



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

August 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.

Save the Date—Kick-Off Sunday

Dear Siblings in Christ!

I want you to put a date on your calendar that I'm super excited for! This will be Bethania's first "Kick-Off Sunday", where we kick off our program year, which runs September to June. Kick-Off Sunday will be Sept. 7 and it will begin with our 9:30 worship service and will highlight Bethania's Worship Band, a fun Children's Lesson, a (hopefully) meaningful sermon, and of course, our community! Then it will culminate in our annual End-of-Summer BBQ, with burgers, hot dogs, drinks, and plenty of fun games for adults and kids!

We are a busy church with a lot of amazing ministries that happen throughout the year, and Kick-Off Sunday is our way of inviting everyone back after summer travel and rest and highlight what's coming up. We have our bi-annual camping trip, youth group, Sunday School, Blessing of the quilts, fall potlucks, and so much more to be excited about, so make sure to put the date on your calendar, and please, invite anyone to church, the BBQ or both! There will be more information to come about ways to help, but for now, we look forward to seeing you!

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

Bethania Preschool & After School News

As our summer fun has begun to wind down, we look back on the moments filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. From water play and creative art projects to popsicles on warm afternoons and many classroom celebrations; this summer has been full of learning through play and meaningful connections.

Miss Nicole's Class splashed their summer away in puddles pretending to be sharks. Miss Leslie's Class stomped around the play yard as dinosaurs. Miss Christina's Class is diving deep in ocean exploration, and Miss Angie's Class is enjoying all things summer, ocean, ice cream, beach, and fun!

The After School Program has had a memorable summer exploring with water, going on field trips, making arts and crafts, and playing endless games.

Our new school year starts for both the preschool and after school program Thursday, August 14th.

Our meet and greet is Wednesday, Aug. 13th from 9:00-11:00 where the families and children can come meet their teachers and tour the classrooms and the facilities. We are looking forward to an amazing new school year with returning and new staff, if you are around the campus, please stop by and say hi!

All staff meet or exceed state licensing requirements for education. Below is a list of the staff for this year at the preschool & after school:

Teachers: Nicole, Leslie, Karina, Christina, Angie, Rowena, Angelica, Elise

Teachers Aides: Xochitl, Mia, Debbie, Dianna, Emily, Linda

Office Staff: Katy

Director: Monica

Thank you for keeping Preschool and After School Programs in your prayers. I am happy that we are able to provide care for the many families who are in need of child care.

**With Warm Gratitude,
Monica Dunn
Director**

Looking for Sunday School Teachers

We are looking for Sunday School teachers to help every Sunday at 11am. Right now we have about 5 teachers who do a phenomenal job, and I wanted to see if there were others in the congregation who feel called to help teach. We have a simple, dynamic, and fun curriculum that's easy to teach and it means the world to the kids to learn about God's love in interactive ways. Teachers would only be responsible for teaching about every 5 or 6 weeks, so it is not a big time commitment, but it's a great service for our youth. If you would like to be a Sunday School teacher this program year, please let Pastor Chris know.

The Farm Stand / Produce Table Is Growing

Visit the Produce Table on Sundays between services, from approximately 10:30-11:15 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 Unorthodox.

Anyone can donate to the table. "Shoppers" take what you want and donate whatever amount you choose. All funds raised at the Produce Table will be used to keep our Blessing Box in front of the church stocked, and to help with food distribution program needs.



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!

A big thank you to Jan Zigler and Lois De Meyer for offering to run the stand – you are appreciated for helping out! If you have any questions or would like to sign up, contact Linda Marzullo at vikingpressprint@verizon.net.

Piece Makers

The Piece Makers were busy in July meeting on three Fridays. We now have 38 quilts finished. Our community is very generous and we were blessed with 2 donations of large pieces of fabric, probably enough for 5 quilt backs. This month there are two opportunities to help, 9-12 Aug. 8 and Aug. 22. Remember, if you can tie a knot you can tie a quilt.

Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: Aug. 24

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 24th. 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 pack are delivered to the Buellton Senior Center, who then deliver them to needy seniors in our area.

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

Noisy Sunday is Coming: Aug. 24th School Kits and Personal Care Kits 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 school kit and one personal care kit at a time!

