



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

June 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

Summer may have finally arrived in Minnesota. The fields are greening, the days stretch long, and life seems to scatter us in a dozen different directions. Yet as we step into June, the lectionary readings for Sundays in June remind us that even in the most beautiful and busy seasons, God keeps calling us back into community, back into the steady rhythm of worship, back into the fellowship that shapes us.

The readings for these weeks concentrate on stories related to discipleship. About being sent, being welcomed, being rooted, and being transformed. They remind us that faith isn't something we practice only when the calendar slows down. It's something we live together, week after week, season after season.

If I could tell my younger self anything, it would be this: *the feeling of being in church every Sunday—of showing up, of being held by this community, of worshiping alongside people who have become family—I've been changed in ways I never expected.*

Since becoming your SAM, we've only missed a couple of Sundays due to weather cancellations. And still, being here week after week has been one of the greatest gifts of my life. I didn't know how much I needed this community until I lived in it.

Summer can tempt us to drift. But the scriptures keep nudging us back:

- **Come and see.**
- **Come and learn.**
- **Come and be strengthened.**
- **Come and be sent.**

Church isn't just a place to go—it's a place we belong to. And your presence matters. Your voice matters. Your story matters.

As we move through these June Sundays, I hope you'll keep making space for worship, even on the sunniest days. I hope you'll keep showing up for one another. And I hope you'll feel, deep in your bones, the same thing I've been learning: that being part of this community every week is not an obligation, it's a blessing.

Thank you for letting me grow with you. Thank you for letting me learn with you. Thank you for being the church that has shaped me into the SAM I am becoming.

Here's to a summer filled with faith, fellowship, and the steady, surprising grace of God.

— Lindi





Birthdays & Anniversaries June

Birthdays

- 2: Gunnar Halverson
Bristol Vettleson
- 6: Patrick O'Neill
- 10: Chase Whalen
- 11: David Halverson
- 12: Orrin Linder
- 13: Clarence 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, text/call Bonny Cote at 612-840-9401 or email: bcote@okleelutheran.org

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.



Hi! My name is Linda 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 Olo, MN. I attended elementary school there before we moved to Shiloh Bible Camp in Menota, MN, in seventh grade with my parents and two brothers. After the local school closed in my ninth-grade year, we relocated to a farm outside Menota, 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 year. From August 2005, I had 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 grandson Warren and Wallace.

In 2013, I faced the profound loss of my son at 17, which profoundly affected my ability to become a youth pastor. Despite this tragic setback, I persevered, working both as a bank teller in Fertile and Winger and 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 nurturing our faith and community together.

Linda Christianson

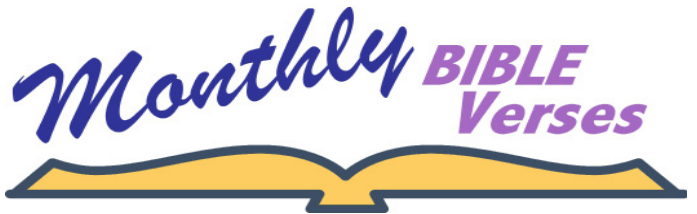


• Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, June 3rd** at 7:00 p.m.

• Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, June 9th** at 6:30 p.m.

• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, September 10th** at 7:00 p.m.

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



June 7:

Hosea 5:15—6:6; Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14:

Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100;
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

June 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 28:

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



2026 Zion Altar Schedule

- June - Vacant - need new person
- July - Vacant - need new person

2026 Salem Altar Schedule

June - Sandra Tougas

~ Parish News ~



Bonnie Jensen passed away on April 25, 2026.

Charles LaCoursiere passed away on April 22, 2026.



Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

This month the meeting is set for **Wednesday, June 10th** at 7:00 p.m. at Salem. Erica is the hostess and Bible study leader. All ladies of the congregation encouraged to attend the WELCA meetings.

Bridal Shower

Salem will be having a bridal shower for Jordan Larson on Wednesday, June 3rd @ 6:00pm.



Atley Vettleson and Rylan Lundeen with their graduation gift from Salem.



Isabella Brekke, Brennen Christianson, and Savannah Brekke were confirmed on May 3rd.

** Broadcasts **

Oklee Lutheran Parish

Broadcasts of Oklee Parish worship services are on Channel 35 GVTV at 1pm on Wednesdays and 10 am on Sundays. Services can also be viewed on our YouTube channel.



