

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas

May 2007



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

This month we will mark two important festivals in the life of the Church: the Ascension and the Visitation. The Visitation celebrates the meeting of St. Mary and St. Elizabeth. Elizabeth was in the sixth month of her pregnancy, and Scripture tells us that Mary remained with her for approximately three months. Throughout this time, the Son of God, the Lord of the Church, was already incarnate within the womb of Mary. Christ was present, though hidden, and thus Elizabeth greeted Mary, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:42)

At the Ascension, Christ ascended into heaven to the right hand of the Father. He is not seen with our eyes, and yet His Church joyously receives Him as He comes to us through His Word and Sacrament—even feeding us with His body and blood. The same Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, who rose again the third day, and on the fortieth day of His resurrection ascended to the right hand of the Father, is the One who gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink.

At the time of the Visitation, Christ was in His time of Humiliation; when He ascended into heaven, His glory was now fully manifested. It is in glory that He will return at the end of the age, and gather His Church from the ages and nations of man. As we mark these two festivals this month, we will observe the Visitation (May 31st) with a Vespers service, singing that Hymn which Mary spoke—her “Magnificat.” On Ascension (May 17th), we will partake of the body and blood of Christ Jesus, rejoicing that He is indeed with us always, even to the end of the age.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Heiser*

Schedule for May

2 nd	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class—Psalms
6 th	9:30 P.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 P.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	after service	Board of Elders
9 th	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class—Psalms
13 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
16 th	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class—Psalms
17 th	7:30 P.M.	Divine Service—Festival of the Ascension
19 th	8 A.M.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
	9 A.M.	Women's Guild
	9 A.M.	Board of Trustees
20 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	noon	Potluck ("Just Because")
23 rd	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class—Psalms
27 th	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service—Feast of Pentecost
30 th	11 A.M.	Bible Study—Psalms
31 st	7:30 P.M.	Vespers—Festival of the Visitation

Installation Date set for Deacon Ahonen

On March 17th, we received word from Rev. Ahonen accepting the divine call to serve as deacon. Now a date has been set for his installation as deacon. The installation is scheduled for the regular Divine Service on **Sunday, June 24th**. (This date is also the Festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.)

As a "worker priest," Deacon Ahonen is returning to work as a paralegal, working for the same law office which employed him prior to his seminary training. Several mission opportunities are being explored, and hopefully he will have more to share with us on that topic during Bible Class on June 24th.

To celebrate this occasion, we will also have a potluck following the service.

May Birthdays:

4 th :	Ronald Banik
6 th :	Lillie Matthews—happy 95 th !
7 th :	Samantha Jeske
12 th :	Greg Markwardt, Denise Heiser, Bryan Henkel
17 th :	Brenda Baxter
19 th :	Frances Degner
20 th :	Lillian Schronk, Jana Schulz
23 rd :	Todd Schulz
31 st :	Todd Henkel

May Anniversaries:

2 nd :	Eddie Ray & Sue Schulz
8 th :	Luke & Cheri Thomas
12 th :	Walter & June Garcia
17 th :	Ralph & Joyce Crumpton
21 st :	David & Sheri Huse

Festival of the Ascension (May 17th)

We will have a Divine Service on **Thursday**, May 17th at 7:30 P.M. (Because the Ascension is on the 40th day of the Easter season, it *always* falls on a Thursday.) This is an important day in our Christian calendar, closely linked with the Feast of Pentecost (which follows 10 days later). On Ascension, we celebrate that although Christ has ascended to the right hand of the Father, He is still with us in the Word and Sacraments.

Festival of the Visitation (May 31st)

We will have a Vespers Service on **Thursday**, May 31st at 7:30 P.M. The Visitation commemorates St. Mary's visit to St. Elizabeth. It was during the Visitation that St. Mary spoke the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55), which is appointed for use in the Vespers service. At the time of the Visitation, St. Elizabeth in her sixth month of pregnancy with St. John, and St. Mary had just become pregnant, carrying the Son of God in her womb. (The Festival of the Annunciation, March 25th—thus 9 months before ChristMass—celebrates the beginning of Christ's incarnation in the womb of St. Mary.)



Visitation of Christ Lutheran Church (Richmond, MO) and Augsburg Lutheran Church (Olathe, KS)—Part of my responsibility as bishop of the diocese is to carry out regular visitation of the parishes served by our pastors. (My last visit was February 2005 for Pastor Hudson's installation at Christ Lutheran.) It was thus with great joy that I visited once again with the saints at Christ Lutheran Church! I met with them on Sunday evening, April 22nd. Although only a portion of the congregation was able to be in attendance, we still had a wonderful meeting, addressing a wide variety of topics confronting confessional Lutherans today. Christ Lutheran continues to meet in the same facility at the County Fairgrounds which they have utilized for several years. The congregation is steadily adding to their building fund, in the hopes of eventually having a more permanent location.

It was also a great pleasure to meet with Pastor Watson and the members of Augsburg Lutheran Church (LC—MS) the next evening. Pastor Watson and the church council invited me to meet with the congregation so that they could learn more about our diocese. It was a very enjoyable meeting; they were quite interested to learn more about our efforts and future plans. A clear majority of the members were in attendance for the meeting. Augsburg Lutheran will soon move from their current location into their own church, since the congregation recently bought a home which they are converting into a church.



The Easter Breakfast is always a wonderful time for fellowship. Many thanks to those who got up *early* (and worked the evening before) to get everything prepared—everyone appreciated your hard work, and the delicious breakfast!



All ready to hunt for eggs! The “unseasonable” snow on Holy Saturday kept us from having the annual Easter Egg hunt outside, but the fellowship hall worked just fine!

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).

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 all 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.

On April 16, I had the pleasure of driving to Artesia to visit with Sean and bring him the communion. His training for service in the Border Patrol is going very well! The academic and physical requirements of the academy are quite demanding, but Sean is doing extremely well. (Running 5 miles a day, he's already lost 20 pounds.) He asked me to convey his greetings to everyone at Salem. Please note that you may write to Sean at this address:

Sean Fant
Immigration Officer Academy
c/o FLETC
Class Number 661
1300 W. Richey Ave.
Artesia, NM 88210



*His class is scheduled to graduate on July 5th.
Pastor Heiser*



Many thanks to those who provided Easter lilies:

Lodie Banik, in memory of Walter
 Pastor and Denise Heiser (2)
 Shannon, Todd, Jonathan & Bryan Henkel, in
 memory of grandparents
 Martin and Darlene Kelm
 Terry and Gary Kelm, glory to God
 Linda Krumvieda
 Greg and Jessica Markwardt, in memory of grandparents
 Larry and Barbara Markwardt, in memory of parents
 Carl and Penny Payne (2)
 Weldon Reinke, in memory of Gus and Heddy Reinke
 Don and Tina Schnell, to the glory of God (2)
 Eddie Ray and Sue Schulz, in memory of loved ones
 Jimmy and Patsy Williams, in memory of loved ones
 Billy and Kay Watson, in memory of loved ones (2)
 Tony Zettler, in memory of Walter
 ... also thanks to Tina Schnell for arranging for the lilies this year!

