



# January 2026

## *The Oakleaves*

**SHERMAN OAKS LUTHERAN CHURCH** *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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# Happy New Year!



Thank you all to the ladies and men who participated in our Christmas Brunch. We had a very nice time sharing and celebrating our Savior's Birth. Our next meeting is January 10, 2026 at 9 am. We will be discussing the Proverbs 31 woman.

We will have another fundraiser at Antonio's Pizza on Thursday, January 22. Please plan on eating there around 6:30 pm or take out is also available all day. Our annual Cookie Walk is Sunday February 8, 2026. Please plan on participating and baking cookies. Remember we give our money to Christian organizations.

A big welcome to Saana and Cassie who attended our Bible Study in December.

## **ATTENTION ALL MEN OF SOLC!!**

**The first gathering of SOLC's Men's Group in the new year will be on  
Saturday, January 10, 2026.**

**We will gather at 10 am at church, up in the loft!**



The church staff thank you for your generosity in your giving for the holiday staff gift!



# Christmas Performances

## *SOLCC Program*



# Annual Christmas Concert





# The Bethlehem Project

The benefit performance of the new musical comedy "The Bethlehem Project" by Jeff

Zimmer and Mike Renneker, and performed by ELATE on November 30 at SOLC, raised **\$650** for the church in ticket and concession sales!







## Zoo News from the Children's Center

by Director,  
Arusyak Dzheyranyan

The preschool is delighted to wish you a  
Happy New Year!

December was a busy, but faithful month for us at the preschool. The children performed "The Christmas Story" for family and friends in the Sanctuary. They were adorable and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

In January our students will be learning about New Year's resolutions, making fireworks art, studying "Winter" weather, and learning the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

We will also be celebrating Lutheran schools. **National Lutheran Schools Week** is an annual celebration that promotes the important role of Lutheran schools in the United States and around the world. The theme for the 2025 - 2026 school year celebration is "**Created to Be,**" drawn from the beautiful words of **Psalm 139:13-16**, reminding us of the sacredness of our creation, purpose, and value in God's eyes: "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me to gather in my mother's womb."

We are excited about all of the things 2026 will bring us and we invite you to keep SOLCC in your prayers.





# January –February '26 Events

*All dates and times  
are subject to change*

Thurs, Jan 1	<b>Happy New Year!</b>	
Sat, Jan 3	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Jan 4	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
Tues, Jan 6	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Wed, Jan 7	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Jan 10	LWML, 9 am	Men's Group, 10 am
	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Jan 11	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
Tues, Jan 13	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Wed, Jan 14	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Jan 17	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Jan 18	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
	FEET, 11:45 am	
Tues, Jan 20	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	Council Meeting, 7 pm
Wed, Jan 21	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Thurs, Jan 22	LWML Fundraiser—Antonio's Pizza, 6 pm	
Sat, Jan 24	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Jan 25	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
Tues, Jan 27	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Wed, Jan 28	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Jan 31	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Feb 1	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
Tues, Feb 3	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Wed, Feb 4	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Feb 7	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Feb 8	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
	Food For The Poor Visit, 10 am	Cookie Walk, 12 pm
Tues, Feb 10	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	
Wed, Feb 11	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Feb 14	LWML, 9 am	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm
	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	
Sun, Feb 15	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am
	FEET, 12 pm	
Tues, Feb 17	Healthy Life, 4:30 pm	Council Meeting, 7 pm
Wed, Feb 18	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm	
Sat, Feb 21	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Sun, Feb 22	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am

*Scan for  
full calendar*





Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!

