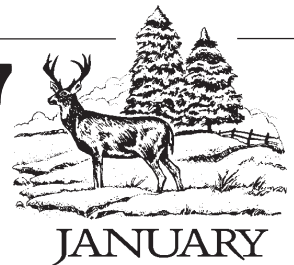
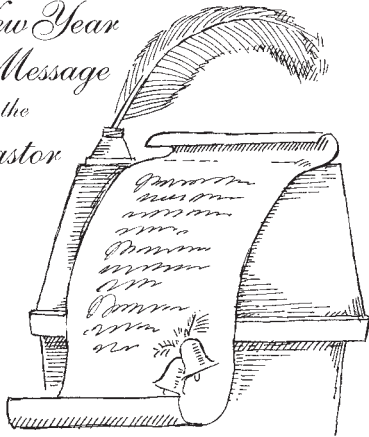


Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

2007



*New Year
Message
from the
Pastor*



2006 was a year of change for churches in the communities our congregation serves. Of the eight Christian churches in Dakota Dunes, North Sioux City and McCook Lake, three—*one-third*—either closed permanently, or began operations under a new name in 2006.

Taking a broader look at Lutheran churches across Siouxland, statistics available on the web sites of our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (www.lcms.org) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org) show that in 2006 almost all Lutheran churches in Siouxland reported decreases or a plateau in most categories.

Psalm 115:1 says, "Not to us, not to us, O LORD, but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness." We give God glory for His many blessings to Holy Cross in 2006. Most importantly, the faithful blessings of His love and grace distributed to us each week in worship through his Word and Sacrament.

We also rejoice that under His blessing we experienced increases in membership, attendance and giving. Perhaps most remarkable is our successful "Building for the Future" fundraising campaign and our decision

to proceed with a sanctuary addition. As we enter 2007, we pray that in His love and faithfulness He continues to shower down His blessings upon us, both individually and as a congregation.

Significant challenges for our congregation in 2007 and beyond include: members who have been absent from worship; low and irregular attendance at Sunday School and Bible Class; and increasing offerings at the pace necessary to offset both our declining mission subsidy and the increased operating expenses to be expected from our expanded facilities.

Sadly, Gethsemane Lutheran Church in North Sioux City, the only other Lutheran congregation in the Dakota Dunes, North Sioux City, McCook Lake communities, closed in 2006, reportedly after a controversy within the congregation. This was even more surprising because it happened just as they were completing an ambitious building project for a beautiful new sanctuary. You may have noticed their empty building on River Drive in North Sioux City, sad and forlorn, with the doors literally boarded shut.

This sad example is a warning for us. For it shows that such a project can deteriorate, from being inspiring and unifying, to being a source of conflict and division. That is probably our biggest challenge as a congregation in 2007. To remember *why*, *for what purpose*, *and for whom* we are building a new sanctuary in the first place. "Not to us, not to us, O LORD, but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness."

In Ephesians 4:16, St. Paul gives us the formula for completing our own ambitious building project with a happier and more God-pleasing outcome: "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one

another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Building for the Future

Building Project Update

Our building project was submitted to contractors for competitive bids in mid-January. Their bids are due back to us in mid-February.

As the project has proceeded over the past several months, from the concept to more detailed plans, the Building Committee has been excited to see unfolding what will be an exceptionally beautiful and unique sanctuary. It will be a glorious temple to our Lord and a noted landmark in our community.

Lord willing, one or more of the bids will be within our overall budget of approximately \$1.5 million, which also includes other items not part of the bid, such as furnishings and architect fees. If none of the bids is within budget, the Building Committee will need to make adjustments to the project, and/or the congregation will need to provide further funding.

After any such final adjustments which may be necessary have been addressed and a contractor selected,

the congregation will have a final vote to proceed with the project and approve any borrowing. Groundbreaking could take place early this spring, with construction proceeding over the 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.



Record Attendance Christmas Eve

For our Christmas Eve services we had a record 127 worshippers, 81 at the 7:00pm Family Service and 46 at the 11:30pm "Midnight Mass." About two-thirds of those attending were visitors from the community.

