



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

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



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

June 2024

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

What Zion Means to Me Scholarship

The following students applied to the Grace McManus Scholarship and below are their essay's. They will each receive a scholarship.

Ella Moen

What Zion Means to Me

Zion, to me, means being a part of a community. Growing up at Zion Lutheran Church, I have gotten to know those around me and others in the community the love God. Zion has always guided me through my life. I was baptized, had my first communion, and got confirmed at Zion. I have also been extremely lucky to be a part of the best youth group through my church and spread the word of God while having my best friends beside me. We serve God by serving others and by doing volunteer work when we can. We have also made many life long memories on youth group trips and attending church gatherings together. We are going on a large trip this July to a ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans that I am beyond excited for. Through that week of faith, I will get to learn so much and meet so many new people that all love God. I also taught Sunday School for one year to some of the sweetest young students. I loved teaching Gods word to them and I continue to share his word whenever I can. I learned so much over the years through by pastors, Sunday school teachers, and mentors at Zion. Zion is all that I have ever known and now made a part of myself. It has become a place of warmth, peace, love and prayer. I know I can always go there if I am lost or need somewhere to go. Everyone there feels like family and is very welcoming and kind. It always makes me feel better and lifts me up when I am feeling down. As long as I can remember, on of my favorite bible verses has been Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Zion has guided me through my faith and helped me understand the bible. It has helped me understand how important God is in my life and how strong his love is. I learned that he will always be with me no matter if I have sinned or went against him. Zion has helped me be closer to God. We need more people in this world to trust in God and love him as much as I do and have learned to do so through Zion.

What Salem Means to Me Scholarship

The following students applied for a Scholarship and below are their essay's. They will each receive a scholarship.

Jamie Flatgard

What Salem Means to Me

Being a member of the Salem church has taught me so much throughout the years I have been here. I was baptized here and my family has been faithful members ever since. When I first started Sunday school, I did not really know the point of it. All I knew was that I had to be there and try to learn about Jesus. I started out not taking in new information very well. I did not fully understand the point of learning these new things about God. As time went on, I grew more as a person and a child of God, and started to understand why I was really here. I learned that I was here to show my love and respect to God. I knew if I showed him that, he would show it back to me. Once I finally figured it out, I knew God could help me with anything, and that he would always be here for me.

My parents have been the main influences in my faith journey. They worked hard to help me understand why God did what he did. They have always been there for me, just like God has. The environment of Salem has definitely influenced my faith journey. The Sunday school teachers made fun lessons and had things for us to do that really helped my learning increase and made it easier for me to understand everything about God. When I leave home and go to school, I want to find a good church in my area and find as much time as I can to go. Throughout the past couple years, I have not been able to go to church a lot. I really want to get back into it and start going as much as I can again. The times that I am able to come home on the weekends, I also want to find time to go then. God is super important in my life. He knew when I first started Sunday school that I was having a hard time understanding what he really meant. I believe that he guided me through it and helped me understand the importance of him. I do not know where I would be in my life without him helping me to understand why he is here for us. God will forever be an important part of my life, I will always turn to him when I am in need of help.



Caden Lee

What Zion Means to Me

To me Zion means home. It is the church my dad was baptized in, where my brothers and I were baptized. My whole family has attended Zion, from my great grandparents, to my grandparents, to my parents to me and my brothers. And it is still where we go to church. It is also a place of community where I know almost everyone there. It is a tight knit, close community of people.

Keira Morinville

What Zion Means to Me

My church has been the Zion Lutheran Church in Oklee my whole life, and in this essay I will explain what it means to me. This church has genuinely brought me so many things to be grateful for everyday. Through worship, praise and ceremony, I have the ability to connect with God with everyone in the congregation as one. Though my church is small, the incredible ability to connect with everyone in the congregation is so special to me and will never be something I take for granted. I have been blessed with being baptized, having my first communion, being confirmed, and even the opportunity to be a Sunday School teacher for a year, all at this amazing church.

Church is a place where everyone can come together as one, regardless of what their life looks like, bad or good. Church is a place to serve our God together and make a difference, just how he intended. It is a place where different people from different situations come together as one to worship and become one with God. Church comes with an immense amount of support and encouragement from your neighbors. It brings the feeling of love, and the sense that you belong. God will never make you feel unwanted. Our church brings a light to the world through the gospel and worship.

