

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

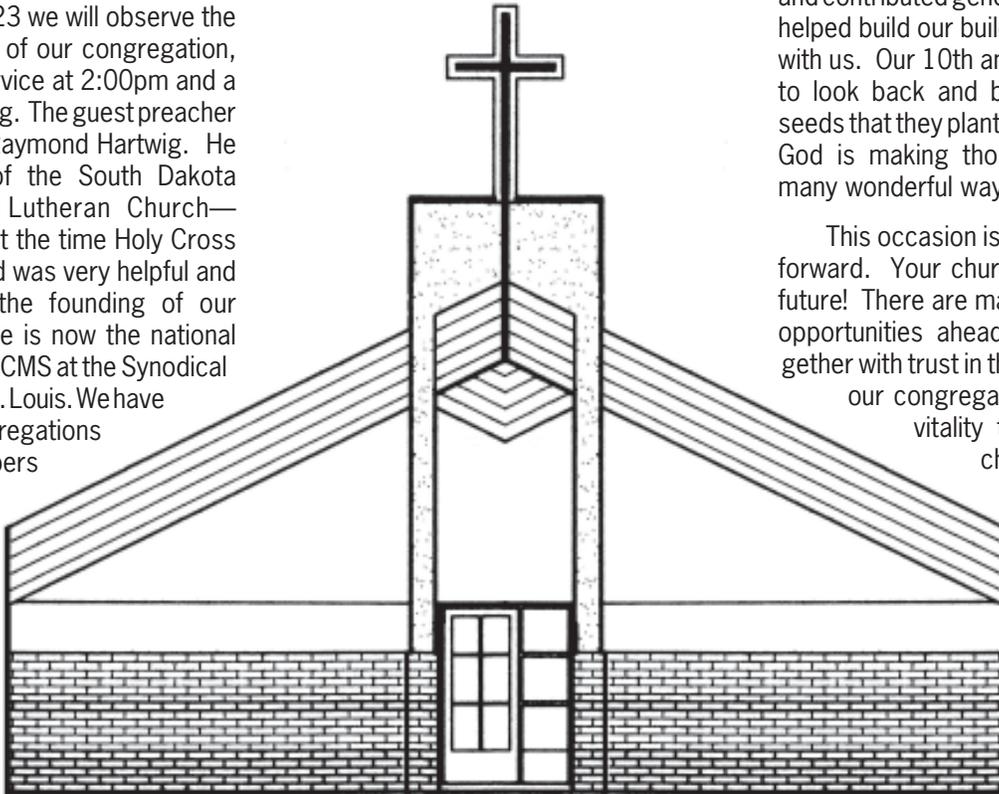


On October 23 we will observe the 10th anniversary of our congregation, with a special service at 2:00pm and a reception following. The guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig. He was President of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the time Holy Cross was launched and was very helpful and instrumental in the founding of our congregation. He is now the national Secretary of the LCMS at the Synodical headquarters in St. Louis. We have invited area congregations and former members to join in the celebration.

You may not realize what a bold move it was to start a new Lutheran congregation in the Sioux City area. Statistics show that nearly every established Lutheran congregation in Siouxland, of all the various Lutheran denominations, have declined in attendance between 25-33% or more over the past ten years. So, starting a new congregation was bucking the trend.

Our congregation has faced its own struggles and setbacks during its brief history, some of which you may not be aware of: difficulties securing a building

site; the founding Pastor accepting another Call; and, most of all, an extended pastoral vacancy of nearly three years prior to my arrival, which came during critical years for a newly established congregation. Also, since the time the congregation was founded there have been unforeseen changes in the community and its primary employers, which resulted in slower than anticipated growth, and the loss of some key members of Holy Cross who were transferred or took positions elsewhere.



However, God has graciously brought our congregation through all these challenges. In the past three years we have been blessed with dozens of new members. Worship attendance has more than doubled. Our Preschool and Aftercare programs are thriving and financially stable. Offerings have increased significantly. We have had very successful new events and activities. The Dakota Dunes community

is growing faster than ever. And, Lord willing, I see our congregation continuing to grow too.

