



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

July 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.

I Need Your Help!

More and more hopeful information is coming out about the future of churches and there are 2 pieces of encouragement I'd like to share with you all. The first is from a Pew Research poll that came out recently showing the hemorrhaging of church membership across the board has stopped. Church member across the denominational line has been declining for the last 20 years and it's been an extremely worrying trend, but according to Pew, the decline has finally stopped. Second, and this isn't just from Pew, but more importantly from Barna, which is a research group that focuses solely on churches, people are looking for what churches should be offering. The "should" in that sentence is important.

I've shared this before, but people, especially today, are desiring the values of Jesus. They are looking for community, belonging, and spaces where they can feel and share the love of God, especially in action towards those who are in need. They are looking for what we've been offering for decades, and I find this incredibly hopeful because at our core, this is who Bethania is.

I hope you've noticed over the last few months we've had a lot of new people coming to check out our church community. These aren't folks who simply just moved to the area and are looking for the local Lutheran Church, but people who have been here for years and have noticed our values out on display, through our gatherings and through our ministry, and have decided to check us out. However, it's sometimes daunting walking into a space with people you don't know and being part of a service you haven't experienced before. So to that end I'd really like to ask for your help.

As I said, visitors come in and they don't know anyone. But you also don't know if a visitor is there as a tourist checking out the service that day, or if they have been coming for a few weeks. It's daunting for them, but it's also daunting for you not knowing what their story is. However, I have a pretty good idea of who is coming to check us out and who is just visiting. To that end, I would like to do a better job myself, of highlighting people at the beginning of the service. We have several families that have been coming for a few weeks to a few months, and I would love to highlight them in particular, but I also would like to make this a regular part of our service.

Now this is where you all come in. When a new person or family is introduced during the service, I would love for you to just be your welcoming selves. Either during the greetings we do during the service or after the service is over, please make sure to go and say hello, welcome them to Bethania, invite them to join you for coffee, and/or introduce them to the community members you regularly interact with and help them feel right at home. If you plan on going to any of our upcoming events, like quilting, BLCW, potlucks, etc. let them know about it and invite them to come along. I know we all have our own comfort levels, so do what feels comfortable to you.

We have an amazing church with the kind of lived-out values that a lot of people are looking for, but the scariest part for a visitor is right at the beginning coming into an unfamiliar space with unfamiliar people. Receiving a warm welcome from not just the pastor, but the community is one of the best ways to help them discover all the amazing things we do. So be ready! I plan on creating more of these welcoming avenues starting in the next couple of weeks and I'm going to rely on you to just be yourself and make these new folks feel like they're already part of our community!

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

Bethania Preschool & After School News

Lola Gonzalez has resigned her position as Director of the programs effective June 5, 2025. The Summer program is going ahead as planned with Monica Dunn as interim director. The Board of the school met on June 11 and proceeded to offer the director position to Monica, pending Council approval. Monica has been with the school for 4 years, has her AA degree in Early Childhood Education plus administrative courses, and courses in working with children with special needs. Monica has shown leadership with special events and with the Preschool and Afterschool staff.

We are pleased to have such a qualified person as Director. Please stop by the preschool office to welcome Monica to her new position.



**- Kathy Walsh
BPSAS Board President**

From Monica Dunn...

Summer is in full swing here at Bethania Preschool and Afterschool, and we are loving every minute of it! The children have been busy splashing, laughing, and soaking up the sunshine during our water play days, always a favorite way to cool off and have fun.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Our days are filled with hands on learning through exploration. Whether it's discovering nature, building with new materials, or engaging in creative art and sensory activities, the children are learning and growing in joyful and meaningful ways.

It's such a delight to watch curiosity and excitement light up their faces as they explore, experiment, and play. This summer has truly been full of wonder, discovery, and lots of happy memories in the making!

- Monica Dunn
BPSAS Director

Faith in Action

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: June 29

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, June 29. 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!

If you would like to donate, these are the items we need:

- 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 vikingpressprint@verizon.net



The Farm Stand Is Open!

Visit the Produce Table on Sundays between services, from approximately 10:15-11:15 in the breezeway by the Parish Hall. Check out the table and see what is available - everything from fresh strawberries and berries, vegetables, flowers and plants, home-baked goods, special items and more. Each week there will be something new, so don't forget to stop by on your way to coffee or to the second service.

Anyone can donate to the table. "Shoppers" take what they want and donate whatever they choose. All funds raised at the Produce Table will be used to purchase food items for our Blessing Box in front of the church, and food distribution program needs.

