



This month's article is excerpted from an editorial in the current issue of Charisma magazine, by editor J. Lee Grady. It is interesting that these criticisms come from a magazine generally favorable toward mega-churches.

Sadly, although the abuses Mr. Grady recounts seem very outlandish, such shocking antics are becoming common for many mega-churches and their pastors.

For example, when I was a pastor in Lawrence, Kansas a decade ago, the "celebrity" pastor in the area was at a mega-church in suburban Kansas City. I frankly wasn't surprised, while on vacation in Kansas City recently, to read in the Kansas City Star that it turns out he and his wife have been embezzling from their church for years.

Mr. Grady writes:

A friend of mine in Texas recently inquired to see if a prominent preacher could speak at a conference. The minister's assistant faxed back a list of requirements that had to be met in order to book a speaking engagement. The demands included:

- a five-figure honorarium
- a \$10,000 gasoline deposit for the private plane
- a manicurist and hairstylist for the speaker
- a suite in a five-star hotel
- a luxury car from the airport to the hotel (2004 model or newer)
- room-temperature Perrier

This really makes me wonder how the apostle Paul, Timothy or Priscilla managed ministering to so many people in Ephesus, Corinth and Thessalonica. How did they survive without a manicurist if they broke a nail while laying hands on the sick?

May God help us root out the false apostles and false teachers who are making the American church sick with their man-centered, money-focused heresies.

It gets worse, if you can believe it. At a charismatic conference in an East Coast city recently, a pastor stood on a stage in front of a large crowd and smugly announced that the guest speaker was "more than an apostle." Then the host asked everyone to bow down to the person, claiming that this posture was necessary to release God's power.

"This is the only way you can receive this kind of anointing!" the host declared, bowing in front of the speaker. Immediately, about 80 percent of the audience fell prostrate on the floor. The few who were uncomfortable with the weird spiritual control in the room either walked out or stood in silent protest.

So today, I guess it's not enough to feed a celebrity preacher's ego by treating them like a rock star. We also are required to worship him.

And apparently in some places you even have to pay big bucks to speak with him. In a city in the South, a well-known preacher is known to ask for money in order to secure a five- or 10-minute counseling session. Some people are known to give more than \$1,000 for a short meeting. People on fixed incomes need not apply. (That would include lepers, blind beggars, Samaritan women or any other social outcasts who were welcomed and healed by Jesus without payment.)

What has become of the American church? What is this sickness spreading in the body of Christ? I don't know whom to blame more for it: The narcissistic minister who craves the attention, or the spiritually naive crowds who place these arrogant people on their shaky pedestals. All I know is that God is grieved by all of this shameful carnality.

How far we have fallen from authentic New Testament faith. Paul, who carried the anointing of an apostle but often described himself as a bond slave, told the Thessalonians, "Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives" (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

New Testament Christianity is humble, selfless and authentic. And those who carry the truth don't preach for selfish gain or to meet an emotional need for attention. May God help us root out the false apostles and false teachers who are making the American church sick with their man-centered, money-focused heresies.

J. Lee Grady
Charisma Magazine
August, 2007



Sermons for September

September 2

"Heaven's Seating Chart"

Luke 14:7-14

September 9

*"Salt of the Earth: Precious,
Peculiar, Preservative"*

Luke 14:34-35

September 16

*"God's Lost and Found
Department"*

Luke 15:1-10

September 23

*"Consecrated by the
Word of God and Prayer"*

1 Timothy 4:1-4

September 30

*"Living as God's
Chosen People"*

Colossians 3:12-17

Crossnotes

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September, 2007

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Number 9



*Building
for the
Future*

On August 17 the massive steel beams were raised which will support the roof of our new sanctuary. Resting on these steel beams will be open wooden trusses which will support the sanctuary ceiling of tongue-and-groove wood planks. These steel beams will be wrapped in matching wood. The masonry work is nearly complete, giving a good idea of the unique design and size of the sanctuary.



On Sunday, July 22 we rejoiced to welcome six 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.

Those interested in membership can speak with Pastor Vogts about Adult Information Class, or transferring membership if you have a Lutheran background.

Welcome to the Holy Cross Family of Faith!



