



September 2023

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

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*For your prayerful
consideration:*

Take a course in **Biblical
Principles of Peacemaking.**
See Pastor's article on page 8.

Blessed are the
PEACEMAKERS
for they shall be called
THE CHILDREN OF God
Matthew 5:9

Check
it out.
This
course
sounds
life
chang-
ing!

Rally Day - DiscipleSHIP

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Food and Fun for ALL ages



NOON - 3:00 pm

Bring family, friends and
neighbors to voyage deeper into Christ's
calling on our lives.

Sunday, September 10 *
2 events for your information -
spread the word!

Sept 10 - Christian Singles
Be sure to RSVP



LOS ANGELES CHRISTIAN SINGLES

**CHRISTIAN SINGLES
WORSHIP MUSIC
CONCERT & MIXER -
FREE !!!**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7 PM -- AGES 18 - 70+

**LOCATION: SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH
14847 DICKENS ST. - DICKENS AND KESTER AVE
SHERMAN OAKS, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

Leave a Voice Message at (747) 217-4385
for more information - **Visit**

Meetup.com/Los-Angeles-Christian-Singles
to RSVP and join our list for future events



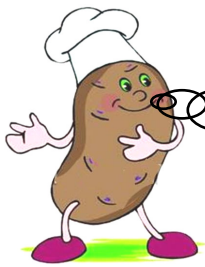
Mary & Martha Guild



We will resume the Women's Bible Study on **Saturday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.** Bring your Bibles.

Our next Mary & Martha Guild meeting will convene on **Sat., October 14.**

Upcoming fundraisers will be:



Potato Bake
Sun., Nov. 5,
2023

Sharing Christ with the Prisoner

Zones #3 & #4 Fall Celebration

Saturday, September 23, 9 am

Registration is \$15.00

(includes morning sweets, speaker, and lunch)

First Lutheran Church in Burbank, 1001 S. Glenoaks Blvd.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Art Stevens, Prison Ministry of the Pacific Southwest District.

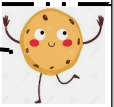
LWML Mission Grant Recipient 2022-24.

Holy Bible
ESV

Ingathering: ESV Bibles soft cover,
(CA State Law), print size large enough to read.

RSVP to Candy Baker by Sept. 15 at (818) 636-3441 or
pelicanlakeca@aol.com

Cookie Walk Sun., Feb. 11, 2024



Zoo News from the Children's Center

by Director, Kimberly Ogas

SOLCC's summer camp wrapped up with many new friendships being made. We touched the lives of 72 children during our summer session and we couldn't be happier!

The new 2023 – 2024 school year began mid-August. We currently have 55 children on our rosters and we are continuing to grow.

Our first themes for the year focus on elements of life that help make the children feel more comfortable during this transition.

Themes we will be teaching in the beginning of the school year include:

Friendship

All About Me

My Family

Our Growing Bodies

Homes and Buildings

The 5 Senses

Feelings and Manners

All of these topics are taught in a loving manner with God at the center. The children take part in chapel with Pastor Utecht once or twice a week. Chapel is very child-friendly with puppets, flannel boards, singing, and dancing. The children especially love giving Pastor Utecht a "high-five" at the end of chapel. They also learn their daily meal prayers, they hear Bible stories in class, and they learn a variety of Christian songs which will become beloved to them over time.

If you know a child who would benefit from a warm, loving, family-like preschool environment, please send them our way. We still have spots open in all ages and I would love to give them a tour of our Zoo Zone. If they are looking for more information, they can visit our website at www.solpreschool.com.

Back to School Night is Thurs., September 28 at 7 p.m.

We're WILD about learning and WILD about God!

**Remember to check out
our *new* website:
Solpreschool.com**



Ed note: Operation Gratitude was Evelyn Christel's favorite place to donate to, from herself and the Mary & Martha Guild! I am sure they really miss her support. **Operation Gratitude is a tax-exempt public charity. All donations are tax deductible.**

Operation Gratitude

Help celebrate their 20th anniversary with the 20 for 20 campaign!

