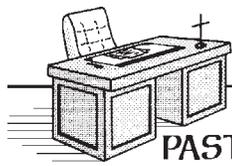


Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Crossnotes



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Before coming to Holy Cross, I served as Director of Communications at Concordia University Wisconsin. An ambitious project we were working on was to get the President or First Lady as commencement speaker. When that project came to fulfillment this year, I returned for the event. It was of course a great thrill for the students, and a great honor for CUW and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be so recognized. CUW is the largest Lutheran university in the United States, and the largest of our Synod's system of ten Concordia colleges and universities and two seminaries. I thought you might be interested in the President's comments.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Remarks by the President
of the United States
Concordia University Wisconsin
Commencement
Mequon, Wisconsin
May 14, 2004

Thank you all very much. Dr. Ferry, members of the faculty, trustees, families, distinguished guests, and members of the class of 2004. I appreciate the warm welcome to this fine university and to this great state. Thank you for such a wonderful welcome. I am honored to be with you on graduation day, as you become proud alumni of CUW.

I thank you, as well for the honorary degree. I kind of like the sound, "Dr. Bush." I don't think Laura is going to call me that.

My congratulations to my fellow honorees today, especially General Vessey, a fine officer who served our country

with distinction and honor. [General John Vessey, a layman in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was recognized by CUW for his service as former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff]

I'm here today with one of your alumni, class of 2000. He can't rise for applause because he's working. But I want his parents to know he's doing a really fine job. And everyone at Concordia can be very proud of officer Scott Eichstaedt of the United States Secret Service.

I am told that when the name of your commencement speaker was announced on April the 1st a lot of students thought it might be an April Fool's Day joke. And some of you may still have doubts. I saw a person when I walked in, said, is it him or is it the guy on "Saturday Night Live"?

All of you have worked hard and have come far, and you can always be proud of the achievement we mark today. Through it all, you've had a lot of fine people standing with you. This graduating class is a credit to the superb and caring teachers at Concordia. And today we also honor the people who believed in you, and prayed for you, and paid for you, the parents of the class of 2004.

Many of today's graduates are on your way to full-time ministry, and that commitment is one of the greatest that a man or woman can make. All of the graduates leave Concordia with a commission and a calling. In the Lutheran tradition, all work—in an office, on a farm, in the home, or in the halls of government—should be done to the glory of God. And that is accomplished by doing our work with excellence, and care, and an awareness of the needs around us.

We find our examples in great lives. Important work in this world can be done by towering figures, like Martin Luther,

who changed history and your own lives with an act of conscience. Work of lasting value can also be done by a solitary soul, condemned and stripped of all power, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Every life holds the possibility of serving God. And in every great life, that possibility is realized in service. After all, Bonhoeffer said, "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others."

This teaching of faith is confirmed in our daily experience. Many of us find that there is much more to life than getting and keeping. True fulfillment comes with the responsibilities we assume: to care for our families, and to love a neighbor as we want to be loved ourselves. This is more than a familiar saying; it is the foundation of a meaningful life.

A person shows his or her character in kindness and charity. And what is true in our lives is also true in the life of our nation. You can fairly judge the character of society by how it treats the weak, the vulnerable, the most easily forgotten. Our own country, at its best, strives to be compassionate, and this isn't easy. Compassion is not merely a vague feeling of empathy, it is a demanding virtue. It involves action and effort, and deep conviction—a conviction as old as Scripture and present at the founding of our country. We believe that everyone has a place and a purpose in this world, that every life matters, that no insignificant person was ever born.

America rejects the ethic of sink or swim. America rejects social Darwinism, because strength is not the same as worth. Our greatest failures as a nation have come when we lost sight of our compassionate ideals—in slavery, in segregation, and in every wrong that has denied the value and dignity of life. Our greatest strength as a nation is that we bravely face our flaws and do our best to make things right. Our greatest successes as a nation have come when

we broadened the circle of protection and inclusion. And this work is not finished. We will press on until every person shares in the promise of our country.

The mission statement of this university directs each of you towards a life of service to the church and to the world. It's not my place to tell you how best to serve the church, but I do have a few thoughts about how you can make your mark in the world. Wherever you are headed, I urge you to do the work nearest you, and help to build a more compassionate society.

