

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

March 2007



FROM THE Pastor

During March we are in the season of the Church Year known as Lent. Understanding the origin of this season, and some of its customs, will deepen its meaning for us:

Lent—The word “Lent” comes from the old English meaning “to lengthen.” “Lent” was originally used to describe early spring, when the days begin “to lengthen” after the darkness of winter. In time, “Lent” became the name for the season prior to the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection at Easter, which occurs in early spring.

Ash Wednesday—Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, so named because of the ancient custom of marking a cross of ashes upon the foreheads of worshippers as a symbol of repentance and humility, a custom still observed in some churches. This year Ash Wednesday was on February 21.

40 Days of Lent—The season of Lent is a 40 day period of reflection upon our Savior’s suffering for our salvation, corresponding to our Lord Jesus’ 40 days of fasting and resisting temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-2). [Ash Wednesday is actually 46 days prior to Easter; the figure of 40 days for the length of Lent comes from

subtracting the six Sundays during Lent, which are said to be “in” Lent but not “of” Lent.]

Holy Week—The final week of Lent, during which our Lord was betrayed and crucified.

Palm Sunday—The first day of Holy Week, commemorating our Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem as the cheering crowds spread branches before him (Matthew 21:1-11). This year Palm Sunday is on April 1.

Maundy Thursday—Thursday of Holy Week, on which our Lord instituted the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). “Maundy” is derived from the Latin mandatum, meaning “commandment,” and is based on Jesus’ words at the Last Supper: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).

This year Maundy Thursday is on April 5. We will observe Maundy Thursday with a special service of Holy Communion at 7:00pm.

Good Friday—Friday of Holy Week, on which our Lord died on the cross (Matthew 27; Luke 23; Mark 15; John 19). Even though it was the darkest day in the history of the world, it is “Good” Friday for us, because on it our Lord earned our eternal salvation by His sacrifice (Colossians 1:19-20).

This year Good Friday is on April 6. We will observe Good Friday with a special service at 7:00pm.

Date of Easter—The first Easter occurred on the Sunday following the celebration of Passover as prescribed in the Old Testament (Exodus 12:1-51). Because the Hebrew calendar was based on a lunar cycle, the date of Passover fluctuates widely according to our modern solar calendar. This led to some disputes in the early church

about the proper day to celebrate Easter. The Western churches settled on this formula: the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. The Eastern churches settled on a different formula and often observe Easter on a different date. This year they happen to coincide.

The United States Naval Observatory has a web site which will calculate the date of Easter, according to the Western formula, for any year at <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/easter.html>.

Fasting—As a reminder that our Lord made the ultimate sacrifice for us, it is traditional to voluntarily “give up” something for Lent. This is often some form of fasting, perhaps eating only a simple, limited luncheon meal, or abstaining from meat or some other foods. The money saved is then donated to a charity, particularly to help feed the hungry.

Changes in Worship Services—Because Lent is a somber season focusing on our Lord’s suffering, it is traditional during Lent not to sing the Hymn of Praise (Gloria in Excelsis or This is the Feast) or use the word “alleluia” in worship services. It is also customary to read the Passion Story, compiled from the four Gospels.

Lent Services—Many churches, including our own, have extra services during Lent that focus on the story of Jesus’ suffering and death. You are strongly encouraged to attend our Lent Services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). The Lenten season is an opportunity for you to draw closer to your Friend, Jesus, and gain a deeper appreciation for his great love for you.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Building for the Future

Meeting to Vote on Building Project March 6

A congregational meeting at which it is anticipated we will vote on final approval for our building project will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00pm.

The Building Committee opened sealed bids from five general contractors on February 15. All of the bids were above our budget. The Building Committee and architect have been working with the apparent low bidder on "value engineering," adjustments to reduce costs while maintaining the concept and essential features of the project.

The apparent low bidder proposed an expeditious construction schedule, so if the congregation votes to proceed with construction on March 6 construction could begin as soon as the weather allows, and it is anticipated that we could actually celebrate Christmas this year in our new sanctuary.

Also, although preliminary endorsement was given at a previous

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

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March, 2007

Volume 5

Number 3

Community Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7 • 10:30am

On Church Grounds at
Dakota Dunes Boulevard and Bison Trail

Up to Age 10 • Plenty of Eggs!

