



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

August 2024

Check out our website: OkleeLutheran.org



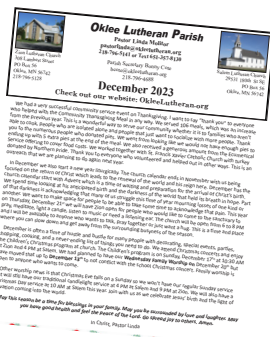
Come and Join Us!



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

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.



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

- The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thur, August 8** 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.



August 4:

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

August 11:

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8;
Ephesians 4:25—5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

August 18:

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 25:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1: Norman Nelson
Richard Hendrickson
Aubrey Halverson
Teagan Lee
9: Stephanie Bakken
10: Kyle Vettleson
11: Calvin O'Neill
15: Les Hofstad
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

17: Les & Alice Hofstad

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary, contact Bonny Cote at 218-796-4688 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.

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.



*Thanks to our
Volunteers*

My guardian angel helps me...

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

-Henry, 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!!

-Jack, 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead.

-Daniel, 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.

-Matthew, 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado.

-Reagan, 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter.

-Sara, 6

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.

-Antonio, 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

-Jody, 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it.

-Vicki, 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.

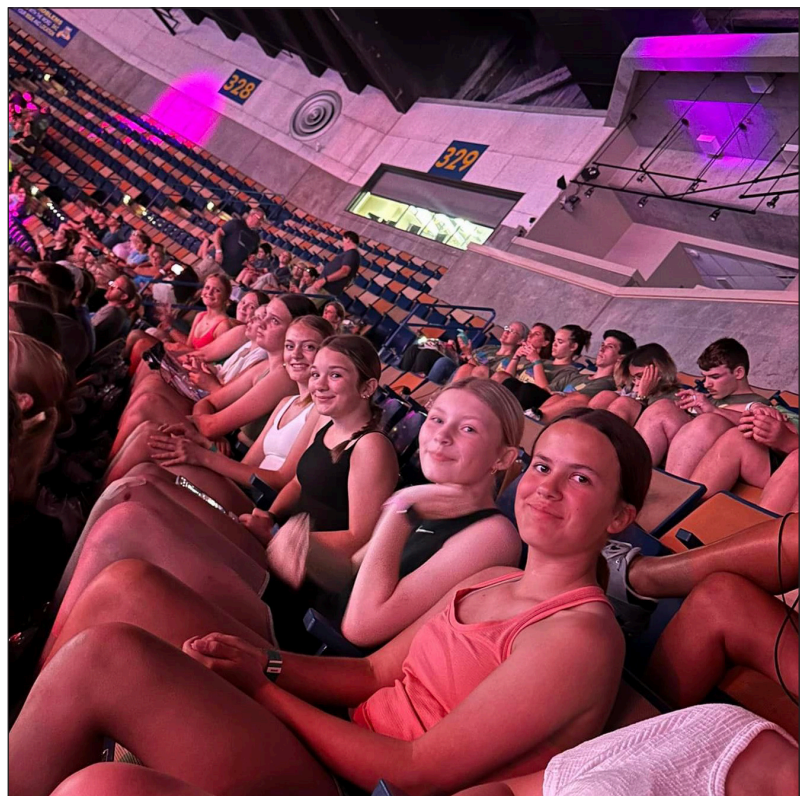
-Sarah, 7



Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

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

Photos from the Youth Group Trip to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering



~ 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.

THIS MONTH USHERS

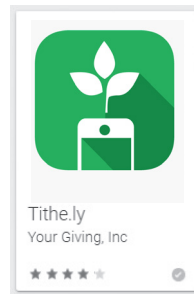
Salem Ushers List

Sun. Aug. 4:	Lisa Kolstoe
Sun. Aug. 11:	Erica Motteberg
Sun. Aug. 18:	Josh Vettleson
Sun. Aug. 25:	David Hofstad

Zion Ushers List

Sun. Aug. 4:	Sarah Beth Lee
Sun. Aug. 11:	John Pendelton
Sun. Aug. 18:	Kari Hamm
Sun. Aug. 25:	Cheryl O'Neill

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



Please continue to be generous in your support!

