



# September 2026 *The Oakleaves*

**SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH** *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

**818-789-0215** Fax: 818-789-0373 • **14847 Dickens Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403**

e-mail: [shermanoakslutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:shermanoakslutheran@yahoo.com) • [www.shermanoakslutheran.org](http://www.shermanoakslutheran.org)

## Let's Talk About Our Future

by Pastor Carl Kaye

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for your assistance with the move and for providing those wonderful strategic dinner meals twice a week. We truly feel blessed by your support. Whenever someone new joins our church family, they often bring some insightful questions. They might wonder, "Why do you all do things this way?" If we're being honest, sometimes we don't have a perfect answer. We might simply say, "Well, it's just our tradition." But then they naturally ask, "How old is that tradition?" And almost every time, our answer is, "We honestly don't know!"

I'd like us to be more intentional about our actions. To do that, I need some time to ask questions and really understand what's on your minds. We'd be delighted to invite you over to our new home to sit down, share your thoughts, and discuss our future. I'm planning to schedule small group discussions in the near future and look forward to hearing from the congregation.

What does the Bible teach us about planning? First, hard work pays off: When we plan ahead and put in the effort, God provides. Rushing into things often leads to trouble. "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty." - Proverbs 21:5 Second, we need to consider the cost: Jesus gave excellent examples of this. He reminded us that a wise builder checks his budget before starting a tower, and a smart king measures his army before going to war. We need to know what we're getting into before we begin. "Luke 14:28-32 Third, we should seek advice: Our plans work much better when we don't try to do everything ourselves. Getting advice from wise people keeps us on the right path. "Without counsel, plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." - Proverbs 15:22

Fourth, let God guide us: We can create all the plans we desire, but God is the one who ultimately directs our path. As Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." We entrust our plans to Him: When we dedicate our daily work to God, our goals naturally align with His greater purpose. Proverbs 16:3 reminds us, "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." I'll listen to your ideas, jot them down, report on them, and work together to ensure we're on the same page moving forward. Sharing the message of Christ's Gospel is crucial, and with God's guidance, we can reach those He has placed in our community.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Kaye*



## FEET — Families Encouraging + Equipping Together

Thank you to all who came out in August for the camping trip to the KOA Santa Paula Campground. We had morning and evening devotions around the campfire where conversations got personal and we were encouraged by God's word and His creations around us. We had a splash during the Back to School Beach Bash last Sunday! We put our FEET in the sand and prayed a blessing over the school year ahead. Our next FEET meet up is Sunday, Sept 27th at 12 pm (the 4th Sunday bc of the congregational mtg on 9/20). Lunch is provided. We begin a new program this fall, focused on raising Faith Strong Kids. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Friends are ALWAYS welcome!



## Called to Serve

by Breilyn Brantley

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:1-3*

- Thanks to our new Pastor Kaye for answering our call.
- Thanks to all who helped organize the FEET excursions.
- Thanks to all Altar Guild, Greeters and Ushers.
- Thanks to all the great Sunday School teachers.
- Thanks to those who volunteer their time to help with all the goings on at the church.

*Thank You!*

If there is anyone you feel deserves thanks for giving their time and talents to the church, please email me at brei04@hotmail.com



## LWML~ Lutheran Women in Mission

by Laurel Seaver

Our Fall meeting is on September 12, 2026. We will meet at 9 am for Lesson 5 in our Daring Women of the Bible. This lesson will be on Puah and Shiphrah. The Scripture is Exodus 1:15-22. Our business meeting will directly follow. Please plan on attending. All Ladies are welcome. We also have an opportunity to support the children and families from Grace Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. They are requesting school items such as backpacks, 3-ring notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, highlighters, rulers, glue sticks, crayons, spiral notebooks, scissors, and markers for younger children. Our school supplies are due before our meeting. Please bring them to church by **September 8th**.



## Zoo News from the Children's Center

by Director,  
Arusyak Dzheyranyan



Dear SOLC Families,

Welcome to a New School Year!

Our fall school year has officially begun, and we are so excited for another wonderful year together! Our children are adjusting beautifully to their new classrooms, teachers, and routines. We are grateful to see their smiles, friendships, and excitement as they begin this new season of learning.

Our children are also blessed to participate in Chapel twice a week with Pastor Kaye and Mr. Mike. The children truly enjoy this special time of singing, listening to Bible stories, praying, and learning about God's love.

What We're Learning This Month.

September will be filled with fun and meaningful learning experiences as we explore:

- Our Bodies & Five Senses
- Feelings & Manners
- Fall Leaves
- Old McDonald Had a Farm

We warmly invite all of our families to join us for our Back-to-School Night!

Friday, September 25 @ 6:30 PM. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, meet teachers, learn more about the school year, and be part of our Lutheran community. We look forward to a beautiful September filled with learning, growing, friendship, faith, and lots of love!

