
the Vine
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the Vine

The quarterly journal of RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. -John 15:5

Dear Red Hill Family and Friends,

The new church calendar year is underway and we are now in the midst of this very busy season in our church year! Reformation Sunday and Oktoberfest will be upon us in just a few weeks followed by the sacred seasons of Advent and Christmas.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for this time, on behalf of our staff and leadership, I want to thank you for your faithfulness, prayers and support of our church. It is no cliché to say that we cannot do it without you! As we continue to work towards making, and being, *Christ-centered, emotionally healthy disciples*, we need you! We need your heart, your gifts, and your passion for Jesus and His church. Never underestimate your part in making our church a true, community of faith!

In this edition of *The Vine*, you will read about the many ways that you can be involved in the life and ministries of Red Hill, growing in your faith and deepening personal relationships. The autumn and winter seasons are perfect times to "reset;" to get back into (or continue) the rhythms of the spiritual life. Our hope and prayer is that you find a true home at Red Hill Lutheran Church and School, joining us in fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission…

> *…"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28.18-20)

Gratefully in Christ,



RHL
RED HILL LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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The Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values of Red Hill

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

As a church, Red Hill Lutheran is committed to serving Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus, and making disciples of Jesus who are being equipped to love and serve Jesus through their daily lives. This is *the mission of Red Hill Lutheran Church and School. As we begin a new ministry year (September 2026-August 2027), it is vital that we understand the* foundations upon which we build our ministry and facilitate our mission as a church. Red Hill's *Purpose, Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Ministry "Targets,"* serve as the "guard rails" for our ministry plans, programs, and processes.

Purpose, Vision, Mission, Values, and Ministry Targets of Red Hill Lutheran Church

Both Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions affirm that in His love and mercy, God desires to redeem and reconcile the world through Jesus Christ. In order to carry out this salvific mission, Jesus has commanded His church to *make* and *send* disciples into the world. A disciple is one called through the Gospel to be a *student, an apprentice of Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, we are told that a*s Jesus prepared to ascend back to Heaven, Jesus *commissioned* the church to make disciples, even describing the *means* of this disciple-making mission: teaching and baptizing in the name of the Triune God…:



Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28.18-20)

This "Great Commission" given by Jesus directs and defines the work of the church. In the New Testament, the word, "Church," comes from the Greek word, ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia). A compound word consisting of* ἐκ *(ek), meaning "out" or "from" and* καλέω *(kaleō), meaning, "to call." Consequently,* ἐκκλησία (church) describes a community "called out" for *assembling together. The church is the people of God called out from the world and assembled together for the purpose of making disciples through God's Word (teaching) and Sacraments (baptizing, Eucharist). All for the divine purpose of being sent back into the world to love and serve God and others.*

*A*s a church commissioned by Jesus, Red Hill Lutheran Church and School (RHLC&S) seeks to fulfill Jesus' commands to make disciples through baptizing and teaching in the name of the Triune God for the purpose of faithful living. As a distinctively Lutheran Church, our very identity is defined by these divine commands…

> …(the)…one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers, among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel...It is as Paul says in Eph. 4:4-5 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism." (*The Augsburg Confession*, Article VII).

In his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, Martin Luther describes how God calls people to follow Jesus, feeding and leading His church in the world…

I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and abundantly forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true. (*Luther's Small Catechism*)

At Red Hill, our purpose, vision, mission, core values, and ministry targets, describe the culture and climate we seek to create for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus.

Purpose, Vision, Mission, Values, and Ministry Targets of Red Hill Lutheran Church
Our commitment to making disciples is reflected in…

Our Purpose (Why We Exist): "Know Christ. Make Christ known."

Vision Statement (What We Aim to Achieve): **"Making Christ Centered, Emotionally Healthy Disciples of Jesus, One life at a time."**

Mission Statement (How We Will Achieve Our Vision): "*Reach and serve our local community, Equip their hearts, minds, and souls, and Release* them into the world to share God's love."

Core Values (Commitments that Guide Us)

- Worship through Word and Sacrament – We believe the heart of the church's ministry is the corporate Worship of the Triune God through Word and Sacrament. Through the corporate Worship services, God meets us and serves us through His means of grace. Our commitment is to preach the Gospel in its purity and truth, and administer the Sacraments as prescribed



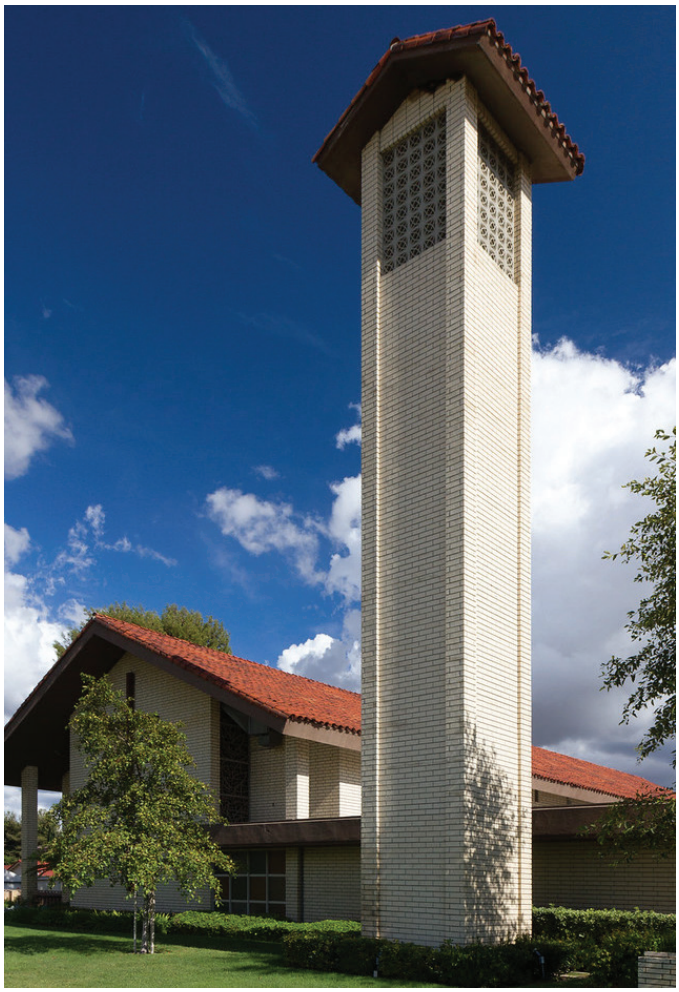
by Scripture. **(***Deuteronomy 6.4-5; John 4.23-24)*

- Biblically Faithful – We believe the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God and His Word is the basis for all we do. (*John 8.31-32; 2 Timothy 3.16*)

- Lutheran Theological Identity – We believe that the Lutheran Confessions, as explicated in the Book of Concord, are a pure exposition of the Word of God. As such the Confessions ground us in the Gospel: "*Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, revealed through Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone."* (*John 10.27-30; Romans 3.21-26*)

- Christ Centered – We believe the church is called through the Gospel of God's grace received through faith; we are saved and justified through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Everything we do must flow from our relationship with Jesus Christ. (*Mark 1.14-15; Luke 9.23-25)*

- Emotionally Healthy – We believe that spiritual maturity and emotional health are inseparable. Emotionally Healthy Discipleship (EHD) is a commitment to the whole person—body, mind, and soul, through every stage of life. Emotional health involves our relationships with God and others, focusing on how our needs, vulnerabilities, patterns of communication, and ways of understanding our emotions impact those relationships. Emotional Health flows from one's identity in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spir-



it transforming the deep places in the soul, where our true self, as created in the image of God, exists. (*Matthew 5.21-48; Ephesians 2.11-22*)

- Disciples – We believe a disciple is a "student," an "apprentice," of Jesus—we are learning how to live our lives as Jesus would live them. We grow and deepen our discipleship through specific, spiritual disciplines (Worship, Bible Study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood). As we grow as disciples of Jesus (Christ-Centered), and experience the Spirit's transforming power in our emotional lives (emotional health), we will be equipped to love God and others to the glory of God. **(***Matthew 28.19-20; Mark 12.28-31)*

- Christian Maturity – We believe in fostering spiritual growth through Worship, Bible study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood/Evangelism. (*Acts 2.42-43; Philippians 2.12-13*)

- Mission Driven – We believe in helping members achieve their highest potential to fulfill God's calling to reach out boldly to others. (*Matthew 28.18-20; Matthew 25.31-46*)

- Accountability to God and Others – We believe that God blesses us with abundant spiritual and material gifts and out of love and gratitude; we use them effectively in service to Him and to each other. **(***Romans 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9)*

Again, as we begin this new ministry year, please continue to pray for our church and school! I invite you to join us in our ministry and mission here at Red Hill!

God is ready to *teach us to observe all that Jesus commanded, and live lives of ever-deepening faith, hope, and love!*



"Wednesdays in the Word." Wednesday Morning Bible Study
"The Sermon on the Mount"

Wednesdays 7:00 am to 7:45 am in the Sanctuary (In person, Livestreamed and Recorded)

Teacher: Pastor Seth

Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" is found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5 through 7. According to New Testament scholar Robert Guelich, the Sermon on the Mount "represents one of the most familiar sections of the entire New Testament."

Beginning with the "Beatitudes" and concluding with the surrounding crowds *astonishment* of Jesus' authoritative teachings, the Sermon on the Mount contains some of the most practical, ethical, and challenging instructions from Jesus about how life is lived according the truths and values of the Kingdom of God! As Robert Guelich describes, the Sermon on the Mount…

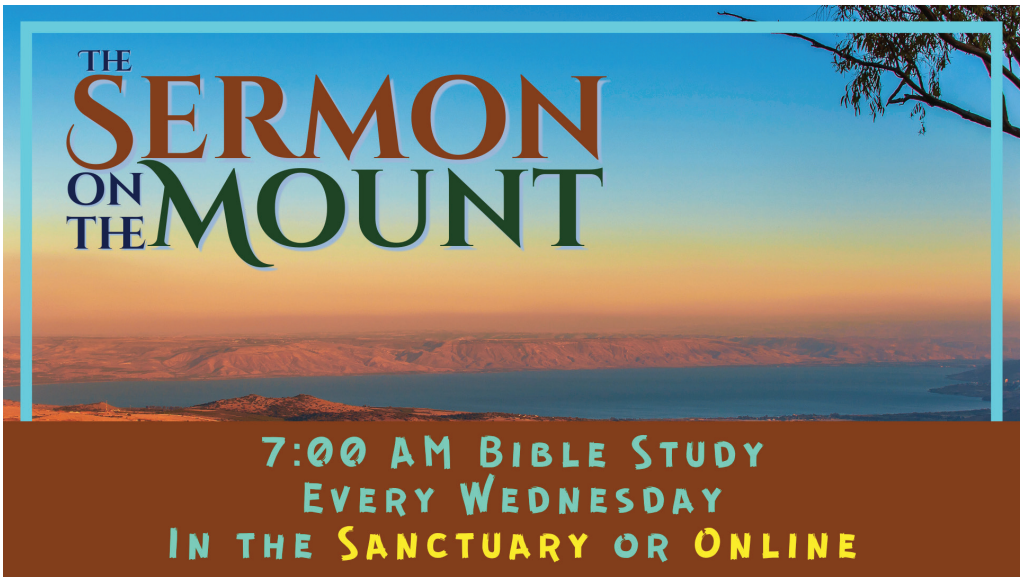
> …contains such well known units as the Beatitudes, Love Your Enemies, the Lord's Prayer, the reference the Birds of the Air and the Lilies of the Field, the Prohibition on Judging, the Golden Rule, the references to the Narrow and Wide Gates and the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders…the Sermon addresses the Christian's relationship and conduct toward God and others.[1]

Through this verse-by-verse study in God's Word, we will examine…

- The historical, cultural, and contextual issues within the Sermon on the Mount
- The setting of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel
- Jesus and the Old Testament Law
- The life of prayer
- Anger, forgiveness, and living in freedom
- The nature of discipleship and following Jesus today.

