

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas

December 2006



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

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) The Christ came in great humility to accomplish our redemption; His glory was revealed upon the Mount of Transfiguration and following His resurrection. In these penitential days of Advent, the world around us gives itself over to self-indulgence and, frankly, worship of Mammon. We hear that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," but for many, He's not.

For others, the seduction is more subtle, transforming the Holy Day into a celebration of the family. Certainly there is nothing wrong with family gathering to observe such a day and to join together in the joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior! But it is easy to forget that the day is about something even more important than our earthly families—the Second Person of the Holy Trinity became man so that through Him we receive adoption as sons of the heavenly Father. As you celebrate with family in this holy season, above all please remember that holy family into which you have been adopted through holy Baptism.

The Christian observance of Advent and Christmas is lived in receiving the Christ Child as He comes to us through His Word and His Body and Blood. Christ-Mass draws its name and essence from the Mass celebrated on the Festival of the Nativity; without the Mass (Divine Service), there is no "Christmas." But because of the birth of the Christ Child, we have a Christ-Mass, and the Incarnate Word speaks peace to us, and feeds us with His own body and blood. "This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die." (John 6:50)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Heiser

Schedule for December

3 rd	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	12:30–2 p.m.	Christmas Program Practice
4 th	7 p.m.	Board of Elders
6 th	11 a.m.	Bible Study—Psalms
	7:30 p.m.	Advent Vespers Service
10 th	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	11:45 a.m.	Board of Trustees
	12:30–2 p.m.	Christmas Program Practice
13 th	11 a.m.	Bible Study—Psalms
	7:30 p.m.	Advent Vespers Service
15 th	6 p.m.	CHRISTMAS PARTY
17 th	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	12:30–2 p.m.	Christmas Program Practice
20 th	11 a.m.	Bible Study—Psalms
	7:30 p.m.	Advent Vespers Service
22 nd	3 p.m.	CHRISTMAS CAROLING
24 th	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Divine Service
	6 p.m.	Pre-Program Carols and Christmas hymns
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Program
25 th	10 a.m.	Divine Service-Feast of the Holy Nativity
27 th	7:30 p.m.	Vespers—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
31 st	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Matins Service
	7:30 p.m.	Divine Service-Communion

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON... AND THE MASS IS THE REASON FOR THE DAY! How could it be Christmas without the Mass (Divine Service)? As we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, we receive Him as He comes to us through His Word and His Body and Blood. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! The Divine Service will be at 10 a.m.

December Birthdays:

- 2nd: Anastasia Heiser, Noah Baxter
- 4th: Don Schnell
- 6th: David Westmoreland
- 9th: Haley Kelm
- 11th: Jeff Stuckley
- 15th: Edwin Joe Kucera, Pastor Heiser
- 19th: Edward Krueger
- 21st: James Piel, Alexis Baxter
- 23rd: Lillian Piel
- 27th: Tommy Westmoreland
- 30th: Jason Westmoreland, Cliff Krumvieda

December Anniversaries:

- 21st: Todd and Shannon Henkel (Happy 15th Anniversary!)
- 23rd: David and Tina Bow



REMEMBER, REMEMBER, THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER!—We celebrated “Guy Fawkes Day” in style, with a hay ride, bonfire, and a feast (well, hot dogs and marshmallows!). It was a lot of fun—thanks to everyone who was involved.

Ladies' Guild and Men's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship

The Ladies' Guild had its monthly meeting on November 18th, and had elections for 2007 officers. Donna Huse was reelected as President, and Penny Payne was elected as Secretary.

The CHRISTMAS PARTY will be December 15th at 6 p.m. All members of Salem are invited. Guild members will provide the main meal; others may bring cookies and snacks if they so desire. We will play bingo again this year.

Proceeds from the Reformation Day Coffee Cake Contest (\$35.85) are being donated to the Confessional Lutheran Mission Fund.

