



MARCH

2023

The Oakleaves

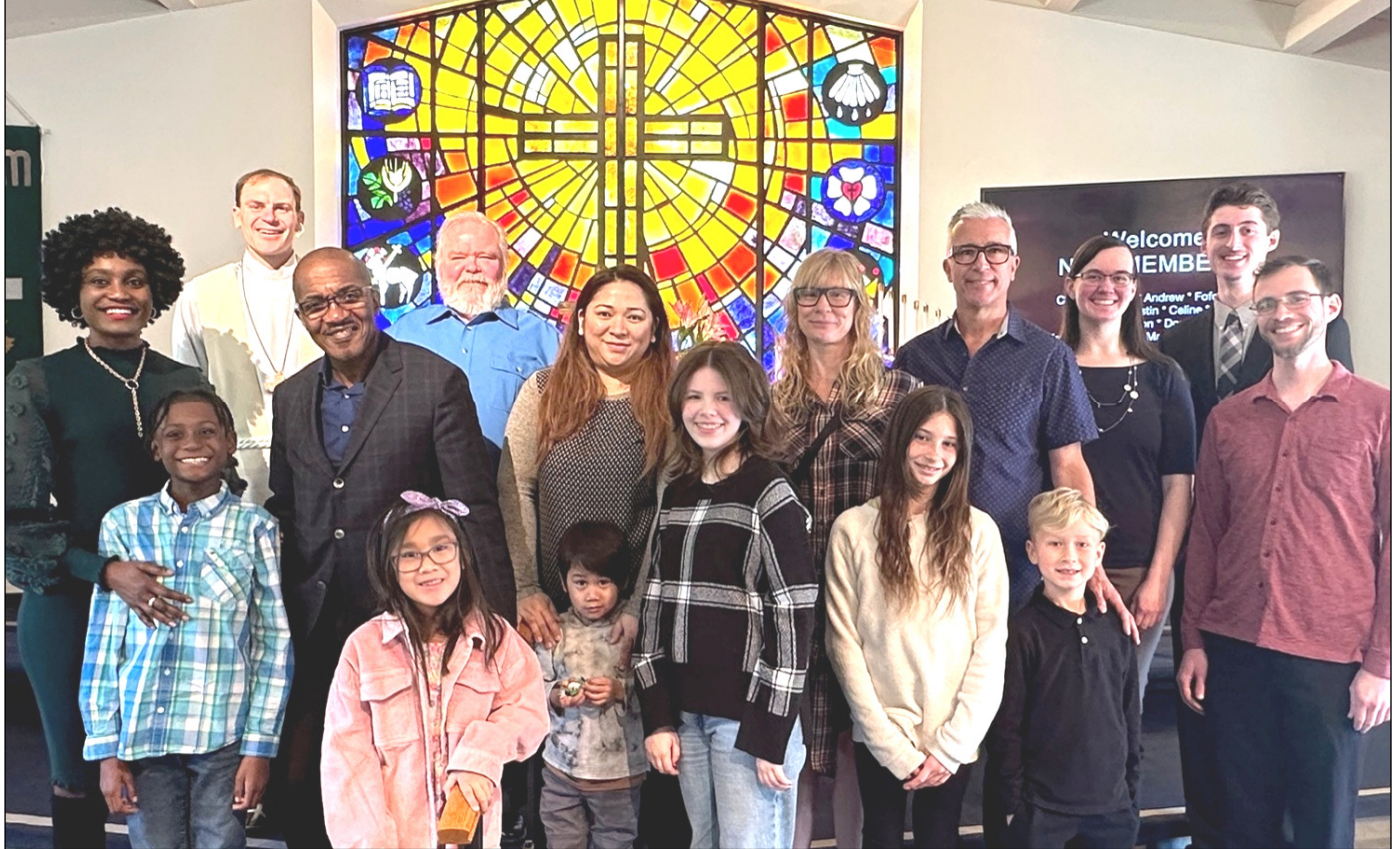


**SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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**Welcome New Members!**



**Time to gather together and  
get to know one another over soup!  
6-12 soup makers are needed in  
March—could it be you?**



As part of our Lenten tradition, before we attend worship, we have a small soup supper made by various SOLC attenders. This will be at all **Wednesdays in March** at 6:00 p.m. with worship following at 7:00 p.m. If you are eager to make soup, bring crackers or rolls, beverages, sign up on the Narthex desk. It is always nice to have at least 2 singles/couples making soup and cleaning up. You are a **Souper Hero** for considering this. Make the soup at church or bring it in a crock pot.

