



1630 W. Republic Road * Springfield, MO 65807
www.gosouthland.org

The Southland Vine

For NOVEMBER 2025

Who we are: A church family where *together* we are equipped to **LIVE OUT** faith in Christ as we **ENCOUNTER** God, **CONNECT** with others, **GROW DEEP** and **BUILD UP** one another.



Thanksgiving BASKETS

We are in the midst of this annual "LIVE OUT" effort at Southland.

We invite you to join us in as we strive to bless families in need, especially during this Thanksgiving season.

See Rick's article (p. 6) and the "LIVE OUT" section (page 16) for more details about how you can help through your donations.

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We plan to publish the next edition of *The Vine* in late November.

Happy
THANKSGIVING

Give thanks
TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD:
HIS LOVE ENDURES
forever
PSALM 107:1

Southland "FAMILY" News

A brief look back to the month of October:

Overall, there was a lot that happened within the Southland family during the month of October with these particularly noteworthy items:

1. On Sunday, October 5, we hosted the Lalls from Central India Christian Mission. It had been years since they were with us, and what a blessing it was to have them back again! It was a great opportunity for our perspective to be broadened re: God's GLOBAL mission, specifically through the work of CICM. See page 17 for details about being added to their list for e-mail updates.
2. On Tuesday, October 21, we enjoyed a time of worship outside around a fire. Thanks to Kendall for putting this time together and for those who participated!
3. Finally, on Sunday October 26, we gathered for our annual "Fall Family Fun" event - another great opportunity to enjoy time as a church family. Even with the wet, dreary weather, lots of fun was had. Of course, a highlight of the evening was eating delicious soups and chilis - a fantastic meal, yet again! Throughout it all, good connections were made and conversations were had. It's a big part of what such a night is designed to do: to enhance our sense of together-ness as a church FAMILY. Without a doubt, this night - as it always does - accomplished that goal! It's why we value such gatherings.



Some Upcoming Events in the Life of the Southland Family:

Throughout this edition of "The Vine," we continue to share about some key upcoming events in the life of Southland - some for the whole Southland family and others within our ministries for specific groups. While there is much more information on the next pages, we want to make sure we especially highlight the broader FAMILY-wide impacts here in one spot:

Our next "First Sunday CONNECTION" - Sunday, 11/2

When the calendar permits, we host these times (on "first Sundays" of the month) for the Southland FAMILY simply to make connections with others - to bolster existing relationships and/or perhaps to establish new ones. We offer simple breakfast items and coffee, but otherwise, there's nothing else we do besides providing the basic context. We have regular 9:15am Connect Groups for adults/\$.S. classes for kids and youth on these days, just dismissed earlier than normal. If you're not typically here with us in that time, we encourage you to join us on these days at 10am anyway. In the end, we're looking forward to the ways God uses such a time to help us CONNECT with others. *Kids up through 5th grade will have their own time in Rooms 1 and 2 (nursery-age kids will remain there during this time).*



Sunday AM, November 16 - a MOVE Fundraiser

The youth will be selling cinnamon rolls as a fundraiser for next year's trip to the "MOVE" Conference. These will be available for purchase throughout the morning to help with the costs of attending. See page 11 for more details.





THANKSGIVING Baskets

As we make our way toward the Thanksgiving season, we are in this annual project. This effort is a great (and easy!) way for the Southland FAMILY to come together to serve those outside of our church and bless others in this season. We have been communicating details about how you can participate. As always, this includes the opportunity to donate items so that we can build the baskets. *Check out Rick's article (p. 6) and the "LIVE OUT" section (p. 16) for more specifics about this effort.*

December: "A Church FAMILY Christmas"

This is how we package the Christmas season at Southland each December. Just as families have traditions this time of year, so do we as a church FAMILY. It may seem like a long way off, but it will be here soon; we'll share even more as we get closer. For now, see below for some of the bigger ways we'll celebrate. *We're looking forward to another Christmas season together!*



Sunday, December 7 at 5pm - a "Thanks-Mas Family Dinner" ... no, we're not "taking Christ out of Christmas," we use this opportunity to do what families do during the holiday season: they gather for a meal. We value such relaxed times when we can come together with a slower pace and enjoy the company of one another. After all, isn't that the point of such meals in a holiday season? Instead of doing separate meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have a tradition of meeting (somewhat) in the middle for one dinner; hence the name! *We will share more details later on, including what - if anything - we'll be asking you to contribute for the meal.*

Sunday AM, December 14 ... this will again be a special morning. We start with some kind of breakfast for everyone (no normal 9:15am ministry programming) as a time of fellowship. That will be followed by our Children of Praise performance of "Angel Alert" during our normal ENCOUNTER time at 10:30am; it replaces the typical sermon for this one week. Check out page 9 for more on this year's production. It's a great way to put us in the Christmas spirit each year as we allow our young people to remind us of what it's truly all about.

