

**FROM THE  
PASTOR'S DESK**

*I found this article interesting, especially coming from a secular publication, and excerpted some selected portions to share with you.*

*Pastor Kevin Vogts*

**"Purpose-Driven"  
Strategy for Growth  
Splits Congregations**

By Suzanne Sataline

Excerpted from

*The Wall Street Journal*

September 5, 2006

Rev. Rick Warren, the best-selling author and church-growth guru, and pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, is best known for his book *The Purpose Driven Life*, which has sold 25 million copies. He has spawned an industry advising churches to become "purpose-driven," but the purpose-driven movement is dividing the country's more than 50 million evangelicals.

Some say it's inappropriate for churches to use growth tactics akin to modern management tools. Others say it encourages simplistic Bible teaching. Anger over the adoption of Rev. Warren's methods has driven off Christians from their longtime churches. Congregations nationwide have split, or expelled members who fought the changes.

Last summer, the evangelical church of White House counsel Harriet Miers split after adopting Rev. Warren's techniques. That church, Valley View Christian Church in Dallas, wanted to increase membership and had built a huge sanctuary several years ago.

Church leaders adopted a strategic plan built around Rev. Warren's book. One goal was to make sure more than 19 percent of the church's members were adults in their 20's and 30's, says the pastor, Rev. Barry McCarty.

Rev. Ron Key, then the senior minister, says he objected to the church's "Madison Avenue" marketing. "I believe Jesus died for everybody," Rev. Key says, not just people in a "target audience." He says the leaders wanted church that was more "edgy," with a worship service using modern music.

Rev. Key was demoted, then fired. About 200 people left the church and began worshipping in a hotel, later in a college gym, with Rev. Key as pastor. Ms. Miers worships with them when she comes to town, a White House spokesman says.

As membership in Protestant churches stagnated in the 1980's, Rev. Warren figured baby boomers might find God if they could sit in a theater-style auditorium and listen to live pop music and sermons that could help them with personal problems. He preaches in sandals and a Hawaiian shirt, and he encourages ministers to banish church traditions such as hymns, choirs and pews. He and his followers use "praise team" singers, backed by rock bands. His sermons rarely linger on self-denial and fighting sin.

In the past decade, many pastors jumped to replicate Rev. Warren's methods, creating new churches and transforming existing ones. Rev. Warren says his church and nonprofit arm have trained 400,000 pastors world-wide. He reaches many more through sales of his sermons, books and lessons on the Web.

Some believers worry that purpose-driven techniques are so widespread among Protestant churches that they are permanently altering the

way Christians worship. Some say Rev. Warren's messages misread Bible passages and undermine traditions. Rev. Warren is "gutting" Christianity, says Rev. Bob DeWaay, author of a book critical of the approach. "The Bible's theme is about redemption and atonement, not finding meaning and solving problems."

Some pastors learn how to make their churches purpose-driven through training workshops. Speakers at Church Transitions Inc., a Waxhaw, North Carolina, nonprofit that works closely with Rev. Warren, stress that the transition will be rough. At a seminar outside of Austin, Texas, in April, Revs. Roddy Clyde and Glen Sartain advised 80 audience members to trust very few people with their plans.

During a session titled "Dealing with Opposition," Rev. Clyde recommended that the pastor speak to critical members, then help them leave if they don't stop objecting. Then when those congregants join a new church, Rev. Clyde instructed, pastors should call their new minister and suggest that the congregants be barred from any leadership role.

"There are moments when you've got to play hardball," said Rev. Dan Southerland, Church Transitions' president, in an interview. "You cannot transition a church . . . and placate every whiny Christian along the way."

Rev. Warren acknowledges that splits occur in congregations that adopt his ideas. "There is no growth without change and there is no change without loss and there is no loss without pain," he says.

The exodus at some churches adopting the purpose-driven approach has been dramatic. Rev. Bob Felts, pastor of Brookwood Church in Burlington, North Carolina, eagerly introduced the concepts to his church

starting in 2001. Half the members, he said, balked at his decisions to dress casually, restrict choir performances and use electric instruments. Services now may start with a piercing electric-guitar solo, boosted with amplifiers from the \$50,000 sound system.

