



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish September 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

Hello, my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ,

September is here, and with it comes that familiar shift back into the swing of things. After the slower, quieter pace of summer, life begins to move again — school buses return to the roads, backpacks gather by the door, and families settle back into routines that feel both steady and new. In our church life, that same sense of movement is returning. Sunday School is starting up, confirmation is beginning again, and our building will soon be filled with the sounds of learning, laughter, and community.

Here in our rural community, September also means **harvest**. The fields are changing, the combines are warming up, and many of our families are preparing for long days and late nights. Harvest is a season of hard work and deep hope — trusting the land, trusting the weather, and trusting that God will provide what we need. As we enter this busy time, my prayer is that everyone stays **happy, healthy, and safe**. Please take care of yourselves, look out for one another, and know that your church is praying for you.

For our Sunday School families, I'm excited to welcome your children back into a space where they can learn, wonder, and grow. For our confirmands, this month marks the beginning of another chapter in your spiritual walk. I've been working closely with parents and students to shape a schedule that supports your growth, your questions, and your connection to our church community. It is a joy to walk alongside you.

And for all of us — whether we have children in school or not — September is an invitation. An invitation to re-engage, to reconnect, and to step back into the rhythms that ground us. Worship, fellowship, service, prayer... these are the things that steady us when life gets busy and remind us that we don't walk alone.

May this month bring renewed energy, steady routines, and a deep sense of God's presence in every new beginning.

Blessings to you in this full and beautiful season from your Sister in Christ,

SAM Lindi



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

5: Arley L. Brekke
 6: Ryleigh Sherman
 8: Vincent Dessellier
 9: David Hofstad
 Amanda Nelson
 13: Aurora Mitzner
 16: Megan Lukkes
 18: Tim Munt
 20: Janae Olson
 21: Ginny Stoneouse
 Bailey Sherman
 24: Ione Nelson
 Graham Vettleson

Anniversaries

1: Les & Cheryl O'Neill
 Logan & Abbey O'Neill
 Ashley & David Halverson
 18: Ted & Jenny Linder
 21: David & Stacey Hofstad
 24: Kyle & Chelsey Vettleson

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

Rally Sunday Blessing of the Backpacks September 20th

Salem & Zion: Will be presenting Bibles to 3rd graders and confirmation students.



• 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.



September 6:

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;
 Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13:

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
 Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 20:

Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8
 Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9
 Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

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.



2026 Zion Altar Schedule

September: Sheryl Fore/Jo Ann Lerohl
 October: Diane Hanson

2026 Salem Altar Schedule

September: Stacey Hofstad
 October: Paula & Kendra Christianson



Oklee Lutheran Parish
November 2025

Linda Christianson, SAM
lchristianson@okleelutheran.org
 761-283-1367

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

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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 Oklee, MN. I attended elementary school there before we moved to Shiloh Bible Camp in Mendota, MN, in seventh grade with my parents and two brothers. After the local school closed in my eighth-grade year, we relocated to a farm outside Mendota, 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, Jim, 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 pie at my local school, where I continued until October 27th of this current role as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM).

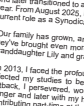
Our family has grown, and I am grateful for our blessings. Our son Cole married Tanya in 2021, and granddaughter Lily and grandson Warren were born.

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 with as a bank teller in Fertile 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 growth 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



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 200 Lumber Street
 PO Box 54
 Oklee, MN 56742
 612-283-1367

Salem Lutheran Church
 2051 16th St SE
 PO Box 56
 Oklee, MN 56742

~ Parish News ~

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Salem Ushers List

Sun. September 6:	Ginny Stoneouse
Sun. September 13:	Jenny Bernier-Linder
Sun. September 20:	Wyatt Vettleson
Sun. September 27:	Leif Kolstoe

Zion Ushers List

Sun. September 6:	Chad Parsley
Sun. September 13:	Diane Hanson
Sun. September 20:	Marcella Melby
Sun. September 27:	Jami Hendrickson

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



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.

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/>

Card of Thanks from St. Francis Xavier

To the parishes of Zion Lutheran and Salem Lutheran, the parish families of St. Francis Xavier Catholic church extend our deep and heartfelt gratitude for your support of our parish at the announcement of our parish closing. Our parishes share families, friends, and an abiding faith as we've worked in harmony supporting the community of Oklee through many years together. We have a history of faith and fellowship, and that will continue into the future. God bless you and give you His grace and peace. Thank you!

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Salem News

Salem WELCA Meets

The WELCA meeting is set for **Wednesday, September 2nd** at 6:00 p.m. Stacey Hofstad is the Bible Study leader and Ellen Hegge is the Hostess. The meeting is held at Salem.

