

Connect with Pastor Chris Brown

Dear Beloved Community,

I hope this summer is starting off with fun trips, plenty of sunshine and some relaxation. Summer is always a time in which I tell myself I'll use the break from Sunday School curriculum, youth group programming, chapel with the preschoolers, etc. to really plan out the next program year, and next thing I know summer is over and the kids are back in school. It goes too quickly.

I wanted to share some hopes I have as we move into the next program year. Recently, a church member told me they had referenced Bethania in talking with a friend, and the friend replied with, "Oh, you mean the church that does stuff." What an affirmation! We are the church that does stuff. We are involved in so many different ministries, utilizing the passions of so many of our church members and it's something to pause and be grateful for!

Our ministries and all the ways we're involved are such an important part of our community and we are so passionate about our ministries that when one activity ends we quickly move on to planning the next thing. I think part of our "doer" mentality makes it a little uncomfortable for us to pause, be grateful, and celebrate what we've done and I would like to take some time this summer to plan how we can do that better.

My hope is to have a calendar meeting sometime this summer with all the heads of our various committees and event teams and layout what we plan on doing for the program year, how we can support one another and have an awareness of what the year is going to look like. As we move into the program year, I plan on having quarterly meetings with this same group of leaders and check-in, see how we can support what's coming up, how we can publicize better for our events, and remind ourselves that we are many parts of the body of Bethania.

I'll be the first to admit that many months catch me off guard with the amount of activities are suddenly present and I'm regularly wishing I had started thinking sooner. And certainly I can feel overwhelmed at times with the sheer volume of what we do at Bethania, and so my hope isn't to make any radical changes, but be intentional in how I can support all our ministries better, and how we can continue to move forward with the image that we are one church with many passions, and we are one community with many passionate people. I'll be reaching out to our ministry leaders to think of some dates for gathering and I'm looking forward to this next program year at Bethania.

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

Connect with Bethania Preschool & After School

Summer is in full swing at Bethania Preschool & After School Program, and our campus has been bursting with laughter, learning, creativity, and adventure! We are so grateful for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers as we nurture and care for the wonderful children entrusted to us each day. Our preschool classrooms have transformed into exciting summer destinations!

Miss Ashley and Miss Nicole's Class has been *splashing their way through June* with endless water play, sensory exploration, outdoor adventures, and hands-on summer fun. From water tables to sprinklers and creative summer projects, their days have been filled with smiles and sunshine.

Miss Leslie and Miss Rowena's Class has been *sailing away into a tropical paradise!* Their classroom has come alive with tropical-themed learning, island-inspired art projects, imaginative adventures, and opportunities to explore the wonders of summer through play and discovery.

Miss Christina and Miss Linda's Class have been *diving into ocean waves* as they learn about sea life, ocean habitats, and underwater creatures. Their classroom has been filled with ocean-themed activities, science exploration, and creative artwork inspired by the deep blue sea.

Miss Angie and Miss Xochitl's Class have been *savoring summer* through their delightful Ice Cream Parlor dramatic play center. Children have enjoyed serving up imaginary treats, practicing social skills, taking customer orders, and using their creativity and imagination while exploring the joys of summer.

Summer wouldn't be complete without special events! Our preschoolers have enjoyed water play days, outdoor games, sensory activities, art projects, music, movement, and many opportunities to build friendships while making lasting summer memories.

Meanwhile, our **After School Program** has been keeping busy with exciting summer adventures of its own! Children have enjoyed field trips, themed weeks, food crafts, science experiments, outdoor activities, creative projects, team-building games, and countless opportunities to explore, learn, and grow together. Whether they're creating tasty treats, solving challenges with friends, participating in special events, or discovering new interests, every day brings something new and exciting.

As we continue through the summer, we remain thankful for the love and support of our church family. Your prayers, encouragement, and partnership help make our ministry possible. Thank you for investing in the lives of our children and families.