Salem Ushers List

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Sun. June 7: | David Hofstad |
| Sun. June 14: | Ginny Stoneouse |
| Sun. June 21: | Jenny Bernier-Linder |
| Sun. June 28: | Wyatt Vettleson |

Zion Ushers List

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Sun. June 7: | Diane Hanson |
| Sun. June 14: | Kari Hamm |
| Sun. June 21: | Gin Berns |
| Sun. June 28: | Cheryl O'Neill |

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

Zion News

Zion WELCA meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. All ladies are welcome to attend.



Zion Lutheran Church



Grace McManus Scholarship Recipients!



Gunnar Halverson & Emma Hendrickson

On May 17th, we honored our graduating seniors, Gunnar and Emma! We are so proud of both of you - may God continue to guide you in all that's ahead!

Wednesday Night Sunday School!!

Zion had their last night of Wednesday school and it was a good one! Thanks to Patty for planning all the stuff for the kids and Cheryl, Eric, Liz and pastor Lindi for the food. The kids really enjoyed it.

The last lesson was on endurance and how with God we can push through anything we put our minds to. Looking forward to next year!





Youth Group News

Wayfinders Youth Group will have a walkabout (meeting) on Sunday, June 7th, 2026 at Noon at the Oklee Pickleball Courts. Lunch will be served!

Join us in Supporting Zion & Salem Wayfinders Youth Group. Papa Murphy's in TRF will donate 20% of online sales that use code: GIVE20 at checkout to the Zion & Salem Wayfinders Youth Group. Who: Order online at papamurphys.com on June 17 - 19th and use code: Give20 at the checkout.



Then pick up your pizza at 1845 Hwy 29, Suite: 500 Thief River Falls.



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

Family Engagement Goal-setting, parent workshops, volunteer opportunities, and support from Family Advocates.

Inclusive Services Individualized support for children with disabilities or developmental needs.

Who Can Apply?

Head Start serves families who meet federal income guidelines, as well as:

- Children experiencing homelessness
- Children in foster care
- Families receiving TANF or SSI
- Families receiving SNAP
- Children with diagnosed disabilities

We're excited to announce we are accepting applications for the 2026-2027 program year! Head Start provides highquality early childhood education, family support services, and health resources for children ages birth -5, all at no cost to eligible families.

What We Offer:

Early Learning & School Readiness Hands-on activities, literacy development, math readiness, and social-emotional learning. We offer a classroom option in Thief River Falls for ages 3-5, as well as a home-based services in all of our surrounding communities. For Birth – 3 we offer exclusively home-based services.

Health & Nutrition Support Vision, hearing, dental screenings, and connections to community health services.

If you're unsure about eligibility, our team is happy to help. An online application is available on our website. Or you can contact our office to request a paper application or assistance in completing an application with one of our staff.



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.



Coloring Page

Jesus heals Jairus's daughter.

Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:40-56



Trinity Symbols

There are many symbols for the Trinity. Do you see any of them in your worship space today? If so, draw it in the space below. If not, design your own!



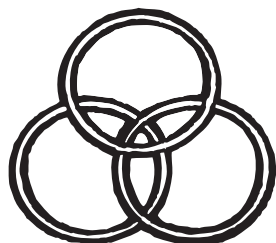
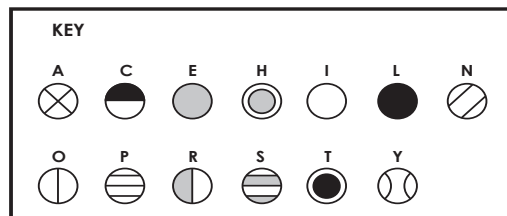
READER

Trinity Sunday

- Today is **Trinity Sunday**.
- Trinity Sunday always happens the week **after** the Day of Pentecost.
- Trinity means **three**.
- Trinity Sunday reminds us of God being **three in one**.

Three in One

There are three parts to the Holy Trinity. See if you can solve the code to find each one.



Some of the words from these memory verses got switched! Can you help them find the right spot? Draw a line from each bold word to its correct spot in the other verse.

Memory Verse

The **day** brought forth **everything**: plants yielding **evening** of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing **morning** with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:12

God saw **vegetation** that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was **seed** and there was **fruit**, the sixth **earth**.

Genesis 1:31



Count 'em up!

Today is Trinity Sunday. On this day, we remember the three parts of God: God the creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Can you match up these other numbers with the right description and Bible verse?



- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 2 | fat cows in Pharaoh's dream | Matthew 27:38 |
| 7 | disciples of Jesus | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| 9 | criminals who died next to Jesus | Matthew 4:2 |
| 12 | days that Jesus spent in the wilderness | Genesis 41:2 |
| 40 | fruit of the Spirit | Mark 6:7 |



Bible Tip!

Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament. Matthew is the first book in the New Testament. How many books are in each? Look in your Bible's Table of Contents if you need help. Write your answers here:

There are _____ books in the Old Testament and

_____ books in the New Testament.

Parish Minutes & Financials

Parish Board meeting May 12, 2026 -- 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Lindi C, Cheryl O, David H, Kari H, Gin B, 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 March 9th meeting. A motion was made by Kari, seconded by David. Carried.

Financial report was given and approved with a motion by Patty, seconded by Kari, carried.

Old Business: The Parish would like to do a new photo directory and Bonny has been looking for a local photographer to take photos. Submitted photos would also be welcome. Two she has talked too are either not interested or haven't responded to her call. Richard Publishing said they would be willing to put it together and print. Suggestions were to ask Heath Mickelson and Alice Hofstad if they are interested in taking photographys. Patty will ask Heath is he is interested. Parsonage faucet has not been replaced yet, but Lindi said it will be done. David asked if the checking got changed over to an Investor's Savings acct. Yes, it was done the next day. Youth Group: Bonny gave Lindi the new Youth Group card and the amounts in each account. Bonny will move \$1000 from Checking to Savings to earn interest.

New Business:

Payroll - Bonny and Cheryl were discussing looking for someone to do only the payroll, but after some more discussion, Bonny will continue with the payroll.

Block Party - The question was asked if we were doing the Block Party again this year. Bonny will talk to Jo (Catholic Church) and find out if they are interested since their church is losing their father.

Summer Schedule - Discussion was held on what this summer schedule would be like. Last year the parish rotated every other week between Salem & Zion. This year Salem said they want every Sunday and Zion has been talking about Wednesday night services instead. Discussion will be brought to the individual boards.

Pastor's Report: Lindi has been attending classes and she was excited to try some new things. Historical Content - the youth and the elders talk or act out about how things are different and what the future looks like? Different ways to give (not just money).

She also mentioned that churches closer to the cities are also struggling where they have few members so it is state wide.

Lindi said the Youth Group are getting together on June 7th and it will be our next "walkabout"! Meet at the Oklee pickleball courts at noon! Lunch will be provided! If you have pickleball gear bring it along!

Lindi asked about purchasing a Grief Program for \$395. Both boards will bring to their councils for a decision.

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

Submitted by: Parish Secretary Bonny Cote

1/1/2026 through 4/30/2026

Category	1/1/2026- 4/30/2026
INCOME	
Uncategorized	19.14
Income	
Misc	283.08
Misc. No Budget	115.67
Salem	15,669.91
Zion	11,944.62
TOTAL Income	28,013.28
TOTAL INCOME	28,032.42
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Operational	
Auto Expense	2,362.50
Computer Allowance	200.00
Electricity	140.00
Miscellaneous	40,000.00
Office Supplies	166.08
Copier	740.16
Programs	226.00
TOTAL Office Supplies	1,132.24
Postage	476.00
Newsletter	199.37
TOTAL Postage	675.37
Telephone	
Dial My Calls Service	50.00
Telephone Parsonage	96.65
Telephone Zion	361.15
TOTAL Telephone	507.80
Water-Garbage	992.85
Work. Comp Insurance	614.00
TOTAL Operational	46,624.76
Program	
Bulletins Etc	421.50
Lent	300.00
Misc.	100.67
Pastor's Conting Ed	1,281.63
TOTAL Program	2,103.80
Salary	
Pastor	16,423.33
Federal	-500.00
FICA	414.37
TOTAL Pastor	16,337.70
Secretary	
FICA	61.20
Salary	1,600.00
TOTAL Secretary	1,661.20
TOTAL Salary	17,998.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	66,727.46

Parish Checkbook balance as of 2/28/2026: \$63,903.11

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 \$10,000 Int. rate 3.2 %

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem 12 Noon: Wayfinders at Pickleball Courts	8	9 6:30 p.m. Salem Council	10 7:00 p.m. Salem WELCA	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day / Summer Solstice (Summer Beans) 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	22	23	24	25 <u>Zion Ushers</u> June 7: Diane H June 14: Kari H June 21: Gin B June 28: Cheryl O	26 <u>Salem Ushers</u> June 7: David H June 14: Ginny S June 21: Jenny L June 28: Wyatt V	27
28 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	29	30				Salem Altar Sandra T <u>Zion Altar</u> Vacant

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!!

The LORD is good,
A stronghold in the
day of trouble;
And He knows
those who
trust in Him.

Nahum 1:7, NKJV



June 2026
Newsletter

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Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
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