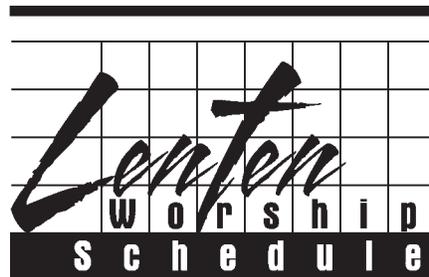
Prizes • Snacks • Easter Video

All Children Invited—Non-Members Welcome!

No Charges or Fees

congregational meeting for entering into debt for the project, that will need to be formally approved by the congregation on March 6.

All adult members are automatically voting members. Everyone is invited and very strongly urged to attend this meeting which is so very important for the future of our congregation.



Wednesday Lent Services

For our Lent services this year our sermon series is "I Believe," meditating on the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed (see page 4). The brief services also feature readings from the Passion story of Jesus' suffering and death, and beloved Lenten hymns.

Lent services are each Wednesday during March at 7:00pm. Holy Week services for Maundy Thursday on April 5 and Good Friday on April 6 are also at 7:00pm.

Bring your family to meditate on our Savior's sacrifice for our salvation.



Donate Lilies for Easter

Sign up on the bulletin board to donate lilies to beautify our church at Easter, which falls this year on April 8. Note whom or what they are in memory or honor of. As we focus on the promise of the resurrection, Easter is a wonderful occasion to remember loved ones.

Lilies will be obtained again this year from Mosher's Garden Center. Cost

is \$10 per plant and the deadline for signing up to order is Palm Sunday, April 1. Put payment in offering marked "Easter Lilies."

You are also *welcome* to bring plants you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Please still sign up, noting you will bring your own plants.



- Ashley Bargstadt, March 1
- Gail Dorr, March 6
- Tim Fletcher, March 6
- Doug Martin, March 14
- Madeline Smith, March 14
- Caden Peters, March 18
- Brady Schroeder, March 19
- Mark Krause, March 25
- Melanie Melstad, March 27
- Isaac Lee, March 31
- Tim & Denise Fletcher
March 6, 1982

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 the church secretary at 232-9117 mailbox #4 or email holycross@longlines.com.



Record Contributions and Mission Giving

Holy Cross was again blessed in 2006 with a record level of contributions, which allowed us to avoid a projected deficit and instead end the year in the black. Our Preschool and After School Care programs also had a positive year.



Preschool Open House and Registration Night

Tuesday, March 27
6:00pm-7:30pm

See the Facility Meet the Staff

Register to Reserve Your Child a Place for Next Fall

- Providing quality Christian education in Dakota Dunes since 1996
- Preschool classes for Ages 3-5
- Mom's Day Out program for 2 year olds
- Excellent facility
- Christian atmosphere

For More Information Call 235-1688 - Voicemail Box #2

In addition to regular contributions, there were many substantial special gifts, most notably over \$1.25 million in pledges toward our building project.

Because we have set our giving to missions at 10% of general offerings, the higher level of offerings also meant a substantial increase in congregational giving to missions. In fact, we praise the Lord that our congregation had the highest per-communicant member giving to mission in the LCMS South Dakota District.

We give thanks to God for this continued healthy trend in our finances. Our thanks also to Dennis and Jeri Melstad for doing such excellent jobs respectively as the church and preschool treasurers. It makes their jobs a lot easier when the funds are readily available—so let's all help make their jobs easier again in 2007!



Help Needed for Church Secretary Duties

Our thanks to Nancy Wiese for serving so faithfully and efficiently for several years as our volunteer church secretary. Nancy needs to take a break due to pending knee surgery. Help is needed to fill some of the duties done by Nancy. Our thanks to new member Deb Stein for taking on some of the

correspondence tasks. Other volunteers are needed especially in these areas:

Preparing and/or Copying the Bulletin—If you are comfortable with a computer you could help prepare the bulletin. It is done in Microsoft Word and we have templates and procedures which make it relatively easy. Help is also needed to copy and fold the bulletin, usually on Fridays.

Copying and Preparing Newsletter for Mailing—Once a month help is needed to copy, fold, address, and mail the newsletter.

Copying and Preparing Special Mailings—Several times a year help is needed to copy and fold special mailings, for Easter, Christmas, etc.

Changing Church Sign—To keep community interest, we like to change our church sign on average about every other week. This varies with the time of the year and events.

If you could help with any of these needs please contact Pastor Vogts (232-9117, 232-4013).



