



From the
Pastor

Four seminary students were visiting in London. They decided to go see the famous preacher, Dr. Charles Spurgeon. As they were waiting in front of the church, a man approached and asked, "I see you are waiting for the service to begin. Would you like to see our church's furnace room?" They really weren't that interested, especially since it was a hot day in July. But, not wanting to offend the stranger, they agreed that they would indeed like to see the church's furnace room.

He led them down a long flight of stairs, to a door in the basement, at the back of the church. He flung open the door, and the young men were surprised to find 500 people on their knees, fervently praying for God's blessing on the service about to begin in the church above. "This," said the man, "is our furnace room, and we are very proud of it. The work done in this room is what keeps our church going. With out it, this building would be cold and lifeless." It turned out that the stranger was none other than Dr. Spurgeon himself.

This story illustrates the power and necessity of prayer by each Christian for the Church of Christ. St. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Pray without ceasing," and in Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, with prayers and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Sometimes we feel helpless when confronted with the problems and challenges of life, including the problems and challenges facing our church in this modern world. But there is one very important thing every Christian can do to

help the church fulfill its mission: pray! We sometimes think of prayer as a last resort, but the Bible tells us that prayer is the first step the Christian takes in seeking God's help and direction. Remember Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church and its members in your prayers everyday. This is a God-pleasing habit and a very valuable service to Christ and his church.

What are some specific things you will pray about?

✘ That God would move many members of His flock to come to His house each Sunday.

✘ That He will bless our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, giving insight into His Word and joy to both students and teachers.

✘ That the Good Shepherd would watch over all His flock, keeping them safe from all harm and danger, guiding them in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake, and giving comfort

and strength to all the weak, ill and sorrowful.

✘ That God's people would be moved to give generously to His work, both at home and in mission work.

✘ That your pastor would be faithful, strengthened by God to serve His people.

✘ That all of God's people would grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

✘ That our mission and outreach may bear much fruit.

✘ That you may serve the Lord with gladness and live a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

Without your prayers our own church would be cold and lifeless. You are our spiritual "furnace room." Keep the fire burning—pray every day!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

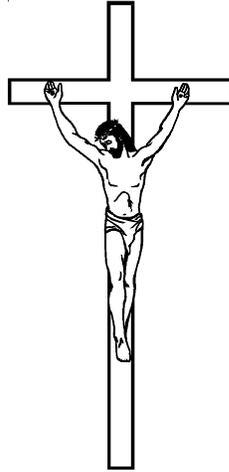


An unusually large group of area pastors participated in the installation of our new pastor, Rev. Kevin Vogts, on the afternoon of February 9th. Included were pastors from our "circuit" in the South Dakota District, as well as several Iowa District West pastors from Sioux City. Conducting the installation and preaching for the occasion was Rev. Vernon Schindler, President of the South Dakota District. The large crowd in attendance included our own members and guests from many area congregations. A reception in honor of the Vogts family followed the service.



Rev. Kevin D. Vogts comes to Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wisconsin, where he served since 1998 as Director of Communications and Church Relations. In that role he oversaw the university's marketing and public relations efforts, edited the university magazine *Concordian*, served as a liaison to pastors and congregations, represented the university at conferences, conventions and by preaching in congregations throughout the Midwest, and led workshops in evangelism and church growth. He also assisted in the recruitment of future pastors, teachers and other church workers. In addition to serving at Concordia he assisted with pastoral duties at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mequon.

Prior to his service at Concordia, Rev. Vogts helped establish two mission congregations, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kansas (1992-98) and New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian,



Seven Last Words of Jesus

2003 Lent Services

Wednesday Evenings, 6:45-7:30pm
Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5th

March 5, Ash Wednesday

"Father, Forgive Them"

Luke 23:34

March 12

"Today, You Will Be
with Me in Paradise"

Luke 23:43

March 19

"Dear Woman,
Here is Your Son"

John 19:25-27

March 26

"Why Have You
Forsaken Me?"

