



The Beacon August 2024

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

805-688-4637
bethanialutheranch@gmail.com
www.bethanialutheran.net

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 Message from Pastor Chris Brown

Expectations are weird. Going to New Orleans with the youth, I was expecting to dread the humidity and walking on my bad ankle—all of which was exactly like I expected — and I expected the experience would be awesome for me and for the kids, but I didn't know how. It was the details of the expectations that hadn't filled out yet, but now that we're all home, it's cool to look back and reflect on those details.

I can't fully speak for our youth, but I can say I had a blast with them. Sometimes it was obvious when we were doing stuff they weren't looking forward to, but in the end, there were always smiles and laughter and I think an opening up. And that was my hope for them, that they would be open to new experiences, whatever they were. I remember one of the first genuine creole restaurants we went to was a place called the Gumbo Shop. I told the kids that creole food is part of the culture, it's heavy in seasoning, and it's amazing, so just try something from the menu that's creole. One kid ordered a shrimp po'boy, two ordered the blackened chicken, and a handful ordered some version of gumbo. Let me tell you, they were talking about the food on the plane ride home 5 days later, it was that good!

One day we went to the convention center and it was filled with all these booths highlighting the different things the ELCA is involved in, such as fighting food insecurity, environmental care and compassion, sustainable shopping, campus ministries and various outreaches to help and walk beside those in need. Suddenly, our little church in Solvang looks like it's part of something so much bigger than itself, and yet so connected.

Each night we ended at the Smoothie King Stadium where the New Orleans Pelicans play basketball and the youth filled up every seat. There was singing, dancing, Jazz, and incredible and relatable speakers. You ever hear 16,000+ kids singing in unison? If you're not moved by it, you may be a robot. It was not our grandparents music and hymns and I think the youth got to see how engaging and relevant (to them) worship can be.

Ultimately, this was a trip of coming out of one's comfort and routine, trying something new without necessarily knowing how it's going to be, and then experiencing the reward of that newness. And I'm not sure if it's because everything was done "so well", but I think it was because it was just something new.

I don't know about y'all, but I tend to avoid new experiences. I'm tired. I like knowing what I'm getting into each day. But I also stop growing. I experience God in similar and familiar ways and neglect to remember how dynamic and beautiful God and this world is. I dreaded parts of the trip that were going to be humid and painful on my foot, and yet, I'll remember this trip forever.

What if we all approached life with that same curiosity? What if we opened ourselves up to newness? New cultures, new ways of experiencing God and creation, new places in the world with different sights and sounds, new cuisine and the human story that goes into each recipe? I'm sure we'd walk into this with the same hesitation that I came to New Orleans with, but I think we'd also walk out with the same appreciation for life, for human beings, and for God. Walt Whitman once wrote, "Be curious, not judgmental." As it so often happens, our youth were amazing teachers at why this kind of curiosity leads not to dread and bad experiences but to more love and relationship—all of which I think our world desperately needs right now.

**To New Experiences,
Pastor Chris**

Faith in Action



Sunny Fields Farm Stand*

The **Sunny Fields Farm Stand** is open. In addition to typical produce and baked goods, we have an emphasis on special items each Sunday. Single items will be \$1 each. Other items will usually be priced between \$3-\$10. Larger items will be \$10 or more, individually priced.

August 4 "Farm Day" - featuring Babe Farms Produce and other local farms

August 11 "Just Desserts" - with desserts baked locally

August 18 "Scented Sunday" - Soaps, herbs, lavender, and more!

August 25 "Celebrate? Zucchini" - including zucchini bread, cookies and a contest for the biggest zucchini (by weight) and decorate a zucchini

If you have any questions or would like to contribute items, please let Kristyl know, bethanialutheranch@gmail.com, 805-688-4637 or see her in person. You may also bring items each Sunday.

Bags, Bags, Bags!

Thanks to everyone who has given us bags for our weekly food distribution program. We are looking for more brown paper grocery bags which we use to pack most of the food. You may drop them in the boxes in the narthex. Or, contact Nancy Puder 805-448-7404 and she can pick them up.

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Aug. 4, 2024

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 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! We need to provide around 210 bags each week to keep our local seniors healthy. Last month, we had not packed enough and they ran out – and yes, we did hear how much those seniors count on our bags! Thanks again to Kief Adler who facilitated a large donation of Dave's Killer Protein Bars for our packing.

