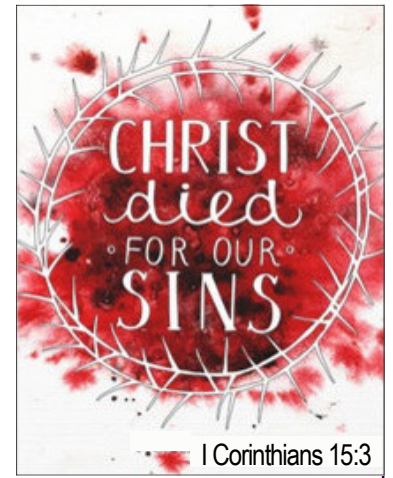




APRIL 2024 The Oakleaves



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 • www.shermanoakslutheran.org

Apologetics Study (Doubts and Questions Welcome!)

Have you ever had doubts about some of the things we believe as Christians? After all, some of the things we believe are quite incredible—would you believe any old story about someone dying and coming back to life again and doing miracles? Or maybe you know people who don't believe because they think Christianity is nothing but myths. Honestly, that's quite understandable for anyone who hasn't looked deeply into the evidence for Christianity. **This April, we will begin a Bible study series that will walk through the compelling evidence that Jesus did die and rise again.**

The format for the study will be small groups on weekday evenings working through a video series, with plenty of space for discussion. Bring your doubts, bring your questions, and come find answers. Be on the lookout for sign-up information and details in the coming weeks!

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Walking Through Holy Week

March 24 Palm Sunday, 10 a.m. Family Easter Event noon-2 pm



March 28 Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

March 29 Good Friday, 7 pm

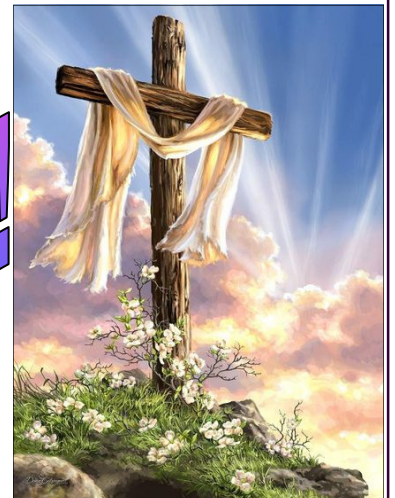


March 30 Holy Saturday

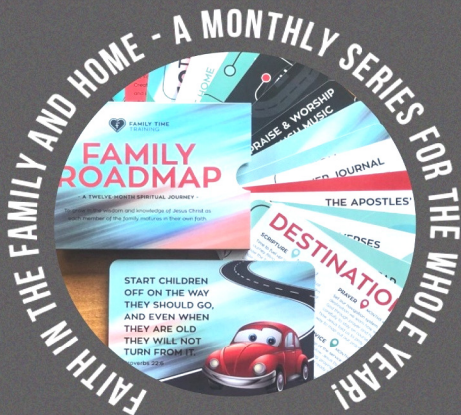
"Experience Holy Week," 5 pm

Good Friday

March 31 Easter Worship
6:42 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast
9:00 a.m.



Jesus Lives!



APRIL'S FOCUS:

Prayer - The Apostles' Creed

Let's live our faith together:

APR 21

11:45 - 1:30 PM LUNCH PROVIDED



Zoo News from the Children's Center

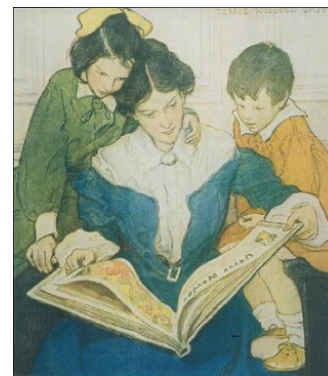
by Director,
Ms Kimberly Ogas

You are Invited to join the SOLCC READING FLOCK!



The Reading Flock is a new opportunity to connect Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church with our fabulous preschool in a meaningful way. SOLCC is looking for servants to **volunteer to read a story to our** preschool students.

