

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which is God's" (Matthew 22:21).

Of course, in this verse Jesus was talking about our duty to pay taxes that we owe to the government. However, under our democratic system, we also owe the government another very important duty: to vote in our elections.

We have been blessed by God with this wonderful form of government we call democracy. Our nation and its freedoms are the envy of the world. Most other democracies have modeled their governments on our uniquely successful system.

But, as is often the case with God's blessings, we take the blessings of democracy and freedom for granted. This can be seen in the very low voter turn-out in our nation's elections. Usually, only about 50% of eligible voters go to the polls to cast their ballots on Election Day. That is the lowest percentage among democratic nations!

Our entire system of government is built upon the idea that individuals will use their votes to elect good leaders. How long do you think our democratic system, and the cherished freedoms that go with it, can endure if the citizens of our land do not vote?

It is your sacred duty as a Christian citizen to render this valuable service unto our government. Just as surely as



**ELECTIONS**

Jesus instructs us to pay our taxes, so we should each also exercise our privilege and duty to vote in the upcoming elections on November 2.

One of the reasons many of our ancestors came to this land was because of the political and religious freedom they could enjoy here. We must make certain that this heritage is passed on to our children and the coming generations. The best way to ensure this is for us to elect good leaders.

So, as you vote, remember that you are fulfilling your God-given duty as a Christian citizen. Your vote is important!

Pastor Kevin Vogts



**Pastor Vogts to Visit Africa**

Twice a year the Executive Director of Lutheran World Relief, Rev. Matthew Harrison, makes an inspection tour of some of the hundreds of places LWR is working around the world. It is customary to take along a representative parish pastor, to help keep the Synod at large informed of LWR activities.

Pastor Vogts visited with Rev. Harrison at the LCMS convention in July. It turns out he is originally from Sioux City—he grew up as a member of Redeemer in Morningside, his parents moved and now attend Calvary in Leeds—and he is familiar with what he

called the "Dakota Dunes mission church" and was interested in how Holy Cross is progressing.

The following week he telephoned to invite Pastor Vogts along as the representative parish pastor for an LWR inspection tour of several nations in southern Africa. Originally scheduled for September 5-13, the trip was rescheduled for November 29-December 7, because it was thought inadvisable to be visiting countries with large Muslim populations—and some hostility toward Christian missionaries—during the anniversary of 9/11 and the weeks leading up to the election.

Pastor Vogts' expenses will be paid by a special donor. The Board of Elders has given permission for Pastor Vogts to take advantage of this very unique opportunity. Substitute pastors are being arranged as needed.

Please pray that this is a blessed and profitable trip for Pastor Vogts and for his safe return.



**New Organ Donated**

A couple in our congregation, seeing the need for a new organ, has generously donated a new Johannus digital organ to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The Board of Elders and Voters Assembly have gratefully accepted this generous gift, and our new organ is currently under construction at the Johannus factory in The Netherlands. It should be installed

sometime around Christmas, perhaps after the New Year.

Although our current organ has served us well, it was already about 30 years old when Holy Cross received it, and has actually exceeded its expected life. While it is currently working properly, when it does need service it would be difficult and expensive to get the necessary parts, particularly the tubes, in dozens of assorted sizes, none of which are manufactured any longer. When our new organ is installed, we will work to find our old organ a good home, hopefully passing it on to another mission congregation.

You can find out more about Johannus organs and our new organ on the Internet at [www.johannus.com](http://www.johannus.com). Johannus is both the fastest-growing and considered the highest-quality manufacturer of digital organs. Using the latest technology they have painstakingly "sampled" millions of actual organ pipes, from across Europe and America, which are beautifully replicated with a true pipe organ sound. Faith Lutheran Church, on Hamilton Boulevard in Sioux City, installed a Johannus organ about a year ago, and it delivers a marvelous true pipe organ performance.

The specific organ we are getting is the "Sweelinck 20," which is similar to Faith's—which is a "Sweelinck 10"—although larger and with more options. In our current facility it will use only the internal speakers and will be adjusted to the smaller size of the room. However, it can readily be moved when our permanent sanctuary is built, and, with

**A total of 63 attended our 2004 July 4th Community Worship Service in Prairie Park, including many guests of our members and from the community. Pastor Vogts' message was reprinted in its entirety by the *Two Rivers Times*. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success, especially Dennis Melstad, Board of Elders chair, and Janet Martin, Board of Evangelism chair. Photos by Daryl Thul/Two Rivers Times**

## July 4th Service in the Park



the addition of external speakers, will be perfectly suited to lead a large congregation in a much larger new sanctuary.