In 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, St. Paul writes about himself and his fellow worker Apollos: *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."* Because of the mobile nature of our community, many of the original members who helped organize our congregation, who labored faithfully and contributed generously, and literally helped build our building, are no longer with us. Our 10th anniversary is a time to look back and be grateful for the seeds that they planted, and rejoice that God is making those seeds grow in many wonderful ways.

This occasion is also a time to look forward. Your church has an exciting future! There are many challenges and opportunities ahead, and working together with trust in the Lord, he will give our congregation the vision and vitality to embrace those challenges and opportunities and to take advantage of them for the continued growth of his kingdom here.

Lord willing, I may still be your Pastor for the 25th anniversary

of Holy Cross in 2020. Or, you and I—and perhaps many current members of Holy Cross—might have moved on by then, whether in this life or on to eternal life. But, like those who helped start our congregation, we too are planting seeds for the future, of this congregation and the spread of the Gospel in our community.

St. Paul goes on in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 to stress that in all we do to



September 25 was a very special Sunday as we welcomed seven new members to our congregation with a special recognition during the service and a potluck dinner following. If you have an interest in learning more about and possibly joining Holy Cross, you are invited contact Pastor Vogts (232-9117 or 232-4013).

build up the church we must always build only on Jesus Christ, only on the pure doctrine revealed in God's Word: "But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Whether you and I are the hosts or honored guests for the 25th or even 50th anniversary of Holy Cross (Lord willing, I would be 85 in 2045!), what I hope and expect to find most of all is a congregation of faithful believers abiding by the pure doctrine of the Holy Scriptures. We will continue to build this congregation on that foundation alone!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Crossnotes

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Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church

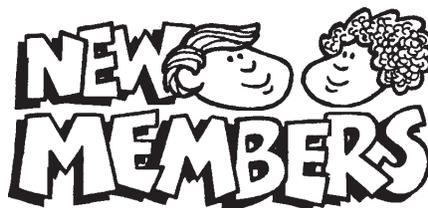
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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

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October, 2005

Volume 3

Number 10



On September 25 we rejoiced to receive our latest group of new members. If you have an interest in joining Holy Cross please contact Pastor Vogts (232-9117 or 232-4013).

Welcome to the Holy Cross family of faith!



Mark and Mindy Krause
Kristina and Quintin

Mark and Mindy Krause and their children Kristina and Quintin join by transfer from Faith Lutheran Church,

Sioux City. Mark is in the insurance industry and Mindy works part-time as a dental assistant and has a home-based business, Sassy Handbags. Their daughter Kristina is a student at Wayne State University and their son Quintin is a freshman at Dakota Valley. They are at home in Dakota Dunes at 818 East St. Andrews Circle; 232-1903.



Madeline Smith and Carol Smith

Madeline Smith and Carol Smith join by transfer from First Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Madeline is a retired teacher who built a new home in Dakota Dunes. She was recently joined in Dakota Dunes by her daughter Carol, who worked for over 30 years as a nursing aide. They are at home in Dakota Dunes at 361 Sagebrush Pass; 232-6080.



Donna Vondracheck

Donna Vondracheck recently moved to North Sioux City from the Black Hills to be closer to her daughter and family. She joins by transfer from Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, South Dakota. She works as an aide at an assisted living facility in Elk Point. She is at home in North Sioux City at 745 Streeter Drive #19; 232-2017.

LCMS Hurricane Relief Efforts Gaining Momentum

The response of LCMS World Relief and Human Care to the destruction and loss caused by Hurricane Katrina continues to gain momentum. Some groundbreaking developments include:

- More than \$2 million in donations has been received by LCMS World Relief and Human Care.
- The 35 Districts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are being partnered with specific congregations affected by Hurricane Katrina so that LCMS members nationwide can help provide for specific needs of their fellow members.



