



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

November 2024

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.

Translating the Word – by Peter Rollins

It has been said that many years ago there lived a young and gifted woman called Sophia who received a vision in which God spoke to her as a dear friend. In this conversation God asked that Sophia dedicate her life to the task of translating and distributing the Word of God throughout her country. Now, at this time the printing press had only recently been invented, and the only Bibles to be found were written in Latin and kept under lock and key within churches. Sophia was from a poor farming village on the outskirts of the city, so the task seemed impossible. She would have to raise a vast sum of money to purchase the necessary printing equipment, rent a building to house it, and hire scholars with the ability to translate the Latin verses into the country's common tongue. However, the impossibility of the task did not sway her in the least. After having received her vision, Sophia sold the few items she possessed and left the village to live on the streets of the city, begging for the money that was required and dedicating herself to any work that was available in order to help with the funds.

Raising the money proved to be a long and difficult task, for while there were a few who gave generously, most only gave little, if anything at all. In addition to this, living on the streets involved great personal suffering. But gradually, over the next fifteen years, the money began to accumulate.

Shortly before the plans for the printing press could be set in motion, a dreadful flood devastated a nearby town, destroying many people's homes and livelihood. When the news reached Sophia she gathered up what she had raised and spent it on food for the hungry, material to help rebuild lost homes, and basic provisions for the dispossessed.

Eventually the town began to recover from the natural disaster that had befallen it and so Sophia left and returned to the city in order to start over again, all the while remembering the vision that God had planted deep in her heart.

Many more years passed slowly, extracting their heavy toll on the beautiful Sophia. But there were now many who had been touched by her love and dedication, so although people were poor, the money began to accumulate once again. However, after nine more years, disaster struck again. This time a plague descended upon the city, stealing the lives of thousands and leaving many children without family or support.

By now Sophia was tired and very ill, yet without hesitation she used the money that had been collected to buy medicines for the sick, homes for the orphaned, and land where the dead could be buried safely.

Never once did she forget the vision that God had imparted to her, but the severity of the plague required that she set this sacred call to one side in order to help with the emergency. Only when the shadow of the plague had lifted did she once again take to the streets, driven by her desire to translate the Word of God and distribute it among the people.

Finally, shortly before her death, Sophia was able to gather together the money required for the printing press, the building, and the translators. Although she was, by this time, close to death, Sophia lived long enough to see the first Bibles printed and distributed.

It is said to this day that Sophia had actually accomplished her task of translating and distributing the Word of God three times during her life rather than simply once—the first two being more beautiful and radiant than the last.

Faith in Action

Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering



Thanks to Bridget Cassara and Thorn Kinersly for loading Thorn's carrier van with our school kits and personal care kits as well as kits and quilts from Hope Lutheran Atascadero for the Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering at Mt. Cross, Camarillo. These supplies will be traveling around the world to take care of people suffering from extreme hardship. Thanks to Bridget for the photo above.



Sunny Fields Farm Stand is Closed for the Season

The Sunny Fields Farm Stand is closed for the season. Thanks to our many contributors we raised over \$1,600 for our Tuesday Food Distribution and Blessing Box. We will see you next year!

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing, Nov. 3, 2024

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Nov. 3 at 10:30 in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to pack and make life better for a local senior.

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

Please consider donating any items below. If you make a donation and earmark it "Brown Bag Breakfasts" so we can do the shopping. Items for BBB: 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)

-Linda Marzullo

Chairman, Social Ministry Committee

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

Piece Makers at Bethania

The Blessing of the Quilts (Oct. 20) was a wonderful day full of memories as we unrolled the quilts to display on the pews. Many hands worked on the 66 quilts that were on display. There are many steps to complete a quilt. Sort the donated fabric into pieces to make tops or backs, cut and sew the tops or backs together, cut the bolts of batting into 60" by 80" pieces, assemble the 3 layers of the quilts, tie the quilts and finally sew the edges. Marie Jaeger, Karen Hauge, Betty Petersen, Harriett Madsen, Emmy Abello, Jan Zigler, Cheryl Heridia, Carol Skoog, Kathy Walsh, Pat, Pam Baldwin, Brenda Knudsen, Ann Tucker, Ruth Plambeck, Shirley Heap. Rikka Rasmussen and Donna Dishman all participated in one way or another.

