



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

July 2024

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

Survey Results

The Parish Board received 48 surveys and they thank everyone for getting them back to them in a timely manner. The answers were tallied and here are the results.

1. What kind of Service does a pastor provide that you feel is most important? Circle 3 items.

Most circled more than three items.

A. Communion	37
B. Funeral Services	34
C. Baptism	28
D. Confirmation	35
E. Weddings	9
F. Visiting Shut-ins	26
G. Other	12

2. How important is it to have the same minister every week?

Most circled the (2) and an even number circled the (1) or (3).

3. How important is it to keep both churches together as Parish?

This was considered a wash as there was an equal number circled on all three choices.

4. Would you be open to having services on alternate dates or time instead of Sunday.

This was a resounding No!

5. Thank you for your opinions and we appreciate your thoughts and will use those insights as we move forward regarding a Pastor or SAM in the future.

The Oklee Lutheran Parish Board



Come and Join Us!



Food Truck Party - VBS
Monday, August 5th to
Thursday, August 8th
starting at 6:00 p.m.
Salem Lutheran Church
ALL KIDS WELCOME!

JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2: Andy Lukkes
 7: Sheryl Fore
 10: Bennet Larson
 11: Molly Smith
 13: Braxton Verbout
 14: Phyllis Linder
 Jenny Linder
 17: Lillilan Hanson
 18: Orlean Stoneouse
 19: Sara Olson
 Jordan Larson
 21: Sami Smith
 22: Isaac Melby
 23: Stacey Hofstad
 Larry (Snook) Olson
 25: Easton Vettleson
 26: Brenen Christianson

Anniversaries

4: Rod & Toni Johnson
 12: Orlean & Ginny Stoneouse
 14: Chad & Amy Parsley
 17: Andy & Megan Lukkes
 20: Ron & Ellen Hegge
 31: Leif & Jill Kolstoe

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



Remember
To Give
This Summer



Carol Rae Roisland
 passed away
 peacefully on
 June 6, 2024.



• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Tue, July 2nd** at 6:30 p.m.

• Zion's next council meeting is **Tuesday, August 6th** at 7:00 p.m.

• Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, August 13th** at 6:30 p.m.

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

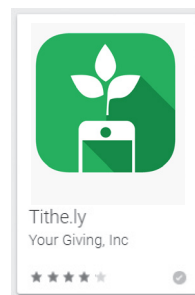


July 7:
 Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123;
 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 14:
 Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13;
 Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 21:
 Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23;
 Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28:
 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18;
 Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



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

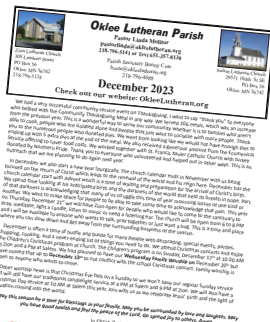
The system will use your cell number if it was provided or else we will use home number on record in directory.

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. Example: your child that has moved away from home. 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. July 7:	Toni Johnson
Sun. July 14:	Paula Christianson
Sun. July 21:	Ron Hegge
Sun. July 28:	Kyle Vettleson

Zion Ushers List

Sun. July 7:	Chad Parsley
Sun. July 14:	Marcella Melby
Sun. July 21:	Conway Hamm
Sun. July 28:	Diane Hanson

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

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.



This month I wanted to share a bit about food resources for income eligible households.

SNAP stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In the past this program has been called food support or food stamps. You can apply online for this program or check to see if you are eligible at: <https://mnbenefits.mn.gov/>

This year there is a nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program that provides families with school-aged children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals a one-time payment of \$120.00 per child. Households will receive a new card for these funds and it will be in the child's name. The envelopes that these cards come in are generic and could be mistaken for junk mail so please check your mail closely. The funds will be available in late July or August. If you are already enrolled in the SNAP benefit your child should automatically be enrolled.

Another resource that the University of Minnesota Extension and North Dakota State University Extension created is the 2024 Summer Meal Guide for busy parents on a budget. This free tool is packed with ideas for meals and snacks and contains weekly shopping lists. It can be found at: <https://reallifegoodfood.umn.edu/resources/summer-meals-snap>

If you need help applying for these resources our staff can assist you with the application process. Or if you need access to a computer and a printer just give us a call, we would be happy to help.

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.*

Zion News

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, July 10 at 7:00 p.m. Jenny Linder has Bible Study and it will be held at Jenny's home.

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!