*Thank you to those who have signed up!*

## YOUTH NEWS:

**Easter time = See's Candy Sales** by our Youth! The proceeds will go to build up funds for the next National Youth Gathering in **New Orleans** during the summer of 2025.

Watch for all of your favorites soon!

**Thank you to Leslie O'Byrne** for the behind the scenes work to make this happen every year!



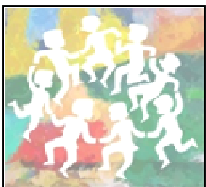
## Mary & Martha Guild

Seven women attended a Women's Bible Study sponsored by the Mary & Martha Guild. The Bible Study will meet the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 am. We will hold "business" meetings after the Study as needed, at least three times per year.

Our **"Cookie Walk"** netted over \$400. Thank you to all the members who baked and purchased cookies. We look forward to funding many mission projects before the end of the fiscal year. *See the pictures here-thank you, Mike.*

**Saturday, March 11, at 9:00 a.m.** is our next **Women's Bible Study**. Please join us.

As we enter the Lenten season may you find meaning in reflecting on what God has provided for us in the sacrifice of God's only Son.



## Zoo News from the SOLCC

by Director, Kimberly Ogas

The month of March starts off with our classrooms celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The whole week will be filled with wild and whacky days of celebrating, such as **Crazy Hat Day, Inside**

**Out Day**, and ending the week by dressing up like our favorite book characters. The children will also be engaged in learning activities, such as making green eggs and ham, as well as, graphing who liked them and who didn't, learning rhyming words, and fishing for red fish, blue fish, one fish, two fish!

In March we will welcome the **first day of spring**. The children will learn about rainbows, life cycles, and rebirth. All of this learning will connect and prepare our students for our Bible studies about God's promises and the resurrection of Jesus.

It looks like it will be another busy and exciting month here in the Zoo Zone.

Please remember to check out  
our new website:

**Solpreschool.com**

"We have brains in our heads and  
feet in our shoes.  
We can steer ourselves  
any direction we choose!"



# Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, February 19 we welcomed **19 new members** to Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church. Some have worshipped with us for years, others are new to our congregation. All were welcomed.

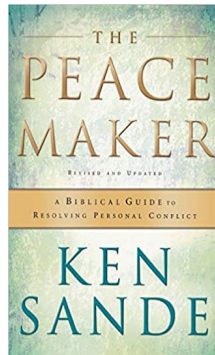
Pastor is standing with those who joined: Dolly, Alik, Fofo Lukata; Chuck Spitler; Amelia, Madeline, Donovan Perez; Naomi Engle; Katy Leigh, Fred, Maisy, Ryder Villari; Abby Connick; Andrew Pohlod; and Nick McLaughlin. (Not pictured: the Miller family.) *We look forward to Serving the Lord with you!*



**SOLCC has an exciting new fundraiser!!** See the [attached pdf flyer](#).

Make a 15-minute family portrait appointment at Valley Glen Community Park for **Sat., April 1**. You will receive 2 digital images for just \$50 - all of which goes to our school!

Perfect timing for Easter outfits and Mother's Day gifts! Get that new, updated family photo which can't be easier! Sign-up now!!



Pastor Utecht will have the **four weekends** in March Sermon

Series called **"The Peacemaker,"**

based off the book "The Peace Maker" by Ken Sande.

Conflict is often a wrecking ball that causes pain, destroys relationships, and splits families, friends, and churches. But when we learn to handle conflict God's way, conflict can be lead to true unity, strong relationships, and most of all a powerful testimony to our Lord Jesus Christ. Come join us in March as we learn how.

**From going through conflict to growing through conflict**

## More items Needed to make more Mercy Packs

*How about starting a new Lenten tradition?  
"Giving to help others."*

Our Mercy Packs have been a wonderful SOLC ministry. Many people have been blessed by these bags of goodies. Now that the holidays have past we need to get back to making up more Mercy Packs. The following items are needed: (remember **small, individual sizes needed**, for ease of travel.)

- drawstring backpacks
- protein bars and tuna
- toothbrushes
- lotions - skin and sun
- deodorants
- small water bottles

Use the Amazon link for easy ordering! [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B003EH0CY0/?coliid=IISZU2NVSZLRK&colid=3JEGWVFP3N50%20V&psc=1&ref\\_=lv\\_vv\\_lig\\_dp\\_it](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B003EH0CY0/?coliid=IISZU2NVSZLRK&colid=3JEGWVFP3N50%20V&psc=1&ref_=lv_vv_lig_dp_it)

Pastor Marsha from Central Lutheran on Tyrone, reached out last week requesting more Mercy Packs by mid-March. Let's aim for a **packing party this weekend, March 4 & 5** following worship.

