

this week

Sunday, December 7 – Advent Love  
8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:40 a.m. Sunday Bible Study - All Ages  
10:50 a.m. Worship  
12:15 p.m. Safety & Security Committee Meeting  
2:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting  
4:00 p.m. Ladies Ensemble, Student Handbells  
5:00 p.m. *More Than a Baby*– Children’s Choirs

Monday, December 8  
9:00 a.m.–1:15 p.m. ESL Classes  
10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels  
2:00 p.m. CEO Widows Ministry Team Meeting  
6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Adult Handbells, Men’s Ministry Game Night  
7:00 p.m. Conversation Cafe

Tuesday, December 9  
9:00 a.m.–1:15 & 6:00 p.m. ESL Classes  
9:30 a.m. Early Learning Program  
5:30 p.m. Momentum ABKA Karate  
6:30 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship

Wednesday, December 10  
9:00 a.m.–1:15 & 6:00 p.m. ESL Classes  
10:00 a.m. ELP Teacher’s Planning Day/Brunch  
6:00 p.m. Student Worship, Men’s Bible Study, College & Young Adults  
6:45 p.m. Worship Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, December 11  
6:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer and Devotion  
9:00 a.m.–1:15 p.m. ESL Classes  
9:30 a.m. Early Learning Program  
10:00 a.m. Adult Game Day  
12:00 p.m. Weaving Ministry, Kingdom Builder’s Fellowship & Luncheon

Friday, December 12  
9:30 a.m. Early Learning Program  
5:00 p.m. FIT Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 13  
8:00 a.m. Gideon’s Meeting  
9:00 a.m. Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal  
11:00 a.m. Ruth’s Open Door Christmas Fellowship  
5:00 p.m. Student Christmas Light Tour, College & Young Adults Christmas Party

NO WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER – December 10, 2025

Awaiting Advent Reading Plan:

LOVE – week of 12/07

- 12/7: Isaiah 7:13-16

○ 12/11: Matthew 2:13-18

○ 12/8: Matthew 1:1-17

○ 12/12: Matthew 2:19-23

○ 12/9: Matthew 1:18-24

○ 12/13: John 1:14-18

○ 12/10: Luke 2:1-5

An Advent reading plan is available at the Welcome Center or to download [HERE](#).



Sharing the Good News about Jesus  
in our community and around the world

10310 S Sheridan Rd | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133  
918.299.0904 | [southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org)

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**WELCOME GUESTS** – We’re glad you joined us! We would love to get to know you and/or pray for you. Fill out the form and submit prayer needs at [southtulsa.info](http://southtulsa.info). If you’re worshipping with us today, we invite you to stop by our Welcome Area for Guests, adjacent to the Welcome Center, after the service to meet a member of our team and receive a welcome gift.



**CEO WIDOWS MINISTRY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP** – Widows of South Tulsa are invited to our monthly Food and Fellowship, Monday, December 8, 4:00 p.m. at Ricardo’s (5629 E 41st St., Tulsa). Hope to see you there! It’s Dutch treat.

**COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Join us for a progressive dinner on Saturday, December 13, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. We will travel to three houses (appetizers, dinner, dessert), ending at Pastor Eric’s house for our dessert and gift exchange. Bring a \$10-15 wrapped gift to participate. Meet at the church at 4:45 p.m. to ride the church van. Please RSVP on GroupME by 12/10.

**YEAR-END GIVING** – The Christmas season prompts us to reflect on the Lord’s blessings and to consider opportunities for us to bless others in return. It is our privilege to help church members maximize the impact of tax-advantaged gifts. Please go to [southtulsa.org/give](http://southtulsa.org/give) to discover the many ways to share your gifts with our church’s ministries. For stock gifts or any other questions, please contact the church office or our Financial Manager, Laura Forney ([lauraf@southtulsa.org](mailto:lauraf@southtulsa.org)). We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

**SOUTH TULSA BAPTIST CHURCH MERCHANDISE** – If you placed an order it is available for pick up today in the Commons, or next week in the church office.

