



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

May 2025

Marijo Vik, SAM
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

When most people hear “Easter,” they think of a single Sunday filled with lilies, hymns, and maybe a few chocolate eggs. But in the Church’s liturgical calendar, Easter is far more than just a day—it’s an entire season. In fact, Easter lasts for 50 days!

That’s right—Easter is a season, not just one Sunday, and we are now in the season of Easter, which runs from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. This season is a joyful, ongoing reflection on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and what it means for the world.

In the same way that Lent gives us 40 days to prepare through prayer, fasting, and reflection, Easter gives us 50 days to rejoice, feast, and live in the hope of resurrection.

So why 50 days?

The number 50 has deep roots in scripture and tradition. In the Jewish calendar, Shavuot (or Pentecost) comes 50 days after Passover and celebrates the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended. Ten days after that, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, empowering them to go out and share the good news.

The 50 days of Easter mirror this journey—from the empty tomb to the fire of Pentecost. It’s a season that moves us from awe to action.

How can you live into the Easter season?

You don’t need to keep your Easter decorations up (unless you want to!), but here are plenty of meaningful ways to mark this sacred season:

- Keep celebrating: Consider small acts of joy or gratitude each day.
- Read the resurrection stories: In worship, we will dive into the post-Easter accounts in the Gospels and Acts.
- Share hope: Reach out to someone who could use some encouragement.
- Pray with the season: We will use Easter prayers and songs each Sunday through these 50 days.
- Watch for light: Notice signs of resurrection and new life in your daily routine as spring approaches. The paschal candle will be lit at every service as a sign of the risen Christ.
- Decorate our altar: As blooms appear in our gardens, donations of flowers would bring new life to the sanctuary.

No, Easter isn’t a one-and-done event. Easter is meant to linger. It’s a season that gives us time to let the good news soak in: Christ is risen. Death is defeated. Hope is alive.

We say “Merry Christmas!” but what about Easter? Does it have a greeting? Yes, there is an ancient and universal greeting of celebration for Easter:

Greeting: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Response: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

So, the next time someone says, “Wasn’t Easter last week?” you can smile and say, “Actually, it’s still Easter!”

In Christ, Marijo Vik

~ Parish News ~



Morris Hendrickson
passed away
peacefully on
April 7, 2025.



Kenneth Sorenson
passed away
peacefully on
April 11, 2025.
He will be interred
at a later date at
Fort Snelling.



Grey Coal Pendelton was baptized on April 27th at Zion Lutheran Church. Parents are Tammy & John Pendelton. Sponsors were: Katie Jo Pendelton and Lacey Anne Pendelton



May 4:
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 11:
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18:
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25:
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29



• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, May 8th** at 7:00 p.m.

• Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, June 4th** at 7:00 p.m.

• Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, June 10th** at 6:30 p.m.

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

HOME VISITS

Marijo Vik would like to have a visitation schedule for every other Sunday after worship starting May 4th.

Dates in May would be May 4 & 18

Dates for June would be June 8 and June 22.

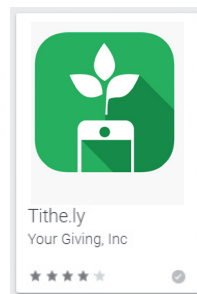
Let's try that for now and see how it goes.

Please call Marijo Vik at 931-203-4106 if you want to schedule a visit from her on the dates listed.

If a family member is calling for a loved one, please let them know what day Marijo is coming to visit.

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!!



Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, **May 7th** at 7:00 p.m. Jenny Linder is the Bible Study Leader and the Hostess at her home. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Please Take Note...

Update: In order to keep the cost of postage down, Oklee Lutheran Parish's Mailing Permit needs 200 people on the list to qualify for the cheaper rate.

So, if you know someone who would like to get the newsletter or should be added to the list for the newsletter, please contact Bonny Cote at 612-840-9401 or email her at bcote@okleelutheran.org to add them on to the list.

Example: your child that has moved away from home or someone has moved to or from the area.



We had a very successful community service event on Thanksgiving. I am so very "thank you" to everyone who helped with the Community Thanksgiving Meal in my way. We served 120 meals, which was an increase from the previous year. This is a wonderful way to serve our community whether it is to families who aren't you to the numerous people who donated food. We want from looking like we would not have enough for the service offering 200 more food items. We want to thank everyone who donated items from the community donated by the parish. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped to in our work. This is an example of how we can all work together to make a difference.

