

Connect with Pastor Chris Brown

Well here we go! It's September, so it's the start of the program year, and what a busy year we have ahead of us. Recently, the committee and group heads of the church got together to set dates for the whole year, and it was quite amazing to look at the calendar when we finished and see all the stuff we do at Bethania. There was such positivity in the room in reflecting on the breadth of gatherings and ministries we have at our little church, and excitement for what's coming up. I wanted to use this September newsletter to give a snapshot of what's coming and express my gratitude for all the people who make this happen.

September is going to start with a bang as Youth Group gears up to begin on Sept. 13th. We're hopefully going to be joined by some youth from St. Mark's, and we'll have around 30 or so kids from grades 6 through 12. Additionally, Sunday School will begin Sept. 20, and I'm so grateful for the teachers who make this happen each Sunday! Bible Gift Sunday will happen on Sept. 27, so please plan on being at church to be part of the faith development of our youngest kiddos.

Our annual Day of Service will be Sept. 13 after the 9:30 service, and we'll be packing personal care kits and school supplies to be shipped where they're needed across the world.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping donate supplies to pack up, and of course, thank you to our Social Ministry Committee for ensuring such vibrancy in how we care for others.

We'll be joined by Bishop Bos on Oct. 4, while we bless all the quilts that the Piece Makers have been creating throughout the year. Our quilters do such an amazing job and have a great community of women who put their hearts into those quilts. A week later, we'll be at Lake Lopez for our annual Fall Camping Trip. We'll be at the Quail Site and there are still spots open if anyone would like to join! Thank you so much to our Camping Team for not only organizing the sites, but also all the activities while we're there! Then shortly after, we'll be gearing up to prepare for our annual Family Halloween Party, one of the biggest outreaches we have at Bethania, and it takes a lot of help. We'll be sending out messages looking for help with setup, running the event, and cleanup the next day.

That was only the first two months of the program year! We are a bustling church, and this can only happen because of all of you! Thank you so much to everyone who makes this church a community! I'm really looking forward to this program year and all the ways God continues to be present in and through all of us!

In God's Love,

Pastor Chris

Connect with Bethania Preschool & After School

Our first few months of school have gotten off to an amazing start! August was a beautiful month of **friendship, community, and coming together as a school family**. As we began a new school year, our focus was on building routines, creating connections, and making sure every child feels safe, nurtured, welcomed, and loved.

As we move into September, our school is transforming into an apple orchard! The children will continue to explore their love of learning through hands-on experiences while discovering apples through their five senses. Each classroom will have its own special apple adventure. Miss Ashley's class will explore **apple stamping**, Miss Leslie's class will enjoy **apple tasting**, Miss Christina's class will make **homemade applesauce**, and Miss Angie's class will explore the process of **making apple pies**.

Our After School Program will continue to provide homework support, collaboration, creativity, and exploration. One of their favorite September projects will be "**Apple Explosions**," where the children will use baking soda and vinegar inside an apple to explore what happens when the two ingredients react and create a fun little apple "eruption"!

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support and partnership of the **Bethania Church family and congregation**. Your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and belief in our children and our program mean so much to us.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we begin another wonderful school year. We are so excited for all that this year will bring!

**With all my gratitude,
Monica
Director**

Connect with Community

For more information about Food Distribution, Blessing Box, Brown Bag Breakfasts and other Social Ministry services, please contact Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: vikingpressprint@verizon.net

Helping Those In Need Right Here

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. **We served a total of 886 households in the month of August.** That is a LOT of bag packing, produce packing, and moving stuff around for our volunteers.

That being said – **we are looking for people who can help in specialized areas!** Would you like to help unload the truck on a Tuesday afternoon around 1:15-1:30, and learn how to run an electric pallet jack? We will train you! Would you be able to come around 4:50 and help us move pallets of food with our manual pallet jacks? We would love to have your help! Contact me or Donna Hinsbeeck if you would be interested.