- A 53-ft. semi-trailer filled with more than \$60,000 in chainsaws, generators, wheelbarrows, diapers, and non-perishable foods arrived at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, sent by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, followed by a second shipment of more than \$50,000 worth of equipment and supplies.
- On September 14, U.S. Senator Conrad Burns (Montana), Congressman David Reichert (Washington) and Congressman John Shimkus (Illinois), addressed a joint statement to "our fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod," which reads in part: "As fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we thank you for



The Lutheran Church of the Pines in Waveland, Mississippi was among the many LCMS churches in the Gulf Coast that were completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

your response to the Katrina disaster and encourage all members of our Synod to pray for the victims and relief workers.... We have been impressed by the efforts of LCMS World Relief. We applaud the work of our Synod's Southern district. We are grateful for the stories of LCMS congregations and their members who have risen to the occasion of showing mercy to those whose lives have been so dramatically disrupted.... As members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, we pledge our efforts to assist in any way we can.... And, we encourage you to continue your support of LCMS World Relief so that we, as LCMS Lutherans, can respond to the needs that exist in the wake of hurricane Katrina."

- Rev. Dr. Paul Kofi Fynn, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghana, writes: "Since we heard the news, we have not stopped praying for the LCMS and all those who have been affected by the destruction. We daily pray that our good Lord will touch the lives of all those affected as the US government and other faith-based humanitarian agencies look for ways of providing the basic needs of those affected. We will be sending \$2,000.00 to you as our widow's mite to support the needy and the helpless."
- In response to the large number of people unable to evacuate New Orleans, Rev. David Goodine and his family scrapped their plan to leave

the city and kept open the doors of St. Paul Lutheran Church near the French Quarter. Sixty people, mainly from the parish, are still stranded at the church, which is without electricity and running water and is operating as a mini relief station.

- Forty-five residents plus staff members of Bethlehem Children's Center in New Orleans were evacuated to Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, where they are staying in the school gym.
- Atonement Lutheran Church and School in Metairie, Louisiana is filled with as much as four feet of water. "One of our members stayed in the upper floor of the gym during the storm. Many homes were flooded, some to the top of the first floor, others to the rooftops. People were being rescued from their attics and rooftops," said Rev. Don Little, Atonement's Pastor.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, reports: "Our enrollment at Baton Rouge Lutheran School fluctuates almost daily. Three Lutheran elementary schools and the Lutheran High School in Metairie are damaged or destroyed and shut down indefinitely. We are helping as many of those displaced families and students as possible. We had 175 students prior to the hurricane and now have over 225! We are giving priority enrollment to students who were enrolled in a Lutheran school in New Orleans and the surrounding suburbs. Over half are not only displaced but have heavily damaged or destroyed homes and both parents have either lost their jobs or at least are not being paid. The rest have minimal income and their home may be intact, but is uninhabitable because the infrastructure of their communities will take months to rebuild. Many of our new families are living with relatives or friends, others have a place to stay provided by strangers. Several of these places have multi-families living in them; one child we enrolled is living in an unfurnished apartment with 14 people. We are not charging registration fees or tuition

and are also providing school uniforms, school supplies, and hot lunch at no cost to the family."



- Trinity also has a Chainsaw Brigade that is an ongoing mission every Saturday to chop down trees and branches that are still on homes and other buildings in affected communities. LCMS World Relief rushed in 15 new chain saws the Friday after Katrina via chartered jet.

Gifts for hurricane relief may be made out to LCMS World Relief and sent to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-9810; designate checks to "2005 Hurricanes." Or call the Credit Card Gift Line at (888) 930-4438, or visit <http://worldrelief.lcms.org> and click the "Give Now" button.