Wednesday, December 24 at 6pm ... after recent years when Christmas was close to a weekend, we don't have to deal with that again in 2025. Still, as is our custom, we'll gather as a church family with guests for our candlelight service on Christmas Eve - a Wednesday, this year.

Beyond these church-wide events, there is more happening in December within individual ministries as well. See page 5; we'll also be sharing more in the next edition of "The Vine."

Some Technology Tools for the Southland Family



CHURCH CENTER by Planning Center ... This tool provides an online directory that those who have signed-up can access through a secure log-in and password (<https://people.planningcenteronline.com/>). This is also an app - "Church Center." It's a great tool for us to maintain connections with others in the Southland family. It also allows each individual person with access to manage their own contact information as that needs to be updated. We also use the e-mail platform within the "PEOPLE" portion - for sharing both general information and prayer requests. Let us know if you're not receiving these.

FACEBOOK, including “The Southland Scoop” ... We have a general Facebook page that is public/visible for sharing some basic information about us more broadly (e.g. this is what we use for putting out our weekly live stream as well - see page 13 for more on that). *We also have a page called “The Southland Scoop.”* We use this more “internal” page to share church family-related information: pictures from recent events, reminders, announcements, updates, etc. If you’re on Facebook and not a part of “The Scoop” already, we encourage you to find it and get connected with us in this way.



OTHER GENERAL REMINDERS & INFO



TITHE.LY

We use an online platform called “Tithe.ly” as a giving option. It can be accessed at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1302996> or through the app. Either way, you can find a page designed for Southland where you can give. In addition to regular giving, this can be used for other purposes like payment of fees. Especially when using this platform to make such a payment, we do ask that you cover any charges. *There is certainly no requirement to use this tool, but we are grateful to have it available for those who choose to use it.*

FINANCIAL UPDATE ... For October 2025

We provide this basic info to keep you updated about what's happening with giving at Southland. In each edition of “The Vine,” we share a monthly snapshot with a ministry year total as well.

INCOME: October monthly tithe = \$36,356⁰⁰ (4 Sundays) Average weekly tithe = \$9,089⁰⁰

Two months into this fiscal/ministry year-to-date (September 2025 onward), our tithe is \$67,920 for an average of a little over \$8,490 ... at this point, this projects to around \$450,000 annually.

We did finish the last ministry year in good spot overall, including some layers of reserve (*again, thank you for your ongoing faithful giving to Southland!*). At the same time, our budgeted tithe need does increase a bit so that we need in the \$480,000 range. We’re off to a good start for this ministry year. Even still, we continue to encourage you to keep pressing on in your financial participation with our ministry - as 2 Corinthians 8 puts it, “to excel in this grace of giving.”

Regardless, leadership works to manage where we are overall with wise stewardship - balancing our responsibility to be realistic while still prioritizing effective ministry and necessary expenses that arise along the way ... of course, with appropriate faith in His provision factored-in as well!

Weekly ministry happenings - Southland FAMILY-wide:

Sunday mornings at 9:15am ... ministry programming for all ages including regular **CONNECT** Groups for adults - Sunday School classes for all kids and youth as well. See pages 13-14 for more specifics (*meeting as normal in throughout November with a “First Sunday CONNECTION” on 11/2*).



Sunday mornings at 10:30am ... our **ENCOUNTER** service - the time when we gather as a church FAMILY to meet with God; you can join us “in person” or online via the live stream. See page 13 for more information.

Sunday evenings (normally 6-8pm) ... Group Huddle for middle school and high school youth (see pp. 10-11). *This is meeting each Sunday during November, except for Thanksgiving weekend at the end of the month (11/30).*



Wednesday evening CULTIVATE, a “GROW DEEP” ministry ... 5:30 for dinner, 6:30 for ministry programming each week, including D-Groups. See page 14 for more details; *this semester ends on Wednesday, November 19.*



Thursday mornings (10am start time) ... WSA - Ladies' Bible Study (see p. 12) - *for now, WSA is operating as a D-Group, just on Thursdays; this semester ends on 11/20.*

Specific Events to Highlight (listed by date):

We try to consolidate into one list the dates you need to be aware of for the weeks ahead.

In NOVEMBER ... during this stretch of time, we invite you to join us in our annual “Thanksgiving baskets” effort (see pp. 6 and 16).

Sunday, November 2 ... “Daylight Savings Time” ends for 2025. Make sure to set your clocks *back an hour* Saturday into Sunday (“Fall Back!”).

Sunday, November 2 ... our next “First Sunday CONNECTION” at 10am (9:15am groups/classes still meet, just with an earlier end time) - see page 2.

Sunday, November 2 ... we are again participating in the annual “International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church” (see p. 17).