The Blessing Box has also been going gangbusters because people do not have enough money to cover all their bills. If you have items to donate, just drop them in the box anytime. If you would like to "take a shift" to fill the box, let me know – you get to choose the time and day, and I will give you our secret code so you can grab the items from the pantry to fill the box!

We continue to need your prayers and support as we help people survive in this economy. As a church, we are making a big difference in so many lives here in our area.

Brown Bag Breakfast Packing will be Sunday, Sept. 6 in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 service.

Helping Hands + Donated Supplies =

Our 2026 “Day of Service” Event!

WE NEED YOU! Plan to join others in assembling School Kits and Personal Care Kits on **Sunday, Sept. 13th beginning around 10:30 a.m.** (*We also need helpers to set up on Saturday, Sept. 12^h at 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.

WHAT DO WE STILL NEED:

The items we are short on right now are SOAP and TOWELS. If you can donate either of those items, it would be a big help!

WHAT IS DAY OF SERVICE?

“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? Sleep in Heavenly Peace bedding?) 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.

Day of Service Set-Up Sept. 12

A “set up” time will be held **Saturday, Sept. 12th beginning at 10:30 a.m.** in the Parish Hall. 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!

Noisy Sunday is coming - Sept. 27th

The Noisy Offering will be used to help cover the shipping costs of both the Personal Care Kits and the School Kits 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. (***Assembly day is scheduled for Sept. 13th - see related articles***)

Why do we need to ask for shipping cost donations instead of using those funds for creating more kits? Here's why: We are on track to make 200+ School Kits and possibly 200 Personal Care Kits. According to LWR, the approximate processing and shipping cost for each kit has increased to \$4.00 per kit or quilt... and with fuel prices higher, it may cost more by the time they receive our donations!

Your quarters, dimes and nickels (and hopefully some dollars!) will help LWR ship both types of kits, which are desperately needed in crisis situations around the world.

We continue to “make change for the better” with the Noisy Sunday offerings. So bring your coins and make a noise on Sept. 27th. Together, we can CHANGE the world!

Connect Together

Unorthodox

Over six weeks, we're deepening into what Beloved Community means through the Work That Reconnects—a set of practices designed to help us face what's happening in the world and discover our place in it.

Each week we move through the spiral: starting with gratitude for what we love, turning toward our honest grief, opening to see ourselves as part of a larger web of life, and then discovering what calls us forward. Each week stands on its own, but together they build a deeper understanding of how we belong to each other and to the earth.

Through guided practices, listening, song, and time together, we make room for what we actually feel and for the wisdom that emerges when we gather with open hearts.

All are welcome.

About the Work That Reconnects

The Work That Reconnects is a set of group practices developed by Joanna Macy and others beginning in the late 1970s. For forty-five years, thousands of people around the globe have used these practices to face ecological crisis and uncertainty together.

The Work draws on systems thinking, Deep Ecology, and spiritual traditions—especially Buddhist and indigenous teachings—all pointing to one understanding: we are not separate from each other or from the living world.

It has been used by activists, educators, faith communities, and ordinary people. It works because it doesn't ask us to overcome our feelings or bypass our grief. It moves through them.

"The central purpose of the Work that Reconnects is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the systemic, self-healing powers of the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization."

~ Joanna Macy



Spiral artwork by Dori Midnight used with permission

Theo Pub

Theo Pub is getting back into topic centered nights. All are welcome to think about questions involving our faith. The topic this month will be "Eternity". We'll gather at Solvang Brew at 7pm on Sept. 10. Come a little early and grab some food and a drink and meet us at the fire pit!





Danish Days Parade

Bethania will once again be participating in the Danish Days Parade and we can use your help! The theme for this year is *Solen Over Dalen*, meaning Sun Over the Valley. We'll be decorating the float on **Sept. 18, at 5pm** in the back parking lot. The parade will begin at 2:30 on **Saturday, Sept. 19**. If you would like to join us, meet the float at the corner of First St. and Molle Way between 1:30 and 2pm!

Danish Days Organ Concert Bach's Lunch: A Musical Smorgasbord!

