



"If any man sets his heart on being a pastor, he desires a noble task."

1 Timothy 3:1

In October, I attended a meeting held on the campus of my alma mater, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. By the way, if you are ever passing through St. Louis, it is worth a visit. It is a real architectural gem, an authentic Gothic campus, constructed in 1926. However, because of the stock market crash, the Great Depression, and World War II, they didn't get around to building the magnificent chapel until 1991. It was completed in the same traditional style, with a level of quality, materials, and detail rarely found today.

During my visit, I attended a morning chapel service, as I did daily during my years as a student. This year is the 20th anniversary of my graduation and ordination in 1986, and, although the chapel itself is new, attending chapel there felt like being home again. It was so wonderful to see the hundreds of eager young men, and in many cases their wives and sometimes young children, filling the pews.

There is concern in many denominations about a shortage of clergy, and a decade ago the Missouri Synod also feared a critical shortage might develop among the ranks of our pastors. However, God has worked an extraordinary miracle, and there is wonderful good news to report, unique to our denomination. We have a "problem" right now that no other church body in America could fathom possible: a *surplus* of clergy candidates! At a time when seminary enrollment is sagging badly in other denominations, enrollment has shot up at our two seminaries, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and

I was formerly on the staff of one of these ten universities operated by our Synod, Concordia University Wisconsin, in suburban Milwaukee, which is the largest Lutheran university in North America, with over 5,300 students. The LCMS university campuses closest to us are Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, Nebraska, and Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Other campuses are located in Chicago; Bronxville, in suburban New York City; Portland, Oregon; Selma, Alabama; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Irvine, California; and Austin, Texas. While these schools offer undergraduate and graduate

programs in a wide variety of other areas, they serve the LCMS by preparing future pastors, deaconesses, parochial school teachers, directors of Christian education, and other workers for our Synod.

Between the years 1990 and 2000, undergraduate pre-seminary enrollment at all these schools jumped an astounding 84%! All church work programs during those years increased 23%. The good news is, the Lord is moving more and more young people in our Synod to devote their lives to full-time service to Him and His church.

During that same time, enrollment at both our seminaries increased 22%, jumping at St. Louis an amazing 52% in just the latter half of the decade. Enrollment has now stabilized at these higher levels. Most seminaries across the nation are facing a crisis because their student



This year over 200 new students preparing to be pastors enrolled in the "Class of 2010" at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (top) and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (bottom).

Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, as well as undergraduate pre-seminary enrollment in our Concordia University System.

populations are dwindling so drastically. Our seminaries' problem? Overcrowding, not enough space, a shortage of dormitories, apartments, and classrooms! In fact, did you know that your denomination, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is the *only* Christian church body in America experiencing an *increase* in the number of people entering full-time church work? That is very good news indeed for the future of our church.

It is even more extraordinary because many other denominations theoretically have twice the potential student pool, since the LCMS does not have female clergy. Even with that important difference, we generally have more than double the number of seminary students, relative to denominational size, than most other Protestant bodies. By the way, even though we don't have female pastors, women do indeed use their talents in professional service to the Lord in the LCMS. In fact, we actually have *more* females preparing for full-time church work than any other denomination in the United States, as deaconesses, parochial school teachers, directors of Christian education, etc.

We are blessed with not only two of the largest, but also two of the academically finest seminaries in the world. The Master of Divinity program to serve as a pastor is a four-year graduate program, three years of classes and one year of pastoral internship (also known as vicarage). Before entering the seminary, students have previously received a bachelors



December 3
1st Sunday in Advent
Patience

Wednesday, December 20
Advent Service III – 7:00pm
Gentleness and Self-Control

Wednesday, December 6
Advent Service I – 7:00pm
Love and Joy

December 24
4th Sunday in Advent
Song: Festival of Readings and Carols

December 10
2nd Sunday in Advent
Faithfulness

December 24
Christmas Eve
Goodwill

Wednesday, December 13
Advent Service II – 7:00pm
Kindness and Goodness

December 31
First Sunday after Christmas
Peace

December 17
3rd Sunday in Advent
Salvation

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

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December, 2006

Volume 4

Number 12

degree or higher, from either one of our system of universities, or other institutions. Our seminaries are not sacrificing quality in order to increase enrollments. On the contrary, the greater number of applicants has allowed them to be even more selective, and to increase requirements for admission.

