

---

## ***Pastor Vogts Receives, Declines Call***

Dear Friends in Christ,

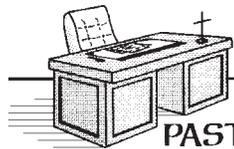
On July 23 I was notified that I had been extended a Call to serve as Senior Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri. Under our system in the Lutheran Church, that meant I had two divine Calls, the Call just received, and the Call which you extended to me in 2002 to serve as your Pastor at Holy Cross.

For several weeks I prayerfully considered these two Calls, seeking the Lord's will as to where he desires me to serve. I thank you for your prayers for me and family during this time, and for your many kind comments about my ministry among you.

From my experience as a mission development pastor, I believe that Holy Cross is at a critical stage in its development. I have concluded that it is important, and the Lord's will, that I remain here in service to you as your Pastor. I therefore respectfully declined the Call to Ascension, Kansas City.

May the Lord continue to bless our congregation as we work together for the expansion of His kingdom.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Last month I toured the new campus of Lutheran High School in Kansas City ([www.lhskc.com](http://www.lhskc.com)), where two of my sisters are on the faculty. Until recently this beautiful, sprawling complex of over 140,000 square feet of buildings on 29 acres was the home of a mega-church

with over 4,000 members. No one with LHS knows the whole story, but for some reason this church dropped very quickly from thousands to a handful of members. The remnant sold their former church campus—which included a complete parochial school—to LHS for a fraction of its value, complete with all of its elaborate equipment, furnishings and fixtures.

It was very surreal touring this huge facility, because the mega-church apparently declined so quickly that they just walked off and left many things behind just as they were. A series of large classrooms for adults were all still set up, with lecture notes still on the whiteboards, papers and pens scattered on the tables, and in each room a serving table with half empty coffee pots, cups, etc. left from the last time these rooms were used over a year ago. Classrooms in the former preschool were stacked with toys and some children's cubbies still held coats. The massive former church office complex—a staff directory posted by a phone showed over 75 former employees—will be emptied of its maze of cubicles to become the new library for one of my sisters, who is the LHS librarian. The desks of former workers looked like they had just stepped away.

The rapid, impressive growth, and then even more rapid, devastating decline of this mega-church, reminded me of the cottonwood trees that we have in Dakota Dunes and in my home state of Kansas. I can remember my father explaining that cottonwoods are soft, and break so easily, because they grow so fast.

There is an example of this by Prairie Park near our home. Over the past few years several major branches have gradually broken off a very large cottonwood. They are trying not to cut it down, but soon they will have no choice. Like that mega-church, such

fast-growing trees can become beautiful, large and impressive—for a time. But, they don't last as long as slower-growing hardwood trees, such as oaks.

While we certainly want our own congregation to grow, we also want that growth to be lasting like an oak, firmly rooted in and nourished by God's Word and Sacraments. Jesus puts it this way in the Parable of the Sower:

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means. When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" (Matthew 13:18-23).

Psalm 92:12 says, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon." The cedars of Lebanon are not only big, they are also strong and lasting. Not like the cottonwoods prevalent in Dakota Dunes, but like the oaks across the Interstate in Two Rivers. Rooted in and nourished by God's Word and Sacraments, our congregation by God's grace will not only grow like a cottonwood, it will also be spiritually strong and enduring like an oak.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

# Building for the Future

## Building Proposal Approved

At the congregational meeting on August 20 the congregation approved proceeding with the sanctuary addition as proposed by the Building Committee.

The next step is for the architect, Brad Mollet, to develop detailed plans and specifications, so that bids can be received. After a review by the Building Committee of the more detailed plans and specifications and the bids received, there will be another congregational vote to proceed with construction, and to authorize any additional debt incurred.

Our thanks to all who contributed so generously to our *Building for the Future* campaign. Your donations made possible this important step in the development of our congregation. Thanks also to the Building Committee for their many meetings and long hours of work to bring us to this point in the building process.

