



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

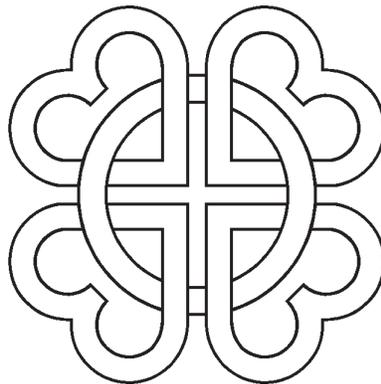
In these familiar verses, St. Paul describes what Christian love is: the love God has for us, and we in return have for God and for one another.

Love is *patient*. St. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:9 this is why God is holding off the end of the world, in his patience giving sinners like you and me a chance to repent: “He is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” God’s love is *patient*.

Love is *kind*. In Acts 14:17, St. Paul describes how God shows kindness to us by providing for our daily, earthly needs: “He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” And in Titus 3:4-5, St. Paul writes

how God also shows kindness to us by providing for our eternal, spiritual needs: “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” God’s love is *kind*.

Love is *not self-seeking*. In Philippians 2:5-8, St. Paul beautifully describes Christ’s selfless love for us: “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. . . He humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” Jesus put it this way in John 15:13: “Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” In the ultimate act of selfless love toward you, Christ gave himself up



**And now these
three abide, faith,
hope, and love.
But the greatest
of these is love.**

1 Corinthians 13:13

and sacrificed himself for you. As St. Paul says in Ephesians, “Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a offering and sacrifice to God.” Christ’s love is *not self-seeking*.

Love is *not easily angered*. Psalm 30:5 says of God, “His anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime.”

God is not angry with our world; God is not angry with you. Jesus took away God’s wrath by paying for your sin with his life and death. Because of Christ’s sacrifice for you, God in his heart has for you no wrath, no rage, not one drop of anger, but only and always love. Psalm 86:15 says, “You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love.” God’s love for you will never turn to anger. God’s love is *not easily angered*.

Love *keeps no record of wrongs*. Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” There is no heavenly ledger keeping record of your sins. Your sins are all forgiven, and forgotten. In Isaiah 43:25 the Lord declares: “I am he who blots out your transgressions . . . and remembers your sins no more.” God’s love *keeps no record of wrongs*.

Love *never fails*. St. Paul asks in Romans 8:35-39, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Through it all, God’s love *never fails*.

Jesus says in Mark 12:30-31, “The first and greatest commandment is this: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’” Respond to God’s love for you first by loving God and living for him.

Jesus continues, “The second greatest commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Respond to God’s love also by showing toward oth-



Daniell and Mike Bargstadt pose with Pastor Vogts by the Baptismal font following the Baptism of their daughter Olivia Ann on February 5. *"You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"* (1 Corinthians 6:11).

ers in your life the Christian love St. Paul describes:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*149 Bison Trail
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

*605-232-9117
pastorvogts@longlines.com*

February, 2006

Volume 4

Number 2



New Member Sunday and "Fat Tuesday" Potluck February 26

On Sunday, February 26 we will rejoice to welcome about a dozen more new members to our congregation. There will be a welcoming ceremony during the worship service at 9:15am with a potluck dinner, following the Sunday School hour, at 11:30am.

This is the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. You may have heard that the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday is called "Fat Tuesday." In Medieval times, Lent was a season of

strict fasting with very austere foods. Therefore, the last day before Lent began became a time of celebration to consume rich foods and use up your remaining cooking fats, and thus became known as "Fat Tuesday." ("Mardi Gras" is actually French for "Fat Tuesday.")

Everyone is invited to come and welcome our new members, bring a dish, and enjoy (a few days early) a pre-Lenten "Fat Tuesday" feast!



John and Sherry Isley

By Release from
Christ Lutheran Church,
Salem, South Dakota

Todd Peters

By Affirmation of Faith

*Welcome to the Holy Cross
Family of Faith!*



Architect Selected for Building Study

At the Quarterly Business Meeting on January 17, the Long Range Planning Committee presented its report and recommendation to the congregation that architect Brad Mollet be engaged by the congregation for a study of our needs and a proposal regarding a possible building expansion.

It is important to note that this was *not* at this time a decision by the congregation to carry out a building program. At this time the committee is

exploring possible options with Mr. Mollet, and will give a further recommendation to the congregation. Any proposal to begin a fundraising campaign or to build will need further approval from the congregation.