Every child deserves to be read to by a caring adult. You will experience the look of wonder and joy that children get on their faces when they listen to someone read them a story. Almost anyone who knows how to read can be in our Flock. High school students, college students, parents, and grandparents are just a sample of the kinds of people who we hope will join our SOLCC Reading Flock. Being able to read and a desire to spend time inspiring children are the only skills needed to be a successful reading volunteer. The preschool will even provide the book for you, if you like. We have silly books, rhyming stories, classic tales, and giant bible storybooks available for you. Or you can bring your own book to read to the children!

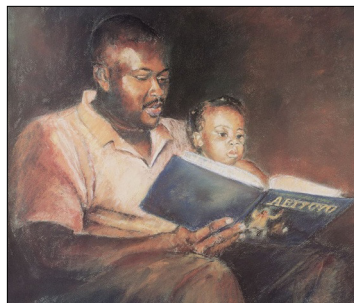


The children will benefit from your time and generosity, but so will you! Did you know that there are many health benefits associated with volunteering, including:



1. Volunteering reduces stress.
2. Volunteering decreases the risk of depression.
3. Volunteering contributes to lower blood pressure.
4. Volunteering can lengthen your life span.

It's a win, win! Don't be shy! Give the preschool a call at 818-784-9480 to get more information or to get started. Birds of a feather, flock together!



"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."

Psalm 91:4

Sherman Oaks Lutheran Children's Center

14847 Dickens Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

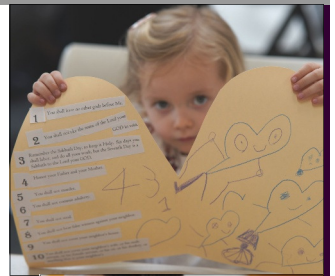
Tel: (818) 784-9480 · Fax: (818) 784-5736

Solpreschool.com



FEET - Families Encouraging and Equipping Together

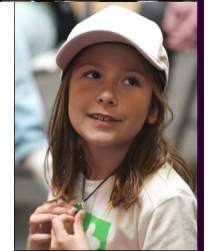
Our precious families gathered for the 3rd Road Stop with a focus on the **10 Commandments**. It lined up perfectly with Lent as we examine ourselves with the law, looking ahead to **Easter** and Christ's fulfillment of them for us. With this lesson, we now have our tanks fueled up by being in God's truth of God's Word.



For the next 3 months, our navigation system will be to **focus on prayer**. We will learn how we can talk with God and



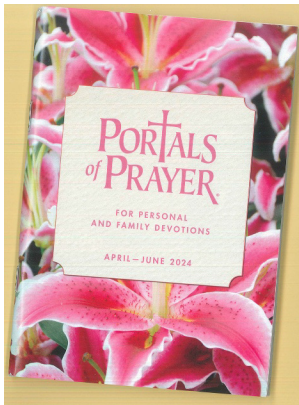
how to listen carefully to stay on course. We will learn how Jesus told us to pray, and a helpful way to map out our prayer life.



Families are welcome to join this spiritual journey at any point as we grow closer to God and one another. We meet the third Sunday of each month after worship.

These pics are from the March 17 FEET event.)

The next quarter of Concordia Publishing House's devotional, **Portals of Prayer**, April through June, 2024, is in the Church Narthex. Large print is also available in the same place.



Very top secret....
But you will want to stay tuned...
Save the dates July 8-12.....

With the warmer weather starting, you may be dreaming about SUMMER and starting to make plans! Remember to **save the date** for Vacation Bible School - July 8 through July 12. The theme reveal is coming soon!

Memorize Bible verses with our kids...

Many more joined the **Bible Memory Victory Crew** with Psalm 119:105, *“Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

Congratulations to: Ayka, Hephzabah, Zephyra, Madison, Donavon, Milan, Love, and Hannah on holding God’s Word in your heart!

We are currently working on John 15:5, “I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in Him, bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

The new verse for April will be John 8:31-32, **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**



Thank you to & from Ralphs!

Are you registered at Ralphs for their Community Rewards?

Have you linked your rewards card to SOLC?

(To find out if you are: look at your receipt from Ralphs....near the bottom of the receipt it would say “You have agreed for your community rewards to go to Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church.”) If it does not say that, then you can register your Ralphs card to earmark your Community Rewards to go to Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church!!!

