



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

November 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.

Why Do We Wait?

Lately, I've been ruminating about several different feelings that keep being affirmed. As I navigate my own anxious feelings about how fast life moves, how quickly the girls are growing, the deep polarization we're experiencing in society, the heightened levels at which people are looking at screens and being informed by social media, the changing landscape of the Church in general and how that affects Bethania in particular, I keep coming back to three calls on my life: 1) the physical communities I get to be part of, 2) the calm, simple requirements it takes to be part of these communities, and 3) making the commitment to invest in the time and energy to meet these requirements are the constant balm in this fast-paced, technologically driven world.

I'm sure this might invoke some eye-rolls (I know when people younger than me complain about stuff I've already been through, my immediate response is to roll my eyes and say, "Just wait"), but life moves too fast and the temptation to be distracted from the life in front of me seems to be getting more efficient. Digital worlds are becoming so compelling and intentionally fast-paced, and the mundane, routine moments of life are becoming easier to escape. I don't have to just sit in a waiting room, watch commercials or ads, sit uncomfortably with writer's block, etc. I can just whip at my phone and escape.

However, amid all this chaos, there have been several experiences that don't tolerate escape. I've done a lot of funerals in the last 8 weeks. I've sat with people in their last moments and families during their grief, I've listened to stories of their loved ones and watched the impossible mixture of laughter and tears only grief can bring on. There are no distractions in these moments, no method of moving through them in a fast-paced way, just the raw experience of time, quietness, heartache, and love. No matter how engaged any of us are with technology, no matter how tempted we can be to escape from the mundane and the routine, we will all have these moments where we have to be present. And in those moments, the walls come down, love and gratitude come pouring out, and all the stuff we were afraid to say suddenly doesn't carry the weight of our fear. I feel called to these spaces because they get to the essence of what it is to be human, and they remind me that what makes us feel the most worthwhile and fulfilled and loved are in these spaces.

What strikes me is always the question, "Why do we wait?" Why do we wait for the last moments for the walls come down and the fear to dissipate? Why do we wait for time to be so short, when time is truly such a gift we take for granted? The world vies for our attention and it's getting

better. Screens, social media, AI, pocket computers, substances, accessibility, it's all getting more efficient and it vies for our attention and our resources.

But around all of us are the physical communities we get to be a part of and the simple requirements it takes to be a part of them. As we enter this season of remembering the Saints, of gratitude, of welcoming Christ among us, I feel more and more called to the simple things around me I already have access to: my community, my friends, my wife, my children, and this calling of God to just be present in them. Outwardly it might seem mundane or slow-paced, but I've found when I sit with people in their last moments and with their loved ones and we share stories of their life and what we'll remember and cherish, they are all centered in these spaces. And we don't have to wait until those spaces are in our rearview mirror, we don't have to wait until it's too late to be with the people we love, to share the gratitude and love in our heart, or to feel the worthwhile joy that comes from love and gratitude expressed to us. We don't have to wait. It's around us and it's abundant.

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

Bethania Preschool & After School News

The school year is off to a wonderful start! Our classrooms are buzzing with learning and laughter.

- **Miss Nicole's class** is enjoying hands-on experiences through play.
- **Miss Leslie & Miss Karina's** class is on a spooky October adventure exploring friendly monsters.
- **Miss Christina's class** is discovering opposite; tall and short, big, and small.
- **Miss Angie's class** is learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin.

Our school age children have been busy with arts & crafts, group games, and outdoor fun while gearing up for Halloween festivities.

We recently enjoyed a school wide field trip to the Solvang Farmer, where the children explored the corn maze and picked their own pumpkins!

In the coming months, we look forward to trick-or-treating at Atterdag Village, celebrating our Thanksgiving feasts, and entering the joy of the Christmas season.

Thank you for your continued prayers, love, and support, we are so grateful for our church family!

**With love,
Monica
Director**

Serving at Bethania and in the Community

Piece Makers

The Piecemakers finished up their quilting year with 52 quilts on display at the Quilt Blessing October 19. Three quilts were sold to help pay for the cost of materials and shipping. The next day the rest were sorted and boxed up for delivery to Lutheran World Relief and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace has a chapter in Lompoc. They build beds for children who don't have one. There is a Bed Build Nov. 8 in Santa Maria. You can register to attend by using the QR code to the right.