A further advantage is that the console comes equipped so that actual pipes can be added at any time in the future. Also, performances can be recorded with "MIDI" (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) and replayed. So, once we have built up a library of recorded music, it will be possible to "play" the organ even when our organist is absent. Another nice feature is an automatic transposing mechanism, so that music can be automatically lowered or raised to another key.

Our thanks to the couple who generously donated this very thoughtful gift, which will be used for generations to give God the glory in our worship services.

have been awarded another \$5,000 grant for evangelistic outreach. This is in addition to a \$5,000 grant previously received, which has nearly been depleted. It will be used for a variety of outreach activities, such as mailings, and a planned congregational web site.

These grants are funded by the Schwan Charitable Trust, established by the late Marvin Schwan, founder of the Schwan's food corporation. Our thanks to Janet Martin, Board of Evangelism chair, for applying for, and going to much effort to secure, these very sizeable grants, which are such a blessing to our congregation.

## Crossnotes

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*November, 2004*

*Volume 2*

*Number 11*

## Pastor Vogts Appointed to Communications Board

Pastor Kevin Vogts has been appointed by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to a three-year term on the LCMS Board for Communications Services. In this role he will help oversee the print and broadcast media, public relations and marketing efforts of our 2.6 million member denomination.

 **Outreach**  
**\$5,000 Evangelism  
Grant Received**

Our congregation has been notified by the LCMS Board for Missions that we

The Board of Elders gave him permission to take up this position, which will require travel to board meetings, usually in St. Louis, for several days about four times per year. His term is renewable for another three years.

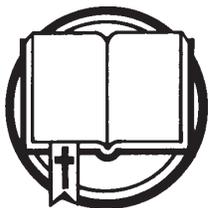
Pastor Vogts was chosen for this position because prior to accepting the Call to Holy Cross in 2003, he served for five years as Director of Communications at Concordia University Wisconsin, the largest Lutheran university in North America.



## ***New Member Sunday and Potluck Dinner November 14***

November 14 will be a very special Sunday as we welcome a number of new families into our congregation. There will be a special recognition during the service at 9:30am, with a potluck dinner following the Sunday School hour, at about noon.

Please come for the service and stay for the dinner to welcome these newest members of our church family!



## ***Sermon Themes for November***

November 7  
***"The Beatitudes"***  
Matthew 5:1-12



The Three Year-Old Preschool class enjoyed their visit to the pumpkin patch. Our Preschool and After School Care programs have again been blessed with record enrollments, serving nearly 70 children of our congregation and community. We are pleased to welcome two new certified teachers to our staff, Mary Lee for Mother's Day Out, and Amber Hoffman for Three Year-Old Preschool and After School Care.

November 14  
***"Goin' Home"***

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

November 21

***"Behold, I Am Coming Soon"***

Revelation 22:7

November 24

(Thanksgiving Eve, 7:00pm)

***"Why Do You Worry?"***

Matthew 6:25-33

November 28

***Guest Preacher***

***Rev. Michael Kumm***

Director of Alumni Relations  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

***Communion  
Change***



The Board of Elders has determined to begin offering Communion by both common and individual cup at all services.

If you prefer the common cup, simply do not take an individual cup and Pastor Vogts will serve you with the common cup. If you do take an individual cup, please hold it visibly so that when he returns with the common cup Pastor Vogts is reminded that you have already received the wine.



## Family Fun Carnival Success!

Our second Family Fun Carnival on September 12 was another *extraordinary* success! It is estimated that once again at least 300, perhaps more, members of the community enjoyed this fantastic event. During an otherwise rainy spell we were blessed with sunny weather, and there was never a slow moment with a constant flow of people.

Many expressed their thanks, with comments such as "This is just the kind of thing Dakota Dunes needs." Several persons expressed surprise that our congregation could host such a major event, and particularly that it was not a fund-raiser but a gift to the community.

From 4:00pm-7:00pm activities on the lawn of the church included two children's inflatable "bouncers" and carnival games under a "big top" tent. Most people also came inside the church for crafts and food, including a fun cake walk. We once again had "Sonny the Clown" entertaining the crowds and there was a long line of eager children as he made balloon sculptures.

Many of the foodstuffs, prizes, etc. were donated by members or local business, so the net cost was surprisingly low for such a major, first-class event.

Thank you to everyone who worked so very hard making this event such a big success, including planning, preparation, setup, working at the carnival, and cleanup and tearing down. Special thanks to Joey Schroeder for helping to avoid a lot of disappointed children by purchasing a "bouncer" for the church to use that day, when a mixup by the rental company left us without one.