Saturday, November 8 ... a kids’ event - a trip to Incredible Pizza; see page 9 for details about this event.

Tuesday, November 11 ... Veterans Day. We are grateful for the many within the SCC family who have served our country in this capacity as well as families of those who have served!

Sunday, November 16 ... *the last Sunday to bring donations for our Thanksgiving Baskets.*

Sunday, November 16 ... cinnamon rolls sold in the morning as a fundraiser for our youth group’s trip to the MOVE Conference - see page 11 for more details.

Wednesday, November 19 & Thursday, November 20 ... last CULTIVATE/WSA for the semester.

Sunday, November 23 at noon ... next meeting for “Open Hearts, Open Homes.”

Thursday, November 27 ... “Happy Thanksgiving!”

Sunday, November 30 ... no Group Huddle on this day.

Wednesdays, December 3 and December 10 ... Children of Praise practice is still happening even though CULTIVATE is not meeting more broadly (see p. 9).

Sunday, December 7 ... our annual “Thanks-Mas Church FAMILY Dinner” at 5pm (see p. 3).

Thursday, December 11 @ 6pm ... Southland Women’s annual Christmas Party; see page 12 for information.

Saturday, December 13 ... Children of Praise dress rehearsal in the morning from 9-11am.

Sunday, December 14 ... a special morning that includes a FAMILY breakfast and our 2025 Children of Praise production of “Angel Alert” (see p. 3 for broader plans for this morning).

Wednesday, December 24 ... our annual Christmas Eve service at 6pm.

What MATTERS to me ...

Even when we spend several weeks in a particular book of God's Word like we have been in our Colossians series, I still find myself feeling like I've only scratched the surface. I know, hard to believe, right?! But, seriously, we've spent all of this time in Colossians, paying close attention to what Paul writes in the various sections. We've landed on some major themes: Jesus' place of supremacy/sufficiency, what He alone has done to bring salvation, guarding against efforts to add superfluous supplements to Jesus, a new perspective that flows out of our new reality, the ongoing "new life" we're called to live out in Him, holiness and even what it looks like in our earthly relationships. What could we have missed?!

I'm glad you asked! It's not so much what we've missed; rather, it's what we just haven't had enough time necessarily to highlight. So, fittingly for the month of November, we'll address it here: **GIVING THANKS**. Like a thread woven throughout a fabric, Paul regularly comes back to this word of response in this letter:

- It's his own expression of gratitude to God, the Father, for the Colossian believers (1:2).
- It's a characteristic of a worthy life that pleases the Lord, giving thanks that He has qualified us to share in His inheritance because Jesus has rescued and redeemed us (1:12-14).
- It's what overflows from our hearts as we continue in Jesus as "Lord," our lives rooted and built up in Him as our faith grows strong in His Truth - this spiritual reflex of thanksgiving (2:6-7)!
- It's what we express from the heart as we worship and encourage one another in community (3:16-17).
- Along with alertness, it's what characterizes a life of prayer (4:2).

For such a short book, the theme appears quite a bit! None of that should be too surprising given the prominent place **THANKSGIVING** has throughout God's Word. It's not just a once-a-year call to count our material and earthly blessings ... as important as that may be. Rather, it's an ongoing heart posture of response. We recognize the privilege of belonging to our Heavenly Father through Christ - because of His grace - and the spiritual goodness that comes as a result for this earthly life as well as into eternity. And so, we give thanks!

November is a good time for us to be reminded that such a heart attitude and external expressions of gratitude are most appropriate from us - part of our all-the-time faith response. Even beyond all our Father has done as our Creator, in and through Christ, He has brought about something new in us, a new reality that has led to this new life. Indeed, at the foundation of it all are the gracious blessings He's poured out upon us. When we give thanks, we are remembering to respond properly to that. Even more, we are reminding our own hearts of what truly matters most - all that we have because of Christ in us! So many reasons for thanksgiving.

Math

A note from RICK ...

Hi, Southland Family!

We have a few upcoming opportunities I wanted to make sure that you're aware of.

First, it's hard to believe that we're in November already, but here we are. And with that means thinking ahead to the holidays. This Thanksgiving, we are once again providing dinner baskets for several local families - this year, specifically in partnership with both the Ozark and Republic school districts. You've noticed a table in the auditorium with cards listing specific items (anything from cans of cranberry sauce, to cash or gift cards towards the purchase of turkeys). When you see those cards, feel free to take as many as you'd like and purchase the items. Then, **bring them and set them on that same table by November 16**. We are packing around 30 meals, so your help via these donations is vital!



Additionally, we've been partnering with **Christian Campus House** for the past two semesters to provide meals they offer as a ministry to international students on campus (*we've been covering two meals each semester*). We have a blast bringing the meal, and then, visiting with the students and hearing about their cultures. We're done for the Fall, but will do a couple more in the Spring semester, so be on the lookout for an opportunity to jump in if you'd like!