We welcome contributions of items from all interested parties. Instead of garden or fruit tree bounty going to waste, offer to take excess produce off your neighbor's hands, and bring the items to the table!

Other ways to help:

- **Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings:** Sign up on a Sunday to help – it is easy! Bring out the bags, arrange the table, set up the signs, and count and turn the money into the church office or a council member.
- **Talk it up and shop it up!**

Our Produce Table as a source of blessings to many: those who have excess produce, those who wish to have a little garden time, and those who love access to flowers, fruit and veggies that are farm fresh. Most especially we appreciate all of our generous donors, both shoppers and growers!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, contact Linda Marzullo at vikingpressprint@verizon.net. Thank you!

Piece Makers

In June Jan Zigler and Lois De Meyer were invited to Bethany Lutheran in Lompoc to meet their quilting group. They meet every Tuesday and make quilts for several organizations. They are very generous and gave us lots of fabric that will be good for quilt tops and back. We learned a new technique they called stringing. On June 20, we added a quilting day. We tried the stringing method and it is faster. Four quilts were completed. That brings our totals to 28 completed quilts, 5 quilts waiting for binding and 21 tops and backs waiting to be tied. We really hope to reach our goal of 50 quilts this year.

In July we will be meeting July 11, 18 and/or 25. Let us know if you will be able to join us so we have enough tables set up.

Noisy Sunday, July 27th: Items for Kits

The next “Noisy Sunday” is coming on July 27th. Our “joyful noise” will be helping to send a child to school. In many countries, the family must provide all the items needed to attend school: paper, ruler, pencils, pens, etc.

It is incredible to think about how we can change someone’s life by providing pens, pencils and paper. Or, how we can help someone keep healthy by providing a bar of soap and a towel. These are small things that add up to a much larger picture. When we collect the items for completing our Day of Service kits, each kit we complete helps someone who is struggling with their daily challenges.

We have started collecting the items below, and will purchase more items from any “Noisy Sunday” or designated donations we receive. If you would like to donate items, you may purchase them and drop them in the narthex, deliver to church office, or contact Linda Marzullo for pick up (805-688-5219, vikingpressprint@verizon.net).

The completed kits will be distributed globally by Lutheran World Relief to areas most in need. This also includes areas of the U.S. (We will be packing them on our Day of Service Event in September. Watch for more info.)

Items needed are:

For Personal Care Kits:

1. Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20”x40” & 27”x52”), dark colors preferred
2. Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)
3. Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging – bulk buys can be repackaged by us)
4. Comb, sturdy wide toothed
5. Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

For School Supply Kits:

1. 70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
2. Rulers with centimeters and inches
3. Pencil sharpeners
4. Blunt tip scissors
5. #2 Pencils – NOT SHARPENED please!
6. Ballpoint (not gel) Pens, Black or Blue ink
7. 2-1/2" Erasers
8. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

"Make change for the better" on Noisy Sunday! Send in your donated items, check, coins or cash and make a joyful noise as we work together. Because together, we can CHANGE our world!

– **Linda Marzullo, Chair**
Social Ministry Committee



Hike Against Hunger a Success!

Our annual **Hike Against Hunger** was a great day, filled with sunshine and fun. Thanks to all who walked and biked and attended the BBQ at Nojoqui Falls Park. A huge thank you to the fantastic chefs for that meal, Donna and Rick Ineman, who served up plenty of food for us all.

We raised \$8,705. 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, so a fund raiser like this really helps us out with what we need to buy.

Thank you all!
Linda Marzullo

Food Distribution and Blessing Box

With the Food Distribution closed for a week at the end of June due to VBS, our volunteers are getting a much-needed break. Numbers for food assistance are over 250 households weekly. Our volunteers work hard, packing food and getting it out to people in need. We purchase items every week since Food Bank is only giving us USDA once a month. So, we are spending more money and feeding more people with less help from the Food Bank.

The Blessing Box always needs items – but right now, consider donating items that do not have to be cooked on a stove or can be heated easily in a microwave. Or, donate some items for our pantry so we have things available when the need comes up. Someone out there can use a “blessing” from Bethania – and we never know who will need help.

Bethania continues operating as a Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. We will be back to work on July 1st. 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 three shifts, with the morning crew coming in at 9:00 to pack bags, unloaders and produce packers around 1:15 – and USDA packers on the last week of the month. Distribution helpers come around 4:45 for the evening distribution. Clean up helpers are always welcome at the end of the night.

We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission, which is making a difference in so many lives here in our area.

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

Events and Occasions

Theo Pub

Theo Pub is back and we'll be gathering for Open Topic Night on July 10 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!



