



## The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
621 Atterdag Rd  
Solvang CA 93463

**September 2024**

805-688-4637

[bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)

[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

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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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### A Message from Pastor Chris Brown

I'm noticing a shift right now. I'm noticing it in several small spaces all over, which makes me feel like it's genuine. It feels like a shift into an aura of positivity, one that is also actively shedding off the negativity of the last several years. We just had the first day of school, including our preschool, and there was this feeling of joy, excitement, and again, positivity. Contrast this with last year when it felt more like feelings of anxiety and trepidation. A friend of mine who teaches high school also told me they've noticed their students have a little bit more calmness and alertness to them this year than the previous two years.

As we enter this election cycle, I'm also noticing this underlying feeling that people are tired of the anger, fear, and chaos that has dominated the last couple election cycles. Focus groups are consistently saying they're looking for more feelings of positivity as they think about the future of our country, and these sentiments are being expressed on both sides of the spectrum. Of course, there are still feelings of angst and uncertainty in all facets of life, but again, I think we're starting to enter a shift away from the polarization and anxiety of the last several years and into something that feels a little more stable.

I hope I'm right, and I think this shift is happening, not because things are getting better or worse, but because human beings are adaptable, and that's an incredibly meaningful lesson to learn. Coming from a society that has gotten used to immediate gratification, we've entered into the illusion that we can control life and fix emotional problems efficiently and quickly. We've gone through some massive global issues, not least of which was a global pandemic, that shook the fabric of society and community. It dominated our emotions and created feelings of instability that was experienced by most people, myself included. But guess what, we got through it. We might be banged up. But we got through. Life continues. Smiles, laughter, and love still exist. And I don't believe it's because situations suddenly switched, but I believe it's because at our core human beings are adaptable.

If only we can remember this the next time something befalls us. What this creates in me are more sustained levels of faith, patience, and grace. We may find ourselves in valleys and we may feel stuck there for a while, but humans are adaptable, and valleys don't necessarily last forever. Faith, patience, and grace. Amid tremendous sorrow or anxiety, love still exists, people still care for one another, and ultimately, I think the human spirit desires goodness in this life, for ourselves and for our fellow humans. People are tired of the negativity and the doom and gloom that politicians, media, and news outlets try so hard to cultivate for various reasons, and we're tired not because things have suddenly gotten better, but because our natural orientation is towards goodness. And thank God, in

God's infinite wisdom, God created humans to be adaptable because we're shifting towards that desire for goodness and positivity again. But maybe I'm wrong.

I could totally be wrong. I could be resting in an idyllic place right now and my bubble could suddenly burst, and I could find myself back in the restless cycle of anxiety and fear. But even if I'm wrong, I'm going to choose the shift I hope is happening, whether it's happening or not. I'm tired of the endless cycles of feeling pitted against my fellow community members and humans, I'm tired of feeling like the world is falling apart, and I'm going to choose to cling to the human spirit that has existed for thousands of years, the spirit that is adaptable, the spirit that can find itself in the most despairing environments and still find community, still find hope, still find the possibility of change, and still dream of a different tomorrow. Maybe that shift isn't happening everywhere, but it's certainly happening in me, I hope it's happening in you, and if we can choose to move towards more love, more hope, and more positivity in our world, maybe that shift will happen no matter what. I hope you'll join me.

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

## **Bethania PreSchool and After School**

We are excited to be back for the new school year! We currently have a total 45 preschool children enrolled and 45 school age children enrolled in our after school program. The children are getting to know one another, exploring their new classroom and outdoor environment.

Next time you are at the church, take a peek through the windows and look at the preschool classrooms. I really love how creative our teachers are when it's time for back-to-school time of the year.

We have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fiesta Nights fundraiser event on Saturday Sept. 28 from 5pm-9pm. Tickets are \$20. Get your tickets online at our new website <https://www.bethaniapreschool.org> or physical tickets will be available for purchase in September after church service in the Parish Hall. Please join us for night full of music, food, drinks, and a silent auction. I hope to see you there.

Each preschool classroom and the after school program has come up with a fun theme for the silent auction baskets. If you or if you know of someone who would like to donate items for the silent auction please contact me.

I am looking forward to a great year!

**Love,  
Lola Gonzalez  
Director, BPSAS**



## 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.



**Sept. 1** - Fruits of our Labors

**Sept. 8** - Bring packaged food for the Blessing Box. You may also make a monetary donation to support the Blessing Box and Tuesday Food Distribution.

**Sept. 15** - Tomatoes Galore

**Sept. 22** - Welcome, Fall Y'all

**Sept. 29** - Harvest Festival

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. You may also bring items each Sunday.

