



November 2024 *The Oakleaves*



SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*
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Street Fair 2024

October 20 was the 32nd annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair. Thousands of people came together for the fair and SOLC was present in a big way and in multiple places!

We had a booth down on the street to invite families to our church and school, and to direct them to the parking lot for free pony rides and popcorn. The pony rides were set up in front of the preschool so we could share information about the preschool and the church with the families who came. We also had a free bounce house on the other end of the parking lot.

Lined up along Kester, SOLC members greeted people, passed out lemonade, shared about the Healthy Life Program, and had a bake sale to raise money for the LCC Comfort Dogs ministry. Lots of balloons and water bottles were given out as well.

It was so exciting to see so many people from SOLC coming together to reach out in so many ways to our community. We got to serve the community and share the Gospel with a lot of people. Continue to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that the seeds that were sown will continue to grow and bear fruit!



Photos courtesy of Andrew Pohlod





PUMPKIN CARVING FESTIVAL



Thank you to all who have donated pumpkins for our upcoming Pumpkin Carving Festival! A special thank you to the Faus family for donating all the pumpkins seen in this photo!



We are still looking for pumpkin donations—especially large carving pumpkins— and volunteers for the event on Sunday, October 27.

Men's Group

Men's Group will be meeting on Saturday, November 16 at 10 am at Dick Robertson's Home. We look forward to our time of fellowship and discussion!



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

Birthdays:

Charlene Irwin	11/5	Andrew Pohlod	11/9
Nancy Neumann	11/5	Irene Jonassen	11/11
Theodore Nicholas	11/5	Larry Nixon	11/11
Brei Brantley	11/6	Alessandra Anderson	11/15
Madeline Peterson	11/6	Ben Selle	11/17
Andy Carpiac	11/8	Laurel Seaver	11/18
Alan Cohen	11/9	Ray Blumhorst	11/24



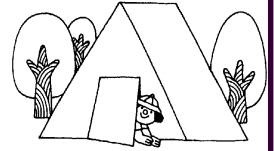
Anniversaries:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Eric & Alessandra Anderson 11/17
(7yrs)



Camping Trip



On September 27-29, SOLC had a camping trip at Castaic Lake as a follow up to our Vacation Bible *Camp*. We had both church members and families who had attended VBC this summer all gathered together for a beautiful time in God's creation.

As I'm sure you can see from the pictures, it was a great time of fellowship and connection and also a lot of fun. Saturday night we gathered around the campfire for a worship service that featured VBC songs and a focus on being refreshed by time with the Lord.

A big thanks to the many people who helped put the trip together (planning, cooking, pitching tents, and so much more!) and abundant thanks and praise to God for blessing us with it all.





Zoo News from the Children's Center by Interim Director, Arusyak Dzheyranyan

Dear Church Congregation,

As we step into the crisp air of November, we reflect on the blessings of October and express gratitude to God for His love.

Our preschool had an exciting month! We welcomed special visitors including police officers, dentists, and firefighters who taught our children valuable lessons on safety and health. The street fair was a highlight, with pony rides and bounce houses bringing joy to our little ones.

We also conducted a successful fire and earthquake drill, proud of our children's calm and prepared response.

The Halloween parade will showcase our creative and courageous youngsters in their superhero and princess costumes.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we wish you a holiday filled with love, peace, and joy. May we continue to count our blessings and share gratitude for God's love.



Upcoming Children's Center Fundraisers!

Panda Express

October 25, 10 am - 9:30 pm
14561 Ventura Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA

Mention Sherman Oaks Lutheran Children's Center in person, or use code 381642 when ordering online!

20% of event sales will be donated to our Children's Center.

See's Candy

Our See's Candy fundraiser continues until November 6th. Your support will greatly benefit our school.



November-December 2024

All dates and times are subject to change

Sat, Nov. 2	Annie Ingalls Memorial Service, 11:00 am Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Nov. 3	All Saints Worship, 10:00 am	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm
Tues, Nov. 5	High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm	
Sat, Nov. 9	LWML 9:00 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm
Sun, Nov. 10	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am
Tues, Nov. 12	Elders Meeting 7:00 pm	
Sat, Nov. 16	Men's Group 10:00 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm
Sun, Nov. 17	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am
Tues, Nov. 19	December Oakleaves Contributions Due Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	
Sat, Nov. 23	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Nov. 24	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am
Wed, Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 pm	
Nov. 28-29	Church Office Closed	
Sat, Nov. 30	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm Young Adults, 6:30 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 1	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am
Tues, Dec. 3	High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm	
Sat, Dec. 7	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 8	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am
Tues, Dec. 10	Elders Meeting 7:00 pm	
Sat, Dec. 14	LWML 9:00 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm
Sun, Dec. 15	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am FEET 11:45 am
Mon, Dec. 16	Christmas Concert, 7 pm	
Tues, Dec. 17	January Oakleaves Contributions Due	
Sat, Dec. 21	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 22	Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm	Worship, 10:00 am
Tues, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm	
Sun, Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!	Christmas Worship, 10:00 am
Sat, Dec. 28	Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm

**Scan for
full calendar**



The Living Nativity needs leadership in various areas

The Living Nativity is hosted by the Outreach Committee, but this is an “all hands on deck” event. If you find value in doing the Nativity for our community, please consider stepping into leading an area for it to happen.

A **TEAM** is needed for the planning of this cherished **annual outreach event**.

It requires people willing to take on **leadership roles in the areas of:**

1. Volunteer Recruitment
2. Costuming
3. Acquiring Thrivent funds
4. Haybale Hunt—post Harvest festivals
5. Coordinating Actors
6. Hospitality—treats for visitors
7. Outreach—invitations/materials
8. Electrician—for set up and safety
9. Finding a new animal rental resource as our amazing Melinda has moved too far away

Speak with **Chris, Jim, Jeff** or **Pastor** ASAP for more information and your willingness to say "YES, send me!"