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

Salem Confirmation Parent/Student meeting

Salem has a parent/student confirmation meeting on Sept 9 at 7pm for all Salem 8th & 9th graders.

Zion News

Zion WELCA Meets

The September meeting is set for Wednesday, **September 2nd** at 6:00 p.m. at the Church.

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

Zion Confirmation Parent/Student meeting

Zion will be holding a Parent/Student Confirmation meeting: September 16th at 7 p.m. for all 8th & 9th graders.

Card of Thanks

The Zion Congregation and Board wants to thank Chad Parsley for all the work he does to keep our church & parsonage looking great. He mows the grass regularly, and recently replaced the mulch in front of the church. In the winter, he clears the snow away from the front of the Church and Parsonage. Thank You!!



**** 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.





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



The Little Library in front of Zion has some good reading. Stop by and check out the selection.



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

Last month I shared that we are looking for a Red Lake County Board member and we still haven't found anyone. I am also now looking for a Clearwater county Board member.

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 or Clearwater 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.

Rainforest Falls

Exploring the Nature of God



Was held Monday, August 3rd
to Thursday, August 6th



Coloring Page



Zion Minutes & Financials

Zion Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes Date: August 5th, 2026

Members Present: Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns, Diane Hanson, Chad Parsley, Jami Hendrickson,
Also in attendance: Marcella Melby,
Treasurer, Lindi Christianson, SAM, Alice Hofstad

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl. SAM Lindi opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The secretary's report was read by Jami. Motion made to accept report. 1st - Chad 2nd - Gin Motion Approved.

Treasurer's report was read by Marcella. Marcella will pay up to \$800 for prefill to Cenex for propane. Motion made to accept report: 1st - Diane, 2nd - Jami. Motion Approved.

Old Business: Patty and Cheryl are continuing to get a letter ready to update attendance. They plan on bringing it to the October meeting. A removable support railing that is similar to the one at Salam was discussed, and when it is ready, it will be installed. Grief Share has passed both Salem Council and Zion Council. It will now be brought up at the Parish Council meeting.

New Business:

- Oklee Community Club is fixing up 2 flat-top grills at the hall that will be available to use during our fundraisers.

- Chad made a motion to amend Lindi's contract from a cap of \$600 for mileage reimbursement to paying the federal rate of .76 cents, without a cap. Gin seconded the motion. Motion passed at Zion. Will go to Salem for approval before it goes to Oklee Parish.

- Blessing of the Backpacks and Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 20th. God's Work Our Hands will be on September 13th. First Communion was discussed and will be TBD. Confirmation will start this fall with a parent meeting in September.

- Youth Gathering will be in June 2027 in Minneapolis. Lindi will meet with the youth group in September to give more information.

- Lindi has completed all her Synod-Authorized Minister (SAM) Program classes.

Ushering/Serving a light meal before service in August/September:

Aug. 5:	Sept. 6: Chad P
Aug. 12: Sarah Beth L	Sept. 13: Diane H
Aug. 19: Cheryl O'Neill	Sept. 20: MarcellaM
Aug. 26: Patty Mickelson	Sept. 27: Jami H

SAM Lindi led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 1st -Diane, 2nd - Gin. Motion Carried

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, at 7:00p.m.

August 2026 Board Report Zion Lutheran Church Financial Statement

General Fund

Balance 5/31/2026	\$	2,910.60
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Income		
Offerings	\$	6,716.52
WELCA Donation	\$	300.00
McCliffy Meal (6/7)	\$	716.00
Truck Pull Fundraiser (7/18 & 7/19)	\$	2,092.25

Total Income	\$	9,824.77
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Budgeted Expenses		
Parish (May & June)	\$	7,963.08
Otter Tail (electric)	\$	379.19
Red Lake County Coop (fuel)	\$	378.00
North Star Insurance	\$	965.32
Champion Media (Auction Ad)	\$	70.50
Tyrone Olson (AC Repair)	\$	559.56
Synod	\$	600.00
Alex Erickson Construction (gutter Install)	\$	480.00
Oklee Lumber, Inc. (shims & casings)	\$	278.99
	\$	11,674.64

Non- Budgeted Expenses		
None	\$	-
	\$	-

Total Expenses	\$	11,674.64
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Ending Balance 5-31-2026	\$	1,060.73
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Passbook Savings

Grace McManus Scholarship	\$3,962.03
13 month CD	\$40,000.00

Building Fund	\$2,256.62
Elevator	\$995.00
Windows	\$706.78
Undesignated	\$554.84

Memorial Fund	\$8,155.45
Building Fund	\$2,154.71
Elevator	\$130.00
Sunday School	\$345.00
Undesignated	\$5,525.74



Salem Council Financial and Minutes

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes

Date: Aug 11th, 2026

Attendance: David Hofstad, Ron Hegge, Paula Christianson, Alice Hofstad, Ginny Stonehouse,

Jenny Linder, Lisa Kolstoe, Erica Motteberg, SAM Lindi Christianson.