Zion Lutheran Church has also brought me so many fantastic opportunities. Two summers ago, the youth group from my church was able to go on a trip to Duluth, Wisconsin Dells and the Twin Cities, and I am so glad I was able to be a part of that experience. We even got to experience a musical church as a group, and I have never felt anything more amazing. It allowed me to make so many memories that will stay with me forever and I will cherish them for the rest of my life. I am so incredibly grateful for experiences this church has brought me, as well as the love and togetherness it has made me feel all of these years. Thank you.

Jordan Larson

What Salem Means to Me

The growth of my faith has been quite a journey. Life has presented me with many challenges, and I wholeheartedly believe those trials have heavily influenced my faith in a positive way. As I have grown and matured, I have sought God more and more. When I have a problem, I no longer struggle through it on my own. I turn to God and ask for his help. I can say with confidence that he responds, and helps me, every single time. I have always believed in God, but as I have grown and matured, my faith has grown tremendously.

There have been many people that have influenced my faith. My mom is a major influence. She was the one to bring me to church when I was young. She is the one that has tough conversations with me, and makes sure to bring God into those conversations. For example, if I am struggling with stress, she tells me to give it to God. My grandma has also been a big influence in my faith growth. She has been an unofficial mentor of mine since I was young. Like my mother, she educates me and guides me in a faith-focused direction. Another major influence on my faith is Carol Kvasager. She was my mentor during my two years of confirmation and I learned so much from her. She is one of the most faithful people I have ever met, and I admire her for it.

Salem has played a huge role in my faith journey. It is my home church. I was baptized and confirmed in this church. So long as I am able, I plan to make routine returns to Salem after I leave home. The people that attend this church have been great examples for me. I have always felt church when I go to Salem. I consider myself one who has a solid faith foundation, and I truly believe that Salem deserves some of the credit for that.

As I go through my life, I plan to continue my positive faith journey. I see myself remaining a consistent church-goer as I leave home. I plan to continue to seek out God in times of struggle, as well as times of triumph and joy. I plan to continue to walk with God and Jesus right beside me, acknowledging their presence and greatness daily.

God's grace is incredibly important to me and in my life. I believe that it is truly the greatest gift I have ever, and will ever, receive. As a human, I know I am sinful, therefore I am very grateful for the gift of God's grace. I know that as I continue in my faith journey, I will make mistakes. However, knowing that I will be forgiven by God makes me confident that my faith will continue to only grow.

Peyton O'Neill

What Salem Means to Me

My faith has grown from a belief to a better understanding of my religion. I have an increased understanding of everything that I have already believed in. It was the people that were in my church that helped me understand. I have gone to many churches while regularly attending two, Zion and Salem, and I have had many people from all the churches help me to be where I am now. Elaine McGeary was my confirmation teacher in Salem and has always been there for me and everyone else in my confirmation class. The way I've grown in my faith is that my motivations have turned from doing things I want to do to now doing things I believe are justified in Christ's name. I have done things just for what I have deemed good in God's eyes and it has made me and others around me happier and more grateful. I believe that when one finds God and becomes a follower of Jesus, no matter what, their life will be better from that moment and I have, in many instances, promoted my religion. I have many friends that are in my friend group that share the same ideas and love for God that I do.



Zion Scholarship Recipients

Caden Lee

Keira Morinville

Ella Moen



Salem Scholarship Recipients

Jamie Flatgard

Jordan Larson

Peyton O'Neill



**SAVE THE DATE for
VBS!!!! Food Truck
Party is coming to
Salem! Monday, Au-
gust 5th - Thursday,
August 8th starting at
6:00 p.m. More info
to come later!**



JUNE

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2: Gunnar Halverson
 Bristol Vettleson
 6: Patrick O'Neill
 10: Chase Whalen
 11: David Halverson
 12: Orrin Linder
 13: Clarence Christianson
 15: Eleanor Christianson
 18: Don Brown
 Amy Parsley
 20: Paula Christianson
 21: Jami Hendrickson
 25: Avery Nelson
 Wayne Vettleson
 26: Gary Rahier

Anniversaries

1: Sue & Jon Smith
 2: Jami & Richard Hendrickson
 10: Stephanie & Brent Bakken
 19: Kaye & Tim Munt
 24: Bonny & Lonny Cote
 25: Patty & Eric Mickelson
 29: Isaac & Marcella Melby

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



• 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.

• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, June 6th** at 7:00 p.m.