### **Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Sept. 1, 2024**

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend on Sept. 1st. 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!

The bags we make provide food items for local seniors to eat while taking medications. The bags are delivered by Buellton Senior Center volunteers three times a week to those in need.

If you are able to donate any items below, it would help tremendously. You can also make a donation and earmark it "Brown Bag Breakfasts" so we can go do the shopping. Any amount of help is much appreciated!

Items we need: Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins); Soft Granola/Cereal Bars and soft Protein Bars; Oatmeal Packets (Protein type) or small Cereal Boxes or Cups; Fruit Cups or Applesauce; Pudding (non-refrigerated); and 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 [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

## Piece Makers Meet Sept. 13th & 15th



Piece Makers are way ahead of schedule this year. We have completed 53 quilts and have 2 waiting for the binding. 17 tops and bottoms need to be tied. We would love it if you can help: On the Friday, Sept. 13 from 9-12 noon and 6-9 pm. Also, we will tie a few on Sunday, Sept. 15 between the services. We want to thank David and Janet Rasmussen for the fabric, thread and batting they donated.

## Chancel Choir Practice Has Resumed Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Parish Hall

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.

## Day of Service set up helpers needed: Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm

A “set up” time will be held Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at beginning at 5 p.m. We will need helpers to set up tables, layout out supplies, band pencils and pens, and take off packaging. Snacks available to keep our workers going! If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: [vikingsprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingsprint@verizon.net)

## Helping Hands + Donated Supplies = Our “Day of Service” Event - Sept. 8, 2024

WE NEED YOU! Join in assembling School Kits and Personal Care Kits on **Sunday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> beginning around 10:30 a.m.** Following the 9:30 worship service, we will meet in the Parish Hall to start the assembly line for each project.

As part of the ELCA “Day of Service” on Sept. 8, we will be assembling both School Kits and Personal Care Kits in the Parish Hall. “Day of Service” is a church-wide event inviting everyone to do “God’s Work – Our Hands.” All ages and abilities are welcome to help with these projects – you can be a part of the “assembly line” no matter what your age or skill level. There are plenty of spaces for willing workers! You can count, gather, wrap, tie, box...fun for all ages as we see the piles mount and boxes fill up.

In addition to all of this, we want to hear from YOU - our Idea Wall will be the place where we ask you what things you would like to see Bethania tackle in social needs arena in the year to come. (Foster children needs? Undie Sundays? Support for Animals?) Give us your thoughts for exploration by Social Ministry teams - share your ideas and passions and help us make it happen.

Everyone who contributed in some way to the completion of these many projects is making a difference to the person who receives the kit. YOUR hands were in direct contact with someone in need, through the volunteer time and effort you put in, however large or small.

Thank you all for your support of this important event. Our Bethania members will directly touch those in need, by sending supplies and our compassion through Lutheran World Relief.

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)

## **Noisy Sunday is Coming: Sept. 22, 2204**

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on Sept. 22. The offering from that day will be used to help cover the shipping costs of both the Personal Care Kits and the School Kits that we will be sending to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse. This offering helps Lutheran World Relief ship the kits to the people who need them. We send our kits to an “ingathering” day set up by LWR, so that there is no cost to us to ship them to the warehouse. **(Assembly day is scheduled for Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> - see related articles)**

*Why do we need to ask for shipping cost donations instead of using those funds for creating more kits?* Here’s why: We plan to make 100+ School Kits and 100+ Personal Care Kits. According to LWR, the approximate processing and shipping cost for each kit is as follows:

LWR Mission Quilt: (per quilt \$2.25)  
LWR School Kit: (\$1.40 per kit)  
LWR Personal Care Kit: (\$2.65 per kit)\*

\*Your gifts to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, for Personal Care Kits, also helps LWR cover the cost of providing a tube of toothpaste for each kit. Your quarters, dimes and nickels (and hopefully some dollars!) will help us ship both types of kits, which are desperately needed, according to LWR.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. So bring your coins and make a noise on Sept. 22nd. Together, we can CHANGE the world!

