

# SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Malone, Texas

October 2007



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

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Eph. 4)

The unity which we have in the pure confession of God’s holy Word is something which transcends time, place, and culture. Consider that this word which St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians was originally in Greek, studied by our forefathers in German, and now comes to us in our own tongue, many thousands of miles and countless generations away from St. Paul and the Church in Ephesus—and yet it remains the same saving faith.

My forthcoming trip “up North” for continuing education will, Lord-willing, also give me the opportunity to gather with the brethren at Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Trenton, MI) and encourage them in their walk together with us in this common confession of Christ Jesus, our Redeemer. My responsibilities in our diocese (or ‘synod’ to use the old nomenclature) press the reality of this unity on my thoughts almost every day, as I speak with pastors around the country, and exchange email with clergy and laity from all across the world (most recently Ukraine, India and Finland). Often the trials which confront our brothers and sisters in the faith are similar to our own, though sometimes they are quite different. What remains the same is the hope which is ours in Christ, and the zeal to persevere in the faithful confession over against the temptations which confront Christ’s Church every day. What I hear from our brethren—separated by miles, not doctrine—is that same realisation which strikes us in our own land: that those who faithfully confess the one faith in all its purity are a remnant in the world, but a remnant filled with the joy which is ours in the salvation which Jesus has won for us.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Heiser*

## ***From the Deacon***

### **Greetings From The Northland!**

The forests here are changing out of their Summer greens into their Autumn reds, oranges, and yellows. A killing frost descended upon our region a couple of weeks ago and brought an end to our gardening. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we experienced a morning-long snow shower! The signs of nature are clear: a new season has fallen upon us.

It is also becoming quite clear that we are entering a new season in our mission work in the Northland. Thanks be to God for His continued blessing upon us!

The first sign is the sign on the door: Saint Henry Lutheran Mission. This is the name of the mission society we have formed and will soon incorporate. It is named in honor of the British Pastor who became the first Christian missionary to Finland and the first Bishop to serve the People of God in Finland. We



are proud to take Henry's name and carry on his work of bearing to the people of the Northland the Name Above All Names—the Only Name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved—Jesus!

The second sign is the one that bears our website address: [www.SaintHenry.info](http://www.SaintHenry.info). While it is still a work in progress, it is already accessible to the public to provide information on the services, Bible studies, and other activities of the mission.

The third is the block advertisement that we have been placing in three weekly newspapers in the area surrounding Winter, Wisconsin. We are heavily publicizing our current activities, as well as our intention to plant a new Lutheran congregation in the Winter area. We have received feedback from those efforts, so we know that the word is spreading!

Fourth is the Saturday Evening Bible Study that we began on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We meet every Saturday evening in the Town Hall of the Town of Winter for an hour of refreshment by God's Word and Spirit. Our

first course is appropriately entitled: “The Great Physician: A Bible Study on the Gospel of Saint Luke.” (This means that we now have activities in Winter a total of six evenings each month!)

Last, but not least, is the sign of growth within our group. Our core group in the Winter area continues to grow in its commitment to follow the Lord’s leading along this new path. We recently have been joined by an additional couple—praise God!—and we hear of others who are likewise interested!

Such are the signs of the new season. We give thanks to God for it all, for it is only by His working that any of this is possible. We eagerly wait to see what the Lord will provide for us in the remainder of this season—and in seasons to come!

As always, your continuing support and ongoing prayers for the mission are appreciated greatly!

