

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas

August 2007



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

“Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: ‘Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory,

The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.’” (1 Cor. 29, O.T. for Trinity 9).

How great are the love and mercy of the Lord! He gives and preserves to us all good things—and above all else we rejoice in the salvation which is ours because of Christ’s blood shed for us. We often are slow to remember His mercy toward us—that He gives to us daily bread, and also the Bread of Life—and we often take His blessings for granted, until, for a time, we suffer lack. Such times are a chastening for us, as a father lovingly chastens his children, so that we would repent and, like the prodigal son, return to our father’s house.

The Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith”—thus we confess in the explanation of the Apostles’ Creed. He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us through the Word and Sacraments—these are His means of grace. Through these precious gifts of the Holy Trinity, we are forgiven our sins and made partakers of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God that the Holy Spirit thus unites the holy Church in the “one true faith”—for there is *one* true faith, and apart from that faith, there is only darkness and error. Man could not find the saving truth by his own reason or strength; the Lord has revealed the truth through the Word, by the working of the Holy Spirit, and through that Word we receive the hope of salvation which will not disappoint.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Heiser*

From the Deacon

Greetings From The Northland!

We are on the move again!

After Mariann and I departed Ladysmith in early June to begin this new venture with you, we landed 100 miles North, in the little town of Montreal, Wisconsin. We took up residence in a fully-furnished rental house, intending it to be a temporary home while we continued to search for comfortable yet inexpensive housing.

That search has ended. On August 1st, we will officially be residents of the State of Michigan, as we will relocate three miles East to a two-bedroom duplex in the city of Ironwood (population of 6,000). We moved our furniture (and my library!) out of storage this past weekend and began setting up our new household. We thank the many of you who have been praying for such an opportunity to open up for us, and we thank our Lord for answering those prayers.

It was a great blessing and great pleasure to be with you on Sunday, July 15th. I appreciated very much the opportunity to preach to you the Good News of our salvation, which comes to us by God the Father's grace on account of His Son's merits through the Spirit-created faith. It was also nice to visit with you, albeit briefly, before we departed to our work in Houston as observers of the Missouri Synod convention and as encouragers of our faithful brethren who continue to fight the good fight within the Missouri Synod.

Work in this northern mission field also progressed nicely during the month of July, under the gracious Hand of our Lord. At the Wisconsin Mission, our biweekly study group continued to meet for our ongoing study of Luther's Large Catechism. Our lay leaders are continuing to work on securing a facility in which we can hold services and an additional midweek Bible study.

I have sent written proposals to the owners of four vacant church buildings in an effort to rent these facilities for our Michigan Mission and a possible second additional Wisconsin Mission. While none of these owners have been quick to respond to the proposals, neither were they quick to reject the proposal. We eagerly wait to see what the Lord will provide for us in this regard.

Likewise do we wait eagerly upon the Lord to see what might happen with regard to the development of a Minnesota Mission. We continue to hear about scattered Lutherans who are seeking orthodox Lutheran

congregations. We shall continue to follow-up on these contacts to see how we might be able to help.

Again, your continuing prayers for the mission will be greatly appreciated, for we pray to the Who is pleased to answer our prayers, in accord with His good and gracious will for us.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about any of our mission activities.

In His Service, and Yours,

Deacon Jeffrey A. Ahonen

Physical Address: 919 Nightingale Street, Ironwood, Michigan 49938

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 91, Montreal, Wisconsin 54550

Cell Phone: (715) 403-1433

E-Mail: jahonen@mac.com

CONFESSONAL LUTHERAN MISSION FUND UPDATE—As of July 29, \$11,882.47 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 ongoing generosity in support of mission work! **The fund has provided communion ware, some vestments, and hymnals to Dcn. Ahonen.** As you have opportunity, please help to continue building this fund, so that we may continue to assist missions as the opportunities present themselves.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE DIOCESE—It should be observed that all diocesan work (congregational visitations, diocesan representation at various conventions and conferences, etc.) is financially supported by the diocese. In other words, when Pastor Heiser carries out his responsibilities (such as the recent visit to congregations in Missouri and Kansas) it is the *diocese*, not Salem Lutheran Church, which covers the expenses.

The diocese is financially supported through special offerings by members of Salem and other congregations of the diocese, as well as through sale of the ELDoNA pins and gifts from other supportive clergy and laity.

