

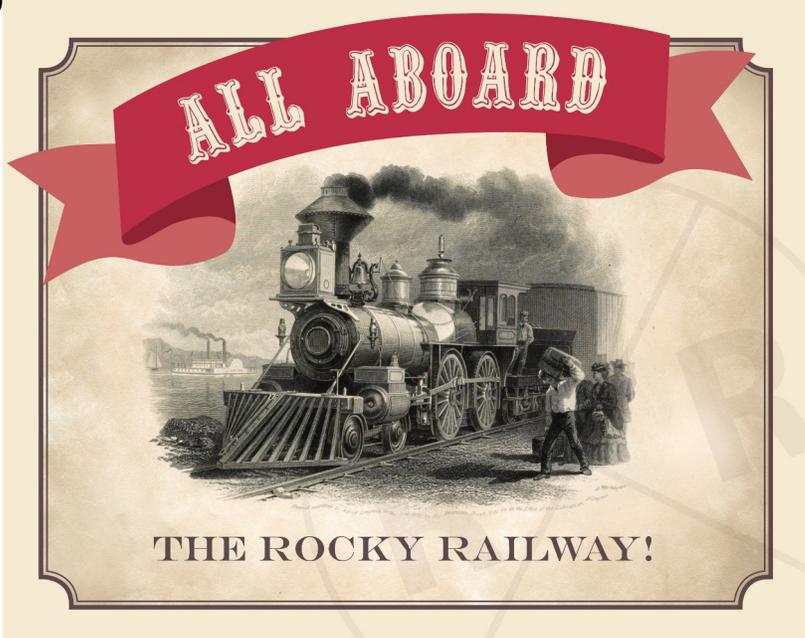


# August, 2022

## The Oakleaves



**SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
818-789-0215 • Fax: 818-789-037 • 14847 Dickens Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
e-mail: shermanoakslutheran@yahoo.com • www.shermanoakslutheran.org



**“Take a ride on the Rocky Railway—Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through”**

**2022 SOLC Vacation Bible School!**

**Monday ~ Friday • August 1 ~ 5**

**3:30 ~ 6 pm • 4 years old-5<sup>th</sup> grade**

QR code on page 7.



A Special **Family Focus** time **DAILY** 5:30 pm-6 pm.

**Family Meal ~ for everyone on Thursday, Aug 4 @ 6 pm**  
Please RSVP to the church office, so we have enough food!

**Thank you** to all who have prayed, invited, donated, and volunteered to serve on Rocky Railway VBS this summer;

Where we learn that Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through Life’s Ups and Downs - Trust JESUS!

Look for a recap and pictures next month! Until then keep powering up those prayers over all who attend and hear the gospel news.

**FEET** - (Family Equipping and Encouraging Time)

**Sunday, August 14** (note a change of date)

immediately following worship.

Families join for food, fun, fellowship, and faith building!

Please RSVP to Chris.

**in all things** Save the date:  
JULY 9-13, 2022 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

**Sunday, August 28**

following worship

a special report from the NYG youth attendees and

*Thank you to the congregation.*



# Mary & Martha Guild

by Dorene Rubin

Greetings Everyone, I hope your summer is going well. VBS is almost here with lots of exciting activities for our kiddos. Keep the children, teachers, and leaders in your prayers.

In honor of the **LWML's 80th anniversary**, the Mary & Martha Guild is encouraging all members of SOLC to use the number 80 to guide your time, talent, and treasure to further the work of God's kingdom. Here are some suggestions for you to consider from now and through the Fall.



80 cans of food to an emergency shelter

80 apples, oranges, or bananas for a senior home, preschool or after-school program



80 dozen cookies, sandwiches, pies, etc. to first responders or emergency room workers

Looking forward: Sat., Sept. 10 @ 9:30 am M&M meeting  
Sat/Sun, Oct. 1 & 2 ~ LWML weekend  
Sat., Oct. 23 ~ Zone Meeting for all women  
This October ~ Pie Sale Fundraiser\*

God's blessings as we complete the summertime activities.