**Cash donations** are always **welcome**. Just mark an envelope for "Mercy Packs" or write a check to SOLC with Mercy Packs on the memo line.  
**Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

## FEET (Families Equipping and Encouraging Together) Update

Our committee is researching development of curriculum for our FEET program for families. We are focused on making sure our preschool families, as well as, previous VBS families are included in our monthly events.

We met last Sunday to explore the value of Personal Quiet Time with the Lord and practical ways to create space for that.

Next, we will shift our attention to help families create a meaningful Lent and Easter season in their homes.



### Thank you note from Jewel:

**Thank You, so much, to my church Family.** GOD has blessed me and I am healing well. During Christmas and New Year's celebrations, I had occasional chest pains. After Thanksgiving, I traveled to visit my cousin Warren, in Tucson, AZ. I had a good time. But ended up in the Hospital there with heart illness. I chose to return to California for open heart surgery. I had a calf valve replacement, and bypass, made of vein from my right leg. My healing, is going well. **GOD BLESS ALL.** Love, Jewel

## Stewardship

As a reminder, the **Ralphs Community Contribution Program** is a great

way to give back to

Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church by Ralphs giving funds from shopping that you're already doing. If you haven't signed up yet, there's no time like the present!



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).



This year's **Super Bowl party** was a big hit.

Approximately 25 people attended to watch one of the closest and



most exciting games in years.

There was more than enough food, enjoyed by all attendees. Don Bostrom even brought the annual football-shaped chocolate cake. Also, it was great to see so many new faces this year, including many of Caleb's friends from school. We hope you can attend next year! **Thank you, Mike, for the pics!**

Best, Jeff Gordon





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



## Birthdays:

		Carl Hinrichs	3/13
Jessica Hanna	3/1	Dave-Ryan Tankou	3/13
Lisa Richardson	3/2	<b>Pastor Titus Utecht</b>	<b>3/21</b>
Bruce Salcedo	3/2	Eric Lee	3/22
Patina Uwanawich	3/6	Jim Windsor	3/26
Hephzibah Utecht	3/7	Tanya Peterson	3/28
Tom Pelton	3/11	Velma Pontius	3/30

## Anniversary:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Luigi & Sonia Uwanawich	36 yrs	3/10
Rolain & Florence Tankou	25 yrs	3/18
Christian & Charlotte Hinrichs	15 yrs	3/21
Eric & Catrina Lee	31 yrs	3/28

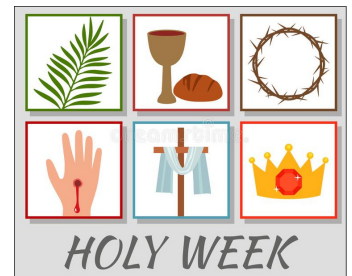


**2023**

### Calendar for Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

*All dates and times are subject to change*

Wed, March 1	Lent Soup supper, 6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Sat, March 4	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, March 5	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Tues, March 7	Youth group, loft, 6:30 p.m.	
Wed, March 8	Lent Soup supper, 6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Sat, March 11	Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Contemp. Worship, 5 p.m.
		Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Sun, March 12</b>	<b>Spring forward 1 hour, 2 a.m.</b>	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
		Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Tues, March 14	School Board, 6:00 p.m.	Elders, 7:00 p.m.
Wed, March 15	Lent Soup supper, 6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Sat, March 18	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, March 19	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Tues, March 21	<b>The Oakleaves Articles Due</b> , noon in Liz's "in box"	Council, 7:00 p.m. <i>in person</i>
Wed, March 22	Lent Soup supper, 6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Sat, March 25	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, March 26	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Wed, March 29	Lent Soup supper, 6:15 p.m.	Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Thurs, March 30	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. <i>in person &amp; via Zoom</i>	
Sat, April 1	Contemporary Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, April 2	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Tues, April 4	Youth group, loft, 6:30 p.m.	
Thurs, April 6	<b>Maundy Thursday worship, 7:00 p.m.</b>	
Fri., April 7	<b>Good Friday worship, 7:00 p.m.</b>	
Sat, April 8	Special Holy Week worship, 5:00 p.m.	
<b>Sun., April 9</b>	<b>Easter Services: Sunrise, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>&amp; Cyrus' Easter Breakfast</b>





## Pastor Utecht will have a Sermon Series called "The Peacemaker."

This Sermon Series will be all  
**4 weekends in March.**

What does conflict in your life mean? Is it something to dread and avoid, something to quickly overcome, or is it an opportunity to glorify God and strengthen relationships? In this series we'll see how God's Word can take us from simply *going* through conflict **to growing through conflict.**

Is your life marked by true peace in all your personal relationships? Or is it marked by more of a cycle of *peace-breaking* and *peace-faking*? This March we'll be looking at how God in Christ equips us to do real and lasting *peace-making*.

