



July 2025

The Oakleaves

SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Celebrating Graduation & Confirmation



Honoring:

Caydence Renneker - 8th grade grad

Dave Ryan Tankou - high school grad

Jovana Tankou - Bachelor of Arts, UCLA



Samy Tankou - high school grad & confirmation

Tristan Holland - Bachelor of Arts, CSUN

VBC Donations

As we prepare to set up VBCamp Firelight in Alaska for the summer; your generous donations are a blessing. With 1 simple click, you will find our growing WISHLIST. Note: if you already have items to help us set the stage, we welcome those! Bear skin rug, anyone? Snow shoes? Bobsled?

<https://tinyurl.com/VBCWishlist25>



Camp Firelight—VBC—Returns This Summer

Registration for our FREE Vacation Bible Camp is OPEN!

Ages 4 yrs to entering 6th grade

July 21 - 25, 3:30 pm - 6 pm

At Camp Firelight, we will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBC shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!



Sign up today! You can check the SOLC website or use this QR code.

STILL NEEDED: Decorating leaders and team members willing to transform the church into an Alaskan camp. We have ALL the supplies. You just need some vision, creativity, and time to put it together. We also have photos from last year's set up to make it simple! Decorations can begin to go up the week before VBC in the evenings with a big push on Friday and Saturday, July 18th and 19th. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex with your availability.

Reach out to Chris Gordon for more information regarding the different opportunities.



FEET — Families Encouraging + Equipping Together

Instead of "putting our heads together." we put out FEET together to study God's word.

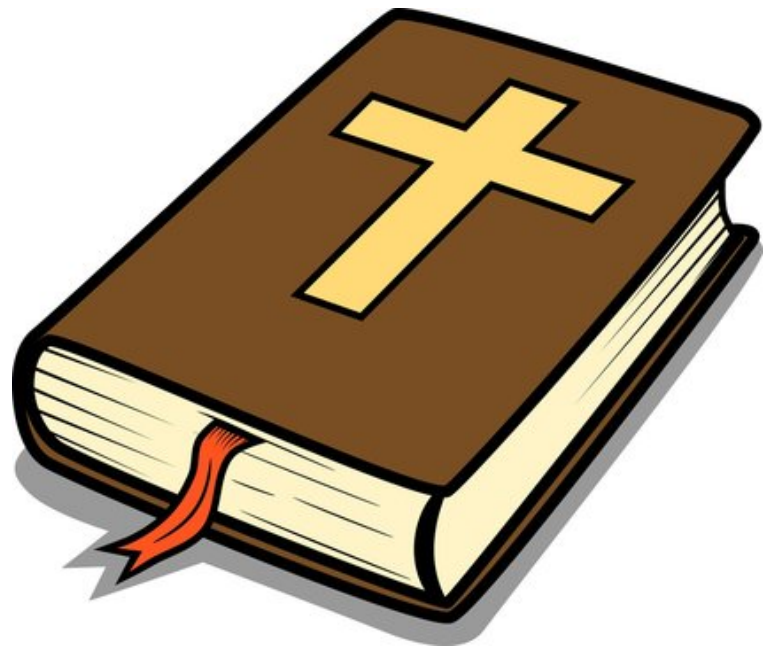
We drew what we heard as we listened to "Jesus Walked On Water" from Matthew 14 and shared our BIG ideas about how we can trust Jesus even with the littlest of faith.

Our next FEET mtg will be the LAST Sunday of July VBC Celebration Sunday so our visiting families can join us!



Congratulations to Akyra and Hephzibah Utecht for memorizing the names of all the books in the New Testament.

Are YOU inspired to join the challenge?!





Zoo News from the Children's Center

by Director,
Arusyak Dzheyranyan

July will be a joyful and eventful month! We recently celebrated our Graduation and Father's Day, marking special milestones with our families and children. We also kicked off our exciting Summer Camp Program, and it's been going wonderfully so far. The children especially enjoyed the carousel

ride and the fun of the creepy crawlies show. As the weather gets warmer, our little ones are excited for water play and all the summer adventures ahead. They'll also get to play drums, bounce and splash in a jumper with a water slide, and enjoy a spectacular bubble show! To end the month, we have a special visit from reptiles for a hands-on petting experience.



We invite our parents to sign up their children for the week of July 21–25 for our Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) — a wonderful week of faith, fun, and engaging activities. These are just some of the many exciting events lined up for the month of July!



July-August 2025 Events

*All dates and times
are subject to change*

Sun, June 29	Bible Study, 9 am Congregational Meeting	Worship, 10 am Healthy Life, 12 pm
Tues, July 1	Youth Group, 6:30 pm	
Sat, July 5	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Young Adults, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 6	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am
Tues, July 8	Elders Meeting, 7 pm	
Thurs, July 11	LWML Board Meeting, 9:30 am	
Sat, July 12	LWML, 9 am Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Men's Group, 10 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 13	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am
Tues, July 15	Council Meeting, 7 pm	
Sat, July 19	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 20	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am
July 21-25	VBC: Camp Firelight	
Thurs, July 24	Oakleaves Contributions Due	
Sat, July 26	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 27	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am FEET, 11:45 am
Sat, Aug 2	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Aug 3	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am
Sat, Aug 9	LWML, 9 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm
Sun, Aug 10	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am
Tues, Aug 12	Elders Meeting, 7 pm	
Sat, Aug 16	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Aug 17	Bible Study, 9 am FEET, 11:45 am Dead Sea Scrolls Tour	Worship, 10 am Healthy Life, 12 pm
Tues, Aug 19	Council Meeting, 7 pm	
Thurs, Aug 21	Oakleaves Contributions Due	
Sat, Aug 23	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Aug 3	Bible Study, 9 am Healthy Life, 12 pm	Worship, 10 am

*Scan for
full calendar*



Mercy Packs — Help Needed

“Giving to help others.”