On Wednesday mornings, we begin with worship and prayer, praying for our own and other's needs. We then begin our verse-by-verse study in God's Word. After the study at 7:45 am, those whose schedule permits, reassemble at a local restaurant for breakfast and continuing conversation. You are always welcome!

Bring your Bibles and bring your questions as we gather for Wednesdays in the Word!



1 Robert A. Guelich. *The Sermon on the Mount* (Waco, Texas: Word Book Publishers, 1982).

RHLS Back To School 2026
A Night of Excitement Full of God's Promises

By Keri Walden, 2nd Grade Teacher and Mary Kate O'Sullivan, Humanities and Bible

Back to School Night was a wonderful evening filled with excitement, anticipation, and the joy of God's Promises. Walking through RHLS, it was so special to see classrooms filled with parents who were eager to learn more about their child's upcoming school year. There was a sense of energy and enthusiasm throughout the entire campus as families gathered to meet teachers, explore classrooms, and hear about all the learning and adventures ahead.

As a teacher, Back to School Night is a meaningful opportunity to welcome parents into the classroom and begin building a strong partnership with each family. It was exciting to share our classroom routines, expectations, curriculum, and goals for the year. More importantly, it was a chance to communicate how much we care about each child and how committed we are in creating a classroom where students feel safe, loved, supported, and excited to learn.

The evening reminded us that parents and teachers share an important role in helping children grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Seeing parents' excitement and hearing their questions showed how invested they are in their child's education and success here at RHLS. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside families and to be part of such an important year in their child's life.

Back to School Night was the beginning of a new journey filled with possibilities, growth, and memories waiting to be made. As we look forward to the school year, we are excited to see our students discover new things, overcome challenges, build friendships, and grow in confidence with their love for God.

What a blessing it is to begin another year surrounded by supportive families and eager learners here at RHLS!! With God, together we will SOAR like eagles!





RHLS Back To School 2026
Meet the Teacher Day

Red Hill's Meet The Teacher Day was filled with so much excitement in anticipation of the new school year!

Co-Principals, Matt Smith and Jamie Hernandez were front and center on the patio, welcoming moms and dads before they headed to their children's classrooms to meet their teacher for the new school year. The YFM team hosted fun raffles and games with prizes for the students. It truly was a joyful morning.

















Annual Congregational Meeting

Red Hill church and School's annual meeting was held on August 25th in the CLC. In addition to reviewing the accomplishments of the previous year, as well as submitting and approving both the Church and School budgets for the coming year, congregation members elected new board members and committee members.

The 2026-2027 Red Hill Church Board of Directors are Brian Crooker, President, Kymberly Rogers, Vice President, Mark Clement, Treasurer, Donna Wiksell, Secretary, Shauna Drumm, Director at Large, Joe Heneghan, Director at Large, Clint Scott, Director at Large, Ken Hays, Director at Large and Andy Morrow, Director at Large.

The 2026-2027 RHL School Board members are Jenny Morrow, School Board Chair, Sonja Scott, School Board Secretary, Alexander Kitano, Member at Large, Mark Colon, Member at Large, Cathy Anderson, Member at Large, and Zelda deBeer, Member at Large. Ex Officio Board Members include Claire Markovsky, Seth Britton, Brian Crooker, Matthew Smith and Jamie Hermamdez.

The 2026-2027 Endowment Committee members are Andre de Beer, Committee Chair**,** Sonja Scott, Financial Secretary, Martha Toft, Kevin Drumm and Art Kitano.

Finally, the 2026-2027 Nominating Committee members are Cathy Anderson, Marian Armstrong, Jennifer Colon, Debbie Hays and Renee Mihalovich.

We are grateful to all of these Red Hill Church and School members who give of their time and talents.






Red Hill Lutheran School
School Report


EXIT




New Business/Questions
Brian Crooker, President

Baptism at Red Hill

Martin Luther said this about Baptism:

> *Indeed if I had the matter under my control, I would not want God speak to me from heaven or appear to me, but I would want—and my daily prayers are directed to this end—that I might have the proper respect and true appreciation for the gift of Baptism.*

So true! Baptism is the beginning of a life that is dedicated to Jesus and Jesus' teachings and ways. It is through Baptism that God comes to us and washes us, joining us to Jesus Christ and to Jesus' church.

Are you interested in Baptizing your child? Are you interested in being Baptized yourself? Perhaps you just have some questions about Christian Baptism; what it is and what it's about? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are invited to take the next steps for Baptism at Red Hill. The next steps are: Contact Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Donna Kunz, at the Church Office: 714-544-3131 ext.100 or dkunz@redhillchurch.org. You will then be sent a Baptism packet which includes:

*A letter from Pastor Seth, outlining the Baptism process.

*Two booklets: "*Let the Children Come: A Baptism Manual for Parents and Sponsors"* and "*My Privilege as a Sponsor*" (God Parents).

*A Baptism registration form.

You are asked to read through these resources and share them with your prospective sponsors. Complete the registration form and bring it with you when you meet with Pastor Seth, which is the next step:

After reading the materials, contact the Donna in the Church Office to make an appointment to meet with Pastor Seth.

During your meeting with Pastor Seth, he will provide an overview of Christian Baptism and the Service of Holy Baptism as administered in the Lutheran Church, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions you may have from the readings. After this meeting, the Baptism can be scheduled during one of the two Sunday morning Worship services. (Sponsors are welcome to attend the meeting with Pastor Seth, but it is not mandatory)

If you have any questions, contact Donna Kunz in the church office. May our Lord guide you in this significant step in your Christian life!



Launching the New School Year With Joy and Gratitude

By Matt Smith and Jamie Hernandez, Co-Principals



As we settle into our new roles as co-principals, one thing has become even clearer to us: we love this school. That love goes well beyond our roles as teachers and administrators. Both of our families have deep roots at Red Hill. Our children have grown up here, and we've experienced firsthand the teachers, friendships, faith, and community that make this place so special. Stepping into these new roles has given us an opportunity to serve a school community that has already given so much to our own families.

The beginning of the year was a whirlwind, but in the best possible way. From Meet the Teacher Day and our First Day Launch to Back to School Nights, it was exciting to hit the ground running and welcome students and families back to campus. Through all of it, our goal has been pretty simple: we want students to feel known and loved, teachers to feel supported, and parents to know that we value their partnership.

Now, about eight weeks into the school year, we're beginning to settle into some of the things we've been especially excited to introduce. We recently launched our At the Table series with our middle school students. Our first conversation, "Words Become Worlds," gave us the chance to sit down over lunch and talk honestly about the power our words have to hurt, encourage, and shape the people around us. These conversations are about more than school. They're opportunities to know our students better and walk alongside them as they grow in character and faith.

Recently, we hosted our first-ever Coffee with the Co-Principals, which was another opportunity to simply sit down together, listen, share what's happening at Red Hill, and continue building relationships with our student's parents. We were grateful for a great turnout, with approximately 30 parents joining us for our inaugural event.

It was a wonderful opportunity to connect, answer questions, and enjoy some meaningful conversation together.

We're still learning and growing into these new roles, but we're incredibly grateful to be doing it in a place we already call home.

We're excited for what God has in store for RHLS this year and thankful to experience it alongside this community.

The Church (Liturgical) Year

By. Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

Christians are called to communicate differently with others, to view our money and resources differently than others, and to view the world itself differently than others. And, from the earliest days of the Christian Church, disciples of Jesus have also been called to view *time* differently than others. Like all things created by God, time in the Christian tradition is understood to be God's gift and possession. The Psalmist confesses:

*But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." **15** My times are in your hand… (Psalm 31.14-15a)*

On the human side, time is both gift and curse; we want more of it and we wish we could stop it! Like the Church Father Augustine, we ask, "For what is time? Who can easily and briefly explain it? Who even in thought can comprehend it, even to the pronouncing of a word concerning it?"1

In both Judaism and Christianity, God's people have sought to relate time to their understanding of God and His dealings with His people. Lutheran theologian Arthur Just describes the Jewish roots of the holiness of time:

Time was a fundamental part of creation. God created the world in six days, rested on the seventh, and declared a Sabbath day of rest. After the fall, the Sabbath became a day to praise the Creator for His good creation, to thank Him for His ongoing presence in the creation with His mighty acts of salvation, and to petition Him to return as Messiah to restore creation to what God had created it to be…various feasts such as Passover, the Fest of Boots, and Pentecost became part of the rhythm of the Jewish year…2

As God's unfolding plan of salvation continued in the persona and work of Jesus Christ, God's people now viewed time itself as having been fulfilled in the life of Christ. Just continues:

By resting in the tomb Christ fulfilled the ancient Sabbath day requirements. In His resurrection He restored creation. Sunday, the weekly celebration of the resurrection, was taken as the preferred day of worship by early Christians. As a church steeped in the historical events of Christ's life, the Jewish precedent of feast days during the year, Sunday was complemented by events from Christ's redemptive life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The Church Year developed to give the people of God access to the life of Christ…time has always been a critical commodity, no less so in the Church.[3]

It is from this understanding of human time as God's time, as well as the cosmic significance of the coming of Christ, that the church has sought to view time through an alternative calendar. When Christians "tell time" according to this calendar, it becomes a discipleship "tool," a way of living life under the story of Jesus Christ. How does this happen?

This Christian calendar is called the "Church Year," also referred to as the "Liturgical Year." The Church Year follows the entire life and ministry of Jesus Christ, as well as Jesus' continuing ministry through His church. Again, the Church Year reminds believers that time is sacred; time is God's gift to us and, like all gifts, we are meant to steward this gift faithfully. As the Lutheran Church explains:

In our daily lives we keep track of our activities and special events with a calendar. The church throughout the centuries has also "kept track" of days and seasons and commemorating special occasions with a calendar. The Christian church has continued to follow the example set in the Old Testament of structuring the year around the marvelous acts of salvation that God completed for us in his Son, Christ. We call this structure the Church Year. [4]

The Church Year is organized around three different sections: Sundays and seasons, feasts and festivals, and commemorations. In future essays, we will examine the feasts, festivals, and commemorations associated with the Church Year. At this time, we focus on the Sundays and seasons of the church's calendar.

The death and resurrection of Christ lay at the heart of the Christian proclamation of the Gospel. For the early church, Sunday, the day of the resurrection, was

1 Augustine. *Confessions. 11.14.17.*

2 Arthur Just. *Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2008).

3 Ibid.

4 See www.lcms.org. "The Church Year."

not only the literal day that Jesus walked out of the tomb; Sunday also became the symbol of the "Eighth Day" of creation, or, the first day of the new creation. Sunday, the first day of the week in antiquity, became the Seventh Day for the church, the Sabbath day of rest. Sunday was, quite simply, the Lord's Day. On this day, the church gathers to Worship, pray, learn, and be fed at God's Table. As Just explains:

Early Christians regarded Sunday as "the Lord's Day…an eighth day of creation…God's recreation came to completion in the resurrection of Christ. Reverence for Sunday as the holy day was the way early Christians gave thanks to God for the redemption of all creation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and petitioned Him to continue to act as Savior in their midst through Gospel and the Sacraments… Christians saw that on Sunday through the presence of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament, the things of eternity were present.[5]

Simply put: Sunday, and the resurrection that literally transformed this day, became the day around which every other day revolved. Additionally, not only do the days of the week revolve around Sunday (Easter) for the church, the days of the year revolve around Easter as well.

As the days of the week orbit around Sunday for Christians, so the days of the year orbit around Easter (or the Three Days, with its focus on Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection). This annual feasts of feasts centers the whole year…Easter and Sunday reinforce each other as Christians seek to keep all their days focused in the gospel of the God who is from everlasting to everlasting and who encounters us through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Time is encompassed in this crucified and risen Jesus Christ who gives meaning to all our days…6

As the church worshiped and lived their daily lives in light of the new creation that had come in Jesus Christ, the Church Year began to develop out of the weekly celebration of Easter on the Lord's Day. As Ramshaw and Teig note, "As a yearly pattern started to form, the annual Easter festival was a logical beginning, a reflection of the center of the Christian faith that focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."7 This annual pattern, the Church Year, consists of six seasons which "emphasizes participation in the Lord's saving acts… [and] shows an implicitly Trinitarian structure: belief in the Father made manifest, the Son risen, and the Holy Spirit indwelling the church."8

The western liturgical calendar is built around three major feast/festival cycles: *Christmas/Epiphany*; *Good Friday/Easter/Ascension*; and *Pentecost*. From these three major festivals comes a "season;" a period of time that flows from one season to the other. In the Lutheran Church, as well as other liturgical churches, "Each season also has its own character determined by its Scripture readings, the hymns chosen to reflect those readings, and devotional practices and pieties, such as fasting, feasting, Advent wreaths, etc. Color is also used symbolically in adorning our churches."9 The cycle of the seasons of the Church Year consists of: *Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.* Here is a brief outline of each season, along with its symbolic color.

