

The SEER

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2025



SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30 AM

COFFEE 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM

October 5 Now the Feast
October 12 Now the Feast
October 19 ELW, Setting 1
October 26 Reformation
November 2 All Saints
November 9 Now the Feast
November 16 Now the Feast
November 23 Christ the King
November 30- Advent, Setting 5

**Friday Morning Bible Study
at 10am via ZOOM.**

Help us save!

Last month our electricity bill was over \$1300.

Part of that was a malfunctioning air conditioner, but much of the rest is from the lights being left on when no one is in the building.

If you are in the building after church or an activity, would you please check the following?

**In the office area all security lights are automatic, so please turn everything off.*

**In the central hallway only the outside lights should be left on. (Far right switch)*

**In the old north entry/kitchen, leave on only the outside lights and the one marked security light in the hallway by the freezer.*

Thank you for helping be good stewards of the money that you share to support Salem.

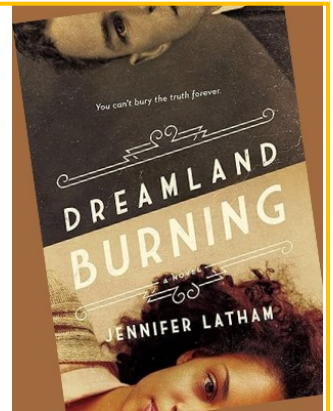


As we prepare to join a **Unity Walk on November 2**, connect with Little Rock's Faith Lutheran and folks from across the A-OK Synod in a discussion of *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham. The story is told in two voices from two different time periods. We'll explore themes of racism, privilege, identity, and the true history of racial violence of our own region.

This six-week study will meet on Thursday evenings at 7pm CST from Oct. 9 - Nov. 13 via a Zoom call. You will need to borrow or buy the book.

Questions? Contact Pastor Jacqui at Faith Lutheran Church
pastorjacqui@faithlutheranlr.org or (501) 830-1975.

Click here to register for the study. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfndsfP9GID3OtDTLu-kSR5FXH9rye_bFua_jpgjdYv9SFrw/viewform)



Stewardship



This year's Stewardship campaign, "Tell Out My Soul," comes from Luke 1:46-47, "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...'"

Tell Out My Soul is a stewardship campaign designed to clearly explain and accentuate our storytelling and our passion for ministry. We who gather week by week, year upon year to support our congregation and its ministries with our gifts have deep connection and story in our community. The relationships we form, the milestones we celebrate, the crises we overcome, the programs we envision, all provide us with the content of our story.

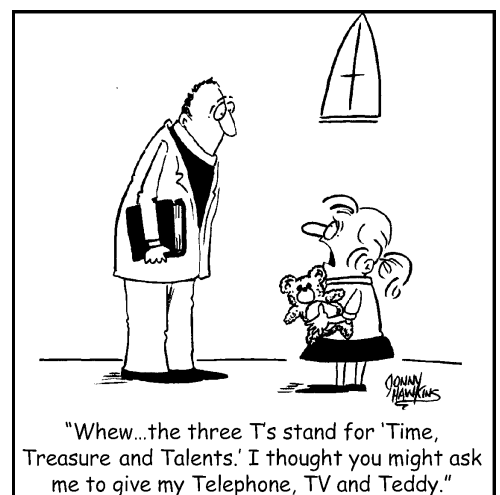
Stewardship at Salem is about giving our time, talents, and treasure to God to support our ministries and mission. If you haven't already, soon you will receive your pledge material. Included will be a pledge card (front and back), information on proportional giving in case you want to pledge a specific percentage of your income, your general fund giving statement if you pledged last year, and an envelope to return your pledge.

The front of the card is where you will pledge your treasure. Please write your pledged amount in the blank, then check the appropriate box to tell us whether that amount will be given weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually. Last year's pledge, if you pledged, will be included for your reference.

The back of the card is where you will pledge your time and talent. Please circle the category, or categories, where your interests lie: Worship, Outreach, or Social Ministries. Then, if you'd like, please share with us what your talents are. For those of you who would like to get involved but don't know how, listing your talents is a good place to start. We will connect you with the right people where you can begin to tell your story.

