



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

August 2026

Lindi Christianson, SAM
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612-840-9401



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

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

Hello Oklee Lutheran family,

August always brings a mix of emotions. The days are warm and full, yet the evenings begin to hint at change. My own heart feels that blend of joy and ache. August is filled with family birthdays, and August 14 would have been my son Cody's 30th. These milestone birthdays without him are tender places, and I know many of you carry your own dates that stir memory and longing. God holds all of it — the celebration and the sorrow.

July was a full month in ministry. I officiated my first wedding, baptized three beautiful little ones, and walked with two families through funerals. Since beginning as a SAM, I've now officiated six funerals, one wedding, and a baptism of three babies. Each moment — joyful or sorrowful — has reminded me how deeply God is present in every season.

August brings its own excitement. Vacation Bible School is right around the corner, and I'm already imagining the joy and holy chaos of children learning about God's love. Soon after, Rally Sunday will gather us back together for a new year of worship and learning.

I'm grateful to share that I've completed all my SAM coursework — finishing in one year instead of two — and I continue my Wartburg journey, which began in January. After a short July break, classes resume August 8. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement; you have been part of this calling.

I've been sitting with a verse from Psalm 34: "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." It's a reminder that God doesn't ask us to choose between joy and grief. God meets us in both — in celebration, in sorrow, and in the quiet places where calling and life intertwine. God walks with us through every season, especially the ones that hold both joy and ache.

I'll close with this blessing for each of you:

May the God who holds every season hold you gently now. May joy find you in unexpected places and may comfort meet you where sorrow remains. May your memories be held in love, your days steadied by grace, and your calling strengthened by the One who walks beside you.

Amen.

Lindi



AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1: Norman Nelson
Richard Hendrickson
Aubrey Halverson
Teagan Lee
9: Stephanie Bakken
10: Kyle Vettleson
11: Calvin O'Neill
17: Ted Linder
20: Lochlyn Garthus
21: Eric Mickelson
23: Jon Smith
24: Kayla Olson
26: Chelsey Vettleson
28: Avaeya Vettleson
31: Lavonne Brown
Watson Vettleson
Layla O'Neill

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



• Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, August 5th** at 7:00 p.m.

• Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday, August 11th** 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.



August 2:

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9:

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13;
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16:

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23:

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30:

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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

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Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org

I feel! 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 Shalom Bible Camp in Mentor, 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 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 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 Lay 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 bank teller in Fertile and 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.

Linda Christianson



2026 Zion Altar Schedule

August: Kaye Munt
September: Sheryl Fore/Jo Ann Lerohl

2026 Salem Altar Schedule

August: Holly Spong
September: Stacey Hofstad

~ Parish News ~



Orrin Linder
passed away on
July 12, 2026.



Jackie Samuel Lee IV, born on February 7, 2021, Kooper Allen Daniel Lee, born on December 16, 2022, and Alfred Ryan Lee, born on October, 15, 2025, sons of Taylor Klasen and Jackie Lee III, were all baptized at Salem Lutheran Church on July 19th, 2026.

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

This month the meeting has been moved a week later and is set for **Wednesday, August 12th** at 7:00 p.m. Ellen Hegge is the Bible Study leader and Stacey Hofstad is the Hostess. The meeting is held at Salem.

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



Salem Ushers List

Sun. August 2:	Kyle Vettleson
Sun. August 9:	Lisa Kolstoe
Sun. August 16:	Erica Motteberg
Sun. August 23:	Josh Vettleson
Sun. August 30:	David Hofstad

Zion Ushers List

Sun. August 2:	Diane Hanson
Sun. August 9:	Sarah Beth Lee
Sun. August 16:	Cheryl O'Neill
Sun. August 23:	Patty Mickelson
Sun, August 30:	Kari Hamm

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



** 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.



Rainforest Falls Exploring the Nature of God



When:
Monday, August 3rd to
Thursday, August 6th

Where:
Salem Lutheran Church

Time:
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm - light
supper served at 6:00 pm

Ages:
Pre-K - 7th grade
All kids are welcome

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.



Follow Oklee Lutheran Parish on
FACEBOOK & YouTube

The Worship Service airs on Channel 35 on
Wednesdays at 1 pm
and Sunday at 10 a.m.

Facebook and YouTube are first
available at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays.



