

The SEER

April 2025

Salem Lutheran Church A Community of Believers, Praising and Serving God



Lent

Sunday, April 6, 9:30am

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 13, 9:30am

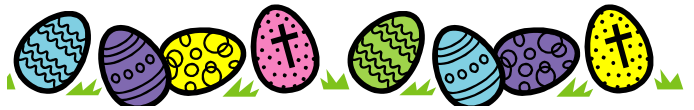
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday 7pm

Easter, April 20, 6:40 (cemetery), 9:30 am

Sundays of Easter

Sunday, April 27– ELW, setting 4

*We're so excited to welcome
Breck Cogswell as our new
Pastor, hopefully in June!*



NEIGHBORLY LOVE

Hunger Advocacy

Things are quietly taking place in Congress. The Continuing Resolution for the Farm Bill did not reduce SNAP, and WIC actually increased by \$500 Million. Your voices were heard! You made a difference!

Now for the bad news. Agriculture has been told to find \$342 Billion in cuts for 2026. SNAP and WIC will continue to be vulnerable because they are large, identifiable expenses. We must remain vigilant.

Please commit to help those who hunger through our **Offering of Letters**. You can write at Salem that day or take materials home. Just sign the commitment sheet on April 6th so we know we can count you (or contact me at 35MRanch@gmail.com if you can't attend that day).

Let's make a difference, together!

Tricia Auberle

Focus on Hunger/Service Ministry

Our 3rd Sunday Food Offering

Our monthly food offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 20. (You are welcome to bring items before or after that. The baskets under the south coat rack are always set out.)

Cleaning, laundry items, personal care items, juice, seasonings, diapers, paper towels and toilet paper, are the most requested by Our Daily Bread. They can also use shopping bags and egg cartons.

You can also help fill our Little Pantry with soups, sandwich crackers, individually wrapped breakfast items, and other single serve items. They can be left in the north hallway pantry (white cabinet).

If you'd prefer not to shop, a contribution is always appreciated. Please memo your check either ODB or Little Pantry and leave it in the weekly offering or send to the office.
Thank you!



Send a Goat to Tanzania!

Berega Infants Home in Berega, Tanzania, shares God's love with some of the most vulnerable. Their mission is "to provide newborn orphans -- primarily those who lost their mother in childbirth - with reliable, compassionate care for the crucial first three years of life."

In 2019, I accompanied the Tanzania Medical Mission and worked with Mr. Lemsanya Ole Tisho and his wife, Kristen, at the Berega Infants Home. Milk is an essential food for a child's early, formative years. Tisho was constructing animal housing for cattle and goats to provide much-needed milk. I accompanied Tisho on animal-buying expeditions, and we acquired several good-quality Holstein-Friesian crossbred cows. However, finding good-quality dairy goats was a problem. Tisho planned to send a goat with the infant when they returned to the village. The goat could provide milk for the growing child, and a goat would be easier to maintain in the village than a cow.

My friend, Dr. Evans Baiya, and his wife, Jackie, own and operate a dairy goat farm just north of Nairobi, Kenya. On my last visit to Evans and Jackie's farm, I mentioned working with Berega, and they volunteered to donate some animals. Kenya and Tanzania share a border, and there are paved roads between them. My friends, Dr. Bridgit Muasa and Dr. Jerono Kiptanui, will assist in procuring the necessary health/travel documents for the exportation/importation of the goats.

Even though Evans and Jackie are donating the goats, there are other costs associated with this project, such as transportation, disease testing, health/vaccination records, agent fees for filing all export/import papers, animal feed for the trip, and meals, lodging, and visa fees for Tisho and myself. By donating **\$450/goat** (we want to send six goats), we can send a goat to Tanzania. Please designate "*Send a Goat to Tanzania*" on the check's memo line.

Sending a goat to Tanzania will significantly impact the growth and development of newborns and young children served by the Berega Infants Home.

Please consider donating to this cause.

Terry Gipson



(left to right), Terry, Ethan (Tisho and Kristen's son) and Winston (carpenter) work on the goat barn.



April 10-13 there are 4 sold out shows for the Boys from Oklahoma Music Festival at the Boone Pickens Stadium.

We plan to sell our parking each afternoon from approximately 2-5:30pm.

If you are available to help direct the parkers or take payments any of those days, please sign up in the Parish Hall. Many thanks!



APRIL BLESSINGS

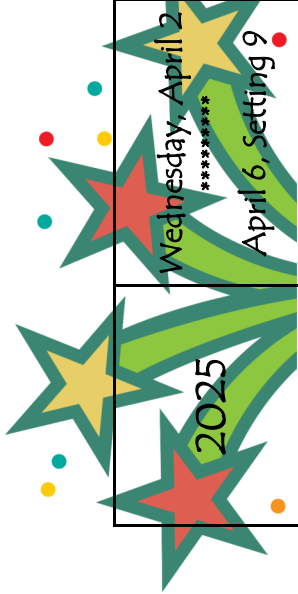
Birthdays

- 2 Bri Smith
- 17 Claire Tipling
- 18 Brooklyn Mueller
- 19 Marvin Shiever
- 25 Krystal Hennessey
- 27 Izzie Reitan
- 28 Ty Reitan
- 29 Pam Talley

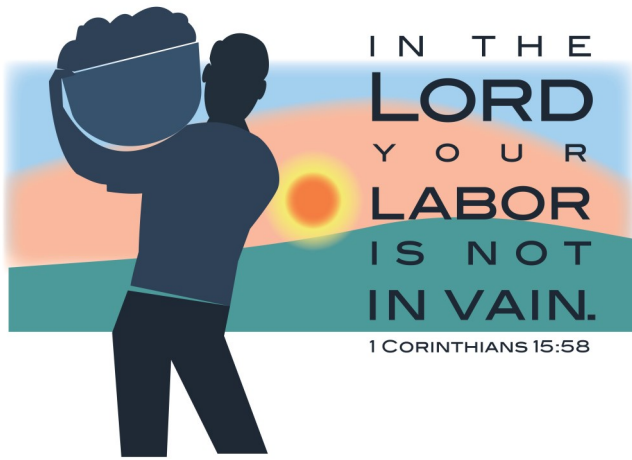
Anniversaries

- 24 Shelley & Keith Schmidt

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR Volunteers!