Favorite festival organist James Welch is "Bach" by popular demand for this this year's Danish Days celebration, playing on the authentic pipe organ at Bethania Lutheran Church, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at 1 p.m. 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 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.

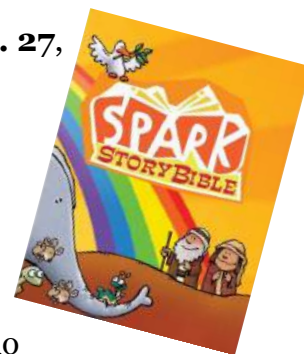
The church is located at 603 Atterdag Rd., Solvang.



James Welch, Danish Days Organist

Bible Gift Sunday

Bible Gift Sunday will be **Sept. 27**, during the 9:30 service. We'll be gifting Story Bible to children in our congregation who have turned 3 years old, Connect Bibles to children in 3rd Grade, and then bibles to any new kids who have joined the church recently. Contact the office if you would like your child or family member included. Please join us at worship to celebrate their faith journey at Bethania!





Fall Family Campout

Lopez Lake - October 9-11, 2026

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.
- 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

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

Coffee Sign-Up September

Sept. 6 Anne Twigg

Sept. 13 Available

Sept. 20 Marcia Galbraith &
Deann Brownell

Sept. 27 Cheryl Heredia & Carol Skoog

Thanks to Lou Fox Bender for her help finding coffee hosts. If you would like to sign-up for Sept. 13, please contact Lou on Sunday or call the church office.

Choir Practice Resumes

Singers needed. If you can sing a part in tune, please join the Sanctuary Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall resuming on Sept. 23. Share your gifts. Join the choir.

Psalm 96:1 "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth."

This month sees the end of summer, and we are looking ahead to the many fall activities ahead. As with any organization, spreading the word about what's going on is always a challenge, and so at Bethania, you'll soon notice two new things to improve communication that Pastor Chris is working hard on. Don't be surprised when you walk into the Parish Hall one day and see a screen where the bulletin board used to be. On it, you'll be able to learn about upcoming events and see fun photos of recent events while you're waiting in line for coffee. Second, the church website will be replaced with a better version soon. Our current version is difficult to update, so the new one will be a wonderful change, much better for imparting information to members and visitors alike.

An important church improvement that you won't notice this month is the cleaning out, scraping and epoxy sealing of the cast iron plumbing pipes under the church restrooms. Nearly 100 years old, they deserve some attention. Thanks be to God and the Heritage Fund for making it possible to complete this project. Please remember the Heritage Fund in your legacy giving.

Jan

Council Members	
Jan Zigler, President (559) 740-3676	Rikka Rasmussen, Vice-President (805) 453-8535
Cheryl Heredia, Secretary (714) 450-5487	Carol Skoog, Treasurer (408) 398-5673
Donna Hinsbeeck (805) 245-5907	Lou Fox Bender (805) 245-0553
Denise Johns (661) 713-1516	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736
Robert Laufer (805) 717-1696	

Connect in Gratitude

Thank You Jack Figueroa and Troop 41

For Jack's Eagle Scout project, Jack Figueroa and our Scout Troop 41, built 3 garden beds, with soil for our Preschool and After School program on Aug. 8. They donated all the supplies and work and our Preschool has already planted several veggies, herbs and flowers! This will be part of a new program the Preschool will be doing with the kids to teach them about gardening and learning where our food comes from. We are so grateful to Jack and Troop 41 and our partnership with the Scouts!