First, America needs your efforts and energy in the fight against poverty and despair. A compassionate society does not look away from a man being dragged down by addiction, or a mother being abandoned by the father of the child, or boys and girls with no role models in life, who wonder if anyone cares about them. These personal tragedies are often failures of love—and they must be answered with love, and caring, and kindness. Government can play many important roles, but it cannot take someone's hand, and be their friend. You have that power. If you follow this calling, you can help transform our society, one heart, one soul at a time.

This call is heard and followed here in the Milwaukee area, at Lutheran Counseling and Family Services. It was founded over a hundred years ago to help children in need. Today, it offers services and counseling that help teens and preteens escape drug and alcohol abuse. When children hurt this deeply and this early, they often need an entirely new path, a new way. The CEO of the

Crossnotes

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program, Dr. Chuck Mesek, says this: "The clinical work is important, but in helping a person, faith is what really heals them completely."

Around our country, there are so many people with loving hearts who despair at the suffering they see around them. And so I made a decision: Instead of ignoring or resenting religious charities and faith-based groups, this country will encourage these good works in every way we can. The federal government now allows faith-based groups to compete for billions of dollars in social service funding, without being forced to change their identity and their mission. We must support the best, the most effective sources of compassion and hope—and we will not discriminate against people of faith.

Second, America needs your good heart in meeting a basic responsibility: to protect and honor life in all its seasons. A compassionate society shows a special concern for those at the beginning of life, those at the end of life, and those who struggle in life with disabilities. Most of you, at some point, will be called to care for a dying relative, or a frail and aging parent, or someone close to you with a terrible sickness. Often, in their pain and loneliness, they will feel they are nothing but a burden, and worthless to the world. And you will need to show them that's not true. Our worth as human beings does not depend on our health, or productivity, or independence, or any other shifting value the world might apply. Our worth comes from bearing the image of our Maker. And the hardest times of your life may be the most important, when you bear witness to this truth by your sacrifice and loving kindness to another soul.

This commitment to the value of every life also challenges our society. Technologies that have extended life also make treatment decisions harder at the end of life. New methods of research hold promise in treating disease. These innovations show the resourcefulness of humanity, and they must be guided by all the wisdom of humanity. Our standards must be high, and clear, and fixed. Life is not just a tool, or a commodity, or a means to other ends. Nothing good or just can be

built on the destruction or suffering of others.

These convictions have deep roots in our nation's founding. Our Declaration of Independence calls life an endowment of the Creator, and on earth, an unalienable right. Applying this belief has always been a test of our democracy. Your education has prepared—has prepared you to add to these debates with respect for others, and with confidence in your own beliefs. By your voice, and by your example, all of you can help to build a culture of life in America.

Third, America needs your idealism to show the good heart of our country to the whole world. A compassionate society sees needs and suffering beyond its borders, and cares enough to act. Americans show this care by adopting orphans from other lands, by resettling tens of thousands of refugees each year, by sending surgeons and dentists on medical missions, by spending years living among and serving people in far away countries. The kingdom you serve is not bounded by coasts or rivers or checkpoints. The hymns you sing are sung in every language. The needs of all the world are your concern, and I hope that, with your generous spirit and global vision, you will point the way for others.

The moral ideals of America are also universal. Because we believe in the rights and dignity of our own citizens, we believe in the rights and dignity of people everywhere. So in Africa and elsewhere, we are leading the fight against AIDS and other diseases. Where there is famine, our country provides food. Where there is desperate poverty, our country provides developmental aid. Where there is natural disaster, even in hostile nations, America is eager to help. And where there is tyranny, oppression, and gathering danger to mankind, America works and sacrifices for peace and freedom. The liberty we prize is not America's gift to the world, it is the Almighty God's gift to all humanity.

At this hour, our fellow citizens are sacrificing for the security and freedom of Afghanistan and Iraq. Their mission is like others we have given to past gener-

ations in our military: to defeat the violent and rescue the innocent. The mission of our military is also vital to the interests of America: We will not allow Afghanistan and Iraq to fall under the control of radicals and terrorists who are intent on our own destruction. On these matters, the compassion and the vital interests of our country speak as one: For the sake of peace, for the sake of security, we will stand for freedom.

