



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish February 2026

Lindi Christianson, SAM
lchristianson@okleelutheran.org
New Number: 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

February: A Month of Love and Reflection

As February arrives, we find ourselves at a unique intersection of love and devotion. February not only brings the celebration of love through Valentine's Day but also marks the beginning of the Lenten season. These two themes of love and reflection converge beautifully in our faith journey.

Valentine's Day reminds us of the love we share with one another—be it through family, friends, or our community. It's a heartfelt reminder to cherish relationships, extend kindness, and express gratitude. Love is a powerful force; it nourishes our souls and inspires us to be better stewards of our communities, just as Christ taught us.

In fact, love is one of the greatest commandments given to us by God. In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus tells us, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." These commandments anchor our faith and remind us that love should be the foundation of all we do.

As we transition into Lent, we are called to a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent invites us to strip away distractions and draw closer to God. This journey, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is a 40-day reminder of Christ's love and sacrifice for us. It is during this time that we can truly experience the essence of love—not only in our connections with others but also in our relationship with God.

This February, as we celebrate love, let us also embrace the spirit of Lent. We can dedicate ourselves to acts of service, prayer, and self-reflection. Let's commit to fasting from negative thoughts and attitudes, replacing them with love and kindness.

Let us embark on this journey together, allowing the month of love to guide us into a deeper understanding of God's eternal love for us. Embrace the gifts of this season, and may our hearts be transformed as we grow closer to Christ and to one another.

In His Love,
SAM Lindi



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2: Landon Klase
Walker Vettleon
- 7: Ashley Halverson
- 8: Kaye Munt
- 10: Ezra Fore
- 12: Decklynn Garthus
- 15: Noah Hanson
Randy Klase
- 16: Lee Knutson
Matthew Anderson
Nancy Gunderson
- 22: Toni Johnson
- 25: Ross Hegge
- 28: Jesse Sherman

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

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.

** Broadcasts Resume **

Oklee Lutheran Parish

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



• Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, February 10th** at 6:30 p.m.

• Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, February 11th** at 7:00 p.m.

• The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, March 12th** at 7:00 p.m.

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



The Youth Group meeting has been rescheduled for February 1st at Salem at 12:30 p.m. after the Annual Meeting & Potluck.

Your voice matters. Whether you're a student eager for a place to belong, a parent hoping for meaningful connection for your child, someone simply curious about what this could look like, your input will help us start well.

Please feel free to bring ideas, questions, or even concerns. We want this group to reflect the needs and gifts of our whole community. For more information call Lindi Christianson, SAM at 218-289-5864 or email: lchristianson@okleelutheran.org.



February 1:

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 8:

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10];
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20

February 15:

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 18 - Ash Wednesday:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

February 25 - Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

~ Parish News ~



Les Hofstad passed away peacefully on January 8, 2026.

THIS MONTH USHERS

Salem Ushers List

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Sun. February 1: | Jenny Bernier-Linder |
| Sun. February 8: | Wyatt Vettleson |
| Sun. February 15: | Leif Kolstoe |
| Wed. Feb. 18: Ash Wed | Alice Hofstad |
| Sun. February 22: | Paula Christianson |

Zion Ushers List

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Sun. February 1: | Confirmation Student |
| Sun. February 8: | Confirmation Student |
| Sun. February 15: | Confirmation Student |
| Sun. February 22: | Confirmation Student |
| Wed. Feb. 28: Lent | Confirmation Student |

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

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, **February 4th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. Diane Kolstoe is the Bible Study leader and Hostess.

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



2026 Zion Altar Schedule

February - Cheryl O'Neill
 March - Liz Follmann
 April - Bonny Cote
 May - Ashley Halvorson/Nancy Gunderson

2026 Salem Altar Schedule

February - Christine Hince
 March - Jenny O'Neill
 April - Open
 May - Open



Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

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



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. Salem Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Zion Sunday School

Please Take Note...

Update: There is now over 200 for mailing, but ...
 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

Link Christianson, SAM
 OkleeLutheranParish.org
 763-203-1385
 Pastor Cote, Parish Secretary
 bonny@okleelutheran.org
 612-840-9401

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

I had my name as Lind Christianson, and I'm honored 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 Oak, MN. I attended elementary school there before we moved to Salem, MN. After the local school closed in my third-grade year, we relocated to a farm outside Salem, where I eventually graduated high school in 1986.

Following graduation, I moved to Coon Rapids and started my career as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Villa St. Vincent nursing home. In 1992, I married my husband, Jim, and we settled on a farm near Fritzie, MN. The next year, our first son, Cole, was born. In 1994, and our second son, Cody, followed in 1996. As our boys grew and began school, we decided to move from the farm to town for their education.