Advent

The season of Advent, which begins Sunday, November 29th, marks the beginning of the Church Year. The word Advent means "*coming*" or "*arrival*" and is a four-week season of preparing our souls through repenting and believing the good news that God's Kingdom has *come* near. God's Kingdom has *arrived*, in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Advent is also a reminder that Jesus is coming again at the end of human history. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, concluding on Christmas Eve/Day. The colors of this season can be purple, but is typically blue, symbolizing hope.

Christmas

During the season of Christmas, we celebrate the wonder and mystery of the *incarnation*: God taking on human flesh. The Immortal became mortal; the Eternal has entered time! "When Christ, the light of the world, is born in Bethlehem, so also is the eschaton born,

5 Just, *Heaven on Earth, 117.*

6 Gail Ramshaw and Mons Teig. *Keeping Time: The Church's Years* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009), 10.

7 Ibid.

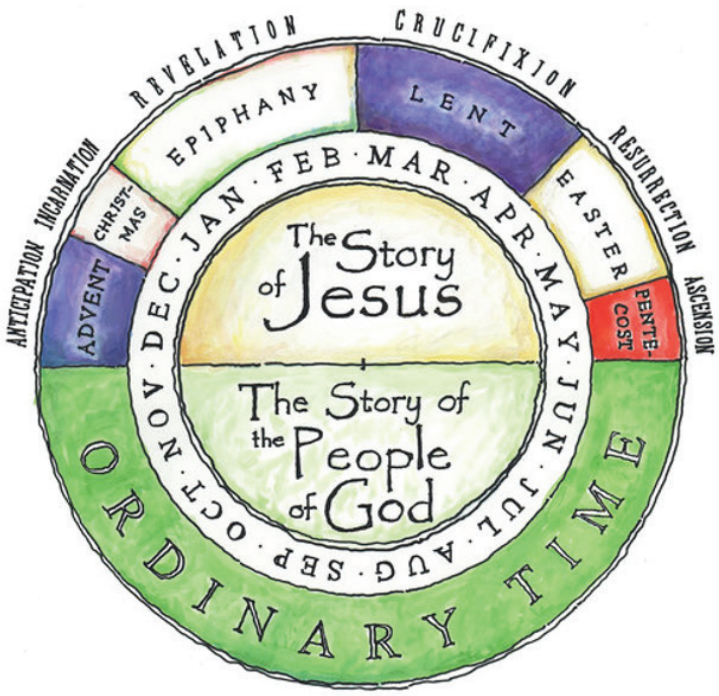
8 Hoyt Hickman, Don Saliers, Laurence Stookey, and James White. *The New Handbook of the Christian Year* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992), 9.

9 William Cwirla. "The Church Year." www.lcms.org. Accessed, 2016.

that is, the end has come in the Christ child who was born to die and bring with His death the completion of God's plan of salvation."10 Beginning on Christmas Day, there are twelve days of Christmas (typically 2 or 3 Sundays), concluding on the Day of Epiphany (January 6th). The color of this season is white, symbolizing Jesus' divinity, purity, hope, and joy.

Epiphany

The Greek word Epiphany means, "Manifestation," focusing on the coming of the Magi who reveal that Jesus is Messiah, Lord, and King—for all people! Epiphany "completes the twelve days of Christmas; more important, this is a festival of the manifestation of God's Word made flesh…"11 Beginning on the Day of Epiphany, January 6th, 2027, Epiphany is typically six weeks, concluding on the "Sunday of the Transfiguration." A special Sunday within this cycle is the "Baptism of Our Lord." Related to Christmas, the color of this season is white, symbolizing Jesus' purity, joy, and hope. (Some churches and denominations utilize other, bright colors to symbolize the "light" and "joy" that Jesus brings into the world).



Lent

Beginning February 10th, 2027, on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a forty-day season (not counting Sundays) focusing on the passion and ultimate atoning death of Jesus, and our repentance and renewal in light of Jesus' passion and death. "Lent is a time to intentionally confront all the ways the first Adam continues to control our lives, to carry these to the cross…Through this journey we enter into his death and become new creatures in the resurrection."12 Lent ends during Holy Week. The color of Lent is purple, symbolizing Jesus' royalty and our penitence.

Holy Week

March 21st, 2027, Palm Sunday, also referred to as "The Sunday of the Passion," begins the solemn week that focuses on Jesus' passion and ultimate death on the cross. The excitement, joy, and anticipation of Palm Sunday turns to fear and abandonment on Maundy Thursday. *Maundy Thursday* begins the "Three Days" or "*Triduum*." (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter). The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word, *mandatum*, meaning "Commandment," reflecting Jesus' command to love others as He loves us. On this night, Jesus instituted Holy Communion, is arrested and condemned. On Good Friday, Jesus is crucified and buried. As the Sabbath approached, the women who remained, along with John, leave the tomb, planning to return to anoint Jesus' dead body one final time on Sunday. As with Lent, the color of Holy Week is purple, symbolizing Jesus' royalty and our penitence.

Easter

On March 28th, 2027, Easter Sunday, we celebrate with amazement the joy of the resurrection of our Lord! Jesus had conquered sin, death, and powers of hell! In the early days of the church, Easter (really, the entirety of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection), was referred to as the "Paschal Mystery," which reflects the church's understanding that the death and resurrection of Christ is the church's *Passover*, in Hebrew, *Pesah*.

10 Just, *Heaven on Earth, 136.*

11 Hickman, *et.al*, *The New Handbook of the Christian Year, 89.*

12 Robert Webber. *Ancient-Future Tine: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2004), 107.

The Easter season continues for forty-nine days. On the fiftieth day, Pentecost, the church celebrates the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit that birthed the church. The color of the Easter season is white, symbolizing Jesus' divinity, purity, hope, and joy.

Pentecost

Jesus promised that when He ascended to the Father, He would send the Holy Spirit. The Ascension occurs forty days after Easter, and ten days before Pentecost, next year, Thursday, May 6th (always on a Thursday). The Sunday before Pentecost can be celebrated as Ascension Sunday. From Pentecost Sunday (May 16th, 2027) to the Sunday before Advent, "Christ the King Sunday," the church now focuses on its mission of proclaiming the Gospel through Word and Sacrament. The Pentecost season is also referred to as "Ordinary Time" or "Time after Pentecost." Liturgical scholar Robert Webber explains that the use of the *ordinary* "is used in our Christian-year vocabulary because it serves the special nature of extraordinary time [the specific historic, supernatural acts of God in history]…by way of contrast."13 Ordinary time also reflects that each Sunday is "ordinal," or numbered, and each Sunday is a non-festal time of year. The color associated with Pentecost is red, symbolizing the "fire" and "judgment" of the Holy Spirit. For the Time after Pentecost (Ordinary Time), the color is green, symbolizing the ongoing growth of the church, as well as the disciple of Christ.

Three special days/Sundays in Ordinary Time are: *Trinity Sunday* (the first Sunday after Pentecost), *All Saints Day*, November 1st, *Christ the King* Sunday (last Sunday of Pentecost). These days within Ordinary Time, reminds the disciple of Christ that our God has revealed Himself as Trinity. The Father, through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit has made possible new life, both personal and cosmic, that will last into eternity, and while we live in the "already but not yet" time between the first and second coming of Jesus, we bow to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, worshiping and serving Him alone! In the words of Andrew McGowan, "The development of Christian time is an increasingly detailed affirmation of how the structure of history, and of the cosmos in and through which history flowed, reveals and serves God and calls humans to God's service."14

Christians are called to live differently. Our lives are under the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ who has bought us back from sin and death, with His precious blood, forgiving our sins and reconciling us to the Father. Even the precious gift of time has been redeemed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The Church Year is one way that we keep this story in front of us and a part of our everyday lives. Lutheran theologian William Cwirla provides a helpful summary:

The church year is an annual pilgrimage, beginning with the anticipation of Christ's coming in glory (Advent), going through His incarnation (Christmas) and manifestation (Epiphany), contemplating our sinfulness (Lent) in view of Christ's sacrifice (Good Friday), His victory over death (Easter), His ascension to glory at the right hand of the Father by which our humanity is glorified in Him (Ascension), and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days (Pentecost) as we wind our way to the Last Day and the consummation of all things. In other words, the entire work of our justification and sanctification in Christ is rehearsed every year – from incarnation to glorification.15

Not only does each church season reflect the ministry of Jesus, it also calls the Church, the disciples of Jesus, to remember its sacred task of following Jesus through the *seasons of our lives*; the ups and downs; the triumphs and the tragedies that accompany human life and relationships in this wonderful yet broken world.

13 Webber. *Ancient-Future Time, 167.*

14 Andrew McGowan. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective* (Grand Rapides, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2014), 218.

15 Cwirla. "The Church Year." www.lcms.org

RHLC&S Ministry Expo Kicks off the New Church and School Year

By Stephanie McArthur, Executive Director of Ministries

There was a lot happening in the CLC at this year's Ministry Expo!

Tables filled the room, conversations happened over donuts and lunch, stamp cards made their way from ministry to ministry, and people had the opportunity to discover just how many ways there are to connect, grow, and serve at Red Hill Lutheran Church & School.

But the Ministry Expo was about much more than tables, booklets, and raffle prizes.

It was a picture of the life of our church.

From Kids and Youth Ministries to Men's and Women's Ministries, Small Groups, Music, Missions and Outreach, Care Ministries, Seniors Ministry, Quilting, Sunday morning volunteers, and so much more, each table represented people using their gifts to serve Christ and one another.

We were also grateful to welcome Ali Federwitz from Lutheran Bible Translators, one of our ministry partners, who shared more about the incredible work of bringing God's Word to people around the world.

One of the greatest things about a Ministry Expo is the reminder that church is not simply somewhere we attend on Sunday morning. We are a community of people God has brought together, each with different gifts, experiences, passions, and opportunities to serve.

And there is a place for you to belong here.

Maybe you walked through the Expo and discovered something you had never heard about before. Maybe you wrote your name on a sign-up sheet. Maybe you had a conversation with someone that made you think, "I could do that." Or maybe you weren't able to attend the Expo at all.

The invitation is still open.

There are opportunities throughout the year to study God's Word, build meaningful relationships, serve our community, care for one another, and help make ministry happen at Red Hill. Some opportunities require a regular commitment, while others may only ask for an hour or two. Some happen behind the scenes, while others put you right in the middle of the action.

You don't have to do everything. But we hope everyone will find something.

Because when we move from simply attending church to becoming part of the life of the church, something changes. We begin to know one another. We discover the gifts God has given us. We find people to walk alongside us. And together, we participate in what God is already doing in and through His Church.

Thank you to every ministry leader and volunteer who helped make this year's Ministry Expo possible, and to everyone who came, asked questions, met someone new, or took a step toward getting involved.

The Expo may be over, but the invitation is just beginning.

