

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2025



Services this Summer

9:30AM SERVICE

July 6 - Now the Feast
July 13 - Now the Feast
July 20 - Now the Feast
July 27 - Now the Feast

August 3- Now the Feast
August 10- Setting 1
August 17- Setting 1
August 24- Feast of Life
August 31- Feast of Life



Bulletin Board Change-Up- We had some people comment over the years that they couldn't reach the sign-up sheets because of the chairs in the way, sooooo we moved the sign-ups (with the exception of the Coffee Hour sheet) down that same wall in the Parish Hall close to the Basement door. Thank you to everyone who signs-up and helps.



A BIG thank you to each of our new council members, and to our new officers for stepping up!

New officers: President Stephen Haseley, Vice Pres. Tricia Auberle, Secretary Barbara Bliss.

New members: Tricia Auberle, Rick Cowell, Priscilla Gerfen and Stephen Haseley

Our thanks to the outgoing Council Members!

Our Council President, Pam Talley worked long and hard to make sure we prospered the last few years. We wish Jared Smith a blessed trip to Hungry with YAGM. On-going thanks to Scott Wolff for his work on the Council and as our long (and still!) serving Treasurer.

Thank you all for your past, present, and future leadership. Salem is blessed by your presence.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod to provide for urgent needs from the recent flooding. They will also stay to provide emotional and spiritual care, support cleanup and long-term recovery. To donate go to <https://give.elca.org/page/85307/donate/1?ea.url.id=3753224>

OSU is looking for folks to help with student move in August 12-14. If you have questions or are interested reach out to brumleyrl@okstate.edu, or sign up at <https://reslife.okstate.edu/residentalexperience/cowboy-carriers.html>



Good folks of Salem,

Well, here we are! My first almost-month with you all has been so wonderful. I am so grateful and honored to be your pastor.

As many of you know, we wasted absolutely no time in my getting started in ordained ministry! My first day in the office ended with a council meeting, where I shared a short devotional to kick off our time together. I read them a short piece from the book *Vanishing Treasures*, about an endangered animal called the golden mole, who does not have vision and has a naturally iridescent coat. I'd like to share a bit of that with you here.

This golden mole, a tiny animal who burrows into the ground, has no idea she reflects beautiful light patterns. Her brilliance does not shine back into her own perception. She just continues her work of digging and living. I'm not quite sure how other animals tell one another they are marvelous, but I imagine they have a way.

Even as early on as that first full day, I couldn't help but think of this little being as I saw the humble brilliance of the ministry already happening here. And so let me tell you all that you are undoubtedly sparkling with the love of God, even when you cannot perceive it yourselves. What's more is that this place also holds a deep culture of encouragement, of reminding one another of their iridescent, luminous nature, of building one another up.

Goodness, you people are good.

As the weeks continued, I was given more rooms and moments in which to witness more of the same. From showing up at community events side-by-side with you all to advocate for the least privileged among us, to joining in conversation with many of this church's committees to discuss what moving forward with clergy in place might look like, to gathering socially on your generous invitations, I have seen first-hand how caring, hospitable, welcoming, and worship-centered the people of Salem Lutheran Church truly are, in all the facets of your ministry and lives.

The light of Christ shines through you all in wondrous ways. You all radiate Christ's love!

As we journey together in faith, may we continue to uplift one another.

May we continue to shimmer with the love of God.

May we continue to do this ministry imperfectly and well.

May we continue to laugh and sing, to grieve and speak up, to dream and imagine, to groan and to proclaim, together, shimmering with the Spirit, for the sake of a world in need of all of those holy expressions of faith.

God is with us.

As I close here, a few logistics:

I'm trying my best to keep some consistent (as consistent as is possible for a pastor, anyway!) office hours for folks to pop in for conversation less formally. Of course, I'm around more than this, and let's schedule other times, too! Here's what I'm starting with for now:

***Salem office: Mondays and Thursdays, 10-noon
Aspen Coffee (Perkins Rd): Thursdays 1-3***

Contact information for me:

Cell: 479-285-2081

Email: pastorbreckcogswell@gmail.com

Please reach out!



WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR!

Send a Goat to Tanzania Update!

The goats made it to Berenga Tanzania.