"Blessed are the peacemakers" - Matthew 5:9

## Christian Education Corner

*Ask and God WILL provide!*

We are so excited to welcome **3 new teachers** to the **Sunday School program**: Laurel Seaver, Abby Connick, and Nick McLaughlin.

We are also blessed to have volunteers Beth Cleary, Dolly (+Alik) Lukata and Vanh Zayabouth assisting in the **nursery**, as needed.

Pray with us for continued growth in regular attendance in the Sunday School.

We are looking forward to planning some wonderful experiences as we observe Lent and celebrate Easter.

## PEACE AND COMFORT

**Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 4 pm** at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center of the College of the Canyons. The Santa Clarita Master Chorale invites you to an afternoon of worship and comfort and peace. Two works

will be featured at our Classical Concert accompanied by the orchestra. The Dona Nobis Pacem is a new work by our Artistic Director Allan Petker that focuses on social justice and peace. The beautiful Mozart Requiem will also be performed. It may be the most well-known setting of the Requiem text. They will be joined by the Valencia High School Concert Choir. Together these works offer a concert of justice, peace, and comfort. Tickets are \$10 for kids thru age 17; \$28 for Students 18+, Seniors, and First Responders; and \$35 for General admission. They can be purchased through [www.scmasterchorale.org](http://www.scmasterchorale.org). Call Elaine Werner at (818)367-0681 for information and to avoid the on line service charge.

Called to *Serve* Thank you!  
by Breilyn Brantley

"It is good to praise the LORD and make music to Your name, O Most High, proclaiming Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night." Psalms 92: 1-2

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

**February to:**

- ☺ Mary and Martha Guild for the great cookie walk, and to all who bought cookies.
- ☺ those who helped with the Super Bowl Party.
- ☺ all who donated to the mercy packs, **remember you still can through Amazon.**
- ☺ all the great Sunday School teachers.
- ☺ those who volunteer their time to help with all the activities at our church.
- ☺ the O'Byrnes for designating their Thrivent Choice dollars to the FEET program.
- ☺ Rianne for leading an incredibly important Pro Life book study.
- ☺ Janet Bova for providing beautiful flowers each Sunday for worship!

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

## Open Arms Pregnancy Clinic is requesting:

- ♥ diapers for newborns, 4s & 5s
- ♥ baby wipes
- ♥ clothes sizes 9-24 months
- ♥ receiving blankets
- ♥ baby bath wash/shampoo
- ♥ teething rings and sippy cups

Reach out to Anna Booher for more info.

## Ushers for March

March 5	Heather Wolter	Chuck Spittler
March 12	Eric Anderson	Dennis Werner
March 19	Chanson Zayabouth	Heather Wolter
March 26	Laura Murcott	Christian Hinrichs
Palm Sunday, Ap 2	Dennis, Lorraine, Eric Anderson	



## Council highlights ~ Feb. 21, 2023 mtg in person!

by Ann McClung, Council Secretary

The council is changing its format for more productive meetings. The members gave their reports at the beginning, without interruption, and then questions and discussion took place during the problem solving/action items portion of the meeting.

♦ **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Utecht summarized the success of the New Member classes and received them on Sunday, 2/19 (see pic on the cover & page 3.) Some of the families were already attending church, but took the official step to become members on February 19.

♦ **President's Report:** David Seaver reported that he and Pastor Utecht will represent SOLC in voting for the LCMS President.

♦ **Vice President's Report:** Dick Robertson announced we are in the final stages of Spectrum internet/phone systems installation. We will save approximately \$150/month with this new plan.

♦ **Elder's Report:** Dick reported the Elders continue to make attempts to communicate with members who haven't attended for awhile. It has been a challenge for them to get return calls.

♦ **Treasurer's & Financial Secretary's Reports:** Leslie O'Byrne and Heather Wolter discussed the financial reports. Rhonda has helped out with some of the technical issues of getting numbers more easily understood. The Financial Institution Report and Budget Performance Report were in draft form due to Liz being sick and out of the office for a week. The General Fund total for January is \$14,247.62.