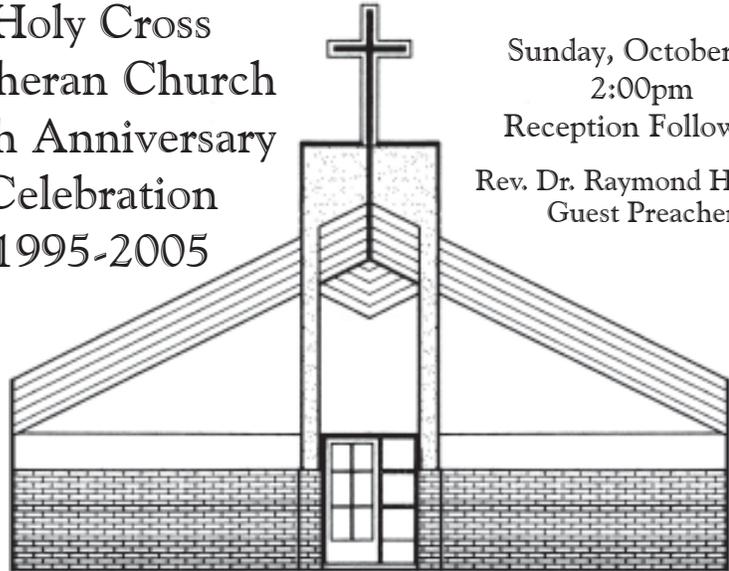
Messages for October

October 2
"Singing the Faith:
Rock of Ages
Exodus 33:18-23

October 9
"All Things Are Ready,
Come to the Banquet"
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16
"Singing the Faith:
Abide with Me"
Luke 24:29

Holy Cross Lutheran Church 10th Anniversary Celebration 1995-2005



Sunday, October 23
2:00pm
Reception Following
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig
Guest Preacher

October 23
"Ring Out the Good News!"
1 Thessalonians 1:8

October 23
(10th Anniversary Service, 2:00pm)
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig
Guest Preacher

October 30
"Singing the Faith:
A Mighty Fortress
Psalm 46

Worship Order Rotation

We are now rotating our worship services on a monthly and season rather than weekly basis.

In October we are using *Divine Service IV*, which will be included in the new *Lutheran Service Book* to be released in 2007. In November we will use *Divine Service II, Second Setting* from *Lutheran Worship* (Page 178), which will also be included in the new hymnal. 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.

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



On Sunday School Rally Day, September 11, Catechisms and/or Bibles were presented during the service to 11 children in the 3rd-8th grades.

All children received a high-quality New International Version reference Bible, which includes helpful features such as introductions to the books of the Bible, center column references, and a compact concordance. Those in the 3rd-6th Grades were also given *My First Catechism*, a new beautifully illustrated edition of *Luther's Small Catechism* designed especially for younger readers. Students in the 7th-8th Grades received *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*. Along with their Bibles, these editions of the Catechism are being used as textbooks for Confirmation class.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class for all ages is held on Sundays at

10:30am. Don't miss out on this opportunity for help from your church to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).



Confirmation classes have jumped from four students last year to 13 enrolled this year, including every possible student from our congregation in the 5th-8th grades and a number of children from non-member families. We are combining this year with Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City, and two of the students are members of Concordia. Classes are held at Holy Cross, with Pastor Kenneth Schmidt from Concordia and Pastor Vogts rotating teaching the 5th-6th grades and 7th-8th grades classes.

After opening worship, the 5th-6th grades focus on Bible history, with the 7th-8th grades focusing on learning *Luther's Small Catechism* and doctrine in preparation for Confirmation. Both classes have the same ambitious memory work program—and so far the kids are doing great!

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 with the addition of the 5th-6th grades class. Confirmation is held each Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm (6:15pm during Advent and Lent).



Altar Flowers

Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship. A sign-up



Fall Sermon Series on Favorite Hymns

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

October 2
"Rock of Ages"

October 30
"A Mighty Fortress"

October 16
"Abide with Me"

November 23 (Thanksgiving Eve)
"Now Thank We All Our God"

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.