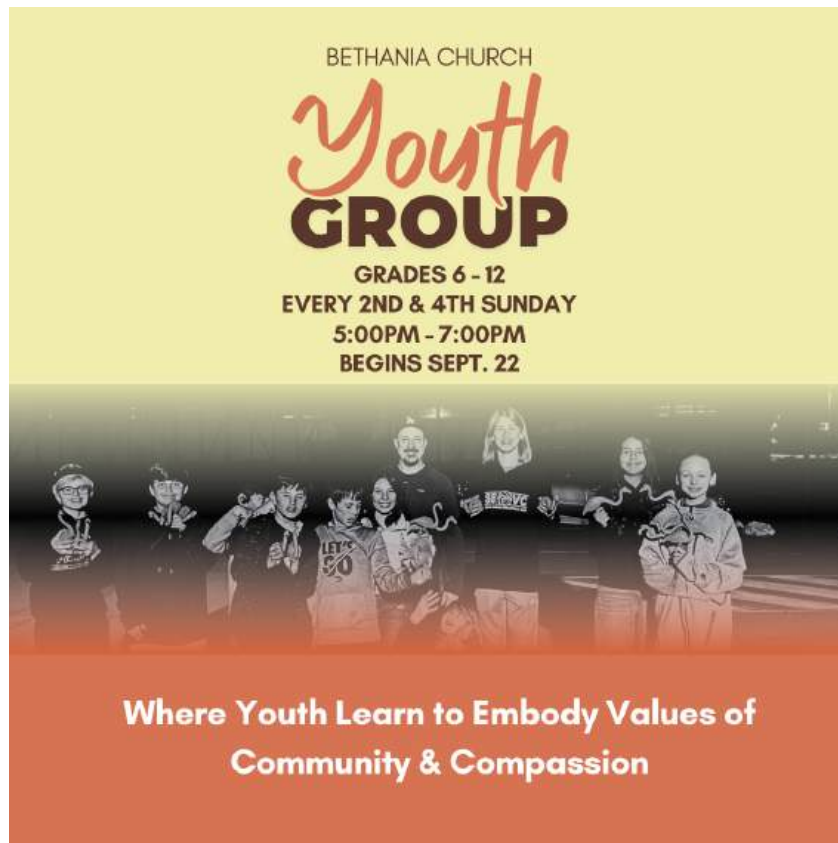
– Linda Marzullo

## **Events and Occasions**

### **Coffee Hosts Needed**

Thank you to the people hosting coffee in September. We are looking for coffee hosts for the available dates below:

Sept. 1 - Oana  
**Sept. 8 - Available**  
Sept 15 - Betty Petersen  
Sept. 22 - Carol Skoog & Cheryl Heredia  
**Sept. 29 - Available**



## Sunday School Begins Sept. 15

Sunday School will start up again on Sept. 15 during the Unorthodox Service and is for all children in grades TK- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Our Sunday School is designed to help children discover how their faith can grow to become an integral part of their everyday lives. Within each session, children will be introduced to a faith concept, explore a Bible story together through storytelling and video, participate in age-appropriate, hands-on activities, and reflect on and share what they have learned with one another.

## Theo Pub

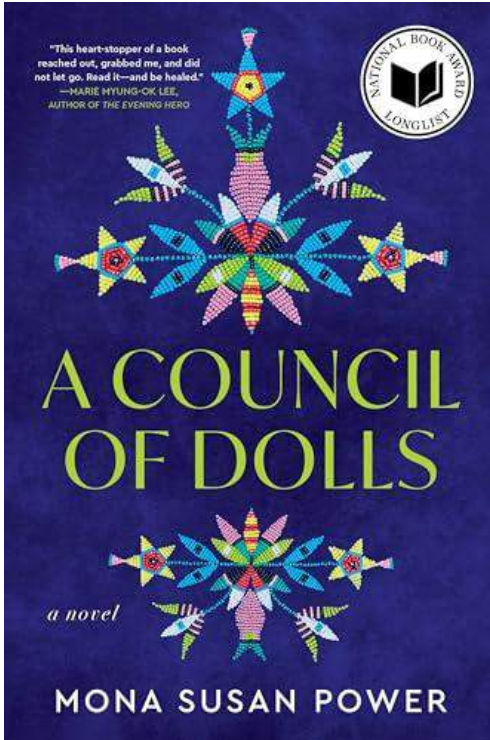
Theo Pub is Thursday, Sept. 12, at 7pm at Solvang Brewing Co. We have a topic each month and questions to help us think and wonder together. You do not have to have an in depth knowledge of the Bible or Theology to participate, just an open mind and hungry appetite.