We did not rest on our success but continued tying on Friday getting 3 more ready.

We had more women than ever making quilt tops this past year. We have over 20 quilts ready and waiting to be tied. Our next meetings are **Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.**



Noisy Sunday: Calling all Angels! 2025 Christmas Gifting Opportunity

Would you like to be an "angel" to a local family in need? Dust off your angel wings and consider donating some funds or gift cards to help a local family ease the financial strain of the Christmas holiday season. Our goal at the Tuesday Food Distribution this year is to try to give each household a \$25 gift card to help them out with expenses. You can donate to the Noisy Offering, or purchase your own gift cards and deliver them to the Church Office before Dec. 12th.

Please make each gift card the same amount (\$25), but you can choose where you would like to help out. Here are some ideas: Albertson's, CVS, Valley Hardware, Harrisons Hardware, Valley Fresh, El Rancho, Subway, Gas Station cards, McDonald's, local restaurants, Walmart, Amazon...or anywhere where you think a household could use some help.

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

Events and Occasions

Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2:00 am.

Turn your clocks back 1 hour at bedtime. Enjoy a good night's sleep before worship at 9:30.

All Saints' Sunday - Nov. 2, 2025

All Saints Sunday approaches and is one of our most meaningful services as we gather to light candles for our loved ones who've passed away over the last year. We have a working list already, but as always, we want to extend an email out to see if anyone would like to light a candle for a loved one who has passed away over the last year. Please reach out to the church office by email or phone.

bethanialutheranch@gmail.com

(805) 688-4637

Brown Bag Breakfast Packing

Brown Bag Breakfast Packing will be Sunday, Nov. 2 in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 service. We can use: Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins), Soft Granola/Cereal Bars and soft Protein Bars, Protein Oatmeal Packets, small Cereal Boxes or Cups, Fruit Cups or Applesauce, Pudding (non-refrigerated), and Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices.

Thanksgiving Potluck - Nov. 9, 2025



Our Thanksgiving Potluck is set for Sunday, Nov. 9th. Doors open: 5:30 pm. Dinner served at 6pm. We'll play bingo after dinner. There is no cost. Sign-up on Sundays in the Parish Hall and by contacting the Church Office.

When you sign-up, be sure to indicate how many will be attending. We want to have enough seating (and food) prepared.

Theo Pub



Theo Pub is back and we'll be gathering on Nov. 13 at 7 pm, at Solvang Brew. You do not need to have an extensive knowledge of the Bible or Theology, just an open heart and an appetite. Grab a drink and some food and meet us at the fire pit!



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!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2025

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!**

Can you volunteer? Make baked goods? Are you an arts or crafts vendor? Contact Linda Marzullo at vikingsprint@verizon.net or 805-688-5219.

SYV Interfaith Thanksgiving

The SYV Interfaith thanksgiving will be at Bethania this year and voices from different faiths and backgrounds will come together in shared gratitude for our connection and our shared lives. The service will be Nov. 24 at 6 pm with our famous Pie Social afterwards! If you can provide a homemade or store-bought pie, please drop them off in the kitchen before the service.



**SYV Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service**

Bethania Church, November 24, 6pm
603 Atterdag Rd. Solvang

Diverse voices and faith traditions gather in
unity to express shared gratitude and support.

Coffee Hour

Thanks to everyone for hosting coffee hour in November. There are still two dates available to host.

Nov. 2 - Jessi Smith
Nov. 9 - Anne Twigg
Nov. 16 - Glenda Madrid
Nov. 23 - Available
Nov. 30 - Available

Also, on Nov. 9, Lois De Meyer will tell her story, "My Cancer Journey."

Church Business

In October, we finished the arduous task of updating our financial and accounting procedures in preparation for a long-overdue internal audit in 2026. We haven't had any money-handling issues, but it's a good idea for organizations to do this every few years. Many thanks to Carol Skoog, Treasurer, for spearheading this process and for Kristyl, our Office Administrator, for having the answers to so many questions.

The proposed budget for 2026 has been mailed out (copies are available in the Church Office). I am confident that this budget is the best we can make it based on year-to-date expenses and predicted expenses for next year. But who knows? Maybe you have a fresh suggestion. With suggestions and questions, please contact Carol Skoog (408)398-5673 BEFORE the congregational meeting on Nov. 23.

