



JULY, 2022

The Oakleaves



SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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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

Keep in your prayers



National Youth Gathering

July 9 - 13, 2022 in Houston, TX

THANK YOU to the whole congregation and friends who have contributed generous offerings for our 3 youth attending the National Youth Gathering.

Please keep **our youth in your prayers**, and the whole gathering, that God would touch many teenage and adult hearts.

Church Council and Boards 2022-2023

Remember to keep these people, our church volunteer workers, in your daily prayers.



President	David Seaver
Vice President	Dick Robertson
Council Secretary	Ann McClung
Financial Secretary	Heather Wolter
Treasurer	Leslie O'Byrne

Board members

Bd of Education:

Anna Booher
 Chris Gordon
 Jessica Hanna
 Rianne Utech
 Sonia Uwanawich

Board of Elders:

Jeff Gordon
 Eric Lee
 Larry Nixon
 Dick Robertson
 *Luigi Uwanawich

SOLCC School Bd:

Jessica Hanna
 Charlotte Hinrichs
 Tanya Peterson
 *Dorene Rubin

Board of Trustees:

Jamie Cleary
 *Larry Hanna
 Christian Hinrichs
 Michael O'Byrne
 Robert True
 Jim Windsor

Bd of Stewardship:

Brei Brantley
 Laura Murcott
 Andréa Vasilo

Bd of Evangelism-Caregivers:

Sandra Bostrom
 Fay Darmian
 Michele McClung
 Dorene Rubin
 Miriam Sweet
 Inga Windsor

Bd of Evangelism-

Outreach:

Alan Cohen
 Tiffany Hegg
 Diane Nixon
 Larry Nixon
 Cyrus Pan
 Tahirih Petryha
 *Rhonda Renneker
 Dick Robertson
 Laurel Seaver
 Sandra Uwanawich
 Randy Vargas

* denotes Board Chair

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV

Retired
adjective. [re-tired]
**I do what I want,
when I want.**

Dear Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church family,
Children's Center families, SOLCC Board,

It has been such a joy and an honor to serve the families and their children at Sherman Oaks Lutheran Children's Center. God has truly blessed the Children's Center and has guided us through many challenging times, but God is always faithful. He never leaves us nor forsakes us. The 23 years I have been here the staff has been extraordinary it has been humbling to work alongside teachers that consider their work a mission field not just a job. They show their love, patience and compassion toward the children and the families every day. The fond cherished memories I will take with me are many and

very precious to my heart. I have come to know so many wonderful parents and have developed long time friendships with many. After 23 years of service, I will officially retire on June 29, 2022.

It is my pleasure to announce and pass the baton with both joy and excitement to the new SOLCC Director, Miss Kimberley Ogas. She has 20 years of experience in the Education Industry and 10+ of those years as Children's Program Director. We are working together to ensure a seamless transition. Please take a few minutes throughout the month to meet and visit with Miss Kimberly.

**Blessings,
Diane Nixon**

Children's Center

by Kimberly Ogas, Director

Thank you to everyone for welcoming me so warmly to SOLCC. Miss Diane was wonderful in helping me to become acclimated with the school and church. It will be hard to follow in her footsteps, but I trust God will guide me through the ins and outs of our precious school. The children, parents and staff have already blessed me immensely.

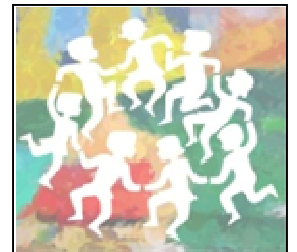
Our summer camp has begun! It has been so much fun to see the children enjoying the activities of our fabulous summer programs. We have many returnees and also some new faces. Everyone is having a blast. The children have already experienced a couple "Bathing Suit Days." They romped and splashed with the turtle, sprayers, sprinklers, misters, and more. A big "THANK YOU" to Jim Windsor for working on the misters for us. We greatly appreciate the cooling effect in this summer heat.

Camp also gave us the opportunity to spend time in "Music with Max." The benefits of music for early childhood education include improving language development, focus and memory, fine motor skills, fundamental math skills, and teamwork. What could be better for a child than learning while having fun?

During July we will also be experiencing visits from Pocket Pets, Captain Carl and his Sea Life Adventures, Creepy Crawlies, and Rumbling Rhythms who will dazzle us with their Drum Circle.

