



December 2025 *The Oakleaves*



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

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Hey everyone!

Just wanted to let you know that SOLC Christmas Radio, a musical ministry unique to SOLC, is back on the air! It's running right now through the end of December.

Since 2002, I have been joyfully working with the musical community here at SOLC, writing original Christmas songs and creating original arrangements of Christmas classics ... and you can hear them all on SOLC Christmas Radio, our very own internet radio station!

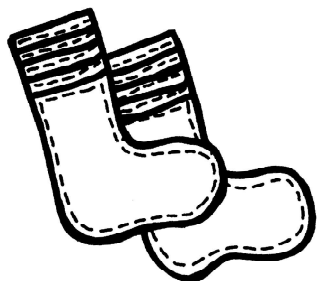
From Thanksgiving through December every year, SOLC Christmas Radio plays 24/7 on Live365.com! This unique station sounds exactly like a regular radio

station, complete with commercials, station ID's, promos et. But all the musical content was created right here by the talented musical folk, past and present, at SOLC. There is nearly 5 hours of original content!

You can access SOLC Christmas Radio from our homepage shermanoakslutheran.org or go to live365.com and search for "SOLC."

Let SOLC brighten your Christmas season and help you celebrate the birth of our Savior!

-Mike Renneker





*Let us gather together and
celebrate this Good News!*

Mark your calendars now for
SOLC's December FEET =
Families Equipping and Encouraging Together!

Sunday, December 14th
12 - 2pm

After a light lunch,
we will be rolling out the cookie dough
to make holiday goodies for our shut-ins.
We will also create Christmas cards to share the
message of Emmanuel while enjoying cocoa and carols!
So throw on your aprons and bring your rolling pins.
Let us know you are coming by Dec. 7th.

FEET — Families Encouraging + Equipping Together



So much to be thankful for as our families gathered for a Friendsgiving Feast! It was a time of fun food, and friendships.

We played Pass the Pumpkin and Cranberry Blessings Toss. We feasted with all the fixings and shared how God blesses us daily.



Sadly, it was our last FEET gathering with the Utecht family so we made with cards and pictures to encourage them as they travel.

Everyone was invited to write in their Family Bible, highlighting verses to fill them on the journey ahead. We ended our time together in a prayer circle with the Aaronic blessing shared over all.



Called to *Thank You!* *Serve*

by Breilyn Brantley

*I will give thanks to the LORD
because of his righteousness; I will sing the
praises of the name of the LORD Most High.*

-Psalm 7:17

Here are some thanks to a few people that helped at the church in the month of **November**:

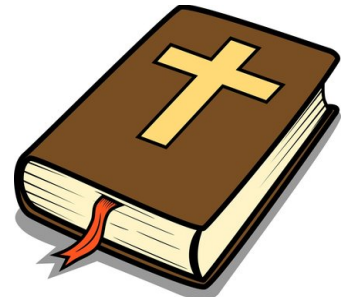
- ☺ Thanks to Titus Utech and family for all they did for all of us here at Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church.
- ☺ Thanks to all who helped with the work party.
- ☺ Thanks to those who donated to the mercy packs and remember you still can through Amazon.
- ☺ Thanks to all Altar Guild, Greeters, and Ushers.
- ☺ Thanks to all the great Sunday School teachers.
- ☺ Thanks to those who volunteer their time to help with all the goings on at the church.

*If there is anyone out there you feel deserves thanks for giving their time and talents to the church,
please email brei04@hotmail.com.*

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF SOLC!!

Men's Group Gatherings for 2026

The Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church Men's Group has just completed our 2nd year of interesting and prayerful gatherings. We look forward to more excellent times of fellowship and discussion! **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for our 2026 Gatherings!



