



October 2024 The Oakleaves



SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Pumpkin Carving Festival

Sunday, October 27, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

FREE pumpkins for all to carve or paint!

Join us for decorating pumpkins, games, a bounce house, prizes, and treats! This is a **special event for our church and preschool families** and our **surrounding community**.

Start inviting neighbors and friends to mark the date on their calendars!

CHURCH + CAMPING TRIP

SEPTEMBER
FRI-SUN
27-29

CASTAIC
LAKE



SATURDAY S'MORES
EVENING WORSHIP

BYO CAMPING GEAR AND
FOOD FOR MEALS
OR
JOIN FOR JUST THE DAY
OF LAKE PLAY!

RSVP ASAP TO CHRIS
818-625-5110
SO WE CAN
RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

Time to celebrate our
VBCamp summer
adventure with some
camping on the lake!



CHURCH CAMPING TRIP

We are so very excited for this follow up event to summer's Camp Firelight!

Please RSVP whether you are camping OR just joining us for the day. Someone has volunteered to possibly make a little dinner for all on Saturday so we need a headcount.

If you are coming just for Worship (likely around 6:00 pm), bring chairs and/or a blanket to sit on.

S'more making for all after - supplies provided.

For those camping, check in time is 1:00 pm or anytime after on Friday and checkout time is by 10:00 am on Sunday.

NOTE: Chris and Jeff are committing to be there at 4:00 pm to help all of our campers get settled.

If you would like to go before that, our sites are 19 - 26 in Lot C.



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

Happy Fall! What a great month September was for us. It was wonderful to see our enthusiastic parents at Back to School Night. We all enjoyed spending time with families, catching up, and sharing information with them about our upcoming school events.

Our students and teachers have all settled into their daily routines and are well into the learning that our curriculum supports. Speaking of our preschool teachers, please join me in giving them a huge shout out. They have been working relentlessly to ensure all of our students have the best possible experience for this school year. Our teachers at SOLCC are phenomenal and I am truly humbled to work alongside them.

I also wanted to share with you the exciting activities our children are enjoying at school lately!

Every Monday, they're diving into science explorations, getting hands-on experience with fascinating experiments and observations - from handling real snakes to crafting spiderwebs!

On Tuesdays, they're busting a move in dance class, mastering new dance moves and stretching techniques.

Thursdays are all about soccer skills, where they're learning balancing, dribbling, passing, and valuable self-discipline.

And to wrap up the week, Fridays bring music classes filled with instruments, dancing scarves, and an array of theme-based songs to sing along to!

The kids are truly thriving and having a blast. We're grateful for such engaging and enriching experiences.

During the month of October, we have many fun fall-themed activities planned. Our themes for the month include Fall/Leaves, Old McDonald Had a Farm, Pumpkins / Apples and Halloween / Harvest.

At the end of the month, the children will come to school in costumes and trick-or-treat around the church. This is always a special day at SOLCC because the children look absolutely adorable in their costumes! They learn about real and make believe, carve pumpkins to discover more about science, and have a fun snack party in their classrooms. It is always one of our favorite days of the year.

We are looking for donations from local businesses, church goers, preschool families, etc. and greatly appreciate any and all support you can provide to keep our students safe. Thank you in advance!





Lutheran Women in Mission

We started our new Bible Study on September 21, 2024. We are studying Donna Pyle's "Our Hope and Future" based on Jeremiah 29:11-12. Our next meeting will be on October 12, 2024. Bible Study starts at 9 AM and our LWML meeting starts at 10 AM.

We will be having a **fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen** on **Thursday, October 17**. It is located at 18800 Ventura Blvd. in Tarzana. We will receive 20% of all sales from those who **mention Sherman Oaks Lutheran Women**. The time range is from **11 am until 10 pm**. You can order take out or dine in. Please support our Lutheran Women in Mission.