## Danish Days Parade

Please join us for our Danish Days Float this year as we celebrate the theme “Det Dansk, Det Dejligt” (It’s Danish, It’s Delightful), on **Sept. 21 at 2:30 pm**. We will line up at 1<sup>st</sup> St. and Molle Way at 1:30. **Please help us decorate on Friday, Sept. 20 at 5pm in the back parking lot of the church.**

## Book Group



The Bethania Book Group is starting a new book called *A Council of Dolls* by Mona Susan Power. From Amazon: *From the mid-century metropolis of Chicago to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people, to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, A Council of Dolls is the story of three women, told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried. A modern masterpiece, A Council of Dolls is gorgeous, quietly devastating, and ultimately hopeful, shining a light on the echoing damage wrought by Indian boarding schools, and the historical massacres of Indigenous people. With stunning prose, Mona Susan Power weaves a spell of love and healing that comes alive on the page.*

We will be discussing the first 150 pages on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 2pm in the Parish Hall. If you're not on our order list you can order the book from the Book Loft.

## Our Champions – Donna Hinsbeeck and Lizbeth Ortiz Aguilera

The SYV Foundation is honoring Donna Hinsbeeck and Lizbeth Ortiz Aguilera for their contributions to our community. Donna deserves this recognition, as she practically lives at the church and makes so many things run smoothly (Christian Education Committee, Endowment Fund, Sunday School teacher, clean up and organizing the property, Coordinating Food Distribution needs) in addition to her other volunteer efforts. Lizbeth is a remarkable young woman who has helped for 4 years with the Tuesday Food Distribution, participated in FFA and other activities, was awarded a scholarship from our Endowment Fund, and is the first person in her family to go to college (Cal Poly SLO).

**Join us on Oct. 13 for the 2024 Champions of the Valley honorees and CELEBRATE these remarkable individuals whose volunteer efforts capture the diverse and vibrant spirit of our community.**

This annual event proudly upholds the tradition of honoring exceptional volunteers who tirelessly enrich the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos. Since 1995, this program - formerly known as Man & Woman of the Year - has served as a distinguished platform to recognize individuals from all walks of life who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to community service.

Tickets for *Champions of the Valley* go on sale Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> through the SYV Foundation. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

# Fall Family Campout

**October  
4-6**

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



There's a lot to enjoy:)

- Group kayaking/boating (or go on your own)
- Rentals are available: canoes, swan boats, pedal boats, etc.
- Playground nearby
- Volleyball court nearby
- Arcade available at marina
- Swimming and Fishing in Lopez Lake
- Group Hike
- Outdoor games (bring yours to share)
- Balloon toss
- Scavenger hunt
- Yoga (for any level participants)
- Saturday potluck supper
- Saturday night campfire (stories/singing/skits)
- Sunday morning gathering

Reservations can be made directly with the campground ([slocountyparks.com](http://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! Staying off-site or coming for the day, guess what? Please tell Carol:) Thanks!

**DAY CAMPERS ARE WELCOME! (DAY USE FEE IS \$12)**

Registrar: Carol Skoog  
[carolskoog@yahoo.com](mailto:carolskoog@yahoo.com)

408-398-5673



# Congregational Business

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

After a quiet summer, the Congregational Council has a few important things to share with you all.

- The church has hired a local bookkeeper, Jena McCollum. A CPA and former employee of Christiansen and Drake, Jena has been at home for the past few years with her twin girls. She is now returning to work and has started her own business. The transition has been seamless, and we expect better and more timely communication than before.
- The Council is striving for better security throughout our church campus in response to expanded use by many different groups and a few unwanted incidents. A lock has been recently installed on the church basement door, and five security cameras are being installed throughout our church campus. They will be in the sanctuary, Parish Hall, Fireside Room and the kitchen, and signs will be posted near each camera so that people know they are being videoed. Film will be kept for two weeks on the ICloud and will only be reviewed if there is a need.
- Allan Laugesen will begin a remodel of the kitchen restroom very soon in order to make it handicapped accessible. Future plans are to renovate both sanctuary bathrooms, making one handicapped accessible as well.
- Mark your calendars and plan to attend a budget forum on Sunday, Oct. 20. The proposed budget will be sent to you in mid September. Please also plan to attend the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 17, when we will vote on the budget.

**In Christ,  
Jan Zigler**

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 July Financial Statement Period Ending 07/31/2024

### Balance Sheet

	June 2024	July 2024	Change
Operating Acct	\$84,997	\$74,920	-\$10,077
Money Mkt Acct	\$141,235	\$141,267	\$32
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$100	\$0
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,056,642	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$1,880,047	\$1,880,047	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$4,163,021</b>	<b>\$4,152,976</b>	

### Profit & Loss Actual vs Budget

June	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$27,243	\$21,785	\$5,458
Total Expenses	\$28,257	\$27,650	-\$607
Net Income	-\$1,014		

### Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$20,673	\$17,181	\$3,492
Non-Members	\$512	\$818	-\$306
	\$21,185	\$17,999	\$3798

### Other Donations

ELCA World Hunger	\$10
Endowment Fund	\$400
Food Distribution	\$2,807
Heritage Fund	\$100
Hike for Hunger (Food Distribution)	\$150
Noisy Offering	\$222
Sunny Fields Farm Stand	\$436

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

# Committee Needs

**Dear Bethania Members,**

We have two committees that really need members and I'd like to ask all of you to prayerfully consider joining one.