Join Operation Gratitude in honoring two decades of gratitude and supporting those who selflessly serve our nation. Make a donation in multiples of 20 to ensure our courageous servicemen and women always feel the care and support of the American people. With record-high deployments, they face a high demand for their Care Packages. They have Care Packages that need to be shipped and need our help! Help meet their demand by giving to their 20 for 20 campaign. Together, we can help create a lasting impact and show our unwavering dedication to our heroes.

Join a National 20K/4K Virtual Run/Walk!

Join Operation Gratitude and individuals from across the globe for a nationwide virtual run/walk of 20K/4K. Take part in the 20K run/walk to celebrate their 20th anniversary or join the 4K in honor of the upcoming achievement of assembling and shipping four million Care Packages to those who serve.

The virtual run will take place from Oct. 26 to Nov. 26, coinciding with significant dates for the Military and First Responder communities. Celebrate National Day of the Deployed on Oct. 26, National First Responders Day on Oct. 28, and Veterans Day on Nov. 11 by participating in this meaningful event. Don't miss the chance to show your support and gratitude to our heroes. To learn more and register, go to: <https://www.operationgratitude.com/>

**Operation
Gratitude**
4K | 20K
in Action
celebrating 20 years

✓ **Register**

✓ **Share**

✓ **Fundraise**

✓ **Complete**

Do you have your

Community Rewards
going to SOLC???

Well, 11 households at SOLC do and **\$70.23** was given from the Ralphs Community Rewards program, during the quarter March 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023, to us at SOLC. Thank you!

The only thing you need to do to be part of this program is to 1. Shop at Ralphs, 2. Link your rewards card to Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church. Ralphs does the rest! You'll still get your gas points! Each quarter we receive a check from Ralphs. Since we started in this program in **2014**, SOLC has received **\$3,057.84**. **Thank you Community Rewards!** Since it depends on the number of households who participate, the numbers go up and down. (One year \$710 was given to us. The average is \$285 per year.) Be sure you are *rewarding to SOLC!*

How did you fair in our recent "tropical storm?" We hope well. The church: sanctuary, fellowship hall, downstairs classroom, upstairs classrooms, and kitchen suffered leaks. Our roof needs repairing before....

Stewardship

The Gift of Light

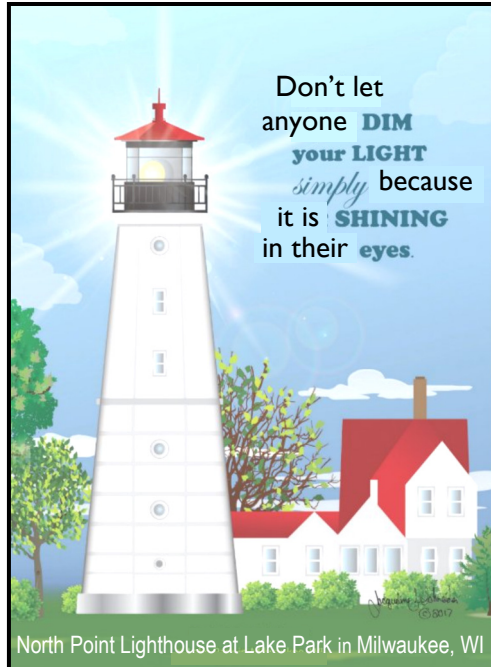
Inspired by *Simple Gifts: A Series of Devotions on Stewardship*

by Breilyn Brantley

After Hurricane Hilary came through and hit Los Angeles on Sunday, I looked out my window on Monday afternoon to see a bright blue sky. I couldn't help but smile at this beautiful day outside and realize only a little while before we had been in darkness and bracing for the worst.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah. 60:1-2)

This passage rang especially true for me looking out my window. We were in darkness and now we see the light. God's



simple gift of light gives us life and leads us to the light of Jesus and to our salvation. Others may be still in the darkness; living through the aftermath of Hilary, the aftermath of the devastating fires in Maui, or even just personal darkness that can be hard to shake. They are not alone for God is with them; God's light is shining on them, and we are with them too.

