



JULY 2026 The Oakleaves

SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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RED, WHITE, & BLUE PARTY



Congratulations, Graduates!

- Tatiana Faus - law school
- Jordan Buenafe - grad school - Pepperdine
- Dustin Lee - UC Irvine
- Jonah Gordon - CSUN
- Hope Gordon - Sac State
- Alik Lukata, Maddie Perez and Maisy Villari - moving on to High School



Everyone Has a Story

When we hear the word testimony, it's easy to think of dramatic stories of lives turned completely around. While those stories are certainly inspiring, they're only one part of God's work. More often, God is at work in the quiet, everyday moments—in the peace He gives during difficult times, in the strength He provides through life's challenges, in the joy of raising a family in the faith, or in the comfort of knowing we're never alone.

That's why I'd like to invite members of our congregation to participate in a new series of short video testimonials that we'll be sharing on our church website and social media. These brief "Mini Testimonials" will simply be conversations about your faith journey and the difference Christ has made—and continues to make—in your life. There's no script to memorize, no pressure to say the "perfect" thing, and no expectation that your story has to be dramatic.

In fact, if you've ever thought, "I don't really have much of a testimony," you may be exactly the person I'm hoping to talk with. Your story of growing in faith, finding peace in difficult seasons, or simply walking with Christ through everyday life may be exactly the encouragement someone else needs to hear.

We'll keep the interviews relaxed and conversational, and I'll help make you feel comfortable every step of the way. They only take a few minutes, and we'll edit them into short, engaging videos that reflect your story in a natural and authentic way.

My prayer is that these videos will encourage our own church family while also reaching people in our community who are looking for hope, answers, or a place to belong. We often say that God works through ordinary people—and this is one more opportunity for Him to do just that.

If you'd be willing to participate or would simply like to learn more about the project, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd love to help share the story God is writing in your life!

- Mike Renneker

"The Bethlehem Project" which was first performed here at SOLC last November as a fundraiser for the church has been published by Eldridge Publishing! Written by Jeff Zimmer with songs by Mike Renneker, the show is now available for groups to perform anywhere in the country. But it all started **HERE!**

If you would like to purchase a copy of the script for yourself, they are available online at <https://95church.com/the-bethlehem-project-the-musical>.



FEET — Families Encouraging + Equipping Together

For the Summer, we are planning activities to take us off campus!

On Sunday, July 19th we will meet nearby at the Bostroms' home for some fun in the pool! Grab your picnic and towel and meet there around noon!

A family camping trip is coming together from August 4 -7th at the KOA in Santa Paula. Book your reservation and join us!



We will wrap our summer plans with a day at the beach on August 16th!

We are excited to look ahead to some fellowship and fun in the sun through Summer Break!

Invite friends to any or all of our gatherings! Shine On!

- Blessings from Your Children and Families Team



"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." - James 5:16b

SOLC has a Prayer Chain which you are ALL welcome to be a part of. All requests are to remain confidential and for the most part somehow related to our church family.

If you would like to be part of the prayer team; email Chris Gordon at animator95@sbcglobal.net and she will add your email to the blind copy list. EVERYONE is invited to send prayer requests for posting and prayer whether you chose to be part of the prayer team or not.

"Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me." - Romans 15:30



Zoo News from the Children's Center

by Director,
Arusyak Dzheyranyan

July is shaping up to be another joyful, exciting, and event-filled month at SOLCC! We recently celebrated two very special milestones—our Preschool Graduation and Father's Day. It was a wonderful time to honor our graduates and celebrate the amazing fathers and father figures in our children's lives. Thank you to all of our families for making these events so memorable.

We have also kicked off our Summer Camp, and it has been an incredible start! The children have had so much fun participating in hands-on activities and special events. So far, they have especially enjoyed the interactive Science Show and the energetic Drum Circle, which brought learning and creativity to life in exciting ways.

This month promises even more unforgettable experiences! Our children will celebrate the Fourth of July while enjoying an amazing lineup of special activities, including a Spectacular Bugs presentation, a Marionet Magic Show, a Petting Zoo, a Carousel, and our always-popular Water Slide Day. Every week is filled with opportunities for exploration, discovery, laughter, and lasting memories.

At SOLCC, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children learn through play, build meaningful friendships, and grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Our dedicated teachers work hard each day to create enriching experiences that inspire curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.