♦ **Mary & Martha Report:** Dorene Rubin reported that the cookie walk received about \$400 that will be distributed among their mission projects. The Women's Bible Study will meet the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and will have three business meetings per year.

♦ **School Board Report:** Dorene Rubin announced that the School Board will be preparing the budget soon. Netting on the fences are being explored to provide more security. Three new students will join the school in March.

♦ **Trustee Report:** Larry Hanna reported the Trustees are soliciting bids for heating/air conditioning work. In addition, he is getting a roofer to assess our roofing needs.

♦ **Stewardship Committee Report:** Laura Murcott is checking the LCMS website for stewardship ideas. She brought up the possibility of having an acknowledgement card to put in the plate for those who give online.

♦ **Outreach Committee Report:** Rhonda Renneker and Outreach are planning Holy Week services. They are also analyzing inventory to make sure they are prepared.

♦ **Christian Education Report:** Chris Gordon was unable to attend but David reported for her. They held a "meet and greet" with church, staff, and SOLCC parents during Lutheran Schools Week. We have 3 new Sunday School teachers starting since we have a 9:00 am Sunday School in addition to the Sermon lesson time. Sonia will continue scheduling our nursery volunteers. The FEET program met Feb. 26 to explore with families the "Personal Quiet Time with the Lord."

♦ **New Business:** Dorene asked how to connect the Caregivers and Elders to better serve our members. This will be discussed at the next Elders meeting. In addition, the Elder lists will be posted on the bulletin board.

A new **pictorial church directory** is being created through Servant Keeper. **Members will need to submit their picture** so they can be included in the pictorial directory.

A survey will be sent out to all members in the near future to evaluate how we are doing as a church and where we might improve.

The **nominating committee** of Rhonda, Larry, Emily and Tahirih needs one more congregation volunteer. In an effort to help our church grow, **we want to know what special skills/interests our new members have, as well as, skills/interests of our long time members.**

## A Message from Pastor...

by Pastor  
Titus A. Utecht

# The Peacemaker

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. - Matthew 5:9*

Conflict is a very real part of our human existence. From small scale disagreements like where to go out for dinner to big conflicts that tear families and friends apart, conflict can get quite ugly and do a lot of damage to relationships.

However, we as Christians are uniquely prepared to deal with conflict, and when we really put into practice Biblical principles for handling conflict, it can transform our relationships in a powerful way. This is what Jesus is talking about when he says “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

The reason that Christians can be peacemakers and thus be called “sons of God” is all because of THE Son of God, Jesus Christ. You see, each one of us was once caught up in a great and terrible conflict that was marked with betrayal, separation, hurt, hostility, and anything but peace. This conflict was none other than our conflict with God. That was the case until Jesus Christ, the Son of God, “broke down the dividing wall of hostility,” “reconciled us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility,” and now “he himself is our peace.” (Eph. 2:14-16) The work of Jesus Christ was to end the conflict that existed between myself and God on account of my sin and instead to establish complete peace between us. Fundamentally, Jesus is a peacemaker.

Since Jesus has now made peace between God and man, he calls each one of us to carry out that same task of bringing peace and reconciliation to our human relationships. The Christian life should be marked by complete peace with others, and especially within the family of God.

Imagine a world in which you had no standing conflicts with others. Or perhaps a world in which all the conflicts and disagreements you had with anyone were resolved in a meaningful but peaceful way. A world in which you could look around at every other human being on this planet and say “I am at total peace with this person, and in my heart I hold nothing but Christian love for them.” This is actually how we as Christians are called and equipped to live! We are to be peacemakers.

Peacemaking is beautiful and it is a great blessing (blessed are the peacemakers!), but it sure isn't easy or cheap. For Jesus, it literally cost him his life to make peace between God and man. So too for us, making peace in the midst of conflict requires boldness to address the situation in the first place, humility to confess our own role in the conflict, and a heart that is willing to forgive and love like Jesus.

Ultimately, peacemaking is letting Christ's work of reconciliation become our work. Over the course of the four weekends in March, we will have a sermon series on “**The Peacemaker**” and work in more detail into just how we live these things out. It is my hope and prayer that this can be a powerful and even life-changing topic of study. That might sound like a bold claim, but I must say that my life was quite transformed when I began to learn and apply these principles. (I also still have much room to grow, and I'm hoping that this series provides a good opportunity also for me to grow in my peacemaking!) Really, the transformational power of peacemaking shouldn't surprise us, given that peacemaking is nothing other than simply living out the powerful Gospel that has already transformed our lives.

In Christ, Pastor Utecht