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 Birthdays

September 25
Doug & Janet Martin
Kylie & Kendall's Birthdays

October 2
Ginny Peterson
In Honor of Ginny & Bob's
53rd Wedding Anniversary

October 9
Doug & Janet Martin
15th Wedding Anniversary

October 23
Tenth Anniversary Committee

November 6
Jane Michels
In Memory of Jim Michels

November 13
Doug & Sue Jansen
Veteran's Day

November 20
Mabel Schibonski
Mabel's Birthday

November 27
Doug & Janet Martin
Thanksgiving



Each month we remember in prayer in our worship specific *Missionaries of the Month*, 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.



October 2
Michael and Ann Wade
Argentina

"Our Easter service brought the confirmation of five new members, and we have nine already ready to start a new confirmation class! We'd like to share the testimony of Norma Campos given at her confirmation. Norma moved to Pampa Bolsa last year with her husband, Mario, and their four children because of her husband's employment.

"I didn't know anyone in this entire community when we came to live here last year,' she said. 'I lived in bitterness. The doors of my heart seemed to have been closed. One day, Mario and I decided to visit the Lutheran church. We were welcomed by Liliana Castellano. She talked about Jesus and about the church. From that day on, the doors of my heart opened to receive the Word of God and my life was changed. I said 'Yes' when Pastor Schlenker [an Argentinian Pastor whom we work with] invited people to join a confirmation class because I wanted to give my heart to God. To read the Bible is like having been given light for my soul. It seemed impossible to live life in this new place, but I am meeting the challenges. I seek to receive from the Holy Spirit strength to become a witness for Jesus Christ in the world.'

October 9
Walter Ralli
Spain

"Emma Iraola Cuevas was born on February 20, 2005, having passed many uncertainties before. María José, her mother, suffered of chicken pox in the first weeks of pregnancy, and therefore many doctors advised the couple that they should abort to avoid possible deformities in the baby. The anguish of these parents as they were confronted and tempted with the idea of quickly getting rid of a possible problem, thanks be to God, became strength and conviction to continue ahead, in spite of the advice that they received from some professionals of medicine. 'God with us'(Emma/Emmanuel) was the name that these parents chose for Emma who overflows of health, happiness and life. Not only was Emma born to the earthly life and saw this world, but on the June 26, God also made her to be born again through the water and the Spirit."



October 16
Joel and Iantha Scheiwe
Macau

"I recently met a young woman whom I will call Tracy. She said that her family 'believes in God.' I asked if that meant she was Christian, and she said 'I think so.' Tracy remembered her father reading from the Bible when she was younger. They had not participated in worship for many years and were not involved in a Christian community. However, the very remembrance of her father's voice reading the Bible made Tracy interested in finding out about what it means to 'believe in God.' I had another teacher give Tracy a Bible, and I know she will read it. Please pray that she and her family also return to fellowship with other Christians. Please pray for anyone whom you know who, like Tracy, needs encouragement to hear the Word of God again."



October 23
Rev. Matthew Heise
Russia

"Many of those who come into the Lutheran Church in Russia are talented musicians and attracted to our music and liturgy. So we decided to sponsor Bach concerts in Moscow. Most educated Russians are familiar with Johann Sebastian Bach and hold him in high regard, but they know relatively little about the religious faith that animated all of his work.

"We rented a hall and the Bach Society of the Moscow Conservatory put on a concert of Bach's arias and cantatas as well as Martin Luther's Mass. The hall seats about 300 and all the seats were taken including a standing-room only crowd. The audience was a mixture of ages, with college-aged students predominating. The turnout was a joy to see! In Russia, there is a great respect for classical music. One Russian pastor told me that Russian youth are especially attracted to Western classical music.

"Nowadays it is common to denigrate the more traditional forms of Christian music, but in Russia such traditional music is popular among all ages. Our hope is that through these concerts many Russians become intrigued to explore further the faith in Jesus Christ that Bach so eloquently expressed. Centuries after their deaths, God is still using here in Russia the musical witness of both Bach and Martin Luther to reach out to people with the Gospel."