Terry and Tisho picked them up Friday morning, June 24th from a farm near Nairobi, Kenya.
(Now we can visualize how Terry and Tisho drove hundreds of miles with the goats in the back of the vehicle.)

The goats are munching on the alfalfa hay that they snooped around and dug out.
"Bwana Yesu asafiwe" (Praise be to Lord Jesus.) Indeed.



Are you interested in joining fellow **AOK Synod folks to travel to Europe** to see the Luther sights in Germany and to visit our companion synod in 2026?

Send Bishop Becca a note at becca@aokelca.org including your preferred time of the year to travel.



Lois's 100th birthday is Sunday, July 27th.

Tim Beldon mentioned that there will be a party that day at Legacy Village- 5601 N Washington. We haven't heard a time yet.



WOW!
That's a lot of food.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped celebrate Pastor Breck's Installation!



We have been praying for Cole, the three-year-old grandson of Stephanie Cherry, friend of Salem member Amie Haar. Cole is in the second round of two 28-day treatments for juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia. His doctors are pleased with his progress, but continuing prayer is greatly needed. Also, most of the expenses are not covered by their insurance. Please talk to Amie Haar if you would like to help.

An excerpt from SIFCC/Thrive Well Counseling letter

Nearly 30 years ago, Salem Lutheran joined with other local congregations to form what became a powerful shared ministry: a place where hurting individuals could find hope, rooted in both professional counseling and spiritual care.

Rev. Emlyn Ott knew then—as we still know today—that pastors cannot carry this burden alone. People in crisis need someone to talk to. Someone who can help them face anxiety, grief, broken relationships, and mental health struggles. And Salem Lutheran helped create that safe space, which included insight from members serving on the board and financial support.

In 1996, the Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center was born—connected to a national organization and grounded in the belief that faith and healing belong together. In 2001, the board voted to disaffiliate from the Samaritan Institute and continued this mission under the name Stillwater Interfaith Counseling Center (and has since changed to Thrive Well Counseling).

Over time, our model shifted from pastoral counseling to licensed professional counseling. But one thing never changed: when a client wants their faith to be part of their healing journey, our counselors honor that.

We are facing one of the most difficult financial seasons in our history. Support from many past funders has diminished or disappeared. And without renewed commitment from our founding churches, we will not be able to continue this work.

Salem Lutheran can make a life-changing difference. Your congregation can open the door to healing for someone in pain. You can support the overwhelmed parent. The grieving spouse. The anxious teen. The marriage on the brink.

Please consider an immediate gift. (The Church's budget only allows for \$500/year.) On average, it costs \$135 for one hour of counseling. For many clients the center cover 90% or more of that cost. A monthly or annual gift helps us keep our services available to all—regardless of ability to pay.

Together, **we can honor the legacy Salem Lutheran helped begin in 1996** and ensure that our community still has access to compassionate, professional, and faith-sensitive counseling.

Your support helps us serve the next hurting soul who walks through our door.

Your support saves marriages. Strengthens families. Offers hope.

Please give as soon as possible!



With deep gratitude for your founding vision and your continued care,

Lori Looney, RN
Board President
ThriveWell Counseling
111 West Elm, Stillwater OK 74074



THRIVEWELL COUNSELING

WE ARE *grateful* FOR YOU!

2025	Sunday, July 6 Time after Pentecost	Sunday, July 13 Time after Pentecost	Sunday, July 20 Time after Pentecost	Sunday, July 27 Time after Pentecost
ASSISTING MINISTER	Joanna Gipson	Rick Cowell	Priscilla Gerfen	Keith Schmidt
ALTAR GUILD	Elaine Ackerson	Mary Jo Shiever	Dorothy Johnson	Joanna Gipson
USHERS	Ken & Jan Bartels	Pat Darlington Tracy Nordquist	Catherine Vijayakumar Dorothy Johnson	Roger & Teri Sahs
GREETERS	Pam Talley	Sharon Schonthaler	Annette & Rick Cowell	Steve & Helen Gragert
FLOWERS		Bash Family		Dorothy Johnson
COFFEE HOUR 10:30	Kevin & Priscilla Gerfen	Bash Family	Mary Jo Lanier	Sahs Family
COUNTERS	Priscilla Gerfen Michelle Ratzlaff	Maria Moccia- Wolff Keith Schmidt	Lori Oltmanns Paula Long	Cindy Haseley Terry Gipson

PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:








1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!

