

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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

November 2026

Lindi Christianson, SAM
lchristianson@okleelutheran.org
218-289-5864
Bonny Cote, Parish Secretary
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

November arrives with a quiet holiness. The air cools, the fields rest, and the church year invites us to begin with **All Saints Day**—a day when we remember the great cloud of witnesses who have shaped our faith, held our stories, and walked ahead of us into God's eternal light. It's a day that reminds us that the church is bigger than any one moment, any one season, any one generation. We stand on holy ground every time we gather.

This November also marks **one full year** since I began serving as your SAM. A whole year of Sundays. A whole year of fellowship. A whole year of learning your names, your stories, your joys, your griefs, your hopes. A whole year of discovering, again and again, how deeply God works through this community.

I want you to know how profoundly this year has changed me. Being with you every Sunday—praying together, singing together, hearing the Good News together—has reshaped my understanding of why church matters. Not as an obligation, not as a habit, but as something essential for **body, mind, and soul**.

There is something lifegiving that happens when we gather. Something healing. Something grounding. Something that reminds us who we are and whose we are. I've felt it in my own life this past year: the steadiness of worship, the warmth of fellowship, the way God meets us in community in ways we simply cannot experience alone.

Coming to church has been a gamechanger for me. Truly. And I believe it can be for you too.

In a world that pulls us in a hundred directions, worship calls us back to center. In a world that leaves us tired and scattered, fellowship knits us together. In a world that fills our minds with noise, Scripture speaks peace. In a world that wears down our spirits, Christ restores us.

As we step into November—into All Saints, into gratitude, into the nearing of Advent—I hope you'll keep making space for worship. Not out of guilt, but out of hope. Not out of obligation, but out of longing. Not because the church needs you, but because **you need what God gives here**: community, grounding, joy, and the Good News that lifts us every single week.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your SAM this past year. Thank you for welcoming me, teaching me, and walking with me. I am grateful for every Sunday we share, and I look forward to all the Sundays still to come.



God's blessings,

SAM— **Lindi**



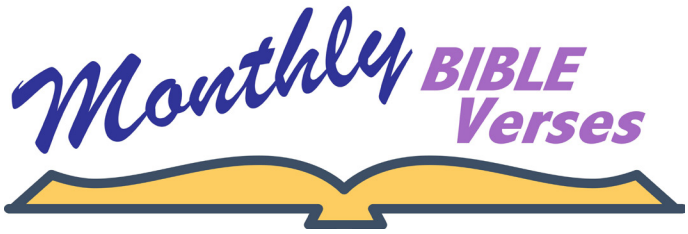
November Birthdays

1: Dustin Knutson
3: Paige Olson
5: Claire Whalen
7: Ellie Halverson
Dennis Linder
10: Jill Kolstoe
Parker Klasen
11: Jane Kolstoe
18: Sophie Linder
21: Lonny Cote
Hazel Bakken
23: Carlee Whalen
24: Jenny O'Neill
Zelene Kimball
30: Owen O'Neill

Anniversaries

None

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary, text/call Bonny Cote at 612-840-9401 or email: bcote@okleelutheran.org



November 1
Revelation 7:9-17;Psalm 34:1-10, 22;
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8
Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 29
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



- The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, November 12th** at 7:00 p.m.
- Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, December 2nd** at 7:00pm.
- Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, December 8th** at 6:30 p.m.

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

Monthly Newsletter is also online at okleelutheran.org

If you know someone who would like to get the newsletter, should be added to the list or a change of address, please contact Bonny Cote at 612-840-9401 or email her at bcote@okleelutheran.org to add them to the list.


Oklee Lutheran Parish
November 2025
Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

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.

** Broadcast Update **

Oklee Lutheran Parish

Broadcasts of Oklee Parish worship services are on Channel 35 GVTV at 7pm on Wednesdays and it is still 10 am on Sundays. Services can also be viewed on our YouTube channel.