If you would like to donate, these are the items we need. You can bring them on packing day or drop off at the church office.

- 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)

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 vikingspressprint@verizon.net



Piece Makers Meet

The Piece Makers will be busy Friday, Aug. 9 from 9am to noon. We have completed 46 quilts and have enough supplies to make 25 more.

All we need are willing hands to tie the quilts together. If you are available in the evening let Lois De Meyer know and she will make arrangements for another session.

Help Needed for our Community Networking Fair

We will be hosting our next Community Networking Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 13th, from 3-5 pm. This will be held right before our regular weekly Tuesday Food Distribution, with the hope that those coming to get food will be able to access the information booths before receiving their food bag.

We need some help! This is a big day with these two events and we could use some helpers. Are you able to:

- Help serve snacks?
- Do you know Spanish? Could you help guide people and answer questions?
- Keep watch on our food stuffs while we talk to people in the hall?
- Direct people on parking?
- Just be there to back us up?

If you are able, please contact myself or the church office.

– **Linda Marzullo**
Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
688-5219, 688-3059 or vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Chancel Choir Resumes at 7pm Wednesday, Aug. 21

Singers needed. If you can sing a part in tune, please consider joining the Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Share your gifts. Join the choir.

Noisy Sunday is Coming: Aug. 25th Help us with “Day of Service” Projects

Our next Noisy Sunday will be Aug. 25. We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items for our “Day of Service” projects. This year we are boosting our efforts to make a difference in our world by assembling Personal Care Kits and School Kits. Remember to save the date of Sept. 8th and invite community friends to attend and support this effort! Help us purchase some of the items needed by tossing your change into the bucket on Noisy Offering Sunday, Aug. 25th. We also ask you to consider contributing other needed items. (*see below*). Collection area will be in the entry to the church or you can drop items at the church office. Our “Day of Service” projects will make a difference in lives around the world. Please consider donating items in addition to giving us some of your change. Together, we can “change” our world, one coin at a time.

– Linda Marzullo

Day of Service Items Still Needed!

Our “Day of Service”, an ELCA-wide event focusing on the needs of our communities and our world, is coming up Sept. 8. We have been collecting items this summer for assembly of Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits and School Supplies. Thanks to those who have donated and given to the Noisy Offerings to support this project, but we still have a little ways to go!

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 still need:

For Personal Care Kits:

1. **We have 100 Bath Towels**, thanks to Nancy Emerson and Thrivent; more appreciated!
2. Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit) – we need at least 150 more
3. Toothbrushes – we need at least 65
4. Combs – wide tooth ONLY – we need at least 95 more
5. Nail Clippers – we need at least 30 more

Continued...

For School Supply Kits:

1. **Notebooks – we have lots but more are welcome!**
2. Rulers – has to have inches and cm and no metal piece, 20 more needed
3. **Pencil Sharpeners – we have enough!**
4. Scissors (children's size) – we need at least 65 more
5. Pencils – we need about 300 more – **cannot be pre-sharpened!**
6. Ballpoint Pens (not gel) – Blue or Black ink (we need LOTS, over 500)
7. **Erasers – we have lots but more are welcome!**

Bring your items to the donation box in the church or to the church office by Friday, Sept. 7th.

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

Events and Occasions

Coffee Hosts Needed

We are looking for coffee hosts for:

Aug. 4 - Mindi Christian

Aug. 11 - Jan Zigler

Aug. 18 - Coffee only, no treats. Person will clean up the coffee pot and put away supplies.

Aug. 25 - Oana

Theo Pub

June – August is “Ask Pastor a Question” or “Open Topic” Night at Theo Pub. Join us at Solvang Brew on Aug. 8, at 7pm around the firepit and bring your questions or topics about faith, theology, the Bible, life, etc. All are welcome!



Book Group



The Bethania Book Group will be concluding its conversation about The Measure on August 15 at 2pm in the Parish Hall. We'll be choosing a new book as well, so please make sure to come and give your input.

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.

BLCW Invites you to



Will you...

- ◆ Keep your dollars???
- ◆ Put a dollar in the kitty?
- ◆ Pass a dollar?
- ◆ Get a dollar?

Only the dice know for sure!

Friday, August 16, 2024

7 to 9 pm at Jan Zigler's house

280 1st Street, Solvang, near Birch Drive

Bring nine \$1 bills -- enough for three games.

