



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

Oklee Lutheran Parish

December 2024

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

Merry CHRISTMAS

Come and Join us in Celebration



**Sunday,
 December 15th**



Zion at 10:30 a.m.

Potluck dinner to follow

Salem at 3:00 p.m.

Potluck Supper to follow

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Joint Candlelight Service - 4:00 p.m. at Salem

4 miles north of Oklee on County Road 5, turn right on County Road 1





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

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

• The Parish Board meeting will be on

Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

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

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

- 1: William Larson
- 4: Erica Larson
- 5: Kim Olson
- Olivia Vettleson
- 7: Sue Smith
- 8: Mandy Klasen
- 10: Sidney Olson
- 10: Aurimy Olson
- 12: Ciara Mitzner
- 17: Hannah Kolstoe
- 18: Sarah Whalen
- 20: Marvin Stauffacher
- 21: Emma Hendrickson
- 22: Davis Nelson
- 25: Grace Dessellier
- 26: Conway Olson
- 27: Dennis McGeary
- 28: Quentin O'Neill
- 31: Jeremy Larson

Anniversaries

- 1: Don & Lavonne Brown
- 5: Cody & Brianna Trontvedt
- 15: Darrel & Sandra Tougas
- 26: Orrin & Phyllis Linder

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



Pictures are Appreciated for the newsletter.

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

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's Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

is around the corner on December 7th, Santa Day in Oklee at the Hall.



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.



December 1:

**Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Matthew 25:31-36**

December 8:

**Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6**

December 15:

**Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18**

December 22:

**Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

December 29:

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52**

Zion News



Zion WELCA

The Zion WELCA meeting will be held on December 4th at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Zion Members

Please sign-up in the narthex if you are willing to volunteer ushering. ~~~ If you can't commit to a month of ushering, consider sharing a month with another family, or adding your name to our substitute list.



The following reports are needed for inclusion in the Parish Annual Report by Saturday, January 4, 2025. This is the absolute latest deadline. Bonny would appreciate the information being given to her as soon as possible.

The plan is to have the report out on Sunday, January 12. Salem will hold their annual meeting on January 19 and Zion will hold their annual meeting January 26.

- Pastor's Report & Pastoral Record
- Salem Annual Meeting Agenda
- Salem Annual Meeting Minutes
- Salem Treasurer's Report
- Salem Cemetery Report
- Salem Proposed Budget
- Salem Sunday School & Financial Report
- Salem WELCA Report
- Salem WELCA Treasurer Report
- Salem Membership Changes
- Salem Membership List
- Zion Annual Meeting Agenda
- Zion Annual Meeting Minutes
- Zion Treasurer's Report
- Zion Proposed Budget
- Zion Cemetery Financial Report
- Zion Sunday School & Financial Report
- Zion WELCA Report
- Zion WELCA Treasurer's Report
- Zion Membership Changes
- Zion Membership List
- Vacation Bible School Report (Zion & Salem)

The poinsettias are purchased by each church for the Christmas season for decoration. To offset the cost, you can purchase one in honor or memory of someone. The price is \$11

Contact Kaye Munt at Zion or Stacey Hofstad for Salem.



Salem Ushers List

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sun. December 1: | Toni Johnson |
| Sun. December 8: | Paula Christianson |
| Sun. December 15: | Ron Hegge |
| Sun. December 22: | No Church |
| Tue. December 24: | Lisa Kolstoe |
| Wed. December 25: | No Church |
| Sun. December 29: | Josh Vettleson |

Zion Ushers List

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Sun. December 1: | Sarah Jo Lee |
| Sun. December 8: | Council Person |
| Sun. December 15: | Council Person |
| Sun. December 22: | No Church |
| Tue. December 24: | Joint Service Salem |
| Wed. December 25: | No Church |
| Sun. December 29: | Council Person |

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

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



I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some information on the CPKC Holiday Train. The train will be stopping in Plummer on Sunday, December 15th around 6:00/6:15p.m.

The Vocal Artists that will be performing are Seaforth and Alana Springsteen.

We will be collecting donations (cash and food) for the food shelf that night and any time at our office. We also receive a cash donation from CPKC in the form of a big check -which we don't actually get to keep. That donation is split with the Red Lake Falls Food shelf.

Each year we are asked to report the number of pounds and cash that is collected leading up to the event to CPKC. It helps them track how much of a difference the train makes coming to our community.

A fun fact is ...there are actually two Holiday trains, one that travels throughout Canada and one that comes to the U.S.

The Holiday Train has helped raise over \$24.3 million and over 5.3 million pounds of food since 1999 to help those in need in Canada and the U.S. The trains runs from November 21st to December 20th.

To learn more about the train you can go to cpkcr.com or click on the QR Code.

More information will be coming on events that will be taking place in Plummer, please follow our Facebook page for the latest news on this event. I would encourage you to try to make it if you can, it is a magical evening with great music!



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.

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.

~ Parish News ~



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!!



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!