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



Birthdays:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Maisy Villari | 10/1 | Marilyn Omann | 10/14 |
| George Bain | 10/4 | Alexandra Peterson | 10/14 |
| Jeannie Young | 10/4 | Bette Quesada | 10/15 |
| Mike Renneker | 10/5 | Tiffany Hegg | 10/16 |
| Donna Fischer | 10/6 | Jaime Cleary | 10/20 |
| Zephyra Utecht | 10/6 | Annie Ingalls | 10/21 |
| Philip Muze | 10/7 | Alik Lukata | 10/22 |
| Joan Mann | 10/10 | Christian Hinrichs | 10/24 |
| Vanh Zayabouth | 10/12 | Jane Green | 10/26 |
| Catrina Lee | 10/13 | Sonia Uwanawich | 10/26 |

Anniversaries:

(Congratulations on number of years!)

Michael & Leslie O'Byrne (35 yrs) 10/14

October-November 2024 Events

All dates and times are subject to change

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Tues, Oct. 1 | High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm | |
| Sat, Oct. 5 | Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm | Bible Study, 6:30 pm |
| Sun, Oct. 6 | Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm | Worship, 10:00 am |
| Tues, Oct. 8 | Elders Meeting 7:00 pm | |
| Wed, Oct. 9 | School Board Meeting 6:30 pm | |
| Sat, Oct. 12 | LWML 9:00 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm | Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm Young Adults, 6:30 pm |
| Sun, Oct. 13 | Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm | Worship, 10:00 am |
| Tues, Oct. 15 | Council Meeting, 7:00 pm | |
| Sat, Oct. 19 | Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm | Bible Study, 6:30 pm |
| Sun, Oct. 20 | Bible Study, 9:00 am FEET 11:45 am | Worship, 10:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm |
| | Sherman Oaks Street Fair | |
| Tues, Oct. 22 | November Oakleaves Contributions Due | |
| Sat, Oct 26 | Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm Young Adults, 6:30 pm | Bible Study, 6:30 pm |
| Sun, Oct. 27 | Reformation Sunday Bible Study, 9:00 am Healthy Life, 12:00 pm | Worship, 10:00 am Fall Festival & Pumpkin Carving, 12:00 pm |
| Sat, Nov. 2 | 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 |
| Nov. 28-29 | Church Office Closed | |
| Sat, Nov. 30 | Contemp. Worship, 5:00 pm Young Adults, 6:30 pm | Bible Study, 6:30 pm |

**Scan for
full calendar**



Youth Group

Youth Group resumes October 1st!

Youth group is beginning again for the year on October 1, 6:30 pm — 8 pm. Every first Tuesday of the month, SOLC youth gather for some fast and fun minute-to-win-it games, a meal, and then deep and open conversation about God's Word and how to live that out in real life. All high schoolers are welcome (regardless of whether they are members of SOLC or not—you can invite any high schoolers you know).

Young Adults Bible Study

Young Adults Bible Study (YABS) — TWO meetings in October

On the last Saturday of (almost) every month, our young adults gather together at Dick Robertson's house for fellowship, food, and some real deep discussions on God's Word. (I [pastor Utecht] have to say that I often find these conversations very thought-provoking and edifying—a sentiment I'm sure many more share.) September saw a few scheduling hurdles, so we are meeting at October 12, and then again as regularly scheduled on October 26.

Any young adult (18-mid 30s) is invited to join! We have a mix of members and non-members. If you know of any young adults who might want to attend, please invite them! (We've even had non-Christians who were open to exploring faith come and join. Anyone is welcome!)

