



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

# Oklee Lutheran Parish

## January 2025

Parish Secretary Bonny Cote  
 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](http://OkleeLutheran.org)**



**Salem's Sunday School put held their program at 4 p.m. on December 15th.**



**Zion's Sunday School put held their program at 10:30 a.m. on December 15th.**



- The Parish Board meeting will be on **Thursday, January 9th** at 7:00 p.m.
- Zion's next council meeting is **Wednesday, February 5th** at 7:00 p.m.
- Salem's next council meeting is **Tuesday,**

**February 11th** at 6:30 p.m.

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

## JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 5: Elizabeth Follmann
- 10: Hayz Hanson  
Kendra Christianson
- 12: Diane Hanson  
Peyton O'Neill  
Bobbie Olson
- 13: Harper Morinville  
Brooklyn Morinville
- 17: Nick Mickelson
- 18: Lucas Olson
- 19: Logan O'Neill
- 21: Patty Mickelson
- 24: Arlan Fore  
Kyson Thomas Larson
- 27: Matt Kolstoe
- 28: Peyton Rystad
- 29: Cindy Schmiedelberg

### Anniversaries

None

*If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary, contact Bonny Cote at 218-796-4688 or email: [bcote@okleelutheran.org](mailto:bcote@okleelutheran.org)*

### 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](mailto: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.

## Monthly BIBLE Verses

**January 5:**

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**January 12:**

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29;  
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 19:**

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**January 26:**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

## THIS MONTH USHERS

### Salem Ushers List

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Sun. January 5:  | David Hofstad   |
| Sun. January 12: | Ginny Stoneouse |
| Sun. January 19: | Wyatt Vettleson |
| Sun. January 26: | Toni Johnson    |

### Zion Ushers List

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Sun. January 5:  | Cheryl O'Neill   |
| Sun. January 12: | Marcella Melby   |
| Sun. January 19: | Joint with Salem |
| Sun. January 26: | Jami Hendrickson |

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

## Important January Dates

### For Annual Reports:

Due date for all reports is January 4, 2025.  
Email to [cotebon@gmail.com](mailto:cotebon@gmail.com) or [bcote@okleelutheran.org](mailto:bcote@okleelutheran.org)

### Annual Meetings

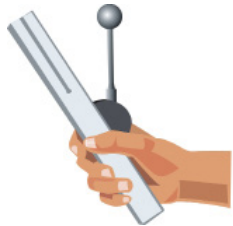
**Salem:** January 19th after church  
**Zion:** January 26th after church.  
Remember, Zion has late the service that Sunday.



# ~ Parish News ~



Brad Gunderson  
passed away  
peacefully on  
December 20, 2024.



Chime choir practice  
Wednesday evenings at 6:00PM  
If you are interested in chime  
choir please call Patty Mickelson  
at 218-280-5696, or simply show  
up at Zion on Wednesday at  
6:00PM!!

## Needed



Current leaders have stepped down effective Jan 1, 2025. If interested in serving as Youth Group leaders, please reach out to the Parish Board.

### **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.

## Salem News

### **Salem WELCA Meets**

This month the meeting is set for Wednesday, **December 4th** at 6:30 p.m (meeting time changed). Christmas Gift exchange and Potluck.

### **Salem Working on a History Book Need Family Histories**

**Salem family history deadline extended to January 15th. There is a form that can be downloaded from our website that gives you some ideas of what to include.**

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](mailto:alicehofstad@okleelutheran.org).

### **Senior LinkAge Program**

Senior LinkAge Line is a program designed to connect you to the services you need. Transportation, Housing, Home Health Care, Housekeeping (Chore) Help, Hospice, Home Delivered Meals, Snow/Lawn Care, Minor Home Repairs, Senior Drug Program, Senior Assisted Living. Call 1-800-333-2433 –Call us! It's free!!

### **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 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.



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



## 2025 Zion Altar Schedule

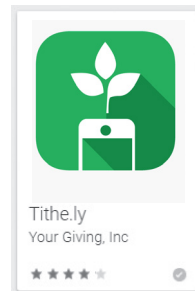
January: Jami Hendrickson  
 February: Marcella Melby/Kari Hamm  
 March: Bonny Cote  
 April: Liz Follmann  
 May: Cheryl O'Neill  
 June: Ashley Halvorson/  
 Nancy Gunderson  
 July: VACANT-need new person  
 August: Ione Nelson/Amanda Nelson  
 September: Kaye Munt  
 October: Sheryl Fore/Joann Lerohl  
 November: Diane Hanson  
 December: Patty Mickelson

