

# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas 76660

*Established 1886*

## September 2004

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

Who spake by the Prophets.

(Nicene Creed)

**C**onfessing that the Holy Spirit “spake by the Prophets,” the Church simply repeat what Holy Scripture teaches. As St. Peter wrote in his Second Epistle: “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (1:21) And our Lord clearly teaches that this work of the Holy Spirit was certainly not limited to the Old Testament. Jesus told His disciples: “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all the things that I said to you.” (John 14:26) Again, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” (John 15:26–27)

Thus St. Paul teaches, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (1 Tim. 3:16). Indeed, the Holy Spirit inspired St. Paul to so write to the Church! *All* Scripture is given by inspiration—what a blessing we have in knowing that the Holy Trinity has given us a sure Word of revelation!

We are blessed to live in this late age of the earth, for we read in Hebrews 1: “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;” (v. 1–2). The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and the Holy Spirit guided Christ’s disciples to faithfully record the written Word so that we would hear all that Christ would have us to hear.

*Yours in Christ, Pastor Heiser*



## **Salem welcomes Bill Graupner!**

Over the past few years, many of us have gotten to know Cliff's uncle, Bill Graupner. He has often visited us, and has generously given of his time on several major projects here at Salem.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Bill became a member of Salem by transfer from Zion Lutheran (Greenleaf, WI). We are grateful to have him in our fellowship!

## **Congratulations, Clay and Laura!**

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, Clay Grayson and Laura Watson were married here at Salem. It was a joy to see so many of their family and friends in attendance for the wedding service! All of us pray that the Lord will grant them many happy years of marriage, and that He would strengthen them in their faith in their Savior.



**Church Council Meeting**—The Church Council will meet on Saturday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>**, at **7 p.m.** We need to begin preparations for the October voters meeting, and we will be dividing the needed work between council meetings in September and October. Our agenda for this council meeting will include nominations for various offices and boards for service in 2005, as well as considering constitutional modifications (as requested by the August 1<sup>st</sup> voters meeting).

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**Board of Elders Meeting**—The Elders will have their regular monthly meeting on **September 7<sup>th</sup>** at **7:15 p.m.**

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**Board of Education Meeting**—The Board of Education will have a brief meeting following Divine Service on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

—*Denise*

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**Salem Ladies Aide**—All of those ladies who were affiliated with the LWML are encouraged to attend the meeting on **September 5<sup>th</sup>**, at noon. There will be much that needs to be discussed concerning future plans.

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**Salem Lutheran Men's Fellowship**—We will have our monthly breakfast and Bible study on **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**. As usual, our breakfast begins at **8 a.m.** All men of the congregation are strongly encouraged to attend!

*Pastor Heiser*

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

Starting with September, we'll be having a monthly birthday/anniversary party to celebrate the events during that month. It will (generally) be the third Sunday of the month at noon, beginning 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! This month it will be September 19<sup>th</sup>.

—*Donna*

# Higher Things

DARE TO BE LUTHERAN

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Higher Things, Inc.

8-20-04

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Jeff Schwert

Dr. Gene Edward Veith

Melle Dwyer

Dear Jim,

Thank you so much for the session you led at City of God. I have heard several comments about your session and know that it was very helpful to those who attended it and you also helped the conference to be a great success.

God's blessings to you and your congregation.

Yours in Christ,



Visit our webpage:  
[www.HigherThings.org](http://www.HigherThings.org)

*Note: At the Seattle Conference, I spoke to approximately 130 youth in the two sessions of my presentation on the relationship between the Christian Faith and modern science. Pastor*

**SALEM'S WEBSITE**—Have you visited the congregational website ([www.salemlutheranchurch.net](http://www.salemlutheranchurch.net)) recently? Cliff has implemented several important additions to the site:

- a link to Pastor's weblog (which includes many pictures of events here at Salem)
- a documents page, where PDF versions of newsletters, convention reports and other items may be downloaded

Also, you are encouraged to visit the sites maintained by Bride of Christ Lutheran Church (in Wichita, KS):

[www.brideofchristelc.com](http://www.brideofchristelc.com)

and Concordia Lutheran Church (in Visalia, CA):

[www.concordiavisalia.org](http://www.concordiavisalia.org)

***In case you've wondered what type of response I've received to Salem's recent decision to leave the LCMS, the following are some of the e-mails I've received recently. Since our newsletters are posted to the congregational website, I've withheld the names of those writing to protect them from retaliation.***

***Pastor Heiser***

The LORD be with you. Such a move will not be so easy in my congregation; nevertheless, I pray for the day when our congregations are in full fellowship, and welcome your efforts to effect such. Cordially,

Pastor \*\*\*\*\*

Virginia

Greetings Rev. Heiser and Salem,

Congratulations on having the courage and love to sever your connection with the LCMS. If there is ever anything I can do, please do not hesitate to ask.