How we use this gift of light for others will also reveal God's glory. We need to reflect God's light to those around us. As God has given us this simple gift of light, we must think of what we can offer as our simple gift through our words, acts, and how we give.

Mission Project for Vacation Bible School



LBCM
Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry

Our theme "Shine Jesus' Light!," we spotlighted

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LBCM). The VBS youth were able to bring in health and school supplies, and food items for needy children across the border in Mexico.

On Sunday, August 6, the Gordons delivered the Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church VBS Mission Project donations to Pastor Contreras, director of LBCM.

Pictured here are:



Caleb, Pastor Contreras, Jeff, Hope, and Chris Gordon

A New Pictorial Directory is available in either a hard copy (8.5"x 14" or 11"x17") or from our database. Call or email the church office for your copy.

Thank you to our Ushers September 2023

- 9/3 Lorraine Salcedo & Jamie Cleary
- 9/10 Inga Windsor & Christian Hinrichs
- 9/17 Chansom Zayabouth & Heather Wolter
- 9/24 Eric Anderson & Laura Murcott



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



Birthdays:

		Charlotte Hinrichs	9/16
Alexis Murcott	9/1	Yasuko Fischer	9/18
Torrey Murcott	9/1	Parisa Foroughiazar	9/20
Abby Connick	9/3	Hope Gordon	9/26
Haley Marshall	9/5	Michael O'Byrne	9/27
Caydence Renneker	9/6	Daphne Stegman	9/27
Anthony Lee	9/15	Sandra Uwanawich	9/28

Anniversary:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Seth & Kristin Miller	4 yrs	9/22
Mario & Miriam Sweet	16 yrs	9/22
Craig & Tanya Peterson	18 yrs	9/24

September 2023

Calendar for Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

All dates and times are subject to change

Sat, Sept 2	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 3	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon, Narthex
Mon, Sept 4	Labor Day — Offices and School Closed	
Tues, Sept 5	High School Youth Group, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Loft	
Thurs, Sept 7	Christian Ed mtg, 5:00 p.m.	
Sat, Sept 9	Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.	Contemp. Worship, 5 p.m. Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 10	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon, Narthex
	Rally Day, noon-3 p.m.	Christian Singles Night, Fellowship Hall, 7-9 pm
Tues, Sept 12	Elders meeting, 7:00 p.m.	
Wed, Sept 13	School Board, 6:00 p.m.	
Sat, Sept 16	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 17	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon, Narthex
Tues, Sept 19	The Oakleaves Articles Due, noon in Liz's "in box"	
Sat, Sept 23	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. Young Adult group, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Sept 24	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon, Narthex
Thurs, Sept 28	SOLCC Back to School night, 7:00 p.m.	
Sat, Sept 30	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Oct 1	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon, Narthex
Tues, Oct 3	High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Loft	
Thurs., Oct 5	Christian Ed mtg, 5:00 p.m.	
Sat, Oct 7	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 p.m.	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Oct 8	Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Healthy Life, noon, Narthex

**HAPPY
LABOR DAY**

Called to *Serve* Thank you!

by Breilyn Brantley

*"Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High." Psalms 50:14*

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

- ☺ those who helped with the singles night.
- ☺ those who have donated to the **Above and Beyond** fund this month.
- ☺ all who donated to the mercy packs, **you still can donate through Amazon.**
- ☺ all the great Sunday School teachers.
- ☺ those who volunteer their time to help with all the activities at our church.

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.

VBS Thanks

A huge thanks to all who **contributed financially to VBS**. Your generosity helped us achieve the goal of coming in (slightly) under budget this yr.

- ☺ Alan Cohen - print fees.
- ☺ Michele McClung - shop for large portions of snacks.
- ☺ Leslie O'Byrne - supply all treats for volunteers and Celebration Sunday; as well as providing a \$250 Thrivent card.
- ☺ Windsors - cash donation and decorating team pizza.
- ☺ Janet Bova - cash donation.
- ☺ Hinrichs - cash donation.
- ☺ Ann Millgate - cash donation.
- ☺ Haruturian family - cash donation and family dinner drinks.
- ☺ Ann McClung - family dinner supplies.
- ☺ Werners - science lesson supply donations.

