

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2025

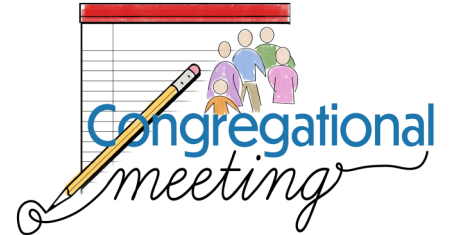
**Our In-person service
is at 9:30.**

**Our on-line services
continue** at 9:30am on
Facebook at
Salem Lutheran Church or
anytime on YouTube
Salem ELC Stillwater OK



Sunday Morning Adult Discussion classes are at 11am
by Zoom and in-person

Friday Morning Bible Study at 10am via ZOOM.
Newcomers welcome. Pre-reading not required!



**Sunday, June 22 after the
9:30am service.**

**A copy of the Annual
Report** will be ready June 15.

New Council members will be
elected.

If you are **interested in being
on the church's council or If
you have anything that you
feel needs to be discussed** at
this meeting, please contact
Pam Talley.



Ministry meets on third Tuesdays of most months, and the May meeting resulted in a couple of actions that may be of interest:

1. Voted to transfer \$1000 (from Bake Sale funds) to the Tanzania mission. This ensures that the Goat Mission and Terry Gipson have adequate funding (since Terry will be in country longer and will do more travelling). We're looking forward to getting reports from the Tanzania team, and especially about Goat Moving Day – image two guys (Terry and Tisho, of the Berega Children's center) in the front seats of a car, and SEVEN goats in the back seats. And goats will be goats. We're already planning a Global Mission potluck, featuring Terry's presentation.

2. Selected the recipient for the June 29 Fifth Sunday collection: Jared Smith's YAGM fund. Jared plans to do a "temple talk" on a Sunday in June.

Priscilla Gerfen



Gwen Tipling has graduated with
a Bachelors in Environmental
Science

Jared Smith graduated with a
general studies degree. He will
leave for Hungary later this
summer for a year in the ELCA's
Young Adults in Global Mission
program.

At long last, we are coming to the end of the tunnel. In just a few short days, we will have an ordained pastor to lead our flock. We would have not been able to celebrate this milestone, if it had not been for the dedication of the call committee. Thank you.

We are in the midst of planning the reception of Breck's Ordination/Installation ceremony on June the 8th following the 6:00 p.m. service. We held a planning meeting on May 14th and the following people have graciously agreed to spearhead the organization of the following areas. Annette Cowell – Decorations, Priscilla Gerfen – Catering, Elaine Ackerson – Beverages, Teri Sahs – Cake, Dorothy Johnson – Gift, Jan Bartels – Napkins, etc., and Pam Talley – other details as needed. We are going to need everyone's help to get this together and time is short. If you are interested in any area, you now know whom to contact.

Lisa Murray-Francis has already sent invitations to congregations in Stillwater. Thank you Lisa. The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod has announced the event in their newsletter to the entire synod.

This is your official notification that our Semi-Annual Congregational meeting has been moved to June 22nd due to the celebration we have long awaited. Thank you for your understanding.

June will be an exciting month for all of us.

Blessings,
Pam Talley



Growing
in faith &
friendship

An update to let you know that Breck Cogswell will be moving to her apartment on June 5th. As a welcome, we will present her with a housewarming gift.

We have decided upon a Gift Card Tree. If you would like to participate, please have your gift card to the church by Sunday, June 1st. There is a basket on the kitchen island where they can be deposited. We need to be creative on our gift cards. Suggestions might include your favorite shopping place or restaurant (Breck is a vegetarian) in Stillwater or other optionsgrocery stores, home improvement, work-out, etc.

Thank you all for your support. If you have any questions or need help getting your gift card to church, please call me (806) 239-8301.

Pam Talley

TANZANIA COMPANION TRIP

The plans for the 2025 Tanzania Companion Trip are well underway! Terry Gipson will be leaving on June 16 for Kenya. He will be doing a bit of teaching, catching up with some colleagues, and obtaining the dairy goats to take to Berega Infants Center in Tanzania. He and Tisho will be driving over 500 miles with 7 goats in the back of a Land Rover! I am sure they will have adventures to tell!