Matthew 27:46

April 2

"I Thirst"

John 19:28

April 9

"It Is Finished"

John 19:30

April 17, Maundy Thursday

"Holy Communion—A Feast
for the Senses"

1 Corinthians 11:23-27

April 18, Good Friday

"Into Your Hands
I Commit My Spirit"

Luke 23:46

Crossnotes

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149 Bison Trail P.O. Box 1902
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605-232-9117
pastorvogts@cableone.net

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Indiana (1986-88). He also served as Pastor Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove, Kansas (1988-1992). He served his vicarage, or pastoral internship, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey (1984-85).

A native of Canton, Kansas, Rev. Vogts is a graduate of St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas (1982) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri (1986), and has done additional graduate study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft.

Wayne, Indiana. He has participated in archaeological excavations in Jordan and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East. A professional photographer, he has a comprehensive library of photographs illustrating the Biblical world. He has published articles and photographs in several publications including *The Lutheran Witness* and *Logia*.

Rev. Vogts was married in 1990 to Terese (nee Schmidt) Vogts, a native of Winner, South Dakota. Currently a full-time homemaker, Terese is a

graduate of the University of South Dakota. As a Registered Medical Technologist she specialized in installing clinical information systems. She was also studying at Concordia for a degree in Early Childhood Education. They have been blessed with three children, Jacob (9), Sarah (8) and Anna (4), who will attend St. Paul's Lutheran School, Sioux City, Iowa. They have purchased a home in Dakota Dunes at 369 Partridge Circle.

Pastor Vogts can be contacted at the church, 605-232-9117; at his home, 605-232-4013; by cellphone, 712-898-4818; or by email, pastorvogts@cablone.net.

The Vogts family looks forward to becoming part of the family of Holy Cross. Rev. Vogts is excited to be in parish ministry again, and says with the Apostle Paul, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, because He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service" (1 Timothy 1:12).



Preschool Registration at Holy Cross

Registration Night for the Holy Cross Preschool will be on Tuesday, April 8th from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Come learn more about our high quality preschool program, and hold a spot for your child for next fall by paying the \$40 registration fee.

For more information contact Marjo Johnson, preschool administrator, at 605-235-1688.

Kindergarten Roundup at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Sioux City will hold the 2003 Kindergarten Roundup on Thursday, March 13 at 1:30pm in the school gymnasium at 6th & Jennings. Your child must be five

years old by September 15, 2003 to enter kindergarten this fall.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has the oldest and largest Protestant parochial school system in the United States, with nearly 3,000 schools nationwide. St. Paul's has been providing quality Christian education in Sioux City since 1880. The school is accredited by the State of Iowa and the experienced staff are all state certified and also well trained in Christian doctrine and the philosophy of Lutheran education.

For more information about Kindergarten Roundup at St. Paul's, contact Kindergarten teacher Gail Brown at 712-258-6325. For general information, contact Principal Lonnie Stuhr at the same number.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



With the end of our pastoral vacancy, the time of the Sunday service has been changed to 9:15am. Following the service each week is the Sunday School opening with a Children's Sermon by Pastor Vogts at 10:25am. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class follow from 10:30am to 11:15am.

Bring your whole family to the Lord's house for worship and study of his Word!

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1).

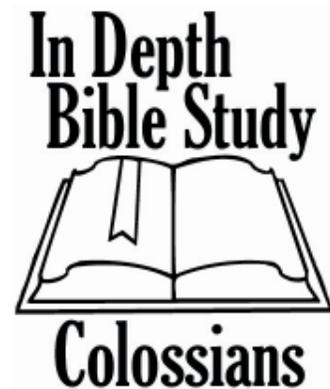
District Convention May 4-7

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will hold

its triennial convention at the Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls from Sunday evening, May 4th through Wednesday morning, May 7th. You are encouraged to drop by and see your church in action. There will also be interesting displays from many Lutheran organizations. Also, a convention Communion service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 601 North Cliff Avenue, Sioux Falls, on Monday, May 5 at 9:30am, to which you are invited.