As we continue to move forward, we praise and thank God for all his blessings, and we pray that he would

## Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

Holy Cross Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

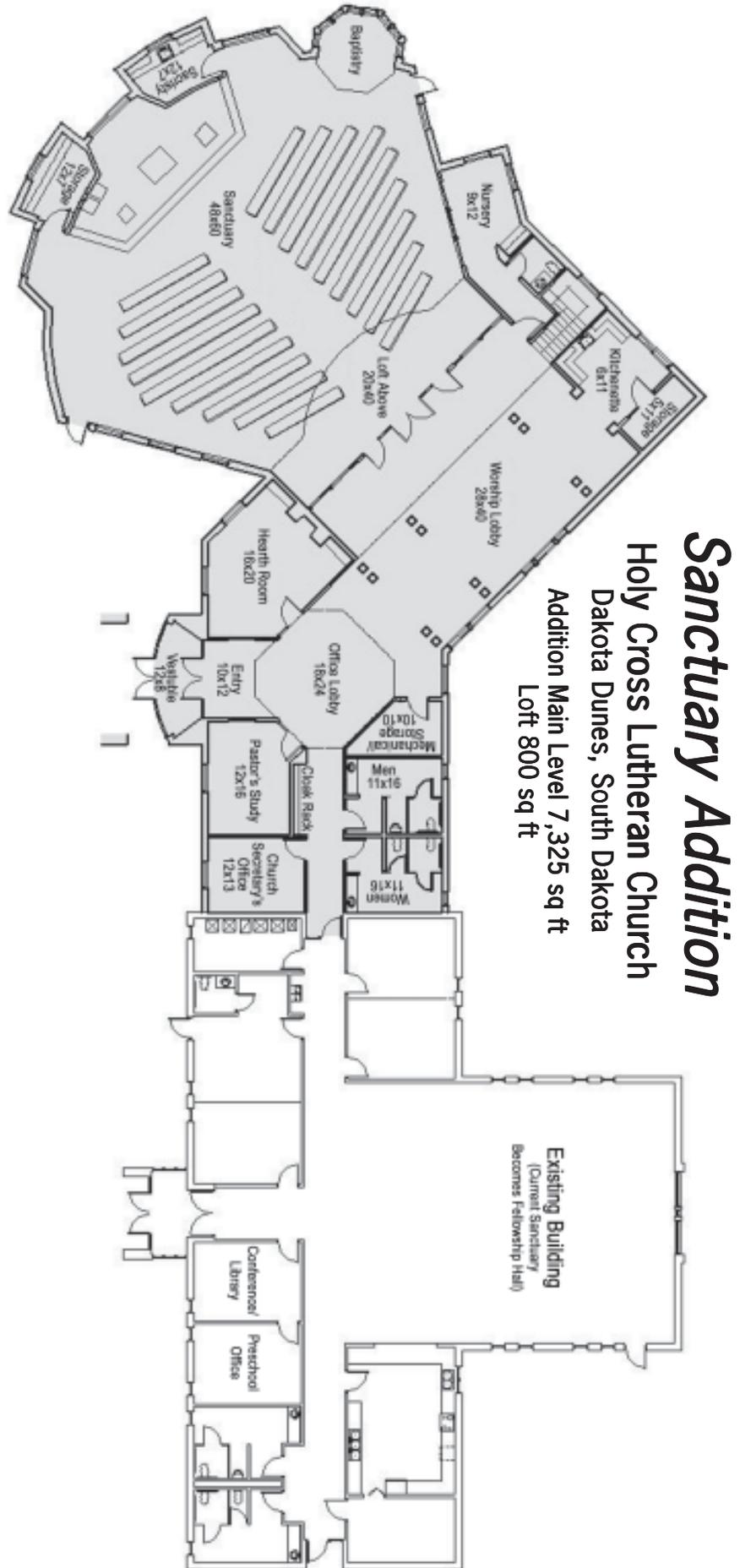
149 Bison Trail  
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

605-232-9117  
pastorvogts@longlines.com

September, 2006

Volume 4

Number 9





**We rejoiced to welcome 11 new members at our New Member Sunday on July 30—and we already have four more new members for our next New Member Sunday!**

continue to grant success to our plans and efforts. As Psalm 90:17 says, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us and for us establish the work of our hands—yes, establish the work of our hands!"



We rejoiced to welcome 11 new members at our New Member Sunday on July 30—and we already have four more new members for our next New Member Sunday! A welcoming ceremony during the service was followed by a well attended potluck dinner.

Welcome to the Holy Cross family of faith!