Another opportunity to be aware of is a return mission trip to Anapra, Mexico - next summer during the week of **July 18-25**. We will again partner with *Casas Por Cristo* to  **Casas por Cristo** build a home for a family in the area. We will have the opportunity to work and sweat together as we love a family and, most likely, a few neighborhood kids as well. This trip is a week of work, but I always come back refreshed in the heart. You should come☺! No building experience is required to join the trip; our Casas rep teaches us as we go. You just need a willing heart, readiness to learn and the ability to swing a hammer. Of course, if you do have building experience, that's a nice bonus. Mark your calendar with the dates; we will hold a brief informational meeting on January 18, 2026 following morning worship to give more info and answer any questions. The exact cost for the trip is still to be determined, but plan on the \$350-400 range. We will have between 13-17 slots available. (*By the way, check out the pictures below - taken on our trip with Casas in 2024.*)



I love serving with you Southland! Keep building the Kingdom!

SOUTHLAND Kids

CHECK-IN Process for our Kids' Ministries



We use a check-in process on Sunday mornings for those who are participating in our ministries for kids (birth through 5th grade).

This is for those coming for the first time - it takes a little longer to provide some basic registration information - and for regulars.

REMINDER: We use this process for both time slots on Sundays so please check your kids in when you first arrive.

Sunday School Classes for kids (9:15am on Sundays)

We have kids' Sunday School classes as part of our regular weekly schedule. In addition to nursery for our youngest ones, we have classes for all ages of kids. *Classes are meeting as normal throughout November (kids even have their own connecting time at 10am on 11/2).*

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Kids' Programming during ENCOUNTER (10:30am on Sundays)

Here's what happens for kids 5th grade and younger during this time slot.

Nursery, "Wee Kid ENCOUNTER" (for 2-&-3 year-olds) and "Li'l Kid ENCOUNTER" (kids up through Kindergarten/1st grade - those in 1st grade have the option: here or in "Kid ENCOUNTER") are all available throughout our ENCOUNTER time.

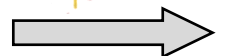
Kid ENCOUNTER (1st through 5th graders) meets during the sermon portion of service. Kids start with their families and then are dismissed at the appropriate time. Kid ENCOUNTER is meeting as normal throughout November.



Kid ENCOUNTER uses material from **Answers in Genesis**. Each Sunday, students dive-in to God's Word, put Scripture in their hearts and learn how it applies to their everyday lives. This includes a memory verse each week as well. As is typical for AIG, there is even an "apologetics" emphasis attached to the content. During November, the lessons focus on Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus as well as some Thanksgiving focus.

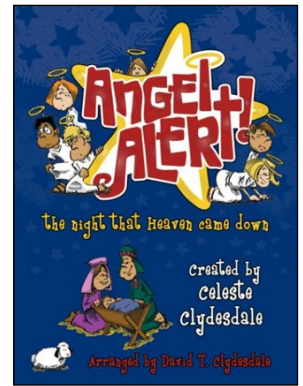
FALL 2025 Wednesday evening CULTIVATE for Kids

During the Fall Cultivate session, our kids ages 4 through 6th grade participate in "Children of Praise." They spend their time on Wednesday evenings rehearsing songs, practicing drama and more, all in preparation for their annual Christmas performance (it's set for Sunday, December 14 during our 10:30am ENCOUNTER time). *We are also making available some time on Sunday mornings - the last portion of our Sunday School class time - for kids to learn some of the songs then as well so they can be involved. See the top of the next page for C.O.P. details.*



This year's program is called "Angel Alert!" It's the story of God's messengers waiting to be told when they could go to earth to make the grand announcement re: the Savior's birth. Along the way, these angels review God's faithfulness as they anticipate His promises and prophecies coming true. It's all part of celebrating His love being shown through the coming of the Messiah.

On Wednesdays, December 3 and 10, we'll have additional practices from 6:15-8:30pm (even though other parts of CULTIVATE are done). Dress rehearsal is Saturday, 12/13 from 9-11am; then, the program is during our 10:30am ENCOUNTER time on Sunday, 12/14.



An Upcoming Kids' Event: a fun trip to Incredible Pizza



Saturday, November 8 - meet at Southland at 11:30am; we'll return there at 3:30pm

(We're planning to be there from noon-3pm.)

For kids age 4 through 5th grade
Cost is \$20 - includes lunch (buffet and drink), a game card worth \$20 and 2 "attractions" ...
the cost is \$10 for just the meal alone

We'll load-up in a church van (or two, if necessary) and head to Incredible Pizza for lunch and time together having fun. Please sign-up at the check-in counter by 11/2.

As always, parents are certainly welcome to come along for this event.

