

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A controversial case in the news recently was that of Terri Schiavo, the Florida woman who died two weeks after her feeding tube was removed. This is a very emotional issue, including for me. My own father was in a somewhat similar circumstance in the final months of terminal cancer.

Many would consider the case of Terri Schiavo a moot question now that an autopsy has revealed that she was indeed "brain dead" as had been diagnosed. Actually, this term "brain dead" technically refers to a state in which the brain is *physically* dead as an organ, and there is *no* brain function at all, including respiration, heart function, etc., which was not the case with Terri Schiavo. The term "brain dead" is often misapplied to cases such as hers, in which the actual diagnosis technically is not "brain dead" but irreversible brain *damage* that presumably leaves the patient without higher brain functions or the hope of ever recovering them.

However, a conclusive determination of such irreversible brain damage can only be reached *after* death, by an autopsy. There have been many cases of persons diagnosed with irreversible brain damage who subsequently recovered. For example, *The Early Show* on CBS reported on August 5, 2005:

"Sarah Scantlin woke up earlier this year after two decades in a semi-comatose state. . . For 20 years, Scantlin, the victim of a hit-and-run accident, was cut off from the world, unable to communicate. But it's now clear that—at least some of the time—

she could see, she could hear, and she could understand what was going on around her.

"Shortly after she began to talk earlier this year, her father asked her what she knew about something that had happened years earlier, September 11.

"Sarah, what's 9-11?" Jim Scantlin says he asked. 'And she says, "Bad . . . Fire . . . Airplanes . . . Building . . . Hurt people." Now, that's pretty good.'

"Dr. Randolph Marshall, a neurologist at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, says there was something going on inside Sarah Scantlin's brain. . . 'she must have been processing information.'" (www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/08/05/earlyshow/series/main760296.shtml)

While it turned out that the autopsy of Terri Schiavo revealed that she did have irreversible brain damage and presumably no higher brain functions, prior to the autopsy no one knew conclusively whether or not she could have been in a condition similar to Sarah Scantlin, and could have had a similar recovery. My own father, suffering from a brain tumor, was unable to really communicate for the last months, but the doctor assured us, "It's still him. He's all still in there. He just can't communicate back to you. But you need to assume that you can still communicate with him."

The moral aspects of this issue hinge on the distinction between *ordinary* and *extraordinary* means of life support. The key rule of thumb, based upon Scriptural principles, is this: *It is permissible to withhold extraordinary care, but not permissible to withhold ordinary care.* However, like the rules of English grammar, which always seem to have lots of exceptions, this rule of thumb is complicated by the fact it is not

always easy to determine the boundary between ordinary and extraordinary care.

The basic ordinary means of life support are obviously food, water, and air. Extraordinary means in general use some enhancement to provide these ordinary means in an extraordinary manner: a ventilator to provide air, an intravenous drip to provide water, and a feeding tube to provide food.

In the case of medication or other medical treatment, it could be considered either ordinary or extraordinary, depending upon the medication or treatment and the circumstances of the patient's condition. Medication to relieve pain would usually be considered ordinary and should not be involuntarily withheld from a patient, unless outweighed by some medical or other consideration.

In many cases, such as cancer, the "cure is worse than the disease." You may have faced this dilemma with a loved one. That was the case with my own father, who simply could not tolerate further treatments, and in any event had almost no hope of recovery even if the grueling regimen was continued. The cure was indeed worse than the disease. It is *not* wrong to forgo medical treatment for yourself or a loved one in such circumstances. *Not* continuing active treatment under such circumstances could be considered an act of mercy.

However, the line between ordinary and extraordinary care is not so neatly drawn that one can say it is in every circumstance permissible to withhold medication or other medical treatment. The most famous cases are parents who belong to a cult and for erroneous religious reasons shun blood transfusions or other routine medical treatments for their children, who then die of illnesses that could be easily cured. In such cases, where a medication or treatment has a good chance of effecting a cure but is

purposely withheld, the medical treatment would be considered ordinary care, and withholding of treatment sinful. That is why the government in such cases routinely takes custody of the children to compel medical treatment.