# Children's Center

by Kimberly Ogas, Director

The Children's Center summer camp continues to merrily romp along. If you've visited the church during the week, you've definitely heard the laughter and squeals of the campers as they continue to have fun in the sun! This month we had lots of special hands-on experiences at camp.



The first week of July we started out by celebrating America with a boisterous 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Parents stopped by to cheer on the children as they marched around the playground to patriotic songs. They looked absolutely adorable with their red, white, and blue school-made hats. We certainly saw their American pride as they waved their flags high and chanted, "USA!"



This month also allowed us to meet several different types of God's creatures. We first met some pocket pets during "Pet Week." The campers learned about ways to care for small and furry critters. They had hands-on experiences with bunnies, hamsters, and even a guinea pig. It was sweet to see how they handled the small animals with such gentle touches.



Another favorite activity this past month was a visit from Captain Carl and his Sea Creatures. Captain Carl explained how every species of sea life is a special creation from God. The campers gathered around water bins that were filled with a variety of sea animals. They had the opportunity to touch Sea Snails, Hermit Crabs, Sea Stars, and a Sea Cucumber. They even got to touch a real shark and a small sting ray. The "waves" of excitement were contagious.

Our campers also went "buggy" for our insect week while Creepy Crawlies made an appearance at camp. The insects sent some of our teachers into a "buzz", but the children were intrigued by all of the creatures and showed a great deal of curiosity about them.



In our last week of July we had a ringing good time during Amazing Instruments week. We rocked and rolled our way through all types of music. The week culminated in a drum circle with Rumbling Rhythms. Our campers and teachers showed that we've certainly got happy feet here at SOLCC. We've got the beat!

We will wrap up our summer camp with Reptile Week and a Good-bye to Summer in the first two weeks of August. Our teachers will then transform their classrooms back into their normal school year learning environments for the 2022-2023 school year. Then it's off to the start of a new school year which begins on **Thursday, August 18**. We appreciate your prayers for a safe and successful school year where God's abundant love is at the center of it all.

# LWML's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary ideas



80 boxes of crayons, markers, or other school supplies to a school in need. (esp in SF Valley)



80 FLOWERS PLANTED FOR WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS



80 stuffed toys for use by first responders (EMTs, police, firefighters)



WE ENVISION A FUTURE WHERE ALL WHO SERVE BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CARE.

OPERATIONGRATITUDE.COM



"I feel honored for having people like you come together to send us love and support from back home. The things you do make everything worth it out here. I cannot thank you enough." - CPT E.M.B.

We are so excited that so many of you have taken action to move us toward our goal of 15,000 notes! Thanks to you, our Care Packages are incredibly special to those who receive them.

Now we need **your help** to get these notes into Care Packages and delivered to service members and First Responders throughout our nation and around the world. This is all possible because of you!

**\$25 puts a Care Package in the hands of a brave individual** who raised their hand to serve.



## Pentatonix at Hollywood Bowl

Thursday, September 29, 8 p.m.

Pentatonix is the most popular and celebrated a cappella group in the world. They are the first a cappella group in history to be recognized by the Grammys. The three-time-Grammy-winning **vocal** quintet brings original songs and imaginative arrangements of everything from pop and hip-hop to electronica and country.

Elaine Werner has reserved 33 tickets in section P1 for **\$42.25 each**. The price includes a seat cushion. The group price saves \$5.50 in ticket fees over the individual price. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. Performance starts at 8:00 p.m.

What a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and great music. We have enough seats for inviting friends and family. Picnicking is available before all concerts. Elaine will try to hold picnic tables for our group.

