

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2024

MINISTRY SCHEDULE



SUNDAY
SERVICES
9:30 AM

October 6 Service of the Word
October 13 ELW, Setting 1
October 20 Service of the Word
October 27 Reformation

**Friday Morning Bible Study
at 10am via ZOOM.**

Our nursery is staffed and open
9am until noon!

Stewardship

Stewardship letters and Commitment Cards are headed your way. Please return the card promptly. The 2025 budget will be based on total commitments.



The Stewardship Ministry is also sponsoring our Oktoberfest dinner again this year! Bring your favorite German themed food to the meal after the Reformation Service, Sunday, October 27. (If you need ideas, Aldi's often has authentic German foods.)

Everyone is encouraged to come!

SALEM CEMETERY WORK DAY

The Salem Cemetery Board has scheduled a work day at the cemetery on Oct 12th (weather permitting) from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will be cleaning up the grounds and doing some maintenance work on the flagpole and the sign case. Everyone is welcome to join us. We will have a tent set up with water and snacks. Bring a chair for resting and visiting. Come even if it is just for the visiting. It is a lovely area located west of Stillwater. Take Hwy 51 west 10.7 miles from Western Rd. Turn North at Vassar Rd (white house with large red chimney) and travel .25 miles. Turn right and travel east .8 miles on an unpaved road over a cattle guard. The cemetery is on the left side of the road. An area at the entrance of the cemetery is mowed for parking. Look forward to seeing everyone!



**CEMETERY
NEWS**

Pam Talley

Dear Salem friends in the faith,

I wanted to give you an update on my health journey with this rare and difficult cancer I'm dealing with. I underwent 6 chemotherapy treatments during July and August. Unfortunately a scan revealed that the therapy was not being particularly effective, so now I am on Plan B with a different regimen.



It's hard to start over but I am so grateful that there is a Plan B! I am also grateful for a summer of visits and care (ten weeks!) from daughter Mary and then son and daughter-in-law Mark and Peggy. John has been a rock (and brings me a fresh bouquet of flowers every week. :) and Kate the cat is my capable and purrfect nurse.

Although I do not often have the energy to respond, I treasure your cards and notes and continued prayers. I have also treasured our beautiful garden and the butterflies, hummingbirds and deer that often grace it with their presence. And of course I am never alone, as I am also graced with the presence of your prayers and the love of Christ.

In his love,
Pastor Sally



Thanks Salem

Our Daily Bread Executive Director, Rachel Condley loves the relationship between Our Daily Bread and Salem. We are the only organization they open up for on a Sunday. She said this year she especially appreciated our help because they are between summer volunteers and Stillwater Public School and OSU groups getting organized and volunteering to help. We were also able to gift them with at least 130 jars of peanut butter, a staple for so many families.

Thanks, Salem for helping do God's work, Our Hands.
Judy Lewis

A Note From the Card Ministry

Larry and I love sending out cards to the members of the congregation. The cards carry our thoughts and prayers to you, our church family.

Thank you for sharing cards and stamps for us to send. It's wonderful to have a selection so we can pick the card that we feel represents the receiver.

For the time being, we won't be sending cards as I'm in rehab, while Larry is at Renaissance. We appreciate your prayers. Have a blessed fall.

Margaret Redburn

Living out grace

Talk is cheap, especially when it comes to biblical concepts such as grace. How can people grasp the meaning of unmerited favor unless they experience it firsthand?

That happened to Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul, in 2 Samuel 9. After his father was killed in battle, the disabled Mephibosheth hid in fear. Why? In Old Testament times, a new king killed the previous ruler's bloodline. But David, kept a promise he'd made to his friend Jonathan, showed Mephibosheth "the kindness of God" (v. 3). Imagine the impact that had on Mephibosheth's life.

By contrast, failing to live in God's grace and failing to share it with others leads to many struggles, according to Pastor David Seamands. "We read, we hear, we believe a good theology of grace," he wrote, but "that's not the way we live. The good news of the Gospel of grace has not penetrated the level of our emotions." Instead, we must make a point each day to treat others with God's kindness and mercy.

Stewardship's Walk In Love

The most miraculous gift of Love is that it is there within us always. All we need to do is find it, tap into it, and begin growing it. Look what happened over the last year? We learned to share, to give, to volunteer, to accompany others, to feed, to pray, to visit, to strive for change. This year as our Stewardship Campaign kicks off, we will be intentionally raising up stories of how we *Walk in Love* with each other in our congregation.

Generosity is a journey, it's a practice that we learn and nurture within our hearts. It just isn't in our nature to give away what we have worked hard to acquire or to donate our precious time without compensation. It takes something as radical as Love to inspire us to share our time, talent, and treasure with others. This is a journey we make together, a *Walk in Love*.

Come and hear our stories- Elaine Ackerson on October 6,
Pat Darlington on October 13, Roger Sahs October 20,
Pam Talley October 27.