~ Parish News ~

USHERS THIS MONTH

Salem Ushers List

Sun. November 1:	Lisa Kolstoe
Sun. November 8:	Erica Motteberg
Sun. November 15:	Josh Vettleson
Sun. November 22:	David Hofstad
Sun. November 29:	Ginny Stoneouse

Zion Ushers List

Sun. November 1:	Confirmation Student
Sun. November 8:	Confirmation Student
Sun. November 15:	Confirmation Student
Sun. November 22:	Confirmation Student
Sun. November 29:	Confirmation Student

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

Lindi's Office Hours

Lindi's office hours are on Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lindi's contact information is: lchristianson@okleelutheran.org or by phone: 218-289-5864.

Bible Study Thursday mornings

Bible Study is held on Thursdays at 8 a.m. at Zion in the lounge. Everyone is welcome to attend.



2026 Zion Altar Schedule

November: Patty Mickelson
December: Jami Hendrickson

2026 Salem Altar Schedule

November: Jill Kolstoe
December: Grace Dessellier

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

The WELCA meeting is set for **Wednesday, November 4th** at 6:30 p.m. Elaine McGeary is the Bible Study leader and Ginny Stoneouse is the Hostess. The meeting is held at Salem.

All ladies of the congregation encouraged to attend the WELCA meetings.

Salem First Communion Classes

1st Communion Classes for Salem students have been held and 1st Communion will be held on November 1st during church services.

Salem Annual Noisy/Quiet Offering

On November 22nd Salem will take their annual noisy/quiet offering for the ELCA Good Gifts program which purchases farm animals for over 80 countries as part of Gods global barnyard. In the past we have purchased piglets, bees, chicks, roosters, and goats to help our global neighbors help themselves. So bring your noisy (coins) and quiet (bills) to church on November 22nd.

Zion News

Zion Auction and Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone that donated and/or came to the Zion Fall Bazaar/Auction & Bake Sale.

Zion WELCA Meets in December

The December meeting is set for Wednesday, **December 2nd** at 6:00 p.m. at the Church.

All ladies of the congregation encouraged to attend the WELCA meetings.

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/

Grief Share

Grief Share will start November 22 at 2:00 p.m. There will 13 sessions.

All are welcome to come.

Meetings will be held at Zion Lutheran in the Lounge.

Youth Group News

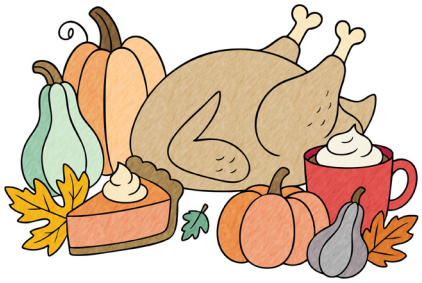
Youth Group is holding a Pancake Breakfast on **November 8th** starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Oklee Community Hall.



Community Thanksgiving Meal

It's that time of year once again. Looking for volunteers to help with the Community Thanksgiving Meal to be held on Thanksgiving Day at the Community Hall in Oklee.

Items needed: Pies, people willing to cook a turkey, and help serve.



Sign up sheets for pies and volunteers will be located at Zion Lutheran Church, Salem Lutheran Church or call Jo Lambert at 218-796-4527.



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

Important Update: Changes to the MNsure Application System

MNsure is Minnesota's official health insurance marketplace, where residents can shop, compare, and select health insurance plans that best meet their needs. The MNsure application system has changed and we wanted to be sure to give you a heads up. Anyone who previously used **MNsure.org** and was enrolled in a health plan should have received an email and/or letter informing them that they must create a new account through either **MNsure.org** or **LoginMN** to continue submitting online applications and managing their account. Previous usernames and passwords are no longer active and cannot be used to access the new system.

- **MNsure.org** is the website for individuals and families who are eligible for MNsure Qualified Health Plans, with or without premium subsidies.
- **LoginMN** is the website for individuals and families who are eligible for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.
- Households with members who qualify for both a Qualified Health Plan and Medical Assistance/ MinnesotaCare will need to create accounts in both systems.

To learn more, visit MNsure.org or call 855-366-7873. If you would like to visit with someone from our office you can call **1-888-778-4008** or **218-796-5144 ext. 1017** to schedule an appointment.