There is a place for you at Red Hill. Come be a part of it**!**




GOD SPEAKS

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RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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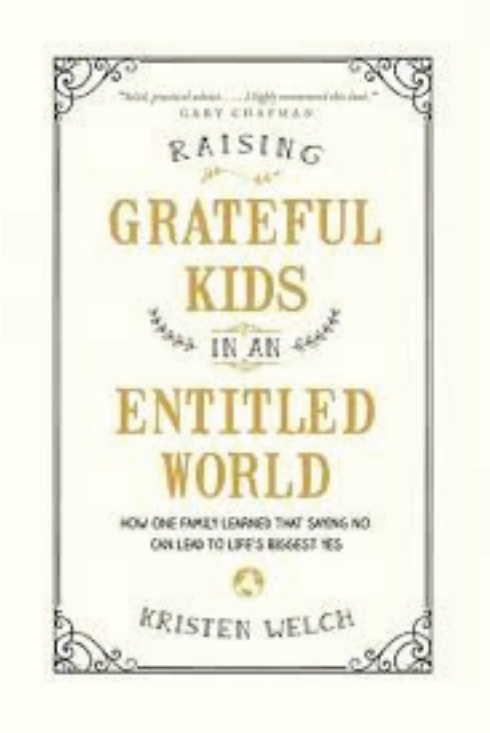
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Mom's Book Club: A Community of Encouragement and Connection

By Stephanie McArthur, Executive Director Of Ministries

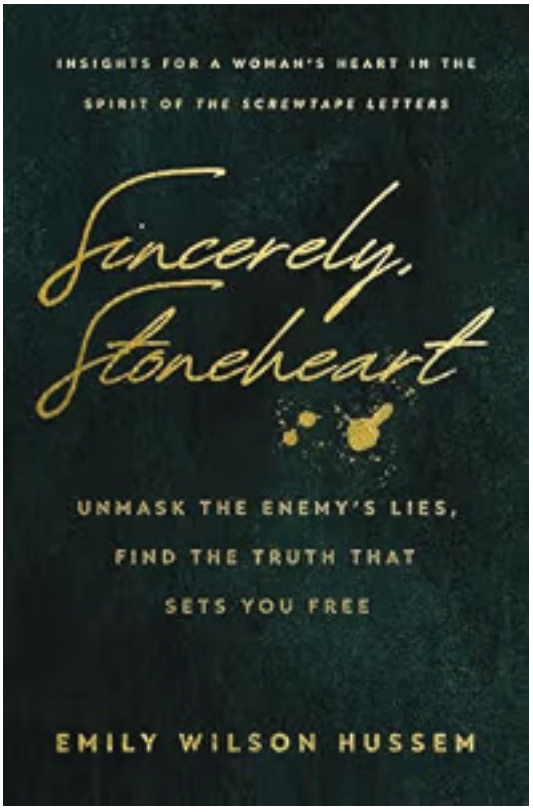
Red Hill's Mom's Book Club meets on Friday mornings in the CLC, sharing coffee, treats, and meaningful conversation. This season, we explored *Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World* by Kristen Welch, a book that sparked honest and thoughtful discussion about parenting in today's fast-paced, demanding world. Need to get new info when Stephanie returns.



Our gatherings are about more than the book. They are about connection, encouragement, and support. Moms of infants, toddlers, elementary-aged children, and middle schoolers came together to share their experiences, learn from one another, and offer encouragement. Each meeting reminded us that parenting, while one of life's greatest joys, can also be exhausting and challenging—and that walking alongside other moms makes the journey richer, lighter, and more joyful.

One of the most important things about our book club is that no one is required to read the book. Life as a mom is busy. Sometimes our days feel too full, and our to-do lists never end. The heart of our group is community: being together, listening, sharing, and encouraging each other through the ups and downs of motherhood.

We want to extend a warm invitation to all moms—new moms, experienced moms, moms with kids of all ages—to join us when we resume in January. Whether you want to glean wisdom from the discussion, share your own experiences, or simply enjoy connecting with other moms who understand the joys and challenges of raising children, there is a place for you in our group.



Our January book will be "*Sincerely, Stoneheart*" by Emily Wilson Hussem. Register today to find out more information. Will need info from Stephanie when she returns

Being a mom can feel isolating at times, but you don't have to do it alone. Our Mom's Book Club is a safe, welcoming space where you can be refreshed, encouraged, and reminded that we are all in this together. Come for the conversation, stay for the community, and leave knowing you are supported and celebrated as a mom.

We can't wait to see you in January!

Red Hill Lutheran School Gala: Celebrating 65 Years.

Countless Stories. The Greatest School!

For 65 incredible years, Red Hill Lutheran School has been creating a legacy of faith, learning, friendship, and community. Now, it's time to celebrate—and we're rolling out the red carpet for an unforgettable evening!

We are delighted to invite you to a special anniversary gala, ***The Greatest School — Celebrating 65 Years***, on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at The Westin South Coast Plaza.

Inspired by the show-stopping spirit of the award-winning film, *The Greatest Showman*, this spectacular celebration will shine a spotlight on what has always made Red Hill Lutheran School truly great: our students, our families, our teachers and staff, our alumni, and the faith-filled community that has made our school what it is today.

Prepare for an evening filled with celebration, entertainment, and memories. The evening will feature:

- Cocktail hour to kick off the festivities
- Dinner and entertainment
- Silent and live auctions
- A special 65th Anniversary video celebrating the people and moments that have shaped Red Hill Lutheran School
- Meaningful fundraising opportunities to invest in the future of RHLS
- Dancing to bring the evening to a grand finale

This is more than a gala. It is a celebration of 65 years of impact and an opportunity to help write the next chapter of the Red Hill Lutheran story.

As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with great anticipation. The greatest part of our story is still being written, and your presence and generosity will help ensure that Red Hill Lutheran School continues to provide an exceptional Christ-centered education for generations to come.

So gather your friends. Dress to impress, and get ready to celebrate *The Greatest School!*

Saturday, November 14, 2026
The Westin South Coast Plaza
686 Anton Blvd. | Costa Mesa, CA
Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.
Formal Attire Requested

Tickets are available at Red Hill Lutheran School.







Women's Ministries: Bonding, Brunch, and Bunco!

By Stephanie McArthur, Executive Director of Ministries

This summer and fall have been full of opportunities for the women of Red Hill to gather, laugh, learn, worship, and grow together, and we are just getting started.

Over the summer, women gathered for our Beloved Half-Day Retreat: Blameless. Together, we spent the morning looking at what it means to live from the identity Christ has already given us rather than constantly trying to prove that we are enough. Through worship, teaching, conversation, creativity, and time around the table, we were reminded that our identity is not found in our accomplishments, failures, or the



expectations placed upon us. It is found in Christ.

Then September gave us a very different kind of gathering: Bunco Night!

There was plenty of laughter, a little friendly competition, and perhaps a few moments when we all had to remember exactly which number we were supposed to be rolling! More importantly, it created an easy and welcoming opportunity for women to sit around tables, meet someone new, and simply enjoy being together.

Alongside these events, our Women's Circles began a study through Colossians. As we open Scripture together, we are spending time focusing our attention



on Jesus, who He is, what He has done, and what it looks like for our lives to be rooted in Him. These gatherings give women an opportunity not only to study God's Word but also to ask questions, share life, pray for one another, and grow together.

And there is more ahead!

In November, we will gather for a Thanksgiving Flower Arranging Social, an opportunity to slow down during a busy season, create something beautiful, and enjoy time together before Thanksgiving.

Then in December, our Gift Wrapping Brunch will





combine fellowship with a practical way to serve and support one another during the Christmas season. Women will be able to gather for brunch while wrapping gifts together in a welcoming space, because sometimes even something as simple as wrapping presents is better when you don't have to do it alone!

Sometimes we gather around God's Word. Sometimes we gather for deeper teaching and reflection. Sometimes we serve. And sometimes we simply need a table, some food, a game, and a reason to laugh together.

Through all of it, our hope is to create spaces where women of every age and season of life can build genuine relationships, grow in their faith, discover that they are deeply loved by God, and find meaningful ways to bless others.

If you haven't attended a Women's Ministry event yet, consider this your invitation.

Plan to come join us! There is always a seat at the table for you.





Preschool Family Playdate

By Beth Stoffregen, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

On Saturday, September 26, our Youth and Family Ministry Team hosted a Preschool Family Playdate for our church and school families with babies and preschool-aged children. From the moment families arrived, it was clear that this would be a morning filled with laughter, connection, and plenty of play!



Held on the elementary school playground right here on our RHL campus, the morning allowed our youngest families to enjoy the space in a whole new way. Some preschoolers were thrilled to explore the *"big kid"* play structure, while others grabbed balls and created



their own spontaneous games. Lawn games, obstacle courses made with hula hoops, platform walkers, and balance beams kept children moving, while a few even challenged their parents—and each other—to races around the track, hula hoop contests, and more!

The smiles were everywhere. As families arrived, children ran from the parking lot toward the playground shouting, *"I get to play on the big kid playground!"*

However, the morning was about more than just playing. It was also an opportunity for parents to connect with one another and for our Youth and Family Ministry team to build relationships with families.

One parent shared, *"Thank you so much for having this event. I have been wanting to meet the parents of my child's classmates. This gives us the perfect opportunity to do that."* Another appreciated being able to connect with other parents while knowing their child was in a safe environment.

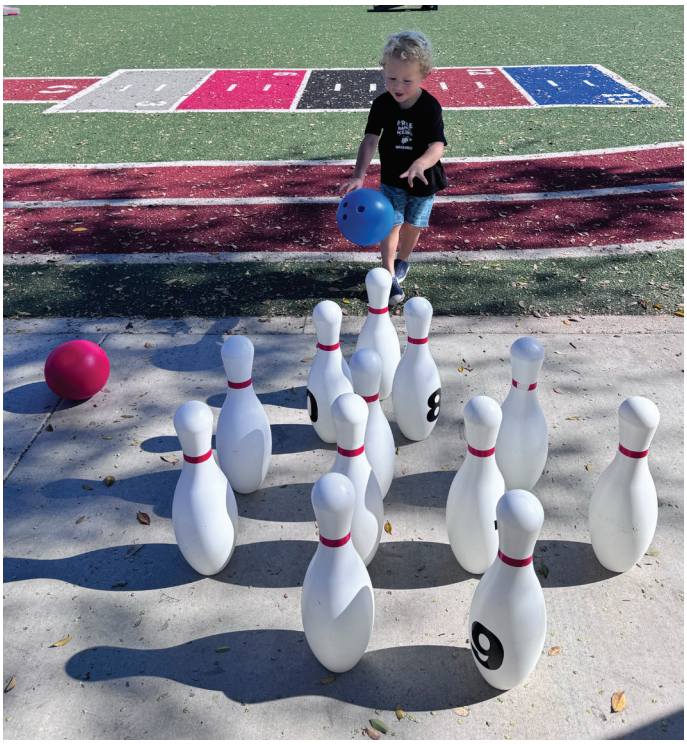
Our ministry team enjoyed the morning just as much. *"It's so fun watching kids have fun, play, and explore something new. I also love talking to the parents and getting to know them better,"* one team member shared.

Midway through the morning, we paused long enough to gather everyone for a quick group photo before the children eagerly returned to playing and the adults continued connecting. It was a simple morning, but one filled with the kind of community we hope to cultivate at RHL—families knowing one another, children building friendships, and our church and school communities growing together.

Mark your calendars for our next Preschool Family Playdate on Saturday, January 23, 2027**!**

We can't wait to see you on the playground!







Celebrating 65 Years of God's Faithfulness

By Beth Stoffregen, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

This year, Red Hill Lutheran Church & School is celebrating 65 years of God's faithfulness! As we look back with gratitude at all God has done through this congregation and school, we also look ahead with hope and excitement for what He will continue to do in and through the generations to come.

Youth & Family Ministry is blessed to be part of that story.

For 65 years, families have gathered at Red Hill to worship, learn, serve, grow, celebrate, and walk through life together. Children have been baptized, students have grown in their faith, families have experienced God's love, and countless volunteers and leaders have invested their time and gifts in the next generation. God has been faithful through it all.

As a ministry, our calling is to continue that legacy by partnering with parents and families in their faith journey—from the earliest years through young adulthood. Through T.O.T.S., K.I.D.S., Middle School, and High School Ministries, along with family events, classes, small groups, service opportunities, and intentional faith milestones, we seek to create Christ-centered environments where children and youth can know Christ, grow as His disciples, serve others, and make Him known.

This anniversary year gives us a wonderful opportunity to remember where we have come from, celebrate what God is doing today, and prayerfully look toward the future. We are especially grateful for the many people who have faithfully served, taught, prayed for, encouraged, and invested in the children and youth of Red Hill throughout the years.