**We need a FINAL COUNT by AUGUST 23!!!!**

Please call Elaine Werner at (747) 253-8133 for questions and sign-up. *Hope to see you at the Bowl!*

### Updated Mission Statement

To receive and be transformed by God's grace, faith in Jesus, and Holy Scripture to:

- ~ Reach up in worship to God
- ~ Reach down in service to others
- ~ Reach into God's Word to grow as disciples
- ~ Reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ
- ~ Reach around in fellowship as the Body of Christ

# Stewardship

## Wait for the Lord

by Andréa Vasilo

August is to me what January is to most other people. Since it's my birthday month, it serves as a time to reflect on where I've been and where I'm going. A chance to create "new year's resolutions" of sorts, only for the latest year of my life as opposed to the calendar year for the rest of the world.

As much as I like to prepare for my future with to-do lists, full of things I can "check off" (resolutions included!), the Bible implores us to trust in God and give control over to Him: "I am certain that I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27:13-14) God already has the perfect plan in store.

Not only do the Scriptures promise the Lord's goodness here on Earth, but the Gospel tells us the good news of Jesus as our Savior. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are redeemed. Our sins do not define us, nor does the devil wield power over us. Above all else, Jesus has secured victory over death, and eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Why would the God of the whole world do all of that for ordinary people? Because we're God's children and God loves us unconditionally. Unconditional love is not transactional, so God does not require anything of us in return. However, it pleases God when we acknowledge our blessings, give thanks for them, and share them with others.



By sharing our God-given time, talents and treasures with other people (both believers and unbelievers alike), we're shining Christ's light, spreading Christ's love, and ultimately

furthering the Kingdom. That's what being a Christian steward is all about.

*Don't forget:* if you are not yet comfortable attending in-person worship services, you can still support SOLC by mailing offerings to the church, the Vanco app, the Tithe.ly app, online "bill pay" through your bank, or giving online at

[www.shermanoakslutheran.org](http://www.shermanoakslutheran.org).

## Service Opportunities

**Help Wanted...God is hiring!**  
(Check out Pastor's article on page 8)

1. Need someone who would like to **monitor the collection of non perishables** regularly and **deliver them** to Central Lutheran Church in Van Nuys. Please let Chris Gordon know if you would like to assist in this way.

2. Evelyn's absence has not only left a huge hole in our hearts but it also means we need new leadership in the area of **HOSPITALITY**. If you are someone who values these opportunities to gather around fellowship treats and can take on organizing treats and make coffee for Sunday mornings, please speak to Tahirih. She will give you the inside scoop on the Mary & Martha closet and supplies. Also check with Liz in the office regarding budgeted items.

3. Looking for someone to order and pick up **Memorial Garden plaques**. We have a business from which to order. Work with Liz for order forms and develop a system for members who would like to purchase one for a loved one. Once a few orders come in, get them made up, then give to Jim Windsor to add to the wall. This is an on-going and precious way to serve in the Church. Please reach out to Larry Hanna if you would like to know more.

## Ushers are Needed:

Everyone is invited to be an usher on Sunday mornings: young people, parents with their kids, adults, seniors...Eric Anderson will train anyone new to this job. There is an **Usher sign up sheet** across from the bathrooms. Please sign up on the date you can serve. Two slots per Sunday. Sign up and Liz will email a reminder several days before the service.



Join us in wishing God's blessings on those celebrating their birthday or anniversary this month:



### Birthdays:

### Anniversary:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

		Rhonda Renneker	8/23
		Dick Robertson	8/23
Andréa Vasiló	8/8	Dorene Rubin	8/23
Cindy Hanna	8/10	Elaine Werner	8/28
Akyra Utecht	8/21	Rolain Tankou	8/29

Alan & Dorene Rubin	(42 yrs)	8/3
Don & Sandra Bostrom	(58 yrs)	8/14
Terry & Cathy Dallas	(18 yrs)	8/15
Jim & Inga Windsor	(43 yrs)	8/25

## Calendar for Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

All dates and times are subject to change



August, 2022

Sat, July 30 **VBS Decorating, 11 am-4:30 pm** Contemp. Worship 5 p.m. Sat. School & Bible Study, 6:30 pm  
 Sun, July 31 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m. **VBS Set up weekend, noon-done**