Harold and Mary Mettenbrink

Harold and Mary join Holy Cross by transfer from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Harold is originally from Grand Island, Nebraska and Mary is from Parkston, South Dakota. Harold is a retired accountant, having worked for IBP and most recently as Chief Financial Office of L & L Builders. Mary is a retired medical receptionist. Between them they have four children. Mary's son Alan is married and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska and has three children, and her daughter Lisa lives in Omaha and is married with two daughters. Harold's son Michael is Major Gifts Officer at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska and is married with three children, and his daughter Ellen lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Mettenbrinks



We rejoiced to welcome six more new members to our Holy Cross family of faith at our New Member Sunday on July 22. Those interested in membership can speak with Pastor Vogts about Adult Information Class, or transferring membership if you have a Lutheran background.

enjoy traveling and collecting. They are at home in Sioux City at 3301 Walden Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa, 51106; (712) 276-2004.



Randy and Deb Stein

Randy and Deb recently moved to Dakota Dunes from Bettendorf, Iowa where they lived for eight years. Deb is originally from Council Bluffs, Iowa and Randy is originally from Bloomfield, Nebraska. Randy is West Director of Operations for Mid-America Energy. Deb is a homemaker and is also generously volunteering her time in the church office. They have two children, Sherry, who is married and has two stepdaughters and lives in Des Moines, Iowa, and Patrick,

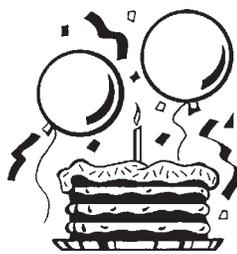
who is married and lives in Denver, Colorado. The Steins enjoy boating and golfing, and Deb likes quilting and gardening. Randy and Deb joined Holy Cross by transfer from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, Iowa. They are at home in Dakota Dunes at 393 Oxbow Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049; (605) 422-2401.



Joe and Elaine Van Ackeren

Joe and Elaine recently moved to Dakota Dunes from the Morningside area of Sioux City. They are both originally from Walthill, Nebraska. Joe is Sales Manager at State Steel Company in Sioux City and Elaine works in the

accounting department at Tyson in Dakota City, Nebraska. They have three children. Twins son Jason and Jeremy are both married and live in Omaha, Nebraska Jason with two children Jeremy with three. Daughter Becky is also married and lives in Omaha, and has three children with a fourth on the way any day now! They both enjoy golfing at Two Rivers and their grandchildren. Joe and Elaine joined Holy Cross by transfer from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City. They are at home in Dakota Dunes at 107 Doral Lane, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049; (605) 422-2062.



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

Madysin Bietz, September 1
 Angela Dial, September 3
 Tammy Steemken, September 3
 Sarah Vogts, September 4
 Olivia Bargstadt, September 19
 Kylie Martin, September 19
 Barb Johnson, September 20
 Cassidy Nilson, September 22/97
 Kendall Martin, September 25
 Bryce Schroeder, September 28
 Marcy Schroeder, September 30

Joey & Marcy Schroeder
 September 7, 1996
 Doug & Sue Jansen
 September 10, 1971
 Barb & Everett Johnson
 September 16, 2000
 Mindy & Mark Krause
 September 26, 1981
 Helen & Kevin Hamilton,
 September 27th
 Dennis & Jeri Melstad
 September 28, 1985

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 office at 232-9117 or email holycross@longlines.com.



BUDGET UPDATE

As of August 26, 2007

Offerings Budgeted	
Per Week for 2007	\$2,495
Average Offerings Received	
Per Week Year-to-Date	\$2,287
Average Shortfall Per Week of Budgeted Offerings	
Year-to-Date	\$208
Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$80,390
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$77,763
Total Budget Shortfall	
Year-to-Date	\$2,627



ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower calendar 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.

August 12
 Rev. Kevin Vogts
 Jacob, Sarah & Anna
 Terry's Birthday

August 19
 Marcy, Bryce & Brady Schroeder
 Joey's Birthday

August 26
 Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
 Anna's Birthday

September 2
 Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
 Sarah's Birthday

September 9
 Joey & Marcy Schroeder
 11th Wedding Anniversary

September 16
 Madeline Smith & Family
 In Memory of Carl C. Smith

September 23
 Doug & Janet Martin
 Kendall & Kylie's Birthdays

September 30
 Joey & Marcy Schroeder
 Bryce and Marcy's Birthdays



Ice Cream Social Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Ice Cream Social on August 12 to benefit Jane Michaels a big success, including all who donated items and helped, and especially Daniell Bargstadt for all her work coordinating this event.