SAVE THE DATE- THE HOLIDAY TRAIN WILL BE IN PLUMMER ON DECEMBER 17TH! MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

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 WELCA making School Kits



During the Oct Salem WELCA meeting, Stacy and Ellen assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. The kits will be delivered to the LWR pickup in Thief River Falls on Nov 7.



Invite a Neighbor

To come to church with you on a Sunday morning!!

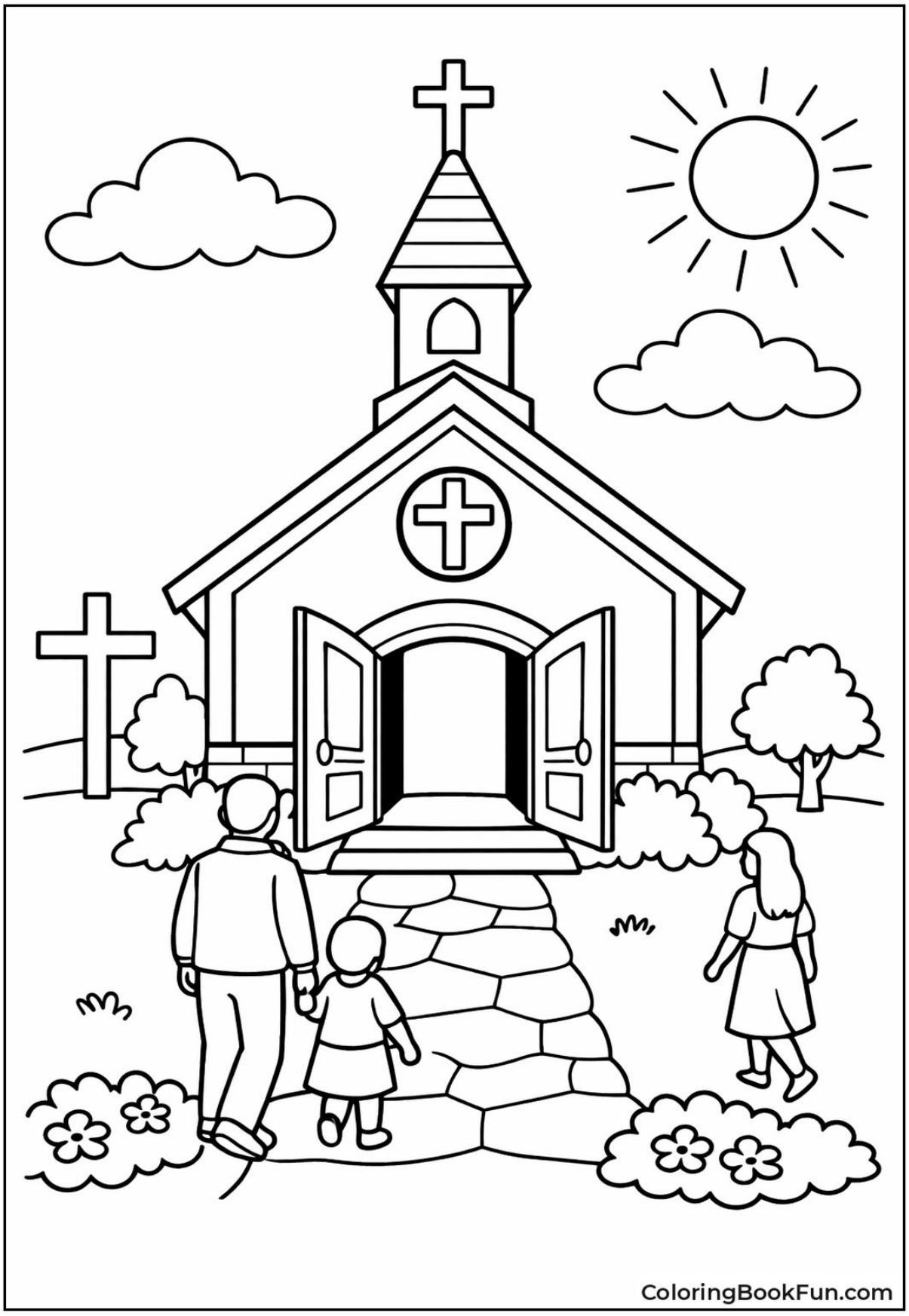


JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. Salem Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Zion Sunday School