It's definitely an action-packed summer and we are grateful to God for providing us with so many wonderful adventures, as we make lasting memories together.

We hope you all have a safe and blessed 4th of July. God Bless America!



Resource Room Teacher Needed

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a full-time resource room teacher position at **Westchester**

Lutheran School, Los Angeles, CA.

Applicants must hold a current California Teaching License with a special education certification/endorsement.

Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.



Lutheran Women in Mission

Mary & Martha Guild

by Dorene Rubin

Keep cool. Enjoy vacations, BBQs and family time. Celebrate Independence Day and acknowledge that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should never be taken for granted.

Looking forward to some familiar fund-raising events this Fall.

All women are invited to our first LWML Mary & Martha meeting **Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.** for coffee conversation, followed by our business meeting.

Be safe as you travel. God bless!

With summer here, at least by temperature standards, many are asking:

"What about VBS - Vacation Bible School?!"

by Chris Gordon

With the recent retirement of our beloved Director of Christian Ed, Cindy Hanna, who served in heading up this mission field for countless years; we are struggling with the 'filling of those flip flops'.

We know we can get the decorating/set up done, but:

1. Who will work with Liz on registration?
2. Who will team up with Outreach on advertising?
3. Who will order teaching supplies and create a rotation schedule?
4. Who will recruit teachers and helpers for each age group and leaders for various stations such as: snacks, crafts, games, music, science and Bible time?
5. Who will get volunteers the information and supplies needed?
6. Who will coordinate with the preschool so those families are welcomed and included?
7. Who will work with Mike to be sure tech is in place?
8. Who will apply for Thrivent funding? The post Covid budget is half of what it was, so other resources really help.
9. Who will direct?!



We are in need of a **strong** team of people to step up with solid commitment **before** we can begin planning, purchasing and inviting the public. To give the time needed to pull things together, ***the target date would be somewhere in the first week of August.***

Let Pastor or Chris Gordon know your eagerness to serve. If we want to make this happen, we need to know today.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Simi Valley is offering us all the supplies and decor from the **Rocky Railway VBS** that they are wrapping their program this week.

PLEASE pray thanks for God's provision in this way and for God's continued guidance and direction as we survey our workforce to make it all happen. Ask God to show you how you can serve through VBS this summer.

(continued on page 4)

What is FEET???

We have begun a new program that we have titled **FEET (Family Encouragement & Equipping Time)**. Everyone with children (regardless of age) is automatically a 'member.' Those of you with grown "kids," we value your wisdom and would love for you to pop in for a visit whenever we meet. We will gather about monthly, in a time of fellowship over lunching together and then supporting each other in raising our kids in the faith. As your Christian Ed Team, our aim is to equip our families with ideas to use at home throughout the week to grow as faith centered families. We want to learn from, pray for, and support each other. Our next FEET gathering will be **following the Sanctuary Rededication Worship Service, Sunday, June 26.**

Also **pencil in July 17** for a longer poolside gathering.



Thank you, SOLC!
Are You registered??

The **Kroger Co. Family of Stores** is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to **ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization**. Community Rewards is easy to use. The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community, Community Rewards Staff



March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022

11 Households

\$75.45 Total Donations

(VBS? continued from page 3)

Please continue to keep all decision making in prayer regarding the ministry of VBS and if God's is calling us to have a program this summer.

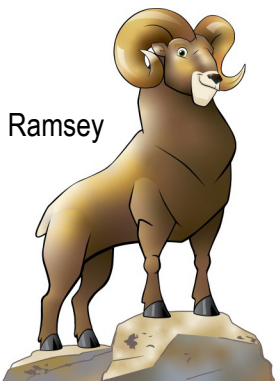
We are proposing the first week of August.

Huge thanks to all who responded already, willing to step into these

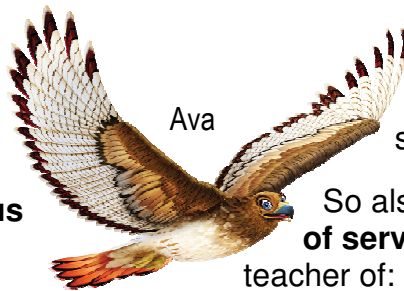
leadership needs.
(numbers refer to page 3 list)
Charlotte - #8
Rhonda - #2, #6, #7

General Needs:

Tahirih
Dick - anything needed
Windsors - decor
Alexis
Sandra U



Ramsey



Ava

If it is decided that we should go forward; there will be **MANY** more opportunities to serve the week of VBS.

