

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2025



Jan. 5 - ELW, Setting 1
Bruce Ackerson

Jan. 12 - Light of Christ, communion service
Stephen Haseley, leader
Mark Pennie message

Jan. 19 - Light of Christ
Rick Cowell, leader
Third Sunday Food Offering

Jan. 29 – Light of Christ, Communion Service
Pr. Josh Johnson

Our Sunday Morning Service is at 9:30am.

Watch on-line service on Facebook at
[Salem Lutheran Church](#)
or anytime on YouTube
[Salem ELC Stillwater OK](#)

We have coffee hour after the service.

Adult Discussion is at 11am on Zoom and in person in the All Purpose room by the offices.

We also have a second class that meets in the library. Everyone is welcome!

Child care is available 9am until noon each Sunday.



Our time for Reverse Advent offerings is drawing to a close.

Please place your items on the table at the rear of the Fellowship hall or drop them by Our Daily Bread.

Thank you!

It is nice to be appreciated and on behalf of the whole staff, we would like to thank you for the generous Christmas gifts.

God bless you all!

Krystal, Elizabeth, Lisa, Cindy, Ollie, Kailinn & Jocelyn



Stillwater Community United is once again sponsoring a community-wide event to celebrate Martin Luther King Day. A flyer with

information about the gathering on **Sunday, January 19th** and the MLK March on **Monday, January 20** is hanging in the Fellowship Hall.

“Living the dream. It starts with me.
Spreading hope, courage and unity.”

(Pastor) Sally Joan Riekert Houck Memorial Service

This Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 2:00 pm,
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 15400 N. Western Ave., Edmond, Oklahoma 73013, 405-341-5113
www.lordoflifelutheranok.org Rev. Julie Recher presiding, Rev. Peter Olson preaching.

The service will be live-streamed by Lord of Life. Salem members are welcome to come and participate in the funeral from Salem's All Purpose Room by the church offices.

Cookie donations should be left in the Salem kitchen.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.



Have you ever wondered how New Year's resolutions came about? Over 4,000 years ago it is believed that the ancient Babylonians were the first people to make resolutions and were the first to hold celebrations in honor of the new year. In these traditions they made promises to the gods to pay their debts, and promises to return objects they borrowed. With the belief that their gods would favor them over the coming year.

Around 46 BC the Romans introduced the new calendar year. January 1st became the beginning of the year and was named after Janus. Janus was the two faced god who

could look back at the past year. Then around 1740, Christians, began the traditional occasion of New Year's resolutions as thinking about their past mistakes and preparing to be better in the future.

So here we are approaching Jan 1st our time for many of us to reflect over the past year. We appreciate our accomplishments, celebrate our gifts from God, and sing Auld Lang Syne when the clock strikes midnight (wherever we are). Of course with a two year old, Jason and I will likely be sleeping and dreaming of all the above.

What if before we set our usual goals we stop and take a more heavenly approach. Goals that reflect the person that God would want us to be over the next year. Ways of growth in spiritual maturity, daily choices that he would want us to carry out, and maturing in our faith through prayer and/or Bible study.

In Proverbs 16:9- "The heart of a person plans his way,
but the Lord establishes his steps."

Remember, God sees our future and has our plans knowing what is best in it for us. So I take this reading to know that if I place my belief and faith in him when choosing my path he will guide me each step of the way. He will encourage me when I am trying to uphold my resolution of a better me when I stay focused on him through Christ

Happy New Year!!

Love in Christ, Lindsay B. (Council Member)



JANUARY

birthdays & anniversaries

Birthdays

- 8 Lori Oltmanns
Pam Lovell
14 Terry Gipson
17 Darald Haedt
23 Elizabeth Albright
26 Jacob Ebersole
28 Anita Friedemann
Nathaniel Sahs
Tracy Nordquist

Anniversaries

- 5 Joshua & Amie Haar



New Year's Blessing

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.

May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with
you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garmaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

Many thanks to my Salem family for all the kind prayers, messages, cards, and food that I received while I was recuperating. Everything was greatly appreciated and I felt loved.

Salem is the best!

Hugs, Judy



JANUARY

2025	January 5 2nd Christmas Light of Christ	January 12 Baptism of our Lord Light of Christ	January 19 2nd Epiphany Light of Christ	January 26 3rd Epiphany Light of Christ
Assisting Minister 9:30	Rick Cowell	Keith Schmidt	Tricia Auberle	Cindy Pennie
Ushers 9:30	Teri & Roger Sabs	Dorothy Johnson & Catherine Vijayakumar	Pat Darlington & Tracy Nordquist	Ken & Jan Bartels
Greeters 9:30	Rick & Annette Cowell	Pat Roark	Elaine & Bruce Ackerson	
Altar Guild	Elaine Ackerson	Maria Moccia-Wolff	Mary Jo Shiever	Dorothy Johnson, Priscilla Gerfen
Counters	Michelle Ratzlaff, Terry Gipson	Priscilla Gerfen, Keith Schmidt	Lori Oltmanns, Maria Moccia-Wolff	Paula Long, M Michelle Ratzlaff
Coffee Hour	The Sabs	The Babs	The Bartels	The Cowells
Altar Flowers				
Campus Ministry Dinner				



Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year. But I tried it and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, the year ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next. Regardless of what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for this coming year and beyond.

~Janna Firestone



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

MINISTRY STAFF

Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey
Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright
Pianist- ~ Elena Lyalina
Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis
Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie
Media Specialist ~ Olie Weaver
Nursery - Kailinn Valdois & Jocelyn Aguilar

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 - 12:30am
Friday 8:30-11am

Telephone numbers:

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

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net



STUDY AND PRAYER GUIDES

If anyone is interested in having a copy of the daily study and prayer guides Christ in Our Home (January-March) and/or the large size Our Daily Bread (January-March) please come by. The booklets are on the tables at the building entrances. Or call or email the office to have it snail mailed.

Elena Lyalina will be covering for Krystal for this month.

Campus Ministry will be starting up mid-January. If you can help provide a Thursday evening meal, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall

The 2025 **Flower Calendar** has been posted. Please sign up for any special dates, you'd like to commemorate or if you just enjoy the flowers.

Our next **Third Sunday Food Offering** will be on Sunday, January 19.