The question in the case of Terri Schiavo comes down to whether she was denied *ordinary* or *extraordinary* care. There are differing opinions as to whether or not providing food and water by tubes should be considered extraordinary care. For my part, I believe that intravenous and feeding tubes can generally be considered extraordinary care, and may be withdrawn, but with one very important provision: *provided that at least an attempt is made to still provide food and water by ordinary means.*

In the case of Terri Schiavo, a news report indicated that she received a final Holy Communion shortly before death. That makes it seem as though she was still able to swallow, since if she could not swallow Holy Communion would generally not be administered. However, another news report on the first day after the feeding tube was removed said that her parents had actually been forcibly restrained by sheriffs deputies from placing ice chips in her mouth (something I recall doing for my father), which was considered a violation of the court order.

Admittedly not knowing all the circumstances, but based upon these reports, it seems as though she was actually denied not only *extraordinary* care, the feeding tube, which it would be permissible to withdraw, but she was

also denied *ordinary* care, whatever degree of food and water could still be administered by the ordinary means. If that is so, it was not the denial of extraordinary care that was wrong in this particular case, but the withholding of ordinary care. Based on what has been publicized about this case and her condition, it was not wrong to withdraw the feeding tube, but then at least an attempt should have been made to continue providing ordinary care by ordinary means. That would probably not have changed the eventual outcome, but from a moral standpoint it is an important distinction.

An example that may be easier to understand is a patient who could benefit from an artificially enriched oxygen supply, which many hospital patients do receive. Deciding not to provide such artificially enriched oxygen would not be morally wrong. But, going further to cut off all oxygen intake by actually suffocating the patient would be. In the same way, not providing food and water by extraordinary means is generally not morally wrong. But, going further to not at least attempt to provide food and water by ordinary means would be.

In the case of my father, once the doctor indicated that further torturous treatments, while possible and he would continue if my mother desired, was unlikely to effect a cure, my mother elected to discontinue treatment, take him home, and care for him there herself. In the hospital he had received intravenous hydration, which was not practical at home. Nor was there any question of him receiving a feeding tube, being put on a ventilator, or being revived in the case of heart failure, all of which might have been done if he had remained in the hospital. These types of *extraordinary* care were withdrawn or withheld.

On the other hand, every attempt was made to continue giving him food and water by the *ordinary* means. We carefully dripped into his mouth water and liquid nutrition. I myself fed him in this manner just hours before he died. We kept track of the amounts he was able to consume, and it would not have been enough to sustain him for the long-term. It is possible that the

introduction of intravenous and feeding tubes might have prolonged his life. But, although he did not receive every type of *extraordinary* care which was theoretically possible, it was important that at least an attempt was made to continue providing him with *ordinary* care, by the ordinary means.

In this regard the Terri Schiavo case may have been unusual. I believe that in most instances where intravenous and feeding tubes are withdrawn there is probably still at least an attempt to continue providing food and water by ordinary means—and not a court order forbidding even ice chips, and sheriffs deputies at the bedside. The unfortunate acrimony which had built up among the family members in this case, and the resulting legal complications, is what probably led to her apparently being denied food and water not only by extraordinary but also by ordinary means. Fortunately, most families facing these decisions do not have that level of acrimony and legal complications, and so this case is probably not the best one to look to for any kind of example or precedent.

Each such case is unique and there are many considerations to take into account. It is not possible to give a blanket, one-size-fits-all decree that covers every situation. However, if you should face such a dilemma, some general principles which may help to guide you are:

- It is permissible to withhold extraordinary care, but not permissible to withhold ordinary care.
- If extraordinary care is withheld, at least an attempt should still be made to still provide ordinary care by ordinary means.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Preschool and After Care Begin New Year

Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool and After School Care begins the 2005-2006 school year on August 17, the same day as the Dakota Valley school

Crossnotes

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district, whose calendar we generally follow.

This year we welcome Lynnea Mueller as our new Preschool and After School Care Director, as well as



teacher for the three year old class. Lynnea moved from Evansville, Indiana and has her degree in special education from the University of Evansville. Her husband is vice president of advancement at Briar Cliff University. She can be contacted at the Preschool at 235-1688 or by email at holycrosspreschool@longlines.com. In addition teaching on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, she will have office hours on Wednesday afternoons and all day Thursday.

Julie Krull returns as teacher for the four and five year old classes, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and afternoons. Cindy Feeser also returns as the Mothers' Day Out teacher on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and as preschool aide. Lorraine Kerr rounds out the Preschool staff, returning as an aide.

A total of 37 children are enrolled in Preschool and there are still some openings. We have reached a maximum 30 children with a waiting list for After School Care. We still need additional staff for After School Care; please contact Lynnea if you are interested or know of anyone who may have an interest.

