

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas

November 2007



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

Another year of the Church is rapidly drawing to its end; from the celebration of All Saints' Day through the Sunday of the Fulfillment/ Last Sunday after Trinity, the theme of the appointed Scripture lessons increasingly emphasizes the coming return of Christ Jesus in judgment. This is a time for us to be strengthened by the comforting Word of God which assures us that because of Jesus, we need not fear in that day, but stand secure in hope of the salvation which He accomplished for us through His suffering and death for us.

The world mocks the idea of a judgment at the same time that it fears it. Our 'permissive', democratic society wants to pretend that it can abolish sin if enough people can be persuaded to call "evil," and evil "good." The only true 'evil' in their eyes is that someone still believes that there is an objective right and wrong, and that God (not man) will judge all thoughts, words and actions.

Our consolation as Christians is not in our relative 'righteousness' of behavior but in Christ Jesus alone, who died for us, and rose again from the dead. As the end of another Church Year is not long in coming, so we know that it will not be long before we face the End, either in death, or in Christ's return in glory. Thanks be to God that we have the Word of God, which speaks peace and life to all who trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and hope of life eternal.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Heiser

From the Deacon

Dear Bishop Heiser and Fellow Saints of God at Salem:

I continue to thank our gracious God that He has brought us together through the mysterious and invisible working of His Word and Spirit, leading you to extend to me His Call into service as your Deacon and as your Missionary to the Northland!

It is no small thing that you have done. The fact that you have confirmed Christ's call to me has been a tremendous blessing to me. I would not dare to proclaim His Word of Absolution but for your confirmation that I am His called and ordained servant I would not dare to dip my hand into the font when called upon to pour out the water and word of Holy Baptism, nor dare to administer His Body and Blood from the altar, but for the fact that you have confirmed that I rightly remain a steward of the mysteries. I am grateful to the opportunity to publicly preach and teach the Word of God and administer the Sacraments of Christ, both in the South and in the North!



For purposes of the record, I will note that that I have made three trips to Texas since my installation.

I was privileged to preach from Salem's pulpit four times, and lead your Bible study twice. I appreciate your more than gracious hospitality as well!

I am also pleased to report that God continues His mighty work in the Northland as well. He has blessed richly the work of Saint Henry Lutheran Mission in Winter, Wisconsin, area. The saints there continue to desire to meet twice each month for our study of the Large Catechism as well as meet each Saturday evening for our study of the Gospel of Luke. We have received visitors to our Bible study in response to our advertising campaign, and have been making contact with a number of people who have indicated interest in a mission in Winter.

I am also pleased to report that the Winter mission is now developing its own own mission! A former Methodist church building, now under private ownership, has become available for our use. Located in the small town of

Tony, Wisconsin, it appears to have potential for development into a second congregation, especially in light of contacts we have been making in that area. On this very day, we are holding our first public service and Bible Study there!

With all of the activity taking place in the vicinity of Winter, small direct progress has been made on the further development of the Michigan mission. The Minnesota mission remains at the “preliminary discussion” stage.

You are invited to keep tabs on the work here by checking our little website: www.SaintHenry.info. I am delighted to report nearly 400 hits in the first two months!

The Lord your God, Who is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome—continue to be with you. “He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen” (Deuteronomy 10:21).

In His Service, and Yours,
Deacon Jeffrey A. Ahonen

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UPDATE: On October 21 (the date of the letter above), St. Henry Mission in Tony had 16 in attendance (including 5 non-Lutherans) and then 15 in attendance on October 28. Please keep Deacon Ahonen and the mission in your prayers! Pastor Heiser



Schedule for November

4 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	Noon	Board of Elders meeting
	3 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class
	5:30 P.M.	Fall Hay Ride ('Guy Fawkes' Day)
7 th	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class-Proverbs
11 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	Noon	Mission Fund Board meeting
	3 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class
14 th	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class-Proverbs
17 th	8 A.M.	Mens Fellowship Breakfast
	9 A.M.	Women's Guild meeting
	9 A.M.	Board of Trustees meeting
18 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	3 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class
21 st	7 P.M.	Thanksgiving Eve Service-Vespers
24 th	time T.B.A.	Decorate Church for Advent & Christmas
25 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service
28 th	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class-Proverbs

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE—We will have our annual Thanksgiving Eve service on November 21st, at 7 P.M. We will have a brief Vespers service.

CHURCH DECORATION—Salem will decorate for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, November 24th. Please watch the bulletin for the time we will start.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES will begin on Sunday, **December 2nd**. Like last year, a brief lunch will be provided after service, and then we will go straight to practice. We should be done by 2 P.M. each Sunday.