Mr. Mollet is a native of this area and lives in Wynstone. He recently won a statewide competition to design the new South Dakota Governor's Mansion in Pierre. Other recent projects include the new Gunderson's Jewelry store in Lakeport Commons.

On February 6 the committee held the first of a series of weekly meetings with Mr. Mollet. Among the issues which will be addressed at these meetings over the next several months are advantages and deficiencies of the church site and present building, needs and wants of the congregation, membership and financial trends, and aesthetic concerns.

The committee also changed its name to the Building Committee, since that is currently the focus of its work.

If you have an interest in donating a set of paraments, perhaps as a memorial, light blue is a new color now used during Advent. Contact Pastor Vogts to discuss designs, etc.



In the back of the church is a sign up sheet to bring snacks for after worship. You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish.

Those bringing snacks are also asked to please prepare the coffee. Our thanks to Joey and Marcy Schroeder for donating a new Bunn coffee maker, which is quick and easy to operate. Simple instructions are posted near the coffee maker. Coffee, cups, napkins,

plates, etc. are all provided and in the kitchen.

Thank you to those who have faithfully provided snacks over the years.

January 15
Nancy Wiese

January 22
Heidi Finkral

January 29
Terry Vogts

February 5
Heidi Finkral

February 12
Mabel Schibonski

February 19
Janet Martin

February 26
Heidi Finkral

March 5
Jeanette Yockey

March 12
Open

March 19
Open

March 26
Terry Vogts



Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship. The new sign-up sheet to provide flowers for worship in 2006 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.

January 1
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
15th Wedding Anniversary

January 22
Heidi Finkral
Rob's Birthday

February 5
Mike & Daniell Bargstadt
In Honor of Oliva's Baptism

February 12
Doug & Janet Martin

February 26
Don & Nancy Wiese
In Memory of Nathan's Birthday

March 5
Mabel Schibonski
In Memory of Husband Elmer

March 19
Joey & Marcy Schroeder
Brady's Birthday



We are beginning to list in the newsletter each month and have prayers in worship each week for those having birthdays and wedding anniversaries. This information was recently requested from all members.

If your information is missing or inaccurate, please notify church secretary Nancy Wiese, 232-9117 mailbox #4 or email nancywiese@longlines.com.

Greg Huibregtse, January 4

Denise Honner, January 10

Rob Finkral, January 15

Janet Martin, January 20

Caitlyn Bargstadt, January 30

Robert & Karen Brock
February 13, 1999

Caden Dial, February 17

Mike Bargstadt, February 20

Carol Smith, February 25

Vaughn Finkral, February 26

A Birthday Prayer

My Lord and my God, in You alone I live and move and have my being. Today I again mark the day of my birth and the beginning of my temporal life. In deep gratitude I also recall my spiritual birth in the waters of Holy Baptism as You reconciled me to Yourself and cleansed me of my sin.

I thank You for the benefits that You have showered upon me, both for my life here and for my life yet to come, from the day of my birth to this very hour. You have nourished and kept me. By Your holy angels, You have protected my life in ways I can hardly imagine, and You have provided my bodily needs of food, clothing, and shelter in rich measure. To this grace upon grace You have added Your Word, through which You deliver forgiveness, comfort, and peace for each day of my life.

Daily grant me steadfastness in saving faith all the days You have prepared in advance for me, that I may serve You in true faith. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

(Excerpted from Lutheran Book of Prayer, available from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040, www.cph.org, stock #06-1322.)



February 5
Joey Schroeder

February 12
Dennis Melstad

February 19
Greg Huibregtse

February 26
Mike Bargstadt

Alternates
Ron Yockey and Doug Jansen



Vacation Bible School June 5-9

Mark your calendars now for our annual Vacation Bible School, which will be held the week of June 5-9. We are again planning to have morning classes for preschool age and other younger children, and separate afternoon sessions for older children. Our attendance has been growing every year and last year we had nearly 90 students, most of them visitors from the community.

This year's theme is "Treasure Cove: Discovering the Riches of Christ." Once again we plan to give all the younger classes the five Arch books which coordinate with the lessons.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ with the children of our community. Help will be needed from the congregation for all aspects of this outreach event.