Rev. Mark D. Ochsankohl

Albuquerque, NM

Dear Pastor Heiser,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you and your congregation, that your faith is spoken of throughout the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

I want to tell you that I appreciate your excellent report on the sad travesty of the 2004 Convention of the LCMS. I also applaud your faithfulness and that of your congregation in taking a stand against the heresy that has infected our Synod. I regret that many in the congregation of which I am the pastor have not yet been brought to the point where they see a need for any great concern, but I am trying to teach them....

Keep up the faithful work. These are trying times for those of us who would remain faithful to our Lord and His Word. Hopefully my congregation and I will soon join you in taking a public stand for the truth of God's Word. God is faithful and He will not fail us. Pray that we will not fail Him. God's richest blessings on you and your congregation as you work through the next steps of your faith journey through life.

Rev. \*\*\*\*\*

Illinois

Dear Pastor Heiser,

May I have permission to distribute copies of “Here We Have No Continuing City” to my congregation?

In Christ,  
Rev. \*\*\*\*\*  
Michigan

Brother,

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

I have just downloaded your assessment of the convention. Rev. \*\*\*\*\* directed me to it. Will you grant me permission to distribute this to my congregation, elders and other confessional pastors in my circuit? We, my congregation, is about to deliberate whether it remains with the LCMS or I leave the church in a few weeks. I have promised my parish to withhold any action until the final documents from the convention are received and studied. Your presentation will go far in determining our direction....

Rev. \*\*\*\*\*  
Florida

Just read your Convention report. May I publish it as info for my congregation? Advise. Thanks

Rev. \*\*\*\*\*  
Ohio

Christ’s peace to you Jim and all the Saints. Indeed it is the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments which unites us truly.

Peace,

Your brother in Christ and Office,

Rev. \*\*\*\*\*  
Indiana

Brother,

Greetings to you in the name of Him Who is both Lord and Savior! Could you send me five copies of you very excellent Convention report? Four would be for my elders and one for myself, who left his copy at Brenham. I’ll be happy to pay for postage. If you will be at the Free Conference, you may wish to give me the copies at Brenham. If not, could you mail them to me? I would be very appreciative if you could do me and our elders this favor.

A suggestion: why not prepare a goodly number of copies and have them available at the Free Conference? ... I suspect the copies will go like hotcakes. You did a wonderful job in your report. ...

Rev. \*\*\*\*\*

Pr. Heiser,  
GOD bless you and Salem as you follow his Word!

Helen \*\*\*\*\*

Pastor Heiser,

I am a member of the LCMS from \*\*\*, MO. I am very concerned about my church (LCMS). I found your "Here we have no Continuing City" on the internet & started reading it. But I cannot find your "And what Communion has Light with Darkness." Can you direct me to a site or send me a \*.pdf copy of the document?

Thank you so much & thank you for writing these documents in a clear manner that lay people can understand.

God's blessings on you and your church. He is surely with you and your church.

A sister in Christ,  
Ginny \*\*\*\*\*

Pr. Heiser, I am very impressed with your congregation's action (leaving LCMS). I had heard about it from my parents who live in Fredericksburg, TX. ... we will keep you and your congregation in our prayers. May God bless your ministry there!

Karen \*\*\*\*\*

Hi Pr. Heiser,

I caught the information on your congregation leaving the LCMS from Rev. Loeschman. Good for you! It's a stand that is louder than words. ...

Brad \*\*\*\*\*  
Michigan

Dear Rev. Heiser,

I read with interest your thread on parting from LCMS. As a layman in an apathetic congregation in western Virginia, I'd love to find a Lutheran church around here that has made the choice to sever relations with the synod. Do you have a list of churches you can share?

Fred \*\*\*\*\*  
Virginia



## **The Independent Lutheran Conference was a Success!**

Pastors from Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, California, Texas, Kansas and Illinois gathered here at Salem on August 30–31 to discuss possibilities for the future of confessional Lutherans post-Missouri. A brotherly spirit predominated throughout the conference, and the pastors found that fundamental agreement existed between them, both in terms of doctrine and practice. The pastors of the five independent parishes were able to sign a joint statement which reflects this agreement, and this statement will be given to the congregational voters assemblies for affirmation.