November Birthdays:

1	Richard Enders
2	Audrey Willenborg
4	Anna Belle Strauch
7	Gilberg Ender, Rosemary Kruger
8	Lizzie Youngblood
9	Tony Zettler
10	June Garcia
11	Martin Kelm
12	Conner Garcia
15	Agatha Krumvieda
20	Gary Kelm
29	Todd Williams, Patricia Henk
30	Margie Kucera

November Anniversaries:

1	Melvin and Pam Ender
3	Alton and Dorothy Markwardt
9	Ron and Sandra Perry
26	Don and Tina Schnell

Service in the Church for November:

Elder: Carl Payne

Ushers: Todd Schulz (Captain), Cliff Krumvieda, Alvin Ender, Eric Rachut, Del Schulz

Counters: Kenny Kelm, Todd Schulz, Lana Schulz

CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN MISSION FUND UPDATE—

As of October 28, \$12,217.47 has been contributed to the Confessional Lutheran Mission Fund. (Please remember, this is a total of offerings made to the fund since its creation, not an operating balance, since communion ware, vestments, and hymnals have been procured from this total.) Thank you for your on-going generosity in support of mission work! As you have opportunity, please help to continue building this fund, so that we may continue to assist missions as the opportunities present themselves. The Mission Fund Board will have its next meeting on November 11.

REPORT ON BBQ AND COOKIE CONTEST—“Thank you” to everyone involved in planning, preparing, cooking and baking last week! The work of the Mens Fellowship and Women’s Guild was truly appreciated by all who enjoyed the meal and desert. It was hard choosing winners in the cookie contest given the delicious range on entries, but the top three were: Lodie Banik (1st Place), Linda Rachut (2nd Place) and Pam Krumvieda (3rd Place). The cookie contest and sales raised \$33.15 for the Radio Ministry, and the BBQ raised another \$257 (after all expenses were paid), raising a total of \$290.15 in support of the ministry. When offerings in support of the Radio Ministry are added to this total, **in all \$470.15 was given**—enough to cover over three months of broadcasts.



NEW ALTAR CRUCIFIX DEDICATED—It is a great joy to dedicate a new crucifix to the glory of God and the beautification of His Church. The style of its design was chosen to be a close match to the missal stand, candelabra and processional crucifix. The crucifix was purchased in memory of Delta Schulz.

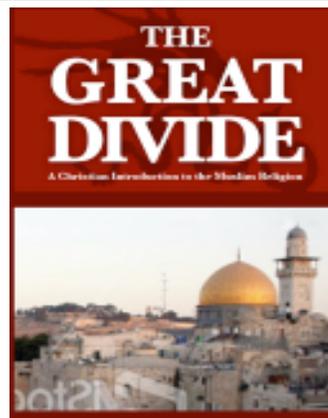


MEN'S FELLOWSHIP and **WOMEN'S GUILD** will have their regular monthly meetings on Saturday, November 17.

THE LUTHERAN HERALD—The new "Reformation" issue is available in the narthex.

THE REFORMATION: ITS OCCASION AND CAUSE, a booklet of materials drawn on the 19th century classics of American Lutheran theology, *The Conservative Reformation*, has been compiled by Pastor Frederick Davison, and is available in the narthex.

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS DECEMBER 2nd—The Adult Bible Class will begin a four-week study of Dr. Alvin Schmidt's DVD lecture on Islam, *The Great Divide*. Dr. Schmidt is an ordained Lutheran pastor and former seminary professor. The class will alternate between video segments and ample time for discussion. This will be a *very* important class series, so please make time on Sunday morning for these classes. All Christians have a great need to learn more about the deadly false religion of Islam. If it has been a while since you've been to Sunday morning class, this is an opportunity which is not to be missed. The class is scheduled to run from December 2 through December 23.



LUTHERAN HYMNODY INSERTS—Beginning October 21, pastor began a new series of bulletin inserts on Lutheran hymnwriters and hymnody (yes, there is a connection between his just completing a course on Lutheran hymnody and these inserts). The series of inserts should add up to approximately 25 installments. (The first two inserts covered Paul Gerhardt and Johann Heermann—hymnwriters of the 17th century who wrote (or contributed to writing) 31 of the hymns in *The Lutheran Hymnal*—an astonishing contribution for two men!) Watch for future installments!



Visitation of Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church—Pastor Heiser, in keeping with his responsibilities as bishop of the diocese conducted his visitation of Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Trenton, MI) on October 7th, preaching at the 9:30 A.M. service, and leading a discussion about the diocese in the Bible Class and lunch which followed.