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



June 2:

**Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10;
 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23—3:6**

June 9:

**Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130;
 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1; Mark 3:20-35**

June 16:

**Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15;
 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17;
 Mark 4:26-34**

June 23:

**Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32;
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41**

June 30:

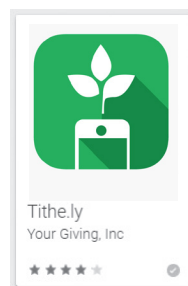
**Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30;
 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43**



Clifton "Cliff"
Melby passed away
peacefully on
May 19, 2024.



Myrtle Woods
passed away on
May 11, 2024



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 ~

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

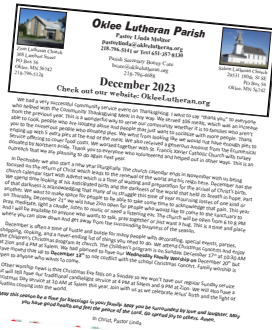
The system will use your cell number if it was provided or else we will use home number on record in directory.

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.

Please Take Note...

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.



Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

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

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. June 2:	Josh Vettleson
Sun. June 9:	David Hofstad
Sun. June 16:	Ginny Stoneouse
Sun. June 23:	Shirley Dessellier
Sun. June 30:	Wyatt Vettleson

***** 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



Zion Lutheran Church Council. Back Row (l to r): Diane Hanson, Sarah Lee, Chad Parsley, Conway Hamm, Sarah Lee, Cheryl O'Neill, John Pendelton, Norman Hanson. Not pictured: Jami Hendrickson, Kari Hamm, Gin Berns, and Marcella Melby.



Salem Lutheran Church Council. Back row (l to r): Toni Johnson, David Hofstad, Ginny Stoneouse, Shirley Dessellier, Erica Motteberg, Paula Christianson, Lisa Kolstoe. Front row (l to r): Ron Hegge, Kyle Vettleson, Josh Vettleson, Wyatt Vettleson.



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



Every year we complete an Annual Report, in that report it highlights a few of our agency's accomplishments over the course of our fiscal year. The Full report can be found on our ICCC website. I wanted to share a few highlights with you below.

- In our Employment and Training department we served 134 individuals and exited 60 of them to employment or on-going education opportunities.
- In our Energy Assistance we served over 1,700 households and sent out \$2,159,605 in heating assistance to local vendors. There were 222 households served in water assistance sending out \$105,535 to vendors and they assisted 91 households with energy related repairs sending \$164,865 to vendors.
- In our Family Services Department a total of 222 households were served in the homeless programs, 165 people were assisted with health insurance enrollment and renewal and many individuals were screened and assisted many with SNAP outreach.
- We served 349 households with food shelf baskets
- We served 179 children in head start with 93% of parents making progress on the goals that they set.
- In Weatherization, 57 projects were completed.
- During the year we managed just under \$5,000,000 of grants and contracts that came through, making us one of the largest non-profits in the region.

If you would like a printed copy mailed to you feel free to contact me, I'd be happy to mail you one!

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.

Zion News

Zion WELCA Meets

Zion WELCA is meeting on June 5th at 7:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Zion Needs Your help!

Zion will be holding two fundraisers this summer. One on July 20th and the other on August 10th. Please step up to help and also if you have a Thrivent Account - consider asking for a Thrivent card to be used for one of the fund raisers.

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, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. Shirley Desselier has Bible Study and Carol Roisland is hostess.

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!



SALEM CEMETERY FUND

The Salem Lutheran Church remains committed to the respectful preservation, enhancement, and beautification of the sacred resting grounds for our cherished family members and loved ones.

Our ability to fulfill this mission relies greatly on the generous contributions of dedicated individuals within our community and beyond. Your support is essential in ensuring the continual upkeep, beautification efforts, and the meeting of operational needs for the cemetery.

We kindly invite you to consider how you can contribute to financing the ongoing maintenance, beautification projects, and the rising operational costs of these sacred grounds. Please complete the form below and accompany it with your generous donation, sending it to:

Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery Fund
PO Box 56, Oklee MN 56742

Name _____ This gift in the amount of \$ _____ is given

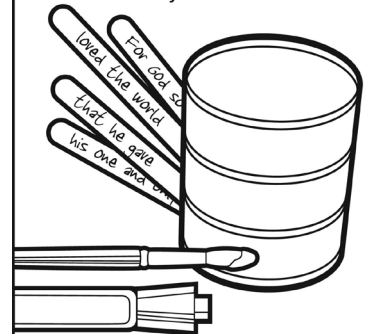
Address _____ In Memory of: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ In Honor of: _____

Thank You For Your Support

WAKE-UP WORDS

Play this memory game to start each day in God's Word.