Nearly five years into the process, attendance has shrunk from 600 to 275. Rev. Felts says he had to cut tens of thousands of dollars from the annual budget. He says some departing members have accused him of "ruining the church."

Since taking the job of senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Lakewood in Long Beach, California, seven years ago, Rev. John Dickau has emulated Rev. Warren. He says he has attended several Church Transitions conferences to glean new insights and is personally coached by Rev. Sartain.

Rev. Dickau jettisoned the piano for a guitar. And still people left, he says—because the music is modern, because the congregation no longer uses hymn books, because the center screen that displays the song lyrics obscures the cross. Having a smaller congregation has meant trimming the \$1.7 million budget to be able to afford adding to the sound system and new stage lights, which cost \$150,000.

Rev. Dickau has watched attendance slide from 700 to 550. "I've often wondered," he says, "where's bottom?"

## Crossnotes

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## 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*

## Building for the Future

### Building Project Continues to Move Forward

Many members and friends of Holy Cross often ask about the status of our building project. Throughout the fall the project will be moving forward steadily in the design and bidding phase.

The Building Committee is meeting regularly to develop more detailed plans and specifications with our architect, Brad Mollet, who in turn is working with structural and mechanical engineers. This intensive process will take several months.

It is planned that competitive bids will be received from several contractors

at the end of 2006 or beginning of 2007. There will then be another congregational vote to accept one of the bids and proceed with construction, and to authorize any additional debt incurred.

Lord willing, groundbreaking could take place early next spring, with construction proceeding over next summer and fall. We should be able to continue using our current facilities for worship, preschool, and other activities with minimal interruption during the construction process.

The addition will include a 220-seat sanctuary with balcony; large lobby with coffee bar, for gathering after worship; hearth room, with fireplace, comfortable chairs, couches, etc.; new Pastor's Study and church secretary's office; new restrooms; nursery with window into sanctuary; and support facilities such as sacristy, coat room, storage and mechanical space. The budget of approximately \$1.5 million also includes pews and other new furnishings, expanded parking and landscaping.

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.

As we continue to move forward, we praise and thank God for all His blessings, and we pray that He would continue to grant success to our plans and efforts. As Ephesians 3:20 says, "He able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."



## *Family Fun Carnival Success*

Children and their parents from the congregation and community enjoyed our Family Fun Carnival on September 17. One non-member family, who live near the church, said their children insisted they come back early from an area county fair, because our carnival is more fun, and they didn't want to miss it!

It was too windy this year for hot air balloon rides, but we're planning to try again next year. Also, because of the wind we had the carnival games indoors.

Great new games were borrowed from a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The children especially loved popping balloons on the dartboard. Inside the church, in addition to the games, were crafts, face painting and food, with an inflatable bouncer outside.

Thanks to all those who helped with the carnival, including Joel and Mandy Baier, Daniell Bargstadt, Angela Dial, Jon and Gail Dorr, Rob and Heidi Finkral, John and Sherry Isley, Quintin Krause, Pastor, Terry and Jacob Vogts, Don and Nancy Wiese, and Ron Yockey. It is interesting that most of our helpers this year were attending the carnival for the first time—because they themselves are new members of Holy Cross!



## *2006 Family Fun Carnival*



# NEW MEMBERS

*Jon and Gail Dorr*  
By Transfer from  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
Marcus, Iowa

*Welcome to the Holy Cross  
Family of Faith!*



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!

October 1  
Finkral

October 8  
Wiese

October 15  
Vogts

October 22  
Dial

October 29  
Need Volunteer

November 5  
Finkral

November 12  
Vogts

November 19 and 26  
Need Volunteers

# Free Family Movie Night



Sunday, November 12, 6:00pm



*#1 Animated Movie of the Year*

Presented at Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Dakota Dunes Boulevard and Bison Trail

Projected on Big Screen – Free Popcorn and Koolaid  
All Ages Welcome *(No unattended children, please)*

No Charges or Fees

***All Invited – Everyone Welcome!***

*Presented Under License from Christian Video Licensing International CVLI License #501228800*



Dennis Melstad, October 5

Denise Fletcher, October 8

Emma Bargstadt, October 26

Doug & Janet Martin  
October 6, 1990

Denise & Patick Honner  
October 16, 2004

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](mailto:nancywiese@longlines.com).