Visitations provide opportunities for a bishop to examine the doctrine and practice of each pastor of the diocese, as well as speak with the members of the parishes, and encourage them in life as a congregation. The visitation of Pastor Raitz and Christ our Redeemer Lutheran was a joyous occasion; the members of the congregation are very happy to have a faithful Lutheran pastor. Pastor Raitz is also grateful for the opportunity to serve in such a congregation and readily spoke of how glad he was to be free of the false doctrine and division which so trouble the LC—MS.



Arkansas Pastor Resigns from LC—MS

The following is Pastor Anthony Oncken's letter to the LC—MS congregation (Zion Lutheran Church) which he served in Waldenburg, Arkansas. He has now been received into membership in the ELDoNA, and we are considering opportunities for his service to Christ's Church within our diocese in the future.

Pastor Heiser

October 17, 2007
Members of Zion,

Some have asked me why I'm leaving the LCMS, so I'd like to put it in writing "for the record" in order that folks may know my reasons clearly. Few have made the effort to talk to me personally, so I hope folks aren't relying on gossip, assumptions, and hear-say.

I was trained to be a Lutheran pastor, but when I became a pastor I was introduced to the inner-workings of the Missouri Synod organization. I soon realized that the synod has far more problems than is publicly realized.

- Open communion is officially called "closed communion with exceptions".
- Laymen preach regularly and consecrate the Lord's Supper with the synod's official blessing, contrary to what the Scriptures and Augsburg Confession say.
- The liturgy is being phased out and charismatic worship styles are being officially promoted.
- False teachers are protected, and faithful teachers of sound doctrine are denounced as "trouble-makers".
- Reasonable attempts to address problems and bring about repentance and change are ignored and denounced.

And so on. Come talk to me if you care to hear about the rest.

After first being ordained as a Lutheran pastor, I later signed for my official membership in the synod. These were two different and distinct events with different implications. At my ordination and installation as a pastor I swore to teach and uphold the Word of God, and the historic Lutheran Confessions because they are in agreement with the Word of God. But my

membership in the synod was based on the idea that as long as the synod is in agreement with God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions, then I will be in agreement with the synod. But through three years of seeing the synod's inner-workings, and my continuing study of the Word and the Lutheran Confessions I've come to realize that synod is not in agreement with them, and it hasn't been for at least twenty years, with no apparent efforts at correction.

To remain a willing member in silence, saying and doing nothing, is to condone all that is publicly and officially done in the name of the LCMS, and now that I know, I can't do that.

I placed in front of Zion's council the options of considering to withdraw Zion's own membership, or to discuss the synod's false doctrines and practice further through classes, or to officially go through the process of calling the synod to repent and change some of these errors. These suggestions were opposed and dismissed.

I have tried to "declare the whole counsel of God". I have taught according to His Word and the faithful doctrine of the Lutheran Confessions. No one can say I've taught any heresy or false teaching, nor has anyone offered any Scripture or sound doctrine to prove me false.

As far as my good works as your pastor, I sincerely tried to serve you well, but I know I could have done better at plenty of things. Those of you that I may have hurt with my shortcomings, please forgive me.

But again, I leave because it would be willfully dishonest for me to stay in the Missouri Synod, saying and doing nothing about its errors, for the sake of folks who don't wish to call our brothers to repentance. So it is better that I go to serve elsewhere, according to His Word and will.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you all, according to all that Christ has commanded. And I will always be at your service should any of you ever need anything from me.

Thank you for everything, in Christ,

Pastor Oncken

UPDATE: Last month's newsletter included a proposed resolution for **St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church** (Richland Center, WI), which resolved as follows:

Be it resolved, that St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church—both Pastor and Believing People—by the signators here below declares, the LCMS has broken fellowship with us;

And further be it resolved, that all may know which Teachers are to be received and approved by the Saints of God [1 Corinthians 11.19], we hereby “mark them and avoid” [Rom. 16.17ff.] the Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, the Rev. David Benke, and each and every other LC-MS pastor and congregation who fails to decry the abuses listed above including also that sin identified in our more brief resolution regarding “Ecclesiastical Supervision”;

And finally, having so marked and avoided these as false teachers, we reject all who teach otherwise.

The resolution was initially signed by Rev. Frederick Davison (the pastor of St. Luke Lutheran) and many officers of the congregation, and was presented to their congregational meeting on October 21. After much discussion, the resolution was adopted by the congregation, albeit by a small margin. Pastor Davison and St. Luke congregation now await response (if any shall be forthcoming) from the LC—MS.



Pastor Frederick Davison and Pastor Anthony Oncken during one of the 'lighter' moments of our recent synod the ELDoNA and the theological colloquium.