



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

September 2025

Marijo Vik, SAM
931-203-4106
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

Let's be honest with each other: something isn't working. I suspect you know what I mean. If you've read statistics about church attendance and membership, or looked around you with even the briefest of glances, you know that in the past quarter century, most denominations have been in decline.

Some research suggests two things that pretty much every person needs: 1) a sense of belonging, and 2) a sense of purpose. So, here's what's hard to figure out: we've got this marvelous story that offers people precisely these two things — an invitation to belong and to make a difference.

That's essentially what the Reformation doctrines of justification and vocation are: the promise that we are included and belong to the discipleship community of forgiven sinners and the corresponding promise that God desires to use each of us wherever we may be to make a difference in the world.

So what's gone wrong?

First, it's *not* that you're not working hard enough. So many talented people are working so hard, yet apparently achieving diminishing returns, which suggests we're laboring under a false, or at least a changed, paradigm. What we grew up with doesn't reflect the changed context in which we live. It's not that what we were doing was wrong; it's that it's no longer right, or at least no longer adequate.

The Gospel tells us that the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. Yet Jesus is not troubled by this; indeed, it matches the restless purposefulness of his journey to the cross. He needs to be about his mission, his rendezvous with destiny in Jerusalem. And so, he sets his face, and there is no dissuading or distracting him. He is interested in discipleship — in building the faith of his hearers and confirming them in the truth in which they have been instructed.

What better guide than to do the same with postmodern hearers who have heard but can hardly be said to know or believe the story? We listen to the account of the road to Jerusalem, knowing that what Jesus reveals to his disciples and would-be disciples alike, he also declares to us.

And what does he say? That this coming new kingdom of God matters. In fact, there is nothing more important.

Jesus isn't being callous in refusing the request of one

to bury his parents, nor is he being belittling or sarcastic in responding to the request of another to bid friends and family farewell. It's just that what's coming — the unfolding revelation of God's unexpected grace and mercy — is more important than any of these things.

God is doing a new thing, and Jesus doesn't want them — or us — to miss it.

Pay attention to the parables and teachings of the Gospel. Through them, Jesus introduces us to a new kingdom, a new way of being in the world, a new way of looking at God, ourselves, and each other. Some of these passages are old favorites that we need to hear again for the first time; others are unfamiliar and need to be opened up so that we can hear and be affected by them; while others still are challenging, even upsetting, and need to be wrestled to the ground before they will bless us.

Whatever the particular passage, however, keep in mind the urgency Jesus embodies in each, for it is the key to his story. What Jesus says and does matters. The God that Jesus introduces us to — is a God who seeks the lost and tends to the broken, a God who puts mercy ahead of law and compassion before custom, a God who forgives sinners and welcomes *all* people to the table — this God is never what we or the world expects.

Yet it is just the God we desperately need. For this God is also desperate...to meet us, to embrace us, to redeem us.

What you do matters because what Jesus did matters! We are bearers of this story, tenders of this tale, commissioned to speak it into the lives of our people that they may hear the word and come to faith once again.

The one thing I would invite us to consider as we assess our ministry and mission in this changed and changing world is whether we proclaim the gospel with the urgency shown by Jesus.

Is our passion transparent? Do others recognize we are believers, and what we have been authorized to say is so incredibly important? Can our hearers feel the urgency in our voices as we proclaim to them a message that leads them to new life in Christ?

Jesus Christ is coming again. Share your faith. Tell others.

Amen? Amen.

With you in Christ,

Marijo, SAM for Oklee Lutheran Parish

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

5: Arley L. Brekke
6: Ryleigh Sherman
8: Vincent Dessellier
9: David Hofstad
Amanda Nelson
13: Aurora Mitzner
16: Megan Lukkes
18: Tim Munt
20: Janae Olson
21: Ginny Stonehouse
Bailey Sherman
24: Ione Nelson
Graham Vettleson

Anniversaries

1: Les & Cheryl O'Neill
Logan & Abbey O'Neill
Ashley & David Halverson
18: Ted & Jenny Linder
21: David & Stacey Hofstad
24: Kyle & Chelsey Vettleson

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

Monthly BIBLE Verses

September 7:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1;
Philemon 1:21; Luke 14:25-33

September 14:

Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 21:

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 28:

Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146;
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 9th** at 7:00 p.m.

• Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, October 8th** at 7:00 p.m.

• Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, October 14th** 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 for September would be September 14 and 28.

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.



**** NEW UPDATED ****

Follow [Oklee Lutheran Parish](#) on
FACEBOOK & YouTube

Worship services airing on GVTV and Youtube have been temporarily suspended while our videographer recovers from surgery. Will post on Facebook when broadcasts resume.



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.



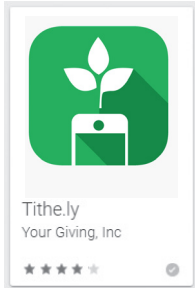
Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

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

~ Parish News ~

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

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

Sun. September 7:	Wyatt Vettleson
Sun. September 14:	Leif Kolstoe
Sun. September 21:	Alice Hofstad
Sun. September 28:	Paula Christianson

Zion Ushers List

Sun. September 7:	Sarah Jo Lee
Sun. September 14:	Patty Mickelson
Sun. September 21:	Marcella Melby
Sun. September 28:	Sarah Beth Lee

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

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 call or text your name & number 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 News

Salem WELCA Meets

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, **September 3rd** at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. Ellen Hegge is the Bible Study Leader and the Hostess is Shirley Dessellier. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Zion News

Zion WELCA Meets

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, **September 3rd** at 7:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.



First Communion Classes at Zion

1st Communion Classes for Zion students will be held on Wednesday from 4 pm to 5 p.m. in September, starting on September 3rd. The class will meet for four Wednesdays.

1st Communion will be held on October 5th.



The Youth Group needs a few great people to serve!! If interested in serving as Youth Group leaders, please reach out to the Parish Board.



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



Greetings from Inter-County Community Council (ICCC)

As your local Community Action Agency, we're excited to share an important opportunity with you this month. We're proud to offer the **Grow Your Own** early childhood development training program, which is designed to help individuals gain the credentials needed to work in this vital field.

As many of you know, there is a significant shortage of childcare services in our area. The demand for qualified professionals in early childhood development—including daycare providers, Head Start educators, and ECCE staff—is at an all-time high. However, one major barrier to filling these positions is the requirement for credentials such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, an Early Childhood Diploma, or an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development.

To help address this need, ICCC has received a grant from the State of Minnesota to support individuals in obtaining these credentials. Depending on the level of credential pursued, participants can earn between \$4,000 and \$8,000 upon completion of the training. The incentives are paid in two installments: one after reaching a predetermined training milestone (such as completing 50% of coursework or finishing the classroom portion), and the second once the credential is fully completed.



Please note, this grant is a one-time opportunity, and funding will end next year. If you—or someone you know—is interested in pursuing a career in early childhood development, we encourage you to apply today. Just scan the QR code to get started or contact the Employment and Training Department ext. 7.

*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.*

Please Take Note...

Update: There is now over 200 for mailing, but ...
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.

[illegible]

Thank you for the new names
I've added to the list.



Time, Talents & Treasure

During this time of transition, 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!



2025 Zion Altar Schedule

September: Kaye Munt
October: Sheryl Fore/Jo Ann Lerohl
November: Diane Hanson
December: Patty Mickelson

2025 Salem Altar Schedule

September - Stacey Hofstad
October - Paula & Kendra Christianson
November - Jill Kolstoe

Zion Hamburger Stand Oklee Market Days 2025



Eric Mickelson and Chad Parsley grilling burgers for the Zion Church Booth at Oklee Market Days.