*Joel and Mandy Baier*

Joel Baier joins from Hope Lutheran Church, Delmont, South Dakota. Mandy

Baier joins from Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairfax, South Dakota. Joel graduated from the University of South Dakota and is an auditor with First Financial Bank. He recently returned from a deployment in Iraq with the Army National Guard where he served as a combat engineer. Mandy also attended USD and graduated from Nebraska Methodist College with a degree in surgical technology. She works as an ophthalmology assistant. The Baiers are expecting their first child in October. They are at home in Dakota Dunes at 545 Bison Trail; (605) 422-1110.



*Tim, Denise and Tyler Feltcher*

Tim and Denise Fletcher and their son Tyler join from Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota. Tim is a project engineer with Soo Tractor and Denise is the secretary for the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors. Tyler will be entering 7th Grade at Dakota Valley. Their daughter Erin lives in Fargo and will be a senior at North Dakota State University. The Fletchers are at home in Dakota Dunes at 415 Bluestem Trail; (605) 422-1919.



*Everett, Barb and Weston Johnson*

Everett and Barb Johnson and their son Weston join from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas. They are originally from South Dakota and Iowa and lived near Hawarden, Iowa before moving to Arkansas for several years, from where they recently moved back. Everett works in transportation for Tyson and Barb has worked in retail and real estate. They are at home in Dakota Dunes at 628 Bison Trail; (605) 422-1390.



*Larissa Kommes*

Larissa Kommes joins from Grace Lutheran Church, Le Mars, Iowa. She is a dental hygienist with Dr. Rick Cava in Sioux City. Larissa and her husband Brent are at home at 2425 West 19th Street, Sioux City, Iowa, 51103; (712) 255-6523. They enjoy biking, boating and golfing.



*Paul and Mary Rosene*

Paul Rosene joins from Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City and Mary Rosene joins by Affirmation of Faith. Paul grew up in the Leeds area and is a retired attorney. Mary grew up in Sioux City and is retired from Catholic Charities. Between them they have seven children and six grandchildren. They are at home in McCook Lake at 55 Northshore Drive; (605) 780-0046.



Worship attendance through June and July averaged 52, which is unusually high for the summer. The peak was 66 on July 16. It is interesting that only four in attendance that day were members of Holy Cross three years ago.

*"I rejoiced with those who said unto me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).



## **Family Fun Carnival September 17**

Holy Cross will again sponsor a free Family Fun Carnival for the entire community, on Sunday, September 17 from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Events will be held rain or shine on the church grounds.



# **4th Annual Family Fun Carnival**

Sunday, September 17  
4:00pm-6:00pm

Rain or Shine on the Grounds of Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Carriage and Hot Air Ballon Rides (Weather Permitting)

Children's Inflatable "Bouncer"

Carnival Games, Crafts, Food and Prizes

***All Invited — Everyone Welcome!***

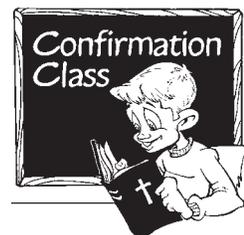
For the last several years over 300 members of the community have enjoyed activities such as a children's inflatable "bouncer," carnival games, crafts and food. New events planned for this year include hot air balloon rides (weather permitting) and carriage rides.

Mark your calendars now for this fun family event that you don't want to miss, and watch in bulletin for opportunities to help with this big event!



Sunday School and Bible Class for all ages will resume on Sundays at 10:30am with Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, September 10. During the service Catechisms and/or Bibles will be presented to all children in the 3rd-8th grades who have not yet received them.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 22:6)



## **Confirmation Begins September 6**

Confirmation classes for 2006-2007 will begin on Wednesday, September 6 and continue each Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm (6:15pm during Advent and Lent). The Pre-Confirmation class for 5th-6th Grades focuses on key Bible stories and memorization of the Catechism, to prepare for Confirmation class in 7th-8th Grades.

We are again 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.

All children of the community are welcome. If you know of a parent who is interested in their child attending please have them contact Pastor Vogts for more information.



---

## ***New Stained Glass Windows Dedicated 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 Pettit. Following worship on July 30 the congregation assembled in the entryway for the rite of dedication.

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:

*"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.