Youth Group News

Youth Group Update — September Kickoff

As we look toward September, I'm excited to begin a new year of Youth Group together. The ELCA

invites congregations across the country to participate in God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday — a day dedicated to serving our communities in Christ's name. It feels like the perfect way to kick off our year: with hands ready to help, hearts ready to serve, and a spirit of joy as we gather again.

This year, I'd love for our youth to choose a project we can do together. Here are a few ideas to get us started:

Community Clean-Up: picking up trash around town, the school, or the park.

Blessing Bags: assembling small care kits for people in need — socks, snacks, hygiene items.

Cards of Kindness: writing notes for nursing home residents, teachers, or first responders.

Food Shelf Support: helping organize donations or creating a "mini food drive" as a group.

Church Spruce-Up: simple projects around the building — cleaning, organizing, or helping prepare for fall programming.

I'd love to hear what the youth feel most excited about. We'll choose a project together and make it our first act of service for the year.

To help us stay connected, I'm inviting all youth (and parents) to join our **Youth Group WhatsApp**. This will be our place for quick updates, reminders, photos, and encouragement throughout the year. Please sign up so we can keep everyone in the loop as we plan and grow together.

I'm looking forward to a year filled with faith, friendship, service, and joy. Our youth bring so much life to this congregation, and I can't wait to see what God does through them.



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

Have you ever considered being on a Board? We have an opportunity that might be just right for you! Inter-County Community Council (ICCC), a private non-profit agency, is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors.

The Board is structured by the following representation:

- One-third are elected officials
- One-third are individuals eligible for ICCC services
- One-third represent special interest groups aligned with our mission

Board members in the income-eligible and special interest categories may serve up to three consecutive three-year terms.

Inter-County Community Council is currently accepting applications to serve a three-year term on its Board of Directors. Applicants must:

- Reside in Red Lake County
- Must be or have been eligible for services from ICCC.

Board meetings are held over dinner on the fourth Monday of every other month.

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.



Coloring Page

Jesus uses a boy's lunch to feed 5,000 people.

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15





No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear | 9. ___ monkey | A. fry | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog | 10. ___ platypus | B. fawn | K. foal |
| 3. ___ owl | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet |
| 4. ___ horse | 12. ___ giraffe | D. cub | M. puggle |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose | E. kid | N. joey |
| 6. ___ deer | 14. ___ swan | F. cygnet | O. polliwog |
| 7. ___ goat | 15. ___ dog | G. infant | P. puppy |
| 8. ___ fish | | H. calf | |

“___₁on’t let any___₂ne ___₃oo___₄ down o___₅ you ___₆ecaus___₇
 you ___₈re youn___₉, but set an exa___₁₀ple for the bel___₁₁evers
 in spec___₁₂, in ___₁₃onduct, in love, in ___₁₄aith and in ___₁₅urity.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

◀ July		August 2026					September ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Zion has decided to keep Wednesday night services for the month of August	<u>Salem Ushers</u> Aug. 2: Kyle V Aug. 9: Lisa K Aug. 16: Erica M Aug. 23: Josh V Aug. 30: David H	<u>Zion Ushers</u> Aug. 5: Diane H Aug. 12: Sarah B Aug. 19: Cheryl O Aug. 26: Patty M	<u>Salem Altar</u> Holly Spong <u>Zion Altar</u> Kay Munt			1	
2 10:30 a.m. Salem	3 VBS - 6:30 p.m. at Salem	4 VBS - 6:30 p.m. at Salem	5 5 p.m. Meal/Snack 6:00 p.m. Zion Service VBS - 6:30 p.m. at Salem Zion Council 7:00 p.m.	6 VBS - 6:30 p.m. at Salem	7	8	
9 10:30 a.m. Salem	10	11 Salem Council 6:30 p.m.	12 5:00 Meal/Snack 6 p.m. Zion Service Salem WELCA 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15	
16 10:30 a.m. Salem	17	18	19 5:00 Meal/Snack 6 p.m. Zion Service	20	21	22	
23 10:30 a.m. Salem	24	25	26 5:00 Meal/Snack 6 p.m. Zion Service	27	28	29	
30 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	31	Answer: D, O, L, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P					



Plan To attend Rally Day!

September 12th - Salem & Zion

August 2026
Newsletter

Oklee Lutheran Parish
Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
PO Box 56
Oklee, MN 56742

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