The Synod is divided into 35 Districts nationwide, many of them, like South Dakota, consisting of an entire State, although some States are combined into one District (such as the California-Nevada-Hawaii District), while other States are divided into more than one District (such as the Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois Districts).

The Districts meet in convention every three years, with a convention of the entire Synod the year following. At the District convention each congregation is represented by its pastor and a layman, so that there is a balance between clergy and laity. Our lay delegate this year is Dennis Melstad, who has also been nominated for the District Board of Directors and is serving on a floor committee for the convention.



You are invited to get into the Word on Sunday mornings at 10:30am as we study the book of Colossians in Adult Bible Class. Though written nearly 2,000 years ago, it is still fresh and relevant to today's world, and this short books packs in many interesting topics.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).

Sunday Sermon Themes for March

March 2

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
"A Glimpse of Glory" Mark 9:2-9

March 9–1st Sunday in Lent
"God Is For Us" Romans 8:31

March 16–2nd Sunday in Lent
"Take Up Your Cross" Mark 8:34-35

March 23–3rd Sunday in Lent
"God's Advice for a Happy Life"
Exodus 20:1-17

March 30–4th Sunday in Lent
"Not to Condemn!" John 3:16-18

Digging Up the Bible: Earliest Evidence of Jesus

Pastor Kevin Vogts has worked as an archaeologist in the Holy Land and in this issue of "Crossnotes" begins a series of articles on archaeological discoveries relating to the Bible.

One of the most fascinating of all archaeological finds was discovered in 1945 by Israeli archaeologist E.L. Sukenik. Just outside Jerusalem, near the suburb of Talpioth, a virtually undisturbed ancient tomb was uncovered. This is a very rare find in itself, because over the millennia Jerusalem has had a stormy history, and, much to the dismay of archaeologists, most tombs in and around the city were opened and ruthlessly plundered in antiquity.

The contents of this tomb, however, were intact, including coins which serve to date the burials to approximately 50 A.D., and five ossuaries, or bone caskets, which are now on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. (It was the common practice in ancient times to rebury the bones in a small casket after the fleshy portions of the body had desiccated.)

On two of these ossuaries the name "Jesus" is clearly legible. One reads in Greek Iesou Iou ("Jesus, help"), and the other in Aramaic Yeshu' aloth ("Jesus, let him arise"). These ossuaries are also clearly marked with large charcoal crosses.



2003 Vacation Bible School

Morning Sessions for 3, 4 & 5 Year Olds
9:00am-11:30am, Monday - Friday, June 2-6

Evening Sessions for 1st - 6th Grades*
6:00pm-8:30pm, Sunday - Thursday, June 1-5
(*Class child will be entering in Fall, 2003)

Bible Stories ♦ Crafts ♦ Singing ♦ Snacks

All Invited – Everyone Welcome

For more information or to Pre-Register
contact Marjo Johnson at 605-235-1688



Theme Bible Verse

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures;
He leads me beside
still waters.

Psalm 23:1-2

Of course, this find has sparked controversy, but Sukenik's own interpretation still seems the most probable: That in these rough, scratched letters and charcoal crosses we have the earliest known allusion to Jesus, outside the Bible, by Christian believers. If so, the implications are staggering! They show faith in a Jesus who can bring help even when a loved one has died, and a Jesus who can raise the Christian dead to be with him. And all within 20 years of the first Easter!

Oh, by the way: Another ossuary found in the main burial chamber of the

same tomb bears the name "Barsaba," a family name otherwise known only from the New Testament: Barabbas! Could it be that, as ancient legend relates, Barabbas' experience on Good Friday led him to faith in Christ, and this is his family's tomb?

Jack Finegan, The Archaeology of the New Testament (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969), 268-271; E.L. Sukenik, "The Earliest Records of Christianity," American Journal of Archaeology, Vol. 51 (1947), pp. 351-365.