We will be using our Noisy Offering donations towards the purchase of the last minute needed items to make up Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. **(Assembly day will be Day of Service, now scheduled for Sept. 14th).**

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 (*See related article*) as the summer rolls along and the special “Back to School” 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 in extraordinary gifts. We will be helping children to attend school through 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 to escape 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

vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Personal Care & School Supply Kit Items Needed!

We will be collecting items this summer for the "DAY OF SERVICE" on Sept. 14th when we assemble Personal Care Kits and School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

You can help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations –the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence, and living in extreme poverty. When LWR distributes **Personal Care Kits**, it's often to people who have lost everything. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and refugee camps are typical distribution areas for these kits. Around the world people suffer each day because of lack of basic hygiene. In refugee camps, after natural disasters, and in the world's poorest communities, a few simple items can mean the difference between sickness and health, and life and death.

Why school supplies? Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. To the children who receive **School Kits**, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Here are the items we are collecting. Watch for sales this summer!

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. Pencil sharpeners – ***We have enough, thank you!***
2. Blunt tip scissors ***We have enough, thank you!***
3. Notebooks—***We have enough, thank you!***
4. #2 Pencils - unsharpened
5. Blue or Black ink pens – no gel pens, please
6. Rulers (plastic or wood, no metal edge) with inches and centimeters
7. 2-1/2" Erasers – ***We have enough, thank you!***
8. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)— ***We have enough, thank you!***
9. Small Rubber Bands to band up bundles of pens and pencils

Bring your items to the donation box in the church or to the church office.

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Events and Occasions

Coffee Hour

Thanks to everyone hosting coffee in August:

Aug. 3 - Glenda Madrid

Aug. 10 - Livier & Chris Brown in celebration of their 13th wedding anniversary

Aug. 17 - Available

Aug. 24 - Available

Aug. 31 - The Ziglers

Also at coffee hour on the 1st Sunday of the month, we will enjoy Storytelling. On Aug. 3, Robert Laufer talking about his participation in the Society of Creative Anachronism.

Theo Pub

Theo Pub is back and we'll be gathering for Open Topic Night on Aug. 14 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 visit



Saturday, August 16 at 11:00 am

Buy your ticket online in advance to be sure you can get in—\$12 or \$15.*
For help with buying your ticket online, contact Elizabeth Breen: (805) 350-1182.

Bring your brown bag lunch to eat in the shaded garden there after the tour.

The visit will take about 90 minutes, and parking at the museum is free. Need a ride? Call Jan Zigler (559) 740-3676.

* Age 65 + is \$12. Under age 65 is \$15.

Church Business



July Council Meeting Highlights

Hospitality is a current theme with the Council. How do we want members, prospective members, and visitors to feel when they come on our campus?

A number of current projects will make the answer to that question a positive one, we hope.

1. Changes in the church foyer and restrooms should happen soon.
2. Dual paned windows will be installed in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room and kitchen the first week of August. We thank the Endowment Fund and the Abellos for that gift, which will help keep the spaces cool in summer and warm in winter.
3. A large stainless-steel sink will be installed outside the kitchen next to the barbecue to allow the washing of large items more easily and to provide more work space for the barbecue.
4. Some smaller aesthetic improvements to the Parish Hall are in the works.

Sincerely,

**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 June Financial Statement
Period Ending 06/30/25

Balance Sheet				
	May 2025	June	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 62,804	\$ 57,629	\$ (5,176)	
Money Market Account	141,507	141,531	24	
Petty Cash Account	26	-	(26)	Petty cash closed out
CDs	143,095	143,596	501	
Fund Accounts	2,250,128	2,250,128	-	
Accounts Receivable	-	5,241	5,241	Preschool reimbursements
Fixed Assets	1,880,048	1,880,048	-	
Total Assets	\$ 4,477,608	\$ 4,478,173	\$ 565	

Profit & Loss				
June	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 29,500	\$ 29,204	\$ 296	
Total Expenses	33,368	30,404	2,964	
Net Income	\$ (3,868)	\$ (1,200)	\$ (2,668)	

