



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

October 2025

805-688-4637
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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.

A Small But Mighty Church...

I've been the pastor at Bethania for 10 years now and we're going to do something this year that happens at many churches but hasn't happened in my time here: we're going to have a stewardship campaign. We have a lot of folks who've joined Bethania in the last few years, and a stewardship campaign is simply a reminder of the financial side of our church. So whether you're a regular attendee or haven't been in a while or only watch online, I would ask that you please read through this article to the end and please search your heart.

First and foremost, I would ask that people always remember, giving should be done with a cheerful heart. At no point in time should shame or guilt be a part of why anyone gives, but rather joy, hope, and community. As Paul says in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." My hope always is that Bethania instills within each of us a desire to give.

Bethania is a small, but mighty church, which is quite evident from all the community activities we have here throughout the year. However, unlike most non-profits, Bethania relies entirely on the giving of its community members, and every donation, from small to large, means a lot. These donations cover the cost of basics such as our utilities and salaries, but they also make up the foundation upon which all our church activities can happen. My ultimate hope is that you experience the joy of those activities and find them a worthy reason for which to give.

I would like to share it plainly for us all to see how much any help matters. At Bethania we have 304 unique givers. This could be an individual or an entire household. Of those 304 givers, 197 give less than \$100 a year, and 20 give less than \$199 a year. Let me be clear, no one should feel guilty about what they can give, but my hope is that those who are able, might consider increasing what they give to Bethania. Even if a small percentage of those 217 givers were able to give a little more, it would be a huge help to our small church. It would enable us to think less about how we're going to pay the bills and more about how we can be creative with our ministries.

There used to be a time where people just went to church on Sunday. Additionally, giving to church was not just a regular activity, but an oft discussed activity. Churches talked about tithing and stewardship and giving as a first-fruit of income. Today, churches have to be creatively engaging in

how they invite people to participate, and it is no longer a given that folks just come to church on Sunday because it's the routine. We've been doing a really good job of this at Bethania and I'm so grateful for our church growth. I also absolutely hate talking about money. Because of that, I'm sure there are plenty of missed opportunities in reminding people that Bethania relies solely on member donations and also missed opportunities in sharing how we think about giving.

One member recently said it best: At their previous church giving was thought about as tithing vs. tipping. A tip is often something given after a service is rendered and it's usually in the moment. A tithe, however, asks a person to consider their income as a whole and their relationship with God and wealth. A tithe can be an action of gratitude—we give because we are blessed; or it can be an action of faith—God will do something with that money beyond our comprehension. A tithe is a point of reflection for each of us on our own spirituality and how that intersects with the world around us.

One perspective that was discussed a lot when I was growing up, but I have neglected to share in my time as pastor is tithing as a percentage of income rather than a momentary dollar amount. The word tithe literally means tenth. I completely understand that in expanding costs of living a tenth of one's income is unsustainable for a majority of people. Statistically speaking the average church donation throughout the country is 2% of a person's income. If that number rose to 4%, small churches like our own would be sustainable for the foreseeable future on member donations alone.

So, this stewardship campaign will simply be reminders, and the conversations this campaign will ask you to have will only be with yourself. We would ask you to consider a percentage of your income as a regular donation amount. If you're giving very little and you are able to raise that to 1%, that would be amazing. If you're giving 2% and you're able to raise that to 4%, that would be amazing. If you're giving 4% and you're able to raise that to 10%, that would be amazing. Again, it's a conversation you have with yourself and no one else. I also want to point out in case I haven't before, as pastor I maintain a personal policy not to know, nor seek out what any church member gives. It's part of my ongoing desire to treat everyone equally and I don't look at individual member offerings; neither does council. So this conversation would truly be with yourself, and I hope the bottom line is always that you give only with a cheerful heart.

This stewardship campaign will start in the middle of October and run through the middle of November. At the end of it, we will have a short service during our 9:30 worship in which we will ask everyone to consider what they give for the 2026 year, put that number in an envelope, and we will place those envelopes on the altar. At the conclusion of the service, we will take the envelopes outside and burn them as an offering to God. Neither I, nor anyone else but you will know what is written in those envelopes and this will be a personal commitment you make with yourself and with God. I know that times can feel uncertain, and I believe the church community and the ways we are present in this world can be one of the best balms for that uncertainty. Your donations to Bethania, in time, energy, and resources are what enable us to continue to be that balm, and that enduring reminder of God's presence, strength, and love, so from the bottom of my heart, thank you for whatever you choose to give.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris Brown

Bethania Preschool & After School News

As we step into the fall season, our preschool and afterschool children are filled with excitement for all the fun and learning this time of year brings!