Coloring Page



Zion Minutes & Financials

Zion Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes

Date: August 7th, 2026

Members Present: Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns, Diane Hanson, Patty Mickelson, Jami Hendrickson

Also in attendance: Marcella Melby, Treasurer, Lindi Christianson, SAM

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl. SAM Lindi opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The secretary's report was read by Jami. Motion made to accept the report. 1st - Patty, 2nd – Gin Motion Approved

Treasurer's report was read by Marcella. Marcella will transfer $995.00 from the Building Fund for Elevator Repairs. Motion made to accept report: 1st - Gin 2nd – Diane Motion Approved

SAM Lindi's Report: Grief Share is estimated to start November 1st. This will be available for the community. The Wayfinders Youth Group is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 8th at the Oklee Hall from 9:30-12:30 to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering in June 2027. Confirmation has started and is going well. There are no students of age for 1st Communion at Zion.

Old Business: Patty and Cheryl brought a sample letter to share with our congregation with the goal of updating our membership. They will make a few changes and bring it back in December. A removable support railing has been installed at Zion.

New Business: Membership will be discussed in December with a letter sent to all non-active members.

Ushering: October/November: Confirmation Students/Council Members

SAM Lindi led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 1st -Gin 2nd – Diane Motion Carried

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026, at 7:00

Augut 2026 Board Report
Zion Lutheran Church
Financial Statement

General Fund

Balance 7/31/2026			$	1,060.73
Income				
Offerings	$	7,579.66		
WELCA Donation	$	300.00		
Thrivent Donation	$	146.00		
Truck Pull Fundraiser (7/18 & 7/19)	$	25.00		
Total Income			$	8,050.66
Budgeted Expenses				
Parish (July)	$	3,981.54		
Otter Tail (electric)	$	342.68		
Red Lake County Coop (fuel)	$	159.00		
Red Lake County Coop (pre-fill)	$	805.50		
North Star Insurance	$	965.32		
RLC Gazette (Breakfast Ad)	$	24.00		
	$	6,278.04		
Non- Budgeted Expenses				
Otis Elevator Company (Repairs	$	1,078.75		
	$	1,078.75		
Total Expenses			$	7,356.79
Ending Balance 9-30-2026			$	1,754.60

Passbook Savings		
Grace McManus Scholarship		$3,973.63
Building Fund		$2,263.22
Elevator	$995.00	
Windows	$706.78	
Undesignated	$561.44	
Memorial Fund		$8,179.32
Building Fund	$2,154.71	
Elevator	$130.00	
Sunday School	$345.00	
Undesignated	$5,549.61	



Salem Council Financial and Minutes

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Notes

Date: Oct. 13h, 2026

Attendance: David Hofstad, Ron Hegge, Paula Christianson, Alice Hofstad, Ginny Stonehouse, Lisa Kolstoe, Wyatt Vettelson, SAM Lindi Christianson. Prayer led by SAM Lindi.

Secretary's report read by: Paula Christianson. Approved by Lisa, 2nd by Ginny.

Financial Secretary's report read by: David Hofstad
As of 9/30/26: Budget Amount: $40,088.25
Offerings Received: $43,170.00
Balance over budget: +$3081.75
Approved by Ron, 2nd by Paula.

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

Pastor's Report by SAM Lindi: Planning is underway for the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, and 8 people have signed up so far. Students grade 8th-12th are welcome to sign up by Oct. 22nd to receive the early bird discount. The Youth Gathering is scheduled for June 28th-July 2, 2027. Pancake breakfast fundraiser will be held Nov. 8th with lefse for sale. SAM Lindi's mentorship program with Pastor Dodson not yet started but they will be meeting quarterly. Materials for a grief support program have been received, and the first gathering will begin November 22nd, more details on location will be shared later. Discussion of the Lenten Holden Evening Prayer services, with area pastors rotating in a round-robin schedule to deliver the sermons. SAM Lindi will discuss with Zion church. 5 church locations are interested in joining the round robin services.