Join us for a fun time filled with laughs and enjoy some dessert.

Gather with old friends and meet some new ones.

RSVP/questions: phone or text to Jan Zigler @ 559-740-3676

Save the Date!

The End of Summer BBQ is going to be **Aug. 18, after the 9:30 service**. Plan on bringing a side dish to share, comfortable clothes, and a predisposition to fun! We'll have burgers and hotdogs, drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), games, and a bounce house for the kids. Please put the date in your calendar and invite any family and friends you want!

Please contact Pastor Chris if you can help with:

BBQing

Prepping burger and dog fixins

Preppin' Sides

Setup and Cleanup

Fall Family Campout

**October
4-6**

**Lake Lopez
Quail Area
Time to Relax
and Play Together**



Reservations can be made directly with the campground (slocountyparks.com). There are still sites available in the Quail area, where we will be gathering. If you need help making a reservation, contact Carol Skoog, Registrar. Also, please let Carol know your site number so you will be on our list as a Bethania Camper!

Registrar: Carol Skoog
carolskoog@yahoo.com
408-398-5673

Congregational Business

Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council Meeting - July 18, 2024

It has been a quiet summer for the Council, with Agenda items consisting mainly of administrative tasks. A highlight of the meetings been our monthly discussions of a chapter of the book *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*, by Christopher Smith and John Pattison. It has provided opportunities to reflect on our individual faith lives and our faith community at Bethania.

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

Bethania Lutheran Church June Financial Statement Period Ending 6/30/2024

Balance Sheet

	May 2024	June 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$65,700	\$84,997	\$19,297
Money Mkt Acct	\$138,244	\$141,235	\$2,991
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,056,642	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,880,047	\$1,880,047	\$0
Total Assets	\$4,140,733	\$4,163,021	

Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

June	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$28,441	\$22,010	\$6,431
Total Expenses	\$30,337	\$29,554	\$783
Net Income	-\$1,896		

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$19,187	\$17,181	\$2,006
Non-Members	\$520	\$818	\$298
	\$19,707	\$17,999	\$2,304

Other Donations

Heritage Fund	\$125	
Endowment Fund	\$550	\$500 refund of student scholarship
Facilities Fee	\$1,150	
Food Distribution	\$11,747	\$10k City of Solvang 2023 Grant
Hike for Hunger (Food Distribution)	\$17,340	
Noisy Offering	\$255	
Sunny Fields Farm Stand	\$385	

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

Social Ministry Meeting

The next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, Aug. 7th at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room**. We will be talking about the Community Networking Fair and other projects.

– **Linda Marzullo**

Chairman, Social Ministry

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

Did You Know?

Did you know that Johannes Jaeger (Marie's husband) built a punch table for their daughter Glenda's wedding in 1974? It was then used for the weddings of their daughters Betty and Mindi in 1976. Since that time the punch table has been used for their anniversaries as well as Golden Anniversaries in the congregation. Now it has been fixed up and re-enforced (by Kevin and Lori McConnell) and is used for the Sunny Fields Farm Stand.

Happy "Golden Anniversary" to the Punch Table!

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

Carol Aides, Frank Amby, Andy Blanton, Dyann Driggers, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Kate Pearsson, 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 Liz Beeler. Liz passed away July 8, 2024.

The family and loved ones of Loretta McConnell. Loretta passed away July 12, 2024. The service celebrating and remembering her life was held July 26 in the sanctuary.

August 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

10:30 am Sunny Fields Farm Stand in the Courtyard area

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

7:00 pm Choir Practice in the Parish Hall, starting Aug. 21

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.

Thursday, Aug. 1

5:30 pm Christian Education Mtg: in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Aug. 4

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

Wednesday, Aug. 7

6 pm Social Ministry Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Aug. 8

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, Aug. 9

9 am-noon Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Tuesday, Aug. 13

3:00-5:00 pm Community Networking Fair: Parish Hall

Thursday, Aug. 15

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall

7 pm Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

Friday, Aug. 16

7-9 pm Left-Center-Right (BLCW) at Jan Zigler's home

Sunday, Aug. 18

After the 9:30 service, **End of Summer BBQ** in the parking lot and big playground.

Sunday, Aug. 25

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

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**Enjoying
Summer
All Month
Long**