We would be blessed with a new leader or two in the area of Mercy Packs. If this is a ministry outreach that you feel called to, please reach out to Chris Gordon or Rianne Utecht.

For now: if anyone could just transport the current packs to Central Lutheran on Tyrone; they have a system to getting them to those in need.

WANTED

Those interested in becoming Sunday School teachers (5th grade & younger).

Qualifications:

- Passionate about sharing faith with children and families
- Member of SOLC
- Actively attending on a regular basis
- Available to teach once or twice a month at 9 am or Sermon Lesson Time
- Willing to support the monthly FEET gathering for families

Next Steps:

- Pray to see if God is calling you into this commitment
- Reach out to Pastor Utecht



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



Birthdays:

Tom Irwin	7/2	Ann McClung	7/19
Axl Pan	7/4	Mary Bain	7/22
Kayla Hanna	7/8	Sammy Khalili	7/25
Drew Murcott	7/8	Janet True Bova	7/26
Luigi Uwanawich	7/11	Beverly Hoffarth	7/31
Eric Anderson	7/18		

Anniversaries:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Adam & Mary Bain	(15 years)	7/9
Dennis & Elaine Werner	(52 years)	7/21
Larry & Cindy Hanna	(44 years)	7/25

Called to *Serve* **Thank You!** by Breilyn Brantley

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalm 100:4

Here are some thanks to a few people that helped at the church in the month of **June**:

- ☺ Thanks to those who donated to the Mercy Packs, and remember you still can through Amazon.
- ☺ 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.

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

Thank you, Ushers July–August 2025

- 7/6** Chuck Spitler, Charlene Irwin
- 7/13** Chansom Zayabouth, Jason Plattner
- 7/20** Lorraine Salcedo, Dick Robertson
- 7/27** Eric Anderson, Robert True
- 8/3** Chuck Spitler, Inga Windsor
- 8/10** Dennis Werner, Charlene Irwin
- 8/17** Chansom Zayabouth, Lorraine Salcedo
- 8/24** Jason Plattner, Dick Robertson
- 8/31** Eric Anderson, Robert True

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.)



Brandon	Faus	7/1
Tiffany	Hegg	7/3
Chuck	Spitler	7/15
Jonah	Gordon	7/16
Kayla	Hanna	7/26

A Message from the Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utecht

The Work of the District

I write this newsletter to you from Ann Arbor, MI, where I (along with Laura Warshawsky) have travelled to in order to attend the English District Convention. The convention is a gathering of one pastor and one lay member from every church in the English District (~160 churches) and happens every three years. For this month's Oakleaves I thought I'd share a few updates so that you all might know a bit more about the important work that our church body is doing. All of this work is supported by the member congregations of the District, which means that it is ultimately supported by you.

The events of the convention fall under 4 categories: ministry updates, fellowship, teaching, and business.

Ministry Updates: During the convention, we get updates and reports from all of the various ministries supported by the English District. This includes hearing about all the support the English District is giving to a Lutheran church body in the Dominican Republic as it journeys to becoming a self-sustaining entity, learning about various campus ministries and other missions supported by the District, new church plants, etc.

Fellowship: There is great encouragement from gathering with over a hundred fellow church leaders who are able to share ideas, encouragement, and prayer for each other in the ministry. I am part of the District's "Mission Action Team" that supports new church plants and I have been able to see and encourage in-person members from a church plant in Texas I've been supporting and also members from a team starting a new campus

ministry at SDSU.

Teaching: The conventions always feature teaching so we can continue to grow and learn together as church leaders. This year Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall is presenting on "protreptics," an ancient form of apologetics that seeks to lead skeptics to faith. We've learned about Clement of Alexandria, a 2nd Century Christian and how he would engage his pluralistic culture that was happy to take bits of wisdom from Christianity and other

sources, but was skeptical of absolute truth claims (sound familiar?). It's been a fascinating and useful presentation. Feel free to ask me more about it when I'm back!

Business: We also carry out the "business" of the church through elections, voting, etc. Bishop Miskus (who visited us in March) was elected to continue as Bishop. We've begun voting

on various motions relating to things such as further supporting campus ministries, encouraging unity in the church, promoting and supporting 1st Communion, etc.

I also just want to share that the whole gathering is very godly and exactly what you would hope for and expect from such a gathering of church leaders. It is bathed in prayer, Spirit-led, and the discourse is godly and respectful even when there is disagreement.

Please continue to pray not only for the work of our congregation at SOLC, but also for the work of the English District, the LCMS, and the work of God's church throughout the world.

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