If you wish to support the work of the diocese, you may use one of the envelopes located on the table in the narthex.

Schedule for August

Mon.1 st	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class-Proverbs
Sun.5 th	9:30 A.M.	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Communion
	noon	Board of Elders
	6:30-8:30 P.M.	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Mon.6 th	6:30-8:30 P.M.	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Tues.7 th	6:30-8:30 P.M.	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Wed.8 th	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class—Proverbs
	6:30-8:30 P.M.	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Thr.9 th	6:30-8:30 P.M.	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Sun.12 th	9:30 A.M.	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Communion
13 th -17 th		Pastor on vacation*
Sat.18 th	8 A.M.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
	9 A.M.	Women's Guild
	9 A.M.	Board of Trustees
Sun.19 th	9:30 A.M.	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Communion
Wed.22 nd	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class—Proverbs
Sat.25 th	9 A.M.	CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY
Sun.26 th	9:30 A.M.	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service
Tue.28 th	8 A.M.	DIVINE SERVICE-HOLY COMMUNION
		Festival of St. Bartholomew (transferred)
		Day of the 2007 Diocesan Synod-ELDoNA
	5 P.M.	VESPERS-Commemoration of St. Augustine
Wed.29 th	8:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.	THEOLOGICAL COLLOQUIUM
	6:30 P.M.	DIVINE SERVICE-HOLY COMMUNION
		Festival of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
	7:30 P.M.	Potluck for Salem and members of the diocese
30 th -31 st		Pastor Heiser and Deacon Ahonen at the meeting of the Augustana Ministerium at Charity-Burleson

* Please note: there will NOT be Midweek Class on August 15.

August Birthdays:

1st Dana Krueger, Wyla Tanner, Tommie Kruger, Louis Monthey
10th Lillie Radke
17th Lana Schulz, Dorothy Markwardt
19th Joyce Crumpton
20th Jimmie Williams
23rd Connie Hackett

August Anniversaries:

3rd Lothar and Lillie Radke (Happy 67th!)

Service in the Church for August:

Elder: Carl Payne

Ushers: Kenneth Kelm (Capt.), Ronald Banik,

Heath Krueger, Tim Kucera, Kenny Kelm II

Counters: Kenneth Kelm, Todd Schulz, Lana Schulz

Congratulations, Sean!

Sean Fant finished his training at the Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, and graduated on July 5. He was back with us on July 8, and Salem had the opportunity to honor his accomplishment with a reception following the Divine Service. He has now been deployed to Eagle Pass. Please keep Sean, and all who thus serve our nation, in your prayers.



THANK YOU to everyone for your kind words and encouragement last Sunday (July 29). It saddens me that I must step aside from playing the organ because of the increasing pain which I have been enduring, but I am thankful that the Lord has given me the opportunity to play the organ over the past 50 years. It has been a joy to play for the Lord, and for all of you. —Patsy Williams

KHBR RADIO MINISTRY—If you wish to contribute to the support of the radio outreach, the cost per weekly broadcast is \$30. Such offerings may be placed in the regular Sunday offering—just mark the envelope “radio ministry” (checks should be made to Salem Lutheran Church).



Detailed Schedule for the Upcoming Diocesan Synod and Theological Colloquium

It is once again our privilege and opportunity to host the synod (or meeting) and theological conference (or colloquium) of our diocese. (By point of comparison, these meetings take the place of the old “circuit” meetings and pastoral conference.) Pastors from around the United States will be joining us for these two days.

The diocesan synod (Tuesday) is the meeting of the clergy of the diocese. All members of Salem are invited and encouraged to join us for the Divine Service at 8 A.M. and Vespers at 5 P.M. Much of the day’s schedule concerns various labors of the diocese: publications, mission work, outreach to other synods and fellowships, etc. As the purpose of the diocesan synod focuses primarily on the pastoral work of the diocese, we welcome laity and guests when appropriate, but we will go into closed session if the matters to be discussed are deemed by the bishop to warrant such.

The diocesan synod will conclude on Wednesday evening, with the Divine Service at 6:30 P.M., followed by the Potluck dinner at 7:30 P.M. All members are strongly encouraged to join us for the service, and dinner to follow. This will be an opportunity to get to know the pastors of our fellowship.