Over \$2,000 was raised, and we have applied for an additional \$1,000 in matching funds from Thrivent. Also, \$500 was received for Jane from a separate special offering taken in July.

Please keep Jane in your prayers. "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).



Thank You Notes

Thank you to everyone who helped to make my "work day" on July 28 a success. Your contributions of food to feed the workers and the physical labor to help me catch up are deeply appreciated. Again, thank you!

Jane Michels

A heartfelt thank you to the congregation for all you have contributed to help our mother! God has truly blessed us with so many caring people! Thank you so much.

The Family of Jane Michels

The Saints of Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson, Kansas wish to thank the Saints of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the gift of the Lutheran Worship hymnals. We rejoice in your generosity!

Rev. Dale Dumperth



You are invited to help sing praises to the Lord in the Holy Cross Choir! Choir practice will be on Sunday mornings at 8:15am, beginning September 16.

We hope to have our former choir members back and need new members too! Thanks to Janet Gustman for again serving as our choir director. This will be an exciting year since during the year we should be moving into our new choir loft in the new sanctuary!

For more information about the choir contact Janet (258-1124) or Pastor Vogts.



AFTER CHURCH SNACKS

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!

September 2
Finkral

September 9, 16, 23, 30
Volunteers Needed



Sunday School and Bible Class for all ages will resume on Sundays at 10:30am on Sunday, September 9.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



Confirmation Begins September 19

Confirmation classes for 2007-2008 will begin on Wednesday, September 19 and continue each Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm (6:15pm during Advent and Lent). The Pre-Confirmation class for 5th-6th Grades focuses on key Bible stories and memorization of the Catechism, to prepare for Confirmation class in 7th-8th Grades.

If you have questions about Confirmation class please contact Pastor Vogts for more information.

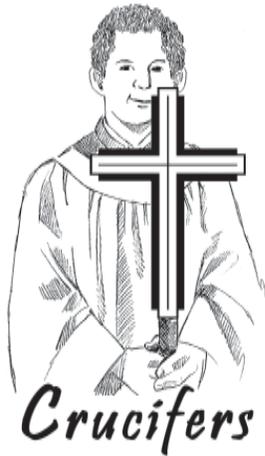


Bible Class on Church Architecture

On September 9 we will begin a new study in Adult Bible Class on the topic of church architecture.

What examples do we have from the Bible and the history of the Church? What are the principles of good church architecture, and how is our new sanctuary addition incorporating those principles?

Join in Adult Bible Class Sundays at 10:30am for this fascinating study!



September 2
Jacob Vogts

September 9
Tyler Fletcher

September 16
Justin Peterson

September 23
Zachary Selby

September 30
Keegan Johnson



September 2
Myron Bose

September 9
Sarah Vogts

September 16
Trevor Vilhauer

September 23
A.J. Michels

September 30
Evan Steemken



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

All the missionaries we are remembering this month are among over 40 newly appointed LCMS missionaries pictured at right who are just beginning their service in the mission field



September 2
Rev. James and Tina May
Togo



September 9
Liz Neuf
Papua New Guinea



September 16
Michelle Hoepfner
Hong Kong



September 23
Ryan and Tracee Hochgrebe
Lithuania



September 30
Rev. Ted Krey
Venezuela



By Rev. Ted Krey
LCMS Missionary in Venezuela

Carlos is 46 years old. He drank way too much when his first wife left him, and he was a bitter, critical, and hard man. In our very first conversation, he asked me 50 questions about God. The next week, he came to confirmation classes. There was little to say, because Carlos had so very much that he wanted to get off of his chest. His marriage was in absolute shambles.

After about two months, he asked me if I wouldn't straighten out his wife. I spoke of repentance, of the need to confess one's own sins, and that both needed to become humble before the other. It seemed to fall on deaf ears.