## 2025 Salem Altar Schedule

January - Pam Vettleison  
 February - Toni Johnson  
 March - Jenny O'Neill  
 April - Cindy Rystad  
 May - Jordan Larson  
 June - Irene Rosten & Sandra Tougas  
 July -vacant - will let you know

**Update: You now have six choices to choose from to make your donation:**

- Oklee Lutheran Parish
- Salem Church
- Parish Youth Group
- Zion Cemetery
- Zion Church
- Salem Cemetery



**Please continue to be generous in your support!**

**Use the Tithe.ly app**

The Link is on our website:  
[okleelutheran.org](http://okleelutheran.org)

or  
 Try our QR Code

**Thank You!!**



ICCC is looking for COMMUNITY feedback. ICCC take prides in being responsive to our community and the people we serve. This means that when we are seeing gaps in service or new needs arise, we take the time to gather more information. This information will help us provide better service. This survey is asking about your knowledge of our programs, how families of young children would like to receive Head Start services, and what are the current stressors for individuals / families.

We ask that anyone willing take a few minutes to complete a short, anonymous survey. Please share the information with anyone else you know – especially those that might use our services. A great way to do this is to share our post on Facebook or Instagram.



If you are currently enrolled in our Head Start program, the survey will add a few more questions for you – these are specifically about the Head Start services you receive.

Scan the QR code to take you right to the survey. The survey will be open until January 31, 2025.

Thank you!

*Thank you for the opportunity to share space in your newsletter. To learn more about ICCC you can visit [www.intercountycc.org](http://www.intercountycc.org) or call me directly at 218-796-5144 ext 1027. Yours in action- Catherine Johnson, Executive Director.*





Salem's Sunday School program photos



Zion's Sunday School program photos



# Salem Minutes & Financial

## Salem Lutheran Church

Beginning Balance October 8, 2024		\$32,725.08
Income:		
Offerings		\$1,829.44
<i>Total Cash Available</i>		\$34,554.52
Expenses:		
Elaine McGeary (Wine)	\$47.05	
RLEC	\$138.15	
<i>Total Expenses</i>		\$185.20
<b>Ending Balance October 31, 2024</b>		<b>\$34,369.32</b>
Income:		
Offerings	\$5,604.16	
Transfer from Cemetery Maintenance	\$1,300.00	
<i>Total Cash Available</i>		\$41,273.48
Expenses:		
Brennen Christianson	\$1,300.00	
Parish	\$4,177.19	
RLEC	\$153.04	
RLC Coop	\$50.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>		\$5,680.23
<b>Ending Balance November 30, 2024</b>		<b>\$35,593.25</b>
Income:		
Offerings		
Building Fund		
Cemetery Maintenance		
<i>Total Cash Available</i>		\$0.00
Expenses:		
Oklee Lumber	\$1,010.00	
TRF Lock & Key	\$380.00	
Pathways	\$400.00	
Sunday School	\$300.00	
Vacation Bible School	\$150.00	
NW MN Synod	\$300.00	
Lisa Kolstoe	\$500.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>		\$3,040.00
<b>Ending October 8, 2024</b>		<b>\$32,553.25</b>

Cemetery Perpetual Care Savings:		\$12,944.64
Interest	\$61.43	
Deposit: Donations	\$0.00	
Memorials:		
Cemetery Maintenance Fund Savings:		\$7,932.83
Income: Thrivent	\$55.96	
CD Interest:		
Interest	\$33.67	
Deposits:	\$770.00	
To General Fund	(\$1,300.00)	
Building Fund Savings		\$6,230.66
Interest	\$23.34	
Deposits:		
Transfers		
Memorial Fund Savings:		\$3,084.67
Interest	\$11.56	
Memorials:		

CD #14297	\$13,899.96	Cemetery Perp. Care	4.50%	Maturity	5/25/2025
CD #14298	\$5,819.43	Cemetery Maint.	4.50%	Maturity	5/25/2025

Thrivent Mutual Fund balance as of September 30, 2024 = \$8762.13

## Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Notes – Dec. 10th, 2024

Attendance: David, Shirley, Ginny, Josh, Lisa, Kyle, Paula, Ron, Erica.

Secretary's report read by: Paula. Approved by 1st Josh, 2nd by Ron

Financial Secretary's report: Lisa in Toni's absence.

Budget Amount: \$60,668.96

Offerings received: \$62,299.82

Short: -\$8,369.14

Motion to approve/Approved by 1st Ginny, 2nd Paula  
Treasurer's report read by: Lisa.

Approved by 1st Ron, 2nd by Josh

Old Business:

Trim around the windows has been completed. West entrance door has been installed and new keys for council members have been provided. The new door still needs a tension rod, so it doesn't catch in the wind. The locks are fixed on the east entrance and one key works on both locks. Once a council member is done with their term, they will pass their key to the new council member as the keys will not be duplicated.

