



## The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
621 Atterdag Rd  
Solvang CA 93463

June 2026

805-688-4637  
[bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

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## 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.

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## Thoughts from Pastor Chris Brown

There was once a man who was a devoted Christian. He went to church almost every Sunday, he ushered once a month, held a position on council and a couple different committees, tithed 10% of his income, and regularly volunteered for church events. He had grown up in this style, and for him, being involved in the routine of church life was a part of his identity. He was well liked by both his church family and his community.

This man probably could not be considered wealthy, but he lived a comfortable life due to the same obedience to routine in his career. He had lived in the same house for almost 30 years and aside from a mortgage that would almost be paid off, he did not have any debt and planned his retirement well. He watched the news regularly and shared many of the same concerns about the rest of the world as his fellow Americans, but was also able to avoid letting those concerns penetrate the circle of his personal environment. The concerns that did affect him were the same as most people in his area: health, the occasional loss of loved ones, the fear that the world he built for himself might suddenly fall apart; but nothing so much as to cause any malcontent. If you were to ask this man if he had for want or need, both materially or spiritually, he would tell you no.

One Sunday this man was having an uncommon restless night. For some reason he could not seem to pass that thin line into the submission of sleep, but rather kept tossing from one position to another. As he inched closer to that submissive space something startled him and caused him to jump from any hope of slumber. He sat up in bed and standing there before him was Jesus. The man rubbed his eyes expecting this to be one of those weird dreams that existed between being awake and being asleep, but when he opened them again, Jesus was still standing there.

The Christ, the Messiah, the Son of Humanity was standing in his bedroom! What had he done to deserve the presence of all presence? Was this the moment that he was to depart this world and move into the next? Had Jesus come to escort him? He would take the journey if it was to be so, but something told him it was not. He had lived a life worthy of any Christian; maybe this was his reward. Maybe a man who lived life for his church and community deserved to be graced by the presence of Christ. But, why? Jesus must have something of great importance to tell him, just like the stories of old.

Imagining the story of Samuel with such obedience to his faith, the man spoke first, "Speak, for your servant is listening?" Jesus just looked back for what seemed like an eternity, but was really only a moment. And then a smirk started to crawl onto his face, a smirk that had revelation behind it. Jesus' lips did not move but the man heard his voice in only a whisper. "You've gotten it wrong," the voice

said. As soon as the voice had finished speaking the man was waking up to the sound of his alarm. He didn't know how long he had been asleep, but it felt like he had barely slept at all. Did that really happen last night or was it just a dream?

The man got out of bed and began his morning routine of getting ready for work. However, in the shower there were moments where he just stood there thinking about his dream. This happened again over breakfast and while he was getting dressed. On his way to work someone honked at him for not realizing a stoplight had turned green. He was 10 minutes late that day, which had never happened before. He could not make sense of why a dream would continue to affect him in such a way. Work seemed to pass in spurts of slowed time and jumps ahead in which he didn't remember what he had done for the last 30 minutes. His wife noted his distance at dinner that evening, but he shook it off with the excuse of not getting enough sleep. He told her not to worry and left for his monthly church council meeting. Sitting around their conference table with people he knew as friends, they spoke of the monthly management of their church. Yet, in this space, for some reason, something was missing inside of him.

It's not that his church wasn't important or the work his friends were talking about at council was meaningless, but it was here in this moment that he felt the voice was pointing him to. For the first time as far back as his memory would allow, he felt a level of uncertainty about where he was and what he was doing. It was so overwhelming that he apologized and excused himself from the meeting and left to go home.

As he was driving, he could not stop thinking about that voice. "You've gotten it wrong?" What did he get wrong? Was it him, or was it everyone? Was it his church? Was it their work? Was it their beliefs? What had he gotten wrong? He had never questioned his faith before, but right now he couldn't find anything about it to fall back on and it was driving him mad; he wasn't even sure where he was driving. What had he gotten wrong? Was it his church, or was it The Church? He thought the way he had lived his life and the way he had committed himself to God had led him to the gift of divine presence, but this didn't feel like a gift, it felt like punishment.