Randy and Deb Stein
By Transfer From
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Bettendorf, Iowa

*Welcome to the Holy Cross
Family of Faith!*



Why are Lutheran worship services traditional in many ways, with features similar to the Roman Catholic Church? But why did the Lutherans reject required



2007 Lent Sermon Series on the Apostles' Creed

Wednesday Evenings
7:00pm

March 7 – Lent Service III
“Who Was Conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary”

March 14 – Lent Service IV
“He Descended into Hell”

March 21 – Lent Service V
“The Third Day He Rose Again
from the Dead”

March 28 – Lent Service VI
“He Will Come to Judge the
Living and the Dead”

April 1 – Palm Sunday
“He Suffered Under
Pontius Pilate”

April 5 – Maundy Thursday
“He Ascended into Heaven
and Sits at the Right Hand
of God, the Father Almighty”

April 6 – Good Friday
“He Was Crucified,
Died and Was Buried”

celibacy for ministers—beginning with the marriage of Luther himself? And what is the difference between honoring saints and worshipping saints? Is it right for Christians to serve as soldiers? Even as executioners? Will there be a perfect “millennium” on earth before Jesus comes again?

These are some of the topics we will be considering this month in Adult Bible Class as we continue our look at the Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church. Join in Sundays at 10:30am!

**Lutheran
Confessions
Available**



At one time every Lutheran home always had two books: a Bible and the Book of Concord. We have several extra copies of our Synod's new edition of the Book of Concord, containing the confessional statements of the Lutheran Church. You may pick one up in the church office. Payment of \$20 per

volume may be placed in the offering plate, marked "Book of Concord."

This new high-quality edition is specially designed for lay readers, with introductory comments to each section, numerous period illustrations, and many other helpful features. It is an extraordinary value for this introductory price of \$20.



Holy Cross is again sponsoring a Community Easter Egg Hunt, on Saturday, April 7 (day before Easter) at 10:30am on the church grounds. This event is for the entire community, and all children up to age 10 are welcome.

Last year over 100 children and at least that many adults attended. This event has become a real community tradition. There will be plenty of eggs, prizes, snacks and an Easter video. There are no charges or fees for this free community event.

Donations to help defray expenses would be appreciated. Place in offering plate marked "Easter Egg Hunt."



Community Sunrise Service at Holy Cross

You are invited to a Community Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 8 at 7:00am, held in the sanctuary at Holy Cross. This simple service will feature the Easter story and favorite Easter hymns. A second Easter Service, with Holy Communion, will be held at the regular time of 9:15am.

Community Easter Sunrise Service



Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunrise Service—7:00am

Light Continental Breakfast—8:00am

Second Easter Service with Holy Communion—9:15am

All Events Held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Freewill Offering Taken to Defray Breakfast Expenses

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!

Easter Sunrise Service is one of the most moving and meaningful worship opportunities of the year. Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate the real significance of Easter. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, etc.—everyone enjoys Easter Sunrise services!



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.

March 18

Joey & Marcy Schroeder
Brady's Birthday

April 15

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Pastor's Birthday



March 4

Jon Dorr

March 7 (Lent Service III)

Jon Dorr

March 11

Carroll Gustman

March 14 (Lent Service IV)

Carroll Gustman

March 18
Doug Jansen

March 21 (Lent Service V)
Doug Jansen

March 25
Ron Yockey

March 28 (Lent Service VI)
Ron Yockey

Alternate
Mike Bargstadt



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)

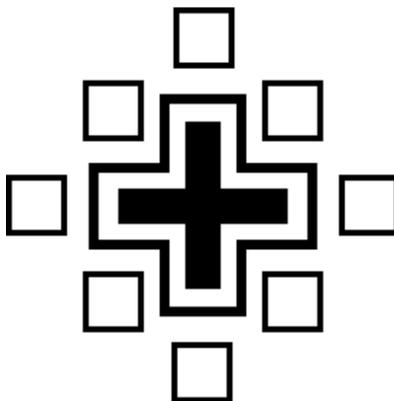
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
8:20am-11:15am
\$115 per month
\$65 registration Fee

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.



New Hymnal Donations

The congregational meeting on February 18 approved a recommendation by the Board of Elders to adopt the new Missouri Synod hymnal *Lutheran Service Book*. We have already been using the orders of worship and many new hymns from this hymnal for several years. It is a blending of the best features from previous Missouri Synod hymnals, *The Lutheran Hymnal* and *Lutheran Worship*.

The hymnals will not be ordered or used in services until pledges have been received for 80 copies, the amount needed for our present sanctuary plus some extra copies. When we move into our new, expanded sanctuary we will need approximately 30 more copies.

