



## **The Beacon**

Bethania Lutheran Church  
621 Atterdag Rd  
Solvang CA 93463

**June 2025**

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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## **Pastor Chris's Message**

There was once a boy who grew up learning the value of hard work, discipline, and commitment. From a young age he helped around the house, learned about cars and handiwork from his father, and did everything he could to fix whatever would break, and mend whatever needed touching up. He never complained, as it was also instilled in him that this is what a man does for his family and his household. His father was a good teacher, and the boy learned to read the manuals and instructions of any machine he came across. By the time he was in high school, he felt like there was nothing he could not fix, nothing he could not build, as long as he maintained those values of commitment, discipline, and hard work.

It would all payoff as the grown young man would go to trade school and apprentice with a well-known contractor in town. Shortly after he would attain his general contractor's license and start his own business; one employee. It wouldn't last long as his reputation for quality, hard work and efficiency would spread, and more employees would seek to join. He would compete with the business where he apprenticed and soon surpass. Rarely was he confined to an office, but often at sites working harder than any of his employees.

In following the path of generations before him, he found love in a young woman who held the same values and both wanted the same things in life. They married young, had children soon after, and with their hard work and dedication were able to purchase a house and create a home. On the outside it appeared as many other homes, but on the inside it was marked by a deep sense of pride. Sure, there were other homes with working parents, children, a joyful dog running around and playing, but the man could look at his particular home and know that he worked hard to give it the life it had. He loved his family and instilled the same values in his children who were eager to show their parents how well they could contribute to the household. Sometimes he would look at his hands, the deep lines and calluses that gave evidence to years of hard work and dedication, and he would know that God gave him these two hands and, with pride, he used them to build a good home and life for his family. God gave him two hands and values of hard work and dedication, and just with those things, he could do anything.

As years went on and as the stages of life for him and his wife seemed consistent, the stages of life for his children changed from one to the next. They would go off to college and take the values of their family and create something for themselves. As the home's occupancy level decreased, and as the man's years increased, he still felt as though he could do anything. So he was unprepared when he started having the slightest trouble doing anything. At first it was in the strained breathing in lifting heavy objects. But then it was the difficulty in trying to hold a pencil steady. A progressive disease that would only get worse with time, the doctors told him. These two hands had built his life, and now they were failing him.

His wife and family and friends would shower him with love that his two hands had helped create, but it would never feel like enough to temper the anger and disillusionment he felt. Yet, humans are nothing if not adaptable, so the anger dissipated. However, the light in his eyes didn't seem to return. Years passed quietly and husband and wife grew accustomed to this new way of life.

One day, the now elderly husband and wife were visiting one of their kids, and the man went into the garage where his grandson was working on an old car he decided to fix up as a hobby. The grandson was hanging deep into the hood trying to tighten a bolt while holding a flashlight in his mouth. Suddenly, the light fell and clanked through the machinery along with the tiny bolt and wrench. The grandson cursed in frustration, not knowing his grandfather had come in, who announced his arrival by asking if he could help him. Knowing the legacy he came from, the grandson said, with more frustration than he meant, "No, I can do it myself." The old man recognized too much in those words. "Come sit with me for a second," the grandfather beckoned. As the two sat out front, looking at the peace of the day, the grandfather held out his callused, wrinkled hands, not just from age, but from a lifetime of stories, lessons, and values of hard work and dedication.

"All my life, I would look at these hands and feel like I could do anything. They helped me build my home and create this life. They helped me teach my kids how to work hard and create lives of their own. These hands held you, the day you were born, and even though these hands don't work like they used to, they're here to help you now. I used to think the greatest gift God gave me were these two hands, but looking back, I've realized I was surrounded by other hands—hands that helped guide me, hands that would encourage me, hands that would be soft when I would be too hard on myself, and hands that helped me, even when I refused to be helped. The greatest gift God has given me has been the hands, the hearts, the love of family and friends who have been there every step of the way. The truth is, I've never been without those steady hands, it's just taken me this long to see it. I know you can do it on your own. You get that from your dad, and he got that from me. But just because you can, doesn't mean you have to. Helping out is the way our hands say, 'I love you'."

And the man gripped his grandson's shoulder, not with the strength he had when he was young, but with all the love he acquired along the way. The two would work many nights in that garage, and of all the lessons of his family, the boy would remember this one most of all.

**In God's Love,**

**Pastor Chris Brown**

## Faith in Action

### Hike Against Hunger - June 1

A group of sturdy hikers is going to walk from Bethania to Nojoqui Falls Park on June 1. Why? To raise money for Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution. If you would like to support this endeavor, please feel free to make a donation to Bethania for the Hike.

At the park, we will enjoy a BBQ lunch prepared by Rick & Donna Ineman, and games and fun for all.

### Parlez-vous Français? Taler du Dansk? Hablas Español?

If you speak any language besides English, we have an assignment for you! You can help us during worship on **Pentecost, June 8**. If you would like to read a portion of the readings on Pentecost, please contact Kristyl Downey at the Church office, by email: [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com) or 805-688-4637. She will have the reading in your language of choice.