So also let me know if there is a **particular area of service** that is screaming your name, ie... teacher of: crafts, games, tech helper, Bible or songs/music, snack coordinator, group leader (moves kids from station to station providing for needs in between), registration table, runner, and parent connections person.



Billy

It will take an entire crew to move this train out of the station with the Good News of Jesus, but Jesus has the power to pull us through. We **CAN** trust Jesus!

Thank you,
Your Sunday
School
Teachers





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

Birthdays:

Axl (Hanna) Pan	7/4	Eric Anderson	7/18
Kayla Hanna	7/8	Joey Greene	7/18
Drew Murcott	7/8	Ann McClung	7/19
Luigi Uwanawich	7/11	Susan Bristow	7/25
Brandon Faus	7/12	Sammy Khalili	7/25
		Janet (True) Bova	7/26



Anniversary:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Dennis & Elaine Werner (49 yrs) 7/21

Larry & Cindy Hanna (41 yrs) 7/25

Calendar for Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

All dates and times are subject to change

JULY, 2022

Sun, June 26 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9 a.m. **Worship-Sanctuary Rededication and Installation of Officers, 10 a.m. FEET fellowship, 11:30 a.m.** (see page 3)
Reception at the Parsonage, 12 noon to 3:30 p.m.

Thurs, June 30 Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. *in person & via Zoom*

Sat, July 2 Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Sun, July 3 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Mon, July 4 Independence Day — Office and School Closed

Tues, July 5 High School Youth Group, 6:30—8:00 p.m. in the loft

Thurs, July 7 Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. *in person & via Zoom*

Fri, July 8 Zone Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.

National Youth Gathering: July 9 - 13, 2022 in Houston, TX. Pray for our 3 young people attending

Sat, July 9 Contemporary Worship, 5 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Sun, July 10 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Tues, July 12 School Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Elders meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, July 14 Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. *in person & via Zoom*

Sat, July 16 Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Sun, July 17 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.

July 18-26 ~ Pastor is on Vacation

Tues., July 19 Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Sat, July 23 Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Sun, July 24 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Tues., July 26 **The Oakleaves** articles are due in Liz's "in box," noon

Thurs, July 28 Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. *in person & via Zoom*

Sat, July 30 Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. Saturday School & Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Sun, July 31 Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Tues, Aug 2 High School Youth Group, 6:30—8:00 p.m. in the loft



Service Opportunities

Help Wanted...*God is hiring! (for our Good Works)* – see Pastor's article on pg. 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:

We will again start scheduling ushers for the 10 a.m. service. Everyone is invited to be an usher: 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.

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 **June**, to:

- ☺ Janet Bova and Robert True for bringing flowers to put on the altar for many weeks!
- ☺ All those who helped with the Outdoor worship service on June 19.
- ☺ Jamie Cleary for fixing the door of the women's restroom.
- ☺ Jim Windsor for helping with Preschool projects and keeping the grounds looking nice.

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

Lutheran Teacher "Can Do" Attitude

CAN'T

We've never done it before.
We've already tried it.
It's too complicated.
There's not enough time.
It's a waste of money.
We don't know how.
We're understaffed.
It's can't be done.
I don't know.
It's not in my Call.
It's too radical.
We're too small
We can't.

CAN DO

We have the opportunity to be first!
Let's try again.
Let's break it into manageable pieces.
Which tasks deserve more time?
Investment reaps rewards.
Let's learn together.
We're a lean, mean machine.
Maybe if we work together.
I'll find the answer.
I'll do what I can.
Let's take a chance.
Quality is our priority, not quantity.
With Christ all things are possible.



by Ann
McClung,
Council
Secretary

Congregation mtg. highlights

Our Congregation meeting was Sunday, June 12 after worship. The updated Mission Statement was approved (see on the cover), Church budget and Children's Center budget were approved and council elections (listed on the cover) took place.