For your convenience, step-by-step website registration instructions can be found at www.ralphs.com, click on Community, then click on Community Rewards, click on ‘Enroll Now’. Or call 800-443-4438!

SOLC receives \$ from the Ralphs



Community Rewards...free to the shopper!!!

To give you an idea of how much we receive: The most recent quarterly deposit was made by Ralphs into SOLC checking account on March 15, 2024. SOLC received **\$82.49** FREE with **12 households participating, Dec. 1, 2023-Feb. 29, 2024.** Thanks to the Ralphs Community Rewards program.

For our fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 we have received: \$324.19 with 12 households participating.

Since we began in this program, SOLC has received **\$3,609.20:**

Year	received	avg households
2023-2024	\$324.19	12
2022-2023	\$313.64	11
2021-2022	\$315.77	13
2020-2021	\$275.70	10
2019-2020	\$200.03	9
2018-2019	\$256.07	8
2017-2018	\$371.43	10
2016-2017	\$461.03	12
2015-2016	\$592.72	13
2014-2015	\$498.70	12

Thank you, Ushers • March-April, 2024

- 3/28 Maundy Thurs Chuck Spitler & Inga Windsor
- 3/29 Good Friday Dennis Werner & Dick Robertson
- Easter 3/31 Sunrise Dennis Werner & Lorraine Salcedo
- Easter 3/31 8 AM Chuck Spitler & Christian Hinrichs
- Easter 3/31 10 AM Eric Anderson & Dick Robertson
- 4/7 Robert True & Jamie Cleary
- 4/14 Charlene Irwin & Heather Wolter
- 4/21 Eric Anderson & Laura Murcott
- 4/28 Heather Wolter & Laura Murcott

You, too, can participate in this!!!



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



Birthdays:

Cathy Dallas	4/4	Jewel Leak	4/16
Randy Vargas	4/6	Dolly Kintaudi Lukata	4/16
Bethany Brinton	4/7	Ryder Villari	4/17
David Seaver	4/7	Isaac Gordon	4/18
Claire O'Byrne	4/12	Tatiana Faus	4/22
Fred Villari	4/14	Emmy Crowley	4/21
Maria Marks Lee	4/15		

Anniversary:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Jamie & Beth Cleary	(28 yrs)	4/13
Fofa & Dolly Lukata	(14 yrs)	4/17
Brandon & Tatiana Faus		4/24
Anthony Lee & Maria Marks		4/24
Jerry & Tahirih Petryha	(19 yrs)	4/30
David & Bette Quesada	(13 yrs)	4/30

March & APRIL 2024

Calendar for Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

All dates and times are subject to change

Sun, March 24 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. **Worship, 10:00 a.m.** Healthy Life, noon
 Palm Sunday Family Easter Event, noon-2 pm

HOLY WEEK March 24-March 30

March 25-March 29 ~ Preschool is closed all of Holy Week

Thurs, March 28 Maundy Thursday worship, 7:00 p.m.
 Fri., March 29 **Good Friday—School and Offices closed** Good Friday worship, 7:00 p.m.
 Sat, March 30 Experience Holy Week worship, 5:00 p.m.
Sun., March 31 Easter Services: 6:42 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & Easter Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
 Mon., April 1 **Day After Easter—Office closed**
 Tues, April 2 High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Loft
 Sat, April 6 Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
 Sun, April 7 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon
 Tues, April 9 Elders meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 Wed, April 10 School Board, 6:00 p.m.
 Thurs, April 11 Christian Education meeting, 5:30 p.m.
 Sat, April 13 Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
 Sun, April 14 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Baptism, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon
 Tues, April 16 Council meeting, 7:00 p.m. in person
 Fri., April 19 *Preschool Spring Sing, 9:30 a.m.*
 Sat, April 20 Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
 Sun, April 21 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. **FEET, 11:45 a.m.** Healthy Life, noon
 Tues, April 23 **The Oakleaves Articles Due, noon in Liz's "in box"**
 Sat, April 27 Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. Young Adult group, 6:30 p.m.
 Sun, April 28 Bible Study, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon
 April 30-May 2 Pastor is attending a Pastors' Conference