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      Website: [www.SaintHenry.info](http://www.SaintHenry.info)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Deacon Ahonen will be here in Texas October 7–9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a potluck for him after service, and he will be available for visits on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.—Pastor Heiser



## Schedule for October

1 <sup>st</sup> through 12 <sup>th</sup>		Pastor in Fort Wayne for continuing education
7 <sup>th</sup> —	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	Noon	Potluck for Deacon Ahonen
8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup>		Deacon Ahonen available in TX for visits
13 <sup>th</sup>		Adler Reunion
14 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Holy Communion
	3 P.M.-4 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class
17 <sup>th</sup>	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class-Proverbs
20 <sup>th</sup>	8 A.M.	Men's Fellowship breakfast
	9 A.M.	Women's Guild meeting
	9 A.M.	Board of Trustees
21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service-Communion
	Noon	Potluck
	1 P.M.	voters meeting
	3 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class
24 <sup>th</sup>	11 A.M.	Midweek Bible Class-Proverbs
28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 A.M.	Divine Service (REFORMATION SUNDAY)
	Noon	Men's Fellowship BBQ and Women's Guild Cookie Contest
	3 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class
31 <sup>st</sup>	11 A.M.	Reformation Day-Matins

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## October Birthdays:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Teresa Kucera
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Danielle Reamy
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bradley Kelm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Bratcher
10 <sup>th</sup>	Nicholle Baxter, Arthur Reinke
15 <sup>th</sup>	Blake Willenborg
25 <sup>th</sup>	Edwin Kunkel
27 <sup>th</sup>	Pam Krumvieda
29 <sup>th</sup>	Darlene Kelm, Tina Bow
30 <sup>th</sup>	Dawn Flores

## October Anniversaries:

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lewis & Linda Polley
7 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor & Denise Heiser
8 <sup>th</sup>	Billy Joe & Kay Watson
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ronald & Heather Wilcoxon
10 <sup>th</sup>	Orville & Joyce Maddox

### Service in the Church for October:

Elder: Weldon Reinke

Ushers: Lee Boortz (Capt.), Morris Kruger, Sean Fant, Charles Huse

Counters: Ronald Banik, Sue Schulz

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### REFORMATION CELEBRATION—

Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> is Reformation Sunday. Following service, the Men's Fellowship and Women's Guild invite everyone to stay and enjoy a BBQ dinner and Cookie Bake Off. Votes will be taken for the best cookies and the winners will be given prizes. Cookies will also be available for purchase. All proceeds collected will be used for the radio ministry. This event will help decide how much air time Salem can purchase during the Advent and Christmas season. Every man, woman and child is encouraged to bake cookies.—Pam Krumvieda



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**CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN MISSION FUND UPDATE—**As of September 23, \$12,102.47 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 on-going generosity in support of mission work! As you have opportunity, please help to continue building this fund, so that we may continue to assist missions as the opportunities present themselves.

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**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).





## **2007 Synod and Colloquium of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America**

The 2007 synod (or 'meeting') of the diocese and our theological colloquium were even better attended than 2006. Despite the excused absence of two of our pastors, there were approximately 30 in attendance, including pastors and laity of the ELDoNA, ACLC, independent congregations, and LC—MS.



*Two of our Colloquium speakers: Dr. Heimbigner, and Dr. Totten*



*Pastors and laity enjoying one of meals prepared by the Women's Guild*



*Deacon, Pastor and acolyte following the Closing Service of the Synod*



*Dinner at Frenkies following the Colloquium*







*Pastor Lawson was at our meetings to continue the ACLC-ELDoNA dialog*



*Deacon Ahonen and Tina Schnell after Tuesday Vespers.*



*Some of the ladies and gentlemen who took care of our visitors.*



***Greetings to the ELDoNA  
from the Confessional Lutheran Church of Finland  
(STLK)***

Dear gathering of ELDoNA!