♦ **Election Results:** The 36 voting members in attendance voted for the people listed below to the Council and Boards. **Their Installation will be Sunday, June 26 at the 10 a.m. service.**

♦ **Children's Center Budget:** Dorene Rubin, chair of the Children's Center Board, presented the **Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.** The budget was approved as presented.

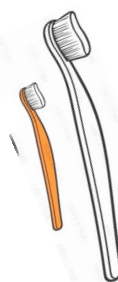
♦ **SOLC Budget:** Heather Wolter, Financial Secretary, presented the **Proposed Church Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.** Much discussion ensued, however in the end, the church budget was approved as presented.

Much appreciation and thanks was expressed at seeing contributions increase to more than was budgeted in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. We expect great increases in our contributions in the 2022-2023 fiscal year! Well done, SOLC!!!

Thank you to those voting members who made the effort to come out to make their voices heard.

Please Note: A Children's Center teacher and her husband, Deborah and Neftali Santiago, are in need of a **rental home by mid-August.** **Their needs are:** 2-3 bedroom, 1.5-2 bath, covered parking, regular amenities (stove, fridge, washer/dryer, dishwasher...), safe neighborhood in SF Valley near Mission Hills. Rent between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

They trust God's leading and pray for a solution.
Contact Neftali Santiago (818) 378-2419 with leads or suggestions.



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&pssc=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.

Thank you to whomever supplied us with all the great hats for the summer!

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.



A Message from Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utech

Saved! Not *by* Works, but *for* Works!

As Lutherans, we are well grounded in the foundational Christian doctrine that all believers are saved by grace through faith, not works. Indeed, this is fundamental to the faith and it is the clear teaching of Scripture. We often reference Ephesians 2:8-9 for a clear statement of how works do not save: **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."**

However, before we throw works out the window, let's keep reading, just for one more verse. For in verse 10, Paul clarifies exactly what role works have: **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."** The Scriptures are clear that works aren't unimportant. Rather, we aren't saved *by* works, but *for* works!

Often times in our Lutheran way of speaking, we might say that "works are a *byproduct* of grace and faith." I've used that language myself! However, I've come to wonder if that is really the best word to use. After all, the definition of the word "byproduct" is that it is "incidental" or "unintended." This would imply "God saved us by His grace to give us eternal life, and it just so happened that sometimes we become more loving people and do good things because of that." Yet that runs contrary to the glorious and life-changing teachings of the Scriptures on this point. Paul testifies that works aren't merely a byproduct of faith. Rather, they are one of the end goals, the purposes of salvation! Yes, we are saved so that we have eternal life in heaven, a close relationship with the Father, forgiveness of sins, peace in our hearts... AND so that we can do great works through the power of Jesus Christ! When God made us his new creation, he said that we were **"created in Christ Jesus for good works."** Or consider Titus 2:14. There it is written that Jesus Christ **"gave himself for us to redeem us for all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for**

good works." But this of course isn't just Paul's teaching, but Jesus'. Consider what he says in Matthew 5:14-16 **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."** Or, go

to the teaching of James 1:25, which says that the person who is busy in good works, **"he will be blessed in his doing."**

You see, works aren't a cause of our salvation, they don't make God love us any more, but they are a huge blessing and key purpose that God had in mind for us. He loved us way too much to leave us in our sin or to let us miss out on the joys of living the faith! Just from this small sampling of verses, we find that good works are 1) what God has created us to do, 2) something we should be zealous for, 3) means by which other people will come to glorify God, and 4) a real blessing to believers.

ous for, 3) means by which other people will come to glorify God, and 4) a real blessing to believers.

I could write on for quite a while about the significance and joy found in each of these 4 items, but unfortunately this is just a newsletter, not a book. So instead, I will close with one more fundamental aspect about works: **they are *only* through Jesus.** Perhaps it is tempting to think, *"God saved me, now I go do these works!"* But that's not what the Bible says. Instead, it is **"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."** God is the one who works all of these things in and through us. So instead we should say, *"God saved me, and God works through me."* Or as the great hymn puts it, *"Yet not I, but through Christ in me."* To live and walk in good works doesn't mean *"Go out and try harder to do good works."* Instead, it means *"Let Christ work through you ever more deeply, and let him change all parts of your life, so that you abound in and are zealous for good works."*

In Christ, Pastor Utech