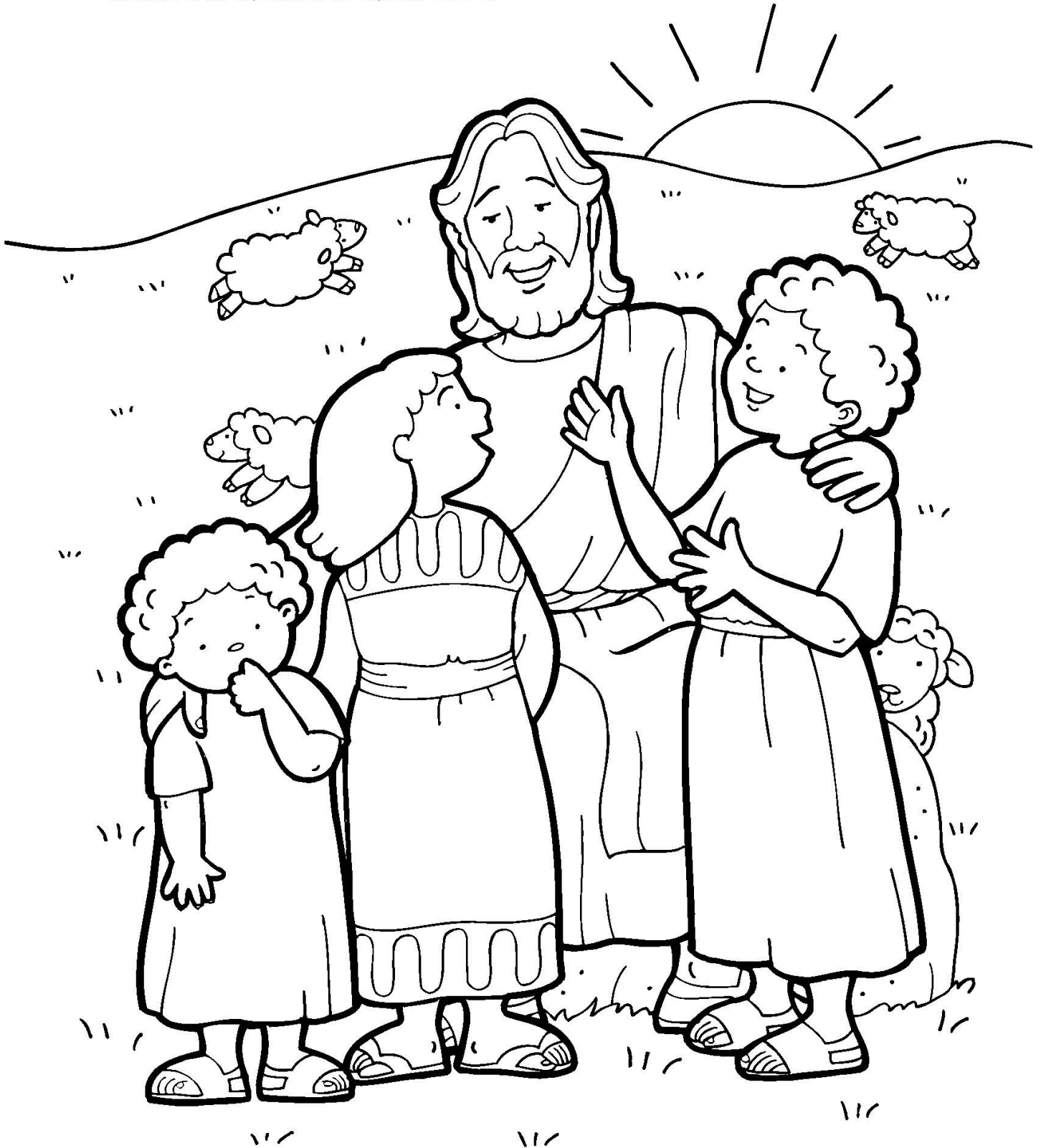


A busy line of customers purchased burgers at Market Days. Liz Follmann cashier.

Coloring Page

Jesus loves the children.

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17



Summer Vacation Bible School



VBS was held at
Salem Lutheran Church
Monday, August 4th til
Thursday, August 7th
in the evenings.
The kids had a
wonderful time!
Thank you to the
teachers and helpers
for making it a great
Bible School.

Zion Minutes & Financials

Zion Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes Date: August 6th, 2025

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

Also in attendance: Marcella Melby, Treasurer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY President, Cheryl O'Neill.

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

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

Old Business: Zion provided concessions and food for the truck pull on July 19th. They will host a hamburger stand during Oklee Market Days. Work was finished on the front steps. Marcella will move \$886.47 from the Undesignated Building Fund to general checking to cover the AC Repair by Tas Electric.

