

# The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023



CHOOSE JOY

JAMES 1:2-3

## Sunday Services

Sept. 3- Now the Feast  
Sept. 10- ELW, setting 1  
Sept. 17- ELW, setting 1  
Sept. 24- ELW, setting 1

Sunday services, 9:30am  
in-person & on-line

Adult Sunday School 10:50am  
in-person & on-line

## SERVICE MINISTRY NEWS

**SCHOOL KITS** – We have mostly wrapped up our collections of school supplies for the fall, but if you purchased items and just haven't dropped them off yet, the collection table in the hall is still in place to do so. We will meet August 29 hoping to fill 40 bags for Lutheran World Relief.

**OAKS & FOOTBALL** -Oaks kids will come for football and dinner on Saturday, September 16. Football parking monies help support this activity.

## Salem Is Moving Forward

*The people of God are always on the move. Always journeying forward sharing the good news and doing the work of Jesus Christ. Salem's way forward is exciting, and the work done in the next few months will clarify what the future will look like.*

In 2021, the ELCA created *Future Church*, a call to all congregations to show people the way of Jesus and help them discover that ELCA churches are communities of safety, justice, and love.

For more than 30 years the ELCA has experienced a rich history of ministry, but **the church has also witnessed a pattern of significant decline with aging members and a membership profile that does not reflect the diversity of God's creation.**

The *Future Church* emphasizes three tenets for building vital congregations:

*Welcoming* engaging new, young, and diverse people.

*Knowing* the sustainability of the *Future Church* depends on members joining in commitment to the Great Commandment: Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. And love others as well as you love yourself. (The Message).

*Recognizing* our churches are rooted in tradition:

- + from Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church, in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517,
- + to Salem's ancestors who founded this congregation just one year after Oklahoma achieved statehood,
- + to Salem's future with a new pastor in 2024.

(For more information see pg 2)



# Salem is Moving Forward, Part 2

## Call Committee

Stewardship Team      Transition Prayer Team

The **Call Committee** will lead Salem's search for a new pastor. They will be guided by A-OK Synod Bishop Becca Middeke-Conlin.

*Members of the Call Committee are:*

Bruce Ackerson	Pat Darlington
Kevin Gerfen	Steve Haseley
Aspen Lenning	Paula Long
Maria Wolff	

Supporting the Call Committee are the Transition Prayer Team and the Stewardship Team.

The **Transition Prayer Team** prays:

- +for the future of Salem
- +in thanksgiving for the members of Salem and their various gifts
- +for faithfulness and grace as Salem journeys through the call process.

*Praying for you are:*

Tricia Auberle    Annette Cowell.    Cindy Pennie  
Susan Prater    Diane Tipling

The **Stewardship Team** has been working all summer. Their work centers on discerning the financial stability of Salem in preparation for calling a new pastor. They also are leading this fall's 2024 Stewardship Pledge Drive which:

- +rejoices in Salem's rich history,
- +envisions the future of the congregation,
- +prepares for Salem's financial future.

*Serving on the Stewardship Team are:*

Elaine Ackerson	Pat Darlington
Aspen Lenning	Judy Lewis
Jim Long	Michelle Ratzlaff
Roger Sahs	Scott Wolff

People of Salem: *As we go about the task of calling a new pastor to serve with us, we pray for a spirit of mutual trust and for the ability to speak fully and listen faithfully to each other. We pray for the spirit of wisdom to be in our midst as we go about the task to which we have been called. Amen.*

In Christ,  
*Pastor Dawn*



## Birthdays

- 5 Teri Sahs
- 7 CJ Wolfe
- 9 Jess Prater
- 10 Carol Beier
- 21 Diane Tipling
- 23 Roger Rutz
- 24 Eric Lovell
- 26 Logan  
Anderson
- 29 Tricia Auberle

## Anniversaries

- 1 Cindy & Steve Haseley
- 4 Jim & Paula Long
- 10 Michelle & Scott Hubbard

If you are missing from this list, please contact Lisa in the office- 372-3074.

## From Salem Church Council President Pam Talley Temple Talk on August 13

Good morning...and welcome to Rally Day. This day is a nod to school starting for Stillwater and OSU. Despite the heat, we begin to look to the fall and fall activities.

