

# Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

NOVEMBER  
2006



*"What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his own soul?"*

(Mark 8:36)

Of all the questions the Bible asks, this searing question from Jesus is probably the most relevant to our age. For it seems that most of us are indeed seeking to gain the whole world, one expensive piece at a time.

Years ago, it took many decades for the majority of American households to get true necessities like running water, electricity and telephones. But in our materialistic age almost all homes (including my own) now have such luxuries as microwaves and VCR's, just over a decade after they were widely introduced. Even the manufacturers of these appliances are astounded beyond their wildest dreams at how quickly the American market was saturated with them, how quickly these luxuries became modern necessities!

Of course, in themselves, there is nothing wrong or evil with such gadgets and labor-saving devices. These too are gifts of God, to be used for our good. But when acquiring such things becomes the central focus of our lives, then we must ask that question: "What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his own soul?"

For as we grow more and more infatuated with material things, we become less and less interested in God. How sickening it is to think that we so carefully surround ourselves with every comfort and pleasure in this temporary life, but at the same time give little thought to where we will spend eternity!

All those things you struggle to gain will one day pass to someone else, or lie broken and rusted. But your soul will spend eternity either in heaven or in hell.

As we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, it's a good time for you to look hard at your priorities and put your life back on track. Cast down the idol of self-centered materialism and put God back on the throne of your life. Go to him in prayer. Seek his will for you in his Word. Worship the Lord in his holy house. Stop chasing after idols of silver and gold and return to the Lord your God! He is gracious and merciful, he forgives all your sin for Jesus' sake, he welcomes you back with open arms. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 118:1).

Unless you put God at the center of your life, all your labors and struggles to gain the things of this life are ultimately meaningless, as Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lords builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Do not make your life a wasted pursuit after things that have no lasting value, as Jesus said to Martha, "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needful" (Luke 10:41-42).

Instead of being worried and upset about acquiring earthly things, set your heart on things above. Stop trying to gain the whole world, while losing your own soul. Stop clinging to the things of this life, for they are passing away. Cling instead to your Savior and his promise of eternal bliss in the life to come.

And, oddly enough, it is at that very point you will finally find satisfaction in your life. As Jesus says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). It is only when you let go from trying to find fulfillment in the things of this life, that this life finally becomes fulfilling. As

St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



*Carroll and Janet Gustman*

*Adam Gustman*

By Release from  
Salem Lutheran Church  
Ponca, Nebraska

*Welcome to the Holy Cross  
Family of Faith!*



***New Member Sunday  
and Potluck Dinner  
November 12***

On Sunday, November 12 we will rejoice to welcome seven 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.

Everyone is invited to come and welcome our new members, bring a dish, and enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving potluck feast!



Our sympathy to Jason, Kathi, Madisyn and Braylen Bietz upon the death last month of Jason's father, Raymond Bietz. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13).

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*Building  
for the  
Future*

## **Building Project Update**

We are currently in the design phase for our exciting new addition featuring a 220-seat sanctuary with balcony; large lobby with coffee bar, for gathering after worship; hearth room, with fireplace, comfortable chairs, couches,

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## **Crossnotes**

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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.

During the design phase our architect, Brad Mollet, in consultation with structural and mechanical engineers, is transforming the one-dimensional floor plan of the addition and "making it walk on all fours," giving the building three dimensional specifics. This includes myriad details about the structure, fixtures, finishes, materials, and electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems, which are necessary for the project to be submitted to contractors for bidding. As part of this process the Building Committee is meeting regularly with Mr. Mollet. 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.

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 2 Corinthians 8:11 says, "Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it."



## **Holy Cross Choir Forming**

New member Janet Gustman is a long time piano teacher and has agreed to lead a choir at Holy Cross! We would like to sing during December for the holiday season.

Details about rehearsals, etc. will be worked out depending on the schedules of participants. The plan is that the choir would sing from the rear of the church.

Your voice is needed! Sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church. For more information, contact Janet (712-258-1124) or Pastor Vogts.

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## **Pastor Vogts at LCMS National Leadership Conference**

Pastor Vogts will be among several hundred leaders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nationwide attending the annual LCMS Fall Leadership Conference, November 14-18 in Orlando, Florida.

Attending this conference are the presidents, vice-presidents, and other officers of the LCMS; the LCMS board of directors; the presidents of the 35 LCMS districts; and members of various other LCMS boards.

Pastor Vogts is invited to attend because he serves on the Board for Communications Services. He is vice-chairman and chairman of the editorial committee. You may have noticed some changes lately in *The Lutheran Witness*, which he helped to

effect. He also serves as chairman of the search committee for a new editor for the Synod's publications.

While Pastor Vogts is in Florida you may reach him through Terese, or on his cell phone (712-898-4818). Or, in case of emergency you may contact Pastor Kenneth Schmidt of Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City (Home: 712-277-2341; Church: 712-252-2938; Cell: 712-251-1791).



