

The SEER

December 2024



Services for Advent, Christmas Eve, First & Second Sundays of Christmas

Sunday, 9:30 am

December 1- ELW, setting 5
Communion, Stephen Haseley

December 8- Service of the Word
Mark Pennie

Cake & Coffee, Semi-Annual Meeting

December 15- ELW, setting 5
Pr. Josh Johnson

December 22- ELW, setting 5
No Adult Discussion Class
Stephen Haseley

December 29- Lesson & Carols
1st Sunday in Christmas,
Kevin Gerfen

Tuesday, 7pm

December 24- Christmas Eve

Wednesdays, 7pm

December 4, 11, 18
Advent Evening Prayer

Child Care

is available during all services

Schedule and Notes for December



Saturday, December 7

Annual **Bake/Craft/Quilt Sale** from 9-noon
Bring a friend!

Sunday, December 8

Congregational Meeting
after the service

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday Food Offering

Food, bags, and 12 ct. egg cartons can be left in
the baskets under the south coat rack.
Contributions can be placed in the Offering Plate.

Wednesday, December 18

Hanging of the Greens, beginning 4 pm

Help decorate for the Christmas Eve service
All ages welcome - no experience necessary!

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 7pm

Sunday, December 29

No Adult Sunday School Class 5th Sunday Offering- Little Pantry

There will be no December **Book Club** meeting.

**Newsletter Articles, Calendar Items
and Volunteer lists** are needed by Friday,
December 27 for the January SEER.

**December 23 - January 3, there are no set office
hours. Please call ahead if you need assistance.**

Sally Joan Riekert Houck

August 5, 1952 – November 15, 2024

Sally died peacefully at home, without pain, surrounded by family, after a 7-month battle with cancer of the gallbladder. In the certainty that she has now joined that great cloud of witnesses, all who knew her are invited to bear witness to her lifetime of service, faith, proclamation, and love.

Memorial Service

Open to all, with light refreshments to follow

Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 2:00 pm CST

Rev. Julie Recher presiding, Rev. Peter Olson preaching.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 15400 North Western Avenue, Edmond, Oklahoma 73013, 405-341-5113 www.lordoflifelutheranok.org



The service will be live-streamed by Lord of Life and a recording will be posted afterward. A link to the live stream will be distributed before the service.

Interment- Sally's ashes will be interred at the cemetery of Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater, where she served for 16 years as their pastor. The interment will take place at a date, to be determined.

Donations: In lieu of flowers, donations to a Memorial Fund in Sally's name are welcome.

The fund will support the work of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod of the ELCA, and can be designated to:

The Companion Synod yearly Medical Mission Trip to Tanzania, which Sally attended in 2016, or the Building Bridges Task Force, of which Sally was a founding member, with the goal of promoting anti-racism in the church.

How to Donate:

[You can donate online using this link.](#) Please put 'Houck' in the 'Note' line to designate it for Sally's memorial.

You can also donate using cash or check, to the Synod (4803 S Lewis Ave, Tulsa, OK 74105) for Building Bridges or to Salem Lutheran Church (101 S Duck St, Stillwater OK 74074) for the Medical Mission with 'Houck' in the memo line."

Photos- If you would like to view or upload favorite photos of Sally, find our online album here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7PFYPzaFuuwZUKpC6>

Obituary and Stories-

[Click here to see the public obituary](#) on the website of Baggerley Funeral Home (Dignity Memorial).

If you'd like to share stories, there is a way to do that on the Obituary page. Look for the button at the bottom that says "Add a Memory"

Thank you- whether you can attend the service, thank you for helping us honor Sally's life and celebrate the impact she had on her family, friends, community, and world!

With much love, from John, Mark, Peggy, and Mary



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24 at 7pm*

It will be live-streamed.
Child Care will be provided.



December 29th,
the Sunday after Christmas,
at 9:30am.

Come to hear The Story
told in readings and song!

Consider joining the ELCA next year for one of
our donor immersion trips.

We'll journey to Indonesia May 21–June 3
and Latin America in the fall.

You will be able to see the impact of your gifts firsthand!

For more information, please contact events@elca.org.