Professionally, I've worked in various roles. I worked as a bank teller for 13 years from August 2005. I'm also proud to have served as the president of the Oklee Lutheran Parish since 2015, a position I've held with honor and dedication.

Our family has grown, and I'm grateful for our blessings. Our son Cole married Taylor in 2021, and they've brought even more joy and love to our lives with their children—our granddaughters Lily and Gabriella, and their brother, Ned Wallace.

In 2015, I faced the profound loss of my son at 17, which profoundly affected my ability to become a youth pastor. Despite this tragedy, I persevered, working both as a bank teller at Wells Fargo and contributing part-time at the local school.

Throughout my life, my faith has been a journey of faith and love. With the support and love of the Oklee parish, I've embraced my role with this community.

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

Lind Christianson

Thank you for the new names I've added to the list.



LENTEN CALENDAR

February 18: Ash Wednesday -- 7 PM Salem

February 25: 6 PM Meal. 7 PM at Zion

March 4: 6 PM Meal. 7 PM at Salem

March 11: 6 PM Meal. 7 PM at Zion

March 18: 6 PM Meal. 7 PM at Salem

March 25: 6 PM Meal. 7 PM at Zion

March 29: Palm Sunday

Zion: 9 AM Worship. 10:30 AM Sunday School.

Salem: 9 AM Sunday School. 10:30 AM Worship.

April 2 - Maundy Thursday: 7 PM at Zion

April 3 - Good Friday: 7 PM at Salem

Easter Sunday

April 5: 9 AM Zion, 10:30 AM Salem

No Sunday School at either church

D **FORTY**
Days
OF LENT



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



As we close another year of service, I am grateful of the strength, resilience and generosity that define our rural communities. I am proud to share with you some pieces from our annual report which reflects the impact of our collective efforts and the progress we have made together. You can find our full report on our website.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Employment & Training: 156 individuals served 89 successful exits into employment or school</p> | <p>Head Start: Served 163 children Strong parent engagement and goal-setting</p> |
| <p>Energy Assistance: 1,488 households received Primary Heat Assistance \$989,354 was paid to energy vendors 742 households assisted in crisis situations \$380,285 was paid to energy vendors in crisis funding 99 households received energy-related repairs or replacements 4 households assisted through Reach Out for Warmth</p> | <p>Food Shelf: 135 households served 314 individuals supported 20,253 lbs. of food distributed \$8,902.88 in donations from the community (including holiday train)</p> |
| <p>Family Services: 210 households severed with securing housing (including partner agencies) Provided stability through housing programs, food access, health insurance support, and case management.</p> | <p>Weatherization: 24 homes weatherized 6 stand-alone projects completed 30 total projects across service area</p> |

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.

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.