What you need:

- Paint and paint brushes
- Stickers
- An empty, clean tin can
- Permanent marker
- Bible
- Wooden craft sticks

What you do:

1. Paint and decorate the outside of the can.
2. With marker, write a Bible verse on several sticks (only two or three words per stick).
3. Put the sticks in the can, and set it in a spot you'll see daily. As you eat or brush your teeth, practice unscrambling the verse and placing sticks in the correct order.
4. When you've memorized the verse, repeat with a new one.



Salem Seniors

Peyton O'Neill

Jamie Flatgard

Bryn Vettleson

Jordan Larson



Zion Reception on May 19th for Graduates and Confirmands. L to R: Natalee Hendrickson, Jackson Morinville, Keira Morinville, Maverick Nelson, Ella Moen, Caden Lee. Not Pictured: Arlo Svendsen, Ethan Lee.



Graduates Caden, Keira, Ella, and Maverick received quilts from the Zion Quilters.

Parish Minutes & Financials

Parish Board meeting

May 2, 2024

7:00 p.m.

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

Cheryl O'Neill called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved with a motion by Johns Vettleson, seconded by Conway Hamm, carried.

Cheryl informed the board that Salem had checked with Security State Agency and by switching they were able to save quite a bit and since the Parsonage is included in Zion, she wanted an ok.

The Financial report was given and approved by Josh Vettleson, seconded by David Hofstad, carried.

Pastor Raebel suggested a survey to be mailed out, but to keep it simple. Mail to members only, with self addressed, self stamp envelope for returning the survey. Mail out by May 10th, with a due date of May 24th.

Block Party was discussed - have it a week before the Fair. Should it be the same as last year. Cheryl stated that community felt it should be a Potluck. It was decided that Zion will furnish hotdogs/buns and St. Francis Xavier and supply paper products and water/coffee. Bonny mentioned that ICCC really appreciated hygiene products that were donated and was wondering if the Block Party could be a venue for donations for that. The board said yes.

Pastor will be out of the parsonage by May 10th. Bonny will call GV Tech to turn off cable, internet and phone. Suggestion was to shut off water and turn thermostat to 50 degrees. Repair to bathroom/tub surround should be done while house is empty.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. by motion by Kyle V. and seconded by David H, carried.

Bonny will ask Eric about the 26th - also ask about SAM Allen at Immanuel.



Bonny Cote, Secretary

Parish Banking Summary

1/1/2024 through 4/30/2024

Category	1/1/2024-4/30/2024
INCOME	
Income	
Joint Service	-2.00
Misc	
Tithely	135.00
TOTAL Misc	135.00
Salem	16,708.76
Zion	7,930.96
TOTAL Income	24,772.72
TOTAL INCOME	24,772.72
EXPENSES	
Operational	
Computer Allowance	200.00
Electricity	900.00
Office Supplies	241.83
Copier	476.44
TOTAL Office Supplies	718.27
Postage	98.00
Newsletter	506.16
TOTAL Postage	604.16
Repairs	
Parsonage	870.00
TOTAL Repairs	870.00
Telephone	
Telephone Parsonage	396.64
Telephone Zion	330.44
TOTAL Telephone	727.08
Water-Garbage	957.66
TOTAL Operational	4,977.17
Program	
Bulletins Etc	375.92
Confi-1 Com	93.67
Lent	300.00
Pastor's Contining Ed	75.00
TOTAL Program	844.59
Salary	
Pastor	
Annuity	0.00
FICA	1,178.12
Pension-Insur.	7,284.36
Salary	15,400.00
TOTAL Pastor	23,862.48
Secretary	
FICA	153.00
Salary	1,333.32
TOTAL Secretary	1,486.32
TOTAL Salary	25,348.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	31,170.56
OVERALL TOTAL	-6,397.84



June 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Zion Altar Ashley Halverson Nancy Gunderson	Salem Ushers June 2: Josh V. June 9: David H. June 16: Ginny S. June 23: Shirley D. June 30: Wyatt V.				1
2 Pr. Graff (Communion) 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	3	4 7:00 p.m. Zion Council	5	6 7:00 p.m. Parish Board at Zion	7	8
9 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	10	11 7:00 p.m. Salem Council	12	13	14 	15
16 Pr. Graff (Communion) 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	17	18	19	20 	21	22
Happy Father's Day!						
23 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem						

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!!



June 2024
Newsletter

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Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
PO Box 56
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