An Upcoming Event for kids 4th through 6th grades:

C.I.Y. "Super Start" in Tulsa, OK - January 30-31, 2026



This event is earlier in 2026 (typically, it's in March). As a result, we've already had to submit registrations - for both kids and parents who are interested in going as sponsors. *If you've missed that deadline in late October, please talk to Jessica ASAP.*

We'll share more details in the next edition of "The Vine."

LES' LATEST

Each October the youth group takes a trip to the cornfield maze located in Aurora. The funny thing is: we pay money to get lost in a man-created maze. A corn maze is created by cutting a pattern into a field after harvest. Full of twists, turns and dead ends, the goal is to wander around until you find your way out. The empty stalks are taller than the average person, so once inside,



you're pretty much like a rat in a science lab trying to navigate blindly. The maze activities are overseen by "Corn Cops" who ensure that the corn maze isn't disturbed and rules are followed. Most importantly, they are there to come to the aid of people who simply can't find their way out.

Sometimes, the realities of life can feel like we're in a maze. We follow a winding path to another, only to a dead end. Frustration builds and fear sets in. We become convinced that there isn't a way out. We feel stuck! Then, we realize God has provided something similar to the corn cops. I'm referring to friends who are willing to provide help, guidance, advice and prayers. Our corn cops are members of our church family, fellow believers in Jesus. God didn't create us to work alone. In Ecclesiastes 4:10-12, this community is described in this way:

*If either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. **A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.***

Whether we're having trouble navigating the twists and turns of balancing our time or difficulty in handling a particular situation, we need a fresh perspective from others. Humbly turning to the people God has put in our lives provides us with help. Asking for advice doesn't show weakness, but wisdom. Sometimes, God allows us to find the way on our own; many times we need to admit we need help from others.

GROUP HUDDLE NEWS

"GROUP HUDDLE" is a weekly time (6-8pm on Sundays) for middle school and high school students who strive to love Christ and demonstrate His love to others. It offers a place for students to connect and dive into God's Word as they participate in meaningful small groups and fellowship.

GROUP HUDDLE Focus for this semester: "No Other Name"

Upcoming GROUP HUDDLE THEMES:

- Sunday, 11/2** **"Costume Party"** ... Everybody in clever disguises, anticipating exciting prizes.
- Sunday, 11/9** **"Open Season"** ... We have our sights set on a great night of fellowship; make sure to find your camo.
- Sunday, 11/16** **"Group Game Night"** ... This night will feature all the classic large group games; bring your own ice pack!
- Sunday, 11/23** **"Sweater Vibes"** ... 'Tis the season to be tacky!
- Sunday, 11/30** ***No Group Huddle due to the Thanksgiving weekend.***

GROUP HUDDLE MEALS:



Each semester, we ask parents to help defray the expense of feeding several hungry teens at Group Huddle. **We ask parents to send \$25 for each student** (that covers this semester, through December). ***If you haven't done so yet, please do that ASAP.*** You can make checks payable to Southland. *You can also do this through Tithe.ly by choosing the "Group Huddle meals" option ... please also cover the fee for this if you are using this option (see p. 4 for more on using Tithe.ly).*



GROUP HUDDLE and CHILDREN'S MISSIONS:

Each semester, we identify a missionary or mission's organization we can support through the school year. This year, our mission partners are **Andy & Lisa (Husted) Nunn** who are in London - Andy's home country - as part of a broader ministry called "**Discipleship Global.**"

In July, they were here and presented their work to our students. They are currently assisting with a church-plant in London, conducting Bible studies and doing some one-on-one discipleship. They also have the opportunity to share the Gospel in the intermediate schools in London. Each Sunday this semester, our students have the opportunity to pray for our mission partners and give during both "Kid ENCOUNTER" and Group Huddle Bible Study. **As of the end-of-October (just two months in), we have raised nearly \$350 - keep up the good work!**



FOR MS/HS STUDENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL (starts at 9:15am on Sunday mornings): We have separate Sunday School classes for our MS and HS youth. *Both have moved to the Gathering Room (off of the Great Room; that room has a middle divider for when the classes meet separately).*

Sunday School classes are meeting as normal during the month of November; *students are joining-in on the "First Sunday CONNECTION" on 11/2 at 10am.*

Wednesday Evening CULTIVATE - for 7th graders through high schoolers (meets from 6:30-7:45pm) - Wednesday, 11/19, is the last day for this semester.

FOR SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS



Registration for the 2026 MOVE Conference (graduating classes of '26-'30) has already happened *this* Fall to ensure spots. The dates for the conference - in Lincoln, Nebraska - are July 6-10, 2026. ***At this point, students should have already signed-up to reserve a spot. Let Les know ASAP if your answer has changed.***

NOTE: To get our registration started and spots saved, we have already made the first deposit to C.I.Y. The first pre-registration (\$75) for next year's conference is due Sunday, November 9.