PUZZLE

UNDER THE SEA

This summer, consider God's marvelous creation under the sea.

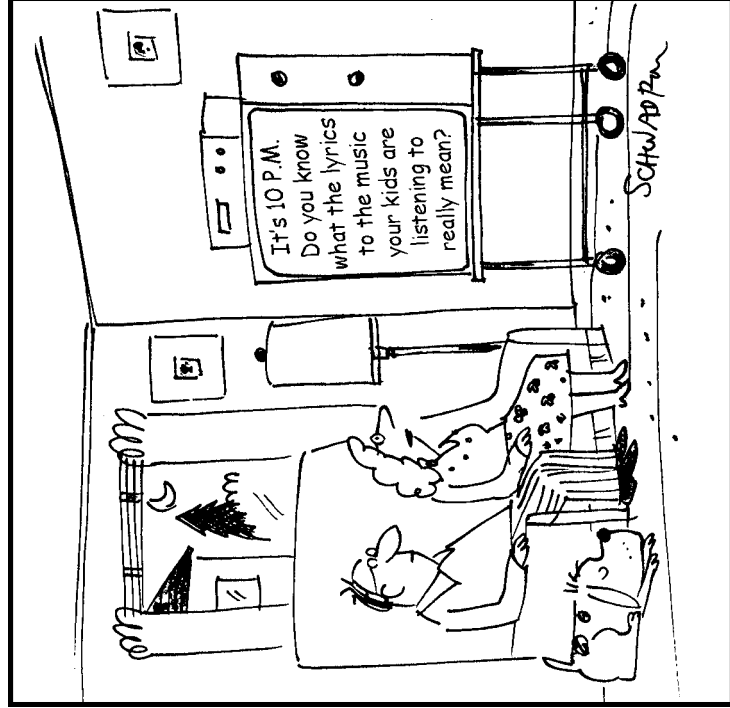
Directions: Write the animal names on the blanks. Then use the circled letters (they may not be in the right order) to create a new word from Psalm 148:7, NIV. Finally, match the words to their numbered blanks below.

	___ _ _ _ _ >>>> ___ _ _ _ _ d	2
	___ _ _ _ _ >>>> ___ _ _ _ _ t	4
	___ _ _ _ _ m ___ _ _ _ _ >>>> g	6
	___ _ _ _ _ g ___ _ _ _ _ >>>> p	1
	___ _ _ _ _ >>>> ___ _ _ _ _ o u	5
	___ _ _ _ _ n ___ _ _ _ _ >>>> r	3
	s ___ _ _ _ _ >>>> c ___ _ _ _ _ u r e	7

1 the 2 3 the 4
5 6 sea 7

PSALM 148:7, NIV

Answers: lobster > Lord, sea horse > earth, hermit crab > great, stinging ray > praise, jellyfish > you, clownfish > from, sea star > creatures
Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures. Psalm 148:7, NIV



"Thanks for calling the Believer's Support Line. For a word of encouragement, press one. For a verbal pat on the back, press two. For immediate praise and adulation, press three. For a faith that worketh patience, press on!"



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

MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor ~ Breck Cogswell

Director of Music ~ Krystal Hennessey

Choir Director ~ Elizabeth Albright

Office Coordinator ~ Lisa Murray-Francis

Parish Nurse ~ Cindy Pennie

Media Specialists ~ 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: salemstillwaterok.org



Anniversaries

- 3 Jess & Susan Prater
- 8 David & Judy Lewis
- 16 Kevin & Priscilla Gerfen
- 18 Jan & Scott Anderson
- 22 Denzil & Lisa Carney

Birthdays

- 2 Ray Hammergren
Eric Reitan
Gwen Tipling
- 3 Wolfgang Mauritz
- 10 Lucy Kershaw
- 12 Michael Oltmanns
- 13 Lindsey Bash
- 21 Matthew Schmidt
- 22 Keith Wolfe
- 27 Lois Belden 100!