

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas

January 2006



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

How quickly the brief days of Christmas pass! Now, we begin the Epiphany season—a time for us to think upon the revelation of the union of the divine and human natures in the Christ.

That Jesus is both God and Man is clearly taught at Christmas; the revelation of this union of natures—in His Baptism, in His miracles and teaching, and finally in His transfiguration—is our emphasis during Epiphany.

From our Lord's words at the temple when He was twelve years old, asking Mary, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?," our thoughts are turned to the reason *why* the Son of God became incarnate (joined Himself to a human nature): so that He would be about His Father's business, teaching, performing miracles, and then suffering, dying, and rising again to accomplish our salvation. Christmas and Epiphany are, quite obviously, each a *part* of the whole story of the Triune God's plan for our salvation.

Throughout the week's of Epiphany, we have an opportunity to continue to proclaim the Christ to our neighbors; the colored lights and Christmas trees are packed away for another year, but now begins a season for declaring His glory. Yes, the twelve days of Christmas are a time for joyous celebration... but so is Epiphany. He was born that He might grow to manhood, and through His words and works, proclaim that He is the Messiah, who came to atone for the sins of the world.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Heiser



2005 Christmas Program

This year, the children's Christmas Eve program was entitled, "God Keeps His Promises!" The program emphasized the prophecies of the Old Testament which told the people of the Messiah who was to come, born of the Virgin, born of the house of David, at Bethlehem. Everyone appreciated the efforts and participation of the young people who made the program possible: Alexis Baxter, Noah Baxter, Conner Garcia, Hunter Garcia, Tyler Garcia, Anastasia Heiser, John Heiser, Jonathan Henkel, Bradley Kelm, and Haley Kelm. Many thanks to Patsy Williams and Denise Heiser for working with the kids at practice; and to Tina Schnell and the Church Choir for their pre-service singing, and for singing during the service.





“Gift Goes On” Cantata at Salem, December 18th—Everyone enjoyed the Christmas hymns and songs which we enjoyed in the Cantata. We were blessed to have a several visitors from community join us for this performance.



“Thank you!” to everyone who provided Poinsettias for the Sanctuary at Christmas:
 Pastor and Denise Heiser (2)
 Charles and Donna Huse—in gratitude for God’s blessings (2)
 Kenneth Kelm family—in memory of James Lee West and loved ones
 Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kruger
 Cliff and Pam Krumvieda
 Edwin and Margie Kucera
 Alton and Dorothy Markwardt
 Carl and Penny Payne (2)
 Don and Tina Schnell
 Todd and Lana Schulz
 Jimmy and Patsy Williams
 Tony Zettler—in memory of Walter and loved ones

(Thanks also to Donna Huse, for picking them up!)

WORKSHOP FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS—

The annual workshop and orientation meeting will be on **January 14th** from **9 a.m.** until **11 a.m.** It is very important that *all* elected officers are present for this meeting. This meeting offers a crucial opportunity to review your respective responsibilities, as well as examine important issues for the congregation in the coming year. (Installation of officers is scheduled for the January 15th divine service.)

This year it is particularly crucial that all ‘counters’ are in attendance. Larry Markwardt will be reviewing the proper procedures for filling out the weekly offering report.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING—The quarterly meeting of the Church Council will follow the workshop meeting on **January 14th** (approximately 11 a.m.). The Council includes the pastor, president, the chairmen of the Elders, Trustees and Education, the Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Cemetery Secretary/Treasurer. Attendance at Council meetings is an expected part of service in the position to which such officers and board members have been elected.

VOTERS MEETING—Our first quarterly meeting will be on Sunday, January 22nd. Topics for consideration will include plans for our upcoming 120th anniversary, and evangelism and mission opportunities.

NEW ADULT BIBLE CLASS—Having concluded our study of the book of Amos, the Sunday morning adult class is now studying the liturgy, including its biblical and historical basis. This class is a valuable opportunity to learn ‘why we do what we do’—please join us for study.

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).

THANK YOU!—Tina and Patsy want to thank everyone for the lovely gift. It was much appreciated.

OUR THANKS to everyone for their kind Christmas gifts and thoughtful cards—it means so much to our entire family. We also appreciate the generous offers of help following our wreck last month.

Heiser family

Altar Guild Reorganization—The Altar Guild provides crucial assistance to the whole congregation, cleaning the altar linens and making sure that the proper paraments are on the altar, pulpit and lectern for each worship service. I recognize that the time and opportunities of the members of the guild may have changed since it was last reorganized several years ago, therefore we will be reorganizing the Altar Guild to meet the congregation's present needs.

If you desire to continue to serve on the guild, or if you would like to join the guild, please notify me as soon as possible, since I intend to make new service assignments by Ash Wednesday at the beginning of March. **This is of particular importance to current members of the guild: If you do not notify me of your desire to continue to serve on the guild, I will assume you no longer desire to serve.** Your service is truly appreciated and we do not want to take your continued service for granted.

