

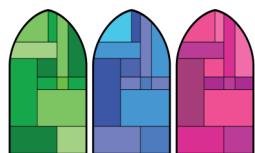
# The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2022

**Our Sunday in-person and on-line services are at 9:30am.**

To watch on Facebook go to [Salem Lutheran Church](#) or anytime on YouTube at [Salem ELC Stillwater OK](#)



Welcome to Worship



*Semi-Annual Meeting Sunday, June 5th*

The Semi-Annual meeting will be held the first Sunday in June after the Sunday service ~ 10:45.

The Annual Report has been emailed out. If you didn't receive one and would like it, please let Lisa in the office know. We also have paper copies of the report in the Church library.

The April financial report will be available this week. If you would like one in advance of the meeting, reply to this email.

A special thank you:

We are always grateful to all of our Council Members and Officers for giving their time and their gifts to provide leadership for our congregation. We need to say a special thanks, however, to Judy Lewis who has served for three years as our President (a term extended by vote of the Congregation) who has seen us through a pandemic with courage, grit, skill and compassion. She has been on a learning curve, kept us in contact via postcards and phone calls, and met faithfully with the Covid Task Force. Judy not only took good care of us, but she also served the wider church on the Synod Leadership Committee and by attending weekly Zoom meetings with the Bishop and other pastors and leaders, providing and receiving support and encouragement.

**Judy, a heartfelt thank you from us all!**



Laikyn Anderson graduated May 7th from OSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering. She plans to pursue a career in biomedical/biochemical engineering.

Logan Anderson graduated May 7th from OSU with a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering.

He plans to go into project engineering/management with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

**Best Wishes to Logan and Laikyn!**

## From the Pastor



When I was a kid we got out of school for the summer in June, not May. And one of the joys was trading in my sturdy Buster Brown saddle shoes for white Keds sneakers. It felt like flying. In Erie PA, the summer weather was a perfect 72, and the summer stretched before me like the newly mown lawn that my mom had cut using her purring rotary push mower.

Beginning in June, the season after Pentecost stretches out with stories of Jesus from the gospel of Luke. Some are beloved, some are odd, all of them both challenge us with discipleship and comfort us with the Good News. All of them involve a road trip with Jesus, because he was always on the move, and in Luke's gospel the journey to Jerusalem begins early but lasts a long, long time.

Here are just some of the places we will see, along the way or in stories:

- The land of the Geresenes where a mad man lives among the tombs
- The road to Jericho, with bandits lying in waiting
- The home of dear friends, for a special meal
- A roadside stop, where Jesus teaches his disciples to pray
- The home of a man who has too many barns
- A synagogue, with a woman bent over for too many years.

Smell the mown lawn (thanks, Mom!) and put on your Keds.  
The summer stretches before us, and Jesus is calling us to follow.

*Pastor Sally*

### *Altar in the Garden: July Session*

Altar in the Garden returns for a summer, outdoor, stretch! We will meet Sundays July 10, 17, 24 and 31 **at 6:30 pm!** --in the OSU Botanic Garden. Our theme is 'Waterlife', which just *may* allow us some leeway for some cooling mists ;) plus exploring the ways God greets and saves and grows us through the gift of water. More details to come, but mark your calendars to join us whenever you can.



### *New Members Are Joining* Reception of New Members

We will be receiving new members later this summer – the date will be determined when we know who all will be involved, and their schedules.

We also have 'Associate Members' – a way to make a commitment to our faith community while retaining your membership elsewhere.

Contact Pastor Sally to indicate an interest and find out more about it.  
([pastorsally@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsally@sbcglobal.net))

## *From Your President*

May was a busy month- Mother's Day, OSU graduations, High School graduations, end of year tournaments, retirements and for Dave and I, a month of emotions as we became great grandparents to Wesley David on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

As I write this last article, I reflect on all the changes that have happened in the last 3 years. When I first became president, we had a Sunday worship at 8:30 am and 10:45 am, the choir was singing, we had 2 coffee hours, Adult Sunday School met in person and then on March 15, 2020 Council met and we voted to close for 2 weeks, and 2 years later in May we resumed meeting in person again. Watching a recorded Sunday worship service from our homes was a new experience with the privileges of drinking coffee in your pajamas and from any room in the house you chose. It was time of great planning and coordination for Pastor Sally, Krystal, Elizabeth, Olen Weaver, and Jeremy Hennessey to put the recorded service together as each person was recorded separately. It took me a long time to learn they weren't together. We are so thankful for their hard work that kept us worshipping together in different places.

Then in May 2021 we resumed in-person worship masked, no coffee hour or time for fellowship, but we were thankful to be together. In August we added live-streaming and gave members and friends not comfortable meeting in person an opportunity to join us live. I think it was in March, 2022 following CDC guidelines we decided masks were optional and we moved forward with coffee hour, Easter breakfast and time for fellowship. We've been through a lot and we've stayed faithful to our church. Pledges have remained up to date, thanks to all of you.

We still have challenges as attendance is low, volunteers are stretched, and Pastor Sally, Krystal and Elizabeth have hardly had a Sunday off. But it also gives us an opportunity to be creative and innovative as we go forward being members of a Church faithful to our God and figuring out the best way we can share God's message of love and forgiveness.

Stay well and hugs, Judy



## *Birthdays*

2	Keith Schmidt
6	Mark Pennie
8	Nicholas Sahs
10	Kay Headrick
11	David Lewis Shelley Schmidt
12	Jason Lavery
15	Kevin Oltmanns
16	Roger Merkel
17	Alane Zannotti
18	Rick Beier Paula Long
20	Joanne Barrick Patricia Darlington
21	Tom Hennessey
29	Laikyn Anderson
30	Freddy Miller



## *Anniversaries*

4	Carol & Rick Beier Joanna & Terry Gipson
7	Doy & Roger Merkel
11	Olen Weaver & Elizabeth Albright
18	Krystal & Tom Hennessey



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church (ELCA)  
101 S. Duck St.  
Stillwater OK 74074

### MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor ~ Sally Houck  
Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey  
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright  
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis  
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie  
Media Specialists ~ Olie Weaver, Olen  
Weaver & Jeremy Hennessey

### CHURCH OFFICE

**Hours:** Monday -Thursday 8-1pm,  
Friday 8-11am  
**Telephone number:** 405-372-3074  
(please leave a message)  
**Email Address:** salemelc@sbcglobal.net  
**Church Website:** [salemstillwaterok.org](http://salemstillwaterok.org)

### A Devotion from Bishop Mike:

*If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. –1 Corinthians 15:20*

Recently, in a book I was reading, the author suggested that the church needs to focus on life in the here and now and not on the resurrection of the dead. The author was wrong. If we remove the central teaching of the resurrection of the dead from Christianity, we have nothing left but another collection of moral principles to follow. The real power of the Christian faith comes from the Good News that death does not have the last word. That, because of Jesus, our future is secure and we no longer have to worry about being “good enough” to earn life beyond the grave. That doesn’t mean we should ignore the here and now. (The Church has fallen off that side of the horse too.) No. Knowing that, in the end, we will be raised up to new life with Christ changes the way we live in the here and now. It has to! The Good News of the resurrection frees and empowers us to strive to be the people God created us to be without fear of failing. It frees us to serve and care for one another because we know we have abundant, eternal life to share.

**Save the Date!**  
**June 26th 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Celebration of**  
**Pastor Sally's 15 years!**  
**Elizabeth Albright's 15 years!**  
**Krystal Hennessey's 35 years!**

**Details to come . . .**