## All Aboard -- Vacation Bible School - August 1-5, 3:30-6 pm

Tues, Aug 2	High School Youth Group, 6:30—8:00 p.m. in the loft
Thurs, Aug 4	<b>Dinner with the VBS Families, 6 pm</b>
Sat, Aug 6	Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Aug 7	Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Tues, Aug 9	School Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Elders meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Aug 11	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. <i>in person &amp; via Zoom</i>
Sat, Aug 13	Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Aug 14	Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. FEET after worship
Tues., Aug 16	Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Aug 18	<b>Children's Center First day of School</b> Bible Study, 7 p.m. <i>in person &amp; via Zoom</i>
Sat, Aug 20	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Aug 21	Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Tues., Aug 23	<b>The Oakleaves</b> articles are due in Liz's "in box," noon
Thurs, Aug 25	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. <i>in person &amp; via Zoom</i>
Sat, Aug 27	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Aug 28	Bible Study & Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. <b>A Special short report from the NYG youth attendees and Thanks to the congregation</b>
Sat, Sept 3	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m. Sat. School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 4	Bible Study & Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Mon, Sept 5</b>	<b>Labor Day — Office and School Closed</b>
Thurs, Sept 8	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. <i>in person &amp; via Zoom</i>
Sat, Sept 10	Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. Sat. School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 11	Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Thurs, Sept 15	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. <i>in person &amp; via Zoom</i>

Happy Labor Day



## Decorate Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade floats!



**Registration Now Open!** Go to <https://petalpushers.org/> to register to decorate floats for January 2, 2023.

The PetalPushers® are a group volunteers who gather annually to decorate the Lutheran Hour Float and other floats. PetalPushers look forward to having you join in this year!

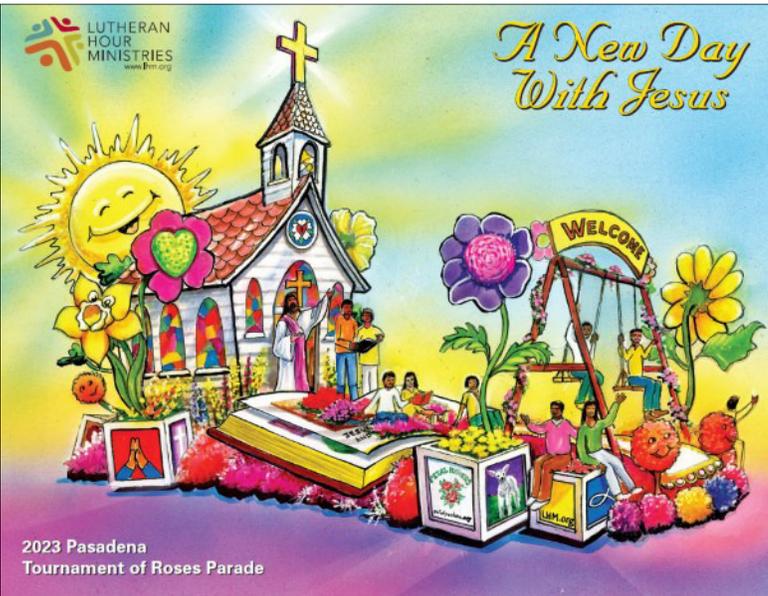
They welcome individuals, families, seniors, youth groups, fellowship groups, school classes, and Boy/Girl Scout Troops.

**Everyone 13 and older is WELCOME!**

Please note, youth groups must be accompanied by adults at a ratio of one (1) adult per five (5) youth.

**NOTICE:** Due to safety concerns and insurance regulations, all volunteers MUST be 13 years or older.

The 2023 Tournament of Roses parade theme is **“Turning the Corner,”** and our float is titled **“A New Day with Jesus.”** Join us to help support and make possible the only Christian float in the parade!



