

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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

October 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

Dear friends in Christ,

October has a way of slowing us down. The leaves begin their quiet transformation, turning from deep greens to golds and reds, reminding us that God built change right into creation. Nothing stays the same forever — not the trees, not the seasons, not even us. And somehow, in all of it, God remains steady and present.

Our lectionary readings this month echo that truth. We hear stories of God's people learning, stumbling, growing, and being reshaped by grace. In **Exodus**, Moses receives the commandments, the people wrestle with impatience and fear, and God continues to guide them even when they lose their way. In **Matthew**, Jesus tells parables that challenge us to see where God is calling us to grow, to turn, to trust. And in **Philippians** and **1 Thessalonians**, Paul encourages communities to stay rooted in joy, prayer, and perseverance — even as life shifts around them.

These scriptures feel especially fitting as we settle into our fall routines. School is in full swing, harvest is underway, and our church life begins to take on its autumn shape. After the fullness of summer, October invites us to breathe, to find our rhythm again, and to remember that God is present in every new schedule, every fresh start, every change we didn't expect.

Maybe you're feeling the weight of transition this year. Maybe your days look different than they did a few months ago. Maybe you're carrying both excitement and uncertainty. If so, you're not alone. The trees remind us that change can be beautiful. Scripture reminds us that change can be holy. And our community reminds us that change can be shared.

As we move through this season, may we trust that God is not only behind the turning of the leaves but also behind the turning of our hearts. May we find comfort in routines that ground us, courage in the places where we're growing, and joy in the ways God is shaping our congregation for what comes next.

Blessings to you in this beautiful month of change.

SAM Lindi

May the God who paints the trees with glory paint your days with peace, your steps with purpose, and your heart with courage for every change that comes. Amen.

OCTOBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

4: Hilde Larson
13: Daryl Hamm
14: Carter Larson
15: Wendy Stauffacher
17: Jett Hanson
Orin Weber
20: Heath Mickelson
Jaxon Peterson
22: Trey Nelson
23: Elaine McGeary
25: Karena Melby
28: Leif Kolstoe
Ava Kolstoe
29: Les O'Neill
30: Marcella Melby
31: Darrell Tougas

Anniversaries

1:Arlan & Sheryl Fore
10: Terry & Sarah Whalen
12: Vincent & Shirley Dessellier
17: Matt & Lisa Kolstoe
18: Larry (Snook) & Bobbie Olson

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

Monthly BIBLE Verses

October 4
Isaiah 5:1-7: Psalm 80:7-15;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11
Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 18
Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13];
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

- The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, September 10th** at 7:00 p.m.
- Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, October 7th** at 7:00pm.
- Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, October 13th** 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

Lindi Christianson, SAM
lchristianson@okleelutheran.org
701-203-1385

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

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

Hello! My name is Lindi Christianson, and I'm thrilled to share a bit about my journey and my role within our church community.

I was born in Ada, MN, and spent my early childhood in Oklo, MN. I attended elementary school there before we moved to Shalom Bible Camp in Mentor, MN, in eleventh grade with my parents and two brothers. After the local school closed in my ninth-grade year, we relocated to a farm outside Mentor, where I eventually graduated high school in 1989.

Post graduation, I moved to Crookston and started my career as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Villa St. Vincent nursing home. In 1992, I married my husband, Jon, and we settled on a farm near Fertile, MN. We were blessed with our first son, Cole, in 1994, and our second son, Cody, followed in 1996. As our boys grew and began school, we decided to move from the farm into town for their education.

Professionally, I've worn many hats. I worked as a bank teller for 13 years and later transitioned to a role as a para at my local school, where I continued until October 27th of this year. From August 2025, I felt a strong calling to become more involved in my church, leading me to my current role as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM).

Our family has grown, and I am grateful for our blessings. Our son Cole married Tanya in 2021, and they've brought even more joy into our lives with their children—our granddaughter Lily and grandsons Warren and Wallace.

In 2013, I faced the profound loss of my son at 17, which profoundly affected my studies to become a youth pastor. Despite this tragic setback, I persevered, working both as a bakal teller in Fertile and Wingerand later with my husband in our family business while also contributing part-time at the local school.

Throughout my life, my faith has been a journey of ebb and flow. With the support and trust of the Oklee parish, I've embraced my calling as their SAM. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow with this community.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about my journey. I look forward to furthering our faith and community together.