In December we also start a new year liturgically. The church calendar ends in December with us being focused on the return of Christ which leads to the renewal of the world and his reign over. December has the church calendar start with Advent which is a time of waiting and preparation for the arrival of Christ's birth. Another thing to remember is that many of us struggle this time of year that many of us have. Part of the church calendar is acknowledging that many of us struggle this time of year that many of us have. Part of the church calendar is acknowledging that many of us struggle this time of year that many of us have. Part of the church calendar is acknowledging that many of us struggle this time of year that many of us have.

December is also a time of hope and joy for many people who are struggling. Special events, parties, shopping, and a new meaning of all things you need to do. We attend Christmas services and enjoy at 4:00 pm at Oklee Lutheran. We have planned to have our **Wednesday Family Worship** on December 20th and open to anyone who wishes to come.

Other worship services that Christmas Eve fall on a Sunday so we won't have our regular Sunday service. Christmas Eve service at 5:00 AM at Salem has been moved to 4:00 PM at Salem and 9:00 AM at Salem. We will also have a service coming from the world.

This service is a time for blessings to your family. May you be surrounded by love and laughter. May you have good health and feel the peace of the Lord. Go forward in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ, Pastor Linda



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



2025 Zion Altar Schedule

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

May - Jordan Larson
 June - Sandra Tougas
 July - Toni Johnson



**** UPDATED ****

Follow Oklee Lutheran Parish on
FACEBOOK & YouTube
 The Worship Service airs on Channel 35
 on Wednesdays at 1 pm
 and Sunday at 10 a.m.
 Facebook and YouTube are first
 available at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays.



Salem Ushers List

Sun. May 4:	Lisa Kolstoe
Sun. May 11:	Erica Motteberg
Sun. May 18:	Josh Vettleson
Sun. May 25:	David Hofstad

Zion Ushers List

Sun. May 4:	Sarah Jo Lee
Sun. May 11:	Jami Hendrickson
Sun. May 18:	Sarah Beth Lee
Sun. May 25:	John Pendelton

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

MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2: Tyler Parsley
Chad Parsley
3: Sydney Melby
5: Kari Hamm
7: Marshall Mickelson
8: Cheryl O'Neill
10: Gunner Anderson
Jaylee Parsley
12: Cindy Erickson
18: Cassandra Leseman
31: Marin Peterson

Anniversaries

2: Pam & Jared Vettleson
28: Ione & Norman Nelson

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



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!

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.

Confirmation & Graduation News

Salem will host a reception for its confirmants on Sunday, May 4 after confirmation services.

Salem will recognize its high school graduates on Sunday May 19 during the worship service and with a reception after church.

Zion's Confirmation will be held on May 4th during services.

May 18th, Zion will be holding a Senior and Confirmation reception after church serving cake and coffee.

Confirmation Gowns...

We will now be coordinating confirmation gowns at the parish level instead of congregational level. We will use a check out system and ask families to put down a \$25 deposit.

Deposit will be returned once gown is returned otherwise it will be deposited 60 days after Confirmation Sunday to buy a replacement.

Thank you, Oklee Lutheran Parish.



Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

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

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.

Salem Financials

Salem Lutheran Church

Beginning Balance February 10, 2025 \$39,848.72

Income:

Offerings \$397.00

Total Cash Available \$40,245.72

Expenses:

MN Dept of Labor \$100.00

RLC Coop \$557.20

RLEC \$350.46

Total Expenses \$1,007.66

Ending Balance February 28, 2025 \$39,238.06

Income:

Offerings \$5,760.87

Thrivent Funds \$121.00

Total Cash Available \$45,119.93

Expenses:

Parish \$4,237.80

Concordia Supply \$27.77

RLEC \$292.38

Total Expenses \$4,557.95

Ending Balance March 31, 2025 \$40,561.98

Income:

Offerings \$1,353.00

Total Cash Available \$1,353.00

Expenses:

Parish \$4,237.80

Total Expenses \$4,237.80

Ending April 8, 2025 \$37,677.18

Salem Minutes

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes – April 8th, 2025

Attendance: David Hofstad, Josh Vettleson, Paula Christianson, Lisa Kolstoe, Ron Hegge, Wyatt Vettleson, Leif Kolstoe, Erica Motteberg, Ginny Stoneouse, Alice Hofstad, Pastor Marijo Vik.
Pastor Marijo led meeting with prayer.

Secretary's report read by: Paula
Motion to approve, approved by 1st Leif, 2nd by Ginny

Financial Secretary's report: Wyatt
Budget Amount: \$16,546.08
Offerings Received: \$13,080.78
Short: \$3,465.30
Motion to approve, approved by 1st Ron, 2nd by Paula.