The great events of these historic times can seem remote, and beyond the control of individuals. Yet, we have recently seen how much difference, for good or ill, the choices of individual men and women can make. In Iraq, the cruelty of a few has brought discredit to their uniform and embarrassment to our country. The consequences of their failures of character reach well beyond the walls of a prison. Yet, those failures cannot diminish the honor and achievement of more than 200,000 military personnel who have served in Iraq since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The character of the men and women who wear our uniform has been shown in countless acts of goodness and decency and unselfish courage. Our American military comes from all parts of the country. Six are members of the graduating class, and we thank them all.

One person can do so much harm, or so much good. One person can show the compassion and character of a whole country in an hour of testing. Never doubt that you can make a difference, because the call that comes to you is yours alone. And a great deal depends upon your answer. By bringing care and hope into other lives, you can fill your own life with purpose. By caring for life at every stage, you can make our country a more just and welcoming place. By showing the generosity of America, you can help change the world.

Each of you has gifts to offer, and I am confident you will use those gifts where they are needed. I wish you well on the journey ahead. I thank you for the warm welcome, and the honorary degree. I leave today a proud member of the Concordia University Wisconsin Class of 2004.

May God bless. Thank you, all.

Free Family Movie Nights



Sunday, June 20, 6:00pm

Disney's **The Lion King**



All-New Sequel to the Classic Hit—Never Shown in Theaters

Sunday, July 18, 6:00pm

Disney's **The Great Mouse Detective**

Sunday, August 15, 6:00pm

Jonah: A Vegitales Movie

Presented at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Dakota Dunes Boulevard and Bison Trail
Projected on Big Screen – Free Popcorn and Koolaid
All Ages Welcome *(No unattended children, please)*

No Charges or Fees

All Invited – Everyone Welcome!

Presented Under License from Christian Video Licensing International CVLI License #501228800

For More Information Call 232-9117 or 232-4013

Preschool Update



Thanks to consistent high enrollment, lower costs, donations, fundraisers, and donation by a member of work as an aide, Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care finished the 2003-2004 school year with a positive balance. We are able to offer this service to the community only because Holy Cross Lutheran Church generously

provides space, equipment, insurance, utilities and many other benefits to the Preschool and After School Care programs at no cost.

A record 12 children are enrolled for Holy Cross Summer Kid's Camp, which is being held on Wednesdays during the summer.

Registration for Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care is running ahead of last year, with over 50 already registered for next fall. Several Preschool classes are nearly full, so encourage those who may wish to enroll

to do so soon to reserve a spot for their child. Classes include Mom's Day Out for two year-olds, Preschool for three, four and five year-olds, and After School Care for Kindergarten through 6th Grade. It seems that parents of two year-olds and three year-olds often don't think about Mom's Day Out or Preschool until fall, but they need to enroll now to ensure a place for their children.

We recently contracted with Amber Hoffman, a certified teacher from Elk Point, to fill several openings in our program. Other openings include aide positions and a teacher for Mom's Day Out.

To enroll a child, apply for a position, or for more information contact Board of Education Chair Terese Vogts (232-4013).



Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care has several staff openings for the fall. A teacher is needed for the Mom's Day Out program and aides are needed for Preschool classes and the After School Care program. This is an excellent part-time opportunity in a pleasant working environment. College and high school age students will be considered for the aide positions.

To apply or for more information contact Board of Education Chair Terese Vogts (232-4013).

Messages for June



June 6
 "God's Grief Counselor"
 John 16:6-7

June 13
 "What We Learn from
 the Centurion"
 Luke 7:1-10

June 20
 "Five Fatherhood Examples
 from the Father of Us All"

June 27
 "Your Sins Are Forgiven"
 Luke 7:48



Summer Bible Class: A Quick Trip Through Romans

This summer in Adult Bible Class, after worship at 10:30am, we are taking "A Quick Trip Through Romans," giving highlights of this very interesting book.

In June and July there will be Adult Bible Class, but no Sunday School, during the Sunday School hour. The children will instead be allowed to play, or perhaps have a video, so that the adults who normally teach Sunday School will be able to attend Bible Class.



Service Time Change

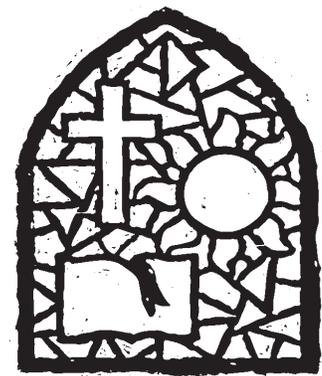
The Board of Elders has agreed to a request by Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City to allow Pastor Vogts to temporarily conduct services for them during a pastoral vacancy. Concordia is located on Military Road, just east of West High School. Services there will be at 8:00am, so beginning in July services at Holy Cross will temporarily shift to 9:30am.