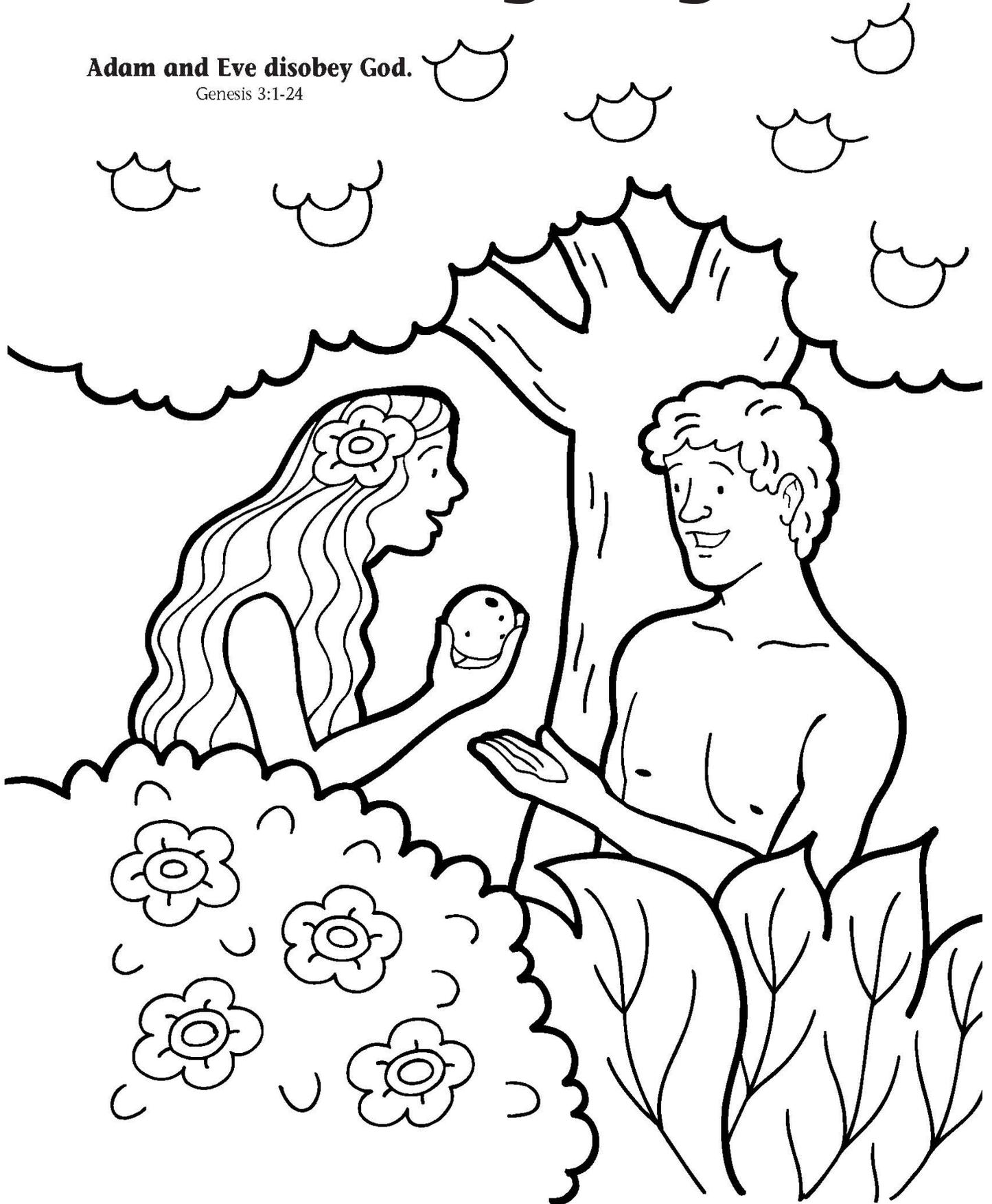
Time, Talents & Treasure

During this time of transistion, remember that without a permanent leader, it is important for others to step up and do what needs to be done. The SAM and Pastors we have been hiring do not know all the stuff that needs to be done at our individual churches and how we have done events in the past. Please step up and use your time and talents to keep everything running smoothly and know that you all are a treasure!

Coloring Page

Adam and Eve disobey God.

Genesis 3:1-24



Parish Minutes & Financials

Oklee Lutheran Parish
January 11, 2026
12:00 PM

Roll Call: Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns, Josh Vettleson, Lindi Christianson, SAM.

Also in attendance: Bonny Cote, Treasurer/Secretary

Devotions were given by Lindi.

Ministers Report: Lindi had two things she wanted to bring up to the Parish Board.

First was about starting a youth group. She would like to get started right a way as it is in her Covenant she signed with us. If you don't want me to do this, she will have to change her covenant.

She has talked to Marijo Vik, who would also like to be part of this when Marijo comes back in the spring and would also like a contract similar to Lindi's.

The board said, yes, please go a head.

Lindi would like to set up a meeting right away and Bonny mentioned that we have message system that can send out a message about the meeting being planned for next weekend after Salem's services. Lindi and Bonny will get a message sent out on Tuesday.

Lindi's next request was about an opportunity for her to finish all her SAM training in a year with a new program that Wartburg College has started. It cost \$600 for the entire program and is cheaper that doing all the classes individually. Bishop Bill Tesch recommended that she be accepted in the program. The board approved that this be paid for with a motion by Gin, seconded by Josh, carried.

Lindi left the meeting and went home.

Bonny presented the financial report which is also in the Annual Report.

The board went through the 2025 Annual meeting looking over their own churches reports and also the Parish parts and changes were made and corrected. It was approved for printing by a motion from Josh, seconded by Gin, Carried.

Cheryl closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 7:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church.