We will start again at our next meeting day Nov. 8 from 9-12. Not every job is done at our Friday meetings so don't be intimidated. If you can tie your shoes you can tie a quilt.

- Lois De Meyer

We also thank Lois De Meyer for being a Piece Maker.

Food Distribution at Bethania Continues



Thanks to Pastor Chris and the Youth Group who helped at Food Distribution in October! It was fun for all of us to be around their energy and we really needed their assistance passing out food to so many households.

Speaking of help...If you would like to help on a Tuesday, please contact me. We appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. Our Tuesdays are split into shifts, with the packing crew coming in at 9:00 to pack bags

for distribution. We also have the “moving crew” to help move items and get ready for the day. The truck(s) come around 1:15, when we unload and pack produce. Our most critical need right now is extra help in the evening for distribution – this is work that involves lifting boxes and bags and packing people’s cars and carts. Clean up helpers are always welcome at the end of the night.

Donna Hinsbeeck was just honored as our “Champion of the Valley” for all her work around Bethania and with the Food Distribution! It is so nice to receive recognition for all of this work we have been doing for four years. Additionally, with a recent grant from the SB Foundation and from the Kei Lin Foundation, we have been blessed with funds to help us purchase food for the 250+ households who are coming each week.

Bethania continues operating as a SB Co. FoodBank distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through



drive up or walk up line each Tuesday. We serve people from all walks of life, and in all types of circumstances. Once a month we receive a USDA shipment, for which there is no charge. The rest of the weeks, Bethania purchases items and receives free produce from the FoodBank and other donors.

–Linda Marzullo
Chairman, Social Ministry Committee
688-5219 (Work) or
vikingsprint@verizon.net



Thanks to Pastor Chris for the photos.

Noisy Sunday is Coming Nov. 24th

The next “Noisy Sunday” offering will be used to help purchase Christmas Angel Gifts for the 50 children we will be “adopting” from Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista (*see related article*).

Donations will help us kick start the purchase of Christmas gifts for needy children who attend Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista in Santa Maria. The church provides the “wish lists” and we provide the Angels (our members and friends) who try to fill the requests. Any amount, large or small, is much appreciated so that we can purchase clothing, jackets, blankets, jackets and shoes in addition to toys for these children.

We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! So bring your coins and make some noise on Nov. 24th. Together, we can CHANGE a child’s world!

– Linda Marzullo

Events and Occasions

Coffee Hosts in November

Thank you to the people hosting coffee this month.

Nov. 3 - Betty Petersen

Nov. 10 - Anne Twigg

Nov. 17 - Glenda Madrid

Nov. 24 - Available



Día de los Muertos

All community members are invited to come and place pictures and/or mementos of loved ones on our Día de los Muertos altar. The altar will be up in the sanctuary from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3. This is a space where we can both remember our loved ones who have passed on over the years and be reminded they continue to live on in so many ways. Please make sure to take home anything you bring after the service on Nov. 3. We also want to thank Wendy Bevier and Anne Twigg for putting up and decorating the altar this year.

All Saints' Day - Nov. 3, 2024

During the service that day we will remember our loved ones who passed away this year. We will be reaching out to family members but also ask that if you want to light a candle for someone, please contact Kristyl in the Church Office: bethanialutheranch@gmail.com or 805-688-4637.

Also, please let us know if you want to **be a candlelighter for someone on our list** who doesn't have a local person to do it.



Tuesday, November 12, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm
Cheryl Heredia's house
244 Ranch Road in Buellton

We're making Christmas cards for Meals
on Wheels folks
We'll talk and laugh at silly jokes!
Come and enjoy salty and sweet—
Fun like this is hard to beat!