65 years of God's faithfulness reminds us that the story is not finished. We look forward to continuing the journey together—trusting God with the generations to come and faithfully sharing His love with the children, youth, and families He has entrusted to us.

We are grateful to be part of the Red Hill family, and we are praying for a wonderful year of celebrating, serving, and growing together!

To God be the glory for His faithfulness—yesterday, today, and for generations to come!




The Exchange












DISCIPLE

Planting Seeds of Faith for Generations to Come

The Red Hill Lutheran Church and School Endowment Fund and Financial Planning Ministries

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." — Psalm 145:4

At Red Hill Lutheran Church and School, we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. We are part of a faith community built by generations of people who have faithfully given their time, talents, prayers, and resources so that God's Word could be shared and His children could be nurtured in faith.

The classrooms where children learn. The sanctuary where we worship. The ministries that reach into our community. The friendships and relationships that have been formed through Red Hill—all of these are part of a legacy entrusted to us by those who came before.

Now, it is our opportunity to plant seeds for those who will come after us.

This fall, Red Hill Lutheran Church and School is partnering with Financial Planning Ministries to help our members discover how generosity can become a lasting legacy. Financial Planning Ministries will offer educational seminars focused on practical, faith-based strategies for turning generosity today into a legacy gift that can bless God's work for generations to come.

A Gift That Continues to Give

The Red Hill Lutheran Church and School Endowment Fund provides an opportunity to create a lasting financial foundation for the ministry of Red Hill.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are invested with the goal of preserving the principal while allowing a portion of the earnings to support the church and school. In this way, a gift made today can continue to bless Red Hill year after year and generation after generation.

An endowment gift is more than a financial contribution. It is an expression of faith. It is an act of stewardship. It is a way of saying, *"I believe in the ministry of Red Hill, and I want to help ensure that it continues."*

Through the Endowment Fund, future generations may benefit from resources made possible by the generosity of people they may never have the opportunity to meet.

What a wonderful legacy that can be.

We Are Stewards, Not Owners

Scripture reminds us that everything we have ultimately comes from God. We are called to be faithful stewards of the blessings He has placed in our hands.

Legacy planning gives us an opportunity to prayerfully consider how those blessings can continue serving God even after our earthly lives are complete.

A legacy gift does not have to be large. It may be a portion of an estate, a gift through a will or trust, a beneficiary designation on a retirement account or life insurance policy, or another planned gift.

What matters is the heart behind the gift—the desire to give thanks to God and help carry His work forward.

Financial Planning Ministries Coming This Fall

This fall, Red Hill Lutheran Church and School is partnering with Financial Planning Ministries to provide educational seminars that will help our members explore the connection between Christian stewardship, generosity, and legacy planning.

These seminars will provide practical information about ways individuals and families can thoughtfully plan for the future and explore how their generosity can become a legacy gift—one that continues to support the ministries and mission they care about for years to come.

Financial Planning Ministries provides educational opportunities designed to help individuals and families develop sound, faith-based financial and estate plans. Topics may include wills and trusts, estate planning, beneficiary designations, charitable giving, and other ways to thoughtfully plan for the future.

Most importantly, Financial Planning Ministries encourages us to look at financial planning through the lens of Christian stewardship.

How has God blessed me?

How is God calling me to use those blessings?

How can I provide for my family while also supporting the ministries and organizations that are important to my faith?

And perhaps most importantly:

What legacy of faith do I want to leave behind?

These are not simply financial questions. They are matters of prayer, faith, family, and stewardship.

Leaving a Legacy at Red Hill

For many of us, Red Hill Lutheran Church and School has played an important role in our lives and in the lives of our families. Perhaps you were married here. Perhaps your children or grandchildren attended Red Hill. Perhaps you found a church home here, served in a ministry, taught a Sunday School class, volunteered at the school, or simply found encouragement and fellowship within this community.

Whatever your connection, you have been part of the Red Hill story.

A legacy gift to the Endowment Fund allows you to help write the next chapters.

Your gift can help provide opportunities for children to grow in their faith. It can help support ministries that share the Gospel. It can help strengthen Christian education and outreach. It can help ensure that future generations have a place where they can learn, worship, serve, and grow in Christ.

Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

Jesus often used the image of seeds to teach us about faith. A seed may seem small, but when planted and nurtured, it can grow into something far greater than anyone could have imagined.

The same can be true of a legacy gift.

A gift made today may become a blessing tomorrow. A decision made in faith today can help strengthen the ministry of Red Hill for generations to come.

We are blessed by those who planted seeds of faith before us. Now we have the opportunity to plant seeds for those who will follow.

We invite you to learn more about the Red Hill Lutheran Church and School Endowment Fund and participate in the Financial Planning Ministries educational seminars offered this fall. Come learn how thoughtful financial planning and generosity can become an enduring legacy of faith.

Prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to support the future of Red Hill.

Your Legacy. God's Mission. Future Generations. Plant a seed of faith today.Nurture the ministry of tomorrow.

Leave a legacy that can bless generations to come.

For additional information about the Endowment Fund or Financial Planning Ministries, please contact the Endowment Committee at endowment@redhillchurch.org.



the grapevine











On August 10th, Red Hill welcomed back its teachers and staff to prepare for the new school year.






Support Structure | 2026-2027







Preschool Yard 2 Playground Refresh

By, Jessica Hickey, Preschool Director

We are excited to share that our Preschool Yard 2 playground has received a wonderful refresh, creating an even more engaging space for our children to learn, play, and explore!

One of the most exciting improvements has been the installation of beautiful new sod. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Facilities Committee, the grass has taken beautifully, and the children are now able to enjoy playing on the lawn. The new green space has transformed Yard 2 into a welcoming environment where children can run, play, and experience the joy of outdoor exploration.

In addition to the new sod, we have added new playhouses that encourage imaginative play, creativity, and social interaction. We have also expanded our digging area with new toys and materials that inspire hands-on learning, discovery, and sensory exploration. These additions have already become favorite activities among our preschoolers.

The excitement continues as we eagerly await the arrival of our new mud kitchen structure. Once delivered and assembled, it will provide even more opportunities for creative play, sensory experiences, and outdoor learning adventures.



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Facilities Committee for their hard work and commitment to this project. We are also thankful for the continued support of our church and school administration. Their investment in our preschool program helps create enriching environments where children can grow, learn, and thrive.

We look forward to many years of laughter, friendship, and outdoor discovery on our refreshed playground. Most of all, we are excited for many fun barefoot play days ahead as our children enjoy the simple pleasure of playing in the grass and exploring God's wonderful creation.











RHLS Performing Arts

The RHLS Performing Arts Department (PAD) has been hard at work to create amazing performing arts opportunities for our students! We have had so much fun beginning the year and creating a healthy learning environment for both our returning students, and those students new to RHLS, and continuing the legacy of PAD as we soar together this year!



There are some new faces in the RHLS Performing Arts Department this year as Mr. Ujifusa (Instrumental Music), Mr. Isaiah Coughran and Mrs. Noah Rivera (Praise Band) are joined by Ms. Alyssa Gauss (Theatre Arts and Cheer) and Ms. Sarah Salazar (Choral and Classroom Music)! Ms. Gauss recently earned her teaching credential in Theatre at Cal State Fullerton and is so blessed to spend her first year teaching at RHLS. She has been performing since she was 8 years old, has been involved in over 25 productions both on and off the stage. She cannot wait to share her love of the performing arts with our students here at Red Hill. Ms. Salazar holds a Master of Music and Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from California State University Northridge and has worked throughout Southern California as a vocalist with many companies; Verdi Chorus of Santa Monica, Lyric Opera of Orange County, Opera Santa Barbara, and Pacific Opera Project to name a few. She has worked as an educator for over 20 years and enjoys pouring into the lives of her students, not only musically, but reinforcing how special they are in this world. Ms. Salazar is elated to nurture the joy of music in her students at Red Hill.

Praise Band led by Mr. Isaiah Coughran and Mrs. Noah Rivera has been leading our chapel services, with singers, drummers, guitarists and bass players! Having our entire K-8 community come together and worship once a week, led by their peers helps us bring our attention to our creator and is always a highlight of our week! Mr. Isaiah and Mrs. Noah will continue to support the students growth and development as the Praise Band leads throughout the year!

RHLS Performing Arts Music Before School Enrichments have kicked off as well, with great success! These classes include returning enrichments String Orchestra with Mr. Ujifusa (grades 5-8) and Singspiration Choir with Ms. Salazar (grades 5-8). These two classes meet before school and allow our students to receive more in depth instruction on string instruments or singing than they receive in their regular music classes.

This year Ms. Gauss is bringing back Spirit Squad (grades 1-5) and she will also be hosting an after school musical theatre enrichment class! This Fall, our school will be presenting the Lion King! The students are hard at work and will be presenting the show on November 12th!

We love that we get to teach the truth of the bible through our classes! Whether we are learning a new instrument, finding our voice through singing, working on our stage presence or more, we integrate biblical principles into our teaching and help the students to learn to bring glory to God through their new skills. We also have the opportunity to teach music and prepare for performances that share biblical truths and enhance the arts education that the students are receiving. We look forward to a great year and continuing to support



Starting the New Year Strong: Growing Together as Educators

By Kathleen Castro, Kindergarten Teacher and Valerie Wilson, 3rd Grade Teacher

There is something exciting about beginning a new school year. A new year brings fresh energy, new opportunities, and a renewed sense of purpose. This year, that excitement has been especially meaningful as we welcome new leadership and look forward to growing together as a staff.

One of the important themes we discussed during our professional development was the idea of being each other's "wingman". We are stronger when we support one another, encourage one another, and work together. Being a "wingman" means being friendly, approachable, and willing to step in when a colleague needs help. It means celebrating each other's successes, listening when someone has a challenge, sharing ideas, and creating an environment where everyone feels supported.

We also had the opportunity to share some of our best teaching practices with one another. Collaborating as a group allowed us to learn from the experiences and strengths of our colleagues. Teachers shared strategies, ideas, and practices that have worked well in their classrooms. It was a wonderful reminder that each teacher brings unique gifts and experiences to our school community.



Another valuable part of our professional development was led by Dr. Leslie Smith. We discussed the purpose of Lutheran education, which is to proclaim Jesus Christ and His saving gospel so that through the work of the Holy Spirit, students come to know and trust Him as our Lord and Savior, receive the gift of eternal life, grow in faith, and live as His disciples in joyful service to others. We did a deep-dive school connectedness and belonging, which is the extent to which students feel they belong at school and are cared for by their community. We want our students to understand and believe that they BELONG at school, not because of what they achieve, but because of who they are and WHOSE they are!

The 2026-2027 school year is off to a great start, and students, parents, teachers, and staff are ready to spread their wings, and SOAR together into a year we won't soon forget!!



6 THINGS All About MISS Jones







1. MISS JONES LHAS ALWAYS LOVED TO LEARN AND IS EXCITED TO TEACH!
2. MISS JONES LOVES THE OCEAN AND THE BEACH, AND YOU WILL MOST LIKELY FIND HER SOMEWHERE NEAR THE OCEAN
3. MISS JONES HAS A PASSION FOR FASHION! SHE SELLS WEDDING DRESSES, AND STYLES SOME AMAZING PEOPLE!



Favorite colors:

NOTES





4. MISS JONES LOVES MUSIC AND IS A WORSHIP LEADER AND SONGWRITER
5. MISS JONES LOVES PHOTOGRAPHY WHETHER JUST ON HER PHONE OR WITH A FANCY CAMERA .
6. MISS JONES LOVES BEING IN THE OUTDORRS AND HAS LIVED IN THE FOREST FOR MONTHS AT A TIME!!!

Mrs. Gaetano

6 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME

I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Childhood Development from Concordia University Irvine. I also hold a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and am completing my Master's in Education.





I played collegiate water polo at Concordia University Irvine. I have also coached youth and high school water polo for several years and love helping young athletes grow in confidence, leadership, and teamwork.



I have two dogs named Roxy and Dixie. They are my best buddies and always keep me smiling!