With love,  
Miss Arus  
Director



# September-October 2026 Events

*All dates and times  
are subject to change*

|             |                                                           |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tues, Sep 1 | Healthy Life, 4:30 pm                                     |                       |
| Wed, Sep 2  | Evening Bible Study, 7 pm                                 |                       |
| Sat, Sep 5  | Contemp. Worship, 5 pm                                    | Bible Study, 6:30 pm  |
| Sun, Sep 6  | Bible Study, 8:45 am                                      | Sunday Worship, 10 am |
| Sun, Sep 6  | Memorial Service for Robert True, following service       |                       |
| Tues, Sep 8 | Healthy Life, 4:30 pm                                     | Council Meeting, 7 pm |
| Wed, Sep 9  | Evening Bible Study, 7 pm                                 |                       |
| Sat, Sep 12 | LWML, 9 am                                                | Men's Group, 10 am    |
|             | Contemp. Worship, 5 pm                                    | Bible Study, 6:30 pm  |
| Sun, Sep 13 | Bible Study, 8:45 am                                      | Sunday Worship, 10 am |
| Wed, Sep 16 | Evening Bible Study, 7 pm                                 |                       |
| Sat, Sep 19 | Contemp. Worship, 5 pm                                    | Bible Study, 6:30 pm  |
| Sun, Sep 20 | Bible Study, 8:45 am                                      | Sunday Worship, 10 am |
| Sun, Sep 20 | Congregational Meeting, following service                 |                       |
| Wed, Sep 23 | Evening Bible Study, 7 pm                                 |                       |
| Fri, Sep 25 | SOLCC back to School Night, 6:30 pm                       |                       |
| Sat, Sep 26 | Contemp. Worship, 5 pm                                    | Bible Study, 6:30 pm  |
| Sun, Sep 27 | Bible Study, 8:45 am                                      | Sunday Worship, 10 am |
| Sun, Sep 27 | FEET, 12 pm (4th Sunday bc of congregational Mtg on 9/20) |                       |
| Wed, Sep 30 | Evening Bible Study, 7 pm                                 |                       |
| Sat, Oct 3  | Sunday School Education Meeting, 4 pm                     |                       |
| Sat, Oct 3  | Contemp. Worship, 5 pm                                    | Bible Study, 6:30 pm  |
| Sun, Oct 4  | Bible Study, 8:45 am                                      | Sunday Worship, 10 am |
| Wed, Oct 7  | Evening Bible Study, 7 pm                                 |                       |
| Sat, Oct 10 | Contemp. Worship, 5 pm                                    | Bible Study, 6:30 pm  |
| Sun, Oct 11 | Bible Study, 8:45 am                                      | Sunday Worship, 10 am |

*Scan for  
full calendar*



## Lutheran Hour Ministries Rose Parade Float Decorating for 2027

*God's Promises Welcome All*



The theme for the 2027 Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) Float is **God's Promises Welcome All**. Using imagery from the biblical story of Noah's Ark, the float celebrates the beautiful truth that God's promises are for everyone and serve as a joyful reminder that we are all invited to follow God.

Jesus commissioned His followers to go into all the world and preach the Good News to every person, and this year's float theme aligns with Lutheran Hour Ministries' mission of sharing the Gospel around the world with people who have not yet experienced the transformative love of our Savior. The float incorporates the imagery of Noah's Ark to joyfully share that

God has new and abundant life for all.

The rainbow is an integral part of Noah's story in the Bible (Genesis 9). It serves as a visible, divine promise of God's grace, mercy, and covenant to never again destroy the earth with a flood. It symbolizes God's faithfulness and compassion, reminding believers that wrath is limited while His covenant of grace endures. Its inclusion on the float focuses on the meaning of God's promise and redemption.

Sign up to volunteer Dec 5th—31st 2026

<https://bit.ly/LHMFLOATSignUp>



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



### Birthdays:

|                      |      |               |       |
|----------------------|------|---------------|-------|
| Abby Connick         | 9/3  | Mike Renneker | 10/5  |
| Maisey Villari       | 9/13 | Philip Muze   | 10/7  |
| Anthony Lee          | 9/15 | Joan Mann     | 10/10 |
| Niusha Tabari        | 9/15 | Marilyn Omann | 10/14 |
| Parisa Foroughhiazar | 9/20 | Bette Quesada | 10/15 |
| Hope Gordon          | 9/26 | Tiffany Hegg  | 10/16 |
| Daphne Stegman       | 9/27 | Jamie Cleary  | 10/20 |
| Sandra Uwanawich     | 9/28 | Jane Green    | 10/26 |

### Anniversaries:

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Miriam & Mario Sweet     | 9/22  |
| Craig & Tanya Peterson   | 9/24  |
| Leslie & Michael O'Byrne | 10/14 |
| John & Laura Sinnema     | 10/30 |