We also need funding! If you are a Thrivent member and are willing to apply for Action Team dollars, we **NEED** you, stat! Sooner we apply, the better idea we have for our financial bottom line of what we can do.

Let's bring “JOY to the World” and “Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men” together this Christmas season!



Lutheran Women in Mission

Our Women's Bible Study will be held Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 9 am. We are studying Our Hope and Future based on Jeremiah 29:11-12, followed by our Women's Meeting at 10 am. We want to thank all who participated in our fundraiser. Our funds we raise go to Lutheran Missions and other Christian Organizations. We sent \$300 to “Open Arms Pregnancy” in May. We also sent \$300 for the victims of Hurricane Helene to St. Peters Lutheran Church in Conover, NC.

All women are invited to attend a Packing Party for Samaritan's Purse on November 16 at First Lutheran Church (1001 S. Glenoaks in Burbank). Please let Cheryl Freet know if you are planning to attend. The Packing Party goes 9 am - 3 pm. Cheryl's email address is tlcbosslady@yahoo.com.

You can stay as long as you are able to.

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.)

Sonia Merino	Uwanawich	Nov. 1
Chansom	Zayabouth	Nov. 9
Richard	Robertson	Nov. 25
Charlene	Irwin	Nov. 27

Mercy Packs

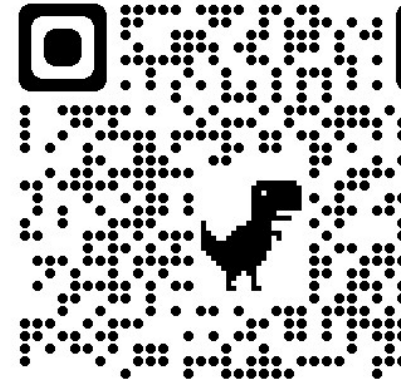
"Giving to help others."

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

Proteins, toothpaste, lotion, and shampoo are needed most to replenish our supplies. Financial donations earmarked **"Mercy Packs"** help by allowing us to buy supplies in bulk.

You can also order items through our **Amazon wish list** by scanning the QR code or visiting [amazon.com/hz/wish list/lv/3JEGWVFP3N50Vref =wl share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wish-list/lv/3JEGWVFP3N50Vref=wl_share)

Thank you for your support!



God loves a cheerful giver!

FAITH IN THE FAMILY AND HOME - A MONTHLY SERIES FOR THE WHOLE YEAR!



NOVEMBER'S FOCUS:

*Service -
Serve at
Home*

Let's live our faith together:

NOV 17

11:45 - 1:30 PM LUNCH PROVIDED



Thank you,
Ushers
November 2024

- 11/3** Lorraine Salcedo, Laura Murcott
- 11/10** Robert True, Dick Robertson
- 11/17** Inga Windsor, Heather Wolter
- 11/24** Jamie Cleary, Chuck Spitler
- 11/27** Thanksgiving Eve
(anyone that attends)

A Message from the Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utecht

Matthew the Tax Collector, Simon the Zealot, and Elections 2024

It's election season, and in case you didn't notice there seems to be a lot of tension in the air. I haven't lived through that many election cycles, but this one seems to be especially charged. That is especially true on the presidential ballot where people's feelings run strong about Trump and Harris, but it's true on down even to local elections. This election can easily stir your heart into a tizzy and put a strain on relationships as you interact with people on "the other side of the political divide."

Perhaps it's easy to imagine that things were different back in Jesus' day. Quite the opposite! In fact, the evidence indicates that the political situation back then was even more polarized, especially given that the Romans were ruling in Israel. Realizing this context provides for a fascinating insight from the Scripture that is easy to miss. Matthew 10:2-4 lists out the 12 Apostles. In the latter half of this list, we find "Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot."

Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot (not to be confused with Simon Peter) would have been arch rivals because of their politics. They stood on polar opposite sides of the most pressing and controversial political topic of the day: the Romans ruling over the people of Israel. (Also note, this was not a religiously neutral topic!) Simon "the Zealot" was apparently known and identified for being a member of this political group called "the Zealots." They were zealous to get rid of the Romans and worked to accomplish that end even by violent means. Simon was an extremist who stood at the far end of the political spectrum. On the other end was

Matthew, the tax collector. Unlike Simon who rebelled against the Romans, Matthew supported and worked for them! The taxes he collected were those levied by the Roman government. Matthew was a bona fide member of the Roman machinery that Simon detested.

Yet these two people who couldn't have been farther apart politically found themselves brought together by Jesus as fellow apostles. I suspect that this wasn't because Jesus changed their political views to get them to a common

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understanding. Instead, rather than devoting their lives to the "all important" political matter of the Romans, Jesus called them to devote their lives to him. When Jesus is big, the political divide becomes much smaller.

Psalm 146 says, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." It seems that both Matthew and Simon, before they knew Jesus, had staked their trust and hope in a political order. Once they received Jesus as King of Creation and King of their hearts, it didn't matter so much who was ruling over a particular patch of land. So too today, it is easy to let your heart trust in politicians. It's easy to get so attached to the outcome of the elections. If your heart is tied to a politician, you'll either find yourself heartbroken with the results of the election or temporarily ecstatic, only to eventually find your anointed candidate has "no salvation" and can't deliver all you hoped for. Your heart will also be naturally repulsed by those who hold differing views. But when we as Christians put our trust firmly and solely in Jesus, we find rest and peace for our hearts (no matter how the elections play out) and we can even find ourselves working alongside "political opponents" because we are united under the true King, our Lord Jesus.