Prayer led by SAM Lindi.

Secretary's report read by: Paula Christianson

Approved by Ginny, 2nd by Ron.

Financial Secretary's report read by: Lisa Kolstoe

As of 7/31/26:

Budget Amount: \$38,229.66

Offerings Received: \$33,748.00

Balance under budget: -\$4,481.66

Approved by Paula, 2nd by Jenny.

Treasurer's report read by: Lisa Kolstoe

Approved by Ron, 2nd by Erica

Pastor's Report by SAM Lindi:

SAM Lindi's mentorship program has been completed successfully. A new covenant with Pastor Dodson has not yet been finalized but is expected to be completed soon. Planning is underway for the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in partnership with Pastor Dodson and Concordia Parish. A charter bus option is being considered for participants. An informational meeting will be held on August 19th. The Youth Gathering is scheduled for June 28 through July 2, 2027.

Discussion has begun regarding confirmation planning, including organizing a parent meeting.

Salem will have five confirmation students participating. The grief support program remains under discussion with the parish as planning continues.

Old Business: Building maintenance updates: The bathroom remodel will resume this fall.

Other building maintenance items include staining the trim, and sink install in the kitchen, and quarter round upstairs. Window tint on the stained-glass windows was put on hold due to the hot weather.

Topics to consider: Roof repair, new shingles/tin and adding a ramp to the entrance of the church or a removable ramp for events and headstone repair.

New Business: 800 gallons of propane will be pre-paid for the winter; Motion to approve, approved by Alice, 2nd by Ginny. 3 years of web hosting have been paid for. Cemetery cleanup day will be held during Gods Work Our Hands. The national average mileage reimbursement rate has increased to \$0.76 per mile, and SAM Lindi has exceeded the current mileage reimbursement cap. A motion was presented to remove the cap and adjust the reimbursement rate to align with the national average. The Church Council voted on the motion and approved the change.

Events:

September 13th God's Work, Our Hands.

Rally Sunday September 20th with Backpack Blessings & Potluck

Closed in the Lord's Prayer. Motion to Adjourn, approved Alice, 2nd by Lisa.

Next Meeting Date: Oct. 13th , 6:30pm.

Salem Lutheran Church

Balance June 9, 2026	\$39,264.54
Income:	
Offerings	\$2,948.00

Total Cash Available	\$42,212.54
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Expenses:	
RLC Coop	\$0.00
RLEC	\$141.09
David Hofstad	\$79.34

Total Expenses	\$220.43
Ending Balance June 30, 2026	\$41,992.11

Income:	
Offerings	\$1,915.00
Thrivent	\$95.00

Total Cash Available	\$44,002.11
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Expenses:	
Parish	\$3,981.55
RLEC	\$148.83
Oklee Lumber	\$45.00

Total Expenses	\$4,175.38
Ending Balance July 31, 2026	\$39,826.73

Income:	
Offerings	\$1,995.00
RLC Coop Dividend	

Total Cash Available	\$1,995.00
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Expenses:	
Parish	\$3,981.55

Total Expenses	\$3,981.55
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Ending August 10, 2026	\$37,840.18
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Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings:	\$14,182.32
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Interest	\$47.29
Deposit: Donations	\$0.00
Memorials:	

Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings:	\$9,739.33
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Income: Thrivent	\$66.31
CD Interest:	
Interest	\$28.27
Deposits:	
Transfers	

Building Fund Savings	\$1,462.40
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Interest	\$4.26
Deposits:	\$15.00
Transfers	

