

# The SEER

Salem Lutheran Church

August 2025



## SUMMER WORSHIP

August 3 - Now the Feast

August 10- ELW 1

August 17 - ELW 1

3rd Sun. Food Offering

August 24 - Feast of Life

August 31- Feast of Life

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

### Our New 2025-2026 Church Council

Thank you all for your service!

**President** – Stephen Haseley

[stephen.haseley@okstate.edu](mailto:stephen.haseley@okstate.edu) 405-612-8811

**Vice-President** – Tricia Auberle

[35mranch@gmail.com](mailto:35mranch@gmail.com) 405-990-5658

**Secretary** – Barbara Bliss [blissknapp2@yahoo.com](mailto:blissknapp2@yahoo.com)

405-880-5454

**Treasurer** – Scott Wolff [Scott.wolff@okstate.edu](mailto:Scott.wolff@okstate.edu)

405-742-2935

**Financial Secretary**- Michelle Ratzlaff

[mwolfe131@gmail.com](mailto:mwolfe131@gmail.com) 405-385-1196

**Pastor** Breck Cogswell

[pastorbreckcogswell@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbreckcogswell@gmail.com) 479-285-2081

Lindsay Bash [erjunkyrn@gmail.com](mailto:erjunkyrn@gmail.com) 918-851-1442

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Priscilla Gerfen [priscilla@gerfen.com](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.com) 405-612-7731

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Catherine Vijayakumar

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### an All-Church Ministry!

Everyone at Salem is involved in Campus Ministry, merely by providing a faith family and worship environment for OSU students.

It's especially important in August and early September to **watch for visiting students in worship** and then make a point to welcome them and invite them to our Thursday evening Dinner and Dialog.

Please sign up to prepare meals. Our first meal is Thursday, August 21st at 6pm. Home-cooked meals are much appreciated by our students. It's always fun to pair up with someone if you don't want to fix the whole meal.

Good folks of Salem,

August! What?! Our first summer together has flown by thus far. I am so grateful to be among you as we gear up for the start of school and the re-start of so many of the activities and engagements that characterize the ministry of Salem Lutheran Church. I am also grateful for the way this community engages with the surrounding community and also keeps a global perspective.

Yet, there is much pain in the world, and it may feel overwhelming at times. As we try to stay afloat rather than being taken under the sweeping current of tragedies, we need ways to reflect and slow down. At this time in the global community, I think of the text of hymn 704 in the ELW, “When Pain of the World Surrounds Us” by Jim Strathdee. Here are those words. I hope they feel like a soothing balm in the midst of harshness.

*When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,  
When searching just confounds us with false hopes everywhere,  
When lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,  
**We are called to follow Jesus and let God’s healing flow through us.***

*We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,  
Confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.  
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.  
**We are called to follow Jesus and let God’s justice flow through us.***

*The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill  
To nourish all the people, God’s purpose to fulfill.  
May we with humble courage be open to God’s will.  
**We are called to follow Jesus and let God’s Spirit flow through us.***

*We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,  
Your saving word that guided a struggling human race.  
O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.  
**We are called to follow Jesus and let God’s changes flow through us.***

The call that we are given as followers of Jesus is not to come up with how to do justice all on our own. Instead, we are given community and instructions to be open to what God is up to. This isn’t easy, but we are not alone. Hope lives, even still.

I imagine this still leaves you in a place of dissatisfaction, and for that, I am sorry. False, incomplete hopes are certainly easier to stomach. It is a spiritual practice to find yourself affected by the pain of the world and recognize it as a way of bearing witness, to know that you are recognizing a breach of the realm of God.

I wish you joy and sustenance to faithfully continue to engage the hard stuff; I pray that you have the energy for the fun stuff; I hope for you holy moments of rest to punctuate and sustain it all.

Peace,  
Pastor Breck



**Card Ministry is up in the air. If you are interested in helping, please let a Service Ministry member know.**

**Our Third Sunday Food Offering is on August 17.** Checks can be placed in the Sunday offering. Egg cartons, Walmart sized bags/paper bags, and food items can go in the baskets that line the south hallway.

**Our Fifth Sunday Offering is on August 31.** Please place your donation in the offering.

**Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod to provide for needs from the recent flooding.** To donate go to

<https://give.elca.org/page/85307/donate/1?ea.url.id=3753224>



## ***God's Work, Our Hands Day***

***Sunday, September 7th*** after coffee hour we will celebrate ***God's Work, Our Hands Day.***



If you have a yellow God's Work t-shirt, feel free to wear it, and closed toe shoes to church. We will

have a light snack immediately after the service and then on to Our Daily Bread, or work in the Butterfly Garden or out to the Cemetery.

There is a size Large t-shirt in the Library/Lounge. Please help yourself if that fits.