Lindi Christianson

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. October 4:	Alice Hofstad
Sun. October 11:	Paula Christiianson
Sun. October 18:	Ron Hegge
Sun. October 25:	Kyle Vettleson

Zion Ushers List

Sun. October 4:	Confirmation Student
Sun. October 11:	Confirmation Student
Sun. October 18:	Confirmation Student
Sun. October 25:	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

October: Diane Hanson
November: Patty Mickelson
December: Jami Hendrickson

2026 Salem Altar Schedule

October: Paula & Kendra Christianson
November: Jill Kolstoe
December: Grace Dessellier

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

The WELCA meeting is set for **Wednesday, October 7th** at 6:00 p.m. Stacey Hofstad is the Bible Study leader and Elaine McGeary is the Hostess. The meeting is held at Salem.

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

Zion News

Zion Auction-Bake Sale

On Sunday, October 25th, Zion Lutheran Ladies will be holding their annual Auction-Bake Sale. It starts at 11 a.m. with a light lunch of BBQ's, pie & coffee.

Baked goods will be sold before the auction starts but there will be lots of great decorations and other items to bid on.

Everyone welcome!!

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/



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. Salem Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Zion Sunday School

Youth Group News

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

SALEM & ZION YOUTH GROUPS
ARE HAVING A FALL TOILETRY DRIVE
DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

ITEMS NEEDED:
TOILET PAPER
SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER
HAND SOAPS
CHAPSTICK
DEODORANTS
LOTIONS Q-TIPS
COTTON BALLS

DROP BOXES WILL BE AT EACH CHURCH



Our 3rd and 8th graders received their bibles on Rally Sunday at Zion.

All the Sunday School students received a keyring to hang on their backpacks.



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

We have been fortunate to receive many generous donations of fresh produce from local gardeners for our food shelf. Thanks to these contributions, we are able to make a variety of fresh vegetables available to community members through our free table.

Recent donations have included potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. We appreciate the generosity of those who have shared their garden harvests with the households we serve! If you have an abundance of fresh produce and would like to donate, please keep ICCC in mind.

ICCC is still seeking a representative from Red Lake County to serve on our Board of Directors. Applicants must:

- Reside in Red Lake County
- Be currently eligible for ICCC services or have been eligible for services in the past, including during childhood.

If interested, please apply through the QR code or on our website. For more information please contact Catherine Johnson, Executive Director at 218-796-5144 ext. 1027 or electronically by CJohnson@intercountycc.org.

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.





Congratulations Elaine!

On Saturday, Sept 19, Elaine McGeary was presented with the Mary Magdalene Award at the NW MN Synodical Womens Organization annual convention in Crookston, MN. The MM Award is given to women who exemplify "Go and Tell" --those whose provide outstanding service to their church. Elaine received a rose and certificate. A donation was also made in her honor to Pathways. Nominated by the Salem WELCA, Elaine was one of 15 women from the NW MN region who were presented with the award.

These Salem WELCA members attended the NW MN Women's Synodical Convention held in Crookston on 9/19. They supported Elaine's as she received the Mary Magdalene Award.



Thank you Zion for granting me the Grace McManus Scholarship.

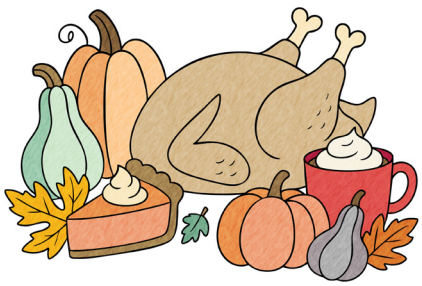
I feel eternally blessed to be part of a community that not only supports my faith, but my future also. I am attending NDSU for Pharmacy.

Thank you !! -Emma Hendrickson

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.

GODS WORK OUR HANDS

Zion members went to the Marv Bronken park and cleaned up the weeds and debris. Great Job, guys!



