



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

May 2025

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.

Normal is Heaven

You probably would not like to be called normal. Especially in our society today, we seem to be more interested in coming off as extraordinary. We like to highlight the unique places we travel, the new clothes or cars we have, or the wonderful experiences we go through. Rarely does someone regularly share the normal, everyday things they go through day in and day out.

Concurrent to this, we've taken our faith and made it extraordinary as well. An example would be the ideas of heaven we've conjured up as a society. We think of mansions, abundance of wealth, abundance of our favorite things, extraordinary experiences, etc. I had a preschool teacher who told our preschool class that her dad's favorite thing was potato skins, and he believed everything in heaven was made of potato skins.

However, when we look at where most of the stories are centered throughout the Bible, especially the stories that are centered around the story of Jesus, there may be extraordinary moments in the works and words of Jesus and the various figures of the Bible, but they take place in the most ordinary of places. A common tribe among other common tribes, among the ordinary masses of people, dealing with the day in day out circumstances of their lives. These stories are meant to highlight the experiences of everyday people and point to the gifts that exist in these very accessible spaces.

I share this to say that we've just come out of the extraordinary time of Lent and Easter, which happen only a few weeks after the conclusion of Advent and Christmas. These are seasons of a lot of activity, especially on the church calendar. Our community in Lent and Easter have come together to make soup, salad and bread, to join in fellowship over a meal once a week, to bring our creativity together to decorate the church, to bring musical talents together to create an extraordinary service centered around the extraordinary moment of Christ's death and resurrection. There is hustle and bustle and it feels amazing.

And then the Church calendar moves into "ordinary time"—a time without a lot of church celebrations, where the stories focus on the everyday moments in Jesus and others' lives. Things kind of calm down in the liturgy and in the calendar. But it is in these ordinary spaces that people gather, maybe over dinner or BBQs, average days might turn into trips to the beach, birthday parties are celebrated by friends and loved ones, people bump into each other with smiles at grocery stores or running errands, and people continue to gather as a community at church on Sundays. The normal

may not be talked about or planned for with the same gusto as the extraordinary, but it's where life happens. These spaces may be ordinary, but if we can be present in them, they end up being heaven because they are full of the people, the love, the support, and the community that our faith so regularly points to.

As we come out of this extraordinary time of the death and resurrection of Jesus and enter back into the normalcy of our daily routines, of summer weather, of running errands and moving through the day in and day out, embrace the normal. Embrace the people you get to spend time with, the ones you bump into, the ongoing ways of sharing God's love with those who need it. Embrace what each day brings because heaven is present in each of them.

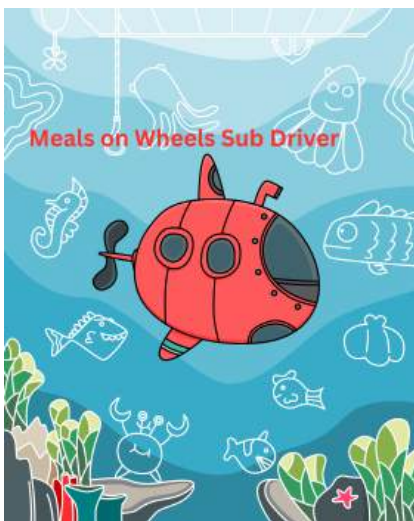
In God's Love,

Pastor Chris Brown

Confirmation Sunday

Please join us at church on May 18 as we confirm 6 young men and women who are preparing to make their statements of faith and venture into a big world with the support of their congregation! The service will take place at 9:30 and we'll have cake and coffee afterwards to celebrate!

Faith in Action



Meals on Wheels Substitute Drivers Wanted

We need some more Meals on Wheels substitute drivers. If you volunteer to be a sub, you will only drive occasionally, when one of our regular drivers is sick, on vacation or otherwise unavailable.

Please give Emmy Abello a call, 805-350-3072 and be a "sub" driver.

Brown Bag Packing - May 4

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day will be held on Sunday, May 4. Help out at the coffee hour after the 9:30 service and make a difference in local seniors' lives! Even if you just have time to pack a few bags, your help makes it possible for us to meet the monthly needs of local seniors.

These bags provide food items to seniors who need to take medication with food. Many of them cannot afford this additional cost in their budgets. They also receive a few extra items so that they have snacks if needed.

If you are able to donate any items below, please drop it by the office or deliver on packing day. 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)
- Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Plan to come and make a difference for a local senior who is struggling with food insecurity. 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

Theo Pub

Unfortunately, Solvang Brew will be closed until May 15, which is after Theo Pub. We will be skipping this month and starting up in June with "Open Topic" night. Hope to see you there!



PieceMakers

PieceMakers had a great time in April. There are 21 completed quilts and many more waiting to be tied. We had a discussion about where to send the quilts this year. Here are some options.

1. Send all quilts to LWR.
2. Send some to LWR and some to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
3. Send all quilts to LWR and a donation to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
4. Send some to LWR, some to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and donate cash from quilt sales for sheets to SIHP.

Our next quilting day is May 9. We hope to see you there.

Noisy Sunday: Let's Help Moms!