Pledge sheets are available in the back of the church along with a sample copy of the hymnal. They may be given in memory loved ones, etc. with dedication plates in the hymnals. Cost is \$20 per hymnal. Thanks for your donations!



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

March 4
Jerry and Carol Loewe
Nigeria

March 11
Clint and Cheryl Souigny
Venezuela

March 18
Valerie Stonebreaker
Togo

March 25
Rachel Easterday
Hungary



By Cassie Thomas
LCMS Missionary in Macau

I was given great opportunities for witness when I was asked to fill a vacant position at the university here in Macau. Working at the university put me in the midst of thousands of students, many of whom had never heard the Gospel. One of my students, Paula, fit into that category.

I gave my e-mail address to students as a way to contact me should they need anything for class, and some students took this as an invitation to add me to their contact list for instant messages. One morning, I was sitting at home checking my e-mail, when a message from Paula popped up on my computer screen. The conversation started commonly enough with Paula asking me questions about where I was from and what I was doing in Macau. When I answered that I was a Christian and wanted to tell others about Christ, she replied, "Oh! Tell me about Jesus!"

She then told me that at one point in her life, she was struggling with some problems. One day as she was out walking and feeling especially down, she happened by a church. She saw people



*Cassie Thomas
LCMS Missionary
in Macau*

inside praying. She went in and started praying too. When she was describing this part to me, she typed the words, "I felt my release." She then told me that she believed in God, but did not know how to be a Christian.

Up to this point our conversation was entirely on computer by instant messaging. I thought it would be better to have the remainder of this conversation in person, so I asked her if she wanted to meet so that we could talk more about these things. We were able to talk about our state of sinfulness as humans and our need for a Savior, and how Christ crucified on the cross is that Savior. What a joy it was to introduce her to the Gospel of Christ. Her response was equally joyous, for her and for me, for she believed the Good News that Jesus is her Savior.

She has begun attending our Tuesday night Bible studies and she shared with me that every day she reads her Bible and asks God for forgiveness. I feel truly blessed—thanks to your support—to have been a part of this miracle of faith!



- March 4
Kendall Martin
- March 7 (Lent Service III)
Myron Bose
- March 11
Evan Steemken
- March 14 (Lent Service IV)
Kylie Martin
- March 18
A.J. Michels
- March 21 (Lent Service V)
Zachary Selby
- March 25
Quinton Bose
- March 28 (Lent Service VI)
Dylan Sawyer



- March 4
Sarah Vogts
- March 7 (Lent Service III)
Dylan Sawyer
- March 11
Keegan Johnson
- March 14 (Lent Service IV)
Myron Bose
- March 18
Jacob Vogts

March 21 (Lent Service V)
Trevor Vilhauer

March 25
Tyler Fletcher

March 28 (Lent Service VI)
Justin Peterson



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. 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!

March 4
Youth Group

March 11
Finkral

March 18
Smith

March 25
Vogts

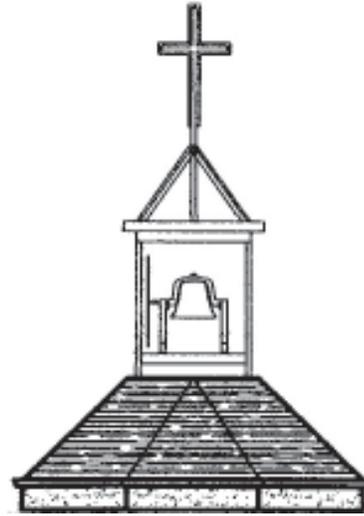
Lutheran School Kindergarten Roundup

St. Paul's Lutheran School will hold Kindergarten Roundup on March 15th at 1:30pm. The theme is "Put on the Armor of God" and all children (and their parents) who will be 5 years old by September 15 are invited to come and learn more about St. Paul's Lutheran School and what Christian education can add to your child's life.

If you have any questions, please call 712-258-6325. St. Paul's Lutheran School is a state accredited K-6 school.

*Building
for the
Future*

Congregational Meeting
This Tuesday, March 6
6:00pm



A congregational meeting at which it is anticipated we will vote on final approval for our building project will be held *this* Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00pm. Because this is such a key step in the development of our congregation, it is essential that we have as many members as possible present at this meeting. If approved, construction could begin as soon as the weather allows. The contractor has proposed an expeditious construction schedule, and it is anticipated that we could actually celebrate Christmas this year in our new sanctuary.

All adult members are automatically voting members. Everyone is invited and very strongly urged to attend this meeting which is so very important for the future of our congregation.



Return Service Requested

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

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Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church