Use the Tithely app

The Link is on our website: okleelutheran.org

or Try our new QR Code

Thank You!!



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.



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



This month I'd like to share with you about our employment and training programs.

Employment and Training serves a wide spectrum of people with ages ranging 14 to well beyond retirement. We use a mix of both federal and state funds to help people secure and maintain employment. This looks different for many of the people going through the programs. Some only need a little help polishing a resume, others may have the resume but don't have nice clothes for an interview, still others may have no experience or work skills and we can help with all of these needs and more.

For our youngest clients we offer paid work experiences so afterwards they have the experience needed to get a job on their own. We also help this group with career and post-secondary counselling. We also help older youth and low-income adults with tuition assistance in two-year programs so they can get the training needed to secure skilled positions. Finally, we can also assist those who were laid off or justice involved with many of the same job search and tuition assistance.

Employment and Training is not just for the unemployed, we are able to help employers upskill their employees so they do not have to lay them off to find employees with the skills needed to stay competitive. This part of the programs is called Incumbent Worker Training. ICCC staff work with employers to identify training needs and then reimburse the employer for the training at varying levels depending on the size of the employer. We like to think of this as a win-win for the employer and the employees. The employer gets to upskill their workforce while the employee avoids layoff and potentially earning more.

Employment and training programs are about helping people build skills to help them find and maintain employment. Those skills are theirs to take with them where ever life may take them.

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 a fundraiser 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, **August 14** at 7:00 p.m. Ginny Stonehouse has Bible Study and Stacey Hofstad is the Hostess.

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!



Special Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council meeting
July 2, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Gin Berns, Cheryl O'Neill, Conway Hamm, Josh Vettleson, and David Hofstad.

Guest speaker: Kathy Levenhagen.

Cheryl called the meeting to order. Kathy L opened with a prayer.

Kathy was asked to come speak with the Parish Board on SAM (Synod Authorized Ministers). There is lots of information on the NW MN Synod website.

Kathy has been a SAM for 15 years and is assigned to a church. SAM's have all the rights to serve in a church, just like a pastor. They go to classes, some are online, and some are in person. They have to have a mentor that they meet with occasionally and also be able to answer any questions that comes up. SAM are reviewed yearly.

Anyone can become a SAM. There is no age limit to become a SAM, you can serve part or full time. Contracts can be set up if a parish chooses to hire a SAM and are very flexible.

Kathy asked what our parish was thinking about for the future. Cheryl said that Zion cannot afford to pay for a full time Pastor, so SAM's may be an option. Kathy said it would be best if we can find someone in our area that would be interested in becoming a SAM and could live and serve our churches locally. It is easy to apply to be a SAM, just fill out an application, meet with the Bishop.

A Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) is a lay person who can function like a pastor in only one congregation/parish, who commits to ongoing learning/education, mentorship and supervision. An annual discernment conversation and annual review are part of the process to continue as a SAM.

SAMs do not use the title of Pastor (in written or verbal communication), nor can they wear stoles in their professional role. They are encouraged to wear an alb while leading worship.

Most will serve a church currently without a Pastor. You may preach, teach, commune, marry and bury the

members of a certain congregation. (more details on SAMs can be found online on the NW MN Synod website (nwmnsynod.org).

Kathy heard we had rented out our parsonage and a question has come up on the property taxes. Since it is now being rented, we may be liable for paying property taxes. Bonny will call and ask what the rules are.

Kathy also had a couple of suggestions to get more participation at church, to maybe change things up a little. One suggestion was to move "Sharing the Peace" to the end of the service. This has been good change for her church and it makes it more welcoming to visitors in our church.