It is anticipated that this arrangement could continue for about six months to one year.



Lawn Mowing Help Needed

Please consider mowing the church lawn this summer, which is a great cost savings for the congregation. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Two families are welcome to sign up to do it together. The church has two riding mowers. You can bring your own push mower and weed whip to trim or let Doug Jansen know and these will be provided. It is important to keep our church grounds looking neat—thanks for helping! Contact Doug for any questions.



Potluck and Stained Glass Windows Meeting

Everyone is invited to stay for a potluck dinner on Sunday, July 11 followed by an informational meeting about possible stained-glass windows for our church. A company will be presenting a proposal with possible designs and costs.



Over 75 children enjoyed Vacation Bible School at Holy Cross, more than 60 of those visitors. Our thanks to all the dedicated VBS staff who gave so much of their time and talent, especially VBS Superintendent Terese Vogts.



Vacation Bible School Big Success!

Over 75 children attended VBS at Holy Cross, nearly double last year's attendance. Over 60 of those children were non-members, and attendance this year rose significantly in the older grades.

This year each child in the lower grades received as a gift from Holy Cross five high-quality Arch books, for each of the five Bible stories covered. Each child in the older grades received a comic book style Bible story book. The children also enjoyed high quality crafts, an excellent music program, snacks and recess.

In their daily offerings the children gave over \$300 to buy chicks for needy persons overseas through Heifer Project International. The people are taught how to raise these chicks into chickens, providing an ongoing source of eggs and meat and thus protein so critical especially for the development of healthy children.

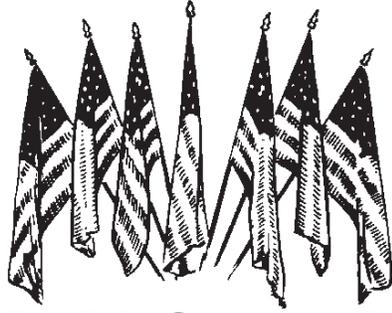
In addition to this offering by the children, both members and non-members gave generous donations of \$520 to help defray expenses

Thank you to all the staff members who gave so much of their time and talent to help everything go so smoothly:

Superintendent
Terese Vogts

Crafts
Jeri Melstad
Connie Elliot
Kim Messersmith
Lucille Schmidt

Music
Julie Krogh
Cathy Brown



July 4th Community Worship in the Park

All Invited

Sunday, July 4th ☼ 10:00am
At Prairie Park in Dakota Dunes

Led by Pastor Kevin Vogts
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Informal ☼ Bring Lawn Chairs

"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD."

Group Leaders

Janet Martin
Diane Bald
Daniell Bargstadt
Joey Ellickson
Morgan Kaardal
Sarah Vogts
Jacob Vogts

Snacks

Mabel Schibonski
Melanie Melstad

Recess

Paul Kaardal

Lesson Leader

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Board of Education

Diana Kaardal
Janet Martin
Terese Vogts

rain or shine under the "Big Top" on the church grounds at Dakota Dunes Boulevard and Bison Trail.

Last year over 300 members of the community enjoyed activities such as a children's inflatable "bouncer," carnival games, crafts, food, prizes, and a special appearance by "Sonny the Clown."

Mark your calendars now for this fun family event that you don't want to miss, and watch in coming months for needed items and help with this big event!



Elders



June 6

Greg Huibregtse

June 13

Dennis Melstad

June 20

Mike Bargstadt

June 27

Joey Schroeder

Substitute

Doug Jansen



BBQ and Bible Study

Everyone is invited to a "Barbeque and Bible Study" on Sunday, June 27 at 6:00pm at the home of Doug and Janet Martin, 331 West Pinhurst Trail, Dakota Dunes. Please bring a side dish or salad and dessert. Meat and drink provided. Following the meal, the children will play while the adults enjoy a short Bible study led by Pastor Vogts. For more information or directions contact Doug or Janet (232-9657).