*Thank you,*

## Nursery Volunteers

*September—October 2026*

|       |                                    |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| 9/6   | Marleen Nicholas,<br>Laura Redmond |
| 9/13  | Tahirih Petrya,<br>Saana Campana   |
| 9/20  | Sonia Uwanawich,<br>Tonika Farmer  |
| 9/27  | Cindy Hanna,<br>Kayla Hanna        |
| 10/4  | Marleen Nicholas,<br>Sammy Khalili |
| 10/11 | Saana Campana,<br>Lily Grace       |
| 10/18 | Sonia Uwanawich,<br>Tonika Farmer  |
| 10/25 | Tahirih Petrya,<br>Jordan Buenafe  |

*Thank you,*

## Ushers

*September– October 2026*

|       |                                    |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| 9/6   | Charlene Irwin,<br>Tahirih Petryha |
| 9/13  | Lorraine Salcedo,<br>Don Bostrom   |
| 9/20  | Bryant Small,<br>Frank Perez       |
| 9/27  | Inga Windsor,<br>Larry Hanna       |
| 10/4  | Chuck Spitler,<br>Charlene Irwin   |
| 10/11 | Lorraine Salcedo,<br>Frank Perez   |
| 10/18 | Don Bostrom,<br>David Seaver       |
| 10/25 | Jim Windsor,<br>Inga Windsor       |

## Baptismal Birthdays: members of Jesus' family

The Church Office records show the following members as having a baptismal birthday this month.

*(Please contact the office if your baptism date is incorrect.)*



|        |         |      |
|--------|---------|------|
| Cyrus  | Pan     | 9/25 |
| Abby   | Connick | 9/26 |
| Daphne | Stegman | 10/1 |

## An update from the Utecht Family ...

# A Letter To The Congregation

God is good! We were so blessed to get to attend SOLC this summer and worship with our family of faith as we all welcomed Pastor Kaye and Grace to continue the work of shepherding God's amazing flock. In all our travels and church visits, we've come to realize even more what a treasure SOLC truly is. Some of y'all have been asking for updates: Most praiseworthy, God has heard all the prayers for Titus, he is trusting Jesus again, communing at the rail, and finding his peace and purpose in Christ. There are still questions to be wrestled with and days of going back and forth, as many of us can relate to, but they don't carry as much weight now. Praise the Lord!

The journey to where we are living has also been a story of praise to God, who hears the prayers of His people as they trust Him to lead. We headed to North Carolina, unsure of where to live or what work to do. We were blessed to land in an area with many Lutheran churches and welcoming people of God. Within the first few weeks we had been welcomed into multiple homes and the very first day we arrived one of the pastors volunteered a town tour and welcome gift of love and care from the congregation. You see how amazingly God works through His people to bless His beloved? And we are so thankful and humbled to be counted among them! Then as we searched for jobs, the housing situation went from an AirBnB to a congregant's basement, to another congregant's rental house - as God worked out all the puzzle pieces that we didn't think would fit, but He knew! The girls prayed for water and a bike path and nature ... and God gave us four acres of forested woods with a creek in the backyard and a quiet loop we can walk and bike around while watching the sun set and the fireflies ignite! We also have a large garden, some chickens, a little kitten, and a baby bunny! The girls are loving it - we all are! Thank you God!!

Rianne did some teaching at a Lutheran school while waiting for God to show us where Titus would use his abilities to serve. Turns out he is now teaching chemistry at a nearby high school! He is looking forward to the challenge and reward of such work, and I know he will bless so many budding adults with his enthusiasm, encouragement, care, and wise guidance as they seek answers to life. Rianne continues to homeschool the girls on our little homestead and raising her hands in praise and wonder at how amazing God is and how beautiful His creation is! We are blessed with some amazing pastor families right near by us, with lots of little kids, and fun places to play, swim, ride horse, pick wild berries, etc! It is a wonderful adventure! We're also so thankful for such an amazing family to rent from, who quickly became like family as we share many an outing together.

Thank You God for such a wonderful community, A prayer recently answered was for a church home that would be the best fit for our family to serve and be served. We worshiped at multiple wonderful churches near us, and are so thankful for the special ministries and blessings they provided. We have landed at a small church, similar in size to SOLC, and have recently become members there, while always keeping our beloved SOLC family very near and dear in our hearts. We welcome any and all communication, and visits too! See below for contact information and please reach out - or surprise visit us! We will gladly house you! And the girls of course love getting mail! Text, call, or email anytime! Praying God's love, grace, and joy to you - praying for the new pastor and transition, the preschool infant ministry, those among you hurting, and God's abundant blessings to you all! We love y'all, our beloved family in Christ! Sending big hugs!

Much Love,

The Utecht Family Titus, Rianne, Akyra,  
Hephzibah, Zephyra, Alaytheia, and Raelia