**Everyone is welcome!!**



Thank you to all for your concern, support and sympathy on the death of my father. Even at 88 it was unexpected. My mother seems to be doing fairly well and we are trying to support her. Blessings to you all. Lisa

## **OSU Employees and Students!**

Please contact the church office, if you would like to have a weekday parking pass to regularly use the church's back lot. There's no charge for members or Campus Ministry students, but you will need a parking pass. You can print the form from our web page (<http://saemosu.org/>) and bring it by during office hours.

**The form and parking pass isn't needed for occasional, parking– Sew-ers, meditation, visitors to the church office..... All other temporary parkers can call the office and let us know where you are parked and for how long &/OR place a bulletin in your front window.**

Let friends/students know that our parking is available and is very reasonable. Just \$110 for a full year of weekday parking.



# AUGUST

## Birthdays! & Anniversaries!

### Birthdays

- 12 Olie Weaver  
Andrew Gipson
- 15 Jan Anderson
- 16 Jason Bash
- 20 Eric Ebersole
- 22 Sharon Schonthalder  
Michelle Hubbard
- 23 Lynn Lester
- 28 Annette Cowell
- 30 Jacque Jones

### Anniversaries

- 5 Belinda & Ray  
Hammergren
- 13 Annette & Rick Cowell
- 14 Cindy & Mark Pennie
- 17 Scott & Maria Wolff
- 30 Elaine & Bruce Ackerson

***My apologies if I left anyone out!  
Please call or email me to update your  
info, so I can get you added. Thanks!  
Lisa***



The ads for school supplies are popping up in our newspapers and in on-line sidebars. So it's time to take advantage of sales and buy a few items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) school kits. The kits are distributed world-wide – wherever there are kids who want to go to school to learn new wonders.

If you sew, please consider making a few of the backpacks – instructions and pre-cut fabrics are yours to take home. In past years Salem's goal has been 40 kits, but we are upping it to 50 this year due to increasing natural disasters around the globe.

LWR's supply list is very specific, based on what is most needed. Check out the display in the south hallway (outside the Nursery) for a list of items. Supplies can be left at the display table. We hope to conclude this drive by the end of August

**Spiral-bound, 70-sheet "college ruled" notebooks (no US insignia/flag)**  
**16- and 24-count crayons**  
**Unsharpened #2 pencils**  
**Blue or black ballpoint pens (NOT gel)**  
**2 ½" erasers**  
**Small plastic pencil sharpeners**  
**Blunt (child "safety") scissors**  
**30-centimeter ruler**

For more info,  
contact Priscilla Gerfen (612-7731 or  
[priscilla@gerfen.com](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.com)).

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2025	Aug. 3 Now the Feast	Aug. 10 Setting 1	Aug. 17 Setting 1	Aug. 24 Feast of Life	Aug. 31 Feast of Life
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Tricia Auberle	Rick Cowell	Keith Schmidt	Joanna Gipson	Steve Gragert
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Mary Jo Shiever	Maria Moccia-Wolff	Priscilla Gerfen	Joanna Gipson	Dorothy Johnson
<b>USHERS</b>	Dorothy Johnson  Catherine Vijayakumar	Marvin Shiever	Tracy Nordquist Pat Darlington	Jan & Ken Bartels	Roger & Teri Sahs
<b>GREETERS</b>	Priscilla & Kevin Gerfen	Steve & Helen Gragert	Annette Cowell	Sharon Schonthaler	
<b>FLOWERS</b>			The Praters	The Gragerts	Catherine Vijayakumar
<b>COFFEE HOUR 10:30</b>	Naserian & Pragra	Jared Smith's Send off	Steve & Helen Gragert	The Wolff Family	
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Priscilla Gerfen Michelle Ratzlaff	Maria Moccia-Wolff Paula Long	Lori Oltmanns Terry Gipson	Michelle Ratzlaff Maria Moccia-Wolff	Priscilla Gerfen Terry Gipson





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](mailto:salemelc@sbcglobal.net)

**Church Website:** [salemstillwaterok.org](http://salemstillwaterok.org)



The parking for OSU football games will again be a effort of families and volunteers from the congregation. The lots will be blocked off at 5pm the day before. Thank you Shelley Schmidt for coordinating our efforts!

Game times: **Thursday, August 28** at 6:30pm (would need to be there around 3pm until sold out), **Friday, September 19** at 6pm, **Saturday, September 27**, (time- TBA) **Saturday, October 11 & 18** (TBA), **Saturday, November 15 & 29** (TBA),

**Questions? Contact Shelley Schmidt at 880-3017 or [willowcreek\\_hs@provalue.net](mailto:willowcreek_hs@provalue.net)**  
**If you can help, sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.**



During August the Adult Discussions Class will continue with Pr. Breck.

Book Club is Monday, August 25 at 7pm  
Contact Priscilla at [priscilla@gerfen.com](mailto:priscilla@gerfen.com) for more info.

Choir rehearsal will resume on September 3rd at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing and hearing everyone again!!

Game Night is starting back. We are still looking for someone to organize and lock-up for this once a month activity.

Salem's Christmas Sale will be Dec. 4, so if you're a Christmas-in-July crafter/canner, consider making items for the sale.