



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

Pastor Linda Molitor
pastorlinda@okleelutheran.org
218-796-5141 or Text 651-357-8130

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



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

May 2024

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8

As I embark on a new beginning, I want to thank you all for the support and opportunities you gave me over the last several years. While Oklee is a fairly remote isolated place, it is also a great place away from the chaos of the larger areas. I am not looking forward to having to deal with a lot of traffic again. It was so nice having 6 miles, actually means 6 minutes. There definitely are advantages to a slower pace. There is so much richness in rural living and the heritage of having interconnected family trees.

You have also been very open to me trying new things like different music, incorporating technology, more combined and outdoor services. We've added a mid-summer block party and Thanksgiving Day dinner for the community in partnership with the local Catholic church. Not everything went over well. This year I experimented with a Wednesday Night monthly more relaxed worship. Many churches are having success with doing more on Wednesday nights. Yet it seems that doesn't fit here at this time.

As you move forward, you will have the opportunity now to find what fits you best as faith communities. People pulling together to work out logistics and negotiating what to keep and what to let go of is a really good time to shape the church in what way that best serves you and the community. Please be supportive of your leadership during this time. Also consider stepping forward to volunteer more, give compliments and positive suggestions.

Some of you may be struggling with the loss of the better old days. That's natural. The reality is that the world and culture shifts with the passing of generations. Some of these shifts will be better while others might not. One struggle with the shifting culture is that people are getting more and more separated by different political parties and other major cultural shifts. I want to remind you that the church at large has survived 2,000 years of major shifts. God doesn't change and Jesus never abandons us. Your faith can be a solid foundation in the midst of the chaos you may sense in your life.

Faith practices can change but the good news of our savior doesn't. You are brothers and sisters in Christ. Like any family, it will be important for you to gather together. It will be important for you to gather for communion and the sharing of other food. It will be important for you to pray and lift each other up in prayer. I also suggest if you don't already, start a devotion practice of reading your bible regularly or using a devotional. Your parish does provide one, or you can look for something that fits you better. The point is to stay focused and grounded in Christ.

Remember Jesus slept in a boat while a storm raged around him. Once the disciples cried out to him in their fear, he calmed the storm outside and inside them. Don't hesitate to cry out to Jesus when you are afraid, frustrated or confused. He does calm the storms we are going through. I know you are in the best hands possible moving forward, Christs.

Once again, I want to thank you for the blessing of our time together these last several years. Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, Pastor Linda Molitor



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



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 1 p.m. on **Wednesday** and repeated the following **Sunday**.



Thank you to all the dedicated people that volunteer their time and energy whether it be helping to keep your church clean to helping in fundraising to altar guild to being on council to "you name your job."

And thank you to all that teach our children the Word of the Lord! The children are our future!

**Bless you and
Thank you EVERYONE!**

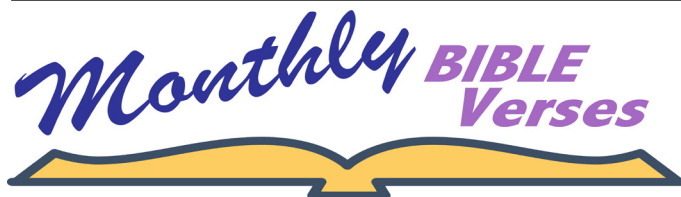


• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 14th** at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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



May 5:

**Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17**

May 12:

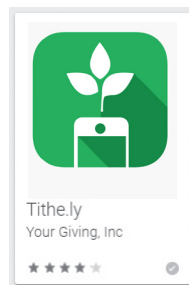
**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19**

May 19:

**Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

May 26:

**Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**



**Please continue to
be generous in your
support!**

**Use the Tithe.ly
app**

The Link is
on our website:
okleelutheran.org
or

**Try our new
QR Code**

Thank You!!



~ Parish News ~

Watch for a Survey in the Mail this month. The Parish Board wants everyone's opinion on what they would like in a pastor and from the church.

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.

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.

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.



Pictures are appreciated for the newsletter. Please consider taking and sharing pictures of special services and events.



Chime Choir is looking for an additional member. Practice will be on Wednesdays at Zion at 6:00 p.m.