Treasurer's report read by: Lisa
Motion to approve, approved by 1st Wyatt, 2nd by Josh.

Guest attendee: Jill Kolstoe joined for the first part of the meeting to discuss confirmation plans.

April 16th – Confirmation students will work on decorating stoles and meet with Pastor Marijo.

April 27th - Last day of Sunday School and New Member recognition, picnic will follow services.

April 30th - Confirmation banquet starting with pictures at 6:30pm, 7pm start. Current confirmation students will help serve and clean up.

May 4th – Confirmation Sunday, all confirmand students' families and mentors are welcome.

Pastors Report: Welcome back Marijo!

Old Business:

The Toiletries drive has ended, and donations will be brought to Intercounty.

Wyatt and Toni reviewed the membership list, Toni may still have the list so Wyatt will reach out to her. Josh ordered the door for the Pastors room, it is at Oklee Lumber. He will contact Jamie Peterson for installation. Ron contacted TRF Times on a directory and they are willing to make one. There was further discussion on the cost and need. Cabinet for Sunday school supplies is still needed but we may need additional funds. No decision made. Bathroom remodel is on hold until after confirmation. Deadline for Bathroom remodel is set for June 15th. Leif will speak to Shawn on prepping for flooring. Lisa paid the new MN state license for the chair lift. Lent services and meals went well.

New Business:

Last day of Sunday School cookout, Paula and Lisa will get supplies and food. Josh, Kyle and Leif will bring grills. David will call for meat and buns. Council will serve and clean up.

There will be a change in handling all donations going forward, Lisa will hand off all deposits to Kyle. Kyle will keep records in one file and reconcile all deposits at the end of the year for tax documents.

Bonny needs more names for the mailing the newsletters. If you have family members who wish to receive the newsletter, contact Bonny. Lisa will update our contact directory with Names and Phone numbers.

130th Anniversary Celebration: There will be a 10AM joint service July 13th, for the 130th Celebration Event.

Proposal to include photos with the 130-year celebration History book for families in replace of the printed directory. Motion to approve, 1st by Erica, 2nd by Ron. Family histories are still needed, please submit to Alice.

1995 History books and cookbooks will be sold at the celebration. Hotdish dinner served, coffee and bars. Discussion to have visiting Pastors speak and music by Erika and/or children. Cleaning prior to celebration needs to be completed, carpet shampooing, yard clean-up and mowing. Flowers on the gravestones will be removed by July 1st. Request for mowing services by Brennen Christianson, bid will stay the same as previous years. Motion to approve, 1st by Wyatt, 2nd by Leif.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn, approved: 1st by Ron, 2nd by Leif.

Next Meeting Date: June 10th, 6:30pm

Salem Financial Part 2

Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings: \$13,571.53

Interest \$62.31

Deposit: Donations \$0.00

Memorials:

Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings: \$8,690.34

Income: Thrivent \$69.01

CD Interest:

Interest \$31.35

Deposits: \$0.00

To General Fund

Building Fund Savings \$6,302.81

Interest \$17.94

Deposits: \$1,425.00

Transfers

Memorial Fund Savings: \$3,107.74

Interest \$11.27

Memorials:

CD #14297 \$13,899.96 Cemetery Perp. Care 4.50% Maturity 5/25/2025

CD #14298 \$5,819.43 Cemetery Maint. 4.50% Maturity 5/25/2025

Thrivent Mutual Fund balance as of December 31, 2024 = 8448.08

Zion Minutes & Financials

Zion Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes Date: April 2nd, 2025

Members Present: Cheryl O'Neill, Chad Parsley, Patty Mickelson, Sarah Beth Lee, Gin Berns, Sarah Jo Lee

Also in attendance: Marcella Melby, Treasurer
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY President, Cheryl O'Neill.

The secretary's report was read. 1st - Patty
2nd – Chad Motion Approved

Treasurer's report: Submitted by Marcella Melby. Motion made to accept report: 1st - Sarah Jo, 2nd – Patty. Motion Approved

Old Business:

The steps need repair and will be looked into this spring.

The fish fry was held on March 28th, and roughly \$3000 was raised.

Fire extinguishers still need to be checked.

The church will have its hamburger stand on Saturday morning during Oklee Market Days. Please let a member know if you're available to help.

The spring auction will be on April 6th. A dresser and some lamps from the church will be taken out of the lounge and donated. Cheryl will look for something smaller.

New Business:

A couple dates were mentioned for the confirmation banquet. Cheryl will talk to Marijo.