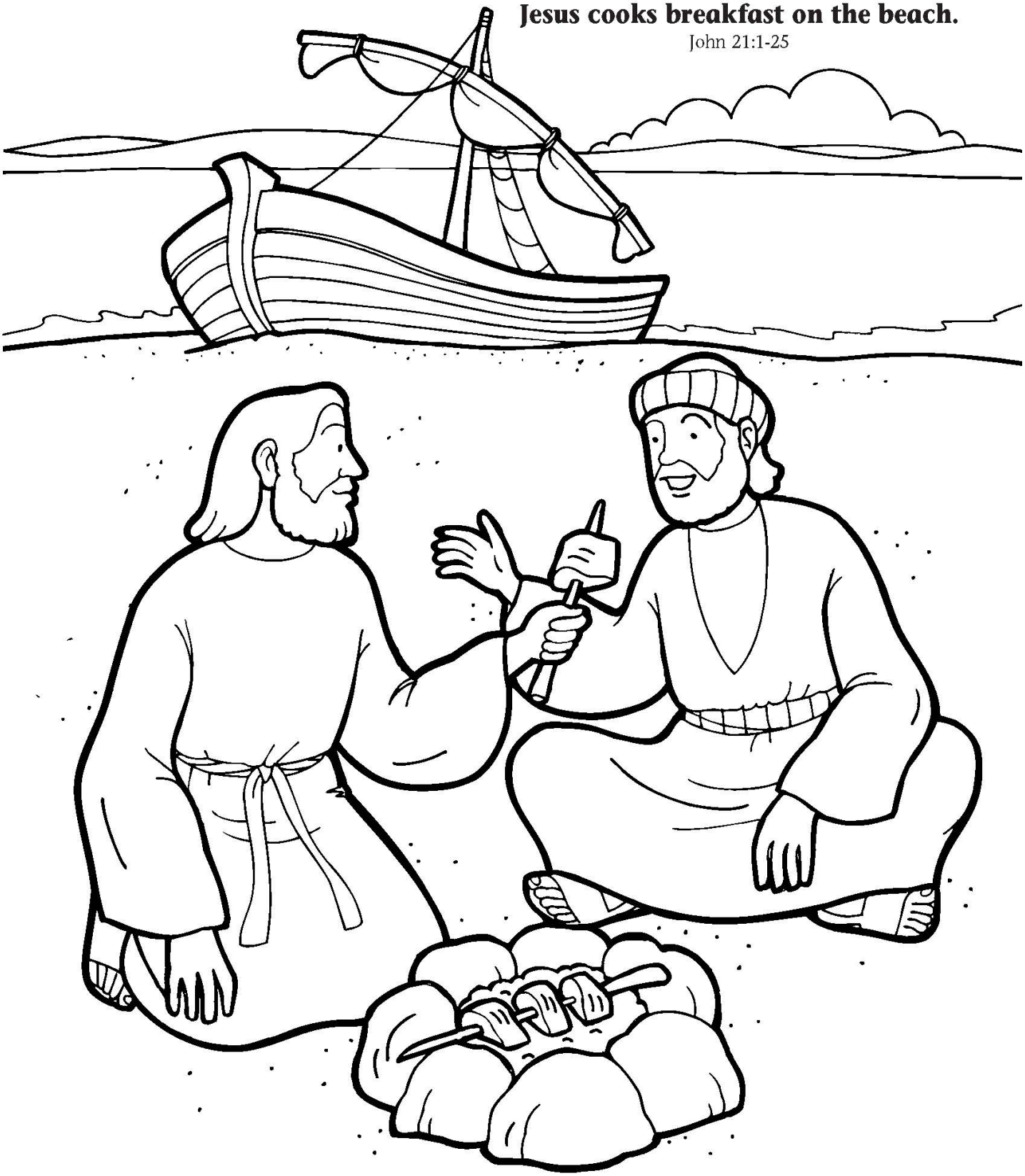




Coloring Page

Jesus cooks breakfast on the beach.

John 21:1-25



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RALLY SUNDAY AT ZION





Brooklyn & Harper helped in the kitchen on Rally Sunday.







On Rally Sunday Patty Mickleson had a game planned. Each table had to find the answers in a bible while everyone was enjoying treats and coffee.



FAITH STARTS HERE

RALLY SUNDAY AT SALEM







Salem students listening to SAM Lindi during the children's sermon. They each received a keychain for their backpack.



8th graders received their Bibles on Rally Sunday. They were joined with 9th grader Riley Sherman for this photo.



Elliot Brekke receives his Bible as a 3rd grader at Salem Lutheran Church.

Oklee Lutheran Parish would like to update Records of members and their families

Please help us keep are directory & church records up to date – Submit any contact changes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email _____

Additional email _____

Preferred way of contacting you: _____

Please submit the following information to help us keep general family records up to date.

Your Birthday _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Your Family Members names & birthdays (mm/dd/yyyy)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Return the completed sheet to Bonny Cote or SAM Lindi Christianson.