One young visitor commented, as he was leaving the "Midnight Mass" with a large group of college age friends, "Thanks so much for arranging all this." Another couple said they had searched the Internet for a church with a midnight service. And, of course, many visitors

Crossnotes

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January, 2007

Volume 5

Number 1



Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to all who donated a record 20 poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas, and to all who helped decorate. The church was especially beautiful for our Christmas celebrations!

Given By

Betty & Gary Gunderson
Carroll & Janet Gustman
John & Sherry Isley
Doug & Sue Jansen
Laurissa Kommes
Mark & Mindy Krause (2)
Dan & Mary Lee
Doug & Janet Martin (2)
Ginny Peterson (4)
Mabel Schibonski
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Don & Nancy Wiese
Ron & Jeannette Yockey (2)

In Memory or Honor Of

Grandparents
Mother & Fathers
Parents
Paul Jansen
Grandparents & Kenny Kommes
Toby Meister, Nick Pinneke
Grandparents
Grandparents
Bob Peterson
Elmer Schibonski
Leroy Vogts
Grandparents
Parents, Nathan Wiese, Korey Naab
Jeannette's Parents

were responding to our Christmas mailing of nearly 3,500 pieces, blanketing all of Dakota Dunes, McCook Lake, North Sioux City, Jefferson, and all rural areas such as Deer Run and Wyndstone. Special thanks to Nancy Wiese for her many hours preparing this large mailing, with help from Betty Gunderson, Ginny Peterson, and Terry Vogts.

On Christmas Day, six members of our congregation were among the more than 60 worshippers who gathered for the first annual "west side" Christmas Day service, jointly sponsored by Holy Cross, Concordia and Faith Lutheran Churches, and held at Concordia.

L.I.F.E. Lutheran Initiative For Education

In September of 2005 two individuals from each LCMS congregation in Sioux City met together for the purpose of writing a constitution that would form an affiliation of the congregations for the purpose of supporting a Lutheran parochial school in Sioux City in the future. The constitution was completed in October of 2006. The pastor in each LCMS congregation will receive a copy of this constitution in January 2007.

The next step in the process will be to identify two individuals in each congregation to serve on an interim Board of Directors. This Board will write the By-Laws of the school (how the school will be organized). They will put together a proposal to identify a facility to use and the costs of purchasing and maintaining the facility for the purpose of the school. Lastly the Board of Directors will formulate an assessment equation by which congregations in the Affiliation will pay for the school.

Once the three tasks of this interim Board of Directors are completed the entire package will be brought to each LCMS congregation in the area to read and discuss. Information meetings will be held so all interested individuals will have the information they need to vote for their congregation to join the Affiliation or not to join the Affiliation.



Nearly 20 members and guests gathered for the Women's Christmas Dinner, served by Grahams at the Country Inn meeting room, on December 4. Bettly Gunderson and Ginny Peterson made the arrangements and decorated, and Pastor Vogts gave a devotion featuring Christmas hymns, prayers, and meditations written by Martin Luther.



Preschool & After School Care Open House March 27

Mark your calendar now for the Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care Open House, to register for the 2007-2008 school year, on Tuesday, March 27 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Classes include:

Mom's Day Out (2-3 Year Olds)

Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:30am-11:00am
\$90 per month
\$65 Registration Fee

Preschool

(3-4 Years Olds)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
8:20am-11:15am
\$115 per month
\$65 registration Fee

Pre-Kindergarten

(4-5 Year Olds)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
8:20am-11:15am
\$115 per month
\$65 registration Fee

After School Care

(Kindergarten-6th Grade)

Bussing available from Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart; follows Dakota Valley school calendar; \$8 per day, \$10 early out days, \$45 registration fee.

Classes always fill up fast, so register early! For more information, or if you are unable to attend the open house, please leave a message at 235-1688 in the Preschool (#2) or After School Care (#3) voicemail box.



January 7
Kylie Martin

January 14
Jacob Vogts

January 21
Quinton Bose

January 28
Zachary Selby



Over 140 were in attendance as the children of Holy Cross Preschool sang praises to Baby Jesus at the Children's Christmas Program on December 10.