**Memorial Committee:** We have a small Memorial Fund that is added to when people give small donations in honor of someone who has passed away. Requests are typically made for small purchases from this fund and they are considered by our Memorial Committee. Sadly, we've had two recent members, Margaret Rasmussen and Liz Beeler, pass away and we need at least two more people to join. The Memorial Committee meets only as needed to consider requests that are made. If you'd like to join, please let Pastor Chris know.

**Worship & Music:** It's long past time that we start up a Worship & Music Committee for Bethania again. This committee is different from the Altar Guild, which sets up the sanctuary for various worshipping days. The Worship & Music Committee will be responsible for helping our church navigate the content of our worship, with emphasis on our music.

Ideally, some of the Worship & Music committee members would have experience with reading and playing music, but honestly folks, we need people who simply enjoy and are passionate about the worship experience and the music involved, including contemporary music. If you have passion for music, even if you don't have experience playing or reading music, please consider joining the Worship & Music Committee. This is a committee that cannot do this work sufficiently unless we have enough people join. I'm hoping we can get around 6-8 people to join, so please prayerfully consider doing so. If you would like to join please contact Pastor Chris

## **Social Ministry Meeting - Sept. 4, 2024**

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Topics will include: Review of Community Networking Fair, Brown Bag Breakfast packings, Tuesday Food Distribution, Noisy Offerings and other planning.

Everyone is invited to these planning meetings – 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 [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)**

## Thank You to End of Summer BBQ Volunteers

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped put the End of Summer BBQ together! It was truly an effort of many hands and it ended up being an incredible and fun way to close out the summer! We had so many people from Bethania, the Preschool, and the community show up because they know how enjoyable this event is year after year. Thank you so much and I'm so grateful for all of you!

**Pastor Chris**

## Parish Hall Chairs are Clean!

We want to extend a HUGE thank you to the Danish Sisterhood for paying to have all the chairs in the Parish Hall Cleaned by Wilson Carpet Care! Tony Wilson did an amazing job and they look fabulous. A big thank you also to Glenda Madrid, Mindi Christian, Harriett Madsen, Donna Ineman, Jan Zigler, and Lisa Pedersen for helping put all the chairs out and putting them back after the cleaning was finished. THANK YOU!

## 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 Pearrson, 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.

## September 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** Sunny Fields Farm Stand in the Courtyard area

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

**11:00 am** Sunday School in the Fireside Room. Sundays beginning Sept. 15.

**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

### **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, Sept.1**

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

**Sept. 2 - Labor Day-** The Church Office and BPSAS are closed

**Friday, Sept.6**

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

**6-9 pm** Danish Sisterhood Craft Making in the Parish Hall and Kitchen

**Saturday, Sept. 7**

**5 pm** Set-up for Day of Service in the Parish Hall

**Sunday, Sept. 8**

**10:30 am** Day of Service - Assembling kits for Lutheran World Relief in the Parish Hall

**Monday, Sept. 9**

**5:15-8:15 pm** Travel Document Signing: Parish Hall

**5:30 pm** Halloween Planning Meeting in the Church Office

**Wednesday, Sept. 11**

**7:00-9:30 pm** Danish Sisterhood Meeting: Fireside Room & Kitchen

**Thursday, Sept. 12**

**7:00 pm** Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Company

**Friday, Sept. 13**

**9-noon, 6-9 pm** Quilting in the Parish Hall

**Sunday, Sept. 15**

Bible Gift Sunday

**10:30 am** Quilting in the Parish Hall

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**

**5:30 pm** Preschool Board: Fireside Room

**Thursday, Sept.19**

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

**7 pm** Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

**Friday, Sept. 20**

**5 pm** Decorate Float for Danish Days Parade in the Back Parking Lot

**Saturday, Sept. 21**

**1:30 pm** Meet at 1st St and Molle Way for Danish Days Parade

**Sunday, Sept.22** - Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

**Friday, Sept. 27**

**4:00-9:00 pm** Set-up for BPSAS Fiesta: Parish Hall

**Saturday, Sept. 28**

**5:00-9:00 pm** BPSAS Fiesta Fundraiser in the Parish Hall, Kitchen and Courtyard Area

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Image by [Andreas Schur](#) from [Pixabay](#)