I love going to country music concerts. Attending concerts, listening to live music, and singing along to my favorite songs are some of my favorite things to do!

You can almost always find me grabbing an iced coffee or wishing I had one! I also love going on walks, exercising, and staying active.



Family is so important to me. I have two younger sisters and I'm getting married this upcoming May to my fiance!



6 Things About Miss Gauss



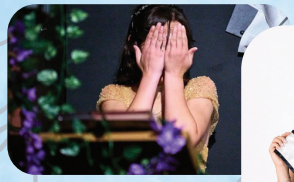


FAITH FIRST: I was born and raised in the Christian faith and have a heart for serving others through missionary work. I've had the opportunity to serve in both India and Guatemala through organizations including Food for the Hungry and Harvest India. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13

FUTURE MRS. ONUOHA: I'm excited to be marrying my wonderful fiancé, Ethan! We are high school sweethearts and have been happily together for over eight and a half years. I feel incredibly blessed to be starting this next chapter of life with my very best friend.

THEATRE KID I've loved theatre since I was eight years old and have always enjoyed both performing and experiencing live theatre. While I cherish being on stage, nothing brings me greater joy than teaching theatre arts. I truly believe God has called me to educate students through theatre, using it to give a voice to the voiceless, build confidence, and create a welcoming community where every student feels they belong.

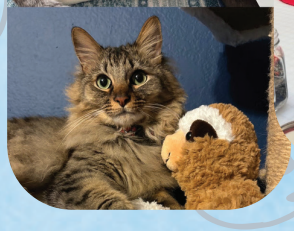
BEAUTY QUEEN As Miss California, I'm passionate about using my platform to advocate for greater access to theatre education for students in the special education community. I believe theatre is an incredible tool for building confidence, developing communication skills, encouraging self-expression, and helping every student discover their unique strengths.











CAT MOM: My two rescue cats, Toby Meowguire and Meowy Jane, keep life full of cuddles, laughs, and just a little bit of chaos! They each have their own big personalities and never fail to brighten my day after a long day of teaching.

CRAFTY COSTUMER: I love bringing creativity to life through sewing, costume design, and crafting. If I can make it by hand, I'm always excited to give it a try! I also love creating hands-on learning experiences for my students and finding opportunities for them to work on authentic design projects that allow them to apply their creativity in meaningful, real-world ways.

A Little About Me

By Bailey Grant



1. I am the youngest of three and my family all loves traveling together.
2. Some of my favorite books of the Bible are Ezekiel, Ephesians, and Hebrews.



3. I love to eat and make different types of food
4. I am a huge lover of animals (my puppy Mac is pictured below)

4. I was born and raised in Orange County but spent 5 lovely years on the Central Coast
5. I grew up skiing (both water and snow)
6. I love reading, adventuring, swimming, camping, cooking, and learning languages



6 Things To Know

1 - I am a huge fan of the ocean! For me, fam
or just a nice getaway to the beach here in C

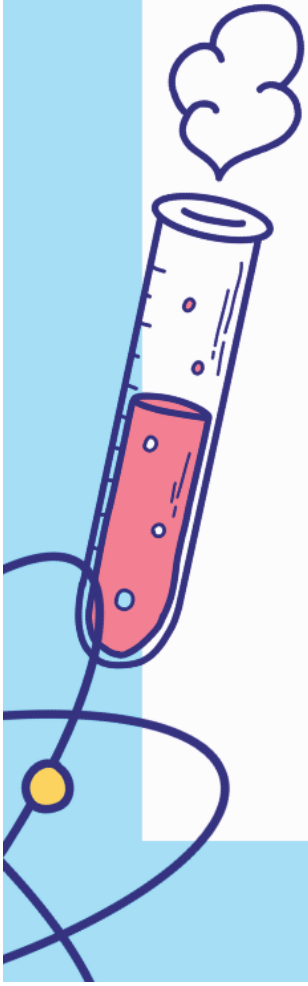
2 - Sports have always played a major part o
football and basketball, and over the past 10
point (basketball, football, volleyball, and soc

3 - While I was at Marquette University, I worl
traveled around Wisconsin to various school
also got to do research on air quality and pol

4 - While living in Wisconsin, I helped at the C
activities for children with chronic diseases a
what it truly means to live life to the fullest.

5 - One of my goals is to visit every MLB stad
with my checklist!

6 - Family is super important to me! I have or
California!



v About Mr. Morin!



nily vacations consist of cruises, trips to islands, alifornia.

f my life. During high school, I played both years, I've coached 4 different sports at some ccer)!

ked as a psychology research assistant that s. We studied resiliency development in youth. I llution while getting my Master's at UC Irvine!

Children's Hospital, by supporting and leading and cancer. The kids taught me so much about

dium in the country! I am currently halfway done

ne sibling, and we all live here in Southern

Miss. Be

Mission Trips!

I have had the privelege of going to both Ireland and Uganda to serve children in the classroom. Wether it is an after school kids program or teaching English I have a passion for missions and can not wait to see more of his creation.





Family Time!

I have the best family eve
them is so sweet. My siste
George, along with my pa
friends and my favorite p
Time with them is never t

Jesus!

My faith has always been the most important thing to me and I feel so blessed to work at a school where I get to talk about it every single day. Growing up as a Christian, and always knowing him has been one of my greatest strengths.





Coffee!

if there is somewhere to
shop that is opened, I will
be there. Getting coffee a
of my favorite things to d

lle Nervo



Country Concerts!

I love music and I love country. When those two are together, I am so content! Concerts with my friends and family are my favorite way to spend my weekends!

r, spending time with
r, Zoe, and her husband
rents or some of my best
eople to hang out with.
aken for granted!





Traveling!

Just just like with missions, I love the opportunity to see more of the Lord creation and step into different cultures across the world. My bucket list for the future is long!

get coffee or a new coffee
promise you that I will
nd going on walks is one
o on a Saturday morning!



6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MISS O'SULLIVAN

1. I grew up in Tustin with 3 brothers! Family and friends are very important to me.
2. I graduated from UCLA (Go Bruins!) with a degree in Art History before earning my teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach.
3. You'll almost always find me with my Kindle. I especially love reading science fiction.
4. I'm always finding new hobbies, but my very favorite is crocheting! I design crochet patterns in my free time.
5. I have many houseplants - I love propagating them and watching them grow.
6. My favorite place to be is the beach.








MISS SALAZAR
Jesus (and iced coffee) fuel my life and keep me going!
I love animals and would have a pet shark if I could! But, I do have a Ragdoll Kitten (Juliette), a bearded Dragon (named FalKorina) and a jumping spider named Jenny.
I was Miss Tustin in 2010! won non-finalist and top talent at Miss CA.
Ive swam with leopard sharks!
I enjoy hiking and being out in nature. It's one of my favorite ways to enjoy Gods beauty! Sedona, AZ is one of my favorite places!
Choir
In addition to teaching I also sing professionally. Ive had the opportunity to sing at the Walt Disney concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, and in Salzburg, Austria. I also do commercial work and my favorite gig thus far was for Delta and Starbucks!
DELTA
MORE SIPS, MORE TRIPS

Our Online Congregation

By MJ Siegert, Communications Director

Thanks to the efforts of Manny Olmedo and his crew during the Covid-19 Shutdown, RHLC has seen the steady growth of an online congregation for years. Today, we have around 100 people join our services every week, and even more who watch our archived videos and podcasts. Accessibility and Ease of Access has been and will continue to be a priority to Red Hill, so whether you're watching from home, tuning in from an international hotel, listening on your phone in the car, or anywhere in between we thank you for choosing Red Hill as your church home.

While our doors are always open (and, indeed, there's no replacement for in-person community), we're happy to deliver the Red Hill experience beyond Tustin and stay with you wherever you go.

In fact, various analytics have revealed to us that some of our congregation watches from all over the world, including Arizona. Nevada, North Carolina, and even internationally in Japan and Australia! We are blessed to have such a thriving community of people who truly love each other and God. In the last year, we've accumulated a monthly audience of around 450 people and 20,000+ views - impressive numbers that indicate a steadfast dedication to God's Word.

But numbers are only one way of measuring growth and success. If you have any stories or anecdotes of your own in regards to our online congregation, we'd love to hear them! Write us an email or send us a letter - we want to hear from you.

If you're unfamiliar with our videos and podcasts, I encourage you to check out our YouTube channel. It contains full recordings of services and bible studies, as well as edited, organized podcasts of sermon series and DiscipleU classes. Just open up YouTube and search "Red Hill Lutheran" to find our channel.

Additionally, you can always tune in to our Sunday Worship Livestreams by visiting the home page of our website: redhillchurch.org.



Honoring Our Heroes: The Meaning and History of Veterans Day

Each year on **November 11**, communities across the United States pause to honor the men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. Veterans Day is more than just a date on the calendar—it is a day of gratitude, reflection, and recognition for the sacrifices made by those who have answered the call to serve.

What Is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day is a federal holiday set aside to honor all U.S. military veterans—those who served in times of war and peace, whether active duty, retired, or discharged. It is a day to say "thank you" to those who have served and to acknowledge the role they've played in securing the freedoms we often take for granted.



It is important to note that Veterans Day is different from Memorial Day. While Memorial Day (observed in May) honors those who gave their lives in military service, Veterans Day celebrates all veterans, living or deceased, who have served honorably.

The Origins of Veterans Day

The roots of Veterans Day go back to World War I, which officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed in June, 1919. However, the fighting had ceased several months earlier when an armistice went into effect on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month."

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as Armistice Day, a day to honor the bravery of the American soldiers who served in World War I. In 1938, it became a federal holiday, still known as Armistice Day.

Following the immense sacrifices of American troops in World War II and the Korean War, the U.S. Congress, at the urging of veterans' organizations, amended the holiday in 1954. That year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation renaming it Veterans Day—broadening its purpose to include all veterans, from every branch and every era of service.

A Time for Gratitude and Prayer

In our church community, Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the values of service, sacrifice, and faith. Many of our veterans carried their faith with them through difficult deployments and continue to serve others in our congregations today.

Let us take this opportunity to not only thank them for their service, but also to pray for their well-being, for the families of those still serving, and for peace in our world.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." — John 15:13 (NIV)

This Veterans Day, may we honor those who served with our words, our prayers, and our commitment to being a community that remembers and values their sacrifice.

Christmas Eve Nativity Services at Red Hill

By Beth Stoffregen, Director of Red Hill Youth & Family Ministry

For more than 25 years, Red Hill Lutheran Church & School has offered Live Nativity Services on Christmas Eve. This beloved tradition has become part of the fabric of our Red Hill family and is a special offering for our church and school families and the surrounding Tustin community.

The 3:00pm and 5:00pm Live Nativity Services are interactive experiences for everyone who attends. Upon arrival, children, adults and families are invited to become part of the Christmas story by choosing to be an angel, shepherd or king**.** Each participant receives a headpiece to wear during the service—a halo for the angels, a headdress for the shepherds or a crown for the kings.

Each Live Nativity Service concludes outside as the congregation gathers and sings *"Silent Night" while gazing upon the Holy Family surrounded by the shepherds, kings and angels. It is a beautiful and meaningful way to pause and remember the true reason we celebrate Christmas -the birth of our Savior, Jesus.*

The experience continues beyond the sanctuary. Before and after each service, children can enjoy a petting zoo with live animals outside near the patio. Those attending are also invited to enjoy a warm beverage, spend time in fellowship, and wish one another a Merry Christmas.

Over the years, these services have become a cherished Christmas tradition for many in our Red Hill family. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this special experience with our Tustin Community year after year.

Calling All Actors and Volunteers!

We still have a few roles to fill for this year's Live Nativity Services!

We are looking for:

- Preschool-aged children to be sheep
- Three teens or adults to be kings
- A handful of shepherds of any age
- One reader to read the Gospel Lesson
- Three-four volunteers to help hand out headpieces at the beginning of each service

Some acting roles include speaking lines, while others do not, so there are opportunities for many ages and comfort levels to participate. If acting isn't your thing, you can still be a part of this special ministry by helping welcome attendees and distribute the angel halos, shepherd headdresses and crowns before each service.