**2 Corinthians 5:17**



***Thank you, Ushers***  
***January - March 2026***

<b>1/4</b>	Eric Anderson, Jason Plattner
<b>1/11</b>	Eric Anderson, Dennis Werner
<b>1/18</b>	Eric Anderson, Chuck Spitler
<b>1/25</b>	Eric Anderson, Jason Plattner
<b>2/1</b>	Dennis Werner, Charlene Irwin
<b>2/8</b>	Chansom Zayabouth, Inga Windsor
<b>2/15</b>	Chuck Spitler, Lorraine Salcedo
<b>2/22</b>	Jason Plattner, Bryant Small
<b>3/1</b>	Dennis Werner, Charlene Irwin
<b>3/8</b>	Chansom Zayabouth, Inga Windsor
<b>3/15</b>	Chuck Spitler, Lorraine Salcedo
<b>3/22</b>	Jason Plattner, Bryant Small
<b>3/29</b>	Dennis Werner, Charlene Irwin





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



## Birthdays:

Carissa Lee	1/4	Craig Peterson	1/14
Florence Tankou	1/8	Tristan Holland	1/18
Ava Pan	1/10	Adam Yenser	1/25
Jordan Cleary	1/11	Miriam Sweet	1/30
Caleb Gordon	1/14	Tenise Holland	1/31

## Anniversaries:

(Congratulations on

Andy & Madde Carpiac

(57 years) 1/25

# Baptismal Birthdays: members of Jesus' family

**The Church Office records show the following members as having a baptismal birthday this month.**

*(Please contact the office if your baptism date is incorrect.)*



Anatol	Carpiac	1/5	Victoria	Anderson	1/19
Ryder	Villari	1/8	Elijah	Tankou	1/20
Laura	Redmond	1/14	Mike	Renneker	1/22
Benjamin	Selle	1/14	Afsaneh	Sweet	1/29
Jordan	Cleary	1/14	Naomi	Engle	1/29



## A Message from the Head Elder

by Jeff Gordon

# Celebrating Christmas with Self Control!

Celebrating Christmas provides a meaningful opportunity to apply biblical self control while navigating the pressures and challenges that often accompany the season. Although Christmas is meant to commemorate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, it can easily become a time marked by stress, excess, conflict, and distraction. Biblical self control helps believers remain focused on the true purpose of Christmas and respond faithfully in difficult situations that may arise during the season.

The Christmas season often brings financial strain, busy schedules, and heightened expectations. Practicing self-control allows believers to avoid overindulgence in spending, eating, and social commitments. Proverbs 21:20 speaks of the wise who store up resources, reminding Christians to act responsibly rather than impulsively. By exercising restraint, believers honor God with their resources and demonstrate gratitude rather than being driven by comparison or consumer pressure.

Gatherings during Christmas can also present emotional and relational challenges. Old conflicts may resurface, or differing opinions may create tension. Biblical self control, guided by the Holy Spirit, enables believers to respond with patience and kindness instead of anger or harsh words. James 1:19 remains especially relevant during these moments, encouraging believers to listen carefully and respond gently. In doing so, Christians reflect the peace and love associated with Christ's birth.

Self-control during Christmas also involves guarding one's heart and priorities. Amid decorations, traditions, and celebrations, it can be easy to lose sight of Christ. Biblical self control helps believers intentionally make time for prayer, Scripture, and worship, keeping Jesus at the center of the season. Just as Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19), believers are called to pause, reflect, and focus on the spiritual significance of Christmas rather than being consumed by activity.

Jesus' humble birth itself is a powerful example of restraint and obedience. Rather than entering the world with earthly power or wealth, Christ came in humility, demonstrating God's perfect control and purpose. Remembering this encourages us to celebrate Christmas with simplicity, generosity, and gratitude. Acts of giving, service, and compassion during the season reflect Christ's love and demonstrates self control by prioritizing others over self.

Celebrating Christmas through the lens of biblical self control helps believers navigate the season's challenges with wisdom and grace. By managing emotions, resisting excess, and keeping Christ at the center, Christians can experience a more meaningful and peaceful celebration. Through self-control empowered by the Holy Spirit, Christmas becomes not just a holiday, but a faithful reflection of the hope, peace, and love brought into the world by Jesus Christ.