## ***Preschool Soup Supper November 19***

The annual Soup Supper fundraiser for Holy Cross Preschool will be held on Sunday, November 19 from 4:00-7:00pm at Holy Cross. Tickets are sold by Preschool and After School Care children and at the door. Adults-\$5; Children 4-12-\$3; Under 4-Free.

This year we will have many vendors set-up for some holiday shopping with part of their proceeds going to the Preschool and After School Care programs. Do you sell crafts or other items? We are seeking vendors to "set up shop" during the Soup Supper. It is great for holiday shopping and teacher gifts. If interested please contact Daniell Bargstadt at 235-1688.

All funds will be matched through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The funds collected will be used to purchase playground equipment, educational toys, books, and games. Come enjoy the warm soups, tasty desserts, holiday shopping, and wonderful company!

# **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*

## ***Family Movie Night November 12***

Everyone is invited to a Family Movie Night at Holy Cross, featuring the new Disney classic hit "Cars" projected on our big screen, on Sunday, November 12 at 6:00pm. Free admission, popcorn and koolaid.

A great opportunity to invite your children's friends, neighbor children, grandchildren, etc. "Cars" is the perfect family movie that will be enjoyed by all ages (no unattended children, please).

Presented under license from Christian Video Licensing International, CVLI License #501228800.

# Holy Cross Preschool

## Soup Supper

Help Support Holy Cross Preschool  
Sunday, November 19  
4:00pm-7:00pm

Adults-\$5 Children 4-12-\$3 Under 4-Free  
*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*



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.

### October 1

Joey and Marcy Schroeder  
Bryce and Marcy's Birthdays

### October 8

Ginny Peterson  
Petersons' Anniversary

### October 15

Denise Honner  
2nd Anniversary

### November 12

Doug and Sue Jansen  
Veteran's Day

November 19  
Mabel Schibonski  
Birthday



## **Poinsettia Donations**

We have arranged for poinsettias through Mosher Garden Center for \$11 each. Sign up on the bulletin board indicating that you wish to have these plants purchased for you, and put your payment in the offering marked "Poinsettias."

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 6. The plants will be delivered to the church on December 8 for display beginning on Sunday, December 10.

You are also welcome to bring your own plants, if you wish to purchase them elsewhere or receive them as gifts. Please sign up on the bulletin board indicating that you will provide your own

plants and drop them by the church anytime before Christmas.

After Christmas you may take home the plants you have donated or brought. When you sign up, please indicate whom your plants are in memory or honor of, the way you want it printed in the January newsletter.



## **Quarterly Business Meeting October 29**

The regular quarterly business meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, October 29 at 5:00pm.

All adult members of the congregation are automatically eligible to be voting members. You are urged to come and help administer the business affairs of your congregation.



Mabel Schibonski, November 14

We list members' birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. 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).



November 5  
Justin Peterson

November 12  
Kylie Martin

November 19  
Keegan Johnson

November 22 (Thanksgiving Eve)  
Sarah Vogts

November 26  
Myron Bose



November 5  
Evan Steemken

November 12  
A.J. Michels

November 19  
Zachary Selby

November 22 (Thanksgiving Eve)  
Jacob Vogts

November 26  
Tyler Fletcher

# 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.**



## Messages for November

November 5  
*“Approach God’s Throne  
with Confidence”*

Hebrews 4:14-16

November 12  
*“The Question of Faith  
and Good Works”*

James 2:14-18

November 19  
*“Sins of Omission”*  
James 4:17

November 22  
(Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00pm)  
*“Seek First His Kingdom”*  
Matthew 6:25-33

November 26  
*“The Mercy of Our  
Lord Jesus Christ”*  
Jude 20-25



## Thanksgiving Eve Offering Helps Support Love Fund

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

Galatians 6:10

Last year the Board of Elders has established a Love Fund as our congregation’s way of responding to some of the many requests we receive for assistance. They also decided that each year the first \$250 from the offering

at our Thanksgiving Eve Service will go to help support this cause.

In a typical month about a dozen calls come to the church asking for help with such things as rent, utilities, food, medicine, etc. Because our congregation is not a full-service social agency, many of these requests are referred other such organizations. They are better equipped to screen the requests; otherwise, well-meaning assistance can actually subsidize destructive behaviors.

These agencies can also help the individuals apply for long-term assistance, such as food stamps, subsidized housing, etc., and the able-bodied to find employment and hopefully become self-sufficient. This should be our goal, as St. Paul states in Ephesians 4:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12.

The Board of Elders has authorized the Pastor, at his discretion, to make some contributions from the newly established Love Fund. The general guidelines are:

- Cash is never given, but instead gift cards for a local gasoline station or grocery store/pharmacy.
- In accordance with Galatians 6:10, preference is given to members of our congregation or other Lutheran congregations.
- Normally small donations of about \$20 are given, so that we can help as many people as possible, with larger amounts for members of our church.
- For those who are not members of our church, the limit is usually one donation per year, again so that we can help as many people as possible.

In addition to the Thanksgiving Eve offering the Love Fund is supported by your special contributions. You may place a donation for this cause in the offering at any time marked "Love Fund." Please consider a donation to make it possible for our congregation to give some assistance to those in need.