No skills needed
All materials supplied

RSVP/questions: phone or text
Cheryl @ 714-450-5487

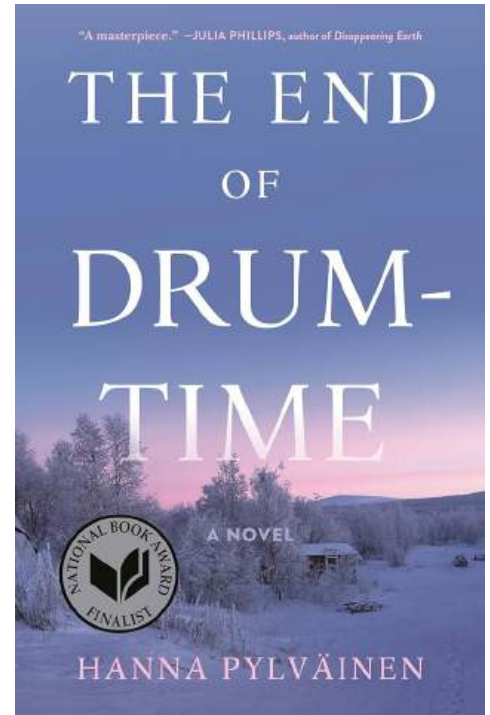
Theo Pub

Theo Pub is Thursday, Nov. 14 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.



Book Group

The Bethania Book Group will be starting a new book called The End of Drum-Time by Hanna Pylväinen. A finalist for the 2023 National Book Award, it is about a remote village in 1851 in the Scandinavian tundra, in which a Lutheran minister known as Mad Lasse tries in vain to convert the native Sámi reindeer herders to his faith. But when one of the most respected herders has a dramatic awakening and dedicates his life to the church, his impetuous son, Ivvár, is left to guard their diminishing herd alone. By chance, he meets Mad Lasse's daughter Willa, and their blossoming infatuation grows into something that ultimately crosses borders—of cultures, of beliefs, and of political divides—as Willa follows the herders on their arduous annual migration north to the sea. Gorgeously written and sweeping in scope, Hanna Pylväinen's *The End of Drum-Time* immerses readers in a world lit by the northern lights, steeped in age-old rituals, and guided by passions that transcend place and time.



We will gather on Nov. 21 at 2pm in the Parish Hall and we'll be reading and discussing all of Pt. 1 of the book.

“Grateful Goods” Arts & Crafts Sale – Nov. 23

It's that time of year when we all start looking for unique gifts and thinking about supporting causes we believe in – now you can do both on Nov. 23rd. Skip “black Friday” crowds and come to an event that does good for our community! **The “Grateful Goods” Arts & Crafts Sale will be held at Bethania from 10 am - 3 pm on Nov. 23.** Featuring handcrafted items, unique gifts, and specialty items, food, raffle prizes and a silent auction!

Suggested item for admission: a non-perishable food item. It would make us so grateful, which is why it is the “Grateful Goods” sale...(you can always make a monetary donation if you forget the can...)

Funds raised support Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution. As we head into the holidays. We see an increase in need during holiday season.

How can you help?

- Donate **Baked Goods!** (Jams, pickles, bread, cakes, cookies, pies – whatever you feel like making) – contact Linda, Jan Zigler or the Church Office and let us know what you are able to donate.
- **Volunteers** to help with the Kitchen, Bake Sale, Raffle Prizes and other tasks at the sale
- **Shoppers** – buy unique gifts, handmade items, and raffle prizes to jump start your holiday shopping!
- **Crafters and Artists needed** – we still have booth spaces available if you are interested. Booth fees support the food distribution.

Contact Linda Marzullo (vikingpressprint@verizon.net), 805-688-5219, or the church office for more info.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

An Event Supporting Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution

"GRATEFUL GOODS"

ARTS & CRAFTS SALE

Get your Holiday Shopping Done while supporting Local Artists and helping others!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024

BETHANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

603 ATTERDAG RD, SOLVANG 805-688-4637

10AM - 3PM

**SUGGESTED
ADMISSION:
CANNED FOOD OR
CASH DONATION**

We would be grateful!