The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on May 25th. Noisy Offering donations received that day will be used to purchase diapers, diaper rash cream, powdered formula and baby food to give out at our weekly food distribution. Consider this offering another way to honor the mothers around us!

What will our donations be used towards?

Donations on Noisy Sunday will be used to purchase items to 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 \$100 to \$400 a month. Specialty formulas, such as those that contain hydrolyzed proteins, may cost even more.

We all really “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday! 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

Cemetery Workday

We will do a Memorial Day workday Saturday, May 24, 9am -12noon.

Anyone who would like to join the committee is welcome to give it that extra polish!!

Bring gloves, brooms, rakes if you can.

Hope to see you then.

Your Cemetery Committee



June 1st: Hike Against Hunger

Save the Date! Start getting your sponsors!

Our annual **Hike Against Hunger** is happening June 1st!

Hikers, walkers, bikers, runners, joggers, skaters...all are welcome. Invite friends and neighbors to participate or to sponsor you! Please consider this another opportunity to help fight local hunger, either by your personal donation or by sponsoring a Hiker, and attending the BBQ at Nojoqui Falls Parks while congratulating the walkers with your cheers!

We are asking each hiker to try to gather as many donations as possible, with a minimum donation requested of \$5.00 per hiker. Any hiker who raises over \$100 in donations will be honored with a free lunch. Sponsor sheets will be available in the narthex and the church office in on May 4th. All sponsor sheets and donations must be turned in the day of the hike.

We will be having incentive 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, which has been serving over 250 area families weekly. With cuts on the federal programming level to Food Bank, and other procurement challenges, we must purchase more food items to keep these families healthy. All our purchases are made from donated funds and grants.

Come out and enjoy walking to benefit hungry households! BBQ lunch will be available to purchase. Please watch for more info to come. (If you would like to attend but cannot afford the cost of the lunch, please contact Pastor Chris for a scholarship.)

Worship in a beautiful setting, a fantastic BBQ lunch, friendly competition, games for kids, and a great way to help fight against hunger. Invite your friends, your walking group, your service club, your teammates, co-workers, relatives...let's get a big crowd out there to celebrate a gorgeous day and a fantastic event!

If you would like to help with any area of this event (we need publicity help, set up, clean up, etc.) please contact the church office at (805) 688-4537 or Linda Marzullo at (805) 688-5219.

Events and Occasions

Coffee Hosts in May

Thanks to everyone hosting coffee time in May:

May 4 - Robert & Alice Laufer

May 11 - David & Lisa Pedersen

May 18 - Confirmation/Christian Education Committee

May 25 - Ilse Popma & Emmy Abello

Please sign up for Sundays in June on the calendar in the Parish Hall.

Storytelling at Coffee Hour

As an extension of our Lenten story telling, Bethania members are encouraged to tell their life stories on Sundays during the coffee hour from time to time. This will involve one person sharing an event from their lives during a 15 minute (approximately) session to a small group that will gather in the front of the parish hall after getting coffee. We will start May 25th with our first speaker, Jim Skoog, speaking on composing jazz.

Some suggested topics may include:

Growing up in Solvang, or wherever you are from
Changes in Bethania over the years
Interesting travel destinations
Interesting people whom you've met
Interesting time periods such as the tumultuous '60s, settlement of Solvang
Danish customs and observances
Where you went to school
Hobbies
Career highlights
Faith experiences
Pivotal experiences, good or bad
Or whatever you'd like to share.

Please contact Emmy Abello to sign up for a scheduled Sunday, along with the topic on which you are prepared to speak. abelloemily@gmail.com

This promises to be a wonderful way to get to know one another in a safe and encouraging environment. No need to be nervous as we won't be using a microphone—just visiting with friends.



BLCW invites you to

An Evening of Hygge

Saturday, May 17 from 6:30 to ?

Hosts: Carol Lake and Marilyn Larsen
886 Alisal Road, Solvang

Please bring a candle to swap and an appetizer or beverage... and a sweater! We'll be in the rose garden. Carol and Marilyn will provide dessert and wine!

RSVP and Questions: Contact Carol (805) 252-4257

A family event for all ages!



Saturday

May 3rd

9:30am-12:30pm

@ Bethania Preschool

611 Atterdag Road

Solvang

- ▲ 3 parking lots FULL of safety, construction, farming & specialty trucks
- ▲ NO horn hour from 9:30-10:30am for sensitive ears
- ▲ Helmet fittings offered with purchase of a helmet
- ▲ Concessions, Face painting, Balloon Artist, Raffle Baskets and more!
- ▲ Rain or Shine event-everything is more fun with rain boots anyway!

KIDS WILL CLIMB ON, SIT IN, EXPLORE & LEARN ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE

BIG TRUCKS AND VEHICLES!

TICKETS:

\$7.50/person

\$25/family of 5



For More Information:

SYVTouchATruck@gmail.com

To Benefit Bethania Preschool & Afterschool Programs

Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open!

Please register on Bethania's website. The registration fee will be collected the first night. For more information, please contact Cheryl Heredia (714) 450-5487 or Donna Hinsbeeck (805) 686-1671.