Walking with you in Love,

The Stewardship Team:

Michelle Ratzlaff, Elaine Ackerson, Pat Darlington,
Jim Long, Roger Sahs, Pam Talley, Scott Wolff



Birthdays

- 1 Rick Cowell
- 3 Kelsey Haseley
- 5 Kevin Gerfen
- 6 Cindy Pennie
- 12 Catherine Vijayakumar
- 15 Jeremy Hennessey
- 21 Martha Gipson
- 22 Mary Jo Lanier
- 23 Brandon Hubbard
- 25 Gloria Sandvold
- 26 Ninda Lovell
- 29 Doy Merkel
- 30 Darlene Gaither
Evelyn Lovell
- 31 Ruth Ann Haedt



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

- 24 Teri & Roger Sahs

If we have not included you, please let Lisa in the office know.

October 2024 Volunteer List

2024	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27 Reformation
Assisting Minister	Priscilla Gerfen	Tricia Auberle	Cindy Pennie	Jared Smith
Altar Guild	Mary Jo Lanier	Joanna Gipson	Elaine Ackerson	Dorothy Johnson
Ushers	Dorothy Johnson and Marvin Schiever	Pat Darlington and Tracy Nordquist	Roger and Teri Sahs	Ken and Jan Bartels
Greeter	Judy and David Lewis	Annette and Rick Cowell	Elaine and Bruce Ackerson	Pat Roark
Flowers	Tricia Auberle	*****	Priscilla & Kevin Gerfen	Pam Talley
Counters	Lori Oltmanns and Terry Gipson	Priscilla Gerfen and Paula Long (or Cindy Haseley)	Maria Moccia-Wolff and Keith Schmidt	Michelle Ratzlaff and Paula Long (or Cindy Haseley)
Coffee Hour	Ken and Jan Bartels	Elaine and Bruce Ackerson	Teri and Roger Sahs	Bash Family
Campus Ministry	Thursday, Oct. 3 Pam Talley	Thursday, Oct 10 Joanna Gipson	Thursday, Oct 17 Priscilla Gerfen	Thursday, Oct 24 Jan Bartels



Dear Salem Family,

Thank you all for being a source of courage, strength, and hope to carry on this new path of my spiritual journey!

It was a great privilege for me to remember Vijay in a special way on his first Memorial Day at Salem with my dear faith family. Thanks to all who were able to join for the brunch and fellowship on Sept. 1st.

Also, my special thanks to Pam Tally, Elaine Ackerson, Mary Jo Lanier, Kevin Gerfen, Shelley Schmidt, Keith Schmidt and Naserian Kambaine for their kind assistance with organizing the brunch!!

Sincerely,
Catherine Vijayakumar



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

MINISTRY STAFF

Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie
Media Specialists ~ Olie Weaver
Peer Minister ~ Cara Hubenett
Nursery - Kailinn Valdois & Jocelyn Aguilar

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8am-1pm
Friday- 8 - 11am (We hope!)

Telephone numbers: 405-372-3074,
372-0879 (please leave a message!)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: salemstillwaterok.org



The Book Club meets the last Monday of each month here at Salem (or on Zoom). October's book - *The House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros) is bookclub kit book that can be picked up from Priscilla Gerfen. November's book is *Demon of Unrest* (Erik Larson). New members are always welcome!

Games Nite is Friday, October 18 at 6pm. Come with your favorite game and snacks to share.

Third Sunday Food Offering is coming up Sunday, October 20.

KaiLinn Valdois and Jocelyn Aguilar are our new nursery staff. Children 5 and under are welcome in the *nursery*. KaiLinn and Jocelyn will be in the nursery each Sunday from 9am till noon.

The SEER deadline for the November newsletter is on Wednesday, October 23. All contributions are greatly appreciated!



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!

Salem Weekly News, October 3, 2024

Not Too Late to Give for Fifth Sunday

The September Fifth Sunday focused on the Stillwater Public Schools Family Support Services. If you couldn't make it to services last Sunday, there's still time to contribute (little known fact: we generally wait a couple of weeks following a Fifth Sunday collection to issue a check, so late contributions will be included).

Hurricane Prayers

If you attended church last Sunday (in person or online), you heard an update on Cindy's Red Cross work in Florida from hubby Mark Pennie. Book club members also got to see and talk with her at Monday nite's zoom meeting. She's doing well and is able to get some rest now, and she will be headed home soon. But, we know from news reports that the situation in states across the Southeast is still bad. In addition to the Red Cross immediate response, Lutheran Disaster Relief workers will be in the area until the job is done. If you'd like to contribute to their work, go online at <https://lwr.org/blog/2024/hurricane-helene-relief-help-families-southeast-now>.

And While Cindy is Gone...

If you have health concerns and need help, contact Elaine Ackerson.

Gosh, It's OCTOBER (!!!!!) Already, and Christmas is Just Around the Corner....

Salem's Quilt-Craft-Bake Sale is December 7, and once again we will offer Fair Trade items. Our supplier, SERRV has just sent us a copy of the Christmas catalog. But one is not enough – we will order more copies and make them available to you to place your order early. Warning – lots of cute stuff there, waiting for you to buy. Your purchases help to sustain artisans who would otherwise live in abject poverty, and Salem gets a small cut of the profit to help us fund our projects.

Thought for the Day

The whole world is a series of miracles, but we're so used to them, we call them ordinary things. (Hans Christian Andersen)