**UNIQUE
HANDMADE
ITEMS!**

**RAFFLES,
VENDORS,
SILENT AUCTION,
FOOD AND MORE!**

For more info, to request a Vendor packet or to volunteer, please contact the church or Linda Marzullo at 805-688-5219, vikingpressprint@verizon.net.
Let's have lots of fun and support our neighbors in need!

Interfaith Thanksgiving 2024



The SYV Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be hosted at Bethania on **Monday, Nov. 25 at 6pm**. A combination of sacred texts, poems, music, speakers and people from various faiths, our evening will join voices to find unity in our gratitude and shared work together.

We will be having our famous “Pie Social” afterwards, so if you can, please bring a homemade or store-bought pie to share. For any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Christmas Angels & Preschool Presents

Would you like to be an “angel” to a child in need? You can make Christmas special for a child at Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista or our Preschool this year. Any way you can help is appreciated... We have committed to adopting 50 little Angels this year so far plus some children from our own Preschool/After School program. Your help makes their holiday happier.

The **CHRISTMAS ANGEL** project helps members of Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista by providing Christmas gifts for needy children who attend the church. Iglesia is a mission partner of Bethel in Santa Maria, which serves the very poorest of the farm workers who often live in difficult circumstances. Oftentimes families share one bed or live in someone else’s garage without heat or running water. Many of the children may not have shoes, warm clothing or enough to eat. Agricultural conditions, weather and the economy directly affect these hard-working families, especially during the winter months. As we enter into the slow growing season, these families are even further behind in their ability to have enough food to eat, let alone provide Christmas gifts for their children. *(The Noisy Offering on Nov. 24 will help support the Christmas Angels/Preschool Presents gift purchases - see related article.)*

Even closer to home, the **PRESCHOOL PRESENTS** project supports local families who attend Bethania Preschool and After School program. These families are chosen by the Preschool Director. The children remain anonymous. Your donations will assist us in purchasing gifts and other necessary items for these children, whose families who require some assistance to make their child’s Christmas special. If you would like to shop for a Preschool child or make a donation to this project, you can earmark it “Preschool Presents” (funds donated go towards this project, not to the Preschool itself).

We are happy to have your Angelic assistance for any of these children. If you are interested in sponsoring a child through the Christmas Angel or the Preschool Presents Projects, donations of any amount are welcome. If you would prefer to do the shopping on your own, or make a contribution of an item on a child’s wish list, please let Linda Marzullo know. All of the children/families have specific needs and/or requests we are going to try to fulfill, based on their “wish lists”. As soon as we receive the “wish lists” we will be able to coordinate meeting the children’s needs. An email will be sent out once we have the names and our little Angels’ most desired items! Contact Linda Marzullo if you would like to be an Angel and adopt a child through fulfilling their wish list.

Email questions to Linda at vikingpressprint@verizon.net, call her work 688-5219 or contact the church office.



Bethania Spring Campout

Cachuma Lake

April 4-6, 2025

SAVE THE DATE!

Church Business

Annual Meeting, Pt. 1 - Nov. 17, 2024

The meeting will be in the Parish Hall, following the 9:30 worship service. On the agenda: the 2025 Budget, Election of Council members, Endowment Committee members, and a couple more items.

Council Meeting Highlights - Oct. 17, 2024

At the September meeting, the Council approved Donna Hinsbeek to replace Josh Bratt as a Council member for the remainder of the year. Josh is beginning an educational program in October, and his classes conflict with our meeting day and time.

The Parish Hall bathroom remodel to become wheelchair accessible is nearly finished. It also includes a changing table that can be opened out from the wall. New shelving near the hot water heater and modifications to some kitchen cabinetry will compensate for storage that we lost in the pantry due to the bathroom expansion.

Security cameras have been installed in the sanctuary, Parish Hall, Fireside Room and kitchen. With the exception of the sanctuary, they do not run during preschool hours. Security film will not be reviewed unless there is a reason to do so, and camera video film will continually be erased after two weeks.