Elders

January 7
Greg Huibregtse

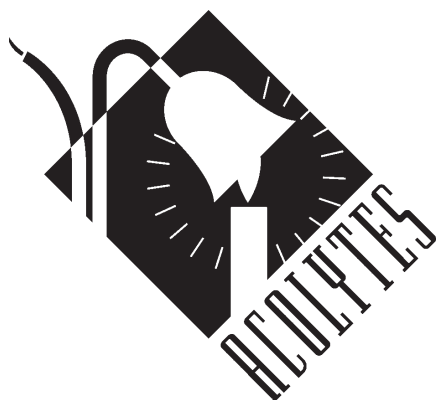
January 14
Joey Schroeder

January 21
Don Wiese

January 28
Mike Bargstadt



Our sympathy to Carroll, Janet and Adam Gustman upon the death on November 29 of Carroll's mother, Gertrude Holtzclaw. *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"* (Revelation 14:13).



January 7
Sarah Vogts

January 14
Tyler Fletcher

January 21
Myron Bose

January 28
Evan Stemken



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!

January 7
Gustman

January 14
Vogts

January 21
Wiese

January 28
Bargstadt

Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions Backorder Arrives

Last year about two dozen members signed up to purchase copies of our Synod's new edition of the Book of Concord, containing the confessional statements of the Lutheran Church. This updated English translation was issued for the 425th anniversary of the original publication of the Book of Concord in 1580.

However, because of unexpectedly high demand—it actually became one of the best selling books in the Christian publishing industry last year—the first printing ran out before our order could be fulfilled, and due to production delays they have been on back order since. We have just received our copies of the second printing!



If you ordered a copy you may pick it up in the church office. Payment of \$20 per volume may be placed in the offering plate, marked "Book of Concord." If you did not order a copy before but would like to do so now, just let Pastor Vogts know. Thanks for your patience!



Special Mission Speaker February 6

Gary Thies, who is Mission Development Counselor with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, will be the special Mission Event speaker at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Tuesday evening, February 6th at 7:00pm.

Having traveled in 73 countries and spoken in more than 900 churches, he brings directly to us a presentation which includes videos, slides, and artifacts from the mission fields. Mark your calendar for this special event!

New Portals of Prayer

The new Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for January through March, 2007 are available in the church entryway. Take copies to share with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc.

2007 Offering Envelopes

Anyone wishing envelopes for 2007 please ask Sue Jansen, Jeri Melstad, or Mabel Schibonski. If you have envelopes left you may use them up before getting new ones. Any questions call Sue at 232-0280.



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



Holy Cross Sunday School children joined the children of Holy Cross Preschool for the Children's Christmas Program on December 10. Many guests commented that the program was very well done.

January 7
Karry Perfetti
Nigeria

January 14
Mark and Ruth Kempff
Panama

January 21
Emilie Guenther
Taiwan

January 28
Rev. David and Rachel Baker
Kazakhstan

church secretary Nancy Wiese, 232-9117 mailbox #4 or email nancywiese@longlines.com.



What is the relation between faith and good works? What is a sacrament? What different views do churches have on Baptism and Communion? These are some of the topics we are considering in Adult Bible Class as we continue our look at the Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church. Join in Sundays at 10:30am!



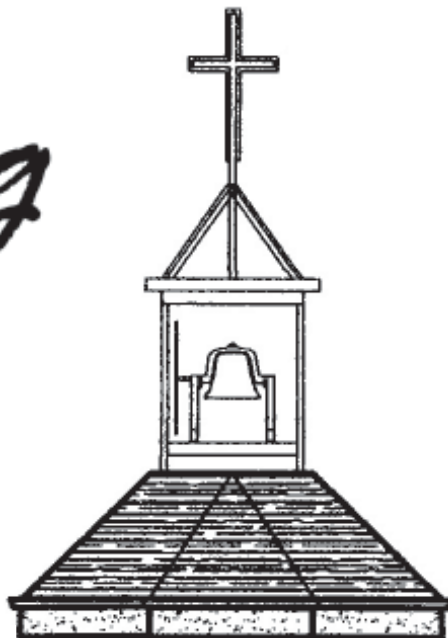
Greg Huibregtse, January 4
Terri Hageman January 10
Denise Honner, January 10
Mandy Baier, January 13
Rob Finkral, January 15
Janet Martin, January 20
Weston Johnson, January 23
Erin Fletcher, January 24
Caitlyn Bargstadt, January 30

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



Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship. The new flower calendar for 2007 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.

Building for the Future



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church