We would also like to invite our church family to join us as we participate in the **Solvang Fourth of July Parade!** Look for the Bethania Preschool & After School Program float as we celebrate our community together. We would love to see you cheering us on along the parade route or joining us in the festivities.

Thank you again for your continued support, prayers, and love for our program. We look forward to sharing many more summer memories with you in the weeks ahead.

Blessings,

Monica Dunn

Director

Bethania Preschool & After School Program

Connect with Community

Piecemakers: July 10 & 24.

The Piecemakers have been busy. We have completed 47 quilts since the ingathering last October. We love meeting twice a month to tie, sew and talk. The photos are Kathy

Walsh and Pat Kress, a friend of Kathy's from Orcutt. They sew most of the bindings. Then the "holey" sheet we use as a template when tying the knots. New member Carol Reiss has been a big help tying knots and pinning binding. (the number of finished quilts may change after Friday).



Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: July 5

Our next Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is scheduled for Sunday, June 5. Last month we packed 532 bags and they are all gone already! 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. Pack a few if you can only stay a little while, or pack a lot if you are able – every one of these bags is needed.

If you would like to donate, these are the items we need: Protein Drinks (such as Ensure, Premier Protein, Glucerna, Atkins), Soft Granola/Cereal Bars, Protein Bars, Oatmeal Packets (Protein type if available), 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!

For more info about Brown Bag Breakfasts, Food Distribution, Blessing Box, Noisy Offering, Farm Stand, etc. you may contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingsprint@verizon.net

Food Distribution and Blessing Box – Freedom from Hunger

Bethania continues operating as a Food Distribution site every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is every Tuesday. We are the only food distribution in the Valley that serves people each week out of the month, and so we are very busy. The average number of households served in May was 251 Households and 846 Individuals. That is a LOT of bag packing, produce packing, and moving stuff around for our volunteers – tons of crates and flats of food to pack, and tons of filled bags to move around!

We have people coming for food from teenagers up to one of our oldest clients, who turned 96 years old in June – Happy Birthday, I.V.! Bethania's Tuesday Food Distribution is helping a lot of people who are struggling have something to eat. That is a really important mission for our church: to give people some relief and freedom from daily hunger struggles.

A lot of people in our area need help, and yes, you can make a difference!

Any food item 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, protein drinks, donated diapers and wipes, along with incontinence and feminine hygiene items. Donations are much appreciated in these areas also.

If you would like to help on a Tuesday, please contact me. We appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. Our Tuesdays are split into shifts, with the morning crew coming in at 9:00 to pack the bags every week except the last week of the month (when we pack USDA items in the afternoon). The Food Bank truck arrives around 1:15ish, when we unload. Produce is packed at this time.

Distribution helpers come around 4:45 for the evening shift. Clean up helpers are always welcome 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

Noisy Offering: Backpacks & Towels 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!

On July 26 we will use our Noisy Offering to purchase items to make up Personal Care Kits and School Supply kits. (Assembly day in September). Money donated will buy Backpacks and Towels.

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.

The Farm Stand Is Open!

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 is 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!

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 after-math 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, 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.

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.

Connect Together



Theo Pub: Ask a Pastor Night

Theo Pub during the summer is 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 July 9. Come a little early and grab some food and a drink and meet us at the fire pit!

Storytellers Wanted

Storytellers for coffee hour are needed. Please contact Emmy Abello - abelloemily@gmail.com - if you have a 15 minute event, trip, personal interaction, etc. share.



Bunko Night will be at Terry Billings' house (597 Valley Oak Road in Solvang) on Friday, July 17, at 6:30.

RSVP to Terry (teely49@comcast.net) and bring \$5.