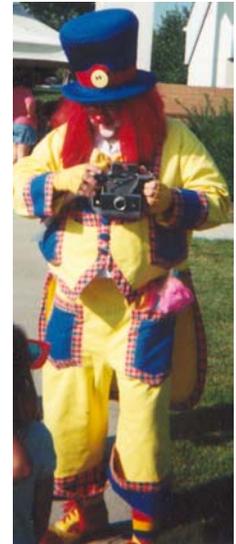


The west lawn of the church was transformed into the carnival grounds.



## Second Annual Family Fun Carnival

September 12, 2004



"Sonny the Clown" again entertained the crowds with his antics, and especially delighted the children with balloon sculptures.



The children enjoyed carnival games under the "big top."





## Stained Glass Windows Donated

An initial donation of funds earmarked for stained-glass windows led to the appointment of a committee to study the possibility of installing stained-glass windows in our present worship facility, with the windows designed to be easily removed and reinstalled in our permanent sanctuary when it is constructed. After reviewing designs and securing bids from two area companies, the committee recommended eight windows be installed depicting scenes from the life of Christ, to be crafted by The Stained Glass Workshop of Sioux City.

The committee's proposal was approved at a special meeting of the congregation on August 29—and by the end of the meeting all eight windows had already been donated! They are now under construction and some or all of them may be installed by Christmas. When they are dedicated a booklet will be printed listing the donors and whom they are given in memory or honor of. A memorial book has also been purchased that will become a permanent record for these and other donations, with photos of the items and a dedication page.

Each window will feature a beautifully painted medallion with a detailed scene from the life of Christ in the top panel, a related Bible verse hand-painted on a scroll in the center panel, and a stained-glass cross in the bottom panel. The selected scenes and Bible verses are:

## Nativity



Unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:14)

## Baptism



He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5)

## Last Supper



This is My body, given for you; this is My blood, shed for you. (Luke 22:19-20)

## Gethsemane



God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son. (John 3:16)

## Crucifixion



He bore our sins in His body on the cross. (1 Peter 2:24)

## Resurrection and Ascension



He was delivered to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:25)

## Christ Knocking at the Door



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7)

## Good Shepherd



I am the Good Shepherd and I lay down My life for the sheep. (John 10:11-15)

The windows will be placed as follows:

West Wall, North to South: Nativity, Baptism, Last Supper, Gethsemane;

East Wall, North to South: Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension, Christ Knocking at the Door, Good Shepherd.

At the time the windows are moved to the permanent sanctuary, the spaces in each window for the window frames can be eliminated and the three panels combined to form one solid window.

Our thanks to all those who gave so generously—and so quickly—to make possible this project which will enhance our worship for generations to come, not only in our present facility but also in our new, permanent sanctuary.



*Gary and Betty Gunderson*  
By Release from  
Riverside Lutheran Church (ELCA),  
Sioux City, Iowa

*Steve and Janell Wollschlager  
and Jordan and Cam*  
By Transfer from  
Messiah Lutheran Church (LCMS),  
Sartell, Minnesota

*Barb Dolan  
and Brandon and Trevor*  
By Release from  
Trinity Lutheran Church (WELS),  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Welcome to the Holy Cross family of faith!

These and other new members will be welcomed on New Member Sunday, November 14, with a potluck at noon.

If you have an interest in joining Holy Cross and would like to be part of this New Member Sunday, please contact Pastor Vogts (232-9117 or 232-4013).

# Holy Cross Preschool

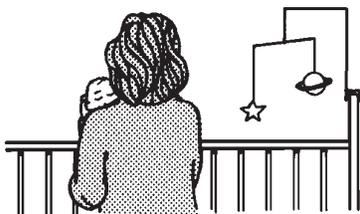
# Soup Supper

Help Support Holy Cross Preschool  
Sunday, November 21  
4:00pm-7:00pm

Adults—\$5 Children 4-12—\$3 Under 4—Free  
Matchings Funds by Thrivent

Donations and Workers Needed  
Contact Daniell Bargstadt (235-0700)

*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*



## Nursery Volunteers Needed

Starting October 24, Holy Cross is having a nursery during Sunday services for children who are four months through age four. It is held in the north classroom. Parents may bring their children in for all or part of the service.

We hope to have enough volunteers so that you will serve only about once every two months. Our thanks to Daniell Bargstadt for being the nursery coordinator. She will make up the schedule and call to remind you. We hope to also have a designated alternate for each month.

Please sign up on the bulletin board to help out with this important service to the families of our congregation. For more information contact Daniell (235-0700).