### Sunny Fields Farm Stand Returns June 8!

Check out the table each Sunday between services for a great array of flowers, fruits, vegetables, breads as well as other occasional surprises. Your donations help take a bite out of hunger in our area!

Take what you like and donate whatever you wish. Money donated to the Produce Table will be used to fight local hunger by supporting the Blessing Box and the Tuesday Food Distribution.

Check your garden, create in your kitchen, and ask your neighbors for items to share... and help us fight World Hunger!



We need helpers to sign up to run the stand on a Sunday. Super simple job – set up, push the produce, and count the cash when closed. Look for the sign up sheet on the 8<sup>th</sup> or contact Linda Marzullo to help: 805-451-5548 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

### Piece Makers

The Piece Makers quilting group will meet Friday, June 13 from 9:30 am - noon in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to come tie quilts.



## **Noisy Sunday is Coming: June 22nd Backpacks & Towels that will travel the world...**

What is our donated change going to change this summer? We are going to help Lutheran World Relief make the world better for others, one backpack and one personal care kit at a time!

We will be using our Noisy Offering funds to purchase items to for Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. (Assembly day will be in September).

On June 22nd, our jangling coins will be used to help purchase the most expensive parts of the kits (Backpacks and Towels). This is so that we can purchase these items in bulk to get the most items for our kits.

Send your quarters around the world in the form of a kit! All it takes is a toss into our Noisy Offering buckets during the special offering. We also ask you to consider contributing other needed items as the summer rolls along and the special sales happen. You can drop items at the church office or contact me to arrange delivery.

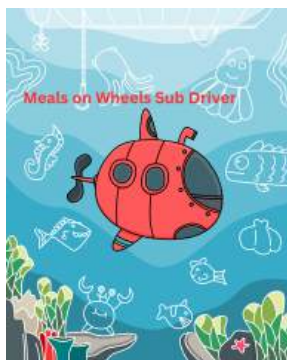
LWR kits are a meaningful way to make a difference. By joining our coins and our donations together, we can turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts. We will be helping children to attend school because of our gifts of school supplies. We will be keeping people healthy in places where there is no access to soap and toothbrushes.

These items also help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes, fires and floods. Kits are also sent to those fleeing violence, and people living in extreme poverty. Our donations, made into kits, show we care.

Together, we can “change” our world, one coin at a time, one “Kit of Care” at a time.

**– Linda Marzullo**

**688-5219 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)**



## **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.



## Cemetery Workday

We had a very successful workday at our cemetery on May 24th in preparation for Memorial Day. Congregation members & friends: Team Skoog, Raelynn Pedersen, & Don DeMeyer joined committee members -Bruce, David, Gene, Jan, Glenda & Betty in raking, sweeping, blowing, & pruning. The committee finished the day by placing flags on the sites of 85 Veterans. THANK YOU to all for the hard work!!



**Photos Provided by  
Betty Petersen**





## Events and Occasions

### Recognition Sunday June 8

Recognition Sunday is coming up and we would love to recognize you! If there is an achievement that happened this year, like graduating middle school, high school, college, graduate school, or a new job or a retirement, please let us, know. We will be honoring the achievements of our community during the 9:30 am service on Sunday June 8!

### 2025 Endowment Fund Scholarships

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 scholarship recipients. Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

- **Scarlett Zigler** – Scarlett will attend Cal State Fullerton this fall. She plans to study Business Administration and Marketing.
- **Sean Downey** – Sean is a sophomore at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.
- **Josh Bratt** – Josh is pursuing a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University in Santa Barbara.
- **Livier Brown** – Livier is working on a Master's degree in Psychology with an emphasis on marriage and family therapy at Antioch University in Santa Barbara.

### Theo Pub

Theo Pub is back and we'll be gathering for **Open Topic Night on June 12 at 7pm, at Solvang Brew.** This is your chance to bring any questions you've always wondered about the Bible, faith, theology, etc. Grab a drink and some food and meet us at the fire pit!



BLCW invites you to

### Dinner at Carol Skoog's House

Back by popular demand is Carol's  
Mexican Lasagna!

Thursday, June 12, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm

3325 Erica Place in Lompoc

Men are invited to meet at Skoogs and have  
dinner at a restaurant in Lompoc.

RSVP and Questions:

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



# Coffee Hour

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

**June 1 - Available**

**June 8** - Recognition Sunday hosted by the Christian Education Committee

**June 15 - Available**

**June 22** - Ron & Kathy Walsh

**June 29** - Allan & Lisa Laugesen

## 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.

Here are the June “storytellers” and their topics

**June 8** - Bill Zigler and his military experiences

**June 15** - Emily Abello, remembering her father

**June 22** - Lisa Blanton, singing with “Up with People”

**June 29** - Lou Fox Bender and horse stories

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** ([abelloemily@gmail.com](mailto:abelloemily@gmail.com)) to sign up for a scheduled Sunday, along with the topic on which you are prepared to speak

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.



