

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas 76660

Established 1886

August 2004

Grace, mercy and peace to you in Christ Jesus, God Incarnate!

Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who, with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;

(Nicene Creed)

s the Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity, He is to be worship together with the Father and the Son, as all three are all truly God. The Athanasian Creed speaks with great clarity concerning the relationship of the three Persons in the one Godhead: "The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding." (TLH p. 53)

A pastor recently commented to me that it has become increasingly rare to see a reference in volumes of Church history to the work of the Holy Spirit. Instead, writers increasingly dwell on assessing Church history in terms of culture, politics, ethnicity, class and other human factors.

Men may try to hide from the reality of the working of the Holy Trinity, but that does not make His work less substantial! As the work of Creation and Redemption are rightly attributed to the work of the Triune God, so, too, the work of Sanctification is something which God works in us. The Holy Ghost works when and where He wills through the proclamation of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments, to create and sustain faith. This is God's work, not man's; in the realm of Sanctification (that which follows after faith has been created in a person's heart) man can at most cooperate with the work of God. The Church is ever being guided by the Holy Spirit through the Word, and He is ever with us, to build us up in faith.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Heiser



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

This year's V.B.S. ran from July 5th through 9th. Once again, we had our program in the evening. Everyone had a terrific time! We used the "I Am" series, which is based on the "I am" statements of Jesus:

- I am the Good Shepherd
- I am the Way, Truth, Life; the Door
- I am the Light of the World
- I am the True Vine; the Bread of Life
- I am the Resurrection and the Life

Many thanks to *everyone* who helped with the program this year!

Denise







Eric and Linda Rachut



Carl and Penny Payne

Salem is honored to welcome two new families to our fellowship: Carl and Penny Payne, who come to us by transfer from Grace Lutheran (Mart) and Eric and Linda Rachut, by affirmation of faith from the C.L.C. (The Rachuts live in Moody.) If you have not already had the opportunity to do so, I hope you will soon get to know the Paynes and Rachuts better; we are all blessed to have such faithful Lutherans in our fellowship!

Pastor Heiser

SALEM LUTHERAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We will have our monthly breakfast and Bible study on **Saturday, August 14th.** As usual, our breakfast begins at **8 a.m.**

During the Summer months there are, of course, many things on all of our schedules—work in the field, family vacations—but I hope you will have the opportunity to join with the other men of the parish for this time of fellowship.

All men of the congregation are strongly encouraged to attend!

Pastor Heiser

LWML NEWS

The LWML, along with the Men's Fellowship, co-sponsored a successful 4th of July celebration, and we would like to thank all who helped. There were a lot of folks who helped with their time, talents, donations and attendance. But first and foremost we thank the Lord; without His blessings, none of this would have been possible. Without the Lord we could never pull it off—He kept our minds and bodies going and showed us it could be done. So, to God may all the glory be given. Thanks to Tony, Lillian, and Dorothy for keeping the burgers and dogs going; to Todd and Eddie Ray, for cooking the burgers and dogs; to Patsy, Ronnie, Edwin, Alton, Denise, Lana, Lizzie, John, Ana, Tina, Morris and his band, and everyone else that helped in the process of getting ready, and to everyone who came and enjoyed themselves. Everyone had a great time and, I hear, especially those who enjoyed the cake walk. Maybe we can do this again sometimes.

A total of \$522.57 was raised on the 4th, plus matching Thriven funds of \$603, for a total for the radio mission of \$1,125.57.

Due to the fact that Salem has now withdrawn from the Missouri Synod, I had to send a letter to the Zone President of LWML and withdrew Salem LWML from the Texas District LWML. So, officially as of Tuesday, July 20, 2004 we are no longer associated with any other LWML groups. Needless to say, we will have a long meeting on September 5th, at 1 p.m., to discuss our options for the future. I urge all present LWML members to be at this meeting.

Rachel Kunkel



Women's Fellowship



July 4th Celebration!

Everyone had a wonderful time on the 4th. The hardwork of the LWML and the Men's Fellowship made the day a terrific success. (Special thanks also go to Morris, Weldon, and the rest of the band for the music!)





The support which was provided to the radio mission is vital to that mission effort. ... And what a blessed opportunity for fellowship!





(From left to right: Pastor and Mrs. Hudson, Cliff Krumvieda, Pastor Jacobs, Pastor Heiser)

Missouri Synod Lost in Error— A Decisive Convention in St. Louis

Travelling to St. Louis, Cliff, the Paynes, and I had few illusions about what was likely to happen at the synodical convention. The synod has long been slowly drowning under the waves of false doctrine and ungodly practices, and there was *no* sign that things were likely to improve at this convention. However, regardless of how ‘pessimistic’ (or realistic) one was about the Missouri Synod, the outcome was still a shock. The synod gave the district presidents essentially all the powers of autocratic bishops; the erosion of the biblical teaching concerning the role of women in the Church continued, with the synod approving of women serving as congregational presidents, elders and communion assistants!