February 5
Kendall Martin

February 12
Jacob Vogts

February 19
Zahn Bose

February 26
Dylan Sawyer



Olivia Ann Bargstadt

Daughter of Daniell and Mike Bargstadt
September 19, 2005
Baptized February 5, 2006

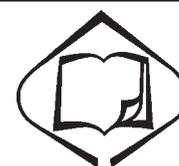
*"Children are a heritage from the LORD,
a blessing from Him."
Psalms 127:3*



Holy Cross Summer Day Camp 2006

Holy Cross Preschool and Afterschool Care is again planning a Summer Day Camp for 2006 for children three thru six years old. Lynnea Mueller will be the teacher for the classes to be held on Wednesdays, May 24 thru August 9, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. (There will be no class June 5 due to Vacation Bible School.)

For more information about the program, fees, and to register, contact Lynnea at 235-1688.



**Why Do
Lutherans
Do That?**

We are continuing our study in Adult Bible Class "Why Do Lutherans Do That?" looking at our Lutheran worship customs.

Have you ever wonder why we have certain worship customs? Why our worship may differ from other denominations? Join in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 10:30am to learn, "Why Do Lutherans Do That?"



February 5
Sarah Vogts

February 12
Kylie Martin

February 19
Justin Peterson

February 26
Trevor Vilhauer



Messages for February

February 5
"Healed for Service"
Mark 1:29-31

February 12
"God Gives You the Prize"
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

February 19
"A Letter from Christ"
2 Corinthians 3:3

February 26
"Do Not Speak of It"
2 Kings 2:1-12

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.

February 5
Rev. Ken and Jenifer Lieber
Jason, Nathan, and Ashley
Cayman Islands

February 12
Jim and Joan Riggins
Jamaica

February 19
Efrain Diaz
Japan

February 26
Nathaniel and Theresa Watt
Zachariah and Deborah
Nigeria



On December 18, 2005, Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Moscow celebrated the 100th anniversary of its church building. It has been in the process of reconstruction these past few years and this was the first time a church service was conducted in the entire cathedral. Bishop Siegfried Springer preached the sermon and the ambassador from Germany spoke afterward.

LCMS missionary Rev. Matthew Heise also brought words of greeting, remarking on the Lord's hand in bringing this cathedral back to life. This church was forcibly closed in November 1936, when Pastor Alexander Streck and the church council were arrested and shot in the KGB headquarters in central Moscow.

One of the speakers giving greetings, a French pastor from Madagascar, quoted Jesus' words from Matt. 16:18, that "the gates of hell will not prevail against it" [the church]. We rejoice with this congregation that our Savior's words are always trustworthy and we pray that He will continue to bless the Lutheran witness to the Gospel in Moscow.

Rev. Oleg Sevastyanov has established a preaching station in Estonia. Response from the people has been positive and swift. The Holy Spirit has afforded growth to the mission and now there is a congregation of Christ gathered around the Word and Sacrament.

Rev. Sevastyanov, a pastor of the Ingrian (Finnish) Lutheran Church, has brought the pure, clear and orthodox Word to Narva, Estonia, a city of nearly 800,000 near the Russian border. Of that 800,000, nearly half speak Russian and identify themselves with the Russian culture. Pastor Oleg, as he prefers to be called, recently became the only Russian speaking Lutheran pastor in the whole of Estonia.

Christmas Day, 2005 found Pastor Oleg in Divine Service with 25 adults and 5 teenagers to confirm. Quite an accomplishment since he had only settled in to Narva in mid-September!

The Lord continues to open doors for Pastor Oleg. He has been entrusted with Russian-speaking seminary students to mentor, he has been asked to teach comparative religions at the local university, and he has a weekly radio program covering culture and the church.

And the Lord of the Church continues to add to the number of believers in his new congregation, with more adult baptisms and increasing attendance in catechism classes.

Symbols of Our Savior

2006 Lent Services on Symbols of Christ

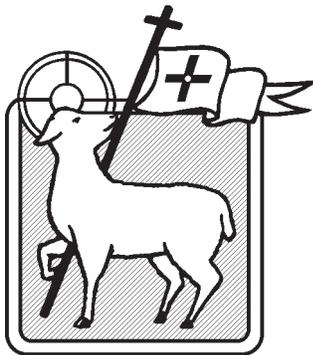
Wednesday Evenings, 7:00pm
Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 1st

The Christian Church has a rich tradition of symbolism to represent important aspects of our faith. Some of these "Symbols of Our Savior" may be very familiar to you—and yet you may not know what they really mean. Others may be unfamiliar to you, but they have a rich significance and you will be blessed by learning the meaning and story behind them.