## ***Messages for September***

September 3  
**Rev. Lee Schmidt**  
Guest Preacher

September 10  
**"The Rich Young Man"**  
Mark 10:17-30

September 17  
**"The Journey Is  
Too Much for You"**  
1 Kings 19:4-8

September 24  
**"The Commands of God"**  
Mark 7:8-9



**Elders**

September 3  
Greg Huibregtse

September 10  
Mike Bargstadt

September 17  
Don Wiese

September 24  
Ron Yockey

Alternate  
Joey Schroeder



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!

September 3  
Need Volunteer

September 10  
Jansen

September 17  
Finkral

September 24  
Martin

October 1  
Finkral

October 8, 15, 22, 29  
Need Volunteers



## 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.

September 3

*Rev. Charles and Jeanette Groth  
Cambodia*

September 10

*David and Radka Fiala  
Slovakia*

September 17

*Rev. Robert Pfeil and Sue Pfeil  
Kyrgyzstan*

September 24

*Andrea Herman  
Guinea, West Africa*

**Formatting  
Errors on this  
page due to  
PDF Processing**

## October Sermon Series



Maybe sometimes you don't feel or act like a "saint." It may surprise you to learn that many of the great saints of old often felt the same way! During October we will have a special sermon series looking at five *Unlikely Heroes of the Faith*.

October 1

*Eve*

October 8

*Matthew*

October 15

*Peter*

October 22

*Paul*

October 29—Reformation Sunday

*Martin Luther*



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

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 17

*Ron and Jeannette Yockey  
Jeannette's Birthday*

September 24

*Doug and Janet Martin  
Kylie and Kendall's Birthdays*

October 1

*Joey and Marcy Schroeder  
Bryce and Marcy's Birthdays*

October 8

*Ginny Peterson  
Petersons' Anniversary*

October 15

*Denise Honner  
2nd Anniversary*

**BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**

- Madisyn Bietz, September 1
- Sarah Vogts, September 4
- Olivia Bargstadt, September 19
- Kylie Martin, September 19
- Barb Johnson, September 20
- Cassidy Nilson, September 22
- Kendall Martin, September 25
- Emma Bargstadt, September 26
- Bryce Schroeder, September 28
- Marcy Schroeder, September 30

Joey & Mary Schroeder  
September 7, 1996

Doug & Sue Jansen  
September 10, 1971

Barb & Everett Johnson  
September 16, 2000

Mindy & Mark Krause  
September 26, 1981

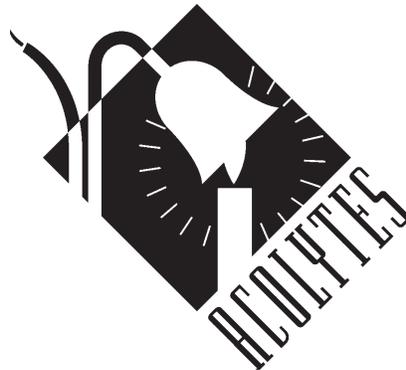
Dennis & Jeri Melstad  
September 28, 1985

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.

**Formatting  
Errors on this  
page due to  
PDF Processing**



Two LCMS members recently had a “church council” meeting—in outer space! Astronaut Jeffrey Williams (foreground) is NASA science officer and flight engineer with Expedition 13 to the International Space Station. He travelled to the ISS on a Russian spacecraft on March 29, and will be in outer space until September 24. Astronaut Michael Fossum (standing) arrived with his crew on the Space Shuttle *Discovery* on July 4, and they remained until July 17 performing maintenance and upgrades to the ISS. During the mission Fossum participated in a 7½ hour space walk. Williams and Fossum are among five NASA active duty astronauts who are members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS), Houston, which is located just across the road from the space center and where some 30 percent of the congregation’s members are affiliated with the space program. Pictured with Williams and Fossum are Astronauts Stephanie Wilson and Lisa Nowak.



- September 3  
Quinton Bose
- September 10  
Tyler Fletcher
- September 17  
Trevor Vilhauer
- September 24  
Keegan Johnson



- September 3  
Dylan Sawyer
- September 10  
Kendall Martin
- September 17  
Zachary Selby
- September 24  
Evan Steemken



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

Carriage and Hot Air Ballon Rides (Weather Permitting)

Children's Inflatable "Bouncer"

Carnival Games, Crafts, Food and Prizes

***All Invited — Everyone Welcome!***



**Return Service Requested**

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

**Crossnotes**  
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church