

# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas 76660

*Established 1886*

**October 2004**

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

And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

(Nicene Creed)

his phrase from the Nicene Creed makes the same point as is made in Augsburg Confession Article VII: "...One holy Church is to continue forever. The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments rightly administered." There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and there is one holy Christian and Apostolic Church which continues forever.

But please note: belief in the one holy Christian and Apostolic Church is an article of *faith*, not of sight! When the Nicene Creed was written, there were many who contended for false teachings—of which one group in particular, the followers of Arius, was the particular focus of the Council of Nicea. The 'marks' of the Church—the pure teaching of the Word and right administration of the Sacraments—guide us to the true Church; she is not found by wealth, power, influence or size, which are the standards of men, not of God. But all those who are joined by the proclamation of the pure Word and the right administration of the Sacraments—in whatever age or place—are all part of the one holy Church which continues forever.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Heiser*

# REFORMATION DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be having a potluck and party with a German twist. If you have a favorite dish with a German background ... and in this community who doesn't? ... this is the day to bring it along! (Good old American food is alright, too.) We'll be having recorded music with a Deutsch beat, some of it sung in German. Maybe we'll even yodel along. Please come and help us celebrate our faith, and our heritage.

—Donna



Luther Before Cajetan.

**Church Council Meeting**—The Church Council will meet on Saturday, **October 9<sup>th</sup>**, at **7 p.m.** Our agenda for this council meeting will include finalizing nominations for various offices and boards for service in 2005, and budget proposals for 2005.

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**Board of Elders Meeting**—The Elders will have their regular monthly meeting on **October 5<sup>th</sup>** at **7:15 p.m.** All elders are requested to bring their Bible and Book of Concord.

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**Board of Education Meeting**—The Board of Education will have a brief meeting following Divine Service on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

—*Denise*

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**Salem Lutheran Men's Fellowship**—We will have our monthly breakfast and Bible study on **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. As usual, our breakfast begins at **8 a.m.**, with Bible study following. All men of the congregation are strongly encouraged to attend!

*Pastor Heiser*

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**Voters Meeting**—The third quarterly meeting will be on **October 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will have a potluck after divine service, followed by the meeting at **1 p.m.** The agenda should include election of new officers for 2005, as well as the budget, affirmation of the Malone Statement and constitutional changes considered proposed by the Church Council.

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### **We're Having a Party!**

Last month we had the first monthly birthday/anniversary party—we're so glad so many were able to stay and participate! This month the party will be on the *fourth* Sunday (the 24<sup>th</sup>) at noon. Please join us for this opportunity to celebrate! We will begin with a potluck meal with a birthday/anniversary cake and followed by fellowship and games (board games, dominoes, pick-up sticks, jacks...) Hope to see you there!

## Areas to be Updated in Salem's Constitution and Bylaws

In the August voters meeting, the Church Council was given the responsibility of studying possible changes to bring the congregations Constitution and Bylaws fully into harmony with Salem's decision to withdraw from the LC—MS. (Article IV was ammended at the August meeting, of course, but other changes were still needed.) At the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council, the following changes were unanimously recommend for adoption. These changes will be presented to the voters at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for consideration and adoption (if accepted by the voters).

(proposed additions are marked in **bold**; proposed deletions are ~~struck through~~.)

### *Constitution—Article VII.1:*

b. be a graduate of one of the theological seminaries of the synod **or ministerium** with which the congregation is affiliated (if any), or have been examined and accepted for service in the holy ministry by the ~~officials of the synod~~ **pastors in fellowship with this congregation**;

### *Bylaws—Article II:*

A. In case of a vacancy in the position of pastor, the congregation is urged to notify ~~the President of the District of Synod~~ **pastors in fellowship with this congregation** at an appropriate time.

### *Bylaws—Article VII.E:*

10. ~~Fully~~ [I]nform the members of ~~their local congregation's program and opportunities to lengthen their outreach into all the world through District and Synod.~~

# News from Salem Lutheran Women's Guild



Women's Fellowship

At our September meeting, we received 2 new members: Penny Payne and Norma Medenwaldt. Welcome ladies! We are truly blessed to have you among our little group.

At our September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the LWML changed our name due to the fact that we are no longer affiliated with the Missouri Synod. Our new name is now **Salem Lutheran Women's Guild**.