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.)



| | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Daphne | Stegman | Oct 1 |
| Ann | McClung | Oct 2 |
| Drew | Murcott | Oct 12 |
| Eric | Anderson | Oct 13 |
| Vanh | Zayabouth | Oct 16 |
| Zephyra | Utecht | Oct 18 |
| James | Cleary | Oct 20 |
| Jessica | Hanna | Oct 22 |
| Melissa | Hanna McClure | Oct 22 |
| Leslie | O'Byrne | Oct 25 |
| Hope | Gordon | Oct 26 |

Thank you, Ushers Fall 2024

- 9/1 Christian Hinrichs, Heather Wolter
- 9/8 Lorraine Salcedo,
Chansom Zayabouth
- 9/15 Eric Anderson, Charlene Irwin
- 9/22 Dennis Werner, Jamie Cleary
- 9/29 Christian Hinrichs, Dick Robertson
- 10/6 Inga Windsor, Laura Murcott
- 10/13 Eric Anderson, Robert True
- 10/20 Charlene Irwin, Chansom Zayabouth
- 10/27 Dennis Werner, Chuck Spittler
- 11/3 Lorraine Salcedo, Laura Murcott
- 11/10 Robert True, Dick Robertson
- 11/17 Inga Windsor, Heather Wolter
- 11/24 Jamie Cleary, Chuck Spittler
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Eve
(anyone that attends)

The next quarter of
Portals of Prayer,
October through December
2024,
is available in the Church Narthex.

Large print also available.

A Message from the Pastor...

by Pastor Titus A. Utecht

The Woman Who Forgot But Couldn't Forgive

We've all heard the phrase "forgive and forget." But forgiveness is not the same as forgetting. A few years ago I came across a striking story of a woman who forgot but could not forgive.

In the early 1900's, Swiss psychologist Edouard Claparede began working with a woman who suffered from a form of severe amnesia such that she could not form new memories, yet was otherwise quite mentally fine. Every day he would walk in, introduce himself to her as if for the first time, and shake her hand. Each day she responded with a friendly welcome and say she had never met him before. Then one day Claparede did an experiment. He walked in and introduced himself and stuck out his hand for a handshake as normal, but this time he hid a pin in his hand and gave a sharp poke to the woman when they shook hands. The next day was back to the usual routine: Claparede walked in and introduced himself to the woman and she said she had never met him before and had no memory of him. However, when Claparede smiled and extended his hand for a handshake, the woman immediately recoiled and looked suspiciously back at him. Even though she had no declarative memory of the previous day's incident, she still retained a distrust of Claparede. In other words, she had forgotten him, but she had not forgiven him.

In Matthew 18:35, Jesus says that we are to "forgive your brother from your heart." That is to say that forgiveness is not simply some spoken words or even a set of actions (though forgiveness should usually manifest itself in words and actions) but it also involves a change of heart toward a person. Jesus gives us this instruction as the conclusion to the parable of the unforgiving servant. In that parable, a man owes billions of dollars to the king, but he pleads

with the king and has his debt forgiven. The servant then goes out and finds a fellow servant who owes him around \$10,000 and demands repayment, refusing to forgive. This unforgiving servant is then strongly condemned by Jesus not because he didn't technically have a right to have the debt paid back, but because the man's heart was so unchanged by the forgiveness that he received. Receiving God's forgiveness should change the way that we view others from our hearts.

"...forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:35

Like the woman pricked by Claparede's pin, we too receive many different pokes and pains from people as we go throughout life. Some are small, others are quite big. Just like the pin-prick caused distrust in the woman and led her to keep distance from Claparede, so too these hurts from others cause mistrust and lead us to keep our distance. Over the course of the years of life, these hurts can accumulate such that we can become like that amnesic woman, forgetting the specific hurts but still carrying distrust that erodes a relationship. That's why Jesus calls us to true forgiveness "from the heart."

As you go throughout life, consistently building up distrust through every little hurt or consistently choosing and finding forgiveness will make an enormous difference in your relationships. To be clear, having a "forgiving heart" doesn't mean that we don't ever address offenses done against us. (Redemptively addressing the issues is often a crucial part of forgiveness.) Rather, remembering God's abundant forgiveness to each of us and how eager to forgive he is, we reflect God's heart by living with the same eager openness to forgive "from the heart."