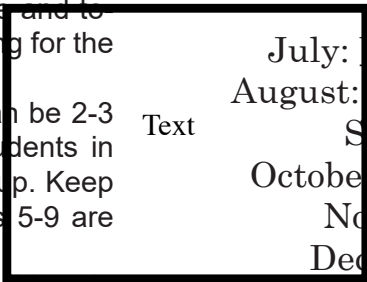


After several years as leaders, we are stepping down effective 1/1/25 & ready to let someone else have a turn to lead the Youth Group!

Looking for fun, outgoing leaders to lead our youth. Main points of interest are activities that promote community involvement, a sense of purpose and togetherness for the kids, as well as fundraising for the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2027!

This doesn't have to be one person but can be 2-3 people (or even more!) All Oklee parish students in grades 7-12 are members of the Youth Group. Keep in mind that all that are currently in grades 5-9 are eligible to go to the 2027 gathering.

If you are interested in taking a turn with this role to guide our youth, or have any questions about the role, please reach out to Shannon Moen, Robyn Morinville or Amanda Nelson! Thanks!



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 Vetteson
- February - Christine Hince
- March - Jenny O'Neill
- April - Cindy Rystad
- May - Jordan Larson
- June - Irene Rosten & Sandra Tougas
- July - vacant - will let you know

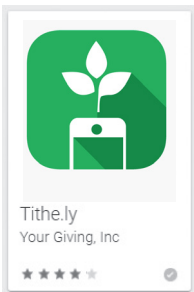


JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Salem Sunday School is held at 9:00 AM
Zion Sunday School is held at 10:00AM.

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

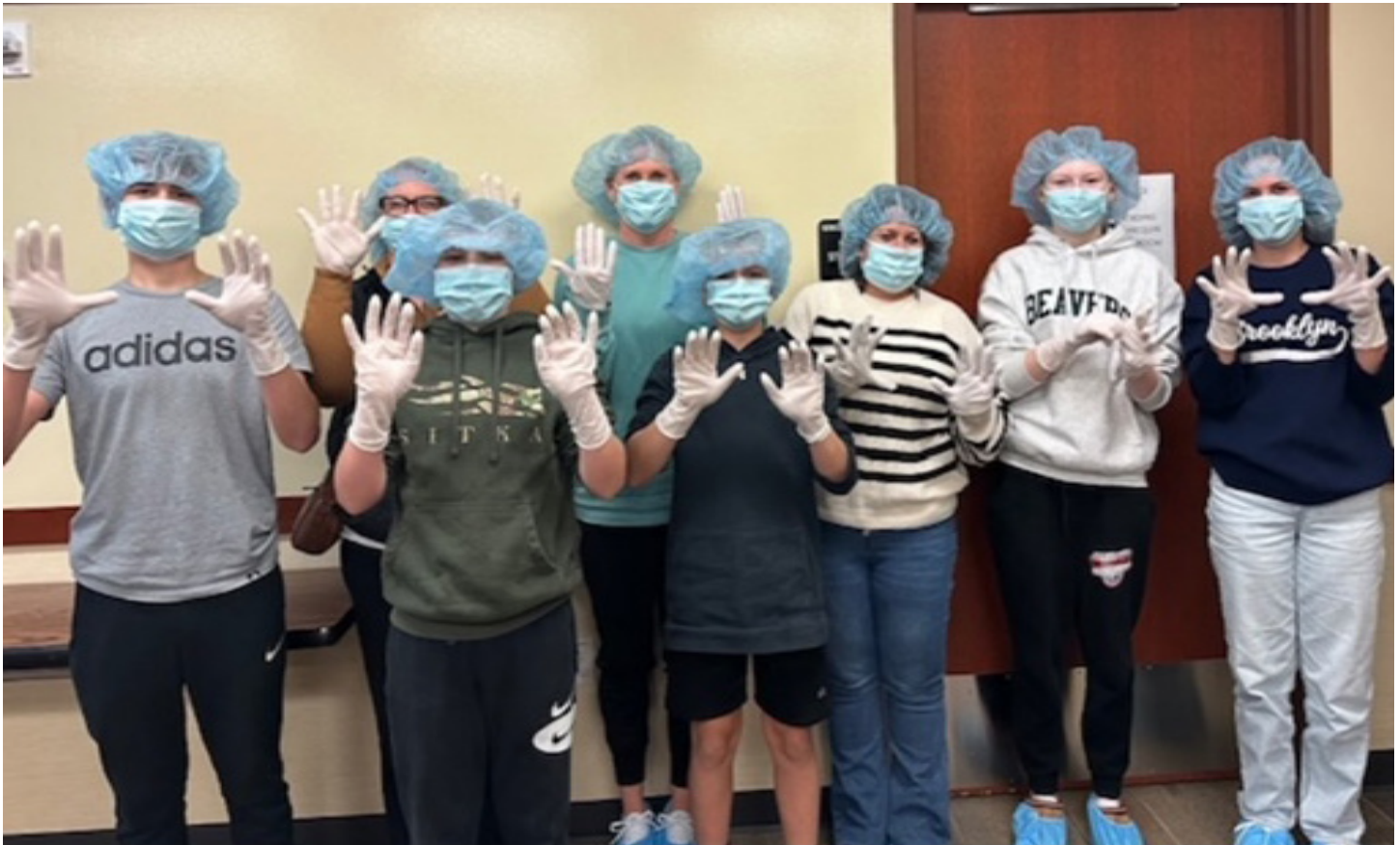
The Link is on our website:
okleelutheran.org

or
Try our QR Code



Thank You!!