Did you know that the Synod has a person who offers assistance with Legacy Giving?

If you love your church and would like help setting up some sort of legacy, call Keith Pearson at 773-380-2483 or email him at Keith.Pearson@elca.org. He can help you look at wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, qualified charitable distributions from your IRA and more. He has flyers located in the lobby area of the church at both Zion and Salem.



Salem Ushers List

Sun. May 5:	Ron Hegge
Sun. May 12:	Kyle Vettleson
Sun. May 19:	Lisa Kolstoe
Sun. May 26:	Erica Motteberg

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

Zion Members, your help is needed:

Please sign-up in the narthex if you are willing to volunteer ushering. ~~~ If you can't commit to a month of ushering, consider sharing a month with another family, or adding your name to our substitute list.

2024 Council Lists for Zion & Salem

Zion:

President: Cheryl O'Neill & Gin Berns
V. President: Conway Hamm
Treasurer: Marcella Melby
Secretary: Jami Hendrickson
Property & Management: Sarah Beth Lee,
John Pendelton, Diane Hanson, and Chad Parsley
Deacons: Norman Nelson, and Kari Hamm.
Board of Ed: Sarah Jo Lee

Salem:

President: David Hofstad
V. President: Josh Vettleson
Secretary: Paula Christianson
Treasurer: Lisa Kolstoe
Financial Sec.: Toni Johnson
Property & Management: Wyatt Vettleson, Ron Hegge, and Kyle Vettleson
Deacons: Ginny Stoneouse, and Shirley Dessellier
Board of Ed: Erica Larson



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



The 2024 March Campaign ran from February 26th – April 6th. We kept track of how many pounds of food was donated and also the cash donations that came in. It all gets reported back to the FoodShare program.

This year during that timeframe we collected \$2,290.78 for our food shelf and 53 pounds of food! We haven't received our matching funds yet but look forward to adding that to our program when it comes. I just want to thank you for your donations, our church communities are so generous to our food shelf and we are very grateful for your support.

This last month we also had a neat addition to our food shelf. The North Country Food Bank had an excess of dog food and cat food. We were able to receive a pallet of each at no cost to us. This has been requested and has flown out the door! So many of our families have animals and the price of food for them continues to rise. I'm hoping that there are many happy dogs and cats out there with this new addition. We will be on the look out if it becomes available again to try to get some more for our furry residents.

If you know of someone who could use some food or if you would like to pick up a food box to bring out to them please feel free to contact me directly, I'd be happy to explain the process and help arrange it.

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

Yours in action- Catherine Johnson, Executive Director.

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

The Salem WELCA meets at the church at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month unless noted differently on the calendar.

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. Jane Kolstoe has Bible Study and Ginny Stoneous is hostess. We will do the February Bible Study.

All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Salem Working on a History Book, Need Family Histories

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. Older photos can be scanned and attached to the email. Cell phones are wonderful for scanning photos. One of my favorites for the iPhone is Genius Scan as it will eliminate distortion cause by the angle you hold the phone. Be sure to send photos as jpgs, not pdfs. Also send them at the highest resolution possible and the largest size possible. This is necessary so it will reproduce well in the book. If you'd rather, you can give the photos to Alice to scan and give back to you.

We are looking at a deadline of Dec 31, 2024, for including family histories. That's eleven months away, but don't wait until your backs are against the wall! You might want to do a little research of your own about your family!

Special Parish Council Meeting

**Special Parish Board meeting
April 11, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

Roll Call: David H, Cheryl O, Gin B, Kyle V, Conway H, Josh V. and Bonny C

Visitor: Kathy Levenhagen

While waiting for Kathy Levenhagen, the board discussed what needs to be done with the parsonage. Bonny will contact GV Technologies to cut of phone, internet, and television services. Cheryl will turn down the thermostat

and check house periodically while house is empty.

Kathy came into the meeting around 7:30 p.m. Had questions for the board to answer and the board asked questions.