(For more information about upcoming events, please go to [southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org).)



the channel

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8:30AM Worship

**Call to Worship** John 1:1-5, 14 Evie Anderson  
*Manger Throne* Student Choir & Worship Team  
*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
**Advent Candle Lighting** – LOVE Grider Family  
**Welcome and Prayer** Julie DeYoung  
**Worship in Giving and Children’s Offering**  
*He Shall Reign Forevermore*  
**Announcements** Eric Costanzo  
**Minister of Music Testimony** Michael Ware  
**Greeting Time**  
**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 7:14 Yana Sherdis  
**Message** Eric Costanzo *Awaiting Advent* – The Promises Before the Manger  
**My Response** *Holy Child*  
**New Commitments - New Members**  
**Blessing** – *Holy Child*  
**Vote on Minister of Music**

10:50AM Worship

**Call to Worship** John 1:1-5, 14 Jackson Clemons  
*Manger Throne* Student Choir & Worship Team  
*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
**Advent Candle Lighting** – LOVE Gifford Family  
**Welcome** Julie DeYoung  
**Worship in Giving and Children’s Offering**  
**Musical Praise** *Glory in the Highest Heaven*  
**Announcements** Eric Costanzo  
**Minister of Music Testimony** Michael Ware  
**Greeting Time**  
**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 7:14 Yana Sherdis  
**Message** Eric Costanzo *Awaiting Advent* – The Promises Before the Manger  
**My Response** *Holy Child*  
**New Commitments - New Members**  
**Blessing** – *Behold Our God*  
**Vote on Minister of Music**





# What I Want for Christmas

Kara Lee

Now that the Christmas season has officially begun, I’ve been thinking about what I truly want for Christmas this year. As I read through the familiar passages of Scripture surrounding Jesus’ birth, several people stand out—examples of what I don’t want to be, and examples of what I hope to become.

In Luke 2:1-18, we meet the innkeeper. Though unnamed, he provided Mary and Joseph a place in the stable. Scripture tells us nothing more about him, but it’s easy to imagine his situation: an overcrowded inn, endless responsibilities, and constant pressure to meet the needs of weary travelers arriving for the census. Whether he worked alone or oversaw a staff, he was simply too busy to notice that the Messiah had arrived under his very roof. I see myself in the innkeeper. Every Christmas I find myself juggling countless tasks—organizing details, leading people, serving others, attending church programs, preparing the house, shopping, wrapping gifts.... Many years I reach December 26 only to realize that, like the innkeeper, I’ve accomplished every task, but missed the miracle of Jesus’ birth. Instead, I want to be like the shepherds who, upon hearing the angels’ announcement, hurried to be in Jesus’ presence. They set aside their responsibilities long enough to witness the miracle firsthand, and afterward they joyfully shared the good news.

In Matthew 2:1-16, King Herod responds very differently to the news of Jesus’ birth. Threatened by the arrival of the true King, he went to extreme lengths to protect his power. While I would never act as King Herod did, I can mirror his desire for control—allowing pride and self-reliance to keep Jesus from ruling fully in my heart. Instead, I want to imitate the Magi, who left their own agendas behind to follow the star that led them to Christ. When they found Him, they stayed, worshiped, and honored Him.

Finally, in Luke 2:21-38, Simeon and Anna show us another way to approach Christmas:

with continual prayer, worship, and expectant hearts. Because they sought the Lord faithfully, they recognized Jesus instantly and experienced Him in a uniquely personal way.

This Christmas, like the shepherds, the Magi, Simeon, and Anna, I want to seek Jesus, encounter Him deeply, worship Him truly, and be forever changed by the miracle of His birth.

## Minister of Music

Our Personnel Committee, along with the Advisory Council, is pleased to announce Michael Ware, our Music Ministry Associate, to be presented as our next Minister of Music. Members will vote on Michael during a Special Called Business Meeting just after both morning worship services today, December 7.

**Christmas at South Tulsa - Gloria Community Night**

We are delighted to once again host our Community Night Dinner on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Gym as a gift to our under-resourced and marginalized community and their local support. After the dinner, everyone will gather for Christmas at South Tulsa - Gloria. We will not be able to provide this outreach ministry without great volunteers! Sign-up sheets are available in Sunday Bible Study classes and online [HERE, southtulsa.org/events](https://southtulsa.org/events).



## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Every dollar you give becomes more than a gift – it brings hope, it brings light. 100% of your offering supports missionaries who carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. This Christmas, carry the light of Christ to others. Together, we can shine in the darkest places. Thank you for giving today. Our church’s goal: \$220,000.

**CHRISTMAS CARD BOX** - The Lottie Moon Christmas Card box is available in the Commons through January 4. Help Girls in Action collect money for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by exchanging cards with the church family and putting the “postage” in the mailbox.