I want to greet you reminding about the ten men who had a sickness of leprosy (Luke 17:11–19). All these ten men are like we in that respect that they were not pure before God. They had a sickness that made them unholy. We are unholy as far as our deeds are considered. We have sinned before God and have no right on the ground of our works to come before him. But those ten men are also an example of faith. They believed that Christ can heal them. That was why they came to him and asked for help. Believe you in the same way. Trust Christ that he can make you free from sin because of his redeeming work and according to his promise in the word and sacraments. All those ten men became pure. That reminds us of the fact that Christ has taken away the sins of all people. So there is no doubt that also our sins are taken away. And we can with joy proclaim to all sinners: Christ has already taken away your sins. Finally, however, only one of those ten was a good example until the end. The nine others forgot who had made them pure and did not follow the Lord. But the one man came back to thank Jesus. Be you like this man. Thank Christ in your heart. Have your joy in him. Thank Christ with your mouth. Give a good confession of your Lord before all people. Be faithful in preaching his word and confessing the truth. Thank Christ with your deeds. Even though you may meet difficulties when confessing the word of Christ, do it however. He is your Lord and Saviour. May thus the one man who came back to thank Christ be our example in confessing sins, in faith and in thanking God by words and deeds. May God richly bless your gathering.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Kimmo Närhi

The President of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Finland  
(Suomen Tunnustuksellinen Luterilainen Kirkko)

***Greetings to the ELDoNA  
from the India National Lutheran Church (INLC)***

Respected and Dear Bishop James,

Brethren in the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America,  
Grace, Mercy and Peace to you all in the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America from the Father, Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

At the outset of my first letter addressed to all in the ELDoNA, I greet you all personally as well as from INLC with the following words:

AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. -Romans 8:28

On looking to the website, we came to know about the commitment made by you for restoration of Lutheran Doctrine in harmony with the sacred Scriptures and the Book of Concord-1580. I have made some discussions and written couple of e-mail letters to Hon'ble Bishop James Heiser. Yes, we must come forward to stand unitedly for the truth. In the mean time you might have seen our constitution.

Here is the skeleton of our prayer centres.

Sl.No.	Name of the village	Congregation.	Church status.
1.	i.Nuagod ii.Chitraguda iii.Sindhibhataguda	110	Pucca church
2.	i.Ankula  ii.Gumuda iii.Kusumi	215	Roof to be replaced.
3.	Miriguda	30	Thatched house.
4.	i.Andramunda ii.Hordoli	28	Thatched house.
5.	Pokhonaguda	14	Private house.
6.	Alupodar	9	Private house.
7.	Dhanpur	12	Private house.
8.	Basuli	10	Private house.
9.	Girila	17	Private house.
10.	Bhotiguda	27	Private house.

We have kept ladies in our Board, who are being used for administrative purpose and some time they take care of women from different village due to some social system. Further, we are also using some selected persons of the villages as Evangelists, who are not ordained and not allowed for any sacramental works.

It would be better, if Bishop James will pay a visit to us in order to know the situations, and to see the Lord's people. This will make us more closer in Jesus.

I will be happy to write you more as and when required. Looking forward to

hear from you soon.

Peace of Jesus rest upon you all.

In Christ,

Rev.Hans U.Asha,

President INLC

*NOTE: Beginning in late September, the diocese is beginning to send books and other theological materials to President Asha, as he has requested of us. We are also exploring what might be done to send other assistance to help the people of the INLC. —Pastor Heiser*

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*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

It is simply impossible for me to express in words the joy, the astonishment, the hope which the events during the past week at your church have generated in me. But our Lord has spoken words which surely do describe your value to your fellow Lutherans across the country. In the series of Scripture readings which my congregation employs, today's Holy Gospel is from Luke 14, concluding with these words: "Whenever you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. You will be fortunate, because they do not have anything to repay you, for it will be repaid to you in the resurrection of the righteous." This is exactly what you did. You hosted a feast, a literal one of food and beverage, and a spiritual one offering the bread of life, to needy pastors and laity who have been crippled and made lame by the modern imitators of ancient Egypt's cruel taskmasters. We who received this bounty have nothing with which to repay you. Therefore we trust that the Lord will repay you in the resurrection of the righteous, not only in the resurrection of the body at the end of this age, but also in the resurrection of the spirit which you already are receiving with your fellow saints.