New Business: Marcella will prepay \$800 to Red Lake County Co-op for propane. First communion will start in September, with the First Communion service on October 5th. Blessing of the Backpacks will be on September 14th. God's Work Our Hands is tentatively scheduled on September 7th. Confirmation is TBD. Sunday School will start on September 14th. Marijo will be here until October 12th.

Ushering for September:

September 7th: Sarah Jo

September 14th: Patty

September 21st: Marcella

September 28th: Sarah Beth

October: TBD

Cheryl led us in The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 1st - Sarah Jo
2nd - Gin Motion Carried

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 8th at 7:00

Submitted by Jami Hendrickson

8/1/2025 Zion Lutheran Church Financial Statement

Balance 6/1/2025		\$ 2,202.08
Income		
Offerings	\$	2,802.00
Tithe (March & April)	\$	1,335.00
RLC Social Service Room Use	\$	600.00
WELCA Donation	\$	300.00
Thrivent Donation	\$	34.00
McCliffy Fundraiser (6/22)	\$	1,468.00
Truck Show Concessions	\$	2,902.00
Total Income	\$	9,441.00
Budgeted Expenses		
Parish Pmt - June	\$	3,750.35
Ottetail	\$	271.42
Cenex (fuel)	\$	304.20
Richards Pub. - Auction Ad	\$	66.00
Confirmation Banquet	\$	141.90
Cash for Truck Show Concessions	\$	300.00
TAS Electric (AC Repair)	\$	886.47
North Star Insurance	\$	1,005.00
Donation to Organist	\$	500.00
Synod	\$	600.00
	\$	7,825.34
Non-Budgeted Expenses		
	\$	-
Total Expenses	\$	7,825.34
Ending Balance 7-31-2025	\$	3,817.74

Passbook Savings

Grace McManus Scholarship \$11,592.55
Note: Interest Earned beyond \$10,000 will be used for scholarships

Building Fund		\$4,959.27
Elevator	\$995.00	
Windows	\$3,056.78	
Undesignated	\$907.49	
Memorial Fund		\$7,996.67
Undesignated	\$5,366.96	
Sunday School	\$345.00	
Building Fund	\$2,154.71	



Salem Council Minutes

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2025

Meeting was held at Salem. Members present: David Hofstad, Lisa Kolstoe, Erica Motteberg, Alice Hofstad, Ron Hegge, Josh Vettleson, Wyatt Vettleson and Ginny Stoneouse. Absent: Shirley Dessellier, Kyle Vettleson, Leif Kolstoe and Paula Christianson. Marijo did not attend; after 2 accidents involving deer she has decided to limit night driving.

Meeting was called to order by President David Hofstad.

Secretary's report read by Ginny Stoneouse in Paula's absence. Motion to accept Secretary's report made by Josh Vettleson and 2nd by Ron Hegge by David.

Financial report read by President David Hofstad in Kyle's absence. Offering as of July 31, \$31,191.78 budget to date \$37,061.98. Short \$5,870.20. Motion to accept financial report made by Lisa Kolstoe and 2nd by Wyatt Vettleson. A question was asked about the offerings when service is combined with Zion and cash goes to the church hosting the service and checks to the church it is made out to

Treasurer's report read by Lisa Kolstoe. Motion to accept report made by GinnyStoneouse 2nd by Erica Motteberg.

Old Business: The reserved parking signs need to be placed and David did attempt but a larger digger was needed. After a short discussion Ron thought he had a solution and will give it a go. Ron brought the picture to Joel Kvasager that had been given to the church in his dad's memory. The 130th anniversary celebration was a huge success.



Well attended and many wonderful comments and memories shared. VBS went really well with 43 kids and helpers attending. Lots of comments from kids that they were looking forward to coming. The church was decorated so fun in the theme of "Up North". Erica Motteberg, Jill Kolstoe and Chelsey Vettleson and their helpers did a super job. Erica did say next year they want to do better to let everyone know to come to the program on the last night. It seems the services for McIntosh church are going well. Some shingles have been replaced that had blown off.