We're in the midst of a stewardship campaign, and an opportunity for you to tell us about your time and talents will follow next. Please take the time to fill out the Time and Talents survey when it comes out. We need you!

Please contact any of our Council members if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

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	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736
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 09/30/25

Balance Sheet				
	August 2025	September 2025	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 50,828	\$ 47,414	\$ (3,414)	
Money Market Account	141,578	141,603	25	
CDs	144,586	145,092	506	
Fund Accounts	2,250,128	2,250,128	-	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	
Fixed Assets	1,880,048	1,880,048	-	Property & Equipment
Total Assets	\$ 4,467,168	\$ 4,464,284	\$ (2,883)	

Profit & Loss				
September	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 22,954	\$ 29,204	\$ (6,250)	
Total Expenses	30,954	30,404	550	
Net Income	\$ (8,001)	\$ (1,200)	\$ (6,801)	

Offerings				
September	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 17,766	\$ 22,083	\$ (4,317)	
Non-Members	808	1,375	(567)	
Total Offerings	\$ 18,574	\$ 23,458	\$ (4,884)	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Food Distribution	\$17,934	\$12,500 Santa Barbara Foundation, \$3,025 individual donors, \$2,409 CD interest (April-September)
Brown Bag Breakfast	\$210	CD interest (April-September)
Noisy Offerings	\$40	
Produce Table (June - Nov)	\$232	
Youth Fund	\$168	CD interest (April-September)
Member Outreach	\$250	
Preschool/Child Care Gifts	\$20	
Designated Funds (Managed by BLC)		
Farstrup Mortensen	\$191	CD interest (April-September)
Memorials	\$1,000	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Heritage Fund	\$93	

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

Our Prayers

Carol Aides, Andy Blanton, Sheldon & Pat Green, John Groh, 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

The Family and loved ones of Karen Johnson. Karen passed away Oct. 8, 2025. Her service was held Oct. 30 at Bethania.

November Calendar

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Sunday School 9:30 am (Rm 1) & **11:00 am** (Fireside Room)
11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary
5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room (twice monthly)

Mondays

5:30 - 7 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

9 am - 10:30 am Praise Band Practice in the Sanctuary
11:30 am Preschool Chapel in the Sanctuary
2:30 pm School Age Chapel in the Sanctuary
5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall
7 pm Choir Practice in the Parish Hall

Thursdays

5:15-6:15 pm Contemplative Prayer in the Sanctuary
7-8 pm Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall

Fridays

9 am Jim Skoog practices in the Sanctuary
Noon - Lisa Blanton practices in the Sanctuary

Saturday, Nov. 1

10am - 5 pm Private Event in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room, Kitchen, Playground

Sunday, Nov. 2 - All Saints' Sunday

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am.

9:30 am - All Saints' Candle Lighting during the 9:30 Service

10:45 am - 1:00 pm Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

1:30 pm Private Party in the Parish Hall/Playground

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Wednesday, Nov. 5

5:30 - 8:30 pm Open Door Support Class in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Nov. 9

Last Day of Farm Stand

5:30 pm Doors Open for Thanksgiving Potluck in the Parish Hall

6:00 pm Dinner is Served.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day

The Church Office and Bethania Preschool and After School will be closed.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

6 pm Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Nov. 13

7 - 8:30 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Co.

Friday, Nov. 14

9 am Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Nov. 16

2 pm SYV Wind Ensemble in the Sanctuary, reception in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Nov. 20

6 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Nov. 21

6 - 10 pm Set-Up for Grateful Goods Arts & Crafts Sale in the Parish Hall and Fireside Room

Saturday, Nov. 22

10 am - 3 pm Grateful Goods Arts & Crafts Sale in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room and Courtyard

Sunday, Nov. 23

Noisy Offering during the 9:30 Service

11 am Annual Meeting, pt. 1 in the Parish Hall

Monday, Nov. 24

6 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in the Sanctuary followed by Pie Reception in the Parish Hall

Thursday Nov. 27 Thanksgiving - Friday, Nov. 28

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

Sunday, Nov. 30 - First Sunday in Advent

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November at Bethania

All Saints' Sunday
Thanksgiving Potluck
Grateful Goods
Arts & Crafts Sale
Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service