A survey will be created by the board and will be mailed out to all on our mailing list. The survey will be anonymous. Put a self-address stamped envelope so it will be mailed back.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Bonny Cote, Secretary

Faith Statements

Jackson Morinville

Jesus died for our sins. He is the son of God. Jesus's title is "Christ" because he is "the anointed one". He was crucified and resurrected into heaven after 3 days. Jesus makes me feel comfortable and allows me to realize that it is okay to make mistakes. I Believe that God is the creator of Heaven and Earth. My favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. This verse says that if you trust in the Lord with all your heart and you don't lean on your own understanding, then he will make your paths straight. This verse helps me understand that if you trust in the Lord your life will be better. One person who has been significant in my faith development is my pastor. She has helped me understand God and Jesus better. She also guided me all the way from my first communion all the way to where I am right now. I'm glad she was my pastor because she has made everything fun throughout my confirmation and communion. I am really sad she will be leaving our church. I will miss her very much because she is the only pastor I have known throughout my life. One experience that I have had that affected my faith is when I was hunting, I prayed that I wouldn't get a bad shot on a deer I shot. Throughout my whole life I have never shot a deer and had it get away while suffering. I also pray to never make any sort of animal suffer. My church is important to me because it has helped me connect with God. With this connection I have been able to get through life while knowing I always have someone watching over me. I always feel safe knowing God is by my side. I have had a great time learning about God and Jesus and hope to continue doing so.

Ethan Lee

I think Jesus is a big part of the Christianity faith. He is the son of God and therefore we pray on his name, and he came down onto earth and saved humanity from sin. So he is like his father God and is a savior from sin and evil. But he is like God and he will forgive you no matter how much you have sinned upon him. It will never be too late to turn to Jesus. Because he is a savior and has saved many people in our world. And he performed miracles and brought love and forgiveness to us.

My favorite bible verse will be "for nothing will be impossible with god"-Luke 1:37 I really like this verse because it shows that no matter what you are going through God will be by your side and help you along the way and if you mess up, he will forgive you and that he's always with you. I think that the people who have helped me out the most with my faith development are my pastor and my Sunday school teacher. This showed me what the bible is really about and gave me a better understanding of the bible.

I think that my experience in my faith has been amazing. I had an amazing teacher and pastor to lead me into my faith. And had given me a better understanding in my faith. And I am happy they helped me in my faith. My church is important to me because I have been there for a while and I like the way they

have their things in the church. I have always liked the church and the teachers there. And the people who attend the church are amazing and helpful and I think this church is amazing.

Natalee Hendrickson

Something most of my family and friends know about me is that my faith is a big part of my life. As a Christian, I believe that when you find God and know Jesus, your life will turn for the better. I believe that the bible is like a note to you from our savior. If you read the bible more and more, you will know Jesus and feel more clean and happier for yourself. I know that Jesus has unconditional love for us and would do anything for us. I believe that with Jesus all things are possible. He has changed my life for the better and I am so much happier knowing them.

One thing that helped my belief and my faith is praying. One day, I was feeling super down about a sport I was playing, so I prayed about it. I asked that I had better feelings and that I could see the positive side for my sport and gain the love back that I once had. The next morning, I woke up and everything I was feeling that past week had gone away. I could not think of anything else negative about my sport and for the rest of the season I was excited to go to practice. Praying is a way to talk to God and so he can know you and understand you. It is also a way to get things off your chest, even though God already knows you and everything you do. When you talk about it through prayer, it makes you feel better, and God feel better because you want to talk to him.

Arlo Svendsen

I am a firm believer of Christ. I believe that Jesus is God's only son and that he also is the only perfect human to ever walk the earth. He gave his own life to forgive our sins. This affects me a lot because yes, I have sinned, but I know that if I tell God, that he will forgive me. I am very thankful for this gift that God has given to me and everyone and I also think it affects me because even though I have sinned, I don't fear evil when I have the Lord with me. When I was younger, I would tag along to church with my grandparents or go to church with my parents so I always have gone to church. I like the church I go to now because it has a lot of things that come with it and a lot of good people. A lot of people can't think of a way to describe how the universe was made, but I know it was God because of the evidence. Some are the stories of the Bible lining up with archaeological evidence and when I am with God I am at peace. My favorite story in the Bible is David and Goliath because David was a lot smaller than Goliath, but he found a way to win. His way was through Christ. This story tells me about how with God I am a better person and a bigger person. God has made me a good person and friend and family member, and I am grateful. I will be the third of my siblings to be confirmed from this church and it is nice. The people in the church are mostly people I know but it is a really nice church for a small community. I am excited to confirm my faith.