## Altar Flower Sign Up

**Flower sign ups** are on the hallway bulletin board. Bring flowers for the altar for special occasions, or just because you want to share.



## Called to *Serve* Thank you!

Let's **give thanks** to those who have given their time and talents here at SOLC in **July**, to:

- ☺ all who worked hard to prepare for VBS this month! And all who volunteered to help.
- ☺ those who donated to the mercy packs and remember you still can through amazon.
- ☺ all the great Sunday School teachers.
- ☺ those who volunteer their time to help with all the goings on at the church.

*If there are anyone out there you feel deserves thanks for giving their time and talents to the church, please email [brei04@hotmail.com](mailto:brei04@hotmail.com).*

## Lutheran Teacher "Can Do" Attitude

Part 2

### CAN'T

- We've never done it **that** way.
- They won't listen.
- I'm afraid.
- We don't have the resources.
- We can't compete.
- It's good enough.
- We don't have space for more.
- No one communicates.
- I can't.
- Let someone else do it.
- Parent's won't like it.
- I can't.

### CAN DO

- Change is exciting!
- I'll say it in a better way.
- Christ equips us.
- How can we improvise?
- They can't compete with us.
- We can do it better.
- What a wonderful opportunity!
- Let's openly share. I'll start.
- I'll do my best.
- I'll do my share.
- We'll help them understand.
- I can!

## Welcome to 'Project Connect' Booklet Ministry Program

Look at the ways you can now listen to Lutheran Hour Ministries Project Connect booklets - get the Mobile App



Get Started!

Go to **Project Connect** Tips for sharing **Project Connect** booklets in your community.

Click here to download free PDF & Audio (MP3) files. There you will find the complete library of **Project Connect** booklets. Also available now are several **Project Connect** booklets in an MP3 format, with new audios added frequently. Now you can listen to them and pass them along as an audio resource. Just click on *Download MP3 Audio File*.

Check out the titles available and see which fit best with the selection you're currently offering your congregation and community. To order booklets, display kits, or other resources, go to our Order Now! and visit our online store or call 1-800-752-9636 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST.

Do you have questions or feedback for us about **Project Connect**? If so, call us at 800-944-3450 x 4210 or send an e-mail to Nancy Kellerhals at nancy.kellerhals@lhm.org, or you can contact us at projectconnect@lhm.org for more information. Or to learn more at lhm.org/projectconnect.

## About Project Connect

**How can you offer help to those in your church who are struggling**, but who may not be ready to discuss the issue with others?

**How can you reach out to people in your community with a Christian message of love and hope?**

**The answer is Project Connect.**

**Project Connect** is a booklet ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries. It gives congregations a tangible, take-home resource of Christ-centered value they can offer to visitors, members, or others in their community.



## Refill our Mercy Packs



Items still needed: full water bottles and toothbrushes so we can pack some drawstring packs.

**Travel size: deodorant, soap, toothpaste, sunscreen** would be summer bonus items, too.



Plz consider donating through the Mercy Packs Wish list on Amazon. [https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B003EH0CY0?coliid=IISZU2NVSZLRK&colid=3JEGWVFP3N50V&pvc=1&ref\\_=lv\\_vv\\_lig\\_dp\\_it](https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B003EH0CY0?coliid=IISZU2NVSZLRK&colid=3JEGWVFP3N50V&pvc=1&ref_=lv_vv_lig_dp_it)

**Cash donations** are always **welcome** if you don't have time for the shopping part. Just mark an envelope for "Mercy Packs" or write a check to SOLC with Mercy Packs on the memo line.

**Note: We also collect full sized canned and boxed goods** for the Food Pantry at Central Lutheran. Please be sure nothing is expired.

We do **NOT collect clothing or home goods** currently.

You can schedule a pick up for Hope of the Valley through this email address: info@hopeofthevalley.org or by calling 818-392-0020.