What had he gotten wrong? He needed an answer, he needed to find that place of certainty again. What had he gotten wrong? Now he started to say it out loud, "What have I gotten wrong, Lord? Speak to me again. Tell me what I'm missing. What have I gotten wrong? I go to church, I give my time and energy, I try to be a good person and ask for forgiveness when I fall short. I believe in justice and love for people and try to help when I can. Is all this wrong? What have I gotten wrong? WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN WRONG?!" He couldn't take it anymore. He pulled to the side of the road and looked up to the heavens and screamed again, "WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN WRONG?!"

The stars looked beautiful that night. He couldn't remember the last time he had just looked at the stars. In the maddening whirl of his thoughts he had driven to the back hills just beyond his town without realizing it. The air was cool, but it wasn't uncomfortable and he could hear the calm rustle of the wind. The chaos and discomfort of not knowing what this question meant was still present, but he felt a sense of peace come over him as he stood on the side of the road feeling the coolness of the night, looking at the stars. He remembered learning about constellations as a kid and how they guided the ancients in their travels, but he couldn't remember what any of them looked like. He just saw stars. They really were beautiful, almost glistening. As he continued to look, he could see a cluster of them resemble some kind of shape. Maybe it was one of the constellations of his past coming back to memory, but he wasn't sure. To him, they seemed to resemble a smirk.

## **Bethania Preschool & After School News**

As we welcome the month of June, we are excited to share that our summer program is officially underway, and our children are eagerly preparing for a fun-filled and memorable season ahead. Summer is always such a special time in our program, filled with laughter, discovery, creativity, and countless opportunities for growth and connection.

Throughout the summer months, the children will enjoy a wide variety of fun and engaging experiences including exciting field trips, daily arts and crafts activities, hands-on food projects, and endless water play fun that helps make summer both meaningful and memorable. Our staff has worked hard to create enriching activities that encourage creativity, curiosity, teamwork, and joyful learning.

In addition to all the summer excitement, the children will spend time exploring and learning about the many wonders that summer brings. From studying ocean animals and sea life to participating in sensory experiences, science activities, outdoor exploration, and imaginative play, we look forward to creating a summer filled with adventure, discovery, and lasting memories for every child in our care.

As we also come to the close of another wonderful school year, I want to personally express my deepest gratitude for your continued love, encouragement, support, and prayers. It has truly been an honor and blessing to serve as Director here at Bethania Preschool and After School Program. I feel incredibly privileged to work alongside such dedicated staff, wonderful families, and such a caring and supportive church community.

Your kindness, generosity, and faithfulness help make our program a place where children feel safe, loved, valued, and inspired each and every day. Thank you for continuing to support our mission and for allowing us the opportunity to help nurture and guide your children during these important early years.

We pray you all have a beautiful and blessed summer season ahead, and we look forward to all the joy, learning, and memories this summer will bring.

With gratitude and appreciation,

**Monica Dunn**

**Director - Bethania Preschool & After School Program**

# Service at Bethania and in the Community

## Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: June 7

Our next packing day is Sunday, June 7. We pack in the Parish Hall starting around 10:30. Everyone is invited to help. 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 helps make life better for a local senior. Thank you!

–Linda Marzullo, Chairman, Social Ministry Committee  
688-5219, 688-3059 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

## Noisy Sunday: June 28th Backpacks & Towels 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 backpack and one personal care kit at a time!

We will be using our Noisy Offering funds towards the purchase of needed items to make up Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. (Assembly day will be Day of Service in September).

On June 28th, our jangling coins will be used to help purchase the most expensive parts of the kits (Backpacks and Towels). This is so that we can purchase these items in bulk to get the most items for our kits.