Old Business: Building maintenance updates: The bathroom remodel will resume late fall. Other building maintenance needed: stain the trim around interior doors in pastors' room, sink install in the kitchen and install quarter round upstairs. Window tint on the stained-glass windows has been installed as a memorial from the Les Hofstad family, this includes a 10-year guarantee on the tint. Shingle repair has been completed, if a complete replacement is needed, we will need to plan for funding. Headstone repair will continue in 2027. Building maintenance will look into adding a ramp to the entrance of the church. **New Business:** A sink will be purchased and installed. Consideration was had on the suggestion from the Linder family memorial of a map of burial plots and memorial benches to be placed near family headstones. Council agreed that a map to be placed outside would be a nice addition to the outside of the church, benches will be further discussed with the family and sextons. Discussion on adding kneeling benches in the pews and placement of the baptismal font, no decisions made. The Synod will be invoicing Salem for a $95 Synod assembly fee, to be paid by the treasurer.

Events: November 1st: 1st Communion, All Saints Day November 22nd: Recognition for New Members and Baptisms during service. Noisy & quiet offering. **Closed in Prayer.** Motion to Adjourn, approved Lisa, 2nd by Ginny. **Next Meeting Date**: Dec. 8th 6:30pm

Salem Lutheran Church

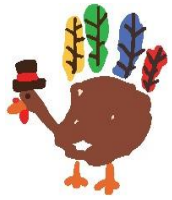
Balance August 10, 2026		$37,840.18
Income:		
Offerings		$4,400.00
Thrivent		$120.00
Total Cash Available		$42,360.18
Expenses:		
RLC Coop	$1,432.00	
RLEC	$200.43	
Total Expenses		$1,632.43
Ending Balance August 31, 2026		$40,727.75
Income:		
Offerings		$3,136.00
Thrivent		
Total Cash Available		$43,863.75
Expenses:		
Parish	$3,981.55	
RLEC	$169.47	
Total Expenses		$4,151.02
Ending Balance September 30, 2026		$39,712.73
Income:		
Offerings		$614.00
Total Cash Available		$614.00
Expenses:		
Parish	$3,981.55	
NW MN Synod	$300.00	
NW MN Synod Delegate Fee	$95.00	
Total Expenses		$4,376.55
Ending October 12, 2026		$35,950.18

Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings:		$15,237.40
Interest		$50.08
Deposit: Donations		$1,005.00
Memorials:		
Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings:		$9,832.07
Income: Thrivent		$64.20
CD Interest:		
Interest		$28.54
Deposits:		
Transfers		
Building Fund Savings		$1,466.68
Interest		$4.28
Deposits:		
Transfers		
Memorial Fund Savings:		$4,363.07
Interest		$12.74
Memorials:		
To Checking		

CD #16380	$15,107.04	Cemetery Perp. Care	3.50% Maturity	8/29/2027
CD #16379	$6,324.79	Cemetery Maint.	3.50% Maturity	8/29/2027

Thrivent Mutual Fund balance as of 09/30/2026 $8,134.02

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FALL BACK 1 HOUR 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem *Reformation Sunday*	**2**	**3** Election Day	**4** Zion - Confirmation	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	**9**	**10**	**11**  Salem - Confirmation	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	**16**	**17**	**18** Zion - Confirmation	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem 2:00 p.m. Grief Share	**23**	**24**	**25** No Classes- at Zion or Salem	**26** Thanksgiving Day 	**27**	**28**
29 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem 2:00 p.m. Grief Share	**30**		**Zion Ushers** Nov. 1: Conf.Student Nov. 8: Conf.Student Nov. 15: Conf.Student Nov. 22: Conf.Student Nov. 29: Conf.Student	**Salem Ushers** Nov. 1: Lisa K Nov. 8: Erica M Nov. 15: Josh V Nov. 22: David H Nov. 29: Ginny S	**Salem Altar** Jill K **Zion Altar** Patty M	

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!

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Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
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November 2026 Newsletter