## Special Offering for CSADV

Domestic violence and sexual assault are serious and increasing problems in our society. The victims often feel they have no where to turn for help. Sioux City is blessed with a very active Council on Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence that provides counselor, shelter and other assistance, last year serving 1,120 clients, providing 5,346 nights of shelter, and answering 2,805 calls to the crisis hotline.

However, a \$190,000 federal grant was recently lost, so CSADV needs community support to continue providing these essential services. The Voters Assembly decided to take a special door offering for CSADV after worship on Sunday, October 31. You may make checks out to either Holy Cross or CSADV. If you wish to make a donation but will not be here October 31, you may give your donation to Sue Jansen (Financial Secretary), Dennis Melstad (Treasurer), or Pastor Vogts. More information about CSADV is posted on the church bulletin board.



## Service Time Change

A reminder that while Pastor Vogts is temporarily conducting services for Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City during a pastoral vacancy there, services at Holy Cross have temporarily shifted to 9:30am.

Also, don't forget Daylight Savings Time ends on October 31, as we "fall back" an hour that morning.



## Elders



November 7  
Dennis Melstad

November 14  
Mike Bargstadt

November 21  
Joey Schroeder

November 25 (Thanksgiving Eve)  
Doug Jansen

November 28  
Greg Huibregtse

Alternate  
Doug Jansen



November 7  
Casey Johnson

# Community Thanksgiving Eve Service



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate Thanksgiving  
Wednesday, November 24, 7:00pm

Led by Pastor Kevin Vogts  
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Dakota Dunes Boulevard & Bison Trail

*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*

**O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.**

November 14  
Brandon Dolan

November 21  
Austin Munns

November 25 (Thanksgiving Eve)  
Sarah Vogts

November 28  
Alex Kaardal

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.

November 7  
*Rev. Dale and Cheryl Talsma*  
*Guatemala*

Pastor and Mrs. Talsma live in Guatemala City, where he trains pastors and church leaders. Pray that the Lord would raise up zealous servants and leaders for the Lutheran church in Guatemala.

November 14  
*Rev. Stephen Oliver*  
*Taiwan*

Pastor Oliver serves as a professor of New Testament studies at China Lutheran Seminary, located in Hsin Chu. This seminary jointly serves six Chinese Lutheran bodies and is supported by six Lutheran mission agencies. Pray for his effective teaching ministry with his students, future pastors and other leaders.



## WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

### *Missionaries of the Month*

Each month we remember in prayer in our worship specific missionaries

November 21  
*David and Luz Ernst*  
*Venezuela*

The Ernsts serve as agricultural missionaries with the Mongas farm project in eastern Venezuela. It was created, in the midst of a devastating economic crisis in the country, to generate income to support church work there and halt the closing of churches due to low incomes and poverty.

November 28  
*Michael and Kristy Grannis*  
*Japan*

The Grannises teach conversational English to give them entree into the very closed society of Japan. This gives them the opportunity to use Bible stories and other Christian literature in their classes and to hold English language Bible studies, which serve the dual purpose of helping the students to practice their English, while also sharing with them the Gospel.



## **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.

A separate sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in late November or early December for poinsettia donations.

July 4

Doug & Janet Martin  
Kaden and Kaleb's Birthdays

August 8

Marcy, Bryce & Brady Schroeder  
Joey's Birthday

August 15

Pastor Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Terry's Birthday

August 22

Pastor Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Anna's Birthday

August 29

Joey & Marcy Schroeder  
8th Wedding Anniversary

September 5

Pastor Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Sarah's Birthday

September 11

Doug & Sue Jansen  
33rd Wedding Anniversary

September 19

Doug & Janet Martin  
Kylie and Kendall's Birthdays

September 26

Joey & Brady Schroeder  
Marcy & Bryce's Birthdays

October 3

Doug & Janet Martin  
14th Wedding Anniversary

October 10

Gary & Betty Gunderson  
In Memory of Our Parents

October 31

Pastor Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Reformation Day

November 7

Doug & Sue Jansen  
Veteran's Day

November 14

Joey, Marcy, & Brady Schroeder  
Bryce's Baptismal Birthday

November 21  
Mabel Schibonski  
96th Birthday

December 19  
Mike & Daniell Bargstadt  
Ben's Birthday



Special thanks to Jeri Melstad and Doug Jansen of the Board of Trustees, and those who helped them, for their efforts mowing the church lawn and otherwise keeping the grounds looking good this summer. This is a *really* big job which Jeri and Doug kept up very faithfully (while Pastor Vogts looked out from his air-conditioned office!).

For next year it has been arranged and budgeted to have the lawn mowed by a service every two weeks. During the peak growing season we will still need to mow ourselves in the off weeks, but this should lessen the burden, and we hope to get more congregational members involved so that no one will need to mow too often.