The rest of our team will be leaving from Dallas on July 3 to Doha, Qatar, meeting Dr John Houck there. We then fly on to Tanzania together. Dr Arleigh Trainor will join us a few days later.

Our team of nine is as follows:

Nancy Bean, retired veterinarian from Texas, helper

Norm Dake, retired pastor from Tulsa, fundi (fixer) and helper

Terry Gipson, retired professor from Salem, goat expert

David Houck, retired engineer from California, fundi (John's brother)

John Houck, semi-retired physician from Edmond, physician

Sara Humprey Richers, office manager for AOK Synod from Jenks, helper

Becca Middeke-Conlin, Bishop, AOK Synod, from Tulsa

Cindy Pennie, retired nurse from Salem, team leader

Arleigh Trainor, ER physician from South Dakota, physician



Please keep all of us in your prayers, as well as the process of electing a new bishop for the Morogoro Diocese.

True, needful, kind

If you are tempted to reveal
a tale to you someone has told
about another, make it pass,
before you speak,
three gates of gold;
these narrow gates.

First, "Is it true?"
Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind
give truthful answer. And the next
is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?"

And if to reach your lips at last
it passes through these
gateways three,
then you may tell the tale, nor fear
what the result of speech may be.

—Beth Day, "The Three
Gates" (1835)

Living Lutheran Magazine

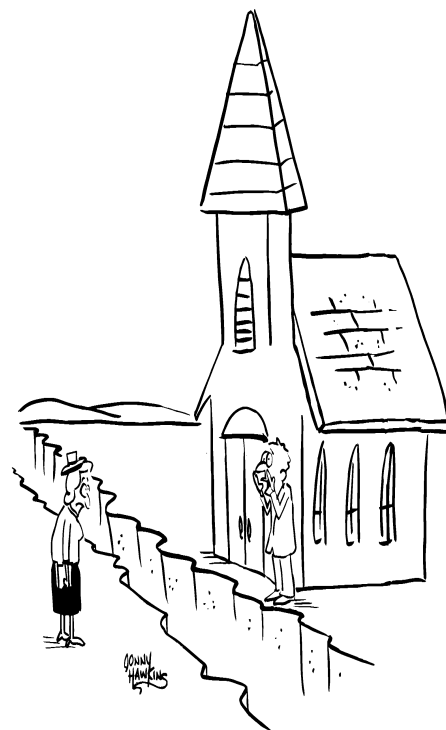
Apparently, the ELCA has
received many, many requests
to restart Living Lutheran as a
paper magazine. They have de-
cided to put it out as a quarterly.

If you are interested in a
subscription, you can sign up at

[https://www.cambeywest.com/
subscribe2/?p=LIV&f=paid](https://www.cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=LIV&f=paid)

OR [https://
www.livinglutheran.org/
subscribe/](https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/)

They are asking that you not
attempt to pay, they'll let you
know when they are up and
running.



"Ethel, take a leap of faith!"

♥ A BIG Thanks! ♥

When Pastor Sally retired, I was still President and we had sheets of

papers on the table at our Semi-annual meeting and everyone was asked to write down 6 names of members they thought would be good on the Call Committee. Then Pam Talley, Pastor Dawn and I met and looked at the names.

We kept demographics, ages, male, female in mind and agreed on Paula Long, Pat Darlington, Bruce Ackerson, Teri Sahs, Kevin Griffen, Steve Haseley, Maria Moccia-Wolf, all good people and active in Salem activities, but would they work well together? They worked very well together and both Bishop Becca and Pastor Peter told me they submitted a great report on Salem, answered all the questions.

It all required a lot of patience and I just want to say "Thanks!" Job well done. Hugs, Judy Lewis

Jared Smith will leave for Hungary later this summer for a year in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. He appreciates any and all support:

- Prayers
- Donations ("YAGM/Jared" in the memo of a check to Salem)
- Check out his Newsletter (jaredsmith.substack.com)

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine programs around the world.



HELPERS NEEDED!

If you want to contribute to the activities of the church, but don't have all the time in the world to devote to it, we have options for you.