Meanwhile, Carlos continued to take confirmation classes.

Then, something new happened. His wife began to come to church with him. I suggested that she take confirmation classes. Carlos was almost done, but he agreed to wait and take the class over again with his wife. He invited his sister and she came along as well. This time, Carlos listened. He did not feel the need to justify himself as much as before. He didn't feel the need to fight. Yet weekly, sometimes three times a week, I would go to the house and there was a bitter fight between the two. Both were defending themselves and neither wanted to humble themselves in repentance before the other and their Lord. They were too ashamed to admit fault.

Eventually, Theresa, Carlos, and Carlos' sister were confirmed. Though they came to church regularly, I still thought divorce was imminent. I went home (to the United States) for six weeks, and when I came back in the fall to visit Maracay, Carlos was there.

"Carlos," I asked, "How is Theresa?" "Never better," responded Carlos. "In fact, she and I have decided that I should study theology full time. We want to learn what you know while you are still traveling to visit us once a week. She has made the commitment to support me. The deal is that what I learn, I will teach her when she comes home from work."

Carlos signed up for five courses last fall. "Pastor," he said, "I haven't studied for more than 25 years." Every week, when I came to the church in Maracay, Carlos was there waiting, one hour before classes. At first, he struggled, but about midway through the semester, he started hitting his stride. Soon, he was getting perfect grades on all of his tests. He finished the semester with straight A's.

Carlos is a joy to teach. He comes to classes with his questions and answers memorized. He must respond to every question in class, not because nobody has listened to him, but rather, he has heard the voice of His Good Shepherd and is too excited and too joyful to remain quiet. He just finished taking

confirmation class a fourth time having two nieces and a brother confirmed last Sunday at his home church. His daughter was confirmed last July, and he also attended all those confirmation classes.

Carlos is not ashamed of his past, because he recognizes that he is forgiven. He travels every Tuesday night to attend classes on Wednesday, and Saturday, after chapel he rushes home to be with his dear wife again. His pastor called me and asked that Carlos be assigned as fieldworker to his congregation, because he brings many people to church with him and is joyful in all that he does.



September 2
Mike Bargstadt

September 9
Jon Dorr

September 16
Carroll Gustman

September 23
Doug Jansen

September 30
Ron Yockey

LCMS Statement on ELCA Decision

The following is excerpted from a statement issued by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding a recent decision by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is a separate denomination, not affiliated or in fellowship with the LCMS.

On the final day of its 2007 Churchwide Assembly (August 11, 2007), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted a resolution which, *"prays, urges, and encourages [ELCA geographical] synods, synodical*

bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those rostered leaders [i.e. pastors] in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship."

News of this action is causing serious concern and consternation among members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We in the LCMS hold firmly to the conviction that, according to the Holy Bible, homosexual behavior is "intrinsically sinful." We are deeply disappointed that the ELCA, by its decision, has failed to act in keeping with the historic and universal understanding of the Christian church regarding what Holy Scripture teaches about homosexual behavior as contrary to God's will and about the biblical qualifications for holding the pastoral office.

The LCMS firmly believes that the sin of homosexual behavior, like every sin that fallen human beings commit, has been paid for in full by the life, suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The LCMS also believes that we must continue to reach out in love to all people on the basis of what God's Word alone teaches about human sinfulness, God's grace in Christ, and the new life empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

The potential implications of decisions such as this for future LCMS-ELCA relations have been discussed in previous meetings involving leaders of the LCMS and the ELCA. As the LCMS noted in a resolution adopted at its 2001 Convention, "we of the LCMS recognize that many of our brothers and sisters of the ELCA remain faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and we resolve to reach out to them in love and support."

It is our ongoing hope and fervent prayer that the ELCA's continuing study and deliberation of this matter will be made in the light of the biblical understanding of human sexuality and the qualifications for the pastoral office. We also pray that God the Holy Spirit will lead and guide all Christians and Christian denominations everywhere to seek wisdom and truth from God's inspired, inerrant, infallible Word on this and other critical issues in our contemporary church and culture.

Building for the Future



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Dakota Dunes, South Dakota
Sanctuary Addition
South Elevation



New Addition

Existing



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church