One of the foci this fall will be Stewardship. Salem has not focused on stewardship in the past few years, because we were doing fine. We are still doing fine. Giving held steady during the pandemic. Thank you!! Not every congregation can say that.

Stewardship is very important to Salem this year and years to come as we hope to call a pastor in the next year or so.

We have an excellent Stewardship Team, which you met earlier. They, along with the Transition Prayer Team, which you also met, are focused on two things— 1. Realizing the abundance and generosity of Salem. Creating giving and a budget that will support a new pastor. 2. Celebrating our abundance and generosity is our Joy. Funding a pastor is our Stewardship challenge for Salem Lutheran Church.

Let me expound more on this:

Pastor Salaries and benefits are set by the ELCA, and each congregation is required to meet the guidelines. Pr. Sally, in her goodness and at her suggestion, fell considerably below the expected guidelines. Consequently, our budget met her expenses, but we are now looking to the future and the expectations of a new pastor.

In order to call a single (unmarried without children) first-call pastor, our budget for 2024 must increase by at least \$36,000 over the 2023 budget. Salem is not in a unique situation regarding budgeting for a full-time pastor based on the ELCA guidelines. Just look at the Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod alone and consider the number of churches that have merged or closed completely in the last few years. We are not telling you this to alarm you, but we want you to know, so you can think about ways each of you could help fill the financial shortfall. If we cannot make up the shortage, Salem will still be here serving God and our community. We will need to make alternate decisions about ways to secure pastoral leadership. If you have questions talk to me, or Pastor Dawn, or Scott Wolff our treasurer.

Salem is a strong and resourceful congregation. We have a vital future ahead of us, and this is the time to focus on funding our future. People of Salem we are a generous family and Rooted in Abundance.



**WE ARE HIS HOUSE.**

HEBREWS 3:6

Both of the **church's parking lots** will be blocked off at 5pm the day before an OSU home football game. To park, use the Elm on-street parking on the north side of the church. If you need access to the lot, please contact the church office mornings, or call Shelley at 880-3017 to make arrangements.

**Choir rehearsal** will practice September 6, 20 & 27 at 7 pm. Elizabeth is looking forward to seeing and hearing everyone again!!

Our **Friday Bible Study** group is studying II Corinthians. Then on to Ted Peter's book, Sin Boldly. Everyone is welcome to join. Contact Priscilla for more info-[priscilla@gerfen.com](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.com)



Just a reminder- **Living Lutheran magazine** will only be renewed on-line. Paper copies won't be mailed past the end of 2023- To receive monthly or weekly articles, go to <https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/>

## From Salem's Treasurer:

I am very excited about the future of Salem and am compelled to speak about what I know. I know that some say that we are a small and aging congregation, but I look at the things that we are working on, and I really look forward to that. We could help take first steps toward changing God's church into one that is accepting to all his children for the first time in centuries. We get to go through the process of calling a new Pastor and all the exciting things that go along with that. We can't wait and find out what happens. Now is the time to embrace the changes that are coming our way and keep doing what we have always done when we are faced with challenges. Salem is in good financial standing for a church of our size. We have not had to make decisions about what bills we are going to pay. We have not had to decide what we are going to replace or what we are going to let go for a few more years. Our facility is in good shape, and we have a good number of investments. Giving has been sufficient to meet the goals of the congregation for a very long time. We have had times where we had to cut items here and there but for the most part, we have been able to meet our financial requirements and spend money on important ministries to help our community, our nation, and our world. I am proud of what we have been able to do, and I hope to be able to continue that for a long time to come.

We must find new ways to fund our ministries and services to our congregation and we are working on that. If you have ideas, please do not hesitate to mention them to the council. We also need to look at increasing our giving significantly to get back to where we have been in that past. Pam told you about how we would like to increase our pledges this year by at least \$36,000. That would be a good start. I would encourage each and every one of us to try to increase our giving as much as you are able this year and try to increase by one percent each year going forward. This would allow us to keep up with inflation, meet the changes like the large increase in gas prices we have experienced this year, and allow us to have the funds that we will need soon to call a new Pastor. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your generosity to Salem, Scott Wolff



For I know  
the plans I have  
for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans for welfare  
and not for harm,  
to give you a future  
*with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

## When we least deserve it

"Love me when I least deserve it," says a Swedish proverb, "because that's when I really need it." My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respoiled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they'd start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus' arrest. But Jesus didn't treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we're at our worst, hurting God's heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it. —Heidi Hyland Mann



**GOD'S WORK,  
OUR HANDS.  
SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10**

Once again we have chosen Our Daily Bread to support on "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday.