## 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.

## Church Business

### Council Meeting Highlights

Thanks to Jim Skoog, who is our Organist and Choir Director, our pipe organ will undergo significant repairs in August. Due to a fast approval process since his presentation at the May Council meeting, the parts are on order from Germany! The project is being co-funded by the Heritage Fund and the Memorials committee. By September, Jim will be happy to be able to play any song he wants because all of the notes in the organ will work, and the organ concert is back on the schedule of events for Danish Days 2025. This is music to our ears!

**Jan Zigler**  
**Council President**

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	Ingelise Pedersen (805) 688-3836
Donna Hinsbeeck (805)245-5907	Lou Fox Bender (805)245-0553	Robert Laufer 805-717-1696



**Notes for March Financial Statement  
Period Ending 04/30/25**

<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
	<b>March 2025</b>	<b>April 2025</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Checking Account	\$ 64,717	\$ 64,462	\$ (255)	
Money Market Account	141,461	141,484	23	
Petty Cash Account	26	26	-	
CDs	142,115	142,612	497	
Fund Accounts	2,250,128	2,250,128	-	
Accounts Receivable	-	847	847	PS utilities
Fixed Assets	1,880,048	1,880,048	-	Property & equipment
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,478,494</b>	<b>\$ 4,479,607</b>	<b>\$ 1,113</b>	

<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>				
<b>April</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Total Income	\$ 25,296	\$ 29,204	\$ (3,908)	
Total Expenses	29,608	30,404	(796)	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (4,311)</b>	<b>\$ (1,200)</b>	<b>\$ (3,112)</b>	

<b>Offerings</b>				
<b>April</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
General Fund	\$ 20,906	\$ 22,083	\$ (1,177)	
Non-Members	883	1,375	(492)	
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 21,789</b>	<b>\$ 23,458</b>	<b>\$ (1,669)</b>	

<b>Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts</b>		
<b>Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)</b>		
ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Food Distribution	\$3,912	\$1,500 from Santa Ynez Valley Jewish Community
Noisy Offerings	\$189	
<b>Designated Funds (Managed by BLC)</b>		
Memorials	\$430	
<b>Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)</b>		
Endowment Fund	\$7,951	\$7,901 from the estate of Barbara Pedersen
Heritage Fund	\$1,185	Individual donors and sanctuary box (\$185)

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

# Thank You's

## From Direct Relief...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of **Direct Relief**. On behalf of all the people we collectively serve, I want to extend my deep gratitude to you (Bethania) for your generous support (our Noisy Offering of \$285.00 for Los Angeles County Fire Response).

Your involvement and participation in Direct Relief improves the health and lives of people living in the most vulnerable situations. Thanks to you and others like you, together we can ensure that critically needed medicines and resources are being delivered to the right people, in the right places, and with the right partners.

**With Gratitude,**  
**Dean Axelrod**  
**Vice President, Partnerships & Philanthropy**

## Our Prayers

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, Luis Haro, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Kate Pearson, Tom & Carolyn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Rick Shade, Judy Stamat, Hayes Robert White and those who serve our country both at home and abroad

## June Calendar

### Sundays

**9:30 am** Worship Service in the Sanctuary

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

### Mondays

**6-10 pm** Dungeons and Dragons Teen Group in the Parish Hall (will not meet the week of VBS)

**7:00 pm** AA in the Fireside Room (will not meet the week of VBS)

**Tuesdays 9:30 am, 1:45 pm, and 5:15-6:45 pm** Food Distribution Shifts (will not meet the week of VBS)

### Wednesdays

**11:30 am** Preschool/**3:30 pm** After School Chapel in the Sanctuary. Chapel ends June 4.

**5:30 pm** Yoga in the Parish Hall (will not meet the week of VBS)

**7-8 pm** Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall (will not meet the week of VBS)

### Fridays

**8:30 am** Jim Skoog practices in the Sanctuary

**Noon** - Lisa Blanton practices in the Sanctuary

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**Sunday, June 1**

**8:30 am** Hike Against Hunger starts at Bethania.

**11:30 am** Hike Against Hunger BBQ at Nojoqui Falls Park

**Saturday, June 7**

**8:30 am - 5:00 pm** Fund for Santa Barbara in the Parish Hall

**10 am - 2 pm** Holy Cross Armenian Church in the Sanctuary

**Sunday June 8 - Pentecost**

Recognition Sunday during the 9:30 service and coffee hour

**Thursday, June 12**

**7 pm** Theo Pub at Solvang Brew

**Friday, June 13**

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

**Saturday, June 14**

**11 am - 9 pm** Private Event in the Parish Hall

**Sunday June 15 - Father's Day**

**Thursday, June 19**

**6:00 pm** Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

**Friday, June 20**

**5:30 pm - 10:30 pm** Decorate Parish Hall & Fireside Room for VBS

**Saturday, June 21**

**8:00 am - 8:00 pm** Decorate Parish Hall & Fireside Room for VBS

**Sunday, June 22**

**1:00 pm** Decorate Parish Hall, Fireside Room & Sanctuary for VBS

**Monday, June 23-Friday June 27**

**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm** VBS Entire Property & Buildings

**Sunday, June 29**

**1:00 pm** Clean-Up after VBS



**The Beacon - June 2025**

**Bethania**

**621 Atterdag Rd.**

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Image by [Kanenori](#) from [Pixabay](#)