Coffee Hour

Please sign up for Sunday, July 27 on the calendar in the Parish Hall.

July 6 - Jan Zigler

July 13 - Betty Petersen

July 20 - David & Lisa Pedersen

July 27 - Available

<p>You are invited!</p> <p>It's Bunco time again! Everyone is a winner— \$5 gets you FUN FELLOWSHIP DESSERT Come and bring a friend.</p>	 <p>Friday, July 18 6:30 to 8:30 pm Terry Billings' house 597 Valley Oak Road Solvang RSVP: call or text Terry At (805) 895-2522</p> <p><small>Bethania Lutheran Church Women</small></p>
---	---

Theaterfest “Something is Rotten”

Let's go to a Theaterfest play again this summer. Twenty tickets have been ordered for the musical play, “Something is Rotten” (**performance Aug. 20**) which is about a group trying to outshine Shakespeare. The cost is \$33 and must be paid by Aug. 3. Emmy Abello will be collecting checks made out to PCPA after church services on July 20, 27 and Aug. 3 if you wish to go. Call Emmy to reserve tickets at 805-350-3072.

Church Business

Council Meeting Highlights

At the June Council meeting, it was noted that outside parties renting the Parish Hall have consistently not been following the rules of the rental agreement and have caused damage to our premises. For this reason, we will no longer be renting out the Parish Hall to outside parties. The Hall is still available for rental to church members, of course.

Because the stage curtain is likely to be used much less than before, the Council decided not to spend the \$13,000 required to replace it. A better use of that money, it seems to us, is to put it toward dual paned windows in the Fireside Room, the Parish Hall, and the kitchen. We are looking into the cost of that improvement.

The parts for the repair of the pipe organ are on their way from Germany, and the repairs are still scheduled to take place in August.

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

Bethania Lutheran Church
Notes for May Financial Statement
Period Ending 05/31/25

Balance Sheet				
	April 2025	May 2025	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 64,462	\$ 62,804	\$ (1,658)	
Money Market Account	141,484	141,507	23	
Petty Cash Account	26	26	-	
CDs	142,612	143,095	483	
Fund Accounts	2,250,128	2,250,128	-	
Fixed Assets	1,880,048	1,880,048	-	
Total Assets	\$ 4,478,759	\$ 4,477,608	\$ (1,151)	

Profit & Loss				
May	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 26,075	\$ 29,204	\$ (3,130)	
Total Expenses	28,385	30,404	(2,019)	
Net Income	\$ (2,310)	\$ (1,200)	\$ (1,110)	

Offerings				
May	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 20,256	\$ 22,083	\$ (1,827)	
Non-Members	614	1,375	(761)	
Total Offerings	\$ 20,870	\$ 23,458	\$ (2,588)	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Food Distribution	\$38,875	\$35,000 Bean Family Trust, \$1,000 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Illinois), \$2,875 individual donors
Noisy Offerings	\$323	
Youth Fund	\$40	
Capital Improvements	\$10,000	Individual donor
Designated Funds (Managed by BLC)		
Memorials	\$20	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$150	
Heritage Fund	\$393	

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

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

July Calendar

- Sundays** **9:30 am** Worship Service in the Sanctuary
 Farm Stand in the Breezeway
 11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary
- Mondays** **6-10 pm** Dungeons and Dragons Teen Group in the Parish Hall
 7 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
- 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
 1:00 pm Praise Band practices in the Sanctuary
- Wednesday, July 2** **6-8 pm** Youth Connect in the Fireside Room
- Friday, July 4** The Church Office and BPSAS are closed.
- Thursday, July 10** **7 pm** Theo Pub at Solvang Brew
- Friday, July 11** **9:00 am - 12:15 pm** "Piece Makers" Group in the Parish Hall
- Wednesday, July 12** **5:30 pm** Preschool Board in the Fireside Room
- Saturday, July 12** Private Event - Fireside Room, Parish Hall and Playground
- Thursday, July 17** **6:00 pm** Council Meeting in the Fireside Room
- Friday, July 18** **9:00 am - 12:15 pm** "Piece Makers" Group in the Parish Hall
- Saturday, July 19** **10 am** Private Event in the Fireside Room
- Wednesday, July 23** **6-8 pm** Youth Connect in the Fireside Room
- Friday, July 25** **9:00 am - 12:15 pm** "Piece Makers" Group in the Parish Hall
- Sunday, July 27** Noisy Offering

The Beacon - July 2025

Bethania

621 Atterdag Rd.

Solvang CA 93463