Our congregation operates this top-quality Preschool and After School Care program as a service to our community and an opportunity to reach children with the Gospel. May the Lord once again bless our efforts to "Tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." (Psalm 78:4)

Worship Order Rotation

Beginning this month we will be rotating our worship services on a monthly and season rather than weekly basis.

**You Are Invited
to a**



Mission Report and Photo Safari **Sunday, August 21, 7:00pm**

Pastor Kevin Vogts will be sharing photos and insights from his recent mission trip to Kenya. Come hear the heartwarming stories from his two weeks of travels throughout remote areas of the country, visiting in homes and churches with pastors and members of the fast-growing Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. He will also share many photos of the stunning scenery and wildlife.

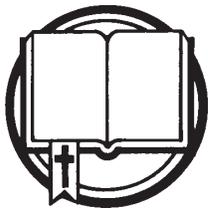
Light Refreshments Following
All Invited Everyone Welcome

In August we will use *Divine Service III*; in September *Divine Service II, First Setting* (Page 158); in October *Divine Service IV*; and in November *Divine Service II, Second Setting* (Page 178). There will also be occasional alternate orders of service. When the new church year begins in Advent we will rotate services on a seasonal basis for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter, and then on a monthly basis during the longer season of Pentecost.

We are also experimenting with printing out *Divine Service III* and *IV* entirely in the bulletin rather than using the worship booklets.

Please let Pastor Vogts know your opinions and preferences about our worship.

Donna Vondracek
By Transfer from
Bethesday Lutheran Church (LCMS),
Hot Springs, South Dakota



Messages for August

August 7

*"Take Courage!
Don't Be Afraid"*

Matthew 14:22-33

August 14

"The Two Natures in Christ"

Romans 9:5

August 21

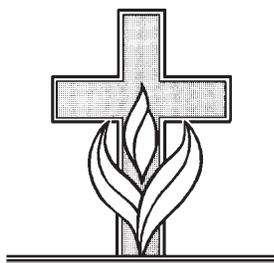
*"Singing the Faith:
How Great Thou Art"*

Romans 11:33-36

August 28

*"Singing the Faith:
Amazing Grace"*

1 Timothy 1:15



New Confirmation Program

The survey by the Long Range Planning Committee revealed a desire for a more comprehensive confirmation program, which we are beginning to implement this year.

Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 7 and continue each Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm (6:15pm during Advent and Lent). This year we are adding a Pre-Confirmation class for 5th-6th Grades that will focus on key Bible stories and memorization of the Catechism to prepare for Confirmation class in 7th-8th Grades.



3rd Annual Family Fun Carnival

Sunday, August 28

4:00pm-6:00pm

Rain or Shine Under the "Big Top"
on the Grounds of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Children's Inflatable "Bouncer"

Carnival Games and Crafts

Food and Prizes

Special Appearance by "Sonny the Clown"

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

We are combining with Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City, with classes held at Holy Cross. Pastor Kenneth Schmidt and Pastor Vogts will rotate teaching the two classes. Information will be mailed shortly to all students' families.



Sunday School Rally Day September 11

Sunday School and Bible Class for all ages will resume on Sundays at 10:30am with Sunday School Rally Day on September 11. During the services Catechisms and/or Bibles will be presented to all children entering 7th, 5th, or 3rd Grades this year.



CHURCH SECRETARY

Our thanks to Nancy Wiese for volunteering to service as our church secretary. Initially she will be in the office on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Pastor Vogts will also be in the office each Friday morning.

Nancy can be reached at the church (mailbox #4) or at home (712-873-5163) or by email at holycross@longlines.com. Please give her all announcements for the bulletin, newsletter, etc. and similar information and materials. The deadline for the bulletin is 8:00am Friday and the newsletter deadline is the third Friday of each month.

Flowers for Worship



Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship over the summer months. 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.

April 17

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Pastor's Birthday

May 15

Doug & Janet Martin

May 22

Ron & Jeannette Yockey
25th Wedding Anniversary

June 5

Doug & Sue Jansen
Birthdays

June 12

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Jacob's Birthday

June 19

Doug & Janet Martin
Kaden & Kaleb's Birthdays
Jill Ellickson's Wedding

August 7

Marcy, Bryce & Brady Schroeder
Joey's Birthday

August 12

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Terry's Birthday

August 21

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Anna's Birthday

August 28

Betty & Gary Gunderson
49th Wedding Anniversary

September 4

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Sarah's Birthday

September 11

Joey & Marcy Schroeder
9th Wedding Anniversary

September 18

Joey & Marcy Schroeder
Bryce & Marcy's Birthday

September 25

Doug & Janet Martin
Kylie & Kendall's Birthdays



Fall Sermon Series on Favorite Hymns

This fall we will have an occasional sermon series looking at the history and meaning of seven favorite hymns. These hymns not only uplift and comfort us, but they also beautifully teach us the faith. The stories behind these hymns are also very inspiring. Come and enjoy learning more about some of your favorite hymns.