Would you or your child like to be part of this special Christmas Eve ministry? For more information, please contact Beth Stoffregen at beths@redhillchurch.org.








GOD
With Us

Altar Guild Ministry – Celebrating 65 Years Together

By Patti Sullivan, Altar Guild Coordinator

How was your summer? I hope you had a fun and relaxing time with your family and friends. For the members of the Altar Guild, summer was a time to be with family and a time for vacations and relaxation. Spending time with family is a gift from God, as it was God who created family. Genesis 2:7: after God created man and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life the man became a living creation. Genesis 2:18: Then the Lord said "It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a helper fit for him. Genesis continues with, So the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon man, and while he slept took on of his ribs and closed up the place with flesh and the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man, he made into woman and brought her to the man. So it was God that first created family. Since family is important to God, it's important to the Altar Guild members to spend time with their families. As Altar Guild Coordinator, I too took some down time for myself. I did some checking on supplies, like ordering cups, wafers and baptism candles. I oversaw "behind the scenes" to make sure we had the supplies needed in preparing for Sunday mornings. The members of the Altar Guild continue to be faithful servants, attend church regularly, pray, attend the DiscipleU classes on Sunday mornings as well as have the joy and thanksgiving of being a meaningful part of the Altar Guild at Red Hill Lutheran Church and School. Even with their busy lives, the volunteers remain faithful, happy to help, flexible, and ready to step in when necessary. The theme for Red Hill Lutheran Church and School this fall is Celebrating 65 years Soaring Together. The phrase "Soaring Together" does not appear in the Bible, but it combines two distinct concepts: soaring like eagles (Isaiah 40:31) and being united together in Christ.

Ephesians 2:5-6 This passage speaks of believers being raised together "God made us alive together with Christ and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

With the Red Hill Church and School families returning to school and church, the Altar Guild will begin our time preparing for the coming holidays. As fall approaches and a new church year commences at Red Hill Lutheran Church and School, the month of September launched our busyness for the coming church year. On Sunday, September 13thh, the Ministry Expo 2026 served as the "kick off" for our fall activities. The event was held in the CLC and The Altar Guild had a table with information about this ministry.

This month, Red Hill Lutheran Church and School will celebrate fall with Oktoberfest. The day begins with one, combined worship service at 10:15 followed by the Oktoberfest festivities including food, games, inflatables, cake walks and the very fun "Trunk or Treat." The head of each ministry decorates their car with a Fall Festival theme. I will be reprising my theme, "Patti's Pumpkin Patch." Oktoberfest is a huge success with the church, school and community families participating in Red Hill's fun event.

November starts by reminding us to be thankful and preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. The Altar Guild will be placing the cornucopia on the altar for the 7:00pm Wednesday evening service the night before Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving, the Altar Guild members will begin preparing the sanctuary for Christmas. Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas is usually an "all hands-on deck" process that requires the talents of all of the Altar Guild members and volunteers. It is truly a special time at Red Hill as we joyfully decorate the sanctuary with Christmas trees and wreaths. Decorating the altar with red poinsettias and preparing the Advent wreath prepares our hearts, souls, and minds for the coming of Jesus. As you can tell, Altar Guild is busy year round showing love, service, and faithfulness into ensuring that the sanctuary Red Hill reflects the love, service, and reverence we have for His church!

The Altar Guild members prepare the worship atmosphere from preparing communion trays, the communion table, placing the communion trays on the communion table, placing the chalice and wafer trays on the altar, then covering it with a white linen. Filling the candles is an important and special task. When the candles are lit on Sunday mornings, the atmosphere is set for Sunday morning services. The baptism font is also placed at the front of the sanctuary. The baptism font is placed in the middle of the aisle to

remind us that it is through baptism that we are saved. We oversee the organization of the sanctuary, polishing the kneeling railing, arranging the altar linens and changing the color of the paraments for each seasonal change. Since some of our members and guests may want to pray in private in the Prayer Chapel, this space is also included in our weekly cleaning.

Joining Altar Guild doesn't require a resume,' just a heart for service and a reverent spirit. Reverence, reliability, a happy heart, team spirit and some liturgical knowledge is helpful. In Mark 10:45, Jesus says, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.

In John 13:15, Jesus sets an example for us to follow. After washing His disciples' feet-an act of love, humility, and service. He encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another. Jesus says, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

In the ESV bible, John12:26 states that anyone who wants to serve Jesus must follow him and be ready to serve at a moment's notice. So, with that all said, we will go and serve."

God wants our service in the everyday to be life-giving. For Jesus has said he came "that they may have life and have it abundantly." In John 10:10 says, our service should be life-giving because the one that we serve is the Life-giver. So, with that all said, we will go and serve."

Wishing you all joyful and blessed fall and Christmas seasons!



Men's Ministry: Sharing Food, Fellowship, and Faith

By Kevin McArthur

Over the last several months, we have had the opportunity to gather men from our church, school, and community for our Men's Breakfasts. If you've been to one, you already know that the morning is pretty simple: good food, good conversation, and an opportunity to hear from another man about his life and faith.

But I think there is something important happening in that simplicity.

At one of our breakfasts this summer, I had the opportunity to share some of my own story and talk about mentorship and the importance of having other men in our lives. None of us were meant to figure out life, faith, marriage, parenting, work, and everything else on our own. We need other men who can encourage us, challenge us, and sometimes simply sit across the table and listen.

At another recent breakfast, we heard an incredible story centered around climbing Mount Everest. It was a reminder that the biggest challenges in life are rarely faced alone. Whether we are climbing an actual mountain or simply navigating the mountains that show up in everyday life, who we have beside us matters.

That is really what these breakfasts are about.

Yes, we want to have a great breakfast. We want to bring in interesting speakers and hear stories worth listening to. But more than that, we want to create a place where men can actually connect.

For some guys, that may mean reconnecting with someone they already know. For others, it may mean meeting another dad from the school, someone they have seen at church for years but never really talked to, or even someone who has never stepped foot inside Red Hill before.

There isn't a prerequisite to come. You don't need to be a Bible expert, you don't need to already be involved in a men's group, and you don't even need to know anyone else who will be there.

Just show up.

Our next Men's Breakfast is coming up at the end of October, and we are excited to welcome Mike Schroeder from Valley Biblical Counseling, as our speaker. Mike will be sharing about what it practically means to "Trust God" in our everyday lives.

If you have joined us before, come back, and bring someone with you. Invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, another dad from school, your son, or someone you've been meaning to get to know better.



And if you haven't been to one yet, this is a great one to start with.

My hope is that these breakfasts continue to become a place where men from across our church, school, and community can build real relationships, encourage one another, grow in faith and purpose, and find ways to serve alongside one another.

Sometimes that starts with something as simple as sitting down for breakfast.






Scoring Attitude
Assume:
P, D, T can get a score of 1-5.
F can get a score of 1-20.
Scoring Attitude
Assume:
P, D, T can get a score of 1-5.
F can get a score of 1-20.

Congregational Care, Prayer and Share

As Jesus' church, Red Hill is committed to the spiritual, emotional and physical care of our congregation. In times of crisis, grief, transition, and confusion, we believe and trust that God is with us and will never abandon us. Pastor Seth, our church staff, and volunteers, are available to offer appropriate care, prayer and support for you through the difficult and painful times we all will face.

What is Pastoral and Congregational Care?
At the heart of Pastoral Care is Jesus Christ—as the source of comfort, healing, forgiveness, and hope. Pastoral care is not primarily about solving problems but about proclaiming Christ in the midst of suffering, doubt, or sin. You are encouraged to schedule an appointment with our church office when:



- You are anticipating or have experienced the death of someone near to you.
- You or someone in your family is sick, hospitalized, and/or will be having surgery (Hospital/home visitations).
- A child is born. We can visit in order to welcome and bless this new life and gift from God!
- You are struggling with a significant decision about health care and faith.
- You lose a job, home, important relationship, and/or facing a significant transition in your life.
- You are deeply questioning your faith.

In addition, we also have referrals to competent, Christian Counselors and other resources for longer-term counseling or spiritual direction needs.

To schedule an appointment with Pastor Seth, contact Donna Kunz, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor at 714-544-3131 x100 or dkunz@redhillchurch.org.

What is our Deacon Ministry Team?
At Red Hill, we desire to be a church that expresses mercy and care for others—inside and outside our church. While every Christian is considered a "priest" (*1 Peter 2.9*) and is expected to offer mercy to their neighbor, historically the church has called, trained, and set-aside, certain leaders who have spiritual gifts of mercy. In the New Testament, these leaders were known as *Deacons*, taken from the Greek word, *diakonos,* which means "servant." These servants, or *Deacons*, were charged with caring for the needs of the local church through acts of mercy and kindness.

At Red Hill, the responsibilities of the Deacon Team are:

- Visitation of our members who are hospitalized and/or homebound; Bringing Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend weekly Worship at Red Hill.
- Anointing with Holy Oil and praying with and for those who are in need of prayer for any reason.
- Sitting with someone and talking about life issues and challenges such as losing a job, a difficult relationship, or significant changes in one's life.
- With staff assistance and church resources, helping church members with possible financial needs and concerns.



If you need the care of a deacon, contact Pastor Seth or Stephanie McArthur. If you would like to serve as a Deacon, contact Stephanie McArthur or Pastor Seth to discuss the next steps in this process, and to be a part of our Deacon Training class.

Lastly, you are encouraged to share your prayer requests with us. We have a true desire to know what is happening in your life, and how we can come alongside you in prayer and praise. Please see below for how you can request prayer, and how we are here to support you as a church family.

- Worship "Next Step Cards." (In the sanctuary and online) On the "Next Step Card", there is a place to request prayers. You have the options of having your prayer requests included in the Sunday Worship Bulletin and/or forwarded to our Cordon of Prayer, or restricted to confidential pastoral prayer only.

  Cordon of Prayer. This "prayer chain" has been an instrument of intercessory petitions at Red Hill for 47 years! Current members receive prayer requests via email, praying daily for those in need. Prayer requests for the Cordon of Prayer can be given to the church office by contacting Donna Kunz, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor at 714.544.3131 ext.100 or dkunz@redhillchurch.org, who will then forward the requests to the Cordon.

Please note that all prayer groups abide by rules of confidentiality.



Epiphany—Jesus Has Come for All People!

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

Beginning on January 6th, 2027, we will enter into the season of *Epiphany*. The term "epiphany" comes from the Greek word ἐπιφάνεια (*epiphania*) which means "appearance" or "manifestation." In early church history, the feast of Epiphany originally celebrated the birth of Jesus. However, as the church established December 25th as the day to celebrate Jesus' birth, Epiphany was designated as the event that *manifested* Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior of the world. In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany was appointed as the day to celebrate the baptism of Jesus. In the Western churches, Epiphany became the day to celebrate the manifestation of Jesus through three great, Biblical events: *The visit of the Magi*, *the baptism of Jesus*, and *the marriage feast in Cana*, where Jesus turned water into wine.

The day of Epiphany is always January 6th (For Lutherans, the Sunday following Epiphany is celebrated as the "Baptism of our Lord" and/or the "First Sunday after the Epiphany"). The season of Epiphany brings us to the end of the Advent and Christmas cycles in our Church Year, completing their rhythms of expectation and fulfillment. During Epiphany, our focus turns toward the *purpose* and *reason* for the birth of this child: He has come to be the Savior for *all people*! This central truth, that Jesus has been *manifested to all* and *for all people*, is the theme of Epiphany. It is during the Epiphany season that we are to:

> …celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The Word and Sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.[1]

In the history of the Western Church, the primary focus during the Epiphany season is on the story of the Magi and their visit to the Christ child. While most often, the story of the Magi is associated with the Christmas story, the coming of the Magi likely happened much later after Jesus' birth. As scholar and Christian theologian Robert Webber notes:

> In the Western church…the day of Epiphany… is always a celebration of the coming of the wise men who brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus…Even as our Christmas spirituality was shaped by the dominant theme of the incarnation, so now our Epiphany spirituality will be shaped by the overriding theme of Christ's manifestation as Savior of the world.[2]

The coming of the Magi to see the child Jesus is only mentioned in Matthew's Gospel (*Matthew 2.1–12*). The word "Magi" comes from the Greek word "*mágos"* (it's plural is "*mágoi")* which is transliterated as "Magi" ("wise men"). From the definitions and the descriptions provided in Matthew's Gospel, the Magi were probably Persian priest-astrologers who believed they could interpret the stars, particularly the significance of the star that proclaimed the birth of the Messiah.