The Colloquium (which makes up the majority of our Wednesday schedule) is a so-called “Free Conference”—presenters and attendees are from a variety of synods, gathering for the purpose of theological education and edification. It is open to pastors and laity, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

If you would be willing to help with meals, snacks, etc. throughout these two days, please speak with Penny Payne, who has volunteered to help coordinate such efforts.

—Pastor Heiser

Tuesday, August 28

7:00-7:30 A.M.	Private Confession and Absolution Available
8:00–9:00 A.M.	Divine Service- <i>Festival of St. Bartholomew</i>
9:00–9:30 A.M.	Breakfast
9:30–9:40 A.M.	Greeting from the Bishop
9:40–11 A.M.	Parish Reports by Clergy of the ELDoNA
11:05–11:45 A.M.	Report of the ELHB Hymn Committee
11:45–Noon	The Suffrages (Deacon Ahonen)
Noon–1 P.M.	Lunch
1 P.M.–1:30 P.M.	Report of the Bishop, Part One
1:30P.M.–2 P.M.	<i>The Lutheran Herald</i> -Schedule and Contents for '07-'08

2–3:00 P.M.	Discussion of Plans for a Seminary
3–3:15 P.M.	Break
3:15–3:30 P.M.	Salem Lutheran Mission Fund Report
3:30–3:45 P.M.	Consideration of a Response to Vatican Proclamation on the Church
3:45–4 P.M.	Report on Colloquies
4–4:15 P.M.	Greetings from ACLC, TAM, and other invited guests
4:15–4:45 P.M.	Response to questions from attendees
4:45–5 P.M.	Report of the Bishop, Part Two
5–5:45 P.M.	Vespers— <i>Commemoration of St. Augustine</i>
5:45–6:30 P.M.	<i>Hiatus</i>
6:30 P.M.–	Dinner at Frenkie’s in Hillsboro

Wednesday, August 29

8:30–9:15 A.M.	Registration
9:15–9:30 A.M.	Welcome
9:30–10:15 A.M.	Ahonen, “The Lutheran Rite in 16 th Century Sweden”
10:15–10:30 A.M.	Q&A
10:30–11:30 A.M.	Heimbigner, “The Reliability of Sacramental Acts by Sectarians”
11:30–11:45 A.M.	Q&A
11:45 A.M.–12:45 P.M.	LUNCH (Provided for Conference Attendees)
12:45–1:30 P.M.	Heiser, “The Decree of Uppsala (1593) and the Confessional Lutheran Church in Sweden”
1:30–1:45 P.M.	Q&A
1:45–2:45 P.M.	Henson, “A Report on the 2007 Convention of the LC—MS”
2:45–3 P.M.	Q&A
3–3:15 P.M.	BREAK
3:15–4 P.M.	Stefanski, “‘Unity in Diversity,’ An Unsavory Recipe for Catechesis”
4–4:15 P.M.	Q&A
4:15–5 P.M.	Totten, “Non Sequitur: The Proper Distinction between Walther and Pieper”
5–5:15 P.M.	Q&A
5:15–5:30 P.M.	Concluding Remarks
6:30–7:30 P.M.	Divine Service— <i>The Festival of the Martyrdom of St. John</i>
7:30 P.M.	Potluck Dinner for members of Salem, ELDoNA attendees, and guests

Report on the 2007 Convention of The LC—MS

The following was sent to the pastors of the diocese following our return from Houston, since one of the pastors had requested a report on the events at the convention, and many have been curious as to our assessment of the events of that week.



Brothers in Christ and friends of the ELDoNA,

As one of you asked me to furnish a report on the recent LC—MS convention in Houston, I am sending this to all of you, that you might have it for your own consideration, and for that of the saints entrusted to your care.

First, I must express my gratitude to Pastor Rutowicz and Deacon Ahonen, for their support throughout the convention. They were invaluable, and I am very grateful for their involvement in the ELDoNA reception and hospitality suite, and in other efforts throughout the week. We were also assisted by Dr. Cliff and Pam Krumvieda, Dr. Eric Rachut, and my family. Pam handled almost all the planning for the suite and reception, and between all of us, we were able to offer a place of refuge for confessional clergy and lay delegates throughout the convention. There were many people who stopped by for a while for encouragement, or for a chance to 'vent', to renew old acquaintances, and to learn more about the ELDoNA. The members of Salem were extremely generous in providing the means for us to offer this hospitality.