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!

November 5  
Finkral

November 12  
Vogts

November 19  
Schibonski

November 26  
Yockey

December 3  
Finkral

December 10  
Vogts

December 17, 24, 31  
Need Volunteers



Elders



November 5  
Don Wiese

November 12  
Mike Bargstadt

November 19  
Joey Schroeder

November 22 (Thanksgiving Eve)  
Greg Huibregtse

November 26  
Ron Yockey



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.



November 5  
Todd Roeske  
Philippines

I led a seminar on the tract, "The Divine Plan." The tract uses symbols to explain the story of salvation in just a couple of minutes. We hoped that the tract would serve two purposes for the Tagakaulo church. First, it would help members of the church to get a better handle on the basics of the Gospel message. Secondly, the tract would provide a tool for Tagakaulo Christians to share their faith with unbelievers. One young man, Jonathan, wrote me a letter explaining his experience:

"I explained 'The Divine Plan' Tract to my neighbor yesterday. It was really

good because my uncle, who is an old man, listened to my explanation of the symbols. He said, 'This is really good that they made these symbols because through them people can know the Word of God.' This old man doesn't go to church; but when I explained the symbols, he thought it was good. He said he was surprised to learn that he really had sinned. I responded to my uncle, 'People are not perfect. We are not like Jesus who did not sin. Therefore we must believe in Christ.'"

We all can learn from this Tagakaulo young man to actively share our faith, and trust that God will use our witness to reach others.



November 12  
*Tim and Heidi Norton*  
*Guinea, Africa*



November 19  
*Rev. Claude and Rhoda Houge*  
*Uganda*

A year ago when we visited Uganda, an elderly lady at the church in Masindi shared her feelings with us. We visited the mud and stick building that had been

made locally for a church and a training center, but the woman was hopeful that she would see a permanent building before she went to be with the Lord.

It happened! Last month, we saw the building in Masindi. The structure was built with bricks made by the church members on land they purchased. Our mission helped with the roof and floor, plus the doors and windows that will be added. The old woman lives across the road, and she was there to greet us with a big smile on her face.

Our trip to Uganda was long overdue, and it was wonderful to hear how the church is continuing to grow in spite of some setbacks. As they look strategically to build another church/training center, they picked the refugee center of Lira. We were touched that no one on the Mission Training Center committee was pushing for their own area, but for a truly mission outreach area. There are many displaced persons in and around Lira because of the rebel fighting in northern Uganda that has endangered and taken many lives.

Praise God for the continued growth and faithfulness of the Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda.



November 26  
*Rev. Tony Boos*  
*People of the Book Lutheran Outreach*  
*Ministry to Muslims*  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

So far in our work among Muslims in St. Louis we have had over 20 professions of faith in Christ and 12 baptisms!

God answered the prayers of many faithful people asking that He would

work faith in a man named Jidar (not his real name; we have had the unfortunate experience of printing names in our newsletter and somehow word got back to their ethnic community and they were persecuted for it).

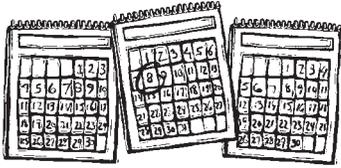
Here are a few of the unfortunate highlights of Jidar's life: seeking shelter in the basement of his Bosnian home in fear of enemy bombs; having to flee to a new country at age 16; trying to learn and speak a new language; living with an alcoholic father; then running away from home and living on the streets, sleeping in cars because of no place to stay. All this and more happened to this young man—a real survivor!

He now lives in St. Louis, with his wife and three children. Over the past 3½ years, I became friends with Jidar's family. His wife is a Bosnian Christian. At her urging he had already allowed his children to be baptized.

Jidar is a truck driver, as are hundreds, perhaps thousands of Bosnian men, who find it appealing to drive all over the country, and can make a decent living even though they may speak little English. Any free time Jidar had when in town he met with me and our friendship grew. Last summer, we played together on a Bosnian soccer team we sponsor as part of our outreach, and became closer. On numerous occasions, he heard me and his wife talk about Jesus and what He has done in our lives. Finally, he sat with us and read parts of the Bible and studied with us.

In his line of work, there have been several near fatal accidents, and Jidar realizes how many times God has saved his life. This past Christmas, for the first time in his life, he attended a Christian worship service at a truck stop, and felt his need for a Savior! He then attended a worship service with his family and my family at the LCMS church which supports our work in St. Louis.

After studying with Jidar about the gift of Baptism, he said that he was ready to receive this gift from God! What a joy that now Jidar and his wife and children are now united not only as a family, but through Baptism they are all united together in the family of God.



# **QUARTERLY** *Meeting*

Quarterly Business Meeting  
This Sunday, October 29  
5:00pm

*Come Help Administer the Business Affairs  
of Your Congregation*



## **New Member Sunday and Potluck Dinner**

Sunday, November 12  
11:30am

Come Enjoy Food and Fellowship and  
Help Welcome Our Newest Members

*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*



Return Service Requested

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

**Crossnotes**  
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church