August 21

"How Great Thou Art"

October 2

"Rock of Ages"

August 28

"Amazing Grace"

October 16

"Abide with Me"

September 4

"O Sacred Head,
Now Wounded"

October 30

"A Mighty Fortress"

November 23 (Thanksgiving Eve)

"Now Thank We All Our God"



Service Time Change

Now that Concordia Lutheran Church has their own pastor, Rev. Kenneth Schmidt (brother of Terry Vogts), who was installed on July 10, Pastor Vogts is no longer serving the vacancy

there and our service time at Holy Cross has gone back to 9:15am, with Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:30am beginning on September 11.

Additional Landscaping Funding Needed

Our thanks to those who gave \$1850 so far toward our new landscaping. Along with the Thrivent matching funds of \$1300, that puts us still \$1350 short of our goal of \$5000. Your donations are appreciated and can be placed in the offering marked "Landscaping Fund."

Help Needed with Offering Count

We need 2-4 persons to help count the offerings on a rotating basis. Please contact financial secretary Sue Jansen (232-0280) to volunteer or for more information.



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.



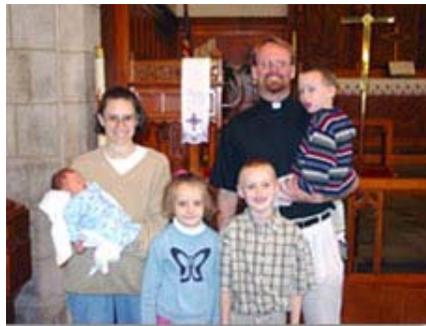
August 7
Danelle Putnam
Panama

“One of my jobs is to help congregations establish Sunday school programs. When I arrived in Panama, I found that the congregations needed resources and training on how to use these resources. So, little by little I have been adapting a series of Sunday school lessons that will be easy to use and inexpensive to reproduce. I have adapted two years worth of lessons, three levels each. Members Ana Tejada and Yasmina Perez have been helping me

this past year in the compilation of a set of adapted originals for each of the congregations.

“In addition to receiving these reproducible Sunday school materials, each congregation will receive a picture file. Many American congregations for the past few years have been saving their unused Sunday school lessons and donating them to our mission. We now have 12 sets of picture files. Each set has over 200 individual Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments and has files for general themes such as, prayer, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. Each file contains several color pictures to use as a visual aid, several black and white reproducible coloring pages, and game and craft ideas.

“We are planning a Sunday school teachers workshop for the month of August to show teachers how to use and care for the materials and the picture files. Now congregations will be more effective in reaching out to children and sharing God’s Word with them!”



August 14
Rev. Glenn and Susan Fluegge
Togo

“Graduation was Sunday, June 19, 2005, at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (Centre Luthérien d’Etudes Théologiques - CLET). The celebrations began with a church service. At first we were skeptical. In the last three years none of the graduation services at the CLET had been very well attended. We were not expected many to come this year either. But, they came. Some rode on bikes. Some walked 20 km just to attend. In fact, they filled up the large classroom which had been transformed into our sanctuary for the

day. We had not planned for such a large assembly. We went on a frantic hunt for chairs pulling them from the offices, the guest house, and my own house. That still was not enough. The children sat on tables and many were forced to stand outside the classroom. In fact, there were so many people that we barely had enough food to feed them all after the service. It was a great problem to have: Too many people coming to recognize the importance of well-trained pastors and church leaders. What a triumph!

“After the church service, the graduation ceremony began. Pastor Tadé Désiré led the ceremony. After several formalities, the long-awaited moment arrived. Each of the nine individual students were called up by name and country, congratulated by the members of the faculty, and solemnly handed his certificate.

“It was both a joyous and sad time. I was overjoyed to see these students receive their certificates after knowing how hard they have worked and how often they have been challenged over the past years. It was, however, a bit difficult to see the pastoral students leave. I have trained some of them for three years. And yet, I know that God goes with them as they leave to do what they have been trained to do. Please pray for all nine of these church leaders.”