As welcome as we were among the confessional brethren, the reaction was just as hostile from other quarters. Dcn. Ahonen was notified prior to the convention by an aide to President Kieschnick that our presence would not be acknowledged, and at least one district president (no less than the 'famous' Dr. David Benke) has publicly mocked us for being there. In Benke's words: "ELDoNA literally swept into the LCMS convention." There is no word whether or not this seeming contradiction—"Was ELDoNA 'there' or not?"—has gotten Dr. Benke in trouble with his Ecclesiastical Supervisor.

As all of you are no doubt aware, Pres. Kieschnick and his Jesus First-aligned allies within the synod were reelected. There were a few 'confessional' or 'conservative' candidates who were elected to office, but by and large their numbers have further dwindled from the last convention.

Included among the more disturbing actions of the convention are the following:

- 1) The 70% vote for fellowship with the AALC. The AALC is notorious for its weak communion policy (many of its churches freely practice open communion), its numerous Charismatics, and its acceptance of freemasons. One Missouri Synod District President rose in opposition to the motion because (he alleged) several of the pastors of the AALC had been removed from the LC—MS. Astoundingly, the convention voted for fellowship with far from a unanimous vote: no one seemed willing to discuss what should be done about the 30% of delegates who rejected fellowship with the AALC.
- 2) Adoption of the SMPP by a 76% majority. The SMPP will result in "specific ministry" pastors being ordained after receiving only five seminary classes. Although this was "sold" under the idea that it would replace the lay ministry program (which exists in direct contradiction of the Augsburg Confession), the convention did NOT end the lay ministry, but instead voted to 'study' the lay ministry for another three years. So, in short, the SMPP only makes the problem worse, allowing the unscriptural lay ministry to continue, while adding a growing number of inadequately trained clergy to the synod.
- 3) The LC—MS will, once again, "restudy" administration of the Lord's Supper (thus allowing the widespread practice of open communion to be studied to death, apparently), while also "restudying" the role of women in the Church.
- 4) Bylaw changes which further strengthen the president of the synod.
- 5) the complete FAILURE to address the "state of confession" initiated by several LC—MS congregations. Trinity Lutheran (Herrin-IL) and St. Paul Lutheran (Edna, TX) both went through the synodically-prescribed process for a "state of confession" only to find the numerous matters of false doctrine and unbiblical practice which concern them remained unaddressed. The synod lacked the decency to even give consideration to this serious matter. When a congregation declares itself to be in a "state of confession," this means that such a church intends to sever its connection to the synod if the synod does not repent. The failure to take up discussion (let alone action) on the points

raised by these congregations was generally perceived to mean that the synod was saying, "Who cares? Go ahead and leave."

It appears that the LC—MS will have a special convention in 2009 for the purpose of making constitution and bylaw changes. The biggest worries that I was hearing expressed by delegates in this regard pertained to the possibility of proportional representation (that is, big churches getting more say at conventions) and congregational assessments (that is, 'taxing' the churches, based on membership). Whether such things will come to pass is yet unknown, but certainly there were many delegates who were worried that this was what was coming.

For those of you who are familiar with my 2001 and 2004 convention reports, one might easily look at Convention 2007 and say: "This convention was simply more of the same: the same false doctrine and unbiblical practice." I am sure that Pastor Henson will give us a very thorough examination of the convention when he speaks at the theological colloquium in August.

Following the convention, I've been receiving emails and phone calls from all over the country. There have also been several contacts from overseas. At present, several LC—MS pastors have requested applications for membership in the ELDoNA. I must stress in the strongest terms that the ELDoNA was not in Houston to "recruit," but there are many confessional pastors looking around and asking, "Where can I find a confessional Lutheran fellowship?" It is my hope and prayer that our diocese will stand steadfast upon God's Word and our Lutheran Confession.



CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY—The Women's Guild is sponsoring a "Clean Up" day on **Saturday, August 25**, to prepare for the synod and conference here at Salem. We'll be cleaning inside and outside and everyone is welcome to come and help! **We'll start at 9 A.M.** VACUUMS AND HEDGE TRIMMERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED. Please do what you can to help our beautiful church shine!

VBS

"The Remission of Sins"

*Bring your
children to
VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL this year!*



Learn about the great GIFT that forgiveness is,
and the great OFFICE that gives this gift!

Worship Crafts Music Snacks Fun Learning
Activities Puppets

Dates: August 5TH - 9TH

Time: 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Age Range: Pre-School - 7TH grade