Called to *Serve* Thank You!

by Brei Brantley

*"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26*

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

- ☺ those who have helped Pastor and his family.
- ☺ all who volunteered to bring in soup for Soup Supper.
- ☺ all who helped with Easter festivities and breakfast.
- ☺ those who donated to the mercy packs and remember you still can through Amazon.
- ☺ all the great Sunday School teachers.
- ☺ all the women who made goodies and helped serve the reception following Velma's memorial service!!!
- ☺ Rianne and Nicholas for leading our FEET activities this month and to Laurel for feeding us!
- ☺ those who volunteer their time to help with all the goings on at the church.
- ☺ all who volunteered at the **March Work Party!**

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

Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

Check us out!

(See phone #s & other information in the masthead on pg 1.)

Worship

Saturday-5:00 p.m. ~ Sunday-10:00 a.m.

Bible Classes

Saturday-6:30 p.m. ~ Sunday-9:00 a.m.

Our worship services are broadcast LIVE on the World Wide Web...

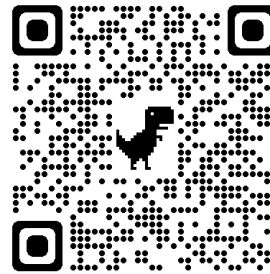
<http://www.sundaystreams.com/go/ShermanOaksLutheran>

Mercy Packs

"Giving to help others."

A HUGE thank you Tahirih for putting together some Mercy Packs to share with our community.

You can find Ziplock bags ready in the Fellowship Hall. The rest were distributed by Central Lutheran Church during their monthly Food Bank.



Our baskets are ready to be filled up again by all our generous members. Thankful for your support!

Proteins and hygiene products are needed most to replenish our supplies. Financial donations earmarked 'Mercy Packs' help by allowing us to buy supplies in bulk.

You can order through our **Amazon wish list** [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wish list/ls/3JEGWVFP3 N50V?ref_=wl_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wish-list/ls/3JEGWVFP3N50V?ref_=wl_share)

Thankful for your support!

God loves a cheerful giver!

The good shepherd
lays down his life
for the sheep.

Gospel for Sun.,
April 21, 2024

John 10:11



Prayer Chain

All are invited to submit personal prayer requests for our SOLC Prayer Chain to Chris Gordon at animator95@sbcglobal.net.

All prayers are emailed to members who are dedicated to lifting these requests to the Lord. All requests are kept confidential.

If you would like to be one of the Prayer Warriors, email Chris to request being added to the emails.

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”
James 5:16

rightnow MEDIA

by Pastor Utech

Do you use RightNow Media?

This is an online resource that has thousands of high-quality video Bible studies. The church has purchased a subscription so you have free access! My suggestion: **try replacing some TV watching** or podcasts with Bible studies from RightNow Media. My top recommendation this month: *Love in Chaos* by Bob Goff.

If you don't have an account, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/SHERMANOAKS. Samples are:

2024 Women's Bible Study Roadmap

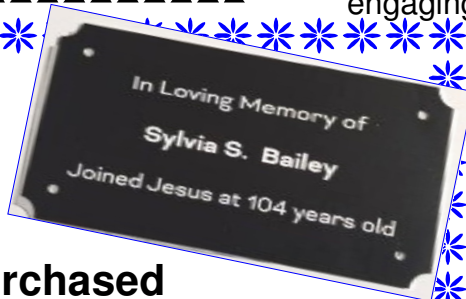
Gather with other Christian women to discover powerful truths from books of the Bible as well as encouraging perspectives on how to live out your faith in today's culture. This roadmap is filled with teaching from Jennie Allen, Jo Saxton, Bianca Juárez Olthoff, and more.



2023 Adult Bible Study Roadmap

We want to help small group leaders easily find new, engaging ways to learn about the gospel and build relationships with other believers. The video series in this roadmap examine biblical truths and are the perfect go-to curriculum to inspire conversation in your community.

Memorial Garden Plaques



can now be purchased

If you have someone you would like to see on the Memorial Wall, please **contact the David Seaver** or the **church office**, 818-789-0215, or email shermanoakslutheran@yahoo.com.