Coffee Time

- July 5** Celebrating Ruth Plambeck's 95th birthday
- July 12** Celebrating Neal & Emily Abello's 60th wedding anniversary
- July 19** Betty Petersen
- July 26** Available

Congregational Business

Summer is typically a slower time at the church, but at Bethania, this summer will be a time for improvement projects to continue on campus. Thanks to Endowment Committee funds, the parsonage and church office, including the pantry next door to it, will be reroofed by Coastal Valleys Roofing beginning on July 13. What shape would our aging property be in without the Endowment Fund? Please remember the fund in your legacy giving.

The dual-paned windows, which were installed in the Parish Hall, kitchen and Fireside Room last summer, have made a significant difference to the comfort of our preschool and afterschool students and staff. When we investigated installing air conditioning afterwards, the quote for new ducting alone came in at over \$100,000, so this project has been abandoned.

At our June meeting, Council chose a light fixture for the narthex, or entryway, to the church, and we're close to choosing new carpeting for the church, which will be furnished by Carlos' Flooring. Thank you all for your patience with these improvements. We anticipate that the Heritage Fund, which is used for improvements and repairs to only the church building, will pay for these items. Please remember the Heritage Fund in your legacy giving as well.

Bethania will not host Vacation Bible School this year because it has been increasingly more difficult to find enough volunteers to do the many tasks that it takes to host it both before and during the week. Thank you to the Christian Education Committee and other volunteers for their hard work on it year after year in the past.

I wish you well on your vacations, staycations, and hosting of visitors this summer. May they bring you joy and renewal.

Sincerely,

Jan Zigler
Council President

Council Members

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 May Financial Statement
Period Ending 05/31/26

Balance Sheet				
	April 2026	May 2026	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 57,499	\$ 76,443	\$ 18,943	
Money Market Account	141,767	141,790	23	
CDs	178,792	179,295	503	
Fund Accounts	2,609,977	2,609,977	-	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Accounts Receivable	99	-	(99)	
Fixed Assets	1,925,054	1,925,054	-	Property & Equipment
Total Assets	\$ 4,913,189	\$ 4,932,559	\$ 19,370	

Profit & Loss				
May	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 26,339	\$ 28,649	\$ (2,311)	
Total Expenses	28,134	32,561	(4,427)	
Net Income	\$ (1,795)	\$ (3,912)	\$ 2,117	

Offerings				
May	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 20,428	\$ 22,348	\$ (1,920)	
Non-Members	2,297	1,089	1,208	
Total Offerings	\$ 22,725	\$ 23,437	\$ (712)	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
Food Distribution	\$16,810	\$10,000 ELCA World Hunger Grant, \$5,000 Tides Foundation Grant, \$1,810 individual donations
Food Distribution Lease	\$8,750	Synod Grant
Hike Against Hunger (June)	\$5,790	
Noisy Offerings	\$217	
Youth Fund	\$100	
Preschool/Child Care Gifts	\$40	
Coffee Funds	\$60	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$175	
Heritage Fund	\$500	

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

Next Social Ministry Meeting – July 1 at 6:00

The Social Ministry will meet **Wednesday, July 1 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room**. This meeting is open to all interested persons and we are actively looking for new members. Please feel free to come and join the discussion.

Agenda items will include:

- Information from the City
- Food Distribution numbers and discussion on closing the Drive up line
- Reporting on Grants and Donations received
- Update on Brown Bag Breakfasts
- Produce Table report
- 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

Connect through Prayer

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.

Connect through Gratitude

Tom and I are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and good wishes for our 70th Wedding Anniversary. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Sincerely,
Tom and Carolynn Petersen

This Month at
Bethania

Sundays

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Sunday School **9:30 am** (Rm 1)

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary

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

9 & 23

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, July 1

6:00 pm Social Ministry Committee Mtg. in the Fireside Room

Saturday, July 4 - Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

10:45 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, July 8

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

Thursday, July 9

7 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, July 10 & 24

9 am Quilting in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, July 15

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

Thursday, July 16

6 pm Church Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Sunday, July 26

Noisy Offering

Connect with us

www.bethanialutheran.net

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Bethania
Lutheran
Church



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The Beacon - July 2026
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