Fr. Michael R. Totten

on behalf of the members of

Saint Laurence Evangelical Lutheran Church

San Lorenzo, California

**VISITATION SCHEDULED**—Pastor Heiser, in keeping with his responsibilities as bishop of the diocese, will conduct his visitation of Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Trenton, MI) on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The visitations provide opportunities for a bishop to examine the doctrine and practice of each pastor of the diocese, as well as speak with the members of the parishes, and encourage them in life as a congregation. (The visitation has been timed to coincide with Pastor Heiser's continuing education studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, where he is nearing completion of his second masters degree.)

**THANK YOU!**—Our thanks to all who helped with the planning for, and work during, the diocesan synod here at Salem last week. As always, Salem's guests were generously cared for, and made to feel "at home." After all of our 'synodical' experiences in the LC—MS, this is an extremely welcome change of pace for all of our pastors and guests!

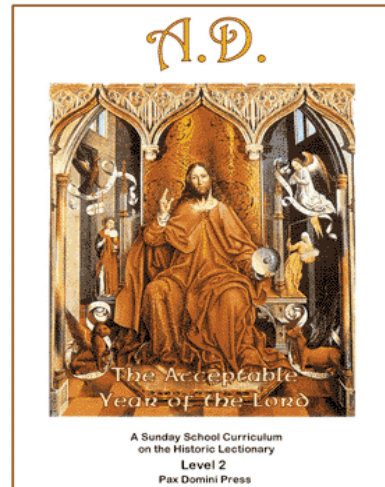
Pastor Heiser and Deacon Ahonen

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**New Sunday School Year begins with New Materials—**

Beginning in September, our Sunday School is now using the "A.D.—The Acceptable Year of the Lord" curriculum from Pax Domini Press. This is the same company which produces the Vacation Bible School materials which we have used the last three years. The lessons are very engaging for the children, as solidly biblical, and are connected to the series of Sunday readings which Salem uses. We have materials for all

ages, and since the lessons are connected with each Sunday's readings, this means it's not "too late" to join us for class!



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**YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES—**Classes this year will be on **Sunday afternoons**, from 3 until 4 P.M., beginning **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Attendance is expected for **all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders**; older youths who have not yet been confirmed are also welcome to attend so that they may be instructed and prepared for confirmation. Any seventh or eighth graders who are unable to attend during the time scheduled for confirmation should contact Pastor Heiser to arrange for another time for instruction.

This year, we will use Rev. Stefanski's textbook, "Gottesdienst: God's Grace in Liturgy and Life" in conjunction with Luther's Small Catechism. Catechisms and textbooks are provided by the Church.



A Resolution Declaring a More Complete Listing of the Means by Which the LCMS has Broken Fellowship with St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church—UAC, Richland Center, WI, a Christian Congregation affiliated with Circuit #19 of the South Wisconsin District—LCMS :

Whereas, God says to us plainly [Ezekiel 33:7-11] “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the House of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.”

And whereas, He says further, “if you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.”

And whereas God says there finally, “Say . . . ‘As surely as I live,’ declares YHWH, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!’”;

Be it resolved that so says St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church by listing some of the persistent abuses for which the Synod must repent; abuses which are by no means merely a diversity in practice but as it is truly, a great Apostasy, indeed a breaking of the Bond of Peace, of Fellowship and a falling away from the Faith of our fathers:

First, the Synod persists in false doctrine by not only failing to “renounce Unionism and Syncretism of every description” but seemingly endorsing it as long as one politely awaits one’s turn [serial prayer] among those who cannot worship God for they deny the Divinity to the Son—most notably the Yankee Stadium scandal;

Second, the Synod persists in false doctrine by continuing in joint spiritual work with the ELCA;

Third, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by the renewal of “indulgences” under the title of “Ecclesiastical Supervision” that sets aside the responsibility for acts done against the counsel of God’s Word and the Public Confession of the Church as long as one’s “Ecclesiastical Supervisor” grants permission beforehand;