Building Use-

Things have changed since we have been without a Pastor. Many people have stepped up to help with new and old projects, and some things have gone by the way-side.

One of the “dropped” items, is cleaning up after ourselves, especially in the kitchen. We are getting complaints about the state of the kitchen and the bugs. The cleaners sweep and mop floors weekly and once a month take care of the stainless steel sinks and appliances, but they don't wipe down counter tops, load or unload the dishwashers, or disinfect sinks.



So, if you use the kitchen, please go over the check list that's in the clear plastic stand and make sure everything is checked off before your group leaves.

If you can encourage others to do the same, that would be a great help! Appreciate all you do.

Welcome to December, and that most wonderful time of the year ... **Advent!** Yes, Advent is my favorite season of the church year: the season of waiting, watching and wondering, the season of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

The word Advent is derived from the Latin verb *advenire*. As a French teacher, I have to point out that the related French verb *advenir*, makes the meaning clear: to come to pass, to happen. During the four weeks of Advent we get ready for Christmas to happen!

Advent is a particularly beautiful season at Salem, where our worship space is dressed in blue, the color of hope. The deep blue paraments adorn the altar, and on the wall behind it the long candle banners (thank you, Carol Beier) – three blue and one pink – are hung week by week. During worship we light the candles of the Advent wreath, again three blue and one pink. I love that the third candle is pink, or rose, symbolizing joy on Gaudate Sunday, *gaudate* meaning “Rejoice!” If you look carefully, you will also see that the wooden cross on the pulpit side of the Altar changes to the Tau cross, a basic capital T.

Well before Christmas our service music surrounds us in beautiful texts and melodies, from the ancient “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” to the recent “Light One Candle” and our beloved Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Krystal, Elizabeth and the choir love preparing and sharing solos, anthems and carols to enrich the four weeks of Advent, Christmas Eve, and the two Sundays of Christmas.

For Salem’s people, this season also brings more times to join together. On Wednesdays during Advent we gather for Soup Suppers at 6 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm. On Saturday December 7th Service Ministry and Sewers coordinate the Quilt, Craft and Bake Sale to raise funds for Service Ministry projects. Our semi-annual congregational meeting is the 8th. Also, Altar Guild invites all to help “green” the nave and decorate the Christmas tree on Wednesday Dec. 18 at 4 pm, before the Soup Supper.

I hope that you can enjoy all the beauty of this Advent season, waiting, watching and preparing. The Christ Child will come – Christmas Eve will happen!

Joanna Gipson
Council Member,



**Advent Evening Prayer
Wednesdays in Advent:
December 4, 11 & 18 at 7pm**

Now as evening falls around us we shall raise our songs to you.

“God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.”

It’s time to praise God with one of Salem’s favorites, Marty Haugen’s Holden Evening Prayer. Join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Light of the World each Wednesday before Christmas at 7pm. Better yet, plan to break bread and share homemade soups between 6:00 and 6:45. You can sign up to bring something for the meals on the usual bulletin board.

Service will be led by Kevin Gerfen and Elizabeth Albright. Tricia Auberle will provide a brief message each week about Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King.

Join us “as his light scatters the darkness and shines with his people here.”



Bake, Craft &
 Quilt Sale
 Saturday,
 December 7
 9am-Noon
 A little sugar,
 a lot of fun,
 and lot of
 God's love.



I would like to thank everyone for the calls, text, cards, food and prayers that were provided to me during my recent recovery from Carpal Tunnel surgery. I am humbled by the gracious outpouring of love from the Salem family.

Blessings and prayers,
 Pam Talley

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting



**Sunday,
 December 8
 after the Service**

We will vote on a budget for 2025 and hear about the needs and opportunities which we hope to address this coming year.

Your presence is important.







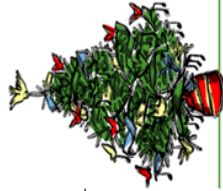


*Hanging
 of the Greens*

New Day and Time!

Helpers of all skill levels needed
Wednesday, December 18
 beginning at 4pm to help
 decorate the church.

The Soup Supper will follow at
 6pm and the Advent, Holden
 Evening Prayer will round out
 the evening at 7pm.