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 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  
688-5219 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)



## 2026 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 to raise funds for us. A big thank you to those who also attended the BBQ at Nojoqui Falls Park. Our fantastic chefs for that meal, Donna and Rick Ineman, deserve Gold Ribbons for the delicious meal they served all of us as well.

We raised over \$5000 from this event (funds are still coming in, watch for final number). 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**  
**Social Ministry Chairman**



## **The Farm Stand/Produce Table Is Opening Soon!**

Look for the Produce Table on Sundays between services, 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 items 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 for Bethania's food distribution program needs.

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](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net). Thank you!**

## **Personal Care & School Supply Kit Items Needed!**

We will be collecting items this summer for the "DAY OF SERVICE" assembly of 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 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.

Items we need - on next page!

**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
6. 2-1/2" Erasers
7. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

Bring your items to the donation box by the Sunday School office 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](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

## Activities at Bethania

### Theo Pub: Ask a Pastor Night

Theo Pub during the summer starts our "Ask a Pastor" night, where you can ask Pastor Chris any of the questions you've wondered about faith, theology, the Bible, etc.! We'll gather at Solvang Brew at 7pm on June 11. Come a little early and grab some food and a drink and meet us at the fire pit!



BLCW invites you to



### A Murder Mystery Dinner

Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30

In the Ziglers' backyard: 280 First Street Solvang

**Men are invited!**

Please **RSVP** to Jan (559) 740-3676 by **June 8** so that you can be assigned a part.

## Coffee Time

**June 7 - Available**

**June 14** - Glenda Madrid

**June 21 - Available**

**June 28** - Elizabeth Breen & Sheila Davis

## Theaterfest - June 24

Emmy Abello is leading a group from Bethania to go to the PCPA musical "Come from Away" on Wednesday, June 24th. Cost is \$34/person and payment is due June 4th. The play deals with the diverted airplanes in Canada after 9/11.

Contact Emmy at [abelloemily@gmail.com](mailto:abelloemily@gmail.com) if you want to be on the list.

## Congregational Business

### Church Council Highlights from May

At the May 21 meeting, Council authorized the Social Ministry Committee to begin looking into the possibility of building a food distribution building on campus. The Council and the Social Ministry Committee met to discuss and consider five different sites on our church property, and the best location was deemed to be on Laurel Avenue across the driveway to the parsonage. A first step is to talk to the City of Solvang for planning permission and to ask about the permitting process. The proposed plan is for Social Ministry to do background work on the project before asking the congregation at a future date to decide whether the building should be built.

Council is researching a new light fixture and other improvements to the church narthex (foyer). Improvements to the narthex have been going slowly, and we thank you for your patience!

The new sound system in the church has been installed and adjusted. Thank you to Alan Laugesen and Allison Piligian for learning how to put it to its best use. You should notice that the clicking and popping from the lectern and other microphones has been eliminated, and that the worship band has a more balanced sound. Those participating in worship via YouTube should notice a big difference in the broadcast.

The Endowment Committee is awarding three \$1,500 scholarships this year, along with \$1,000 to Veggie Rescue and \$1,500 to Elverhoj Museum. Endowment Committee rules say that they have to give at least 10% of the fund's earnings to projects and organizations outside the church.

If you're traveling this summer, please don't forget to donate online.

**In Christ,  
Jan Zigler**

### Council Members Contact Info

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	Denise Johns (661) 713-1516	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 April Financial Statement Period Ending 04/30/26

Balance Sheet				
	March 2026	April 2026	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 77,176	\$ 57,499	\$ (19,677)	Moved \$23K to Food Distribution CD
Money Market Account	141,744	141,767	23	
CDs	155,273	178,792	23,518	Interest \$518, added \$23K to CD
Fund Accounts	2,609,977	2,609,977	-	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Accounts Receivable	-	99	99	
Fixed Assets	1,880,048	1,925,054	45,006	Property & Equipment *
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,864,219</b>	<b>\$ 4,913,189</b>	<b>\$ 48,970</b>	