Our preschoolers have been busy preparing Halloween songs they will be sharing with the grandmas and grandpas at Atterdag Village. Each class has been enjoying fall in special ways:

- Miss Nicole's class has loved learning all about the wonders of fall.
- Miss Leslie's class has been exploring the sights and changes of the season.
- Miss Christina's class has enjoyed making pumpkins and cutting out jack-o'-lanterns.
- Miss Angie's class is diving into the fascinating life cycle of a pumpkin.

The children are also looking forward to their very first fundraiser of the year- our Fun Run! They'll be dashing through exciting obstacle courses while raising funds to help provide enrichment to our program. If you'd like to support our students, donations may be left at either the church office or the preschool office.

Meanwhile, our afterschool program has been enjoying hands-on activities such as making applesauce, cutting out ghosts, directed art projects, and much more. The children continue to thrive in arts, crafts, group reading, games, and of course, our weekly chapel sessions.

If you are ever nearby, we warmly welcome you to stop in and say hello. Your prayers and encouragement mean so much to our students, teachers, and families. We are grateful for your continued support as we look forward to a joyful and fun-filled October season!

With gratitude,
Monica Dunn, Director

Serving at Bethania and in the Community

Clean-Out Your Closets!

Soctober Clothing Drive - Have you ever visited a recovery or homeless shelter? They are often in need of everything! This month, please gather useable items (see below) for the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission.

The SB Rescue Mission provides 57 beds for women and 115 beds for men in recovery and also experiencing homelessness. They also provide daily breakfast and dinner for their visitors.

The SB Rescue Mission is in need of: clean, usable warm clothing; socks (new); t-shirts, long-sleeved shirts; sweaters; jackets; pants; men's pjs & razors; twin-sized sheets, blankets and pillowcases; towels; small toiletries and feminine hygiene products, etc. Collection boxes are in the Church Office (during the week) and Parish Hall. Thank you for your participation and also to Thrivent for their generosity.

Any questions or for pickups, please call Rosemary Thomas @ 805-350-2683.

"In memory of my niece Steffany"



Piece Makers

The Piece Makers have had a productive year. We expect to have over 50 quilts ready for the **Quilt Blessing Sunday Oct. 19** at the 9:30 service. At our September luncheon meeting we voted to send half the quilts to Lutheran World Relief and half to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds beds for child and provides all the linens as well. Our quilt tying schedule for the rest of 2025 is as follows: **Oct. 10 and 24; Nov. 14 & Dec. 12**

Off They Go!

On **Wednesday, Oct. 22**, our school kits, personal care kits and 25 quilts will go to a Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering at Mt. Cross Lutheran Church in Camarillo. From there they will be delivered to a LWR Warehouse. School kits, personal care kits and quilts (and baby kits) go to people in need around the world. Thanks to the many volunteers who have made quilts, donated materials and assembled the kits for Lutheran World Relief. And, thanks also to Bridget Cassara and her daughter Alexis for delivering these items to Mt. Cross.

Noisy Sunday: Oct. 26th

The next “Noisy Sunday” is Oct. 26. The offering from that day will be used to raise funds for the Tuesday Food Distribution Christmas special project: Gift Cards for Families.

This year, we are attempting to give each household that comes to our food distribution a \$25 gift card. Gift cards will be intended to help the families with the extra expenses that come from the holidays: food, gas, pharmacy, gift shopping, meals. We will also be encouraging our members to donate gift cards to our families (see related article).

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. This offering will help make a local family’s life a little easier at the end of the year.

– Linda Marzullo

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 her work 688-5219 or contact the church office.

2025 “Day of Service” Wrap Up



Thanks to everyone helping at “Day of Service”. We put together a record 196 School Kits and 225 Personal Care Kits. We had a record number of generous donations to this project so we could outperform all expectations. Great job, everyone!

The School Kits and Personal Care Kits will be sent to LWR in October. Lutheran

World Relief will send them out around the world where they are most needed. Just think – our hands + donated supplies + assembling day = Love/Care/Health/Schooling sent around the world to someone in need. Thank you all for your support of this important event. Our work directly touches those in need, by sending supplies and our compassion through Lutheran World Relief.



Events and Occasions

Theo Pub



Theo Pub is back and we'll be gathering on Oct. 9 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!

Family Halloween Party

Bethania's Annual Family Halloween Party will be Oct. 25 from 5:30 – 7:45. We will decorate on Oct. 24 at 5:15 pm and if you're able to help, we could use it! Help us also spread the word to your friends and family as all are welcome! The cost is \$8/person or \$30/family and a shelf-stable food item. We'll have plenty of games, prizes, candy, food, a bounce house, and lot and lots of fun! This is one of our biggest events of the year and the proceeds will go to our youth group to help cover the costs of the program as well as to the upcoming Youth Gathering in 2027, so put on your costumes and help a great ministry!