August 21
Jonathan and Juli Blanke
Japan

“You weren’t a missionary in Japan very long before you had formed your first impressions about Mori-sensei. Ms. Mori was the instructor who had literally written the book on Japanese for Lutheran missionaries and their families.

Everyone had her as their teacher. She epitomized the best of what might be considered 'old-school' language instruction: she was strict; she emphasized mastery of formal Japanese 'keigo'; she maintained a certain gravitas, both inside the classroom and out. But in spite of this somewhat daunting personality, Mori-sensei was loved as a teacher. She had an unspoken, yet obvious passion to teach her students not only words, but ideas that reflected the heart of the Japanese people.

"Becoming a student of Mori-sensei would be the beginning of a long, bitter-sweet education. Bittersweet, that is, because it would be the first of many times that we would meet someone we loved and admired, yet (as so often happens in a country where less than one percent confess faith in the Triune God) long that she too could know the same Savior, the same peace with God that we, by God's grace, had come to know ourselves.

"Many years have passed since our time in the classroom with Mori-sensei. We have since moved to Okinawa, then to the United States. Mori-sensei herself retired from her position at the Lutheran Language Institute. We had lost touch with her. But upon her death two months ago we received word that we could scarcely believe: Mori-sensei had maintained correspondence with former missionaries now in the United States and had been baptized by one of them during his visit to Japan in October 2003!

"Since that time, she had made contact with a retired seminary professor of the Japan Lutheran Church, Dr. Chizuo Shibata, whom she had asked to make her funeral arrangements (Mori-sensei had no surviving family). Then, last month the unimaginable happened: we all got together in the sanctuary at the Tokyo Lutheran Center (former students, friends, and colleagues) for a time of celebration! God had accomplished much through Mori-sensei...and the surprise for all of us would be that he continued to work through her, even at her memorial service, to proclaim the Good News of God's salvation.



August 28
Michael Kersten
Taiwan

Ava was my student in Bible class at Concordia Middle School for three semesters. Previously I wrote a lot about Ava's journey to faith in Christ as well as some words she'd shared that inspired and uplifted me at a time when my own direction was dark. After her telephone interview, Ava was accepted to Ojai Valley High School in Southern California, where she'll be attending this fall.

"Every time I receive an e-mail from Ava, I can't wait to read it, because her spiritual insight is so pure and fresh. She hasn't been raised in a Christian family and just started going to church with a classmate the last couple months of school. Everything that she shares about her faith comes solely from her life's experience and what she has gained through reading the Bible on her own. She is intelligent beyond her years, with a deep consideration and attunement to humanity that I'm still hoping to attain.

"At the end of the semester, I wrote Ava an e-mail thanking her for all of the encouragement she'd given throughout the semester in her thoughtful e-mails. Once again, her response was like the very words of God to me at just the right time. She wrote, 'Every time I wrote to you, I thought about the relationship between God and I. It has been a half of year since I started to seek for God. Through thinking, I learned things. Not only knowing how much God loves me but also changing my ideas of life. I believe that after I experienced the new challenges that prepared for me, I understand it better why God allows Satan to test His children—to make our faith stronger. My life is now functioning.'

"Knowing Ava this semester has given me a very concrete example of the rejoicing that can occur over one soul. Whenever I think back to this semester,

Ava will be one of the first students to come to mind. The sincerity of her search for God and the purity of the faith that resulted should be a model to anyone who is seeking (or seeking to re-discover) a relationship with Him. Although Ava was my student, she is really the one who taught me a great deal about God...

"To close, here are a few more words that Ava wrote while she was looking forward to the day when she would leave to study abroad. I pray that none of us ever forget these words when we have doubts.

"As the day drawing near, I started to confuse. There are lots of 'What if...in my head. What if I can't handle my own life? What if I feel lonely? What if the school isn't as lovely as I have imaged? What if..... Because of this I was gloomy and frustrated. Every night before I went to bed I prayed to Him. And now He gave me the best response. God is love."



**Mark Your
Calendar!**

**Tenth Anniversary
Celebration
October 23**

In 2005 Holy Cross is celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of our congregation's initial organization as a mission in 1996. We will observe this milestone with a special service of celebration on Sunday, October 23 at 2:00pm.

The guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig, former President of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and now LCMS national Secretary, based in St. Louis. Dr. Hartwig was very instrumental in the launching of Holy Cross.

Watch for more details about other activities to mark this joyous occasion.

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Light Refreshments Following

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Return Service Requested

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