Your support has **put us ahead** with donations toward the purchase of next year's VBS program.



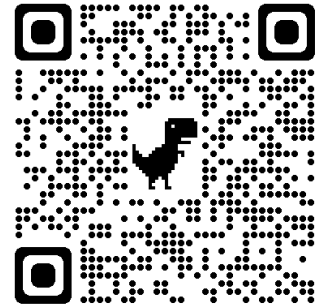
Items Needed to make more Mercy Packs

"Giving to help others."

Mercy Pack baskets remain empty. 🙏

Please consider a donation or supplies to fill bags of hope for the unhoused in our community.

Use the **Amazon link** for easy ordering!
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3JEGWVF-P3N50V?ref=wl_share



Our Mercy Packs have been a wonderful SOLC ministry. Many people have been blessed by these bags of goodies. **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.

Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church

Check us out!

(See phone #s and other information in the masthead on page 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>



Council highlights ~ July 18, 2023 mtg in person!

by Beth Cleary, Council Secretary

♦ **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Utecht reported that his vacation was very welcomed, but he and the family are glad to be back at Sherman Oaks Lutheran!

♦ **President's Report:** David Seaver will be on a mission trip to Africa with Adam Yenser.

♦ **Vice President's Report:** Dick Robertson gave an update on the 24 Hour Fitness Center advertising. The Fitness Center is not a family crowd, no parents are there for VBS information. Dick and Pastor will start visits to those who have not attended church in a while to encourage them back.

♦ **Elder's Report:** Dick Robertson reported for Luigi who stated all Elders are being held accountable to reach out to those on their list to increase church attendance.

♦ **Trustee Report:** Larry Hanna reminded everyone that there is **no lending** of tables and chairs. (The items don't get returned.)

♦ **Treasurer's & Financial Secretary's Reports:** Leslie & Heather shared that the financial reports shows the total YTD income is down by 8.3%.

♦ **Christian Education Report:** Chris Gordon reported that VBS registration numbers for students were low with a double amount signed up as volunteers.

♦ **Outreach Committee Report:** Rhonda encouraged everyone to support VBS. She recommended that we revive the Greeters program which Rhonda will report on at the August Council meeting.

♦ **Men's Group Report:** Chuck Spitler is the new leader of this group. He is working on ideas for the Men's Group and will report back to the Council.

♦ **School Board Report:** younger children are moving on to LAUSD for their new TK program which hurts ours.

♦ **Stewardship Committee Report:** Laura Murcott purchased the books recommended by Pastor. The committee has not met yet.