Cost for each remains the same **\$25.00** as it has been (for over 20 years). The 4"x2" plaques are black with silver lettering. Check them out on the outside wall.

Information needed: person's name, dates of life or their contact with SOLC, your name, and \$25.00 for each plaque.

SOLC Financial Picture

As of February 29, 2024

	Month	Fiscal Year-To-Date
Contributions	\$16,245.75	\$134,969.76
Preschool tithe		\$ 32,906.23
Totals	\$16,245.75	\$167,875.99
<hr/>		
SOLC Expenses	\$25,736.44	\$182,160.70
	-9,490.69	-14,284.71

A Message from Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utecht

Making the Most out of Holy Week

As we enter into Holy Week, we come to what is the most significant week in the church year. On one hand, every Sunday is a “little Easter” and we are always remembering the cross and resurrection. On the other hand, this week

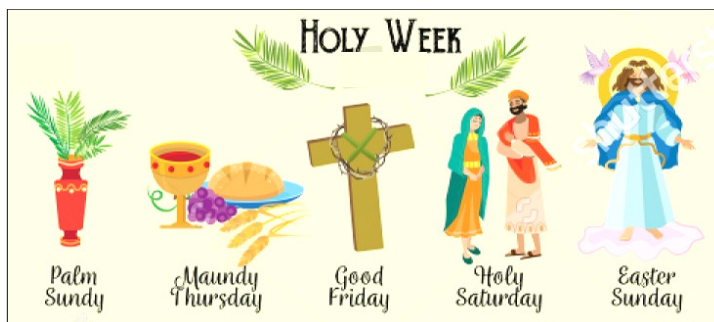
we especially focus in on the salvation that was won by Jesus. As such, it is a great opportunity to really grow in our faith and to carry out our Christian calling. Jesus did this his whole life, but especially during this week, Jesus devoted himself entirely to serving us and gave up his life for us. Can we use this week to especially devote ourselves to him and give extra time and attention to Jesus? Here are some ideas and tips to help you make the most out of this year’s holy week.

Attend Services

Holy week features the most church services out of any week in the year, and each one has great significance. (See the schedule on the front page.) If you haven’t attended them all, why not try a new one this year? Each service is a way to help us really focus our minds and hearts on Jesus and his saving work. I’ve even heard of someone who tries to go to a church service *every single day* of Holy Week (having to go to a few different churches to make that work). That’s maybe a little extreme, but I would encourage you to try to observe each of the really significant days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday).

Good Friday is especially significant. The cross is the defining moment where Jesus wins forgiveness of sins and reconciles us to God. Most of you already attend this service, but if not, come spend an hour with us meditating on Jesus’ sacrifice for you.

The Saturday “experience Holy Week” service is really a meaningful and different way to observe Holy Week. For most of the weekends during the year, the Saturday and Sunday services are very similar, just different music and such. Not during Holy Week!



Aside from that, there is the Maundy Thursday service and all three services on Easter. Why not try waking up early for the sunrise service, which has this really beautiful and fresh feel

to it? (Be a morning person once a year!)

Personal Practices

Aside from the worship services we do together, what might you do alone to observe Holy Week? It’s a great time for reflection and contemplation. Maybe you do a special set of devotions for the week. Read over the passion narratives from the Gospels. Take some time on Good Friday to meditate on some of the very deep hymns that we have. (My favorite: Google “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” and either sing the lyrics yourself or listen to a rendition on YouTube.) Take up some form of fasting. Ponder some of the great art of the crucifixion.

There are all sorts of things that you can do. Remember, none of them earns you “bonus points in heaven” or makes you a “better Christian.” Neither your personal practices nor service attendance does that. Rather, the goal in each is to focus our hearts more fully on Jesus, that our lives might be more shaped by him and filled with praise for him.

Share the Good News

Shortly after Easter, Peter and John said “We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20) Can you keep this great news bottled up to yourself? Non-Christians are probably more open to being invited to Easter than you realize. Thom Rainer found that 82% of unchurched people are “somewhat likely” to attend church if invited. That number is probably even higher for Easter! What if 3 months from now someone you know has come to faith in Jesus, and it all traced back to you inviting them for Easter? There’s great opportunity here!