	Wednesday, April 2 ***** April 6, Setting 9	Wednesday, April 9 ***** April 13 Passion/Palm	Apr. 17 Maundy Thursday	Apr. 18 Good Friday	April 20 Easter	April 27 Setting 4
Assisting Minister 9:30am	Priscilla Gerfen	Rick Cowell	Cindy Pennie	Keith Schmidt	Tricia Auberle	Jared Smith
Ushers 9:30am	Tracy Nordquist ***** Jan & Kenneth Bartels	Marvin Shiever ***** Roger & Teri Sahs	Roger & Teri Sahs	Pat Darlington	Jan & Ken Bartels	Dorothy Johnson & Catherine Vijayakumar
Greeter 9:30am	Pat Roark	Annette & Rick Cowell	*****	*****	Elaine and Bruce Ackerson	Sharon Schonthal
Altar Guild 9:30am	Elaine Ackerson	Priscilla Gerfen, Mary Jo Schiever	Dorothy Johnson, Maria Moccia-Wolff	Joanna Gipson	Joanna Gipson, Dorothy Johnson	Priscilla Gerfen, Elaine Ackerson
Coffee Hour 10:45	Jan & Ken Bartels	Annette & Rick Cowell	*****	*****	Easter Brunch	
Counters	Priscilla Gerfen & Keith Schmidt	Michelle Ratzlaff & Terry Gipson	*****	*****	Maria Moccia-Wolff & Michelle Ratzlaff	Lori Oltmanns & Cindy Haseley
Altar Flowers	*****	*****	*****	*****	Easter Flowers	
Campus Ministry	Thursday, 4/3 Elaine & Bruce Ackerson	Thursday, 4/10	Thursday, 4/17 No Meal	*****	Thursday, 4/24	Thursday, 5/1



Ministry Notes

Service Ministry- March 30 was the date of our 5th Sunday offering that goes to the Tanzania Trip. If you didn't get a chance to donate, contributions to cover supplies and costs of the trip as well as the goat program can be sent to the church office or left in the collection plate. Please memo your check for 5th Sunday- Trip or Goat.

The Synod is also welcoming anyone who would like to **go as a companion**. Trip dates are July 3-20 and cost for the trip is about \$3500. That will cover your airfare, food, housing and transportation while in Tanzania as well as few tourist adventures. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cindy Pennie at pennie@pennieworks.net

The Service Ministry always welcomes new members, so if you're interested, contact Priscilla Gerfen at 612-7731 for a schedule of activities and meetings.

Building and Grounds- Our second opportunity to help with **Spring Clean-up is Saturday, April 5 from 9am to noon**. This is the time we will refresh the inside of the church. From dusting pews to decluttering cabinets there are plenty of projects for all abilities.

B&G is always looking for people with talents. If you would like to help, please contact Annette Cowell at 612-8020.

"Join us for the final two Midweek Lenten Services and Soup Suppers on April 2nd & 9th. Priscilla Gerfen will conclude her series on the structure and meaning of the Lord's Prayer. Many thanks to Priscilla for providing these meaningful reflections."



Church Council met March 11. Discussion included Breck Cogswell's visit on March 14-16 and the upcoming Congregational meeting on March 23 which includes the ballot to call Breck as our new pastor.

Memorial donations were analyzed and requests included placing a bench in shaded area on the playground and a new downstairs piano for Worship and Music. Building and Grounds added a railing will also need to be installed on the Duck Street entrance where the drop off occurs since this will be our designated accessible entrance with a button activated handicap door opener.

Several people will have their terms expire on Church Council soon and new Council members will be needed. Please be kind if someone comes up to you in church and asks if you would be interested in serving on church council. I can witness that it really is not as bad as people make it out to be. :)

Barbara Bliss



As the Lenten Season ends we find we are again in need of people to provide flowers for the Altar.

For your payment of \$40, Little Shop of Flowers will provide 2 arrangements of their choice.

Altar Flowers

If you can't do the delivery and pick up of the vases, they will take care of that for an additional charge.

The flowers can be taken home after the services, or kept and used again.

The sign-up poster is located in the Parish Hall on the bulletin board nearest the kitchen.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church (ELCA)
101 S. Duck
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

CHURCH OFFICE

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

Telephone numbers:

405-372-3074, 372-0879

(please leave a message!)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Website: <https://saalemstillwaterok.org/>



Easter Weekend

Campus Ministry- Saturday, March 19

Decorating the cross & Easter Egg prep

Sunday, April 20, Services are at 6:40am- cemetery*, 9:30am- Salem

Easter Egg Hunt 10:45am

Easter Breakfast 11am Please pick your favorite dish and sign up in the Parish Hall ! Don't cook? Help with clean up. Extra hands appreciated.

* Starting at 6th and Western, take Hwy 51 west until you see the 2nd cemetery sign, ~ 10.7 miles. Take Vasser road north (right) and there is a house close by. Just after the house (.25 miles), a dirt road goes off to the right. Take this road back east .8 miles (crossing a cattle guard) until you get to the cemetery which is on the left. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight if you have one handy.