October 30
Ruth Reynolds
Japan

"My student and I decided to go to lunch after Bible study one Saturday at McDonald's. A very cute little girl, about four years old smiled and said 'Hello, how are you?' Her English was excellent! I was amazed! I replied in text-book-style English, 'I'm fine, and you?' and I began to speak to her parents. She took English lessons at the preschool she attended. They also had a little boy who was about two years old. As we got up to leave I thought, 'I should invite them to church tomorrow.' So, I turned and explained about the service the following day and gave them the card with the map and asked them to bring the children. They replied that they didn't speak English, and I said 'That's okay, it's all in Japanese!'"

"The following morning I saw the man and woman and their two children from McDonald's walk in. They waved to me, and the children joined the others at the front while the parents were seated with a member of the congregation to help them with the liturgy."

"I almost left that McDonald's without giving that family my card. What turned me around? God! His power was there. I was already walking out of the restaurant when I turned around. I felt so self-conscience as I told them about the service, and I really didn't think they would come. But now I will overcome my doubts and give more cards to people!"



Elders



October 2

Doug Jansen

October 9

Mike Bargstadt

October 16

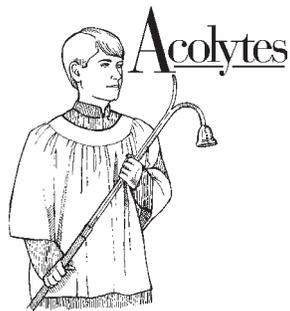
Ron Yockey

October 23

Greg Huijbregtse

October 30

Dennis Melstad



Acolytes

October 2

Jacob Vogts

October 9

Trevor Vilhauer

October 16

Keegan Johnson

October 23

Zachary Selby

October 23

(10th Anniversary Service, 2:00pm)

Sarah Vogts

October 30

Justin Peterson



CRUCIFERS

October 2

Kendall Martin

October 9

Evan Steemken

October 16

Zahn Bose

October 23

Kylie Martin

October 23

(10th Anniversary Service, 2:00pm)

Kendall Martin

October 30

Quinton Bose

BIRTH

Olivia Ann Bargstadt

Daughter of
Daniell & Michael Bargstadt
Born September 19, 2005
5 lbs. 10½ oz. 19 in.

*"Children are a heritage from the
LORD, a blessing from Him."
Psalm 127:3*



Many of the most familiar and beloved parts of the Bible are from the book Psalms, which was the hymn book of the Old Testament. It is the longest book of the Bible, with a fascinating history, and conveys many important doctrines.

Join in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 10:30am as we look at the Psalms.

Crucifer Program Introduced

In addition to our *acolytes*, who light the altar candles, beginning in October our processional cross will be carried in each week by a youth serving as a *crucifer*, so named because the processional cross is also known as a *crucifix*.

When using a processional cross, it is customary for the congregation to rise for the opening hymn, face the processional cross at the rear of the church, and turn to follow the cross as the crucifer brings it into the sanctuary.



Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

To Our Fellow Members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod:

As fellow members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, we thank you for your response to the Katrina disaster and encourage all members of our Synod to pray for the victims and relief workers. Also, we encourage you to help in any way you can, including through your financial gifts to LCMS World Relief.

We have been impressed by the efforts of LCMS World Relief. We applaud the work of our Synod's Southern District. We are grateful for the stories of LCMS congregations and their members who have risen to the occasion of showing mercy to those whose lives have been so dramatically disrupted. We know that quite a number of LCMS churches in the Gulf Coast region were severely damaged. We know that many Pastors and other professional church workers have suffered personal loss. We know that some members of those congregations have died and that the survivors have lost all their earthly possessions. We join you in our common concern for all those who have been affected by the disaster, including our brothers and sisters in the LCMS family.

As Members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, we pledge our efforts to assist in any way we can. We express our thanks to you for your outpouring of love and concern. And, we encourage you to continue your support of LCMS World Relief so that we, as LCMS Lutherans, can respond to the needs that exist in the wake of hurricane Katrina.


The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senator, Montana


The Honorable David Reichert
United States Congressman, Washington


The Honorable John Shimkus
United States Congressman, Illinois

Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 12, 2005