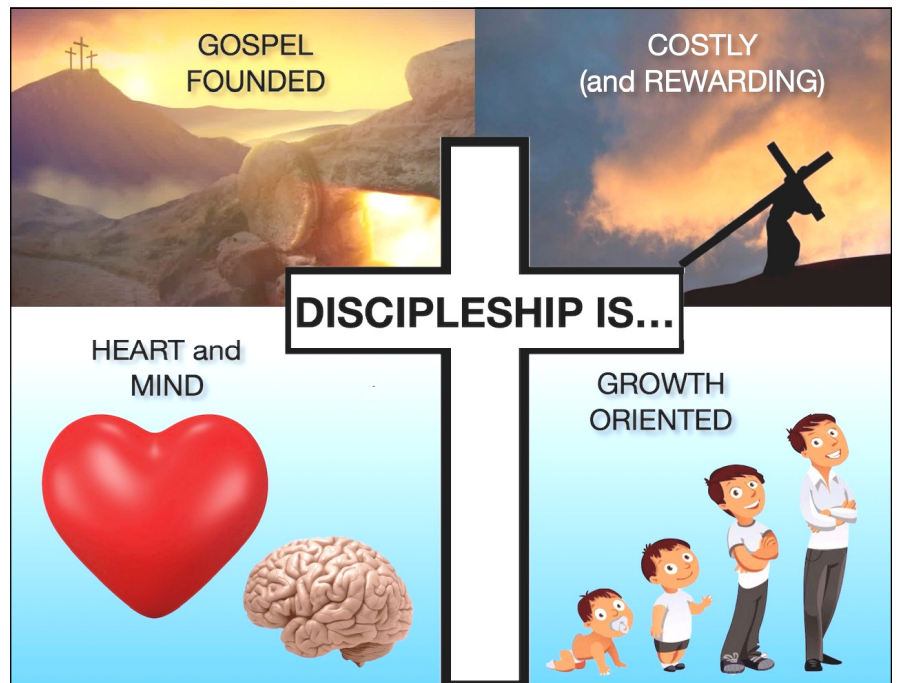
SOLC Financial Picture			
As of July 31, 2023			
	Month		
Contributions	\$16,435.26		
Compared to 2022-2023	9.8%		
Expenses	\$16,749.20		
Above & Beyond total as of 8/20/23			
	\$41,696.24		
(This number <i>includes</i> the matching funds.)			

Healthy Life Program meets

**Every Sunday
noon-1:00 p.m.
in the Narthex**

www.healthylifeprogram.org

***"Eat Right, Think Right,
and Get a Move On!"***



Pastor Utecht continues his four week sermon series **"Discipleship Is..."** which began on August 20 and ends on Sept. 10. Join us in worship or listen online to this series. Go to the SOLC website and click on "Live Stream Services."

A Message from Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utecht

The Peacemaker: A Loooong Study

This month, shortly after Rally Day, we will be offering a Bible study course on biblical principles of peacemaking. We will be using a video based series led by Ken Sande, author of *The Peacemaker* and personal hero of mine. I am very eager and excited for this course, and I hope you will be able to join in one way or another. (We are still working out the details on the specific format for the course, but I'm working hard to make it available to make sure that you can take the course regardless of your life circumstances right now.)

The reason for my eagerness is that this material has had a profound positive impact on my life. My marriage, my relationship with my kids, friends, fellow church members, and just about every single meaningful relationship I have has greatly benefited from learning and applying these principles. It's one of the most practical, transformative, and also deeply biblical studies I've encountered.

That said, it's also one of the longest studies I've led at church: 12 weeks. So it is about as long as a semester at school. Perhaps that might be a little intimidating, but it does actually bring out a fairly important point: **real growth and transformation requires time and discipline.** If a person could gain the heart and skills of a peacemaker over the course of half an hour, we would be offering that version instead. But the reality is, transformation and growth take time.

Moreover, it turns out that the process of becoming a complete peacemaker is more than 12 weeks. Much longer. In fact, I'm pretty sure it takes a lifetime. Earlier I said

that my life has been radically improved by learning this material. In reality, it is far more accurate to say my life has been improved *insofar as I have implemented* these peacemaking principles. The truth is, there are all sorts of areas where I still act as a "peace-faker" or a "peace-breaker" rather than a peacemaker. Just within the last couple of weeks there have been a couple of instances where I have not lived as a

peacemaker and have been reminded of how much I need to continue to implement and grow! I find in that a good picture of the life of Christian discipleship.

On one hand, try as I may there is so much sin and weakness in me that still needs to be addressed. In those moments I rest on God's grace and ask for God to forgive and strengthen me. On the other hand,

there has been real growth in this area for me and it has been an incredible blessing. That is the life of Christian discipleship: continual repentance and continual growth. We never graduate from needing God's grace, but by God's grace real growth and change can and do happen.

I pray that starting this month, you would undertake a long study in peacemaking. Not simply a 12 week study that comes to a neat and tidy end in December, but a lifelong process of letting the transformative and healing power of the Gospel of reconciliation take hold in your life. I pray that this may be true not just in the area of peacemaking, but in all of God's teaching. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Utecht

transformation

and

growth

take time.