Bethania VBS
June 23 – June 27 Grades K – 5th
6:00 – 8:15pm
Registration: \$20
www.bethanialutheran.net

Cokesbury Kids
ROAD TRIP
ON THE GO WITH GOD

The graphic features a black and white dog wearing a red cap and a yellow scarf, sitting on a road that winds through a green landscape with a sun and trees. A green signpost above the dog contains the event details. To the right of the signpost is a smartphone displaying a map with a red location pin. Below the dog is a blue sign with the text 'Cokesbury Kids ROAD TRIP ON THE GO WITH GOD'.

Fall Family Campout

October

10-12

2025

Lopez Lake

Quail Area

**Time to Relax
and Play Together**



There's a lot to enjoy:)

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

Reservations can be made directly with the campground (<https://casanluisobispoctyweb.myvscloud.com>). There are still sites available in the Quail area, where we will be gathering. If you have any questions, please contact us. If you make a reservation, please let us know the site number. Also, let us know if you're coming for the day. That will ensure we include you in updates and we'll know to expect you at camp

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

Contacts:

Carol Skoog: 408-398-5673

Becky Sutherland: 562-505-1726

carolskoog@yahoo.com

Church Business

Council Meeting Highlights April 17, 2025

Good news—the church organ is in the process of being tuned and repaired, and the Danish Days concert will be back this year.



Many thanks are due to everyone who participated in Pastor Chris's 10th anniversary celebrations. Both the dinner on March 22 and the presentation of the gift at coffee on April 13 were well attended and joyous occasions. Thank you for making them so!

If you have any questions or concerns about the business of the congregation, please contact a council member.

Jan Zigler, President (559) 740-3676	Rikka Rasmussen, Vice-President (805) 453-8535	Carol Skoog, Treasurer (408) 398-5673
Cheryl Heredia, Secretary 714-450-5487	Karin Baty (612) 229-8172	Ingelise Pedersen (805) 688-3836
Donna Hinsbeeck (805)245-5907	Lou Fox Bender (805)245-0553	Robert Laufer 805-717-1696

Bethania's Financial Outlook - through March 31, 2025

Profit & Loss			
March	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Income	\$25,865	\$29,204	\$(3,339)
Total Expenses	32,264	30,404	1,860
Net Income	\$(6,399)	\$(1,200)	\$(5,199)
Offerings			
March	Actual	Budget	Variance
General Fund	\$19,767	\$22,083	\$ (2,316)
Non-Members	1,165	1,375	(210)
Total Offerings	\$20,932	\$23,458	\$ (2,526)

Balance Sheet			
	February 2025	March 2025	Variance
Operating Acct	\$189,032	\$64,717	\$(124,315)
Money Market Acct	141,437	141,461	24
Petty Cash Acct	26	26	-
CDs	-	142,115	142,115
Fund Accounts	2,250,128	2,250,128	-
Fixed Assets (Property/Equipment)	1,880,048	1,880,048	-
Total Assets	\$4,460,670	\$4,478,494	\$17,823

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Food Distribution	\$1,930	
Noisy Offerings	\$368	
Youth Fund	\$100	
Designated Funds (Managed by BLC)		
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Heritage Fund	\$300	

Questions? Call Carol Skoog, Treasurer (408) 398-5673

Solvang Cemetery

We want to let you know that there are only 6 full burial sites left at our Bethania Church cemetery. We also have 79 Memory Garden (cremation) plots available but the standard cremation sites have all been sold.

Please contact Kristyl in the church office and someone from the committee will contact you if you are interested in any sites.

We would really like our congregation members to have first option before selling to the community.

Betty Petersen
Cemetery Committee Chair

Our Prayers

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Kate Pearrrson, 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

May Calendar

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary/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/**3:30 pm** After School Chapel in the Sanctuary

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

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

Saturdays

Noon - Lisa Blanton practices in the Sanctuary

Continued on next page =====>

Friday, May 2

Set-up for Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, May 3

7:30 am - 2 pm Touch-A-Truck on the Entire Property

Sunday, May 4

10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing the Parish Hall

Thursday, May 8

2:00 pm-3:00 pm Committal of Vows in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 9

9:30 am - 12:15 pm "Piece Makers" Group in the Parish Hall

Saturday May 10

10:00 am VBS Volunteer Meeting in the Parish Hall

1:00 - 9:00 pm Gonzalez Luncheon in the Parish Hall

Sunday, May 11 - Mother's Day

Thursday, May 15

6:00 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, May 17

12:01 pm - 10:00 pm Private Party in the Parish Hall

6:30 pm "An Evening of Hygge" offsite

Sunday, May 18

Confirmation during the 9:30 Service

2:00-6:00 pm Song in My Heart Guitar Recital in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 21

5:30 pm BPSAS Board mtg. in the Fireside Room

Saturday, May 24

12 noon -10:00 pm Private Party in the Parish Hall

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day

The Church Office and the Preschool/After School Program are closed.

Wednesday, May 28

6:00 - 8:00 pm Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

Friday, May 30

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm Preschool End of Year Program in the Parish Hall

Friday, May 30 - Saturday, May 31

Southwest California Synod Assembly - Los Angeles Marriott Burbank

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