Lavonne and Cheryl have been cleaning the church and kitchen.

Concessions/food stand will be discussed at the June meeting.

Ushering for May:

May 4th: Sarah Jo

May 11th: Jami Hendrickson

May 18th: Sarah Beth

May 25th: John Pendelton

The Lord's Prayer was read.

Meeting adjourned: 1st - Chad, 2nd – Sarah Jo, Motion Carried

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

Submitted by Gin Berns. Jami Hendrickson was absent.

4/1/2025

Zion Lutheran Church Financial Statement

Balance 2/1/2025 \$ 4,469.45

Income		
Offerings	\$	4,021.02
Tithley	\$	1,080.00
Memorial Donation - to General Fund	\$	20.00
WELCA Donation	\$	300.00
Thrivent Donation	\$	92.00
Fish Fry Fundraiser	\$	2,935.00

Total Income \$ 8,448.02

Budgeted Expenses		
Parish Pmt (Feb & Mar.)	\$	7,500.70
Ottertail	\$	800.10
Cenex (fuel)	\$	1,484.28
NorthStar Mutual Insurance	\$	1,750.50
Cash for Fish Fry & Auction	\$	250.00
	\$	11,785.58

Non- Budgeted Expenses

\$ -

Total Expenses \$ 11,785.58
Ending Balance 3-31-2025 \$ 1,131.89

Passbook Savings

Grace McManus Scholarship \$11,455.04

Note: Interest Earned beyond \$10,000 will be used for scholarships

Building Fund		\$4,832.29
Elevator	\$934.00	
Windows	\$3,056.78	
Undesignated	\$841.51	
Memorial Fund		\$7,712.67
Undesignated	\$5,082.96	
Sunday School	\$345.00	
Building Fund	\$2,154.71	
Elevator	\$130.00	

Welcome
Spring

Zion Auction



Zion's Spring Auction had a huge amount of items up for auction.

The Hall was filled with prospective buyers and the Zion Ladies Aid had a nice luncheon for everyone.

Thank you to all that donated items and also for all the help setting up, working the auction.





Save the date! Salem to Celebrate 130th Anniversary July 13th

Salem Lutheran Church, Oklee, Mn, will celebrate its 130th anniversary on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Plans for the celebration include a special church service with some former pastors, a dinner, a new history book and time to reminisce. Watch for final plans at a later date. All former members and community members are invited to attend the celebration. Please spread the word as no cards are being sent to past confirmands.

Started in 1895, before Red Lake County or Oklee even existed, Salem has been spreading God's word for 130 years. While many country churches were around during Salem's early years, Salem is now the only country church in Red Lake County. Salem is still an active congregation with wor-

ship services every Sunday, a Sunday School, and Women's group (WELCA).

After the original church building burned in 1936, the current structure was built and has been modernized and update many times. However, a church is not about a building; it's about its people. The people of Salem throughout the years have faced the same problems as others: losing children to disease, sending their young men off to war, dealing with crop failures for a variety of reasons. But, throughout the hardships of life, they have kept their faith, celebrating baptisms, weddings, and lives. Come and help celebrate 130 years of Christian love!

2024 Council Lists for Zion & Salem

Zion:

President: Cheryl O'Neill

V. President: Gin Berns

Treasurer: Marcella Melby

Secretary: Jami Hendrickson

Property & Management: Sarah Beth Lee,
John Pendelton, Sarah Jo Lee, and Chad Parsley

Deacons: Norman Nelson, Patty Mickelson, and Kari Hamm.

Board of Ed: Sarah Jo Lee, Sarah Beth Lee and Mandy
Klasen.

Parish Board: Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns, Jami Hendrickson.

Salem:

President: David Hofstad

V. President: Josh Vettleson

Secretary: Paula Christianson

Treasurer: Lisa Kolstoe

Financial Sec.: Kyle Vettleson

Property & Management: Wyatt Vettleson, Ron Hegge,
and Leif Kolstoe.

Deacons: Ginny Stonecouse, Shirley Dessellier, Alice
Hofstad.

