



Zion Lutheran Church
308 Lambert Street
PO Box 56
Oklee, MN 56742
218-796-5128

Oklee Lutheran Parish

February 2025

Parish Secretary Bonny Cote
bcote@okleelutheran.org
612-840-9401



Salem Lutheran Church
29531 180th St SE
PO Box 56
Oklee, MN 56742

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org



- Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, February 5th** at 7:00 p.m.

- Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, February 11th** at 6:30 p.m.

- The Parish Board meeting will be on

Thursday, March 6th or 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Please attend your meetings!
It is important to be there to support your church & community.



February 2:

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

February 9:

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 16:

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

February 23:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2: Landon Klasen
Walker Vettleson
7: Ashley Halverson
8: Kaye Munt
10: Ezra Fore
12: Decklynn Garthus
15: Noah Hanson
Randy Klasen
16: Lee Knutson
Matthew Anderson
Nancy Gunderson
22: Toni Johnson
25: Ross Hegge
28: Jesse Sherman

Anniversaries

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary, contact Bonny Cote at 218-796-4688 or email: bcote@okleelutheran.org



Salem Ushers List

Sun. February 2:	Leif Kolstoe
Sun. February 9:	Alice Hofstad
Sun. February 16:	Joint with Zion
Sun. February 23:	Ron Hegge

Zion Ushers List

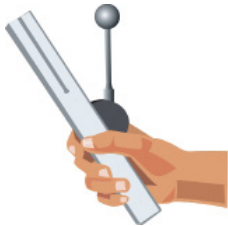
Sun. February 2:	Confirmation Kids
Sun. February 9:	Confirmation Kids
Sun. February 16:	Confirmation Kids
Sun. February 23:	Confirmation Kids

*** Remember, if you are not able to usher the date you are assigned, it is your responsibility to find your replacement.***

~ Parish News ~



Irene Rosten passed away peacefully on December 31, 2024.



Chime choir practice
Wednesday evenings at 6:00PM
If you are interested in chime choir please call Patty Mickelson at 218-280-5696, or simply show up at Zion on Wednesday at 6:00PM!!



Current leaders have stepped down effective Jan 1, 2025. If interested in serving as Youth Group leaders, please reach out to the Parish Board.

okleelutheran.org

It works on your phone or computer web browser. Our website is updated every Sunday night. Check on Mondays for new announcements.

We encourage you to sign-up on our website for emails. Stay informed about upcoming events and special posts to our website. Go to the bottom of any page and look for Subscribe to our emails. Complete the form. We promise no more than 3 emails a month will be sent.

There are links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m

Salem Working on a History Book Need Family Histories

Salem family history deadline extended to January 15th. There is a form that can be downloaded from our website that gives you some ideas of what to include.

At the 2023 Salem annual meeting, July 13, 2025, was set as a date to celebrate Salem's 130th anniversary since the 125th anniversary fell during covid. As part of the celebration we will be putting together a new history book. We'd like to include a section on family histories in the book. Some possible things to include in your family history are the family members, marriage year, parents, children, grandchildren, occupations, family connection to Salem, anything you'd like to share about your family for future generations. Please include a picture or two. Articles and photos may be emailed to Alice Hofstad at alicehofstad@okleelutheran.org.

Senior LinkAge Program

Senior LinkAge Line is a program designed to connect you to the services you need. Transportation, Housing, Home Health Care, Housekeeping (Chore) Help, Hospice, Home Delivered Meals, Snow/Lawn Care, Minor Home Repairs, Senior Drug Program, Senior Assisted Living. Call 1-800-333-2433 –Call us! It's free!!

Severe Weather Contact System

The system will use your cell number if it was provided or else we will use home number on record in directory. It works best with cell phone numbers because if you have Garden Valley's option (press 8) it won't go through.

Also have noticed some numbers need to be updated.

Please text your name to Bonny at 612.840.9401 to add cell information to the system.

This service will also be used for meeting notices and church service cancellations or other urgent situations.





JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Salem Sunday School is held at 9:00 AM
Zion Sunday School is held at 10:00AM.

Salem Sunday School Page - <https://www.facebook.com/Salem16vbs/>



Zion Sunday School Page - <https://www.facebook.com/Zion-Lutheran-Church-Sunday-School-102359373581873/>

Oklee Lutheran Parish - <https://www.facebook.com/okleeparish/>



Zion Confirmation students continued their many stages of life field trips with a tour of Digi-Key. Avery, Taylor, Parker & Easton.



