



The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd
Solvang CA 93463

September 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.

Something's in the Air!

This month we begin the program year at Bethania! I've done this as your pastor for 10 years and we've been through a lot in that time. Our community has changed and evolved and we went through an uncertain time with the pandemic. We've been very intentional since things opened up to get back into the swing of our time together as a community.

As I think of the year coming up I have to tell you I'm excited and I want to share with everyone all the great things happening at Bethania as we enter this program year. Before I do, I also want to say, I know the world feels crazy, and there are plenty of outlets that make the world feel even more chaotic. I believe physical community and living out our values will always be the balm to that chaos and a reminder that we can create change.

I hope you all can join us for Kick-Off Sunday and our End-of-Summer BBQ on September 7th. I would love folks to prioritize coming to church in person, to fill the space up, and remember how good it feels to be with our community in worship. We now have a really fun Children's Lesson where the "big kid" in me gets to come out and the children say the funniest things, while learning about the love of God. To emphasize the importance of children in our community, we're also starting a 2nd Sunday School class during the 9:30 service, where kids will get to do crafts, play games, and learn even more about God's love!

Our End-of-Summer BBQ will be after the worship service and have its usual features of burgers, dogs, sides, drinks, music, games, a bounce-house, and lots of fun while we share all the ways people can be involved at Bethania! Please invite any of your friends and family to join us as we kick things off for the year.

Later on in the evening, our Youth Group will gather for the first Sunday of the year. Kids in grades 6-12 are invited to come and share a meal, play games, develop a sense of community with each other, and learn about Jesus and this way of life of love and compassion we're called to. Youth Group has been growing the last couple of years and I'm so thrilled to share that we have 32 kids signed up this year!

The following Sunday, we'll gather once again for our annual Day of Service, led by Linda Marzullo and our amazing Social Ministry committee where we will pack Personal Care Kits and School Kits to be shipped out to where they're needed most. Our Social Ministry team has been doing an incredible job keeping our community connected to our call to love our neighbors, especially those who need it most.

And all that is just the start! This Fall alone we'll also have our Danish Days Organ Concert on 9/20, Danish Days Float Decorating on 9/19 for the parade on 9/20, Bible Gift Sunday on 9/28, the Fall Camping Trip 10/10-10/12, Blessing of the Quilts sometime in October, the Halloween Party on 10/25, Fall Potluck on 11/9, and Interfaith Thanksgiving on 11/24. Whew!

We have always been a busy church, but this year it feels like there's something in the air. Something big is happening at Bethania. We're growing and we're thriving and it's exciting! I'm so grateful for what's happening and the joy being experienced by our community. We have a lot coming up this Fall and I hope to see you there!

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

Bethania Preschool & After School News

What a joyful start we've had to the school year! The classrooms are already filled with laughter, curiosity, and the excitement of new beginnings. The children are discovering routines, building new friendships, and settling into the rhythm of their days together.

We've seen little hands busy with arts and crafts, curious minds engaged in circle time, and happy faces enjoying play both indoors and outdoors. Each day brings new opportunities for growth, whether it's practicing independence, sharing with friends, or exploring something new for the very first time.

The first weeks of school are all about creating a sense of community, and it is heartwarming to see the children already feeling comfortable and connected. These moments of discovery, joy, and belonging are what make the preschool and school age years so special.

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 deepest gratitude,
Monica Dunn
Director**

Events and Occasions



Youth Group

Youth Group starts on Sept. 7, in the Fireside Room and Parish Hall. We'll be gathering for a short orientation at 4:30 for the parents/guardians and kids followed by our regular activities from 5-7pm. Youth Group is available for all kids grades 6 – 12. It is a screen-free time where we eat together, play games, and learn the stories of Jesus. We have 32 kids signed up this year so it should be a great time and more are welcome! If you would like more information on the schedule and how to join, contact Pastor Chris.

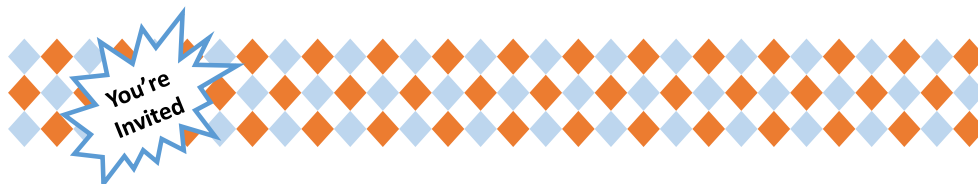


Theo Pub

Theo Pub is back and we'll be gathering on Sept. 11 at 7pm, 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!