Please return your pledge cards by Sunday, October 26, Reformation Sunday. Any time between now and then, you can return your pledge to the financial secretary by dropping it in the offering plate during a service, mailing it, or e-mailing it to salemelc.fs@gmail.com.

Michelle Ratzlaff
Financial Secretary



Hello all,

As many of you know, my husband asked me to retire not long after Pr. Sally left. I stayed since I didn't feel comfortable leaving you all with no one in the office. Now that we have a new pastor, the time is coming. As you can imagine, this isn't the sort of job that you just give your 2 weeks notice and go. I'm hoping that sometime just after Christmas we'll have someone for me to train and then I'll be a retired woman!

I'll miss all of you. It has been a blessing to be here since Easter of 2008- 17 years! I've learned a lot from being with such a good group. Thank you all for your help, friendship and support.

God Bless! Lisa, Office Manager, Church Secretary, Parking Maven



ELCA stickers/clings- If you would like something for your car's wind shield that marks you as a member of Salem, come by the office or the north entry (on the shelves) for a Lutheran Rose sticker/cling. That sticker plus parking in either the Duck Street lot or in the Elm lot in the row with the handicapped parking, will let the parking committee know that you are a member.



If you don't have a sticker and need to use the lot, please call the office.

From Oaks Indian Mission

Your kindness means so much to all of us here at the Oaks. Thank you so much for welcoming the staff and children. They were all so excited to tell me all about it. (OSU football game we hosted September 19th.)

Thank you again for walking alongside us in this work. May God's blessing be upon you and our wonderful partners in ministry, who help keep this historic Mission a vibrant place of hope, safety and love.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Cooper
Executive Director



Installation of the ^{New} Presiding Bishop

Saturday, October 4, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. CDT
Central Lutheran Church | Minneapolis, Minn.



A live video stream of the installation will be available. Please check the ELCA website.

Birthdays

- 1 Rick Cowell
- 5 Kevin Gerfen
- 6 Cindy Pennie
- 12 Catherine Vijayakumar
- 15 Jeremy Hennessey
- 22 Mary Jo Lanier Shiever
- 23 Brandon Hubbard
- 25 Gloria Sandvold
- 26 Ninda Lovell
- 29 Doy Merkel
- 30 Evelyn Lovell
- 31 Ruth Ann Haedt

Anniversaries

- 24 Teri & Roger Sahs



So sorry if we failed to include anyone.

Please let Lisa in the office know the missing birthday or anniversary so we can add it!



Back row: Andrew Thomas, Matt Hafar, Natalia Pierson, Ryan McGowan, Jeremy Johnson, Jace Martinez; Second row: Ericka Scott, Anghy Aragón Alegria, Tim Bernard, Deborah Gelerter, Sandy Jones, Julia Martinez; Front Row: Shadin Nassar, Sandee Stadler, Megan Tee, Tee Sieng, Hannah Kurtz, Ashley Teter, Christy Lohr Sapp, Paul Sapp

ELCA Global Mission welcomed 20 new missionaries serving in 11 different countries at the ELCA Missionary Orientation in July. Our new global personnel are serving in roles such as pastors, teachers, Seminary Horizon International interns, coordinators and more. Over the two-week orientation with worship and fellowship, our new missionaries learned about missionary sponsorship, the companion synod program and the cultural context of their countries of service. Additionally, they learned about accompaniment (the ELCA's approach to global mission) and the MERGE justice principles (migration justice, environmental justice, racial justice, gender justice and economic justice) that influence their work and ministry.