Offerings				
June	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 18,466	\$ 22,083	\$ (3,617)	
Non-Members	738	1,375	(637)	
Total Offerings	\$ 19,204	\$ 23,458	\$ (4,254)	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$15	
Food Distribution	\$4,670	\$500 Los Olivos Rotary Club, \$4,170 individuals
Hike Against Hunger (June)	\$8,705	
Noisy Offerings	\$90	
Produce Table (June - Nov)	\$300	
Youth Fund	\$755	VBS
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Heritage Fund	\$287	

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

Next Social Ministry Meeting – Aug. 6th at 6 pm

The next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, August 6th at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room.** This meeting is open to all interested persons. The main topics for discussion will be:

- Discussion on what type of project for Christmas giving will be chosen now after deciding not to support Iglesia Luterana
- Details on Day of Service (Sept. 14) set up and packing
- Updates on Blessing Box, Food Distribution, Brown Bag Breakfasts

We need church members to help us shape the direction of our ministries! Please consider joining us to help shape our future plans, either by attending this meeting or joining the committee. 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 vikingspressprint@verizon.net

Thank You – *Mange Tak!*

BIG “Thank You’s” to:

- **Monica Dunn and the Preschool Staff** – for working so hard and making the transition seem easy. We appreciate you all.
- **Los Olivos Rotary Club**, for donating \$1500.00 for Food Distribution needs. The little club that CAN and DOES.
- **Dedicated Blessing Box Donors and Stockers** – We receive anonymous donations of box items regularly from several donors, so grateful! And special thanks to our regular box stockers: Elizabeth Breen, Bill and Jan Zigler, Donna and Marcel Hinsbeeck, Linda and Rick Marzullo, Denise Morris, and all of you other helpers.
- **Josh Bratt, Kief Adler, Bill Zigler, Frank Moore, Robert Laufer, Ed Skytt, Thorn Kinersly, Joanne Chavez, Laura Barnes, Lisa Pedersen, Rob Burchfield, Carolyn Schuit, Denise Morris, Carol Skoog, Gus and Cheryl Heredia, Emmy Abello, Lou Fox Bender, Anna Cook, Jasmine Day, Elizabeth Quick, Jody Schoen, Pam Libera, Maria Bricero, Madeline Alvarado, and so many more** - for being dedicated to showing up regularly on Tuesdays – setting up, moving pallets of food, packing bags of food and produce, delivering, distributing at night, cleaning up, etc. etc. Thank you! And thanks to everyone for grocery bags.
- **Donna and Marcel Hinsbeeck**, for the generous donation of their time and skills...and so much church support every single day. Wow!
- **The Prayer Chain**, for actively praying for those who need prayers from our loving “chain”. (If you want to join, contact Kristyl at the church office – you will feel the difference around you!)
- **Coffee Hosts**, who donate their time and goodies so we are encouraged to talk after worship service and build our community.
- **Our Church Council**, who help make decisions that keep the church going.
- **Volunteers** – who are the glue that keeps everything together. We LOVE Volunteers!

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

August 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

Friday, Aug. 1

7 am - 10 pm Private Event in the Parish Hall

Saturday, Aug. 2

All Day Meeting of the Fund for Santa Barbara in the Fireside Room and Parish Hall

Monday, Aug. 4-Aug. 13

Bethania Preschool and After School is Closed

Wednesday, Aug. 6

6 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Aug. 8

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

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Wednesday, Aug. 13

9-11 am Bethania Preschool "Meet and Greet" in the Classrooms, Fireside Room and Playground

7 pm Travel Document Meeting in the Fireside Room

7 pm Danish Sisterhood Meeting in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Aug. 14

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brew

Saturday, Aug. 16

11 am BLCW Visit to Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center

1 - 4 pm Santa Barbara CAN Meeting in the Fireside Room

Wednesday, Aug. 20

5:30 pm Preschool Board in the Fireside Room

Bethania Night at Theaterfest

Thursday, Aug. 21

6 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Aug. 22

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

Sunday, Aug. 24

Noisy Offering

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

Monday, Aug. 25-Friday, Aug. 29

8 am - 5 pm Organ Work in the Sanctuary



**Stronger Together
with Love**

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**Enjoy August
Summer Days**

Image by [Teuvo Uusitalo](#) from [Pixabay](#)