Submitted by Bonny Cote, Secretary

Parish Checking Balance as of 12-31-2025
\$99,969.83

Parish Banking Summary - Last year

1/1/2025 through 12/31/2025

| Category | 1/1/2025- 12/31/2025 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Income | |
| Joint Service | 15.00 |
| Misc | 365.35 |
| Tithely | 525.00 |
| TOTAL Misc | 890.35 |
| Salem | 42,378.00 |
| Zion | 33,909.61 |
| TOTAL Income | 77,192.96 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 77,192.96 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Uncategorized | 0.00 |
| Operational | |
| Auto Expense | 3,536.90 |
| Computer Allowance | 600.00 |
| Electricity | 660.00 |
| Heat | 474.45 |
| Miscellaneous | 21.10 |
| Office Supplies | 738.57 |
| Copier | 1,343.96 |
| Programs | 39.04 |
| TOTAL Office Supplies | 2,121.57 |
| Postage | 181.90 |
| Newsletter | 862.73 |
| TOTAL Postage | 1,044.63 |
| Repairs | |
| Parsonage | 956.83 |
| TOTAL Repairs | 956.83 |
| Telephone | |
| Telephone Zion | 1,067.48 |
| TOTAL Telephone | 1,067.48 |
| Water-Garbage | 957.66 |
| TOTAL Operational | 11,440.62 |
| Program | |
| Block Party | 55.27 |
| Bulletins Etc | 1,400.41 |
| Confi-1 Com | 493.90 |
| Lent | 300.00 |
| Pastor's Contining Ed | 806.63 |
| Pulpit Supply | 10,235.80 |
| TOTAL Program | 13,292.01 |
| Salary | |
| Pastor | 6,240.00 |
| FICA | 477.36 |
| TOTAL Pastor | 6,717.36 |
| Secretary | |
| FICA | 368.20 |
| Salary | 4,799.00 |
| TOTAL Secretary | 5,167.20 |
| TOTAL Salary | 11,884.56 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 36,617.19 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 40,575.77 |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|---|
| 1 Communion 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem Salem Annual Meeting | 2 Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 7:00 p.m. Salem WELCA 7:00 p.m. Confirmation | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Communion 9:00 a.m. Salem 9:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:30 a.m. Zion Zion Annual Meeting | 9 | 10 6:30 p.m. Salem Council | 11 7:00 a.m. Zion Council 7:00 p.m. Confirmation | 12 | 13 | 14  |
| 15 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. No Salem SS 10:00 a.m. No Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem | 16  Presidents Day | 17 | 18 Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Salem | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem | 23 | 24 | 25 Lent 6:00 p.m. Meal 7:00 p.m. Zion | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Zion Ushers

- Feb. 1: Confirmation
- Feb. 8: Confirmation
- Feb. 15: Confirmation
- Feb. 22: Confirmation
- Feb. 28: Confirmation

Salem Ushers

- Feb. 1: Jenny BL
- Feb 8: Wyatt V
- Feb: 15: Leif K
- Feb 18: Alice H
- Feb. 22: Paula C

Zion Altar

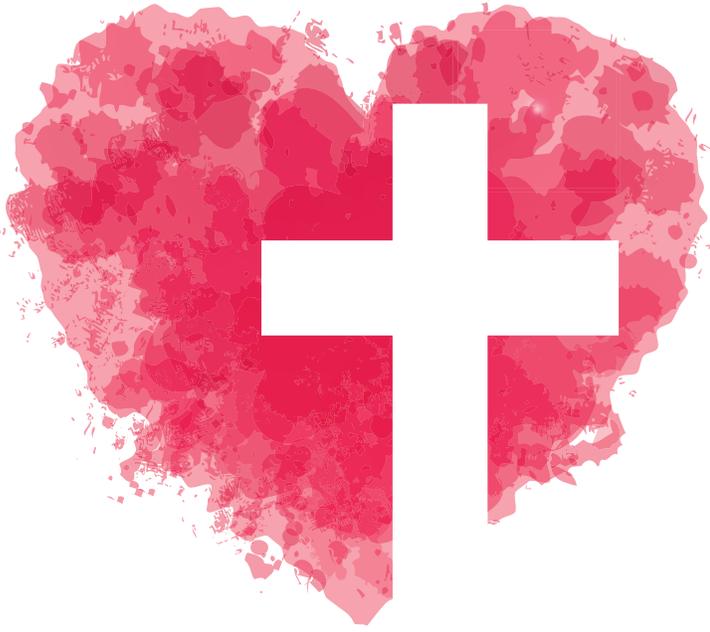
Cheryl O.

Salem Altar

Christine H.

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 says:



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

L

**is patient
is kind
does not envy
does not boast**

O

**is not proud
is not rude
is not self-seeking
is not easily angered
keeps no record of**

V

**wrongs
does not delight in evil
rejoices with the truth
always protects
always trusts**

E

**always hopes
always perseveres
never fails**

**February 2026
Newsletter**

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Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
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