



"The Spirit clearly says that in latter times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Timothy 4:1)

You may have read in the news last month about a venerable American Protestant church body which considered at its national convention a resolution affirming "an unchanging commitment to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the only name by which any person may be saved" and a recommitment to evangelism as "the solemn responsibility placed upon us to share Christ with all persons when we hear His words, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:6)."

Normally, such a resolution being considered by a Christian church body would not be big news. After all, that has been the core of Christian teaching for 2,000 years, as the Apostle Peter testifies in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." However, this resolution made news for a very sad and shocking reason: it failed to pass by 71%.

It is incomprehensible: What was once one of the world's leading Protestant church bodies, with generations of staunch, faithful, even conservative believers, has just voted by 71% to refuse to affirm "Jesus Christ

as the Son of God, the only name by which any person may be saved." As a disappointed delegate, who was among the minority voting in favor of the resolution, said after it was defeated, "It seems we've decided to leave Jesus Christ behind."

The Apostle Paul warns of such apostasy in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." Unfortunately, that is a description of much of Christendom today.

The bishop of one of America's largest cities for another major Protestant church body recently gave a lecture at a seminary of that denomination in which he scornfully dismissed the Virgin Birth and Resurrection of Christ as "myths," and the belief that we are saved by Jesus' blood shed on the cross as "superstition." Not surprisingly, he concluded that faith in Jesus is only one of many "faithful pathways by which a person may find God."

A student I know at a seminary of yet another Protestant church body recently told me he was surprised his first semester there that none of his professors were actually members of that denomination. It was explained to him that the seminary *no longer discriminates in hiring faculty on the basis of religion!* The joke asks "Is the Pope Catholic?" But, it isn't a joke in many denominations, where pastors, bishops, seminary professors and other leaders openly reject and scorn basic Christian doctrine—or aren't even members of the church!

Paul describes just such a situation in 2 Timothy 3:5, when he warns of

those "holding to the outward form of godliness, but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them." Likewise he says in Romans 16:17-18: "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."

It is important to note this does not at all mean we "shun" or otherwise withdraw from contacts and relationships in the social, familial, civic, business realm etc. with those who adhere to false doctrine. It does mean that in the realm of religion we should avoid religious association with pastors and other religious teachers and leaders who deviate from Scripture, and should instead seek out a church which adheres to the teachings of God's Word. As the Apostle John says in 1 John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Jesus himself explains in John 8:31-32 the standard by which we are to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God": "If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." As Acts 17:11 says of the early Christians: "They received the message with great eagerness, and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Just like the first Christians with the Apostle Paul himself, it is your responsibility to hold accountable and test against the standard of God's Word all who preach and teach in Christ's name—including me as your pastor.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:15, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly

they are ferocious wolves.” Like a shepherd protecting from predators the flock entrusted to his care, part of a faithful pastor’s duty is to warn his flock about such false teachers and deviations from the faith. As Paul tells Pastor Timothy: “But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. . . Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4:2, 5).

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Building for the Future

Building Project Update

At the special congregational meeting on June 15, the Building Committee reported total pledges from our fundraising campaign, “Building for the Future,” of approximately \$1.2 million—a very successful result for a congregation of our size!

In consultation with our architect, the committee has been assessing the

Crossnotes

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scope of the project based upon our financial resources. It is hoped a proposal can be presented to the congregation and permission requested to proceed with construction at a congregational meeting in August. Special notice will be sent to all members when this meeting is set.

As we continue to move forward with this process, we praise and thank God for the generous pledges received.



Terri Hageman
By Transfer from
Hope Lutheran Church,
South Sioux City, Nebraska

Paul and Mary Rosene
By Transfer from
Faith Lutheran Church,
Sioux City (Paul)
and Affirmation of Faith (Mary)

*Welcome to the Holy Cross
Family of Faith!*



POTLUCK DINNER

New Member Sunday and Potluck July 30

We will rejoice to welcome ten more new members on Sunday, July 30, with a brief ceremony during the service and a potluck dinner following at 11:30am.

Everyone is invited to stay for the potluck to help welcome these new members to our Holy Cross family of faith!



Early Worship Times August 6 and 13

Pastor Vogts will be on vacation, attending a wedding in Wisconsin and family reunion in Michigan, August 1-15. On the two Sundays he will be absent, August 6 and 13, our worship service time—for those two Sundays only—will be 8:00am instead of 9:15am. *Please mark this change for those Sundays on your calendars!*

It is difficult to find substitute pastors during the summer, and our guest pastors for these Sundays have their own services later in the morning. Our services those two Sundays will be earlier to allow them time to return for services at their own churches.