Blessing of the Quilts was on April 21st at both churches



Thank you to all the ladies who took the time from their busy lives to produce beautiful quilts which will be donated to a number of organizations. Quilting this year were: Ione Nelson, Ginny Stoneouse, Loretta Syrtveit, Liz Follmann and LaVonne Brown.

Zion Minutes & Financials

Zion Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes Date: April 2nd, 2024

Members Present: John Pendelton, Gin Berns, Sarah Beth Lee, Diane Hanson, Sarah Jo Lee, Chad Parsley, Conway Hamm, Norman Nelson, Cheryl O'Neill

Also in attendance: Pastor Linda
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY President Co-President, Gin Berns. Scripture Reading and Prayer read by Pastor Linda

The secretary's report was read.

1st - Gin, 2nd – Cheryl. Motion Approved

Treasurer's report: Submitted by Marcella Melby, motion made to accept report:

1st - John, 2nd – Chad. Motion Approved

Pastor's report: Confirmation will be on May 5th and there are 4 confirmants from Zion. They are working on their Faith Statements now, Stoles will be decorated/personalized on April 27th, Banquet is on May 1st. There is a speaker lined up for the banquet. The kids had more points than needed. They were very involved.

Old Business: The Zion Auction will be held April 7th with a meal served.

New Business: Otter Tail bill up for discussion. Seems to be too high for a mild winter. Exit Interview with the pastor is coming up next week. Leif and Eric will attend. Call committee and next steps are coming up. There are five graduating seniors. Scholarship info will be mailed out. Possible hamburger stand fundraiser in Oklee this summer.

Meeting adjourned: 1st - John, 2nd – Conway. Motion Carried.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 4th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.



"Mom — you deserve a raise for raising me."

April 1, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church Financial Statement

General Fund

	Balance 2/1/24	\$5149.64
Income		
Offering	\$5909.00	
Tithely	\$1378.50	
WELCA Donation	\$600.00	
Concessions Fundraiser (from Jan.)	\$108.00	
Fish Fry & McCliffy Fundraisers	\$3648.85	
Replace Case from Fish Fry	\$200.00	
Thrivent Donation	\$67.00	
	Total Income	\$11,911.35
Budgeted Expenses		
Parish Payments (Dec., Jan., Feb.)	\$12,002.14	
Cash for Fish Fry	\$200.00	
Ottertail	\$1235.14	
	Total Budgeted Expenses	\$13,437.45
Non-Budgeted Expenses		
	Total Non-Budgeted Exp.	\$0
	Checkbook Balance 3/31/2024	\$3623.54

Passbook Savings

Grace McManus Scholarship \$979.03

Building Fund \$4580.02

- Elevator \$814.00
- Windows \$3056.78
- Undesignated \$709.44

Memorial Fund \$8182.74

- Building \$2154.71
- Elevator \$130.00
- Sunday School \$345.00
- Undesignated \$5553.03

Salem Minutes

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes – April 9th, 2024

Attendance: Lisa, Ginny, Paula, Wyatt, Kyle, David, Ron, Erica, Shirley, Josh.
Paster led in prayer: Reading from the book of 1 John 3, council members discussed.

Secretary's report read by: Paula. Approved by Ron, 2nd by Ginny
Financial Secretary's report Read by: Wyatt

YTD – End of March
Budget Amount: \$16,546.08
Offerings Received: \$18933.27
Over/Short: +\$2387.19

Approved by: Josh, 2nd by Shirley

Treasurer's report read by: Lisa. Approved by: Paula, 2nd by Wyatt

Pastors Report: Lent services went well. Looking towards confirmation on Sunday May 5th. Confirmands are at Zion, no confirmation kids from Salem; kids are working on final statements and will be decorating stoles. April 21st is the blessing of quilts.

Old Business: Chair lift is being used, positive comments from congregations that it is available. Quarter round for the flooring is still needed. Lisa will reach out to Leif to find out if that was ordered.