This year it is anticipated that over 250 men will receive their first assignments as pastors within our Synod, presenting a "problem," unique among American denominations, of potentially not having enough available

congregations in which they can serve. Our Synod is using turning this "problem" into a great opportunity for increased outreach. In some cases these eager new pastors are helping launch new congregations. In other cases, what were considered marginal congregations are receiving new pastors, sometimes for the first time in years, and they are being revitalized and built up again. An example of that phenomenon is Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City, which some thought could be closed or consolidated, but within a year of receiving their new

seminary graduate has become the fastest-growing LCMS congregation in Sioux City.

Having worked for five years in the area of church worker recruitment, I concluded that the most important indicator of a denomination's health is the number of those entering the ranks of its pastors and other full-time workers. More than any other statistic, this is an encouraging grassroots vote of confidence, in particular from the young people of our Synod, indicating their commitment to the Lutheran Church and its teachings.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



On Sunday, November 12 we rejoiced to welcome seven more new members to our congregation. There was a welcoming ceremony during the worship service at 9:15am, followed by a well-attended potluck dinner.

Welcome to the Holy Cross Family of Faith!



Jon and Gail Dorr

Jon and Gail are farmers and live in rural Marcus, Iowa and were formerly members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alta. Their daughter Lauren is a Deaconess. Her husband is studying to be a Pastor and pursuing additional graduate studies at Concordia

Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Their daughter Adriane attended Concordia University Wisconsin (where Pastor Vogts was formerly on the faculty) and is now a graduate student at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana and works part-time for Concordia Publishing House. Their oldest daughter Kellee lives in Loveland, Colorado and keeps busy with twin girls. The Dorrs are at home at 521 450th Street, Marcus, IA, 51035; (712) 376-2458; jdorr@midlands.net.



Adam Gustman

Adam moved with his parents from Ponca, Nebraska. He is a graphic design student at Morningside College. Adam is at home with his parents at 4015 Manchester Street, Sioux City, IA, 51103; (712) 258-1124.



Carroll and Janet Gustman

Carroll and Janet are both originally from Nebraska and recently moved to Sioux City from Ponca, Nebraska. Carroll is in data processing at Iowa-Nebraska Bank in South Sioux City. Janet is an administrative assistant at Heartland

Counseling, also in South Sioux City. Janet is also a piano teacher and director of our newly forming choir at Holy Cross. In addition to their son Adam, they have three more children. The Gustmans are at home in the Woodbury Heights development in Sioux City at 4015 Manchester Street, Sioux City, IA, 51103; (712) 258-1124.



Dolores Hageman

Dolores recently moved from Sioux City to the Sterling Green Apartments in Dakota Dunes. She was a longtime member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City, and is a retired homemaker. She is at home with her daughter Terri at 320 Dakota Dunes Blvd #118, Dakota Dunes, SD, 57049; (605) 422-1335.



Terri Hageman

Terri works as a telephone representative for Mid-America Energy. She recently moved to Dakota Dunes from South Sioux City, Nebraska and was formerly a member of Hope Lutheran Church, South Sioux City. She is at home at 320 Dakota Dunes Blvd #118, Dakota Dunes, SD, 57049; (605) 422-1335.



Carter Joel Baier, son of Joel and Mandy Baier, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 12.

Building for the Future

Building Project Update

We are continuing in the detailed design phase for our new addition featuring. As the process proceeds we plan to have sketches and samples of materials and colors occasionally on display on Sunday mornings for members to give their input.

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.

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 is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."



Soup Supper Success!

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Soup Supper on November 19 such a big success! Hundreds attended from the community and area LCMS congregations.

Special thanks to all those who donated items, and Daniell Bargstadt, who organized the event. Proceeds and matching funds from Thirvent Financial for Lutherans will benefit our Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care programs.



Family Movie Night Best Attended Ever

Nearly 40 children and over 20 adults, mostly guests from the community, attended our Family Movie Night featuring the animated film "Cars" on November 12, making it our most successful Family Movie Night ever!

Thanks to all who helped with this event, especially Terese Vogts, Daniell Bargstadt, and Heidi Finkral.



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.



Women's Christmas Dinner December 4

All the women of the congregations are invited to a Women's Christmas Dinner at Graham's in Dakota Dunes on Monday, December 4 at 6:00pm. Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament (\$5.00 or less) for a gift exchange. Come join together for fellowship and fun! For more information contact Betty Gunderson or Ginny Peterson.



Church Decorating December 9

Everyone is invited to please come help decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 9 at 10:00am. Last year we had a large group and it made the task quick and fun. Lord



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate the Real "Reason for the Season"

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
Family Service at 7:00pm
"Midnight Mass" at 11:30pm

Enjoy Your Favorite Christmas Carols Including "Silent Night" by Candlelight

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!

willing, depending on construction schedules, this *might* be our last Christmas in our present facility!