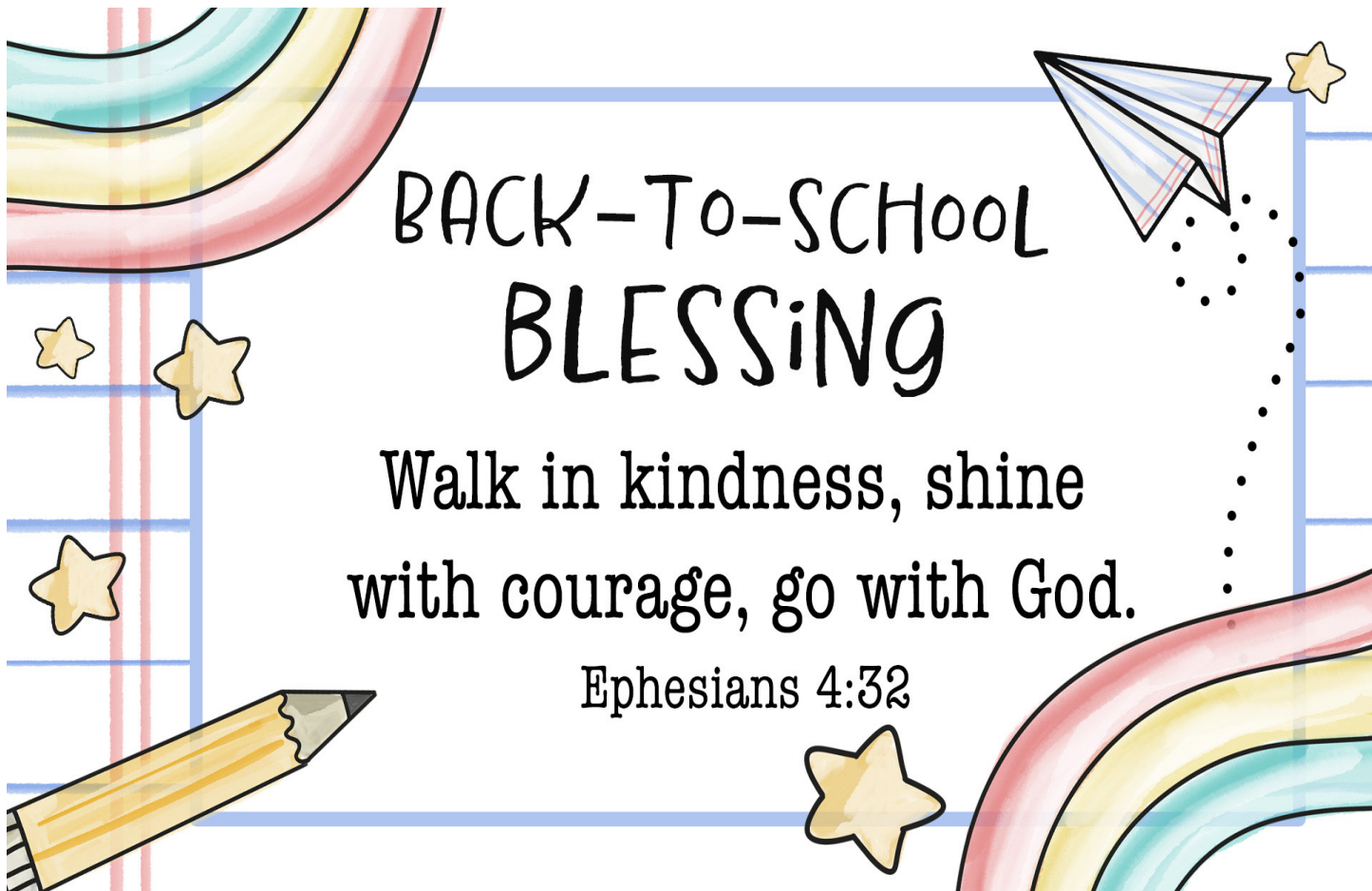
Memorial Fund Savings:	\$4,350.33
Interest	\$12.56
Memorials:	
To Checking	

CD #16380	\$15,107.04	Cemetery Perp. Car	3.50% Maturity	8/29/2027
CD #16379	\$6,324.79	Cemetery Maint.	3.50% Maturity	8/29/2027

Thrivent Mutual Fund balance as of 08/10/2026	\$8,432.38
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September 2026							◀ August	October ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
6 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	7 	8	2 Zion WELCA 7:00 p.m. Salem WELCA 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5		
13 God Work Our Hands 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	14	15	9 Salem - 7 p.m. Confirmation meeting Parents & Students	10 Parish Board Meeting - 7 p.m.	11 	12		
20 Rally Sunday 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem Salem Picnic follows	21	22	16 Zion - 7 p.m. Confirmation meeting Parents & Students	17	18	19		
27 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS Salem 10:00 a.m. SS Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	28	29	23 Confirmation Starts for Salem & Zion Look for schedule on facebook or Website.	24	25	26		
			30 Confirmation Classes At Zion & Salem	Salem Altar Stacey H Zion Altar Sheryl F/Jo Ann L	Salem Ushers Sept. 6: Ginny S. Sept. 13: Jenny B-L Sept. 20: Wyatt V Sept. 27: Leif K	Zion Ushers Sept. 6: Chad P Sept. 13: Diane H Sept. 20: Marcella M Sept. 27: Jami 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!!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSiNG

Walk in kindness, shine
with courage, go with God.

Ephesians 4:32

September 2026
Newsletter

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage
Paid
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