October Volunteer List

2025	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26 Reformation
Assisting Minister	Cindy Pennie	Tricia Auberle	Joanna Gipson	Rick Cowell
Altar Guild	Dorothy Johnson	Elaine Ackerson	Mary Jo Shiever	Priscilla Gerfen
Ushers	Roger & Teri Sahs	Dorothy Johnson & Marvin Shiever	Pat Darlington & Tracy Nordquist	Jan & Ken Bartels
Greeter	Steve & Helen Gragert	Sharon Schonthal	Bruce & Elaine Ackerson	Priscilla Gerfen
Flowers				Rick & Annette Cowell
Counters	Cindy Haseley & Michelle Ratzlaff	Priscilla Gerfen & Keith Schmidt	Lori Oltmanns & Terry Gipson	Paula Long & Maria Wolff
Coffee Hour		Sahs Family	Ackerson Family	Lovell Family
Campus Ministry	Thursday, Oct. 2 Dorothy Johnson	Thursday, Oct 9 Pat Darlington	Thursday, Oct 16	Thursday, Oct 23 Pam Talley

November's 5th Sunday



The recipient for the Fifth Sunday offering in November is the Stillwater Public Schools Student and Family Resource Center. This program provides for the needs of unhoused students as well as families in serious financial strain. There are many ways that the Resource Center needs funds help, but we seek to provide money that can be directed to the greatest needs.

SAVE THE DATE

Payne County Youth Services

An Evening to Remember: Masquerade Ball

Join us on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026

for an enchanting evening of mystery and intrigue

at Sparrow Beginnings in Stillwater, OK

#ITSALLFORTHEKIDS

LUTHERLAND, BAVARIA and Christmas Markets 2026

November 30 - December 12, 2026

Join the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our Lutheran heritage, guided by Bishop Becca and shared with friends and fellow travelers. Together, we'll worship, learn, dine, and discover the places where faith, history, and culture intertwine.

Our journey takes us deep into the heart of Germany—where Martin Luther preached, taught, lived, and even hid. We'll visit historic churches, towns, and landmarks that shaped the Reformation, while also exploring sites that reflect the wider story of our faith, such as Buchenwald, where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned, and Leipzig, where Johann Sebastian Bach composed music that continues to inspire worship today.

But the pilgrimage is not only about history—it's also about beauty and wonder. We'll stand before the storybook towers of King Ludwig's fairytale castle, Neuschwanstein, and stroll through the medieval streets of Nuremberg and Oberammergau.

Adding to the enchantment, our travels in early December bring us into the heart of Germany's famous Christkindlmarkts—magical Christmas markets where twinkling lights, festive music, and the scent of roasted chestnuts fill the air. You'll sip warm Glühwein, shop for handmade treasures, and feel the joy of the season as the streets come alive with celebration.

This is more than a trip—it's a journey of faith, fellowship, and wonder. Come, and let your spirit be renewed as we explore together the rich heritage and timeless beauty of our Lutheran story.

Rev. Becca Middeke-Conlin
Bishop



Approximate price for trip without
airfare to Europe is \$3200 per
person. It includes 19 meals and
tips for anything related to the trip.
Contact Lisa in the office for the
full brochure.



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 Specialist~ Olie Weaver

CHURCH OFFICE

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

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

Email Address: salemelc@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: saalemstillwaterok.org

Noah (Knapp)& Alex Brown will be at Salem **Saturday, Oct 25 at 2pm** for baby **Blair Bliss Brown's Baptism**. Everyone is welcome to come & celebrate!

We are in need of people to help with the parking for the remaining football games. If you've never done it before, not to worry. We always have experienced folks that will also be helping. If you have questions, please contact Shelley Schmidt. With the weather being so nice, it's the perfect Fall to help out.

Games Nite is Friday, October 17 at 6pm. Come with your favorite game and snacks to share.

Third Sunday Food Offering is on Sunday, October 19. If you prefer the staff at ODB shop for you, please leave your contribution in the offering. Food contributions can go in the baskets in the south hallway.

The Book Club meets the last Monday of every month (except December) at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome!

Save the Date! Join a Unity Walk in OKC or Tulsa, Sunday November 2nd.



On Tuesday, October 7, the office will close early. If you need to contact Lisa that day, please check in by 10:30am.

Our newly "remodeled" north bathrooms need a little artsy jazzing up. If you have **framed or stretched canvas art you don't need...**we would love to try it out in a restroom. Please bring to the parish hall.

Around the end of November, I'll email everyone a copy of the **Member Directory**. If you have a change to any of your contact info, please let Lisa know as soon as possible. Thanks!