Oklee Lutheran Parish Council: Front (l to r): David Hofstad, Kyle Vettleson, Josh Vettleson, Bonny Cote (Secretary/Treasurer). Back (l to r): Gin Berns, Cheryl O'Neill, and Conway Hamm.



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

GLOW- IN-THE- DARK BOWLING



Make this fun summer game to play at the beach, a park or in your yard.

What you need:

- 10 empty plastic bottles (same size)
- 10 or more glow sticks
- Water (optional)
- Star stickers (optional)
- Hamster ball (or regular ball)
- Tape

What you do:

1. Place one or two activated glow sticks in each bottle. Fill bottles with water and decorate with star stickers, if desired. Screw on lids.
2. Put some glow sticks inside the hamster ball. Screw the halves together, and secure sides and lid with tape.
3. Challenge someone to a game of bowling. For the best glowing effect, play after dark.

Special Parish Council Meeting

Parish Special Board Meeting

June 6, 2024

Roll Call: David Hofstad, Josh Vettleson, Kyle Vettleson, Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns. Secretary/
Treasurer: Bonny Cote

Meeting was called to order by Cheryl O'Neill.

The items to be discussed were:

1. Parsonage Rental
2. Block Party
3. Survey
4. Heat Pump replacement
5. Cleaning of Parsonage

Cleaning of the house was discussed first. The board was wondering about hiring someone and Gin said she charges \$20 an hour. It was decided to have a Parsonage Workday and announcing to people that June 19th will be the day to come help inside or outside. Inside things need to be washed (cabinets, counters, floors, etc.) and outside, trees need to be trimmed and bushes cut back. Clean up the flower beds, etc. People who are coming to help should bring supplies for whatever they are choosing to do that day. Starting at 3 p.m. until done or dark.

Parsonage: The Parish has been approached about renting out the parsonage for a short term by Oak Park. Their current pastor is not able to work for a long period of time and the ones filling in are looking for a short-term rental. It was decided to offer the parsonage to them for \$1200 a month (includes heat, water, sewer, and garbage). A motion was made by David H, seconded by Kyle V. Carried.

The annual Block Party was discussed. The date is set for Wednesday, July 10th. It will be a

community event – Potluck – everyone should bring a dish to share. The Parish will supply hotdogs & buns, St. Francis Xavier will supply paper goods and beverages. Bonny will reserve the hall in case of inclement weather. It will start at 5 p.m. and finish at 7 p.m. Bonny will put ad in paper and make posters.

Heat Pump: The cost of a heat pump two years ago was just over \$5,000. Bonny said that since we are not paying for a pastor at this time, this might be a good time to get it replaced as the parish funds are increasing due to no pastor and pulpit supply is about a \$1200 a month. The board asked for quotes to be gotten from Smeby in McIntosh, Wilcox, and Lovely. Will discuss at the next meeting.

Survey: All the envelopes were opened and tallied. Final numbers are listed on the front page of the newsletter for July. The board was happy that around 50 people responded. Bonny & Cheryl reported that pulpit supply is in short supply, but so far we were covered until July 21st. Bonny will talk to the two that are scheduled to do services in the coming weeks and ask if they can supply us with more dates.

Board asked question if we don't have a permanent person in place by fall, what about confirmation. Bonny suggested that if that happens, we should be talking to maybe the Plummer Parish about sending our kids over there. This has been done before, churches sharing services like confirmation.

Last question was about rental agreements? Do we do a background check if we want to continue to rent out the parsonage after the Oak Park group no longer needs it? Some places charge a fee to apply.

A motion was made to close the meeting by David Hofstad/seconded by everyone!