The Men's Fellowship had several guests at its November meeting, including Pastor C. D. Hudson (Christ Lutheran-Richmond, MO) and Mr. David Noe. Mr. Noe was having his colloquy meeting for membership in the diocese on Friday and Saturday, and was our guest at breakfast. Pastor Hudson addressed the men's group regarding the need to remain faithful to God's Word, and the joys of fellowship with those who share such a commitment.

There will not be a meeting of the Men's Fellowship in December—we plan to meet again in January.

CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN MISSION FUND UPDATE

Earlier this year, the voters decided to establish the Confessional Lutheran Mission Fund, and elected the first mission board. Now, with the regular voters meeting in October, this board was reelected to serve in 2007.

The initial goal of \$5,000 by July 1 was met and exceeded; the July voters meeting set a new goal of \$10,000 by the end of the year. The fund has now passed the \$8,000 mark, but we still have a way to go. Please help the fund—and help future missions! (Our thanks to the Women's Guild for their generous gift.)



Please Help Beautify the Church for Christmas!

Beginning December 3rd, there will be a sign-up sheet for poinsettias in the narthex. (If you are getting the poinsettias in memory of someone, please let us know in the sign-up sheet.) A price for the poinsettias was not known at the time when this newsletter was being pulled together—we'll announce that as soon as possible.

Advent Vespers Services Begin December 6th

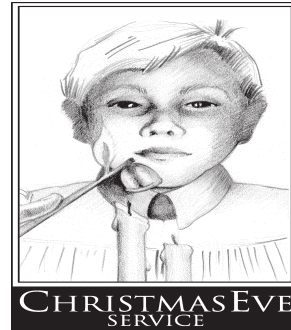
Advent always begins on the Sunday nearest St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30th), and thus beginning this year on December 3rd. Our midweek Vespers services will begin December 6th, at 7:30 p.m.

December 6th:	Savior of the Nations, Come Psalm 24; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-5, 14
December 13th:	Once He Came in Blessing Psalm 96; Hebrews 9:26b-28; John 14:1-4, 18-20
December 20th:	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Psalm 98; Isaiah 7:10-14; Matthew 1:18-23

This year's emphases draw their theme from the sung confession of the faith contained in hymns of the season. At a time when so many people think of the gifts we give to each other at ChristMass, this is a helpful (and necessary) correction to our way of thinking!

Sunday School-Board of Education

Christmas Program practice began on November 26th, but it's not too late to become involved! Our remaining practices will be on **December 3rd, 10th and 17th**, running from **12:30** until **2 p.m.** A lunch will be provided each day, so that children may remain at church following the Divine Service, and not have to rush home between church and practice. The Christmas Program will be at 6:30 p.m.



Parents! Here is your dream opportunity! Donna Huse and Pam Krumvieda have volunteered to keep the children after practice until 6 P.M. on Sunday, December 17th. They hope to give parents a chance to shop, wrap gifts, clean house or just enjoy their spouse for the afternoon.

Salem Choir

The first practice for the Christmas season is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th. For this date we will plan the music and practice schedule. On Friday, December 22nd at 3 P.M. we will be singing Christmas carols to shut-ins and members who reside in nursing homes in Hubbard and Hillsboro. From Salem we will likely go to Hubbard then work our way to Hillsboro. Following caroling those who wish to share a soup supper may return to Salem. If Christmas caroling at the nursing homes works out well, plans to do the same for Easter will follow.

—Pam Krumvieda

FESTIVAL of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist—We will have service on **Wednesday, December 27th**, celebrating a 7:30 p.m. *spoken Vespers*. The three days after Christmas are all festival days of the Church: St. Stephen, St. John, and the Holy Innocents, Martyrs.



Colloquy Board Convenes at Salem—on November 17th and 18th, a colloquy board consisting of Dr. Heimbigner, Bp. Heiser and Pr. Hudson met with Mr. David Noe. Mr. Noe has made application to serve as an ordained deacon within the diocese. The board was extremely pleased with Mr. Noe's knowledge and is making plans to complete his education for service within the diocese. Upon completion of his studies, he will be available for call and ordination.



ALL SET FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS! Many thanks to everyone who came to decorate the Church!

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, 2nd and 3rd Sundays

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

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