Our guest pastor on August 6 will be Rev. Kenneth Schmidt of Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City. On August 13 we will have Rev. Michael Boykin of Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion. Pastor Boykin will be remembered by some as the vacancy pastor for nearly three years during the last pastoral vacancy at Holy Cross.

In case you need pastoral services in Pastor Vogts' absence you may call Pastor Schmidt at 712-252-2938 (Home) or 712-277-2341 (Church), or Pastor Michael Boykin of Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion at 605-624-3459 (Church) or 605-624-9255 (Home). Or please feel free to call Pastor Vogts anytime on his cell phone at 712-898-4818.



New Stained Glass Windows in Entryway

Our thanks to Ron and Jeannette Yockey for donating the beautiful new stained glass windows in the entryway, in memory and honor of their maternal grandparents, John and Mary Miller and Stewart and Inez Pettitt. When our new sanctuary is constructed these windows will stay in this location to adorn what will become the entrance to our educational wing.

Following that theme, the window above the entry features Jesus the Good Shepherd with a group of children. It is reminiscent of one of the oldest Christian hymns, from about 200 A.D., which begins:

*Shepherd of tender youth,
Guiding in love and truth
Through devious ways;
Christ, our triumphant king,
We come your name to sing
And here our children bring
To join your praise.*

(Lutheran Worship #471)

The windows on either side of the entry feature beautiful angels, based on our Savior's words about little children in Matthew 18:10, the verse on which we base the doctrine of guardian angels:

"Do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven."

Finally, on either side of the entry are two Bible verses reminding us of the importance of Christian education:



4th Annual **Family Fun Carnival**

Sunday, September 17

4:00pm-6:00pm

Rain or Shine on the Grounds of Holy Cross Lutheran Church
149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes

Children's Inflatable "Bouncer"

Carnival Games and Crafts

Food and Prizes

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

*"Let the little children come to Me."
(Matthew 19:14)*

*"Bring them up in the training
and instruction of the Lord."
(Ephesians 6:4)*

These windows not only beautify the educational entrance to our church but will also be a lasting testimony to the importance of and reason for all our congregation's educational efforts.



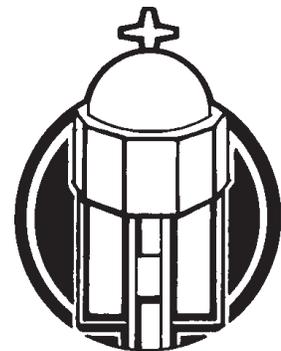
August 6
Joey Schroeder

August 13
Greg Huibregtse

August 20
Mike Bargstadt

August 27
Don Wiese

Alternate
Ron Yockey



*Michael Leroy Hamilton Jr.
Evan Matthew Hamilton*

Sons of Michael and Heidi Hamilton
Baptized July 16, 2006

*"Let the little children come to Me, and
do not hinder them, for the kingdom of
heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14*



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. Simple instructions are posted near the coffee maker. Coffee, cups, napkins, plates, etc. are all provided and in the kitchen. Thank you to those providing snacks!

August 6
Need Volunteer

August 13
Finkral

August 20
Wiese

August 27
Vogts

September 3
Need Volunteer

September 10
Jansen

September 17
Finkral

September 24
Martin



Altar Flowers

Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship. The 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.

July 2

Mabel Schibonski
July Fourth

July 9

Don & Nancy Wiese
Nancy's Birthday

July 16

Ginny Peterson
Bob Peterson's Birthday

August 6

Marcy, Bryce and Brady Schroeder
Joey's Birthday

August 13

Nancy and Don Wiese
Don's Birthday

August 20

Rev. Kevin and Terese Vogts
Anna and Terry's Birthdays

August 27

Rev. Kevin and Terese Vogts
Sarah's Birthday

September 3

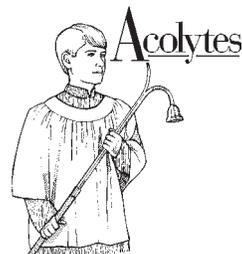
Joey and Marcy Schroeder
10th Anniversary

September 10

Doug and Sue Jansen
35th Anniversary

September 24

Doug and Janet Martin
Kylie and Kendall's Birthdays



August 6

Trevor Vilhauer

August 13

Evan Steemken

August 20

Sarah Vogts

August 27

Kylie Martin



August 6

Dylan Sawyer

August 13

Quinton Bose

August 20

Kendall Martin

August 27

Justin Peterson



We are now listing 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 accept our apologies and notify church secretary Nancy Wiese, 232-9117 mailbox #4 or email nancywiese@longlines.com.