Children's Program December 10

The children of Holy Cross Preschool and Sunday School will present their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm. Come and experience the wonder of Christmas as seen through the eyes of children!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Plan now to attend our Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24. A Family Service will be held at 7:00pm, with a "Midnight Mass" beginning at 11:30pm.

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, and regular Sunday morning worship will be held as usual that morning at 9:15am, with a Festival of Readings and Carols featuring Scripture readings relating to our Lord's birth and favorite Advent and Christmas carols.

"Oh, come, all you faithful!"



Joint "West Side" Lutheran Service on Christmas Day

This year Holy Cross is joining with Concordia and Faith Lutheran Churches, Sioux City, for a "West Side" joint Christmas Day service, on Monday, December 25, at 9:00am at Concordia Lutheran Church, 2000 Military Road, Sioux City.

Bring your family and holiday guests to continue the joyous celebration of our Lord's birth!



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.

November 5

Jane Michels and Family
In Memory of Jim

November 12

Doug and Sue Jansen
Veteran's Day

November 19

Mabel Schibonski
Birthday



Katelyn Yockey, December 2

Helen Hamilton, December 11

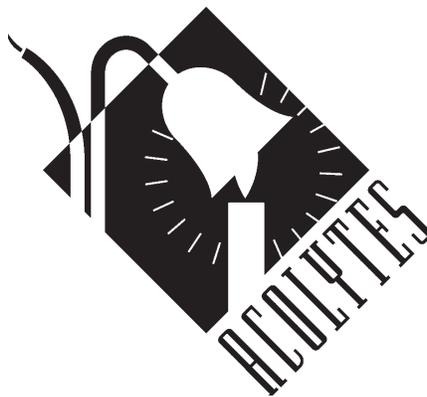
Sherry Isley, December 26

Levi Finkral, December 30

Paul & Mary Rosene
December 22, 1983

Kevin & Terese Vogts
December 29, 1990

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.



December 3

Jacob Vogts

December 6 (Advent Service)

Tyler Fletcher

December 10

Myron Bose

December 13 (Advent Service)

Keegan Johnson

December 17

Zachary Selby

December 20 (Advent Service)

Justin Peterson

December 24 (9:15am)

Trevor Vilhauer

December 24 (7:00pm)

Kylie Martin

December 24 (11:30pm)

Sarah Vogts

December 31

Justin Peterson



December 3

Dylan Sawyer

December 6 (Advent Service)

Myron Bose

December 10

A.J. Michels

December 13 (Advent Service)

Zachary Selby

December 17

Evan Steemken

December 20 (Advent Service)

Dylan Sawyer

December 24 (9:15am)

Quinton Bose

December 24 (7:00pm)

Kendall Martin

December 24 (11:30pm)

Jacob Vogts

December 31

Tyler Fletcher



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!

December 3
Finkral

December 10
Vogts

December 17
Wiese

December 24 & 31
Need Volunteers



Elders



December 3
Ron Yockey

December 6 (Advent Service)
Ron Yockey

December 10
Joey Schroeder

December 13 (Advent Service)
Joey Schroeder

December 17
Greg Huibregtse

Joint "West Side" Lutheran

Christmas Day Service

Jointly Sponsored by
Concordia, Faith and Holy Cross
Lutheran Churches



Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
9:00am

Held at
Concordia Lutheran Church
2000 Military Road, Sioux City

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Come and Worship the Newborn King!

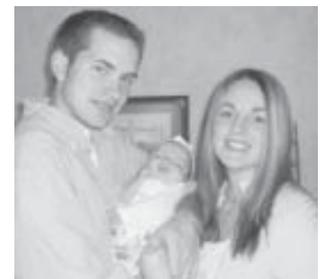
December 20 (Advent Service)
Greg Huibregtse

December 24
Don Wiese

December 31
Mike Bargstadt

December 3
Donna Meyer
Guinea, Africa

December 10
Ron and Mary Harrington
Mexico



December 17
Nathan and Melissa Scheele
Kenya

December 24
Joanna Henderson
Lithuania

December 31
Jon and Julie Muhly
Russia



Each month we remember in prayer in our worship specific missionaries sponsored around the world by our congregation, through our Synod and related organizations.



Advent Services

Wednesdays, 7:00pm
December 6, 13, and 20

Festival of Readings and Carols

Sunday, December 24, 9:15am



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate
the Real "Reason for the Season"

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
Family Service at 7:00pm
"Midnight Mass" at 11:30pm

Enjoy Your Favorite Christmas Carols
Including "Silent Night" by Candlelight

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Oh, Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church