A "MOVE" Fundraiser Opportunity: Due to the ever-increasing cost of the "MOVE" Conference, we have added a fundraising opportunity (beyond the annual yard sale). We have a donor who is purchasing some cinnamon rolls in conjunction with the Clever Christian Church's Fall Bazaar on November 15. **The youth are going to be selling these donated rolls the next morning (11/16)** - as long as they are available. Feel free to buy one before your 9:15am CONNECT Group/Sunday School class (or even more than one to bless your whole group), in-between that time and our 10:30am ENCOUNTER or, if they're still available, after church to take home with you. ***We are grateful for this donation and the opportunity to help support our students' trip to "MOVE!"***



Southland Women

A Women's Ministry Event: Our Annual Christmas Party

Thursday, December 11
from 6-8:30pm

Each year, this event provides an opportunity for ladies connected to Southland to slow down and enjoy being together - celebrating the season amidst the hustle and bustle.

Dinner is soup and fixings with gingerbread and sugar cookies.

We're asking everyone to bring a \$5-10 gift for a gift exchange.

Childcare is available (*contact Kristie beforehand if you need this*).



Please mark the date on your calendar. We hope you join us to celebrate the sweetness of Christmas and the joy of Christ's birth with other in the Southland family!



We're most of the way through this semester of WSA. This ministry is an opportunity for women of all ages and life stages to spend time studying God's Word together while forming bonds with sisters in Christ (designed for "CONNECTING" and/or "GROWING DEEP").

**WSA meets at 10am in Room #6 - finishing around noon each week;
see the note below for details about the content for this session of WSA.**

During this WSA semester, *we've been using our weekly WSA time as an additional D-Group opportunity.* Among other benefits, this provides an opportunity for those who are unable to be involved on Wednesday nights ... perhaps even because they're serving elsewhere. We'll be wrapping-up this semester the week before Thanksgiving, so, the last WSA for 2025 will be on Thursday, November 20 (as Wednesday, November 19 is the last evening of CULTIVATE).

One of our sub-ministries within the women's ministry is a "Meal Team Ministry." It's a church-wide way that the Southland family can bless someone at a poignant time of life. **We are still in need of more people to serve as part of these teams.** If you want to be a part of one of these meal teams, please use one of the blue "BUILD UP" cards in the foyer and write "meal team" on it.





WEEKLY ENCOUNTER

... a time to gather in God's presence together.

Our Upcoming ENCOUNTER Calendar (especially re: our preaching)

Here's what's coming as we move into November and toward the end-of-2025:

November 2 ... two areas of focus for this day: (1) we'll again be recognizing and participating in the "International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church" (see p. 17 for more about this annual day) and then, (2) we'll be wrapping-up our Fall series through Paul's letter to the COLOSSIANS.

November 9, 16 and 23 ... Rick is preaching - a mini-series (theme to be announced).

November 30 into December ... well transition into our annual Christmas focus.

December 14 ... overall, this is a special day on our calendar (see p. 3 for more on the morning): our Children of Praise production - called "Angel Alert" - with a devotional focus into the Lord's Supper.

*Even if and when it's not our typical approach on a Sunday morning,
we look forward to what will be unfolding as we ENCOUNTER our Father in these ways!*



We continue to offer a LIVE STREAM of our worship service through Facebook LIVE. *You can access it directly from our website itself:* <http://gosouthland.org/watch-online> *or through our general/public Southland Facebook page.* Even

though this format is not as ideal as "in-person" participation - the much better way of joining us for our weekly ENCOUNTER - we do value this online option as an alternative. Whatever the reason you are not able to be present with us in-person, you can still stay connected to your church family in this way.

Facebook is no longer archiving past videos as it used to. So, if you're looking for past services, you can now access them on YouTube - find us there through a search for "Southland Christian Church" (clarify Springfield, MO) or at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@southlandcc/streams>.

If you missed a week and want to catch-up, they are accessible at this location.

The well-known BIBLE app (a.k.a. "YouVersion") is a great app for accessing God's Word electronically. There's also a feature within the app that we use during our ENCOUNTER time. It is simply called "EVENTS." It's a great way to follow along with the sermon and even take electronic notes. Please ask if you need help finding and/or using the app.



YouVersion

CONNECT GROUPS

... a place to discover Christian community.



One of our priorities here at Southland is to provide a context where relational *family-like connections* can develop. Because it's a prominent theme in the New Testament, we emphasize it within our process



statement as a key way we can grow and be equipped in faith. That's a big part of what our CONNECT Groups are about - a small group relational setting for reflecting on God's Word and praying together.