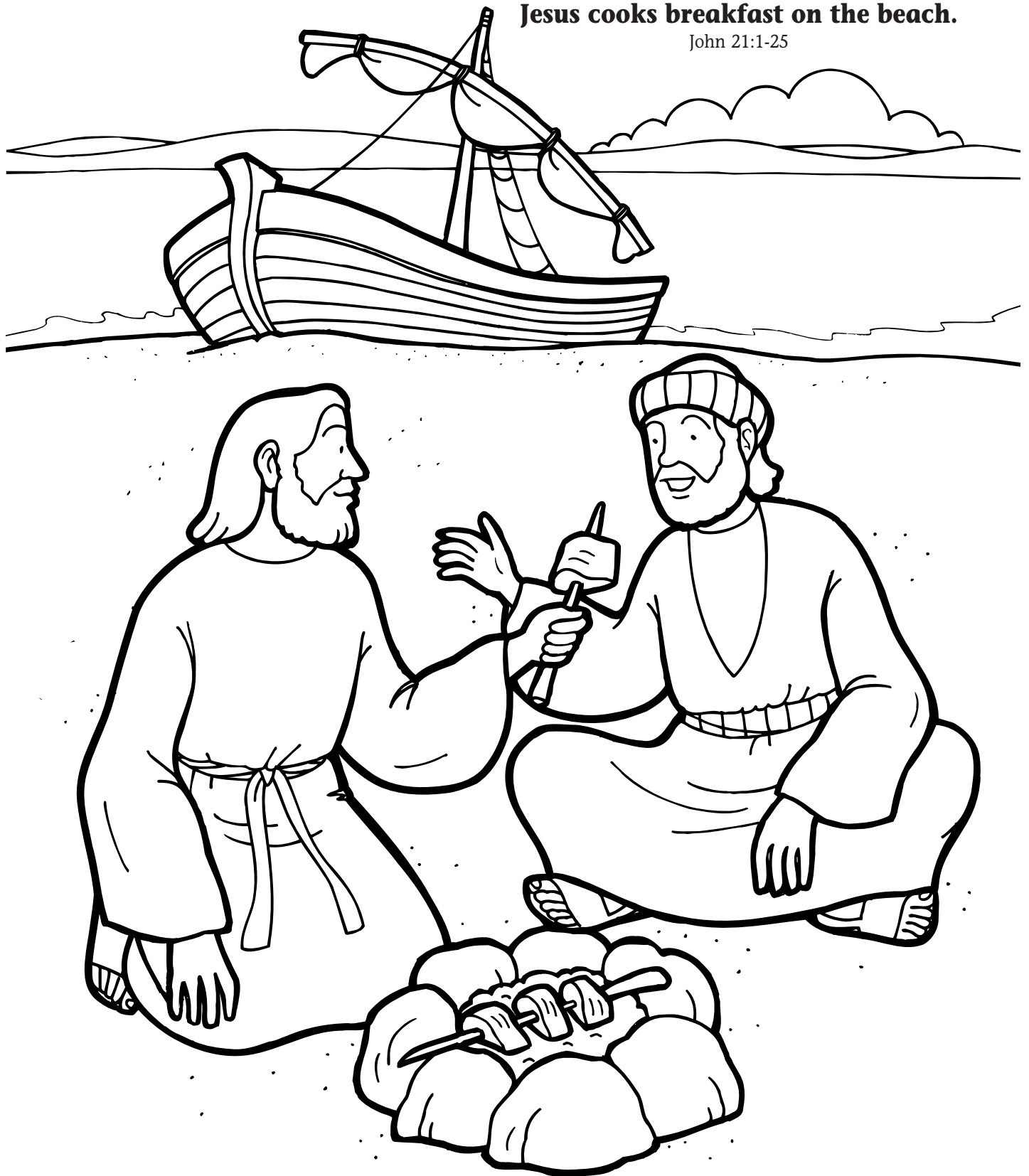
Board of Ed: Erica Motteberg, Chelsey Vettelson and
Jill Kolstoe.



Parish Board: David H., Kyle V. & Josh V.

Coloring Page

Jesus cooks breakfast on the beach.

John 21:1-25



May 2025						
◀ April						June ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Salem Ushers</u> May 4: Lisa K May 11: Erica M May 18: Josh V May 25: David H	<u>Zion Ushers</u> May 4: Sarah Jo L May 11: Jami H May 18: Sarah Beth L May 25: John P	<u>Salem Altar</u> Jordan Larson	<u>Zion Altar</u> Cheryl O'Neill	1	2	3
4 Home Visit Marijo Confirmation S & Z 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem Salem reception for Confirmants	5 	6	7 Salem WELCA 7 p.m. at Jenny's	8 Parish Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Zion	9	10
11 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Home Visit Marijo 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem Salem recognize HS Grads	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	26 	27	28	29	30	31
Bonny is on Vacation						
Marijo Vik is on vacation						

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!!



May 2025
Newsletter

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

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage
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Oklee, MN 56742