January 10, March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12, November 14

Our gatherings are from 10:00 am until Noon on the listed Saturday mornings. We will gather either at church upstairs in The Loft or at the welcoming home of church Elder Dick Robertson. (TBA prior to each gathering.) All men are welcome! Here's wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** For questions about Men's Group, feel free to contact Chuck Spitler at (951) 966-3623 or chuckspitler@yahoo.com



Zoo News from the Children's Center

by Director,
Arusyak Dzheyranyan

Can't believe we're already in December! November was such an amazing month — full of excitement and blessings for our Children's Center. We started the month with our wonderful Harvest Festival, which was a huge success! It was such a joy to see not only the children dressed up, but also the parents joining in the fun. Next came our Parent-Teacher Conferences, which went very well. Parents were understanding, supportive, and delighted to hear about their children's growth and progress. Our Thanksgiving Feast was as special as always — filled with love, laughter, and delicious food shared together. It reminded us of how God's love nourishes and unites us all. *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures*

forever." — Psalm 107:1

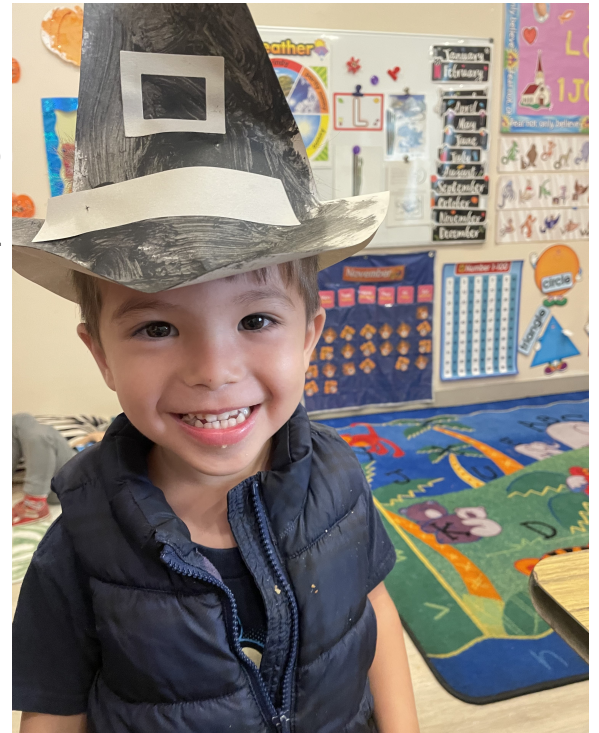
As we head into December, we're just as busy and excited! The children are learning about the birth of Jesus and the incredible love and gift God has given to all of us. They're also practicing their Christmas songs for our upcoming Christmas Program on December 12. We warmly invite all church members to join us and watch the children perform the beautiful Nativity scene. A big thank you to Mike, who will kindly film the performance for parents and friends to enjoy. The children will also be making Christmas cards and gifts for their parents — small treasures made with big hearts.

Please note, the Children's Center will be closed for two weeks during Christmas break. We pray this time allows our families to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and gives our staff a much-needed time of rest and renewal.

From all of us at the Children's Center, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

May the peace, joy, and assurance of Christ fill your hearts this season and always.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2:11



December '25—January '26 Events

Wed, Dec 3	Advent Midweek Service, 7 pm	Evening Bible Study, 8 pm	<i>All dates and times are subject to change</i>
Sat, Dec 6	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	
Sun, Dec 7	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am	
Tues, Dec 9	Healthy Life, 12 pm		
Wed, Dec 10	Advent Midweek Service, 7 pm	Evening Bible Study, 8 pm	
Fri, Dec 12	Preschool Christmas Program, 9:30 am		
Sat, Dec 13	LWML, 9 am	LWML's & Men's Holiday Brunch, 11 am	
	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	
Sun, Dec 14	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am	
	FEET, 11:45 am	Healthy Life, 12 pm	
Tues, Dec 16	Healthy Life, 12 pm	Christmas Music Concert, 7:30 pm	
	Oakleaves Contributions Due		
Wed, Dec 17	Advent Midweek Service, 7 pm	Evening Bible Study, 8 pm	
Sat, Dec 20	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	
Sun, Dec 21	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am	
Tues, Dec 23	Healthy Life, 12 pm		
Wed, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm		
Thurs, Dec 25	Christmas Day Service, 10 am		
Sat, Dec 27	Contemp. Worship, 5 pm	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	
Sun, Dec 28	Bible Study, 9 am	Worship, 10 am	
Tues, Dec 30	Healthy Life, 12 pm		
Wed, Dec 31	New Year's Eve Service + Party, 6 pm		
Thurs, Jan 1	Happy New Year!		
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, 12 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, 12 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, 12 pm	Council Meeting, 7 pm	
Wed, Jan 21	Evening Bible Study, 7 pm		