2025 Zion Altar Schedule

January: Jami Hendrickson
February: Marcella Melby/Kari Hamm
March: Bonny Cote
April: Liz Follmann
May: Cheryl O'Neill
June: Ashley Halvorson/
Nancy Gunderson
July: VACANT-need new person
August: Ione Nelson/Amanda Nelson
September: Kaye Munt
October: Sheryl Fore/Jo Ann Lerohl
November: Diane Hanson
December: Patty Mickelson

2025 Salem Altar Schedule

January - Pam Vettleson
February - Toni Johnson
March - Jenny O'Neill
April - Cindy Rystad
May - Jordan Larson
June - Irene Rosten & Sandra Tougas
July - vacant - will let you know





Greetings from Inter-County Community Council (ICCC), your local Community Action Agency



This month I wanted to share some information that we learned about through a meeting on mental health, as well as offer some resources that might help.

Did you know that 1 in 5 adults will experience mental illness every year. The topic of mental health, often brings a stigma tied to it. This stigma can make it difficult for those struggling to reach out for help. Offering a hand, or an ear to listen with compassion to those struggling can go a long way.

Improving your mental health can come in many different forms. Taking a short break, going for a walk, and ensuring you are getting enough sleep are small things that you can do that may help to improve your mental health. Reaching out to others, and connecting with friends, family and community about your struggles can help build a support network of people that can help you in difficult times.

A mental health crisis can be scary to deal with. Fortunately, there are several supports available:

Spread kindness to others, one small act at a time.

Kindness is a powerful way to connect with others and boost your mood. A simple act of kindness can go a long way.

- Send a "thinking of you" message to a friend or family member
- Smile at people as you pass by
- Ask someone about their day
- Give a stranger a compliment
- Be kind to you. Treat yourself to something you enjoy

Take a 5-minute vacation.

Press "pause" and just be in the moment.

When life gets busy, or your thoughts are racing, stop. Press "pause" and take 5 minutes to slow down and just be in the moment.

This 5-4-3-2-1 'in the moment' technique can help to refocus your mind and calm your body:

Name **5** things you can see
Notice **4** things you can touch
Name **3** things you can hear
Identify **2** things you can smell
Notice **1** thing you can taste

Connect with Others

- **988** National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – Call or text **988**. Available 24/7
- Veteran Crisis line – Call **988** and press 1, or text **838-255**
- National Crisis text Line – **741-741**
- Minnesota Farm & Rural helpline **1-833-600-2670**
- The Trevor Project (LGBTQ+) Call 1-866-488-7386

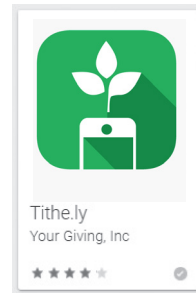
Additional crisis supports can be found at: <https://makeitok.org/>

Thank you for the opportunity to share space in your newsletter. To learn more about ICCC you can visit www.intercountyycc.org or call me directly at 218-796-5144 ext 1027.

Yours in action- Catherine Johnson, Executive Director.

Update: You now have six choices to choose from to make your donation:

- Oklee Lutheran Parish
- Parish Youth Group
- Zion Church
- Salem Church
- Zion Cemetery
- Salem Cemetery



Please continue to be generous in your support!

Use the Tithe.ly app

The Link is on our website:
okleelutheran.org

or
Try our QR Code

Thank You!!



Time, Talents & Treasure

During this time of transistion, remember that without a permanent leader, it is important for others to step up and do what needs to be done. The SAM and Pastors we have been hiring do not know all the stuff that needs to be done at our individual churches and how we have done events in the past. Please step up and use your time and talents to keep everything running smoothly and know that you all are a treasure!

Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

Please consider taking and sharing pictures of special services and events.



Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be with you and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV



First Communion

Our 1st communion class at Salem made (and sampled) the unleavened bread for their 1st communion celebration next Sunday! Thank you Marijo for your guidance with holy communion!

**Salem Lutheran Church
Sunday School**

November 3, 2024

It was a special day at Salem today. Not only was it All Saints' Day but we celebrated First Communion for our 5th graders! Congratulations Easton, Braylee, Claire and Avaeya!



PUZZLE



A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O W B C E O 3 E E

J E O O 3 E' U N O J Q U O W

B C E O N C U O E J E O O

N C U O B C E O N U E N O W

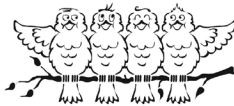
J E O O 3 U F O

N U E N O W U N O

B C E O 3 E O

F O 3 E O ”

RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
N	S		P	M



Follow Oklee Lutheran Parish on
FACEBOOK & YouTube

Worship Services are available at 10 AM on
our Oklee Lutheran Parish
FACEBOOK page and YouTube channel and
on GVTEL Channel 35 at 10 p.m. on Wednesday
and repeated the following Sunday.

Parish Minutes & Financials

Parish Board meeting

January 9, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: David Hofstad, Josh Vettleson, Cheryl O'Neill and Gin Berns. Secretary/Treasurer Bonny Cote

Cheryl called the meeting to order. The minutes from the last meeting were read. A motion by David, seconded by Josh, all in favor, carried.