**Project Connect** addresses a wide variety of topics, offering booklets that connect God's Word to real-life issues.

**Project Connect** is effective, affordable, easy to get started in your congregation. It's also a breeze to maintain.

**Place your order now using their online store!**

Register for VBS using this QR code.



## A Message from Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utecht

# The "Secret" to Finding Joy

For this month's Oakleaves article, I wanted to share what I found to be a beautiful Scriptural insight by one of the presenters at the LCMS Youth Gathering last month which the youth and I attended. The presentation was called "The Sacred Way" and it spoke about how trusting God and living a life of faith leads to a life that is full of joy and peace and purpose and deplete of stress and anxiety. (It was also about how such a life is exactly what God has given us and it's easy to *know* it, but it's really hard to *do* it and to not let the stress and anxiety creep in.)

Anyhow, the presenter began by asking who would like to have more joy for themselves in their life. Unsurprisingly, everyone would like to have more joy. Whether we currently have much or little, we could all benefit from more joy! Then he asked us a couple of questions, which I encourage you to think about and answer for yourself. First of all, *who is someone who exemplifies joy, someone that*

*you want to emulate more?* Secondly, *what is it about that joyful person that makes you admire them?* He asked us to share answers to this second question, and the responses were things like this: "They are very encouraging." "No matter whether I'm in a good mood or having a bad day, they will still be with me and lift me up." "They help others." "Even when things are going bad, they just keep a good attitude and inspire everyone else."

These were all great answers, and I'm sure you could add more. Running through this whole list of answers is one common thread that unites them all: **They are all about serving others.** Every answer about what joyful people do is NOT about what they do for themselves, but about what they do for others. So the great irony and "secret" to joy is this: If you want more joy *for yourself*, *forget yourself* and instead *serve others*.

Indeed, this is exactly what Christ calls Christians to do. **"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."** (Mt. 16:24-25) That is, stop seeking your own will and your own good, and start seeking to serve Jesus instead. And the way to serve God is to serve others. (Mt. 25:40) Jesus is telling us "Stop seeking things for yourself. You want joy, and you can try chasing down joy and meaning and

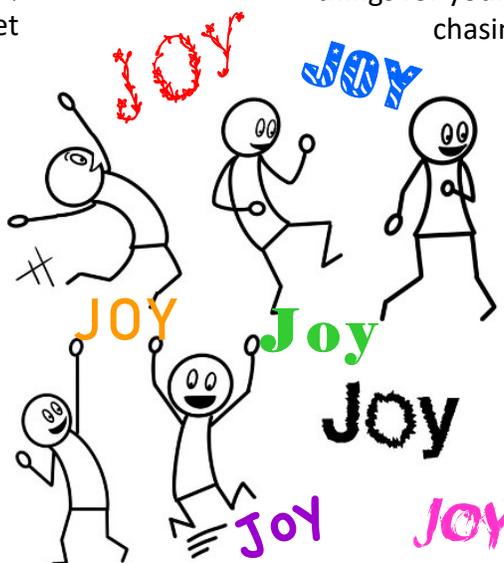
accomplishment for yourself, but the more you chase, the emptier you will be. Try to save your life and you will lose it. But when you start living the way of the cross, sacrificing and giving of yourself for others, then you will find fullness of life, here on earth and there in eternity."

One of the strangest and most inaccurate characterizations that I occasionally see of Christians is that Christianity is a very somber and dour sort of religion. There is

no time for joy and happiness on this earth, for Christians are all about denial and restraint and sacrifice, so the thinking goes. Ha! That couldn't be farther from the truth. In reality, when we as Christians live out the task of service and self-denial and sacrificial love that Christ has given to us, we find far more joy than the world can ever know. As Christ himself has taught us: **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."** (Acts 20:35)

I hope that you will take this as an opportunity to recommit to living a joyful life by recommitting to joyfully serving others.

-Joyful in Christ,  
Pastor Utecht



J  
O  
Y

Joy