## **Guest Preacher November 28**

On November 28, Rev. Michael Kumm, Director of Alumni Relations at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be the guest preacher at Holy Cross and will speak during the Bible Class hour about the work and astounding recent growth of the seminary. Rev. Kumm grew up in Souix City as a member of Concordia Lutheran Church and will be in town for the Thanksgiving holiday.

This gives the Vogts family an opportunity, which they haven't had for several years, to join in celebrating Thanksgiving with Pastor Vogts' side of the family at his mother's home in his hometown of Canton, Kansas. They will leave early Thanksgiving Day, following the Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at Holy Cross on Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00pm

Before entering the seminary, Rev. Kumm was in law enforcement, serving both as director of the South Dakota state law enforcement academy and head of the South Dakota State Highway Patrol.



*From Christie Nelson  
Thailand*

Lek, age 20, has been a part of the Concordia Day Care program at the Bangna slum since age seven. She continues there to keep her safe from sexual abuse that is rampant within the slum and because she is unable to learn in a regular government school setting. Lek is moderately challenged mentally and will never be able to read, write, or work with numbers. However, over the last 14 years, she has come to love the Lord Jesus with all her heart.

Little by little, Lek has grown in her ability to talk about her faith in Jesus and in her ability to demonstrate her love for Jesus in visible ways. Lek began sharing the Gospel of Jesus with her parents by using simple words many years ago. Then she began praying at home thanking God for food and shelter and asking God to bless her parents, to keep them safe, and to help them in their daily struggles to provide for the large extended family.

A few months ago, Lek's father, Khun Idt, began to ask the day care staff questions about Christianity and God. I visited him at his home accompanied by day care staff. Indeed, he was curious. He wanted to know why Christians pray, who God is, and what he needed to do to know God. I asked him about his daughter's prayer life at home and proceeded to explain. I then told the mission's male evangelist at Bangna, Acharn Norrahnit, about Khun Idt, and he began visiting him right away.

Khun Idt collects plastic, glass, cardboard, and old wood and tin to resell in order to earn a living for his family. It is hard for him to stay at home, but at least once a week, he meets with Acharn Norrahnit to study Christianity through simple tracts. Please keep Khun Idt in your prayers that God would continue to work in his heart and eventually draw Khun Idt into a relationship with Him through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

*From Matt and Kim Myers  
Vietnam*

Tien Luong is one of the biggest communes in Phu Tho province. Much of it is low-lying, so people there often suffer flooding from July to the end of October. The population of almost 6,000 is spread out over a large area, and not many people live in the center of the commune. Because their infrastructure is poorer than many other communes, they encounter difficulties in transport during the rainy season. This has led to many heart-breaking stories, one of which we would like to share.

Mrs. Bao, who lives in that commune, talked about her story again when she met us some days ago, "I was born and got married here. We have three sons in total. For the school opening ceremony on Sept. 5, 1995, my first son went to school with his two friends by boat because of the heavy rain. The road was flooded with water. On the way to school, a snake swam up to their boat. This made one friend scared, and she jumped up, causing the boat to tip over. My son tried to save her from drowning, but in the struggle, all three of the children died. That year, a total of 10 people drowned, including these three

students who died on the way to their school."

In the year 2000, using \$2,000 from an LCMS World Relief-funded community development project, we helped the commune build a small school with two classrooms in the hamlet furthest from the communal center. They have since opened four classes, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, for grades 1-5, and with more than 30 students. Mrs. Bao's youngest son is one of them. "After my older son's death, I had a third son. He is now in the second grade and can study close to our house because of the new building. I am very happy with it." said Bao.

We were also very happy when Mr. Chinh, the president of that commune, said, "Thank you LCMS and National Institute of Nutrition (our Vietnamese partners) for helping us solve our problem." Moreover, our counterpart here says, "Knowing that we do make a difference is an encouragement for us to work better."



**New  
Altar  
Donated**

Our thanks to Joey Schroeder for donating a beautiful new oak, handcrafted altar. This matches the new pulpit he gave previously. He is also crafting a matching new lectern and Baptismal font.

The new altar ingeniously includes drawers on the back for storage of the altar paraments, so that the cabinet at the east front of the church can be removed.

These pieces not only beautify our current worship facility, but can be moved to our permanent new sanctuary when it is built. If purchased from a manufacturer, they would cost tens of thousands of dollars.

When not working in his wood shop, Joey is a chiropractor. So, he's obviously very good with his hands in more ways than one!

# Holy Cross Preschool

## Soup Supper

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Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor  
149 Bison Trail  
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

**Crossnotes**  
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church