Also in the newsletter, ask a questions every month. Something though provoking to start a conversation.

Kathy thanked us for inviting her and we thanked her for all her information on SAMs.

The financial reports were given by Bonny and accepted. Repairs on the parsonage were talked about. The bathroom needs some repairs due to water damage next to shower.

David asked why computer program is not used at Salem and Bonny said that the first Sunday after Pastor Linda was gone, she did bring out the computer/powerpoint to Salem and was told that they had the songs on the clavinova and didn't need it. So she hasn't brought it out since. Asked if David would like her to start bringing out and he said no, things are working fine at Salem the way they are.

Speaking of computers, Bonny then brought up that the computer the parish has is about 6 years old and it not working with the powerpoint as well as it should and resorted to using an old computer of hers/Richards Publishing that is set up for presentations/graphics for smoother operation. Bonny said computer was bought 6 years ago and is nearing it's end of usefulness. Board said to get quotes for next meeting.

Still need to fill two dates for August 4 & 11. Bonny will contact Pastor Graff and Joyce White.

Next meeting set for August 6th at 7:00 p.m.

(note: meeting changed to August 8th instead.)

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

Parish Financial - Banking Summary

Parish Banking Summary

1/1/2024 through 7/2/2024

7/25/2024

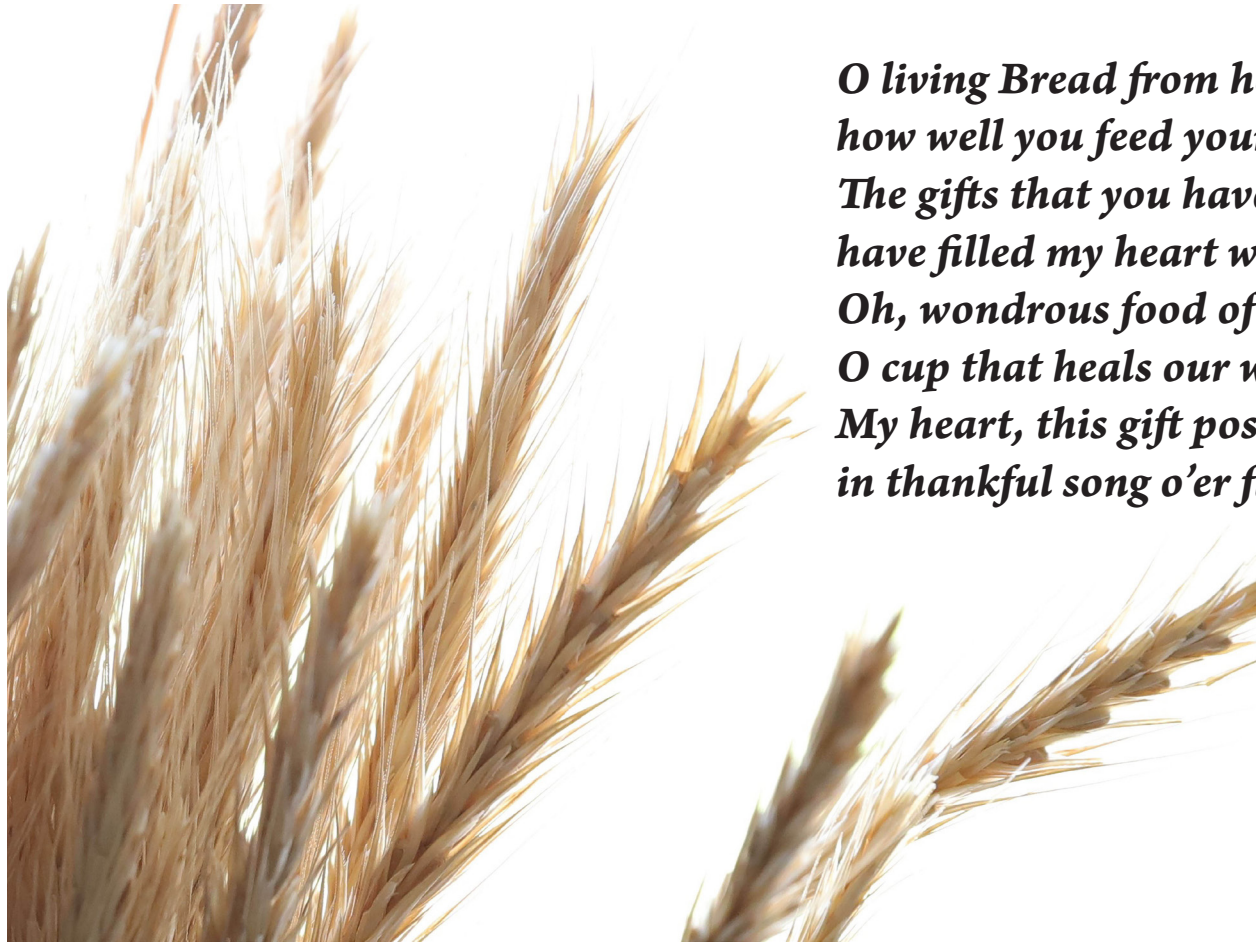
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Category	1/1/2024- 7/2/2024
INCOME	
Income	
Joint Service	0.00
Misc	
Tithely	-657.15
TOTAL Misc	-657.15
Salem	29,240.33
Zion	16,266.00
TOTAL Income	44,849.18
TOTAL INCOME	44,849.18
EXPENSES	
Operational	
Auto Expense	656.34
Computer Allowance	300.00
Electricity	1,004.00