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am First Sunday in Advent, Setting 5 with Communion, Stephen Haseley	2 ZOOM chat 11am OSU Dead Week-->	3 Council Meeting 6pm	4 Sew-ers set up for Bazaar 9am Soup Supper 6pm Childcare 6-8pm Advent Evening Prayer 7pm	5 Campus Ministry 6pm	6 10am Bible Study 11:30 RIC in All Purpose Room	7 9-Noon 
8 Second Advent, Service of the Word Mark Pennie <i>Cake & Punch Reception then Semi Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	9 ZOOM chat 11am OSU Finals Week-->	10	11 Soup Supper 6pm Child care 6-8pm Advent Evening Prayer 7pm Tricia Auberle	12 Campus Ministry 6pm	13 10am Bible Study	14
15 Third Advent, Setting 5 with Communion Pastor Josh Mutual Ministry 11am	16 ZOOM chat 11am	17	18 Hanging of the Greens 4pm Child care 6-8pm Soup Supper 6pm Advent Evening Prayer 7pm		20 10am Bible Study	21
22 Fourth Advent, Setting 5 with Communion & Baptism Stephen Haseley	23 December 23 - January 3, there are no set office hours.	24 7pm only 	25 	26	27 No Bible Study	28
29 9:30 First Christmas led by Kevin Gerfen  LESSONS & CAROLS	30 Call ahead if you need assistance.	31			WE WISH YOU A Blessed CHRISTMAS	

2024	December 1, ELW Setting 5, Communion	December 8 ELW Setting 5	December 15, ELW Setting 5, Communion	December 22, ELW Setting 5, Communion	December 24, Christmas Eve 7pm	December 29, Lessons & Carols
Assisting Minister 9:30am	Keith Schmidt	Joanna Gipson	Cindy Pennie	Priscilla Gerfen	Rick Cowell	Jared Smith
Ushers 9:30am	Catherine Vijayakumar & Dorothy Johnson	Roger & Teri Sahs <u>Wednesday, Dec. 4</u> Pat Darlington	Pat Darlington & Tracy Nordquist <u>Wednesday, Dec. 11</u> Roger & Teri Sahs	Jan & Ken Bartels (Dec 18 & 22)	Roger & Teri Sahs	Catherine Vijayakumar & Dorothy Johnson
Greeter 9:30am	Rick & Annette Cowell	Pat Roark	Pam Talley	Roger Rutz	*****	Priscilla Gerfen
Altar Guild 9:30am	Priscilla Gerfen	Elaine Ackerson	Dorothy Johnson	Joanna Gipson	Joanna Gipson	Mary Jo Lanier Shiever
Coffee Hour 10:45		Tracy Nordquist		Roger & Teri Sahs		
Counters	Cindy Haseley & Keith Schmidt	Lori Oltmanns & Michelle Ratzlaff	Paula Long & Maria Moccia-Wolff	Maria Moccia-Wolff & Terry Gipson	Priscilla Gerfen & Michelle Ratzlaff	Priscilla Gerfen & Terry Gipson
Altar Flowers				Catherine Vijayakumar		
Campus Ministry	*****	Thursday, December 5 Dead Week- Eat Out	Thursday, December 12 Student Pot-luck	*****	*****	*****



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 Specialist ~ Olie Weaver
Nursery - Kailinn Valdois & Jocelyn Aguilar

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8am-1pm
Friday- 8 - 11am

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

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: salemstillwaterok.org

The Sharing



Our tree is decorated in the Parish Hall with requests from the children at Oaks Indian Mission.

Please take a moment to look over the requests. Many of the young residents of Oaks come to that safe haven with very little and they truly appreciate your loving kindness.

When you select a wish-list item, **please remember to sign the posted list so that we know who you have matched with for gift giving.** Only one gift from the list should be purchased and wrapped.

Gifts should be returned to Salem by **December 11** so they can be delivered to Oaks in time for the children's Christmas party.



*May the Christ child dwell in
your hearts and home!*

From the Staff of
Salem Lutheran

Krystal, Lisa, Cindy, Elizabeth,
Olie, Cara, Kailinn and Jocelyn