Mike and Daniell Bargstadt
August 10, 1996

Terry Vogts, August 14

Don Wiese, August 17

Kris Krause, August 18

Joey Schroeder, August 18

Daniell Bargstadt, August 24

Anna Vogts, August 24

Gary and Betty Gunderson
August 25, 1956



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 6
Dr. Ray and Dottie Huebschman
Indonesia



August 13
Michael Kersten
Taiwan



August 20
Rev. Armand Boehme
Kazakhstan



August 27
Rev. Wagih Girgis
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Fawad was born in 1968, in Basra, Iraq, to a Shiite Muslim family. When he was a baby, his mother was not in good health, so she gave him to a Christian neighbor who served as a nurse to him. Since childhood, Fawad loved Christians because of his foster mother. He visited a few churches in his neighborhood, where he listened to the Catholic Chaldean liturgy in Aramaic. Despite this, no one shared the Gospel with him, no one taught him anything about the Bible; no one told him about Grace, and the vicarious work of Jesus Christ.

As Fawad read the Koran, he felt that it was contradictory, and that those Muslim scriptures were not quenching his thirst for the Truth. In his youth, like most Iraqi men under the Baath regime, Fawad joined the armed forces, studied at Saddam's Military School, and graduated as a flight engineer. It was Fawad's destiny to be wounded and captured by the American and Coalition forces in the Gulf war during the early 1990s. A bullet had pierced Fawad's lung, and another broke his jaw. Fawad was airlifted by his captors—whom he describes as "angels of mercy"—to an American field hospital in Saudi Arabia and was treated for his wounds.

Battle wounds destroyed Fawad's lung, and the American doctors had to do a lung transplant in order to save his life. "Even my lung that was transplanted into me and saved my life was taken from a Christian American," he says.

Once he went back to Southern Iraq, Fawad suffered the fate of Shiite Iraqis who revolted against Saddam's rule. The Baath regime at the time was perpetrating ethnic cleansing against the Shiite insurgents. Because of this,

Fawad fled the country and took refuge in the United States of America.

When Fawad arrived to the land of freedom in 1993, he started looking for a source to quench his spiritual thirst. Unfortunately, with little English, he could not join any church that pointed him to the Gospel. Even though Fawad showed his desire to be baptized and become Christian, Catholic priests ignored him, so he could not fulfill his dream.

It was when Fawad moved to Michigan not long ago that he met a worker with the LCMS outreach to Muslims, "People of the Book Lutheran Outreach" (POBLO), who guided him to Rev. Wagih Girgis, pastor of the First Arabic Lutheran Church, the headquarters of POBLO in Dearborn Heights. Fawad knew that this church was going to be his new family. Rev. Girgis immediately welcomed him, taught him what he needed to learn from the Bible and the Lutheran doctrine, and then baptized him on Easter Sunday, 2006.

"Rev. Girgis has given me the water of life," Fawad said affectionately, adding that everyday he was eagerly learning something new from the Bible, under the supervision of his Pastor.

"It was all done by Jesus Christ. We owe everything to Him," Girgis commented.

Fawad said that as soon as the Baptismal water touched his head, he felt a "dizziness . . . the world turned round and round. I felt that I was born again, and that I was given a new life in Jesus Christ." That day Fawad went out and bought new clothes. Then, he gathered his old clothes and threw them in a garbage dump, together with all the gifts and memorabilia from previous girlfriends and acquaintances.

"I wanted to start a pure life in the Lord, without the bad influence of previous so-called friends. The Church is my family now, and everything to me. I even changed my phone number to avoid distractions from previous relations. I quit all foul talk and bad manners. I do not want to live in sin anymore. I want to grow in the Word. I want the old Adam to die, so that Christ will increase in me. In fact, I feel that He is living in me."



POTLUCK DINNER

New Member Sunday and Potluck July 30

Help Welcome New Members of Holy Cross
Welcome Ceremony During Worship Service
Potluck Dinner at 11:30am



Special Early Worship Time 8:00am—August 6 and 13 Only

(Due to Pastor Vogts' Vacation)

August 6

Guest Pastor Rev. Kenneth Schmidt
Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City

August 13

Guest Pastor Rev. Michael Boykin
Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
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