At this point, our "regular" Connect Groups are meeting at 9:15am on Sundays (note: we also have Sunday School classes for all ages of kids/youth during this time). There's a half-sheet flyer at the Welcome Center listing our current groups. With the one that was added in September, we have good coverage across the various life stages/demographics:

- ♦ a group for college-age students (in Room #5)
- ♦ a group for young adults, entering the career stage (in the Fellowship Hall)
- ♦ a group generally made-up of those with young families (in Room #7)
- ♦ a group generally for those with older kids, even out-of-the-house by now (in the Great Room) ...
- ♦ a group generally for those who are in the retirement stage of life (in Room #6).

Please don't hesitate to ask if you need help deciding which group is best for you; we'd love to help you find a place to get connected with others!

Connect Groups are meeting each week during November (see below re: 11/2) and on December 7.

A "First Sunday CONNECTION" at 10am on Sunday, November 2

As highlighted on page 2, we are hosting this time for church-wide connection over breakfast items and coffee. Groups will be dismissed early on that day and we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall/foyer area for this informal time. Even if you're not normally a part of a group, we invite you to join us!



GROW DEEP MINISTRIES

... an opportunity to plant deep roots in Jesus and God's Word.



Wednesday evening CULTIVATE - our Fall 2025 session ends November 19

As is our custom with CULTIVATE, we wrap-up our Fall semester *the Wednesday before Thanksgiving week*. At that point, our D-Groups will have made it through the rest of our journey in the book of Acts. That's been our focus for this Fall semester. Luke writes the story of what continued even after Jesus' physical departure from earth at His ascension - what He carried on through the Holy Spirit as His representative/agent and the Church as His Body. Each week, we provide a guide to supplement reading through the text. *These can be accessed throughout the semester at the display in the foyer or electronically: <https://gosouthland.org/ministries/cultivate>.*

As a reminder of the basic timing, a meal is served from 5:30-6:15 each week (the cost is again \$4/person with a max of \$15/family) and then ministry programming *for all ages* from 6:30-7:45.

From there, we'll take a break throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, before resuming in early January (we'll share that specific date later on). As we move toward that point, we'll communicate more specific plans for the Winter/Spring semester. Even if you haven't been able to join us this Fall, that re-launch will be a great opportunity to get involved on Wednesday evenings.



OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD UP

... a way to serve others and even help ourselves grow.

This section of the Vine provides a central place for you to be informed about how to become active in service at Southland. One of our major priorities is to be a place where God's people BUILD UP one another. In fact, according to Ephesians 4:16, the overall health of the church (the Body) depends upon each part doing its "own special work." Through our acts of service, God uses us to help others grow. At the same time, here's what is beautiful about God's design: what we do for the benefit of others even has benefits for our own growth as followers of Jesus.

Opportunities to Serve & "BUILD UP" the Body

Just like any FAMILY, we function as we do *because of the willing-hearted volunteers* who choose to embrace opportunities to BUILD UP others through serving. As we move further into a new ministry year, there are several areas in which we regularly need volunteers.

At the Welcome Center, there are blue flyers identifying various areas in which we need volunteers. There are also blue "BUILD UP" cards that you can fill out and leave in one of the offering boxes (or give to a staff member) to let us know you want to get plugged-in to serving; we'll get in touch with you from there.

Back on October 26, we hosted our 2025 "Fall Family Fun" event. It's impossible to list *all* of those who helped in various ways throughout the evening.



Some stuck around after service on Sunday morning to help get the auditorium set-up - a special thanks to **the Geggs** and **the Swadleys** for specifically helping in this way (as well as any others we might have missed).

To the Smiths for providing the hay bales for both this event and the 10/21 outdoor worship night.

There are many who helped with kids' activities - monitoring inflatables (provided by Jump Mania) or helping with kids crafts, temporary tattoos, etc.

We had good help getting the meal ready - in addition, of course, to those who brought chili or soup - and cleaning-up afterwards; **thanks to Kristie for leading this charge!**

As much as staff does (*and that is a lot for such an event - with a special shout out to spouses and kids of staff who regularly pitch-in!*), there are so many others who volunteer and serve to make events such as this happen. We couldn't do it without you!

NOTE: We usually try to keep a better list of names to identify those who served at such an event, but we didn't get that done this year ... our apologies for not being more specific.

A **"THANK YOU"** to those who worked over the past few months cleaning-up the large tree that had fallen in the south lot - specifically, **Bob Wood, Ben Jennings, Rick** as well as **Les and the youth** who worked on a Wednesday evening loading what had been cut-up.