Piece Makers

The Piece Makers will put together quilts on Friday, Sept. 12 and Sept. 26 from 9 am-12 noon in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.



It's decision time again!

- What are your ideas for BLCW events in 2026?
- Where will our quilts go this year?
- Should we fund a scholarship?

Friday, September 12

9-12 Quilting

12-1:30 Lunch by
Thrivent

In the Parish Hall

RSVP to Lois—Call or text (805) 698-0091

Bethania Lutheran Church Women

Danish Days Organ Concert

Favorite festival organist James Welch is “Bach” by popular demand for this year’s Danish Days celebration, playing on the authentic pipe organ at Bethania. A world-renowned concert organist, Welch’s concerts are always full of fun with something for everyone — from the baroque to the contemporary, from the Old World to California. A direct descendant of Danes from Fjenneslev, Denmark (his grandmother was a *Sorensen*), he credits his Danish ancestors with his love for music. The Danish Days concert will demonstrate the lighter side of the organ, with folk tunes and some hits from opera and Broadway. And yes, there will be some Bach, too! Get there early, because this event is often a standing-room-only affair. (*suggested \$5.00 donation for concert*)

Danish Days Parade

The Danish Days Parade will be Saturday, Sept. 20, at 2:30pm and the theme this year is *Det Dansk, Det Dejligt* (It’s Danish, It’s Delightful). For those would like to join our float, meet us at the corner of First St. and Molle Way by 2pm. For those that would like to help us decorate, please show up on Friday, Sept. 19, at 5:15 pm in the back parking lot of the church. If would like to donate candy, please purchase any bulk candy (not chocolate, it melts) from a grocery store or Amazon and bring it to the church office. Questions, contact Pastor Chris.

Bible Gift Sunday

Bible Gift Sunday will be Sept. 28, during the 9:30 Worship Service. Children who have turned 3 will be receiving a Spark Story Bible and children who have entered 3rd grade will be receiving a Connect NRSV Study Bible. If you would like your kid to receive a Bible, please contact Pastor Chris. And if you've recently started coming to Bethania and your kids weren't here when they turned 3 or entered 3rd grade, we'd love to gift them a Bible so please let Pastor Chris know.



Fall Family Campout

Lopez Lake - October 10-12

There's still time to join!

- **Reserve your own campsite at:** <https://reservations.slocountyparks.com/reservation/camping/>
- Choose a site on the inside loop of the Quail area to facilitate group activities. (If you prefer, there are cabins and other facilities as well.)
- After you make your reservation, please notify Carol Skoog at carolskoog@yahoo.com so you will receive information and updates. Please provide your campsite number.

More info:

Carol Skoog (408) 398-5673 Becky Sutherland (562) 505-1726

Serving at Bethania and in the Community

Substitute Drivers for Meals on Wheels

Bethania is in need of substitute drivers for Meals on Wheels. It would entail being called in the event one of our six drivers is unable to drive. We drive every six weeks and it typically takes about two hours to pick up food and deliver to various routes in the area. Please call Emmy Abello if you would be willing to be on standby for our regular drivers. 805 350 3072.

Chancel Choir Resumes at 7pm Wednesday, Sept. 24

Singers needed. If you can sing a part in tune, please consider joining the Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Share your gifts. Join the choir.

Helping Hands + Donated Supplies = Our 2025 "Day of Service" Event!

WE NEED YOU! Plan to join others in assembling School Kits and Personal Care Kits on **Sunday, Sept. 14th beginning around 10:30 a.m.** Following Sunday's 9:30 worship service, we will meet in the Parish Hall to start the assembly line for each project.

As part of the ELCA's annual "Day of Service", we will be assembling both School Kits and Personal Care Kits in the Parish Hall. "Day of Service" is a church-wide event inviting everyone to do "God's

Work – Our Hands.” All ages and abilities are welcome to help with these projects – you can be a part of the “assembly line” no matter what your age or skill level. There are plenty of spaces for willing workers! You can count, gather, wrap, tie, box...fun for all ages as we see the piles mount and boxes fill up.

In addition to all of this, we want to hear from YOU - our Idea Wall will be the place where we ask you what things you would like to see Bethania tackle in social needs arena in the year to come. (Foster children needs? Undie Sundays? Support for Animals?) Give us your thoughts for exploration by Social Ministry teams - share your ideas and passions and help us make it happen.

Everyone who contributed in some way to the completion of these many projects is making a difference to the person who receives the kit. YOUR HANDS were in direct contact with someone in need, through the volunteer time and effort you put in, however large or small.