Connect in Prayer

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



Jack and members of Troop #41

CONNECT WITH FINANCES
CAROL SKOOG, TREASURER

Bethania Lutheran Church
Notes for July Financial Statement
Period Ending 07/31/26

Balance Sheet				
	June 2026	July 2026	Variance	Notes
Checking Account	\$ 74,311	\$ 64,057	\$ (10,254)	
Money Market Account	141,815	141,839	24	
CDs	179,864	180,417	553	
Fund Accounts	2,609,977	2,609,977	-	Cemetery, Endowment & Heritage
Accounts Receivable	1,738	2,642	904	
Fixed Assets	1,925,054	1,925,054	-	Property & Equipment
Total Assets	\$ 4,932,759	\$ 4,923,986	\$ (8,772)	

Profit & Loss				
July	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
Total Income	\$ 31,632	\$ 28,649	\$ 2,983	
Total Expenses	30,946	32,811	(1,865)	
Net Income	\$ 686	\$ (4,162)	\$ 4,848	

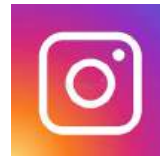
Offerings				
July	Actual	Budget	Variance	Notes
General Fund	\$ 24,116	\$ 22,348	\$ 1,768	
Non-Members	187	1,089	(902)	
Total Offerings	\$ 24,303	\$ 23,437	\$ 866	

Donations - Designated Funds and Pass-Through Accounts		
Pass-Through Accounts (Managed by BLC)		
Food Distribution	\$1,315	Individual donors
Noisy Offerings	\$188	
Produce Table (June - Nov)	\$362	
Youth Fund	\$40	
Coffee Funds	\$76	
Designated Funds (Managed by BLC)		
Memorials	\$100	
Designated Funds (Managed Outside of BLC)		
Endowment Fund	\$225	
Heritage Fund	\$25	

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



Bethania
Lutheran
Church



@bethanialutheran

www.bethanialutheran.net
805-688-4637
bethanialutheranch@gmail.com

Connect with Engagement

Sundays

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

11:00 am Unorthodox in the Sanctuary
Sunday School in the Fireside Room

Mondays

5:30-7 pm Dungeons and Dragons Teen Group
in the Parish Hall

6-7 pm Praise Band Practice in the Sanctuary
7 pm AA in the Fireside Room

Tuesdays

9:30 am, 1:45 pm, & 5:15-6:45 pm
Food Distribution Shifts

Wednesdays

5:30 pm Yoga in the Parish Hall

7:00 pm Choir Practice in the Parish Hall, every
Wednesday, starting Sept. 23

Thursdays

5:15-6:15 pm Contemplative Prayer in the
Sanctuary

5:15-6:45 pm Irish Dance in the Parish Hall
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, Sept. 2

6 pm Social Ministry Committee Mtg. in the
Fireside Room

Thursday, Sept. 3

6:00 pm Eagle Scout Review Meeting in the
Fireside Room

Saturday, Sept. 5

8 am - 1 pm A to Z Cooking Class in the Parish
Hall, Fireside Room and Kitchen

Sunday, Sept. 6

10:30 am Brown Bag Breakfast Packing in the
Parish Hall

1-4 pm Private Event in the Parish Hall &
Kitchen

Monday, Sept. 7 - Labor Day

The Church office and Bethania Preschool & After
School are closed.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

6-8 pm Youth Connect in the Fireside Room

7-9 pm Danish Sisterhood Meeting in the Parish
Hall

Thursday, Sept. 10

7:00 pm Theo Pub at Solvang Brewing Company

Friday, Sept. 11

9 am Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

Saturday, Sept. 12

All-Day Set-up for Day of Service in the Parish
Hall

Sunday, Sept. 13

10:30 am Assembling personal hygiene kits and
school kits for Lutheran World Relief in the
Parish Hall

5 pm Youth Group On-Site

Tuesday, Sept. 15

1:30 pm - 5 pm Organ Tuning in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept. 16

5:30 pm Bethania Preschool Board Mtg. In the
Fireside Room

Thursday, Sept. 17

6 pm Council Meeting in the Fireside Room

Friday, Sept. 18

5 pm Decorate Float for Danish Days in the back
parking lot

Saturday, Sept. 19

1 pm Danish Days Organ Concert in the
Sanctuary

2:30 pm Danish Days Parade

Friday, Sept. 25

9 am Piece Makers in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Sept. 27

Bible Gift Sunday

9:30 am Noisy Offering

5 pm Youth Group On-Site

The Beacon
September 2026
Bethania Lutheran Church
621 Atterdag Rd.
Solvang CA 93463