## Today’s Flowers

Maryann Snyder loved her South Tulsa Baptist family. She was a part of the Bridge Builders group on Sunday mornings and enjoyed Skip-Bo on Thursdays until she was no longer able to venture out of the house. She and Virgil (up until his passing in 2017) were active members and had many friends within the South Tulsa family. Maryann Snyder left to be with her Lord and Savior on September 17, 2025. In her honor and loving memory, her family hopes you enjoy the Christmas flower arrangements in the Worship Center this holiday season.



## An Evening of Lessons and Carols

Please join us in the Worship Center for a South Tulsa tradition, “An Evening of Lessons and Carols” on Sunday evening, December 21. This service will feature scripture readings, stories of how Christmas carols were written and composed, plus wonderful music.

## Ready? Set? Minister!

Riding a bike, using a new computer program, or ironing a shirt - training is important whenever anyone learns a new skill. Training is also important in Stephen Ministry. Before Stephen Ministers begin their work, they undergo extensive training. When they start their official ministry, they’re ready! A new training class begins in January. Attend an information meeting and pick up an application today, December 7, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, or you may contact the church office at (918) 299-0904.

## Men’s Morning Prayer and Devotion

Men of all ages, please join us this Thursday, December 11, 6:00-7:00 a.m. in the Chapel. We meet on the second Thursday to pray together and a small devotional is also shared with the group. Coffee and donuts provided!

## Christmas Eve

Bring your family and celebrate Jesus’ birth with us. We will have two identical services to choose from on Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. in our Worship Center. Each service will feature Christmas carols, the Lord’s Supper, a message from Pastor Eric, and the lighting of the Advent candle. Both services conclude with candlelight and glow sticks as we sing “Silent Night.” Make plans to join us as we focus our hearts on the Good News!

## last week

<b>GIVING</b>	
MFP Actual Receipts . . . . .	\$1,745,231
Ministry Financial Plan . . . . .	1,886,196
General Fund . . . . .	65,729

<b>SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY</b>	
Adults . . . . .	459
Students . . . . .	60
Children . . . . .	89
Preschool . . . . .	74
Unclassified . . . . .	10
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>692</b>

<b>THE MINISTRY CENTER</b>	
Volunteers . . . . .	38
People Helped . . . . .	274
Showers . . . . .	39
Hot Meals . . . . .	150
Church Service . . . . .	27
Prayed to Receive Christ . . . . .	1
Received Christmas Gifts . . . . .	166
<i>Needs: warm clothing items and gloves.</i>	

<b>JENKS CAREPOINT</b>	
Volunteers . . . . .	62
People Helped . . . . .	477
Received Christmas Gifts . . . . .	266
<i>Needs: Christmas gifts - Jesus Christmas Room.</i>	

<b>WELCOME NEW MEMBER</b>	
Carolyn Villalva . . . . .	<i>by letter</i>
Gaye Eccles . . . . .	<i>by statement</i>
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<b>MINISTRY STAFF</b>	
<b>Dr. Eric Costanzo, Pastor</b> eric@southtulsa.org	<b>Kara Lee, Director of Jenks CarePoint</b> kara@jenkscafe.org
<b>Phil Dark, Minister to Senior Adults &amp; Pastoral Care</b> phil@southtulsa.org	<b>Laura McFarlin, Associate Minister to College Students &amp; Young Adults</b> lauram@southtulsa.org
<b>Julie DeYoung, Minister to Families with Preschoolers</b> julie@southtulsa.org	<b>Sean McKinney, Music Ministry Associate</b> sean@southtulsa.org
<b>Lisa Fuller, Director of The Ministry Center</b> lisa@ministry-center.org	<b>Karen Pirtle, Minister of Missions and Mobilization</b> karen@southtulsa.org
<b>Kimberly Hayes, Director of Creative Ministries</b> kim@southtulsa.org	<b>Seth Spoo, Pastoral &amp; Student Associate</b> seth@southtulsa.org
<b>Dr. Zack Hudson, Associate Pastor &amp; Minister to Families</b> zack@southtulsa.org	<b>Michael Ware, Music Ministry Associate</b> mware@southtulsa.org
<b>Jesse Johnston, Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy</b> jesse@southtulsa.org	<b>Phillip White, Minister of Administration</b> pwhite@southtulsa.org
<b>Rebecca Johnston, Minister to Families with Children</b> rebecca@southtulsa.org	

<b>ON THE COVER</b>
<i>Sunday Worship with Michael Ware, Choir, and Orchestra</i>