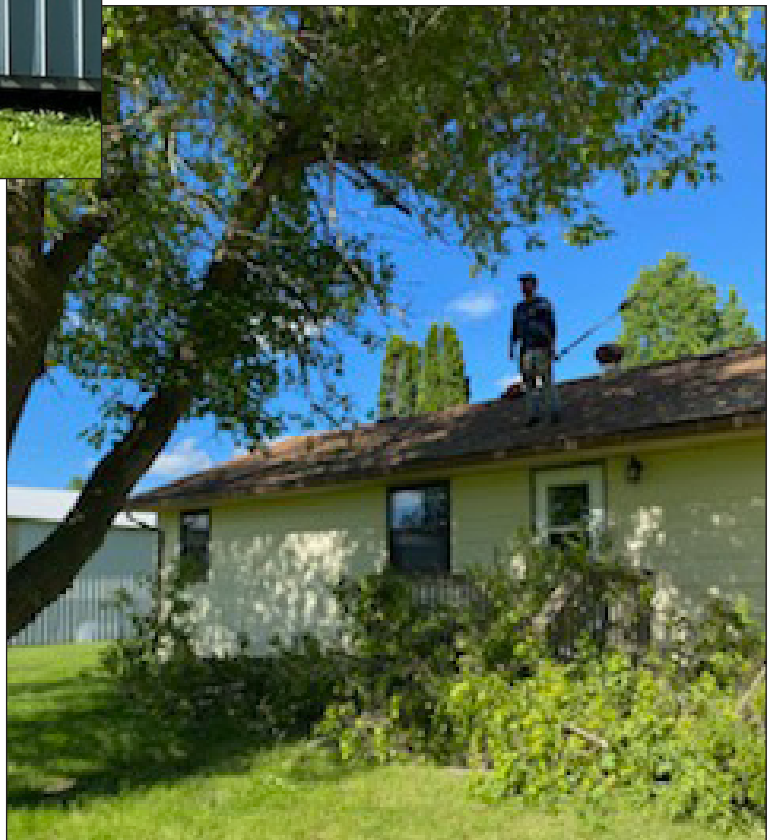
Lord's Prayer was said.

Next meeting will be July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Zion.

Parsonage Clean-Up Day - June 19, 2024



Thank you to the volunteers that came on Wednesday to get the Parsonage all cleaned up.



Zion Minutes & Financials

Zion Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes Date: June 4th, 2024

Members Present: Gin Berns, Diane Hanson, Sarah Jo Lee, Chad Parsley, Conway Hamm, Jami Hendrickson, Cheryl O'Neill. Also in attendance: Marcella Melby, Treasurer

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

The secretary's report was read. Corrections from April Meeting: Meeting was called to order by Cheryl O'Neill, not Gin Berns and John Pendelton was the second person to accept the minutes, not Cheryl O'Neill.

1st - Chad 2nd - Conway Motion Approved

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

1st - Gin 2nd - Sarah Jo Motion Approved

Pastor's report: N/A

Old Business: Call committee will be discussed with Parish Council. 5 seniors graduated, three applied for the Grace McManus Scholarship and were awarded \$250 each.

New Business:

Lending Library: Jami will look into a style that will work and bring info to order in August.

Ushering: Be there at 8:30 and make sure church is open and help minister.

June 9: Jami

June 16: Cheryl

June 23: Gin

June 30: Sarah Jo

July 7: Chad

July 14: Marcella

July 21: Conway

July 28: Diane

August 4: Sarah Beth

August 11: John P.

August 18: Kari

August 25: Cheryl

September 1:

We have been approached about renting out the parsonage for roughly three months to a temp minister from a local church. Zion council discussed and are all in agreement. It will be discussed at the Parish Council. Parsonage also needs cleaning and some repairs in the bathroom.

Oklee Market Days: Saturday, August 10th

We will host our burger/hotdog stand.

Gin will look into getting it set up and will reach out for helpers/donations.

Truck Show: Saturday, July 20th

Conway and Chad will look into setting it up and will reach out for helpers/donations.

Meeting adjourned: 1st - Chad 2nd - Sarah Motion Carried.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 6th, 2024 at 7:00

General Fund

	Balance 4/1/24	\$3,623.54
Income		
Offering	\$5,001.00	
Tithely	\$1,378.50	
Auction	\$1,975.50	
Replace Cash from Auction	\$200.00	
Coffee & Rolls City Rummage Day	\$285.00	
Total Income		\$8,840.00
Budgeted Expenses		
Parish Payment (March)	\$3,965.48	
Cash for Auction	\$200.00	
Richards Publishing (Auction A	\$80.25	
Ottetail	\$933.47	
Church Mutual Insurance	\$2,883.00	
MN Dept. of Labor (Elevator Pe	\$100.00	
Total Budgeted Expenses		\$8,162.20
Non-Budgeted Expenses		
Total Non-Budgeted Exp.		\$0
Checkbook Balance 5/31/2024		\$4,301.34

Passbook Savings

Grace McManus Scholarship \$980.84

Building Fund \$4588.49

- Elevator \$814.00
- Windows \$3056.78
- Undesignated \$717.71

Memorial Fund \$8197.87

- Building \$2154.71
- Elevator \$130.00
- Sunday School \$345.00
- Lending Library \$700.00
- Undesignated \$4868.16

Salem Minutes

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes – June 11th, 2024

Attendance: David, Lisa, Shirley, Paula, Ginny, Wyatt, Toni, Josh, Erica, Ron.