Thank you all for your support of this important event. Our Bethania members will directly touch those in need by sending supplies and our compassion through Lutheran World Relief.

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

Day of Service set up helpers needed!

- **Set up event: Saturday, Sept. 13th, 4:30 pm**

We will need helpers to set up tables, layout out supplies, band pencils and pens, and take off packaging and tags. Snacks available to keep our workers going!

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

Food Distribution and Blessing Box Continue to be needed

Bethania is a Food Distribution site Tuesdays from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through the drive up or walk up lines. We serve people from all walks of life from teenagers up to our oldest who is now 95 years old. The average number of households being served is 250. You can make a difference!

Anything you use in your own home is something that can be donated and appreciated by someone else who can't afford it! We can use items in the Blessing Box or for Tuesday's Distribution. Donations can be left in the church, in the Blessing Box, or you can contact me to drop off items. On Tuesdays we also distribute baby formula, donated diapers and wipes, along with incontinence and feminine hygiene items. Donations are appreciated in these areas also.

If you would like to help please contact me. We value every volunteer assisting us and cannot thank them enough. Tuesdays are split into shifts: packing the bags at 9 am except the last week of the month when we pack in the afternoon; unloading Food Bank truck around 1:15ish and packing produce; distribution helpers coming around 4:45 for the evening shift; and cleaning up 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
vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Grocery Bags for Tuesday Food Distribution

Right now we are running low on brown paper grocery bags/plastic grocery bags. Please drop them off in the narthex or contact Linda Marzullo at vikingpressprint@verizon.net or Kristyl at bethanialutheranch@gmail.com. Nancy Puder (805-448-7404) is willing to pick up bags from you and bring them to Bethania.

Noisy Sunday Sept. 28 - Make Change for the Better

The offering from that day will be used to help cover the shipping costs of both the Personal Care Kits and the School Kits that we will be sending to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse. This offering helps Lutheran World Relief ship the kits to the people who need them. We send our kits to an "ingathering" day set up by LWR, so that there is no cost to us to ship them to the warehouse.

Why do we need to ask for shipping cost donations instead of using those funds for creating more kits? Here's why: We plan to make 120+ School Kits and 175+ Personal Care Kits. According to LWR, the approximate processing and shipping cost for each kit is as follows:

LWR Mission Quilt: (per quilt \$2.25)

LWR School Kit: (\$1.40 per kit)

LWR Personal Care Kit: (\$2.65 per kit)*

*Your gifts to the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, for Personal Care Kits, also helps LWR cover the cost of providing a tube of toothpaste for each kit

Your quarters, dimes and nickels (and hopefully some dollars!) will help us ship both types of kits, which are desperately needed, according to LWR.

– Linda Marzullo

Altar Guild at Bethania

What does Altar Guild do for the church? We change the colors and banners of the church according to the church calendar, we make up the Communion schedule, and we set up and assist Communion each Sunday.

Our group consists of about ten people and we would love to have some more. If you are interested in learning how to volunteer for Altar Guild, please email Diana Boltz at aboltz5@verizon.net or call her cell 805-588-2512. It does not require a lot of time to be part of this wonderful group.

Also we now will be serving communion at the rail each third Sunday of the month. Pastor Chris gives a blessing to each person (kneeling or standing) and then Communion will continue to be celebrated by intinction. If there are questions, don't hesitate to call Pastor Chris or Diana Boltz.

Coffee Hour

Thanks to everyone hosting coffee in September:

Sept. 7 - Kick-Off Sunday/End of Summer Barbecue - We will still have coffee but no treats.

Sept. 14 - Carol Skoog and Cheryl & Gus Heredia

Sept. 21 - Hank & Anna Cook

Sept. 28 - Available

Also at coffee hour on Sept. 14th, we will enjoy hearing from Neal Abello talking about "Challenge Cycling".

Church Business

The dual pane window project has been completed in the kitchen, the Parish Hall and the Fireside Room. Thanks again go to the Abellos and the Endowment Fund Committee for making this improvement possible. Additional thanks go to Bill Zigler for rehangng all of the blinds with modifications as necessary. It is noticeably cooler in these rooms with the new windows and the blinds reinstalled!

As I write this, the organ repair is underway. Thank you to the Memorial Fund and Heritage Fund committees for making the much-needed repairs possible. Thanks again to Bill Z. for his work over several days to assist with disassembly, modifications to cabinetry and reassembly of the organ.

We are an active church community on a historic property. We need everyone to participate with time and talents as they are able in order to fellowship with each other, serve others, and keep this old lady going (Bethania Church, not me). In October, you will be asked to complete a Time and Talents Survey to let us know how you can join us in accomplishing all of this. Many hands make light work!