Youth Group adventure at Sanford Medical Center



Recently, the Zion Confirmation students started their lessons on “life stages” with a field trip to Sanford Medical Center to learn about the hospital, birth center and all the cool behind the scenes stuff that makes a hospital work.



McDonald's Lunch stop

Jesus is born.
Luke 2:1-7



Parish Board Meeting

Parish Board meeting November 19, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Roll call: Cheryl O'Neill, Gin Berns, David Hofstad, Conway Hamm and Josh Vettleon. Missing was Kyle Vettleon. Treasurer/Secretary Bonny Cote.

Cheryl O., opened the meeting. Minutes were looked at and approved by David H. and Josh V. Carried.

Financial report was given by Bonny Cote, and was approved by Gin B and Conway H. Carried.

Budget was then gone through for 2025. Bonny C. was asked to talk to the City about the services since no one lives in the parsonage at this time. Bonny informed the board that the Parsonage & Zion Church are considered one.

New Business: Bonny C asked for a raise. She has passed on a raise for four years and felt that the Parish could afford one now and due to no permanent pastor and has more duties. The board decided on \$800 a year, motion by Conway H, seconded by Josh V. Carried.

A motion was made to forgive Zion and Salem December's payment to the Parish. David H/Gin B, carried.

Bonny has been scheduling for December pulpit supply. She has most of December completed. But December 22 was still open and it has been suggested to not have church on that day and instead focus on Christmas Eve as a Joint Service at Salem at 4 p.m. Also not to have service on Christmas day. She has downloaded the new list and it has fewer people than before but will start calling for January.

The Annual meeting will be held at Salem on January 19th which is a joint service. The parishners from Zion can go downstairs and enjoy the pot luck while Salem is having their meeting. The following week, January 26th will be Zion's Annual meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by David H & Josh V. The Lords Prayer was said in closing.

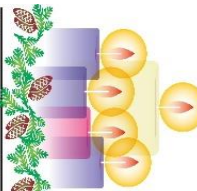
The Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary Bonny Cote

Parish Banking Summary 1/1/2024 through 11/30/2024

Category	1/1/2024- 11/30/2024
INCOME	
Income	
Joint Service	0.00
Misc	75.00
Tithely	1,057.17
TOTAL Misc	1,132.17
Salem	41,771.90
Zion	36,138.40
TOTAL Income	79,042.47
Parsonage Donation	3,600.00
TOTAL INCOME	82,642.47
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Operational	
Auto Expense	2,081.87
Computer Allowance	500.00
Electricity	1,512.00
Heat	1,059.51
Miscellaneous	18.00
Office Supplies	1,416.17
Copier	1,191.10
TOTAL Office Supplies	2,607.27
Postage	302.00
Newsletter	816.17
TOTAL Postage	1,118.17
Repairs	
Parsonage	7,787.87
TOTAL Repairs	7,787.87
Telephone	
Dial My Calls Service	50.00
Telephone Parsonage	375.01
Telephone Zion	826.69
TOTAL Telephone	1,251.70
Water-Garbage	957.66
Work. Comp Insurance	941.00
TOTAL Operational	19,835.05
Program	
Block Party	57.56
Bulletins Etc	1,125.70
Confi-1 Com	395.70
Lent	300.00
Misc.	0.00
Pastor's Contining Ed	75.00
Pulpit Supply	6,075.00
TOTAL Program	8,028.96
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	306.00
Salary	3,333.30
TOTAL Secretary	3,639.30
TOTAL Salary	28,656.41
TOTAL EXPENSES	56,520.42
OVERALL TOTAL	26,122.05

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS @ Salem 10:00 a.m. SS @ Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	2	3	4 7:00 pm Zion Conf. 7:00 pm Salem Conf.	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Zion 9:00 a.m. SS @ Salem 10:00 a.m. SS @ Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	9	10 6:30 p.m. Salem Council	11 7:00 p.m. Zion Council Council	12	13	14
15 Sunday Schools 10:30 a.m. Zion Sunday School Program 3:00 p.m. Salem Sunday School Program	16	17	18	19	20	21 
22 No Church	23	24 Joint Christmas Eve Service at Salem 4:00 p.m.	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Zion 10:30 a.m. Salem	30	31 	Salem Altar Grace Desseller	Zion Altar Patty Mickelson	Salem Ushers Dec. 1: Toni J Dec. 8: Paula C Dec. 15: Ron H Dec. 24: Lisa K Dec. 29: Josh V	Zion Ushers Dec. 1: Sarah Jo L Dec. 8: Council Dec. 15: Council Dec. 29: Council

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!!



GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

December 2024
Newsletter

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

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