Headstones are still in need of repair; Kyle will call Valley cemetery maintenance to get an estimate.

Discussion around posting an ad in the newspaper for cemetery maintenance donations. If you are not a member you need to buy a cemetery lot. Current cost of cemetery lot was discussed, no changes will be made at this time. Bathrooms still need to be remodeled; Lisa will revisit the previous list of items needed for cost.

New Business: Church Insurance Policy increased in cost this year. Wyatt and Lisa received quotes for a new policy that is closer to our budget. Motion to change insurance agencies, motion carried: 1st Ginny, and 2nd Kyle. Wyatt will complete the paperwork for the new policy.

Door Handle needs to be replaced; property management take on replacing the door locks. West door may need to be fully replaced; Josh will consider the cost of a new door. Fire extinguishers were looked at, all are charged properly. Light bulbs in the bell tower have been replaced by David. Lighting in the upstairs may need to be replaced or changed to LED, table this for future discussion.

Upcoming 130th Celebration – July 13th, 2025. Planning will be a continued discussion. Shirley will prepare the church directory. Alice is preparing history book. There will be a morning meal for the celebration, Toni and Sandra will oversee the meal. Possible other options for the celebration, chime choir or Sunday school kids singing.

Salem needs help cleaning the church, anyone available please sign up in the entry way poster board. Last day of Sunday School Picnic – April 28th Paula will purchase food, Lisa will purchase paper supplies, Shirley will get the meat. Grill will be brought to the church by Kyle and Leif.

Pastor brought up topics for future worship services: Music for worship will need to be chosen, power point presentations ran during services, and pulpit supply for 4-8 weeks. Once we received a list for interim pulpit supply, council members will call. Kyle, David, and Josh will be attending Parish board meeting Thursday April 11th.

Lawn Mowing by Brennen Christianson will continue for 2024. Motion to approve, motion approved 1st Wyatt, 2nd Kyle.

Pastor closed and led in the Lord's Prayer. **Motion to Adjourn:** 1st Josh, 2nd Ron.

Next Meeting Date: June 11th, 2024, at 6:30pm

Salem Financial

Salem Lutheran Church

Beginning Balance February 13, 2024	\$38,933.93
Income:	
Offerings	\$2,261.00
Total Cash Available	<u>\$41,194.93</u>

Expenses:	
RLEC	\$268.77
Total Expenses	<u>\$268.77</u>
Ending Balance February 28, 2024	<u>\$40,926.16</u>

Income:	
Offerings	\$5,137.41
Thrivent	\$85.00
Total Cash Available	<u>\$46,148.57</u>

Expenses:	
Parish	\$4,177.19
RLEC	\$232.24
Total Expenses	<u>\$4,409.43</u>
Ending Balance March 31, 2024	<u>\$41,739.14</u>

Income:	
Offerings	\$1,410.00
RLC Co-op Div	\$94.31
Total Cash Available	<u>\$1,504.31</u>

Expenses:	
RLC Co-op	\$193.67
NW MN Synod	\$300.00
Parish	\$4,177.19
Total Expenses	<u>\$4,670.86</u>
Ending April 9, 2024	<u><u>\$38,572.59</u></u>

Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings:	\$11,958.52
Interest \$55.83	
Deposit:	
Memorials:	

Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings:	\$10,607.19
Income: Thrivent \$51.70	
CD Interest:	
Interest \$49.10	
Deposits: \$150.00	