#1 Our monthly games night is over until Fall. Be the host and organizer for our once a month (August- May) games nite. You'd need to set up and line up help for clean up, send reminders to the office, make announcements and basically just make sure it goes smoothly. It's a family friendly activity, so families or friends would be welcome to take this on as a team. For details please contact Jared Smith or Michelle Ratzlaff.

#2 Outside clean -up crew. As you may have noticed the parking lot and grass is often strewn with trash. It would be wonderful to have someone do some pick up on a weekly basis. You could do it any time you want. We have gloves and trash bags and buckets. We could get you some tongs! This would be a wonderful one time thing to do before Breck's Installation, so the parking lot looks good for our guests.

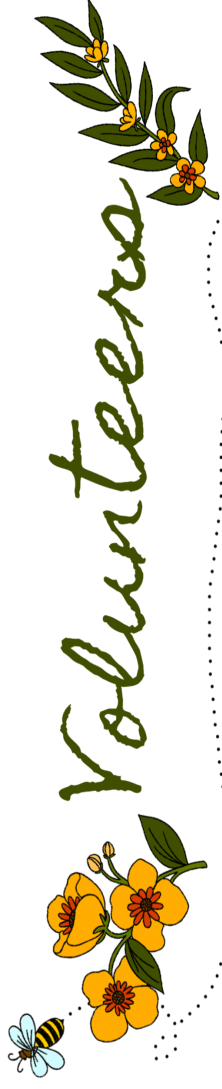
If you are available for a month, 6 months or until you get tired of it, please let Lisa in the office know- 405-372-3074. We appreciate all you do!



Are You Able?

From Our Daily Bread (701 E. 12th, Stillwater)

If you have a garden, consider partnering with Our Daily Bread by planting an extra row and donating the produce harvested from that row to ODB. Our guests would love to receive some fresh, home-grown items from you! We can accept fresh produce, but regulations prohibit us from distributing home canned food. If possible, give your veggies a rinse before bringing them our way so they're nice and clean for those who will be receiving them.



2025	For June 1 ELW, Setting 3	For June 8 ELW, Setting 3	For June 15 ELW, Setting 3	For June 22 ELW, Setting 3	For June 29 ELW, Setting 3
Assisting Minister	Keith Schmidt	Tricia Auberle	Rick Cowell	Priscilla Gerfen	Jared Smith
Ushers	Dorothy Johnson, & Catherine Vijayakumar	Morning- Tracy Nordquist & Pat Darlington Ordination- Ken & Jan Bartels	Roger & Teri Sahs	Dorothy Johnson & Tracy Nordquist	Ken & Jan Bartels
Greeter	Rick & Annette Cowell	Morning- Pam Talley Ordination- Rick & Annette Cowell	Elaine & Bruce Ackerson	Sharon Schonhalter	
Altar Guild	Elaine Ackerson	Joanna Gipson	Priscilla Gerfen	Maria Moccia-Wolfe, Mary Jo Shiever	Dorothy Johnson
Counters	Lori Oltmanns & Michelle Ratzlaff	Michelle Ratzlaff & Maria Moccia-Wolff or Paula Long	Michelle Ratzlaff & Terry Gipson	Cindy Haseley & Maria Moccia-Wolff	Priscilla Gerfen & Keith Schmidt
Coffee Hour	Ackerson Family	Sahs Family	Bash Family	Annual Meeting	Catherine Vijayakumar
Altar Flowers		Sahs Family		Cowell Family	



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

CHURCH OFFICE

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

Telephone number: 405-372-3074

(please leave a message)

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: saalemstillwaterok.org



Birthdays

2 Keith Schmidt
6 Mark Pennie
8 Nicholas Sahs
10 Kay Headrick
11 David Lewis
Shelley Schmidt
12 Jason Lavery
15 Kevin Oltmanns
16 Roger Merkel
17 Alane Zannotti
18 Paula Long
20 Joanne Barrick
Pat Darlington
21 Tom Hennessey
22 Lisa Murray-Francis
29 Laikyn Anderson
30 Freddy Miller

June

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

4 Joanna & Terry Gipson
7 Doy & Roger Merkel
11 Olen Weaver & Elizabeth Albright
18 Krystal & Tom Hennessey