Financial report was given by Bonny and approved with a motion by Josh, seconded by Gin.

Bonny presented the Annual meeting report. The board looked through the report, changes were noted. Bonny will make the changes and then print the report for the annual meetings. Gin made the motion to approve, David seconded it. Carried.

New Business:

Bonny had received a email from Shannon Moen in December stating that Shannon, Robin Morinville and Amanda Nelson were resigning from the Youth Group. So Bonny after the first of the year, when to the bank with the email and had them removed from the Youth Group accounts and the Debit Card discontinued.

The Board had received an email from Father Bryan Kajawa from St. Francis. He wanted to talk to our board and try to get more community minded. Cheryl met with Father and they had a nice talk about how to grow our community and fellowship of our churches.

Liz Follmann and Alice Hofstad volunteered to preach at their respective churches on the 12th and Bonny requested approval to offer them a check for \$100 each for their service to the church as a thank you! Josh made a motion to do that and Gin seconded it.

Talked about confirmation: Are the churches going to work together for a banquet or is it going to be separate. Zion would like them to be together as in the past. Parish normally pays for the banquet. Salem is leaning towards doing their own. Marijo is hoping to be back in April/May. The two confirmation groups need to talk and get this settled.

A discussion about if a full time pastor would be available, would we do a call, and Zion's representatives said that they don't feel they could afford a full time pastor.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:05 p.m.

Banking Summary - Last year

1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024

Category	1/1/2024-12/31/2024
INCOME	
Income	
Joint Service	0.00
Misc	75.00
Tithely	215.72
TOTAL Misc	290.72
Salem	45,949.09
Zion	44,069.36
TOTAL Income	90,309.17
Parsonage Donation	3,600.00
TOTAL INCOME	93,909.17
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Operational	
Auto Expense	2,250.31
Computer Allowance	600.00
Electricity	1,639.00
Heat	1,059.51
Insurance	579.26
Miscellaneous	18.00
Office Supplies	1,416.17
Copier	1,429.32
TOTAL Office Supplies	2,845.49
Postage	302.00
Newsletter	904.87
TOTAL Postage	1,206.87
Repairs	
Parsonage	7,787.87
TOTAL Repairs	7,787.87
Telephone	
Dial My Calls Service	115.00
Telephone Parsonage	375.01
Telephone Zion	909.54
TOTAL Telephone	1,399.55
Water-Garbage	957.66
Work. Comp Insurance	941.00
TOTAL Operational	21,284.52
Program	
Block Party	57.56
Bulletins Etc	1,125.70
Confi-1 Com	395.70
Lent	300.00
Misc.	0.00
Pastor's Contining Ed	75.00
Pulpit Supply	6,975.00
TOTAL Program	8,928.96
Salary	
Pastor	
Annuity	0.00
FICA	1,235.12
Pension-Insur.	7,636.83
Salary	16,145.16
TOTAL Pastor	25,017.11
Secretary	
FICA	357.00
Salary	3,999.96
TOTAL Secretary	4,356.96
TOTAL Salary	29,374.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	59,587.55
OVERALL TOTAL	34,321.62

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Zion Altar</u> Marcella Melby Kari Ham	<u>Salem Altar</u> Toni Johnson	<u>Salem Ushers</u> Feb. 2: Leif K. Feb. 9: Alice H. Feb. 16: Paula C. Feb. 23: Ron H.	<u>Zion Ushers</u> Feb. 2: Conf. Kids Feb. 9: Conf. Kids Feb. 16: Conf. Kids Feb. 23: Conf. Kids			1
2 Groundhog Day 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	3	4	5 Salem WELCA 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Salem Confirmation	6	7	8
9 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday 7:00 p.m. Oklee Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Salem Confirmation	13	14 	15
16 10:30 a.m. Joint Service at Zion No Sunday Schools	17 	18	19 7:00 p.m. Salem Confirmation	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday
23 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	24	25	26 7:00 p.m. Oklee Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Salem Confirmation	27	28	

The Newsletter deadline will be the first Saturday after the 15th of the month.
 Please send your contributions to Bonny by email to bcote@okleelutheran.org.
 Or call or text Bonny at 612-840-9401. Thank you!!

L is patient
L is kind
L does not envy
L does not boast
O is not proud
O is not rude
O is not self-seeking
O is not easily angered
V keeps no record of wrongs
V does not delight in evil
V rejoices with the truth
V always protects
V always trusts
V always hopes
E always perseveres
E never fails

The Lord says:



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

**February 2025
 Newsletter**

Oklee Lutheran Parish
 Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
 PO Box 56
 Oklee, MN 56742

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
 U. S. Postage
 Paid
 Permit # 16
 Oklee, MN 56742