Secretary's report read by: Paula. Approved by 1st Josh, 2nd by Ron.

Treasurer's report read by: Lisa. Approved by 1st Paula, 2nd by Ginny

Old Business: Insurance Agency came out to the church with Wyatt to view building for the new insurance policy. It was approved and new policy is in place. An ad was placed in the newspaper for the cemetery fund for headstones that need repair. Valley cemetery maintenance was called for headstone repair estimate. Quarter round for the flooring is needed, Lisa will reach out to Leif to find out if that was ordered. Bathrooms need to be remodeled; Lisa will revisit the previous list of items needed for cost; we will reassess after the plumbing is fixed, see new business. 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.

New Business: Valley Cemetery Maintenance quoted \$350 for small/ground stone cement repair and \$500 for large cement repair per headstone. Discussion to fix multiple headstones per year as funds allow. We will run an ad in the newspaper, share on Facebook, and add to the newsletter. Money will be used from the Cemetery perpetual care funds, and we will continue to raise money. Motion to spend \$2,000 per year as continued maintenance for cemetery headstones: 1st Shirley, 2nd Toni. Motion approved. Plumbing seems to be blocked in both bathrooms; Tyrone Olson will come to check on the pipes this week. Bathroom remodel quote cost is \$1,300. TR Glass will donate the flooring install, 2-bathroom signs are needed. Paula will order signs, and Lisa is purchasing the remaining items for the remodel. Bonny has been taking care of our pulpit supply.

2 Reserved parking signs will be place on the east side of the building for Pastor parking and closer parking for anyone in need of a shorter walking distance.

VBS is August 5th – 8th 6 – 8:30pm. Erica will meet with ladies' aid to discuss meals during VBS.

Upcoming 130th Celebration – July 13th, 2025. Planning will be a continued discussion. From last meeting: 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 continues to need help cleaning the church, anyone available please sign up in the entry way poster board.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Wyatt, 2nd Lisa

Next Meeting Date: August 13th, 2024, at 6:30pm

Salem Financial

Salem Lutheran Church

Beginning Balance April 10, 2024 \$38,572.59

Income:
Offerings \$4,591.41

Total Cash Available \$43,164.00

Expenses:
North Star Mutual Insurance \$4,466.00
RLEC \$103.60
David Hofstad (lightbulbs) \$48.21
Alice Hofstad (cake) \$40.99

Total Expenses \$4,658.80

Ending Balance April 30, 2024 \$38,505.20

Income:
Offerings \$4,778.00

Total Cash Available \$43,283.20

Expenses:
Parish \$4,177.19
RLEC \$188.18
Concondia Supply \$17.98

Total Expenses \$4,383.35

Ending Balance May 31, 2024 \$38,899.85

Income:
Offerings \$1,170.00

Total Cash Available \$1,170.00

Expenses:
Shirley Dessellier \$155.73
NW MN Synod \$300.00
Parish \$4,177.19

Total Expenses \$4,632.92

Ending June 10, 2024 \$35,436.93

Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings: \$12,015.54

Interest \$57.02

Deposit:

Memorials:

Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings: \$10,928.85

Income: Thrivent \$60.52

CD Interest:

Interest \$51.14

Deposits: \$210.00

Building Fund Savings \$6,527.60

Interest \$19.22

Deposits: \$1990.00

Memorial Fund Savings: \$3,050.11

Interest \$11.26

Memorials: 70.00

CD #14297	\$13,899.96	Cemetery Perp. Car	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

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 p.m. Parish Board at Zion	3	4 	5	6
7 Lay Minister Marjio Vic 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	8	9	10 5 p.m. Block Party	11	12	13
14 Lay Minister Joyce W. 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Lay Minister Joyce W. 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Lay Minister Marjio Vic 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	29	30	31	Zion Ushers July 7: Chad P. July 14: Marcella M. July 21: Conway H. July 28: Diane H.	Salem Ushers July 7: Toni J. July 14: Paula C July 21: Ron H. July 28: Kyle V.	Zion Altar Tammy Pendelton

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!!



COMMUNITY BLOCK

Block Party

PARTY PICNIC

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Oklee Park next to tennis/basketball courts

Potluck - everyone bring a dish to share!

Hot Dogs, Buns & Beverages furnished

Bring some games, Bring your appetite

Hall will be reserved in case of inclement weather



**July 2024
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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