Fourth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by failing to confess the Apostolic teaching of the “Ministry” over and against the extremes of “everyone a minister” and only those “minister” who have “a special bestowal of power by ordination”;

Fifth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by stealing from the Sheep the judgment of Shepherds; the public possession of every Christian and making it the private pervue of the few [namely, the District Presidents and the President of the Synod] as if they, rather than Christians, had some “special bestowal of power”;

Sixth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by failing to confess rightly what the Church *is*—first, the Synod’s name—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod—but also, Synod refuses to recognize faithfulness in Word and Sacrament as the measure over all against adherence to “covenants of love” and other agreed-upon procedures, and practices;

Seventh, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by failing to require that every human agreement and arrangement made on behalf of the Church—namely the Congregations and her pastors—must agree with and uphold the applicable Words of God;

Eighth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by relying not on the Order of Creation, but on human reason for the ordering of the public roles of men and women in the Church;

Ninth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by failing to confess and apply rightly God’s Word on the public rebuke of false teaching under a ruse of the Eighth Commandment—as if God provides fig leaves to hide wolves to devour his Flock;

Tenth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by her tolerance of Open Communion by Pastors and Congregations—indeed even entire Districts have resolved to do it—who admit communicants without a clear Confession of the One Faith in All Parts of the Doctrine and further, there are even some who teach that it is the preferred practice to commune some [infants] without examination beyond Baptism;

Eleventh, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by requiring submission, even doctrinal matters, to a dispute resolution procedure which seeks a submission to the reconciliation of the parties involved rather than the reconciliation of the parties involved to the clear Words of God;

Twelfth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying the Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life—particularly through its Districts—by promulgating and promoting worship materials and “workshops” that deny both the formal principal and the material principal of our Public Confession;

Thirteenth, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by maintaining that men—who themselves are without Divine Call in the Church—are in positions of “ecclesiastical supervision” over men who *do* have a Divine Call being “regularly called” to the Office of Public Ministry and who by Divine Right are *themselves* the only *true* ecclesiastical supervisors in the Church;

And lastly, the Synod persists in false doctrine by denying Supreme Authority of Scripture as rule and norm of Faith and Life by tolerating false and horribly misleading practice of Pastors who purport to celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar without the prescribed elements of the Lord's Supper, namely, bread and wine;

Therefore, as it is indeed that "the position of the Synod" is not merely that doctrine that she articulates, but the *\*true\** position of the Synod is that doctrine which she also tolerates;

And whereas, our Congregation's Constitution requires the Congregation's property to remain with the members who remain faithful to the Word of God and the Book of Concord of 1580 as a true, exposition of the clear Word of God;

Be it resolved, that St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church—both Pastor and Believing People—by the signators here below declares, the LCMS has broken fellowship with us;

And further be it resolved, that all may know which Teachers are to be received and approved by the Saints of God [1 Corinthians 11.19], we hereby "mark them and avoid" [Rom. 16.17ff.] the Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, the Rev. David Benke, and each and every other LC-MS pastor and congregation who fails to decry the abuses listed above including also that sin identified in our more brief resolution regarding "Ecclesiastical Supervision";

And finally, having so marked and avoided these as false teachers, we reject all who teach otherwise.

***Signators of the Resolution Declaring the LCMS' Broken Fellowship:***

Rev. Frederick E Davison, Pastor

Mr. Herb Thomas, President

Mr. David Rott, Vice-President/Elder

Mr. Gene Hynek, Treasurer

Mr. Daniel Tagtmeyer, Elder

Mr. Bill Corey, Elder

Mr. Mylan Olson, Trustee

Mr. Richard Burris, Trustee

Mr. John Huth, Trustee

Mr. Rick Fairbrother, Acting Secretary

Mr. Nyman Olson, Evangelism

Florence Nee, Congregation Witness

**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—1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

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

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

