westmont College Orchestra at Solvang Festival Theater

Wednesday, May 8

9:30 am Service Celebrating and Remembering the Life of Renate Sanders in the Sanctuary, followed by a light reception in the Parish Hall

6 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Thursday, May 9

6 - 8:30 pm Cinco de Mayo Dinner & Games at Carol Skoog's

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, May 10

9 am-noon & 6:30-8:30 pm Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Saturday, May 11

8 am-4:30 pm Fund for Santa Barbara Meeting in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, May 15

5:30 pm BPSAS Board in the Fireside Room

Thursday, May 16

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall

7 pm Council in the Fireside Room

Saturday, May 18

3:30 - 5:30 pm Song in My Heart Recital in the Sanctuary

Sunday, May 19 - Pentecost - Wear red.

9:30 am Confirmation during the worship service - reception in the Parish Hall

Friday, May 24

5:30 - 7:30 pm Song in My Heart Recital in the Sanctuary

Saturday, May 25

9-10:30 am Work Day at Solvang Cemetery

2 pm Service Celebrating and Remembering the Life of Linda Herd in the Sanctuary, reception in the Parish Hall

Sunday, May 26

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day

The Church Office and Bethania Preschool and After School will be closed.

Note: Upcoming Graduations



Please let us know about your graduates. High School, College, University, Programs, etc. We'll print them in the June Beacon.

Image by [Mohamed Hassan](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The Beacon May 2024

Bethania

621 Atterdag Rd.

Solvang CA 93463

Happy Month of May