We are currently working on the Constitution and hope to have it completed and be able to vote on the final document at our October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

We will be having Honey Sundays on October 10<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>. Inserts have been put in the bulletins, so turn yours in along with a donation of not less than \$4.00 a bottle by the 24<sup>th</sup>. As you know, the honey will be sent to your address, so please be sure that we fix you a mailing label. All proceeds go to the Dakota Boys Ranch.

Again this year we will be taking orders for Thanksgiving pies, with all proceeds to go to Bethesda Home for the mentally and physically challenged. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Order blanks will be in the November newsletter, and also in the October 31<sup>st</sup> bulletin. So get your order in early.

Rachel Kunkel  
for  
Salem Lutheran Women's Guild

Time Change October 31<sup>st</sup>!  
Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time  
ends the last Sunday of the month.

## Reformation Day—What’s There to Celebrate?

Several years ago I read an article in *The Bride of Christ* (a Lutheran publication) in which the author (an ELCA pastor) complained about Reformation Day. In fact, the article was entitled, “The Lutheran Church *Must Stop Celebrating* ‘Reformation Sunday.’” The author whined that “No church but the Lutheran Church celebrates ‘Reformation Sunday’; no church but the Lutheran Church celebrates any festival other than Pentecost as the birth and origin of the true Church,” and went on to blast Reformation Sunday as “a demonic worm deep within”!

This, of course, is a gross distortion of what is celebrated on Reformation Day. Reformation Sunday is *not* celebration a *different* ‘birth and origin’ of the true Church apart from Pentecost; rather, Reformation Sunday is a celebration of the work of the Holy Spirit to *preserve* the one holy catholic and apostolic Church against the corruptions of false doctrine and wicked practice.

We proclaim in the Augsburg Confession “that One holy Church is to continue forever. The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered.” (VII:1) The popes corrupted the visible Church through false doctrine and corruption of the holy Sacraments. They condemned the holy Gospel, mixing human works together with Christ’s atonement as contributing to one’s salvation. Through false doctrine and wicked practice, the papacy shattered the unity of the Church, and necessitated that those upholding the true faith would “mark and avoid” the pope and his followers.

The doctrine of ‘works righteousness’ which the papacy taught (and teaches to this day) is a soul-destroying heresy, which leads men away from reliance upon Christ *alone* for their salvation. Thus our Lutheran Confessions proclaim, “This article clearly shows that the Pope is the very Antichrist, who has exalted and opposed himself against Christ, because he does not wish Christians to be saved without his power, which nevertheless is nothing, and is neither established nor commanded by God. This is, properly speaking, to ‘exalt himself above all that is called God,’ as Paul says, 2 Thess. 2:4.” (Smalcald Articles II.IV.10) If these words seem harsh, please go back and read Galatians 1 and see what St. Paul says about those who teach a different ‘Gospel’ from the one true Gospel.

Reformation Sunday is a celebration of the work of the holy Trinity,

not a celebration of Luther and his co-workers in the Reformation. It is true that we do thank the Lord for the blessings which He gave to the Church through His use of these men, but the glory belongs to God alone.

The Latin phrase *sola gratia* (grace alone) is used a great deal in connection with Reformation Sunday, and it is a helpful 'shorthand' for the Gospel: we are indeed saved only by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, who died and rose again to make atonement for our sin and open the way to everlasting life.

The saving Gospel is so often obscured, and so it is in our generation. In this world, the Church is always contending against those temptations which would lead it astray from the foundation which we have in Christ Jesus. If the annual celebration of Reformation Sunday is one more reminder of our constant reliance upon the Lord of the Church to *preserve* His Church, then what a glorious celebration it truly is!

—Pastor Heiser




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	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	COMMUNED
September 5	51	\$1,326.00	44
September 12	56	\$1,350.00	39
September 19	66	\$1,413.00*	n.a.
September 26	65	\$2,312.00	n.a.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>\$6,401.00</b>	<b>83</b>

**Budget for 2004:** +\$1,463.68. A total of \$1,465.69 is needed each week for budgeted expenses.

\* In addition to \$1,413 in general offerings, \$60 was given toward the KHBR radio ministry.

**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.salemchurch.net>***