Miscellaneous	16.00
Office Supplies	523.32
Copier	714.66
TOTAL Office Supplies	1,237.98
Postage	302.00
Newsletter	594.63
TOTAL Postage	896.63
Repairs	
Parsonage	870.00
TOTAL Repairs	870.00
Telephone	
Dial My Calls Service	50.00
Telephone Parsonage	375.01
Telephone Zion	495.48
TOTAL Telephone	920.49
Water-Garbage	957.66
Work. Comp Insurance	496.00
TOTAL Operational	7,355.10
Program	
Bulletins Etc	666.17
Confi-1 Com	141.67
Lent	300.00
Misc.	203.50
Pastor's Contining Ed	75.00
Pulpit Supply	1,800.00
TOTAL Program	3,186.34
Salary	
Pastor	
Annuity	0.00
FICA	1,235.12
Pension-Insur.	7,636.83
Salary	16,145.16
TOTAL Pastor	25,017.11
Secretary	
FICA	153.00
Salary	1,999.98
TOTAL Secretary	2,152.98
TOTAL Salary	27,170.09
TOTAL EXPENSES	37,711.53
OVERALL TOTAL	7,137.65

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Zion Ushers Aug. 4: Sarah Beth L. Aug. 11: John P. Aug. 18: Kari H. Aug. 25: Cheryl O.	Zion Altar lone Nelson Amanda Nelson	Salem Ushers Aug. 4: Lisa K. Aug. 11: Erica M. Aug. 18: Josh V. Aug. 25: David H.	Salem Altar Holly Spang	1	2	3
4 Pastor Gary Graff 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem Communion	5 VBS 6:00 p.m. Salem	6 VBS 6:00 p.m. Salem 7:00 p.m. Zion Council meeting	7 VBS 6:00 p.m. Salem	8 VBS 6:00 p.m. Salem 7:00 p.m. Parish Meeting	9	10
11 Pastor Gary Graff 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	12	13 Salem Council 6:30 p.m.	14 7:00 p.m. Salem WELCA	15	16	17
18 Lay Minister Marjio Vik 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Lay Minister Marjio Vik 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	26	27	28	29	30	31

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!!



***O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows!***

**August 2024
Newsletter**

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Salem and Zion Lutheran Churches
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