Missionaries of the Month

Each month we remember in prayer in our worship specific missionaries sponsored around the world by our congregation, through our Synod and related organizations. You are encouraged to remember them also in your personal and family prayers.

June 6

Judith Henke
Thailand

Judith coordinates communications with LCMS missionaries throughout Asia, a critical link to their families and supporters "back home." Pray that she and other missionaries may be comforted in times of loneliness and homesickness.

Family Fun Carnival September 12

Holy Cross will again sponsor a free Family Fun Carnival for the entire community, on Sunday, September 12 from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Events will be held

June 13
Ried Weber
Slovakia

Reid teaches English at a Lutheran high school. Pray that he will adapt to the culture, make friends with the students and their families, and through those friendships be able to share Christ.

June 20
Jeremy Jesse
Taiwan

Jeremy is in a special youth ministry program. Pray that he may be able to touch the hearts and lives of the youth with whom he works.

June 27
Emily Martens
Macau

Emily teaches English as a second language, which provides many opportunities to share Christ with students eager to learn both English and more about Christianity.

Flowers for Worship



Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship. Any additional donations will be listed in future newsletters.

A sign-up sheet to provide flowers for worship is on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Occasions to remember include anniversaries, birthdays, in memory of loved ones, etc. Flowers may be obtained anywhere and you may provide your own vase or use one of the assortment in the church kitchen.

May 9
Rev. Kevin Vogts &
Jacob, Sarah and Anna
In Honor of Terese for Mother's Day

May 23
Dakota Valley High School
Graduation

May 30
Mike & Daniell Bargstadt
Memorial Day

Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care

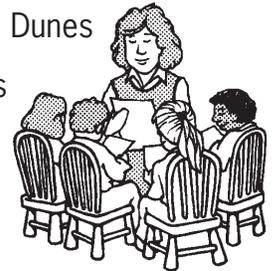
Reserve Now for Fall

Age 2 — Mom's Day Out

Ages 3-5 — Preschool

K-6th Grade — After School Care

- Providing quality Christian education since 1998
- Only Preschool conveniently located in Dakota Dunes
- Preschool classes taught by certified teachers
- Reserve your child a place *now* for next year
- After School Care for Kindergarten through 6th grade, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- Bus service to After School Care direct from Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart
- Only After School Care conveniently located in Dakota Dunes
- To register or for more information call Board of Education Chair Terese Vogts (232-4013)



June 6

Doug & Sue Jansen
Our Birthdays

June 13

Jane Michels and Family
In Memory of Jim Michels

June 20

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Jacob's Birthday



By Tim and Heidi Norton, Guinea

We recently added three new villages to our teaching schedule, bringing our total to five. In all the villages we've had an invitation to come. We're work-

ing among a resistant people group (Muslims), so an invitation isn't as much a social nicety as a necessity.

While we were teaching in one of the new villages a man came and said, "I'm from a village about eight kilometers away, and I heard about what you're doing here, I was wondering if you could come to my village to help us with this teaching." We got permission from the village chief and elders, and we hope to start there soon. We are thankful and cognizant that God gives the growth!



We need your prayers, so that God will work faith in the hearts of our hearers. We know that the message of Christ crucified is foolishness in the eyes of the world, which includes the Muslim world, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:22-24).



BBQ and Bible Study

All Invited

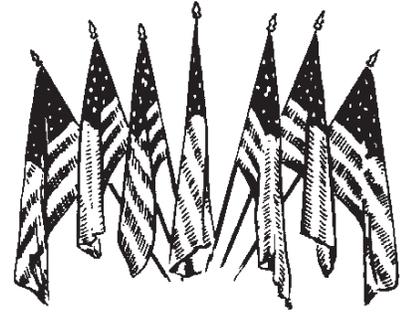
Sunday, June 27, 6:00pm

At Home of Doug and Janet Martin
331 West Pinhurst Trail, Dakota Dunes

Please bring Side Dish or Salad and Dessert
Meat and Drink Provided

Following Meal, Children Will Play
While Adults Enjoy Short Bible Study

*For more information or directions
contact Doug or Janet (232-9657)*



July 4th Community Worship in the Park

All Invited

Sunday, July 4th ☼ 10:00am

At Prairie Park in Dakota Dunes

Led by Pastor Kevin Vogts
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Informal ☼ Bring Lawn Chairs

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Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
149 Bison Trail P.O. Box 1902
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

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