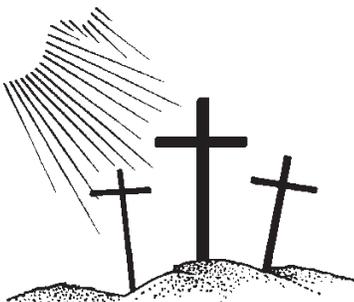
Come to Lent services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1st to learn the history and meaning of these "Symbols of Our Savior."



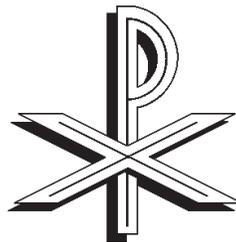
March 1 (Ash Wednesday)
"Ichthus"



March 8
"Lamb of God"



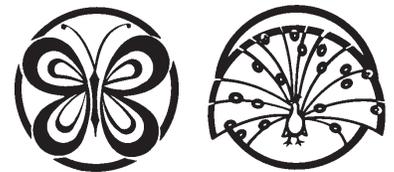
March 15
"Cross"



March 22
"IHS, Chi Rho, and Nike"



March 29
"INRI"



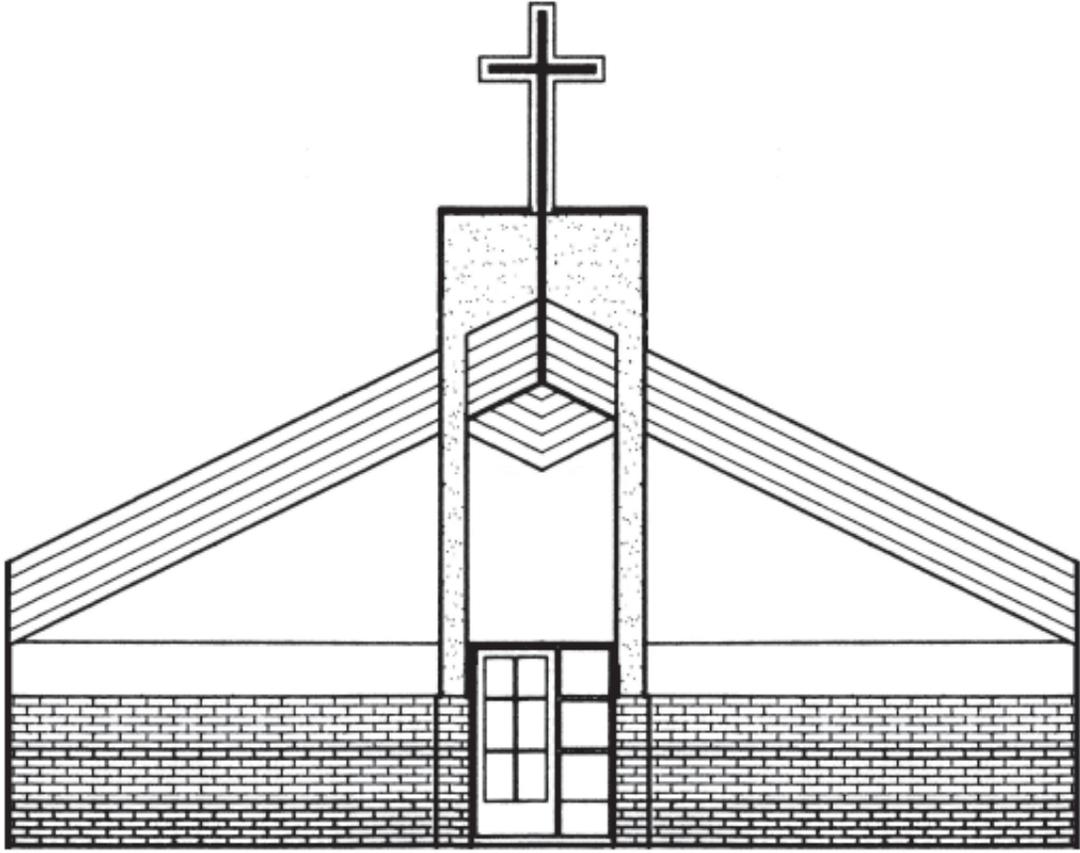
April 5
"Butterfly, Peacock,
Phoenix, and Pomegranate"



April 13 (Maundy Thursday)
"Pelican in Her Piety"



April 14 (Good Friday)
"Crown of Thorns"



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church