## Red Paraments Donated

Our thanks to Doug and Janet Martin for donating a new set of red paraments to Holy Cross. They will be used for the first time and dedicated on Reformation Sunday, October 29.

We have now received donations of new paraments for all colors except green, which were in good condition and did not need replacing. White paraments were donated by Don and Nancy Wiese, purple paraments were donated by Mabel Schibonski, and black paraments were donated by Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City.

There is one more color available for donation. Light blue is a new, alternate color for the season of Advent. If you would be interested in donating a light blue set please contact Pastor Vogts.



October 1  
Mike Bargstadt

October 8  
Don Wiese

October 15  
Ron Yockey

# Community Thanksgiving Service



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate Thanksgiving  
Wednesday, November 22, 7:00pm

Led by Pastor Kevin Vogts  
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Dakota Dunes Boulevard & Bison Trail

*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*

**O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.**

October 22  
Joey Schroeder

October 29  
Greg Huibregtse

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

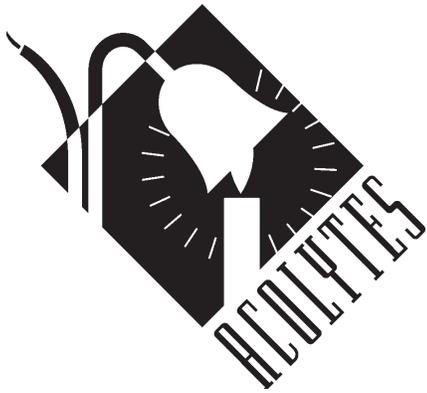
November 5  
Mabel Schibonski  
Birthday

November 12  
Doug and Sue Jansen  
Veteran's Day



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.

September 3  
Joey and Marcy Schroeder  
10th Anniversary



October 1  
Myron Bose

October 8  
A.J. Michels

October 15  
Trevor Vilhauer

October 22  
Justin Peterson

October 29  
Keegan Johnson



October 1  
Dylan Sawyer

October 8  
Tyler Fletcher

October 15  
Zachary Selby

October 22  
Evan Steemken

October 29  
Kendall Martin



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.



October 1  
*Dennis Denow*  
*Indonesia*

Rachel Clayton, a teacher from Collinsville, Illinois, recently spent two weeks working with English teachers and music teachers in Aceh, Indonesia. Many English teachers here have a lot of trouble speaking English, so the teachers spent two hours each day practicing English with Rachel. The music teachers are expected to teach their students how to play the recorder. However, none of the teachers who met with Rachel knew the proper fingering for the recorder! So, first Rachel had to teach them how to play a scale. By the time Rachel returned home, the music teachers were able to play one of their national songs on the recorder. They were ecstatic! With a big smile on her face one of the teachers said, "Now I finally have something that I can teach my students!"

Praise God for the many good relationships that we are developing and the opportunities to share God's love with them. Pray that God will send more people to help.



October 8  
*Chaplain Eric Ebb*  
*Afghanistan*

Hello from Afghanistan! The Base Chapel is an active place. We have 17 services a week and provide space for the education center and other organizations. We just had a new building placed next to the chapel which will have four guest rooms, an office, and a small meeting area. By the time the construction crew is finished, we will have some of the nicest guest rooms on the base. They'll primarily be used to house visiting chaplains. Housing is at a premium on base so visitors tend to get shuffled around.

I've been teaching an adult confirmation class to one of our soldiers. We plan on performing a baptism and confirmation for her on Reformation Sunday. Thanks to an LC-MS member in Milwaukee, I have a new supply of Luther's Small Catechisms. Some of those who are already confirmed Lutherans are planning to join us this week. It's exciting to see people interested in going through a refresher course. It also keeps me up-to-date on my theology training.