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity to serve our Lord in His Church! Yours in Christ,

Pastor

NEEDED FOR CHURCH-

- + Paper towels (we're just about out);
- + 8 1/2 x 11 paper;
- + 8 1/2 x 14 paper (we're just about out!);



'Phase One'—Done!—After a lot of preparation and hard work, the first part of the work on the new sidewalk is complete. Now work continues on covering the porch and sidewalk to shelter them from the rain (if it ever rain around here again...). Our thanks to Lee Boortz, Charles Huse, Morris Kruger, Carl Payne, Don Schnell, and Del Schulz for all their efforts!





Theological Symposia in Fort Wayne—The annual Symposia in Fort Wayne, Indiana will meet January 17th through 20th. The symposia not only provides an opportunity for study; it is the largest annual gathering of conservative/confessional Lutheran laity and clergy. Pastor, Sean Fant, and Eric Rachut will be attending the symposia this year.

Plano Free Conference—The annual conference hosted by Faith Lutheran Church in Plano will occur on January 27th and 28th. This year's scheduled speaker is Rev. Klemet Preus. For more information, please see Pastor Heiser.

Independent Movement Continues to Grow—Two more Midwest pastors have recently notified Pastor Heiser of their intention to join our fellowship following the 2007 convention of the LC—MS. Another pastor (Rev. Mark Raitz) has approached our fellowship plans for starting another mission in Michigan.

2006 Officers

President: Larry Markwardt
Elders: Gary Kelm, Carl Payne, Weldon Reinke, Don Schnell
Secretary: Penny Payne
Treasurer: Kay Watson
Financial Sec.: Lori Youngblood
Trustees: Lee Boortz, Alvin Ender, Sean Fant, Morris Kruger
Cemetery Secretary/Treasurer: Cliff Krumvieda
Education: Denise Heiser, Shannon Henkel, Terri Kelm, Pam Krumvieda, Alton Markwardt, Tina Schnell, Kay Watson
Finance: Ronald Banik, Kenny Kelm, Dana Krueger, Greg Markwardt, Dorothy Markwardt, Penny Payne, Eric Rachut, Linda Rachut, Lana Schulz, Sue Schulz, Todd Schulz, Patsy Williams
(Names marked in *italics* are serving the second year of a two-year term in 2006.)

Schedule of Service in the Church

Elders:

Gary Kelm: January, April, September
Carl Payne: May, August, December
Weldon Reinke: March, July, November
Don Schnell: February, June, October

Ushers:

January, May, September: Kenneth Kelm (Capt.), Ronald Banik, Heath Krueger, Tim Kucera, Kenny Kelm II
February, June, October: Billy Watson (Capt.), Greg Markwardt, Larry Markwardt, Daniel Watson
March, July, November: Lee Boortz (Capt.), Morris Kruger, Sean Fant, Charles Huse
April, August, December: Todd Schulz (Capt.), Alvin Ender, Cliff Krumvieda, Del Schulz, Eric Rachut

Finance:

January, May, September: Greg Markwardt, Penny Payne, Sue Schulz
February, June, October: Kenny Kelm, Ronald Banik, Dana Krueger
March, July, November: Dorothy Markwardt, Eric Rachut, Linda Rachut
April, August, December: Lana Schulz, Todd Schulz, Patsy Williams

Budget for 2006—As can be seen below, the budget will decrease slightly this year—and this decrease even comes after adding several items to the budget, such as Evangelism. Nevertheless, all of us should remain aware of the budgeted needs of the parish. Small adjustments can make a huge difference in meeting our congregation's commitments; for example, if offerings had only averaged \$2 more per person attending per week throughout 2005, offerings would have been *above* budget for the year. This *doesn't* mean everyone has the means to do so; some don't, and others might be able to do more. The point is: If we work together, Salem can continue and expand our witness in our community. We have some exciting opportunities coming up—let's work together!

2006 Budget

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor's Salary/Housing Allowance | \$37,200. (unchanged) |
| Car Allowance | \$ 4,500. (+\$500) |
| Health & Retirement | \$14,000. (−\$1,000) |
| Mowing | \$ 1,200. (unchanged) |
| Sunday School | \$ 500. (unchanged) |
| Evangelism | \$ 1,000. (new item) |
| Church Insurance | \$ 5,000. (unchanged) |
| Utilities | \$ 7,000. (−\$2,000) |
| Office Supplies/I.T. | \$ 2,500. (unchanged) |
| Copier | \$ 3,000. (unchanged) |
| Repairs/Upkeep | \$ 1,700. (unchanged) |
| Guest Preacher | \$ 0. (−\$400) |
| Conference/Convention | \$ 1,000. (+\$400) |
| Organists | \$ 1,100. (new item) |
| TOTAL | \$79,700., |
| | or \$1532.69 a week |