Shirley met with a few photographers regarding family photos for the Salem book. She will follow up on scheduling a time and get confirmation on who will be taking the pictures. Discussion around creating the book and printing options.

Bathroom remodel will need to be scheduled sometime in January. Council members may need to help on install of toilets, vanities and accessories if needed. Flooring will need to be done first.

New Business:

Review of current council members for 2025 as Toni will be at the end of term.

Door in pastors room needs to be replaced, no decision made. Back entry door should be painted but we will table this until spring cleanup day.

There was an email from Bonny regarding Toiletries drive for Inter Country but due to the short period of time to notify members, we elected to push this out until Jan/Feb. Dec. 24th service, Vincent and Shirley will usher. Christmas program is Dec. 14th with potluck after. No church services on Dec. 22nd. Discussion on holding a recorded church service and reaching out to Rev. Rebel Hurd for options.

Storage is needed for Sunday school supplies to keep the utilities closet free for easy access for maintenance.

Council is reviewing Salem Membership list. There are 135 confirmed members, but some could be considered as Inactive. Inactive status is defined as Member has not attended church or contributed financial in 3 years. They will remain a member of Salem church but will have an Inactive status until one of the fore-mentioned criteria changes.

2025 Budget numbers were reviewed and motion to approve/approved by: 1st Josh, 2nd Kyle.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn, approved: 1st by Lisa, 2nd by Shirley.

Next Meeting Date: Feb. 11th, 2025, at 6:30pm.

# Zion Minutes & Financials

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: December 11th, 2024**

**Members Present:** Jami Hendrickson, Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns, Chad Parsley, Sarah Beth Lee, Sarah Jo Lee  
**Also in attendance:** Marcella Melby, Treasurer  
**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY** Co-President, Cheryl O'Neill.

The secretary's report was read. 1st - Gin 2nd - Chad Motion Approved

Treasurer's report: Submitted by Marcella Melby. Motion made to accept report: 1st - Jami 2nd - Sarah Jo Motion Approved

**Old Business:** RLC Social Services is having internet connection issues when they use the building. Cheryl was asked if we'd be willing to upgrade the internet speed or router and they would reimburse some of the cost. Cheryl has called Garden Valley to check our router/internet speed and will also talk to them about Managed Wi-Fi.

**New Business:** The steps need repair. The caution tape that is on the carpet is slippery and we will look into a different solution until it can be repaired. Zion has received a donation of 3 smoke alarms and 1 carbon monoxide detector from the Oklee Fire Dept. Cheryl bought 2 new fire extinguishers for the church. She will also talk to the fire department and to see about getting our current extinguishers inspected. The newsletters have been arriving late for some people. The instant alert system didn't notify some people that church was canceled last Sunday. Sandy Lee was approved for a Thrivent Action Grant for the Sunday School peanut/candy bags that will be handed out after the Sunday School program on Sunday, December 15th. We discussed inviting more people to church and Sunday School. Sarah has been working on a mailer and will get the information to the council.

Our annual meeting will be on January 26. Sunday school will be at 9:30, church is at 10:30 with Potluck after.

**Ushering December:** Dec. 15: Diane  
 Dec. 22: No Service Dec. 29: Diane  
**January:** Jan. 5: Cheryl Jan. 12: Marcella  
 Jan. 19: Joint with Salem 10:00  
 Jan. 26: Jami  
 February 2: Chad  
 February 9: Gin  
 February 16: Joint with Zion 10:00 Undecided

**2025 Budget:**  
 Parish: 46,600  
 Synod: 1,200  
 Synod Assembly: 400  
 Organist: 500  
 Financial Secretary: 900

**US Treasury: 100  
 Supplies: 1,000  
 Fuel: 3,000**

**Electric: 5,000  
 Lawn/Snow: 750  
 Insurance: 5,600  
 Repairs: 1,400  
 Total: 66,450**

The Lord's Prayer was read.  
**Meeting adjourned: 1st - Chad 2nd - Sarah Beth Motion Carried**  
**Next meeting: Wednesday, February 5th, 2024**  
 Submitted by Jami Hendrickson