Many LC-MS members and congregations have sent care packages. When we arrived there was no organized system to distribute all of the boxes. Some soldiers in my unit created an organization called "Operation Care" which brings together volunteers to unpack and organize the items. We now have more than 40 people (Army, Air Force, and Civilian) who get together three days a week to organize everything. The group then assembles boxes to be delivered to the hospitals on base or to the nearby villages. My roommate is the Civil Affairs officer so is in charge of making the necessary connections in

the villages. One of our primary missions in Afghanistan is to get the local leadership to do more for their people. When we go to a village, we have Afghan police there for crowd control and then line up the boxes and have the village elders hand out the items. It's a win-win situation for everyone. I'm to start meeting with the local mullahs to create more coordination in the future.

One day a week I'm invited to visit the Korean engineer sites. The officers take pop and candy out to their soldiers to boost their morale. They have a high regard for the "Chaplain" so invite me to come with them. I'm invited to say a prayer before we have our snacks and fellowship time. It's been a wonderful experience for me. Yesterday, I visited the Korean Motor Pool and Command Center and had some pictures taken. I was told that 50% of the Korean soldiers are Protestant (mostly Presbyterian), 25% are Catholic, and 25% are Buddhist.

All is well here. We're nearing the half-way mark of our deployment which means that everyone's getting a bit "stir crazy." Thank you all for your prayers and support for the troops and ministry here. It's greatly appreciated!



October 15  
*Nate and Teri Watt*  
*Nigeria*

A blessing was a week-long Vacation Bible School. Our richest blessing and greatest fear was realized with the arrival of 250-300 children every day! With four Americans and seven Nigerians leading it, it was sheer joy mixed with utter chaos. The students were delighted, never having experienced VBS before. The teachers were equally blessed with eager students and active participation. By the end of the week, we had everything down pat, and it was a great success.

Those kids are truly amazing. We'll never forget the blessing they were to us that week. On Sunday, we invited the kids to come and worship for a special thanksgiving service. Usually there are about 35 adults and children in attendance. That Sunday, we had all the kids and some of the parents. It was huge!

The Nigerian pastor came to our house later the next week and told us of the impact our little VBS had on the community. The adults said they needed to have one, too. They wanted to learn more about the church, because there had been some strange ideas about what kind of church he was leading. And, it was the pastor's first time ever experiencing something like VBS. He had never heard of it before, and now he says he will take that wherever he goes and use it as an outreach to the communities he is placed in. The Lord certainly knows what He's doing! He turned a small idea into His greater, more perfect plan! Amazing! All praise be to God!

October 22  
*Michael and Ann Wade*  
*Argentina*

Dr. Michael and Ann Wade are the first LC-MS missionaries in Argentina, where they serve God in a remote area of the northern part of the country called Chaco, still home to some tribal groups. In partnership with native Lutheran pastors, they help in agricultural and community development. The Wades previously served among the Tagakaulo people in the Philippines between 1997 and 2001.

Mike was born and raised in Neosho, Missouri. His home congregation is First Lutheran in Neosho. Mike holds a doctorate degree in soil science and has worked in international agricultural development in Peru, Guatemala, and Indonesia.

Ann was also born in southwest Missouri and, like Mike, grew up on a farm. Her master's degree in social work equipped her to serve as a counselor at the Christian Academy of Guatemala, a school for missionary

children. The Wades have four children, all living in the United States.

The Wades ask for prayers that the agricultural work will help open up the way for the ministry begun by the national church in Argentina and that they will be lead by the Holy Spirit in all they say and do every day.



October 29  
*Rev. Matthew and Susan Prince*  
*Puerto Rico*

Rev. Matthew and Susan Prince serve God as missionaries in Puerto Rico, where Matthew assists in planting and developing Lutheran groups of believers into mature, self sustaining, self-governing, and self-reproducing, congregations.

Both Matthew and Susan were born in Seymour, Indiana. Their home congregation is Immanuel Lutheran in Seymour. Matthew has a bachelor's degree in education and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 2002 with a master's of divinity. Susan holds bachelor's degrees in Spanish and education. Their first child, Hannah, was born in 2004.

Please pray for Matt and Susan and for their ministry in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Pray that God gives them wisdom to understand the culture and equips them to minister to those people whom God places in their lives.



Return Service Requested

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor  
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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

**Crossnotes**  
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church