SERVING SCHEDULE for November 2025

	Foyer Hosts (10:15 on, through whole service)	Greeters (at the doors from 10:15-10:40)	Serving Team Leader
11/2	Les & Kristin Londeen	<i>T.B.D.</i> (“First Sunday CONNECTION”)	Mark Miller
11/9	Ben & Debbie Jennings	Room #6 Connect Group	Doug Graves
11/16	Matt & Kristie Martin	Great Room Connect Group	Deckard Family
11/23	Pat & Debbie Little	“Voyage” Connect Group	Les Londeen
11/30	A.J. & Terra Gegg	<i>T.B.D.</i>	Les Londeen

	Nursery workers (all morning)	Wee Kid ENCOUNTER & Li'l Kid ENCOUNTER	Kid ENCOUNTER (1st - 5th grades)
11/2	Lillard Family	<i>Ezri S.</i> Jessica C.	Jessica Y. & Cary S.
11/9	Wilcox Family	<i>Harmony M. & Olivia S.</i> Anna M.	Falconers
11/16	Baadsgaard Family	<i>Sonya S.</i> Debbie H.	Halls
11/23	Graves Family	<i>Jessica Y. & Aiden S.</i> Harmony M. & Aiden S.	Jamie B. & Anna R.
11/30	Harnstrom Family	<i>Talia S.</i> Sandy A. & Becky K.	Les L. & Dylan Y.

LIVE OUT MINISTRIES



*... a path for putting
faith into action.*



Our annual Thanksgiving Baskets effort is happening NOW!

We participate in this project each Thanksgiving season. It's a great way to LIVE OUT faith and bless others during a time when the need seems even greater. See Rick's article (p. 6) for more.

A NOTE about donating items: Cards are available at the display in the auditorium; we ask that you take ones listing the specific items you are willing to purchase and donate (take the same number of cards as you are planning to provide - as few or many as you can according to your ability to help).

We need donations returned to the display area by Sunday, November 16. There is no need to return the cards themselves as the number of cards represents the number of an item we still need to have donated.

NOTE: If you want to participate, but are not able to purchase supplies directly, please feel free to contribute through a donation. You can do that via check (put “Thanksgiving baskets” in the memo line) or by using the Tithe.ly online platform/app (choose the “Thanksgiving baskets” option - see page 4).

To keep you informed about Southland's foreign missions partners, we strive to provide updates when available (now in the hallway across from the nursery entrance). This is really the only way one of our partners can communicate with us. Their location makes any online presence too risky from a security standpoint. We do regularly make their newsletters available as they come in.



There is a website for the “Central India Christian Mission.” Check out www.indiamission.org for more information about some of the global Kingdom work we get to partner with here at Southland. You can also find their Facebook page for ongoing updates.

A NOTE: It was great to have the Lalls with us back in October sharing about the work of CICM. As a follow-up to their visit, we wanted to share with you how you can be added to their e-mail updates. Use this link to do so: <https://www.indiamission.org/aboutcicm> - at the bottom of that page, there is a way for you to subscribe.

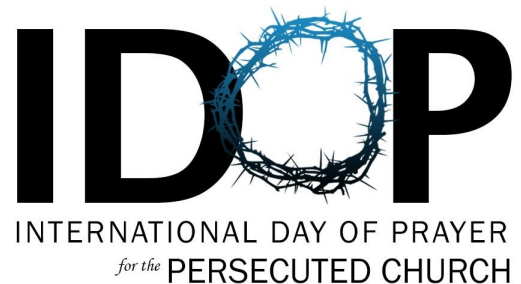
Check out the website for “Life of Hope Ministries” at www.lifeofhope.org. Through our connection with this organization, we are privileged to partner with various ministries on the ground in Guatemala.



A REMINDER: Life of Hope does offer a child sponsorship program; for \$35/month, you can support a child through their work. For more details and/or to sign-up, check out their website (click on the “Child Sponsorship” tab).

Upcoming GLOBAL-Connected Opportunities:

Sunday, November 2 - We'll again be participating in the annual **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**. Many believers in Jesus around the world today “share our faith, but not our freedom” as they face constant and, at times, intense pressure. We participate each year in this special day as *part* of our ENCOUNTER service. It's a time when we raise awareness, but, most importantly, when we pray – expressing our oneness with them as we intercede on their behalf.



Part of what we highlight on that day are some additional resources (available online) that can help spur your awareness of and prayer for the persecuted church. As much as we focus on this one specific day, we want it to be a catalyst for what happens *even beyond it*. Here are some helpful websites to bookmark and consult from time-to-time (you can click directly on the electronic links listed below):

www.opendoorsus.org (Open Doors and “The World Watch List”)

www.persecution.com (“The Voice of the Martyrs”)



A Future Mission Trip: We are already preparing for a return trip to Anapra, Mexico with *Casas por Cristo* in the Summer of 2026 (the dates are July 18-25). On this trip, we will be building another house to bless a family. *See Rick's article for more on this.*

Rick is hosting an informational meeting in January (on 1/18) when he will be sharing more details about the trip as a whole. It's a great way to learn more about this opportunity and ask any questions you might have. *If you are at all interested, we encourage you to attend this time.*

Check out Rick's article on pages 6 and 7 for more details about some of these “LIVE OUT” opportunities.