Sunday, December 1, 2024 Zion Lutheran Church Financial Statement			
Balance 8-1-2024		\$	3,683.58
Income			
Offerings	\$		4,682.50
Tithely	\$		1,945.00
Anonymous Donation	\$		1,000.00
McCliffy Fundraiser	\$		1,206.00
Trivent Donation	\$		25.00
Parish Ins. Reimbursement 2024	\$		579.26
Total Income			\$ 9,437.76
Budgeted Expenses			
Parish Pmt (Sept. & Oct.)	\$		7,930.96
Ottertail	\$		159.43
Cenex (tank lease)	\$		50.00
North Star Mutual Insurance	\$		2,650.50
Transfer back to Scholarship Fund	\$		250.00
			\$ 11,040.89
Non- Budgeted Expenses			
			\$ -
Total Expenses			\$ 11,040.89
Ending Balance 11-30-24			\$ 2,080.45
Passbook Savings			
Grace McManus Scholarship			\$1,291.55
Building Fund			\$4,685.69
Elevator		\$814.00	
Windows		\$3,056.78	
Undesignated		\$814.91	
Memorial Fund			\$8,331.90
Undesignated		\$5,002.19	
Sunday School		\$345.00	
Building Fund		\$2,154.71	
Elevator		\$130.00	
Lending Library		\$700.00	





**Zion Sunday School singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"**



**Salem Sunday School singing**



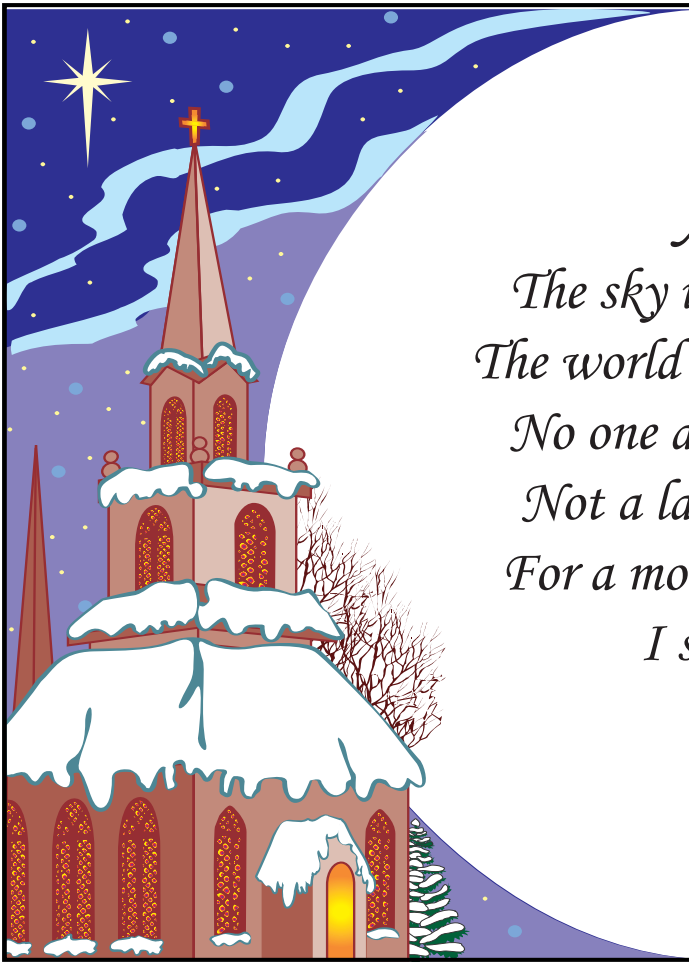
# January 2025

◀ December

February ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Zion Altar</b> Jami Hendrickson  <b>Salem Altar</b> Pam Vettleson	<b>Salem Ushers</b> Jan. 5: David H. Jan. 12: Ginny S. Jan. 19: Wyatt V. Jan. 25: Toni J.	<b>Zion Ushers</b> Jan. 5: Cheryl O. Jan. 12: Marcella M. Jan. 19: Joint w/Salem Jan. 25: Jami H.	1 New Year's Day  No Confirmation			
<b>5</b> 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Zion 7:00 p.m. Salem	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:30 a.m. Salem	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Salem	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Salem Annual</b> Joint 9:00 a.m. SS at Z & S 10:30 a.m. Joint Salem	<b>20 Martin Luther King</b>  <b>HONORING MLK</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Zion 7:00 p.m. Salem	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Zion Annual</b> 9:00 a.m. Salem 9:00 a.m. Zion SS 10:00 a.m. Salem SS 10:30 a.m. Zion	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Zion 7:00 p.m. Salem	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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](mailto:bcote@okleelutheran.org).  
 Or call or text Bonny at 612-840-9401. Thank you!!



## *A Wintry Night*

*The sky is dark and the ground is white.  
The world is peaceful on this wintry night.  
No one around, not a sound to be heard.  
Not a laugh, not a car, not even a bird.  
For a moment, it's just the snow and me.  
I smile inside. I feel so free.*

*By Lydsey Kuster*

**January 2025  
Newsletter**

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit # 16  
Oklee, MN 56742