Scan for
full calendar





ATTENTION SOLC MEN'S GROUP!!!

As a wonderful time to fellowship during the Holidays, the Women's Group of our church has graciously invited The Men's Group to join them at a HOLIDAY BRUNCH in the church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 am. Please come and enjoy wonderful celebration and a festival meal!

Thank you, Ushers ***December 2025***

12/7 Chansom Zayabouth; Lorraine Salcedo

12/14 Dick Robertson; Jason Plattner

12/21 Bryant Small; Frank Perez

12/24 Eric Anderson, Dennis Werner

Christmas Eve

12/25 TBD Christmas Day

12/28 Robert True; Dennis Werner



2026 Tournament of
Roses Parade

**BRINGING CHRIST
TO THE NATIONS®**



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



Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Rianne Utecht	12/6	Madde Carpiac	12/19
Cynthia Poliak	12/13	Chansom Zayabouth	12/25
Rob Engle	12/14	Chris Gordon	12/26
Tahirih Petryha	12/15		

(Congratulations on

David & Laurel
Seaver

(43 years) 12/28

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.)



Joan	Mann	12/3
Paris	Bayat	12/25
Rianne	Utecht	12/28
Madeline	Peterson	12/27
Alexandra	Peterson	12/29
Althea	Hudson	12/30
Axl	Pan	12/30
Ava	Pan	12/30

A Message from the Head Elder

by Jeff Gordon

Look For God, Daily

Looking for God's work in our daily lives begins with cultivating an attitude of awareness. Scripture teaches that God reveals Himself to those who intentionally seek Him. Jeremiah 29:13 promises, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." This verse encourages us to approach each day with openness, trusting that God is present even in the ordinary moments we might otherwise overlook.

One meaningful way to notice God's work is by paying attention to the people He places in our path. Acts of kindness, compassion, or forgiveness often reflect God working through human relationships. Jesus teaches in John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another... By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." When we see genuine love in action—whether through service, patience, encouragement, or empathy—it becomes a visible sign of God's presence moving among us.

Another way to recognize God's presence is by observing the natural world. Creation itself reflects the ongoing work of a Creator who sustains life each day. Romans 1:20 explains that "God's invisible qualities... have been clearly seen,

being understood from what has been made." Whether in the beauty of a sunrise, the rhythm of the seasons, or the quietness of a starry night, the natural world points our hearts back to God and reminds us of His power and creativity.

We can also discern God's work through moments of inner guidance and unexpected strength. Sometimes clarity appears when we need it most, or we find courage beyond our own ability. Isaiah 41:10 offers reassurance: "Fear not, for I am with you... I will strengthen you, I will help you." These experiences remind us that God's presence is not only external but also active within our hearts and minds.

Ultimately, noticing God's work in daily life is not about searching for dramatic miracles but about learning to see with a grateful and attentive spirit. James 1:17 reminds us that "every good and perfect gift is from above," inviting us to recognize blessings both large and small as evidence of God's care. When we reflect on each day with intention, we begin to realize that God hasn't just touched our lives occasionally—He has been faithfully walking beside us, daily, in every step.