Coffee Hour

Oct. 5 - BLCW for Pastor Appreciation Sunday - and Storytelling by Lou Fox Bender

Oct. 12 - Roy & Cheryl Donkin

Oct. 19 - Marie Jaeger

Oct. 26 - Available

Save the Date: Nov. 22 “Grateful Goods” Arts & Crafts Sale

It's that time of year when we all start looking for unique gifts and thinking about supporting causes we believe in – now you can do both on November 22nd. Skip “black Friday” crowds and come to an event that does good for our community! **The “Grateful Goods” Arts & Crafts Sale will be held at Bethania from 10 am-3 pm.** Featuring unique vendors with unique items, food, raffle prizes and a silent auction – plan to attend! Handcrafted items, unique gifts, and specialty items will be on display by our vendors.

The funds raised at this event will support Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution as we head into the holidays. We have been serving over 250 households each week and it costs some money to keep these people from food insecurity.

How can you help? We need...

- **Baked Goods** donated! (Jams, pickles, bread, cakes, cookies, pies – whatever you feel like making) – contact Linda or the Church Office and let us know what you are able to donate.
- **Volunteers** the day of the sale, to help with the Kitchen, Bake Sale, Raffle Prizes and other tasks
- **Shoppers** – come and look for unique gifts, handmade items, and raffle prizes that will get your holiday shopping jump started!
- **Crafters and Artists needed** – we have booth spaces available if you are interested. Booth fees support the food distribution. Please contact Linda for more info.

Contact Linda Marzullo (vikingpressprint@verizon.net), 805-688-5219, or the church office for more info.

Church Business

Your church home improvements are well underway. HGTV has nothing on us!

The organ is repaired and tuned. The Parish Hall windows are in and the shades are back up, and the narthex is in the process of being refreshed. Watch for an aluminum sink to be installed near the back door of the kitchen in October or November.

Also coming in October and November are a stewardship campaign and a Time and Talents Survey. It's been years since we've done either, and it's time for updates. Please take the time to fill out the survey. Let your light shine!

In Christ,
Jan

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	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 08/31/25

Balance Sheet				
	July 2025	August 2025	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 44,282	\$ 50,828	\$ 6,546	
Money Market Account	141,555	141,578	22	
CDs	144,082	144,586	504	
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	\$ 4,460,095	\$ 4,467,168	\$ 7,072	

Profit & Loss				
August	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 24,759	\$ 29,204	\$ (4,445)	
Total Expenses	27,892	30,404	(2,512)	
Net Income	\$ (3,133)	\$ (1,200)	\$ (1,933)	

Offerings				
August	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 19,158	\$ 22,083	\$ (2,925)	
Non-Members	931	1,375	(444)	
Total Offerings	\$ 20,089	\$ 23,458	\$ (3,369)	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Food Distribution	\$2,465	Individual donors
Noisy Offerings	\$258	
Produce Table (June - Nov)	\$401	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Heritage Fund	\$325	

Our Prayers

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

October Calendar

Sundays

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

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

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 Wednesdays 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

continued ==>

Wednesday, Oct. 1

12 noon-3 pm Open Face Sandwich Making in the Kitchen

Saturday, Oct. 4

Terry Hansen Funeral using the Sanctuary, Parish Hall and Kitchen

Monday, Oct. 6

5:30 pm Halloween Party Planning Mtg. In the Fireside Room

Wednesday, Oct. 8

6-8 pm Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Oct. 9

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

Friday, Oct. 10 - Sunday, Oct. 12

Fall Family Camp-Out at Lake Lopez

Friday, Oct. 10

9am Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

Thursday, Oct. 16

6 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Sunday, Oct. 19

Quilt Blessing & Display in the Sanctuary during the 9:30 service.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

10 am - noon Ingathering at Mt. Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo

Friday, Oct. 24

9 am - 12 noon Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

5:30-9 pm Decorating and Set-up for Halloween Party in the Parish Hall and the Fireside Room

Saturday, Oct. 25

5:30 pm Halloween Party in the Parish Hall, Fireside Room and Courtyard

Sunday, Oct. 26 - Reformation

Wear red.

Noisy Offering at the 9:30 Service

Wednesday, Oct. 29

6-9 pm Danish Sisterhood Meeting in the Fireside Room

The Beacon - October 2025
Bethania
621 Atterdag Rd.
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Image by [Bianca Van Dijk](#) from [Pixabay](#)

October at Bethania

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Fall Camp-Out

Quilt Display

Halloween Party