We will be taking a peanut butter offering. Jars can be left anytime at the church in the food baskets under the coat racks or brought on Sunday the 10th.

Thank you all for your help!



Dear Salem friends,

Mom and I send a heartfelt thank you for all of the support that we have received upon the death of my brother, Neil Sandvold. Your thoughts and prayers have been a comfort in this stressful time.

In his name,

Gloria Sandvold and Marie Due

(Editor's note- cards can be sent to Gloria at 375 9<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. 208, Florence, OR 97439 )

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the church for being there for Loudon when he so desperately needed love and compassion. A big thank you for each who reached out to him.

Thank you for opening your doors to his family. Thank you for the service and the hospitality shown to his family and friends.

May God continue to richly bless you and the Church.

Sincerely, Bill and Dee (Patterson) Allen, Great Uncle and Aunt

*Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock.*



*Acts 20:28, NRS*



As you may be aware, we are sadly getting low on Youth Group members. SLY has managed our Football parking as a way of paying for the activities and trips that they took. They are currently planning one final trip in 2024.

Beginning this year, the parking for OSU football games will be a combined effort with our remaining SLY members, families and volunteers from the congregation. The lots will be blocked off at 5pm the day before. Thank you Shelley Schmidt for coordinating our efforts!

Dates and times (if known) of home games: Saturday, Sept. 2 at 6pm (would need to be there around 3pm until sold out), Saturday, Sept. 16 at 6pm (Oaks kids will be here), **Friday**, Oct. 6 at 6:30, Saturday, Oct. 14, Saturday, Oct. 28, Saturday, Nov. 4, Saturday, Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving week)

If you can help, please contact Shelley Schmidt at 880-3017 or [willowcreek\\_hs@provalue.net](mailto:willowcreek_hs@provalue.net) or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084EAEAA23AAF66-osufootball#/>



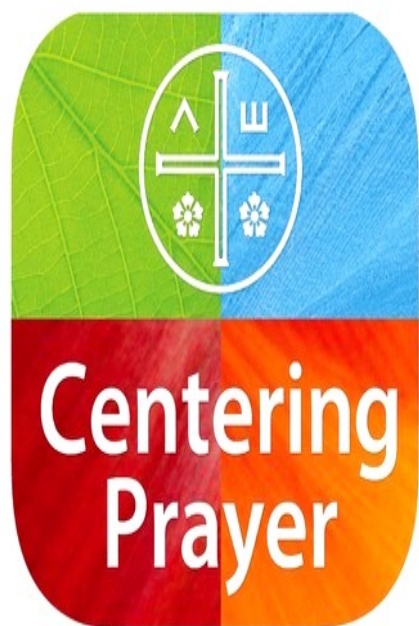
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church (ELCA)  
101 S. Duck St.  
Stillwater OK 74074

**MINISTRY STAFF**

Pastor ~ Dawn Enderwood  
Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey  
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright  
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis  
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie  
Media Specialists ~ Olen & Olie Weaver ,  
Jeremy Hennessey  
Peer Minister ~ Aspen Lenning

**CHURCH OFFICE**

**Hours:** Monday 8-Noon, Tuesday-Thursday  
8-1pm, Friday 8-11am  
**Telephone numbers:** 405-372-3074, 372-0879  
(Please leave a message)  
**Email Address:** salemelc@sbcglobal.net  
**Church Website:** [salemstillwaterok.org](http://salemstillwaterok.org)



*an invitation to*  
**A Centering Prayer Workshop**  
**Saturday, Sept 23,**  
**9:00—1:00 o'clock**  
**at Salem**

Presented by  
**Pastor Dawn**  
a **Contemplative Outreach**  
**Trainer and Coach**

To RSVP or for more information,  
please contact Pr. Dawn at 405 361-2264  
or [revdawnok@gmail.com](mailto:revdawnok@gmail.com)



Campus Ministry dinners are  
Thursday evenings at 6pm. All college  
students are welcome to come and eat  
a home cooked meal.  
Eat and run, or  
stay for Bible Study.

Feel free to come to the church  
during office hours for lunch or  
quiet study time.

All college students are welcome!