All of the pastors truly appreciated the warm hospitality which they received from the members of Salem! The generous support which you offered them—including food and offers of housing during the conference—helped them know how welcome they truly were.

Approximately 40–45 will be invited for the next conference, which is tentatively scheduled for January (and which will be hosted by another parish). By the grace of the Holy Trinity, we are seeing progress—and more quickly than we might have hoped! Please continue to keep the faithful Lutherans in your prayers!



*Pr. Hudson addressing the conference*





*From left to right: Pastor Rutowicz, Pastor Heiser, Pastor Hudson, Pastor Siems, Pastor Brown*

## The Malone Statement

In Christian love and after honest discussion, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we recognize and acknowledge agreement in doctrine among the undersigned as faithful, orthodox pastors who share a common commitment to the teaching of Holy Scripture as confessed in the Book of Concord (1580). We further recognize and acknowledge the faithful ministry of the undersigned, and we encourage the saints entrusted to our care to partake of Word and Sacrament ministry at those congregations served by the undersigned pastors. We pledge ourselves to mutual encouragement and to support our brother pastors and the congregations entrusted to their care. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we anticipate this communion will continue to grow, and we pray the Lord of the Church to strengthen this fellowship which He has established in our midst.

Subscribed this Thirty-first Day of August, Anno Domini 2004.

*Pastor Clark Brown*

The Rev. Clark Brown, Pastor, Concordia Ev. Lutheran Church, Visalia, CA

*Pastor James Heiser*

The Rev. James Heiser, Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Malone, TX

*Pastor C. D. Hudson*

The Rev. C. D. Hudson, Pastor, Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Richmond, MO

*Pastor John Rutowicz*

The Rev. John Rutowicz, Pastor, St. Boniface Ev. Lutheran Church, Niles, MI

*Pastor Paul A. Siems*

The Rev. Paul Siems, Bride of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS



## **Church gains members and worship space First service at new church set for Aug. 1**

(From the *Visalia Times-Delta*, July 26, 2004)

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church started out in December meeting in its members' homes and in February rented space to hold services in West Visalia Grange Hall.

The fledgling church, which started out with seven families and now has nearly 50 members, is making another move to an actual church building, sharing space with Visalia's Community of Christ Church at 2127 S. Giddings Ave.

Concordia was formed by former members of Visalia's Grace Lutheran Church who decided to strike out on their own over issues of worship practices and religious doctrine.

Clark Brown, Concordia's pastor, said Community of Christ leaders approached members of his congregation with the offer.

"We do have some friendship ties. Some of our members are friends with some of theirs," he said. "The offer came to share, and it coincided with our desire to have something that looked like a regular worship setting."

Concordia Evangelical will hold its first service at Community of Christ at 10:45 a.m. on Aug. 1, Brown said, adding that Bible studies, confirmation classes and some special services also will be held there during the week.

In exchange for the use of the church, Brown said, Concordia will pay rent—"It's considerably more than we paid at the Grange Hall"—and members of his congregation will help out with groundskeeping and building maintenance.

As for sharing a church belonging to a denomination "whose theology we don't recognize," Brown said he researched whether accepting the offer would violate his church's practices.

He summed up his conclusion in a Bible verse: "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, as Christ says, there I am in their midst," which he summed up as, wherever his congregation gathers to worship, "we need not fear who owns the building."

Get information on Concordia and a map to its new worship site online at <http://www.concordiaonline.org/>.

## Needed for the Kitchen:

- Forks
- Paper Towels
- 8 oz. cups
- detergent

	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	COMMUNED
July 25	61	\$1,985.00	n.a.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>\$5,866.50</b>	<b>95</b>
August 1	68	\$1,598.25	51
August 8	44	\$1,043.41	38
August 15	45	\$2,223.00*	n.a.
August 22	62	\$ 903.00†	n.a.
August 29	55	\$1,153.00	n.a.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>\$6,920.66</b>	<b>89</b>

**Budget for 2004:** +\$925.34. A total of \$1,465.69 is needed each week for budgeted expenses.

\* In addition to \$2,223 in general offerings, \$221 was given in the door offering to help with conference expenses.

† In addition to \$903 in general offerings, \$140 was given in the door offering to help with conference 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: KHDR (1560 AM) Sunday at 9:15 a.m.***

***On the Web: <http://www.salemchurch.net>***