Profit & Loss				
April	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 28,928	\$ 31,387	\$ (2,459)	
Total Expenses	30,839	33,036	(2,197)	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (1,911)</b>	<b>\$ (1,648)</b>	<b>\$ (262)</b>	

Offerings				
April	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 21,681	\$ 24,160	\$ (2,479)	
Non-Members	1,919	1,815	104	
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 23,600</b>	<b>\$ 25,975</b>	<b>\$ (2,375)</b>	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
ELCA World Hunger	\$40	
Food Distribution	\$6,070	City of Solvang Grant \$1,289.50, Individual donation via SY Valley Foundation \$2,500, \$2,280 individual donations
Noisy Offerings	\$135	
Youth Fund	\$3,975	\$3,945 Dessert Auction, \$30 individual donations
Preschool/Child Care Gifts	\$290	\$250 Touch-a-Truck, \$40 individual donations
Designated Funds (Managed by BLC)		
Memorials	\$120	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$50	
Heritage Fund	\$19	

\* Fixed assets increased due to building improvements and asset additions recorded in April: Window replacement (\$16,520), sound system (\$8,000), Strohm organ repairs (\$14,297), and security cameras (\$6,189).

## Next Social Ministry Meeting – June 3 at 6:00 pm

The next Social Ministry meeting on **Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room**. This meeting is open to all interested persons and we are actively looking for new members. Agenda items will include: Update on Council Decision re Future Plans for Food Distribution and next steps, Blessing Box and Food Distribution numbers, Reporting on Grants and Donations, Produce Table start date, Planning for Day of Service and more! 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 (work) or vikingpressprint@verizon.net**

## New Administrative Office Hours

Starting June 1, 2026, the new administrative office hours for Kristyl Downey will be 8:30 am-12:30 pm in the office and 1-4 pm at home. We appreciate everyone's support of this schedule.

## Our Prayers

Carol Aides, Kief Adler, Andy Blanton, Tom Dimmette, Sheldon & Pat Green, Barbie Haile, Karl Hatch, Belle Hoger, Ariana Macias, Robby Meinhert, Denise Morris, Mike Murray, Jerry Olsen, Kate Pearsson, Tom &Carolynn Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Jane Shade, Judy Stamat, Hayes Robert White and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

## Thank You!



**Thank You, Thank You** to Elizabeth Quick, Hank Cook, Margaret Zimmerman, Livier, Vesper, Verona, and Penelope, Gene, Glenda, David, & Bruce. Also a big thank you to Art with Nancy's Gardens for his time. On Saturday, May 23, we weeded, raked, pressure washed & repaired fencing, pruned trees, swept & washed headstones.

When we had finished the cleanup, the committee placed 86 flags on our Veteran's gravesites. So grateful to be able to honor them for their sacrifices.

**Betty Petersen**  
**Chair**



# June 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 - 10:30 am** Praise Band Practice in the Sanctuary  
**5:30 pm** Yoga in the Parish Hall
- Thursdays**           **5:15-6:15 pm** Contemplative Prayer in the Sanctuary  
**5:15-6:45 pm** Irish Dance in the Parish Hall
- 2nd**                    **7-8 pm** Boy Scouts in the Parish Hall
- Fridays**                **9 am** Jim Skoog practices in the Sanctuary  
**1 pm** Lisa Blanton practices in the Sanctuary

## **Wednesday, June 3**

**5:30 pm** Social Ministry Committee Mtg. in the Fireside Room

## **Sunday, June 7**

**10:45 am** Brown Bag Breakfast Packing I'm the Parish Hall

## **Wednesday, June 10**

**6:00-8:00 pm** Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

## **Friday, June 12 & 26**

**9 am** Quilting in the Parish Hall

## **Thursday, June 11**

**7 pm** Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

## **Wednesday, June 17**

**5:30 pm** Preschool Board Mtg. in the Fireside Room

**5:30 pm** Murder Mystery Dinner at Zlgler's

## **Thursday, June 18**

**6 pm** Church Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

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