One of Matthew's purposes in composing his Gospel was to show how Jesus fulfilled all of the messianic prophecies from the Old Testament. It is in the very beginning of his Gospel where Matthew records that these Magi were guided by a star in the sky. Balaam prophesied about the coming Messiah marked by a star:

> *"I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near: A star shall advance from Jacob and a staff shall rise from Israel..."* (*Numbers 24.17*).

Of course, the Magi were not Jewish sages. As non-Jews they were *Gentiles*. Psalm 72 speaks of how the Gentiles will come to worship the Messiah:

> *"The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage; all nations shall serve Him"* (*Psalm 72.10-11*).

1 *Sundays and Seasons*, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2012.

2 Robert E. Webber. *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2004).

Matthew recorded that the Magi brought three gifts: *gold*, f*rankincens*e, and *myrrh*. In Isaiah, we read about the gifts that would be brought to the Messiah:

> *"Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord"* (Isaiah 60:6).

In addition to being prophetic fulfillments and very valuable, the gifts from the Magi were also prophetic in themselves. Biblical commentator M. Mills notes that:

> The Old Testament frequently links gold to kings, so this gift recognized Jesus as a king, and indeed this is appropriate, for He is the King of kings!...Frankincense was used to compound the exclusive incense for the inner sanctum, the Most Holy place, God's residence on earth (Exod. 30:34–38), and the Old Testament sees incense as God's special prerogative (Exod. 30:37; Ezek 16:18)... Myrrh was one of the most valuable gum resins and, besides being used as a spice or medicine (this myrrh is not to be confused with Old Testament myrrh which is a different gum), was particularly used to embalm corpses (it was used in embalming Jesus (John 19:39–40). This gift thus recognized the significance of Jesus' death, and as His office of Savior pivots on His sacrificial, atoning death, this gift interprets as recognizing Him as Savior, an insight the Magi could have gleaned from Isaiah 53.[3]



Finally, while the Gospel account does not give names to the Magi, tradition and history has identified the Magi as *Melchior*, *Caspar* (or Gaspar), and *Balthazar*. Also, we are not told that there were only *three* Magi. This tradition likely came from the number of the gifts given to the holy family as recorded in Matthew.

Of course, it is safe to say that the reason the Magi were not named is because the story is not about them! The story is about God's unfolding plan of redemption and reconciliation of the *entire world*. All of the people and places described in Matthew, even nature itself (the star), are used by God to *manifes*t His Son to the world. And, the very gifts of the Magi themselves manifest the person, work, and power of this infant Savior!

What does the story of the Magi tell us? The Magi are living proof that God fulfills His promises and that Jesus has come for all people! The Magi are a sign of the Gentile nations' inclusion in God's salvific plan. The Epiphany season is that brief time in our Church Year where we are reminded that what the Magi discovered is what we have discovered as well; that in this child lay the "hopes and fears of all the years." That in Jesus Christ we are given many gifts; the gifts of forgiveness, hope, and new life. Martin Luther, commenting on this story of the Magi, reminds us that…

> The first thing we should learn from this story…is that the wise men went to search for Christ, the newborn king, they did not find him in Jerusalem. Indeed, if they were to find Him at all, they would need to listen to the Prophet Micah… Thereafter, when they had received the Word… they…took the road to Bethlehem…The second thing that we should learn from this story is how to bear ourselves aright towards our Lord Jesus Christ, that is, that we should cast aside all offence, and together with these wise men witness before the world to the Lord Christ, seek Him from the bottom of our hearts, and adore him as our Savior.[4]

I like that Luther begins with God's Word and ends with our lived response to those words. Epiphany is that annual reminder that we are *disciples*—followers of Jesus on the "road" of our lives. As disciples, we must be constantly equipped by Word and Sacraments so that we can follow faithfully and *manifest* the love of Jesus in and through our lives.

3 Mills, M. *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record* (Dallas, Texas: 3E Ministries, 1999).

4 Martin Luther. *Day by Day We Magnify Thee*, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982).

Yelkouni Family Update

By Barto and Tenielle Yelkouni



This last month has been full of obstacles and chaos but in the midst of each difficulty we have seen the Lord's Hand on us. In the past couple of weeks we have had electrical issues, septic/plumbing issues, paperwork issues, construction delays, our Internet router died so we had to buy a whole new system, sickness for me and the girls, and our car broke down three different times with three different issues. The last time especially was the most dramatic. We had gone to visit the village to see the progress on construction and see family. We were on our way back home when our car hit a bad pothole, it hit the oil pan under the car and we believe it must have sparked and with it being over 100 degrees outside, the car combusted and started to smoke and set on fire immediately. Barto pulled over and we rushed out of the car, right away tons of cars and even a bus stopped, people came running to help put the fire out and it was out in a short time. We were so overwhelmed by the amount of people who jumped into action. A mechanic who was in the town 15 miles back came and said he would have the car towed back to his shop, and we got a ride with some people who had stopped to help us. As we were riding with those men, about 20 mins from home, they hit a pothole and popped two of their tires. Since they only had one spare, Barto was calling everyone he knew to help find another tire but since the tires were rare, they could only be found in the bigger city 1.5 hours away. Another mechanic came to get us and took us home and then went back to help the guys who were looking for another tire. When we arrived home, we had realized we forgot our house keys in our car, so Barto had to break our front door. Finally, by 9pm (4 hours after the first accident) that night we were in our house and I was making dinner. Through each obstacle we saw God put so many people in our path to help us. Through the grace of God, the mechanic was able to find parts to replace what had been ruined and we now have a running car again. We have felt extremely attacked and tired this month. But also, I have felt the Lord hold me in His Arms through so many anxious thoughts and tears.

"When I reach the end of my own strength that's when You step in and prove Your faithfulness. I remember what my weapon is and with lifted hands, watch You move again. Are You not the God who is in Heaven? The One who reigns forever? My eyes are on You, My eyes are on You, Lord. You fight the battle, You get the glory! Here come the angels, here comes the victory! The enemy is outnumbered, outnumbered, outnumbered. You fight the battle, You get the glory!"- Outnumbered by Tauren Wells

Our girls have been so good to us through so many days of difficulty and trouble. We are so proud of them. I watched and listened to them pray on the side of the road when the car was on fire and when we were stuck again with flat tires, I heard them say they knew God was with us and asking Him to get us home safely. A lot of this month we were busy with paperwork, homeschool, fixing different things and getting things ready





for the school year that starts October 1st. Barto has been busy gardening and growing our animal project, those things have been blessings! We know God has big things in store for the ministry, and that He is extremely faithful. Thank you so much to everyone for your constant support and prayers. Because of it, when things have come, we were able to fix them and pay for them. And we also know that it is because of all your prayers that we are safe and able to do all that we do.

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen."- Philippians 4:19-20

School Update

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God."- Romans 1:20

School starts October 1st for our preschool and grade school. The first week especially is mostly cleaning up the school and area, and kids coming to sign up for classes. We are praying for this year to be a blessing and that all the children who the Lord wants to bring will come. We pray for God to bless the teachers and give them wisdom in their job.

There is a lot to accomplish in the next couple weeks but as I have learned in living here. All will be okay in its own timing and not mine. The government has been rating private schools, so they know how much they are able to charge for tuition. Our grade school had not been rated yet, but our preschool was rated in the # 1 category, which means it's one of the top schools. All of that is possible because of all the support that you all give us to make it happen! If we wanted, we could be charging the students hundreds of dollars a year to come to our school, but we only ask the parents to give $4 to pay for half their books and give beans towards the lunch program. And even that is not an obligation but encouraged. Because of all of this, any child can have the opportunity of a good education!

"Defender of this heart, You loved me from the start, You never change. Through the highs and lows as seasons come and go You never fail. Day after day Your love will remain. Faithful and true, You are good! You are God with us, You're victorious, You are strong and mighty to save! For Your word stands true, there is none like You and when all else fades You remain." Remain by Starfield

"Long ago You laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with Your Hands. They will perish, but You remain forever.." Psalms 102:25-26a



The Hollands
MINISTRY UPDATE

SUMMER 2026

Cru Summer Mission

Lake Tahoe Summer Mission

We are so excited to share with you what God has been doing through Cru this summer!
Overall our summer mission of 90 staff & students got to **initiate 1,586 conversations** on the beaches, and have **770 spiritual conversations**. The **full gospel was shared 259 times** and we saw **19 people pray to receive Christ** for the first time!!! Praise God!

Ryan and I got to be life group leaders and job coordinators. As life group leaders we discipled our students, took them sharing on the beaches every week, and led a life group every Monday night. Our students grew so much as they engaged in workplace evangelism and initiated spiritual conversations with coworkers! The Lord did so many powerful things that we wish we could tell you every story!



Lake Tahoe Summer Mission 2026!

We are so glad we got to experience this summer in Lake Tahoe. In just 6 weeks the Lord formed us and reminded us that we are his vessels, just responding to His calling.
Now we are back on campus at Montana State University and experiencing a fruitful welcome week with new salvation in Him. **The beginning of the year is so fun (and busy) for ministry and students are more open to hear the gospel!**

Thank you for your support for our ministry.
YOU are a part of these stories and we could not do this without your prayers & financial support.
Please let us know how we can be praying for you!
In Him, *Ruth and Ryan Holland*







Student leaders washing feet



The best family summer in LT!

Freedom from Addiction

"I have never had someone sit with me and fully listen to my struggles, then also give me practical tools to change my habits", Kay* told Ruth in tears. God moved deeply in the life of Kay*, a student in Ruth's life group. She came on summer mission seeking freedom from addictive patterns and destructive sin, hoping that surrounding herself with a gospel community would draw her closer to Him. This was the first time she was surrounded by people who were equally vulnerable and wanted to keep each other accountable. As Kay learned more about the Holy Spirit this summer, she was convicted of sins she hadn't been convicted of before, and her mindset started to shift; for the first time, she was surrendering her life to Jesus and wanted Him to shape her.

Kay's story shows a glimpse of what the Lake Tahoe Summer Mission community became. Students' lives were forever changed. Chains of sin and shame were broken. And students like Kay experienced what truly walking by the Holy Spirit and living in Christian community looked like.

Prayer & Praise

We have seen 10 people trust Christ for the first time in just the first month of school! Please pray for these students, for protection over their hearts and for them to dive deep into Christian community.

connect with us!

giving: *give.cru.org/1113442*
contact: ryan.holland@cru.org & 503-575-6068 // ruth.holland@cru.org & 714-733-3127
address: 130 Pond Lily Dr. Bozeman, MT 59718

In Memoriam

As the year 2026 comes to a close, we have said goodbye, but will forever lovingly remember the following saints, our brothers and sisters in Christ, who went to be with Jesus this year.

Marlys Lano *Mary Olsgaard*

Patricia Trillwood

Betty Katnik *Joyce Moomaw*

Betty Moran *Eileen Hamilton*



"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." John 5:24


Join Us for Worship
Thanksgiving Eve
Wednesday, November 25th
at 7:00 PM


13200 Red Hill Ave. Tustin, CA 92780
redhillchurch.org
714-544-3131
Christmas at
RED HILL
Christmas Eve - December 24th
3:00 & 5:00 PM
Family Service with Live Nativity
7:00 PM
Traditional Candlelight Service
Christmas Day - December 25th
10:00 AM
Traditional Christmas Service

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king
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Dates to Remember

November 25th

Thanksgiving Worship, 7:00pm

November 26th and 27th
Thanksgiving Holiday, Red Hill Campus Closed

December 24th
Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm

December 25th
Christmas Day Worship, 10:00am

January 1st, 2027
New Year's Day, Red Hill Campus Closed

January 18th, 2027
MLK Day , Red Hill Campus Closed

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