There are many church activities with the end of summer and the beginning of fall as mentioned elsewhere in The Beacon. Please join us when you can to join your church family in service and fellowship.

**Sincerely,
Jan Zigler**

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 07/31/25

Balance Sheet				
	June 2025	July 2025	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 57,629	\$ 44,282	\$ (13,347)	\$10,000 for Parish Hall windows
Money Market Account	141,531	141,555	24	
CDs	143,596	144,082	486	
Fund Accounts	2,250,128	2,250,128	-	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Accounts Receivable	5,241	-	(5,241)	
Fixed Assets	1,880,048	1,880,048	-	Property & Equipment
Total Assets	\$ 4,478,173	\$ 4,460,095	\$ (18,078)	

Profit & Loss				
July	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 27,451	\$ 29,204	\$ (1,753)	
Total Expenses	28,158	30,404	(2,247)	
Net Income	\$ (706)	\$ (1,200)	\$ 493	

Offerings				
July	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 23,283	\$ 22,083	\$ 1,200	
Non-Members	786	1,375	(589)	
Total Offerings	\$ 24,069	\$ 23,458	\$ 611	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$10	
Food Distribution	\$5,250	\$2,000 City of Solvang 2024 grant, \$1,500 Los Olivos Rotary Club
Noisy Offerings	\$188	
Produce Table (June - Nov)	\$306	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
BLCW	\$100	
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Heritage Fund	\$53	

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

Thank You – *Mange Tak!*

BIG “Thank You’s” to:

- **Bill and Jan Zigler**, for all they do to keep the property and the church running smoothly. So many improvements and so much time has been spent – thank you both!
- **Kit Donations** – Thanks to everyone who helped gather supplies for our Day of Service event, especially those who went above and beyond: Kief Adler, Laura Barnes, Chris & Livier Brown, Nancy Emerson, Donna Hinsbeeck, and Rosemary Thomas. (If you were missed – we apologize!)
- **Helping Hands** – we had great help at the August Brown Bag Breakfast packing, when we packed 560 bags!
- **“Shoppers”** – We appreciate all the support for the Sunny Fields Farm Stand/Produce Table. All of your donations help supply our Blessing Box out in front of the church, and support our weekly Food Distribution, both of which help so many food insecure families.
- **Great Music** – Thanks to everyone who provides such wonderful music for our worship services: Lisa Blanton (Pianist, Vocalist), Josh Bratt (Drummer), Alexis Donkin (Vocalist), Roy Donkin (Bass Guitarist), Jim Skoog (Organist), and Bill Zigler (Acoustic Guitarist).
- **Donna Hinsbeeck**, for her tireless assistance with Tuesday Food Distribution, the Blessing Box, the Brown Bags, church cleanup, recycling service and more. As someone recently said, “If I go by the church, it is pretty much guaranteed Donna will be there.”
- **Readers, Communion and Worship Assistants** who keep the service running smoothly each week.
- **Gene & Harriett Madsen**, for delivering our packed Brown Bag Breakfasts out to Buellton Senior Center when they are needed for their delivery team out there. And for counting all of those Noisy Offering coins. Thanks!

September 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, starting Sept. 14.

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary

5-7 pm Youth Group in the Fireside Room (2nd & 4th Sundays)

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

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

7 pm Choir Wednesdays starting Sept. 24 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

Monday, Sept. 1 - Labor Day

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

Sunday, Sept 7 “Kick-Off” Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

11 am BBQ and games in the Parking Lot and on the Playground

Monday, Sept. 8

10 am- 12 noon Fall Family Camp-Out Planning Meeting in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept. 10

6-8 pm Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

Thursday, Sept. 11

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

Friday, Sept. 12

9am Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

12 noon - 1:45 pm BLCW Luncheon in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 17

6 pm - 9 pm Danish Sisterhood in the Kitchen

Thursday, Sept. 18

6 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Sept. 19

5:15 pm Decorate the Danish Days float in the Back Parking Lot

Saturday, Sept. 20

1-2 pm Danish Days Organ Concert in the Sanctuary

2 pm Meet at First St. & Molle Way for the Danish Days Parade

Wednesday, Sept. 24

6-8 pm Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

7-8 pm Choir Practice Begins in the Parish Hall

Friday, Sept. 26

9 am - 12 noon Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Sept. 28

Noisy Offering to help defray shipping costs of quilts, school kits and personal care kits.

The Beacon - September 2025

Bethania

621 Atterdag Rd.

Solvang CA 93463

Fall is coming...
Enjoy the beauty
of the season.