Far from repenting of the unionism and syncretism of the past three years, the synod *embraced* it, even allowing a ‘new doctrine’ of ‘serial prayer’ claiming that it would now be okay for non-Christians and Christians to join together in public worship services, as long as there was some ‘civil’ aspect and the Christians not restricted in what they say. At the same time, the Missouri Synod went into fellowship with yet *another* church body of the Lutheran World Federation, the liberal

union church body whose president is the bishop of the ELCA!

All of the above barely scratches the surface, of course; there's far more to report on the state of the Missouri Synod... and that's contained in my convention report, "*Here we have no Continuing City.*" I strongly encourage all members to read the report. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

Of course, I fully support the action which Salem took in its July voters meeting to follow its constitution and remove itself from that synod. Already, there are discussions between myself and the pastors of other congregations which have already separated from the LC—MS, and I am hopeful that we will be gathering shortly to discuss and establish fellowship between our congregations. The elders and I will also have to explore what possibilities exist for fellowship with those congregations which enter a 'state of confession', and which thus mark and avoid the errors of Missouri.

As matters develop, I will endeavor to keep all of you 'up to speed.' Please do not hesitate to come to me with any questions or concerns which you may have; I won't necessarily always have an answer, but I will do the best I can. It is important that all of us continue to work together here at Salem to stand fast upon the good confession of God's holy Word.

Pastor Heiser



The following is the press release sent out explaining Salem's decision in the July 18th voters meeting

Pastor

Salem Lutheran Church Declares Independence from Missouri Synod

After years of growing concern over the increasing liberalism of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Salem Lutheran Church has severed its connection with that synod. The decision came in a nearly unanimous vote in the congregation's quarterly meeting on July 18.

Salem's pastor, Rev. James Heiser, explains that the problems in the LC—MS have been growing for years, but that events of the last few years made the situation intolerable for members of Salem. Among the issues troubling conservative Lutherans within the LC—MS: Participation by LC—MS clergy in joint worship services with non-Christian religions; changes to the constitution and bylaws of synod which are essentially building a hierarchical form of church government; failure to discipline charismatics and others who violate biblical doctrine and practice; adoption of doctrinal resolutions which undermine or directly contradict the teaching of Scripture concerning the Lord's Supper and the role of women in the Church.

Salem will now explore the possibility of Church fellowship with other pastors and congregations which have withdrawn from the LC—MS. "We also respect our brothers and sisters who have not yet been able to withdraw from the LC—MS, and hope to do everything we can to assist them in restoring fellowship outside that synod," Pastor Heiser explained, "These are certainly trying times for the Body of Christ. But the unity of the Church is only found in the pure teaching of the Word of God, and the right administration of the Sacraments."

Resolutions of the 2001 and 2004 conventions of the LC—MS, as well as events occurring within the synod over many years, led Salem's members to conclude that the synod had surrendered the biblical doctrine in a number of crucial areas. It was determined that the congregation would have to withdraw from the synod if it was going to remain faithful to God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions.

Pastor Heiser will give a series of sermons on the reasons which led to the congregation's withdrawal from the LC—MS. These sermons will be broadcast during the congregation's weekly radio broadcasts on KHBR, AM 1560, Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:30 a.m., beginning August 1.

GAMES NIGHT —We will have our next games night on Friday, **August 27th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to bring their favorite game and snack food and join us for an enjoyable evening! We always have a good time, but it will be even more fun if you're there!

MIDWEEK CLASS—All are invited to attend the on-going midweek Bible classes, **Wednesday** from **11 a.m. to noon** (with lunch to follow) on **August 11 and 25**. (The other two Wednesdays, pastor will be out of town to speak at conferences.)

THANK YOU! to Weldon Reinke for mowing the fields and to Kenny Kelm and Del Schulz for mowing the church grounds before the July 4th celebration. Everyone appreciates it when it looks neat around church!

SALEM'S WEBSITE—Have you visited the congregational website recently? There will be several changes soon, including a link to pastor's weblog, as well as downloadable 'PDF' versions of newsletters, convention reports, etc. Make sure you 'stop by' periodically, at www.salemlutheranchurch.net
(many thanks to Cliff Krumvieda for maintaining our site!)

	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	COMMUNED
June 27	59	\$1,055.00	n.a.
TOTAL	246	\$6,127.95	98
July 4	72	\$1,427.00	54
July 11	51	\$1,113.50	41
July 18	69	\$1,341.00	n.a.
July 25	NOT YET AVAILABLE		
TOTAL TO DATE	192	\$3,881.50	95

Budget for 2004: +\$809.23. A total of \$1,465.69 is needed each week for budgeted expenses.

Salem Lutheran Church

718 HCR 3424 E

Malone, TX 76660

(254) 533-2330

The Rev. James D. Heiser, Pastor

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Holy Communion—1st and 2nd Sundays

On the Radio: KHBR (1560 AM) Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

On the Web: <http://www.salemlutheranchurch.net>