The Council approved motions from the Endowment Committee to award \$1,000 scholarships to Livier Brown and Josh Bratt. They are both pursuing M.A.s in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University in Santa Barbara beginning in October.

The Council also approved the Endowment Committee's motion to give \$1,000 to Iglesia San Juan Bautista (formerly Iglesia Luterana San Juan Baptista) in Santa Maria. The Congregation voted last February to continue support in 2024 and to review their situation at the Congregational Meeting in November. That church has now left the ELCA and is receiving support from the North American Lutheran Church and Missouri Synod Lutheran churches on the Central Coast.

If you haven't already done so, please review the proposed 2025 budget before the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 17. You can contact Leigh Berenger, Jan Zigler or Carol Skoog before then with your questions and comments.

Jan Zigler
Council President

Financial Statement - Period Ending Sept. 30, 2024

Balance Sheet

	August 2024	September 2024	Change	Notes
Operating Acct	\$77,070	\$80,526	\$3,456	
Money Mkt Acct	\$141,296	\$141,320	\$24	
Petty Cash Acct	\$100	\$26	-\$75	
Fund Accounts	\$2,056,642	\$2,056,642	\$0	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Fixed Assets	\$1,880,047	\$1,880,047	\$0	Property & Equipment
Total Assets	\$4,155,155	\$4,158,560		

Profit & Loss

September	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$23,172	\$21,785	-\$1,387
Total Expenses	\$21,640	\$27,821	\$6,181
Net Income	\$1,532	-\$6,036	

Offerings

	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$19,908	\$17,181	\$2,727
Non-Members	\$1,097	\$818	-\$279
	\$21,005	\$17,999	

Other Donations

ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Food Distribution	\$14,240	\$12,500 Grant from SB Foundation
Heritage Fund	\$38	
Memorials	\$300	
Noisy Offering	\$294	
Produce Table	\$62	

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

In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Anabelle Dalberg, 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.

November Calendar

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

11:00 am Sunday School in the Fireside Room.

Mondays

6-10 pm Dungeons and Dragons Teen Group in the Parish Hall

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 Preschool Chapel in the Sanctuary

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

3:30 pm School Age Chapel in the Sanctuary

7:00 pm Choir Practice in the Parish Hall

Thursdays

7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Fridays

8:30 am Jim Skoog practices in the Sanctuary.

Noon - Lisa Blanton practices in the Sanctuary

Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2024

Dia de Los Muertos Altar in the Sanctuary

Sunday, Nov. 3 - All Saints Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2 am

"All Saints' Candle Lighting" during the 9:30 Service

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

Monday, Nov. 4

5:30-6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Nov. 8

9 am-noon Quilting Group in the Parish Hall

Monday, Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

The Church Office and Bethania Preschool and After School are closed.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

6:30-8:30 pm Cardmaking at Cheryl Heredia's home

Wednesday, Nov. 13

6:00-7:00 pm SYV Support Group in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Nov. 14

7:00 pm Theo Pub: Solvang Brewing Company

Sunday, Nov. 17

10:30am Annual Meeting, pt. 1 in the Parish Hall

2:00 pm SYV Wind Ensemble Concert in the Sanctuary, reception in the Parish Hall after the concert

Wednesday, Nov. 20

5:30 pm Preschool Board Meeting: Fireside Room

Thursday, Nov. 21

2 pm Book Group in the Parish Hall

7 pm Council Meeting in the Parish Hall

Friday, Nov. 22

Set-Up for Grateful Goods Sale in the Parish Hall & Fireside Room

Saturday, Nov. 23

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Grateful Goods Sale in the Parish Hall & Fireside Room

Sunday, Nov. 24

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 service

Monday, Nov. 25

6:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in the Sanctuary

Pie reception in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Nov. 28-Friday, Nov. 29

The Church Office and Preschool After School Program are closed for Thanksgiving time.

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Bethania
621 Atterdag Rd.
Solvang CA 93463



Happy
Thanksgiving