Building Fund Savings	\$4,518.38
Interest \$16.38	
Deposits: \$100.0	

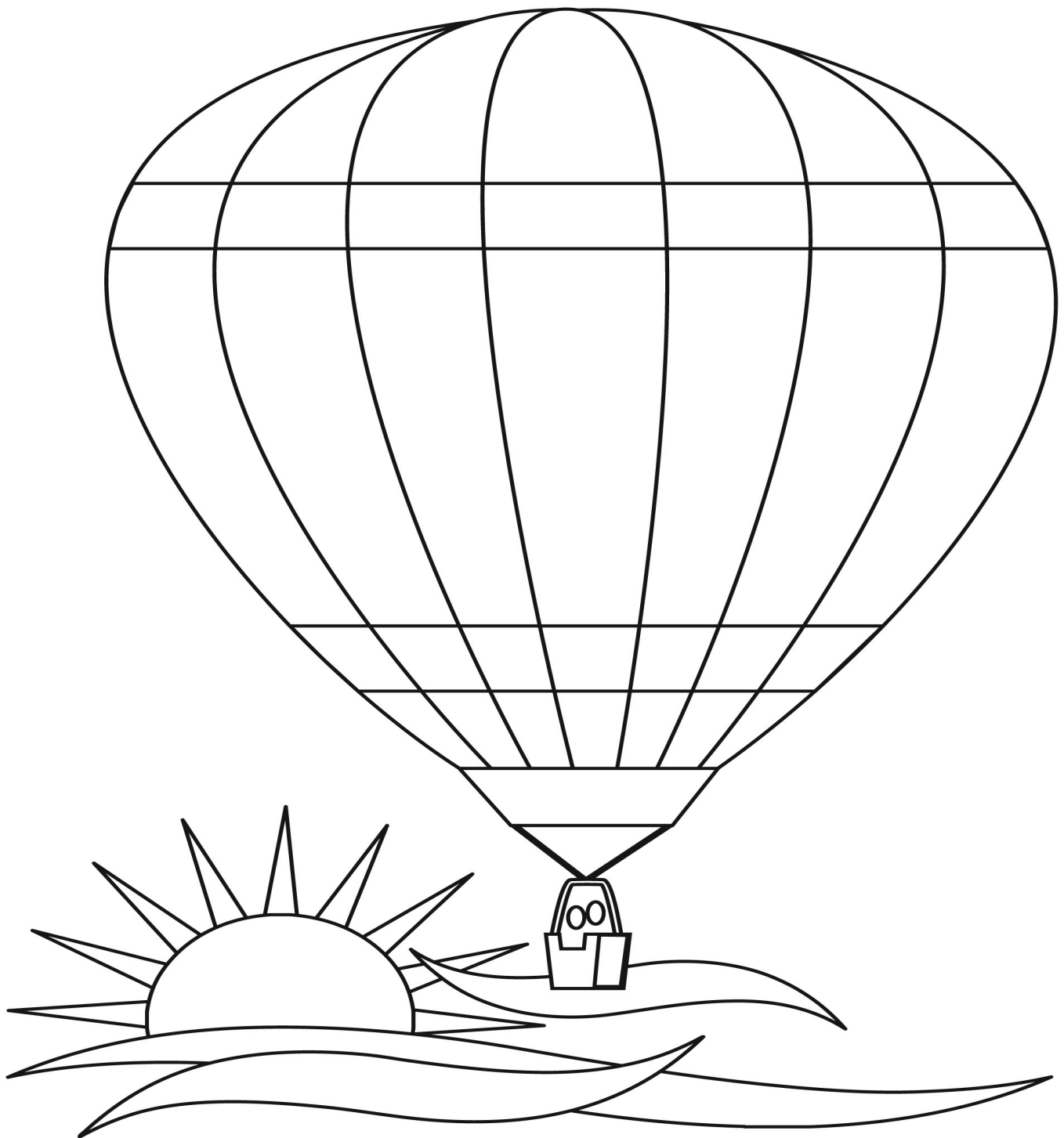
Memorial Fund Savings:	\$2,968.85
Interest \$10.95	




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 March 31, 2024 - \$8458.55

COLORING PAGE

Print this 8.5" x 11" image to color.
A full-size PDF file is provided on the CD and online.



May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Salem Ushers</u> May 5: Ron H. May 12: Kyle V. May 19: Lisa K. May 26: Erica M.	<u>Zion Altar</u> Cheryl O'Neill		1 	2 		
5 Confirmation 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	13	14 Parish Board meeting 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18
19 Pr. Graff (Communion) 9:00 a.m. Zion Honoring Seniors & Confirmants 10:30 a.m. Salem Honoring Seniors	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	27 	28	29	30	31	

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!!

Mother's Day Mother's Day Mother's Day



She is more
precious
than rubies...

Proverbs 3:15

May 2024
Newsletter

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

Return Service Requested

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