New Business: Alice asked about a way of approving minutes before publication. It was decided to leave as is for now because of meeting every other month. A new dehumidifier is needed and Wyatt will get one. September 7 will be a clean up at Salem day, with regular service a light lunch and work on tasks needed at the church. September 14th will be Rally Sunday with a meal following the 1st day of Sunday School

President David led in the Lords Prayer. Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ron Hegge and 2nd by Alice Hofstad
Next meeting will be held October 14, 2025.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Join us after church on September 7, 2025 to participate in a God's Work Our Hands style event. We will meet in the church basement at 11:30 to discuss projects that need to be completed. A light lunch will be served.

Our Goals

- ✓ Paint overhang above door
- ✓ Cemetery Clean-up
- ✓ Deep Cleaning
- ✓ Replace outlets, switches and thermostat in bathrooms
- ✓ Possible Bathroom Remodel Work



Salem Financials

Salem Lutheran Church

	\$27,876.81
Income:	
Offerings	\$6,833.00
Building Fund	\$1,202.23
Total Cash Available	\$35,912.04
Expenses:	
David Hofstad - Picnic	\$72.40
Ginny Stoneouse-Confirm Banquet	\$167.39
RLEC	\$217.34
Total Expenses	\$457.13
Ending Balance June 30, 2025	\$35,454.91

Income:	
Offerings	\$4,437.00
Thrivent	\$27.00
Trans from Building Fund	\$1,780.00
Total Cash Available	\$41,698.91

Expenses:	
Parish	
Lisa Kolstoe/Lowes	\$1,780.42
RLEC	\$140.58
NW MN Synod	\$300.00
RLC Coop - prepay	\$1,098.50
Total Expenses	\$3,319.50
Ending Balance July 31, 2025	\$38,379.41

Income:	
Offerings	\$3,896.00
Thrivent	\$20.00
Trans From Building Fund	\$1,365.00
Total Cash Available	\$5,281.00

Expenses:	
Parish	\$4,237.80
Alice Hofstad - Paint	\$51.98
Tyrone Olson- bathroom	\$1,007.43
Lisa Kolstoe/Lowes	\$357.56
Total Expenses	\$5,654.77
Ending August 12, 2025	\$38,005.64

Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings:	\$13,801.40
Interest	\$65.15
Deposit: Donations	\$100.00
Memorials:	

Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings:	\$9,057.00
Income: Thrivent	\$63.29
CD Interest:	
Interest	\$33.77
Deposits:	
To General Fund	

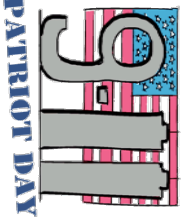

Building Fund Savings	\$1,144.38
Interest	\$13.47
Deposits:	
Transfers	(\$3,145.00)

Memorial Fund Savings:	\$3,798.42
Interest	\$13.87
Memorials:	\$595.00

CD #14297	\$14,637.75	Cemetery Perp. Care	4.50% Maturity
CD #14298	\$6,128.31	Cemetery Maint.	4.50% Maturity

Thrivent Mutual Fund balance as of 06/30/2025



September 2025						
◀ August						October ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3 4pm 1st Comm class. at Zion 7:00 p.m. Salem WELCA 7:00 p.m. Zion WELCA	4	5	6
7 <i>Gods Work Our Hands</i> 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	8	9 7:00 p.m. Parish Board Meeting	10 4pm 1st Comm class. at Zion	11 Patriot Day 	12	13
14 <i>Rally Sunday</i> 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	15	16	17 4pm 1st Comm class. at Zion	18	19	20
21 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	22 	23	24 4pm 1st Comm class. at Zion	25	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	29	30	Zion Altar Kaye M.	Zion Ushers Sept. 7: Sarah J. L. Sept. 14: Patty M. Sept. 21: Marcella M. Sept. 28: Sarah B. L.	Salem Altar Stacey H.	Salem Ushers Sept. 7: Wyatt V. Sept. 14: Leif K. Sept. 21: Alice H. Sept. 28: Paula C.

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!!

*By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.*

*By Helen Hunt Jackson
(1830 - 1885)*



September 2025
Newsletter

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

Oklee Lutheran Parish
Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
PO Box 56
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