We look forward to making this summer one of our best yet!



July - August 2026 Events

All dates and times are subject to change

Sat, July 4	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 5	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
Tues, July 7	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Thurs, July 9	School Board Meeting, 7 pm	
Sat, July 11	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
	LWML, 9 am	Men's Group, 10 am
Sun, July 12	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
Tues, July 14	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Sat, July 18	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 19	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
	FEET, 12 pm	
Tues, July 21	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	Council Meeting, 7 pm
Sat, July 25	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, July 26	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
Tues, July 28	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Sat, Aug 1	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Aug 2	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
Tues, Aug 4	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
August 4-7	FEET Family Camping Trip	
Wed, Aug 5	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Aug 8	LWML, 9 am	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm
	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	
Sun, Aug 9	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
Tues, Aug 11	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Wed, Aug 12	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Thurs, Aug 13	School Board Meeting, 7 pm	
Sat, Aug 15	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Aug 16	Bible Study, 8:45 am	Sunday Worship, 10 am
	FEET, Time TBD	

Scan for full calendar



How is God calling YOU into Service in His Church?

Have you missed some of the things we "usually" do or "used to" do?

Do you have something you feel God is calling you to start up?

PRAY about it and then share it with your Elder or someone in a related leadership position.



Here are a few areas of need currently:

1. Spearheading the Mercy Pack Ministry
2. Stepping into Vacation Bible Camp planning/directing for next summer
3. Organizing a Hospitality Team
4. Leading a Compassion Team for those who need support with everyday needs
5. Prayer Circles, anyone? Needs someone to start it...



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



Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Kayla Hanna	7/8	Mary Bain	7/22
Drew Murcott	7/8	Sammy Khalili	7/25
Luigi Uwanawich	7/11	Janet True Bova	7/26
Eric Anderson	7/18		
Ann McClung	7/19		

Adam & Mary Bain	7/9
Dennis & Elaine Werner	7/21
Larry & Cindy Hanna	7/25

Thank you, Nursery Volunteers

July-August 2026

		8/2	Laura Redmond, Tahirih Petrya
7/5	Kayla Hanna, Saana Campana	8/9	Saana Campana, Cindy Hanna
7/12	Jordan Buenage, Sammy Khalili	8/16	Sonia Uwanawich, Tonika Farmer
7/19	Tonika Farmer, Sonia Uwanawich	8/23	Kayla Hanna, Sammy Khalili
7/26	Lily Grace, Marleen Nicholas	8/30	Lily Grace, Jordan Buenafe

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

by Head Elder Jeff Gordon

A Heartfelt Thank You to Makayla

It is with both sadness and joy that we say goodbye to our beloved church secretary, Makayla. We are sad because she will be missed and because of the incredible job she has done at Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church. We also find joy in knowing that she is starting a new adventure and, because we all love her, we want to see her follow God's path.

It is often said that the church office is the heart of a congregation, and for all of us, Makayla has been a steady, caring, and welcoming presence at that heart. Whether answering a phone call with kindness, greeting visitors with a warm smile, preparing bulletins, organizing countless details behind the scenes, or helping the pastor, staff, and members alike, she has carried out her work with grace, dedication, and a servant's heart.

Many of the things Makayla did each day were never seen by most of us. Yet because of her faithful efforts, worship services flowed smoothly, ministries stayed organized, and our congregation was able to focus on sharing the love of Christ. Her gifts of patience, compassion,

organization and dependability have been a true blessing to everyone who has walked through our doors.

More than simply serving as our church secretary, Makayla became a trusted friend and an important part of our church family. She celebrated with us during joyful occasions, stood beside us through difficult times, and quietly cared for the needs of our congregation with humility and love. When David first told me about Makayla, I thought "surely he must be exaggerating" but then I got to see firsthand just how incredibly talented and, more importantly, just how big her heart is. I believe God has very big plans for her and I'm excited to see where he takes her.

Thank you, Makayla, for all the things noticed and all the things unnoticed that you have done for Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church. We love you, we wish you the best, and we can't wait to hear all about your new path in Chicago!

God's richest blessings to you, friend!

Welcome, Pastor Kaye!

Join us in welcoming Pastor Carl Kaye and his wife to our church family. His first services with us will be Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12!