Oklee Lutheran Parish
PO Box 56
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Bonny: 612-840-9401 or bcote@okleelutheran.org

Parish Minutes & Financials

Parish Board meeting
September 10, 2026 -- 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Lindi C, Cheryl O, David H, Patty M, and Secretary/Treasurer Bonny C.

Cheryl called the meeting to order.

Lindi opened the meeting with a devotion.

Secretary's report was read for the May meeting. A motion was made by David, seconded by Patty. Carried.

Financial report was given. One of the CD's has renewed and earned $185.86. The financial report was approved with a motion by Patty, seconded by David, carried.

Old Business: Directory: Bonny has talked to a photographer who was willing to take photographs. She will continue to discuss the details and will report more next meeting.

New Business: Gods Work Our Hands will be this coming weekend and both churches have things lined up for that Sunday. Salem is going to clean their church and spruce up their grounds. Zion will be cleaning their church and also clean up the playground across from the high school. Mileage question that Bonny sent to both boards was approved by both. The cap on mileage has been lifted on the covenant agreement.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation classes will start this fall with Lindi leading the classes. The classes will alternate between Salem and Zion. A schedule is being set up.

Banquet question was brought up. Some discussion was had by the board with the following decision: The board will support whatever Lindi and the confirmands decide on.

Youth Group Convention: Lindi was asking about how to get organized for the trip next year. Patty gave Lindi some good ideas on easy fundraising plans.

Lindi asked about purchasing a Grief Program. Both boards will brought it to their councils for a decision and both were in agreement. The parish board agreed to purchase the program. This program will be open to everyone who wishes to participate but they will be responsible for purchasing their own workbook. Patty made a motion/ seconded by David. Carried.

Lindi said she was done with her SAM training but was wondering if the Parish wanted her to work on getting ordained, she feels the Synod is pushing the SAM's to get ordained. Board said that was her decision. We like what she doing for us now and we do not require her to become ordained. Lindi was relieved that we will not require her to be ordained. It fits better into our budgets as is.

The Lord's Prayer was said by all, meeting was closed with a motion by Patty, seconded by David, carried.

Submitted by: Parish Secretary Bonny Cote

Parish Checkbook balance as of 8/31/2026: $62,572.84

Four CD's: (Miscellaneous Expense = $40,000)
16307 - 16308 - 16309 are for 13 mo. for $10,000 Int. rate 3.5%
16310 is for 7 mo. for $10,185.86 Int. rate 3.2 %

1/1/2026 through 8/31/2026

Category	1/1/2026-8/31/2026
INCOME	
Income	
Interest	157.42
Misc	352.00
Misc. No Budget	115.67
Salem	31,852.36
Zion	23,924.76
TOTAL Income	56,402.21
TOTAL INCOME	**56,402.21**
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
MN Paid Leave	176.28
Operational	
Auto Expense	6,130.28
Computer Allowance	400.00
Electricity	334.00
Heat	1,700.50
Miscellaneous	40,000.00
Office Supplies	349.18
Copier	1,219.16
Programs	226.00
TOTAL Office Supplies	1,794.34
Postage	476.00
Newsletter	395.75
TOTAL Postage	871.75
Telephone	
Cell Phone	250.00
Dial My Calls Service	150.00
Telephone Parsonage	318.33
Telephone Zion	720.77
TOTAL Telephone	1,439.10
Water-Garbage	992.85
Work. Comp Insurance	364.00
TOTAL Operational	54,026.82
Program	
Bulletins Etc	743.75
Lent	300.00
Misc.	1,050.62
Pastor's Contining Ed	3,550.07
Pulpit Supply	175.00
TOTAL Program	5,819.44
Salary	
Pastor	32,196.65
Federal	-500.00
FICA	1,359.73
TOTAL Pastor	33,056.38
Secretary	
FICA	183.60
Salary	3,200.00
TOTAL Secretary	3,383.60
TOTAL Salary	36,439.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	**96,462.52**

◀ September

October 2026

November ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Salem Ushers Oct. 4: Alice H. Oct. 11: Paula C. Oct. 18: Ron H. Oct. 25: Kyle V.	**Zion Ushers** Oct. 4: Conf.Student Oct. 11: Conf.Student Oct. 18: Conf.Student Oct. 425: Conf.Student	**Salem Altar** Paula Christianson **Zion Altar** Diane Hanson		1	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	5	6	7 Salem WELCA 6:00 p.m.	8	9	10
11 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	12  	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem 11 a.m. Zion Bazaar	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

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!!

Oklee Lutheran Parish
Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
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Oklee , MN 56742

October 2026 Newsletter

