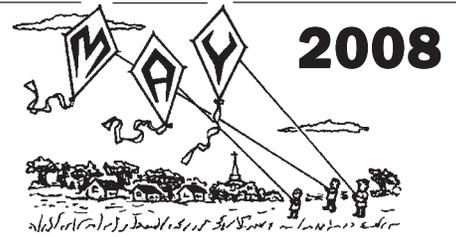


# Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes



A few months ago a Protestant church in McCook Lake put their building up for sale. Several weeks ago, I noticed "For Sale" signs on the lawn of another nearby Protestant church, in North Sioux City. No doubt this is very sad for the members of these churches. The future of these congregations is uncertain. They may be moving to other locations.

These two churches were planted by their respective denominations about the same time as Holy Cross. Both of them had good facilities in excellent locations. Like Holy Cross, they were generously subsidized by their sponsoring denominations. Initially they were both successful and experienced growth, perhaps even greater than Holy Cross.

A person recently gave me a "heads up" that this second church would also be selling their building. He serves on the district mission board for the denomination sponsoring one of these two churches which selling their buildings, so he is very informed about the "church scene" in this area. He said that five years ago he would never have thought it would be either of these two churches which would be in such a situation. However, during the long pastoral vacancy at Holy Cross, when two dozen calls to pastors were declined, he *did* wonder if our congregation would survive.

By the grace of God, we have not only survived, but are thriving. Average Sunday morning weekly worship attendance for January thru April in 2008 was 85, compared to 62 for 2007. Attendance for Easter Sunday in 2008 was 234, compared to 123 in 2007.

The phrase "by the grace of God" prefacing the paragraph above is not just a trite saying. It is a profound, Scriptural truth. For, many places in His Word, God reminds us that He alone receives all glory for the growth and success of His Church:

1 Corinthians 3:5-7—*"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."*

Psalms 115:1—*"Not to us, not to us, O LORD, but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness."*

Psalms 127:1—*"Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain."*

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says to the Apostles, *"I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not shall not prevail against it."* Note carefully that Jesus does not say—even to the Apostles—*"You will build My Church,"* but rather He pointedly tells them, *"I will build My Church."* As Jesus says in Luke 17:10, *"So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"*

You may have heard in the news about many goofy, even scandalous schemes being used by some churches to lure in people. One church in Florida made the national news with a "30 Day Sex Challenge." Last year right here in

Sioux City a church had billboards all over town showing two people in bed with an obscene web address—that actually took you to their church's web site!

Such trendy churches are having sermon series based on "Star Wars"—with the preacher dressed like Chewbacca or Darth Vader, spouting wisdom from Obi-Wan Kenobi instead of the Bible. There are churches that don't have Communion—but they do have beer sales during services, like a ball park. Some churches base their "Bible classes" not on the Bible but on that week's episodes of Oprah or Dr. Phil. Paul dismisses such irreverence in Colossians 2:8 as *"hollow and deceptive philosophy,"* and in 2 Corinthians 4:2 as *"distorting the Word of God."*

Such antics are part of a movement known as "Church Growth." Begun about 30 years ago, the goal was to jumpstart the growth of the Christian Church, particularly in America. However, after 30 years of such tactics, the number of overall Christians in the United States is declining even faster. Even many "Church Growth" proponents now concede that their tactics don't work to bring the unchurched to Christ.

Rather than evangelistic growth, the result is "transfer growth." This means that some churches are indeed growing bigger—but mainly at the expense of smaller and medium-size churches, from which they poach most of their members. One such famous "mega-church" in suburban Chicago recently released a study admitting that their model of "Church Growth" is a failure at reaching the unchurched, which was supposedly their whole rationale decades ago for this "new style" of ministry.

Jesus tells us He alone builds His Church, and He has told us clearly His plan for true "Church Growth" in Matthew 28:19-20: *"Go and make disciples of all*

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Baptizing and teaching, Word and Sacrament. That summarizes God's plan for the growth of His Church. As Paul says in Romans 1:16, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”

It is only the Scriptural Gospel communicated through Word and Sacrament—not Obi-Wan Kenobi or Oprah or Dr. Phil—that brings people to saving faith in Christ, which is the goal and purpose of His Church. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

So, we praise God and give Him all the glory for the growth He has granted to Holy Cross, through His Word and Sacraments.

However, as you will see from the Budget Update which follows, these churches selling their buildings, primarily for financial reasons, is a sobering reminder that a fresh challenge we now face is having our giving keep pace with the additional operating expenses for

## Crossnotes

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*Holy Cross Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

*149 Bison Trail  
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

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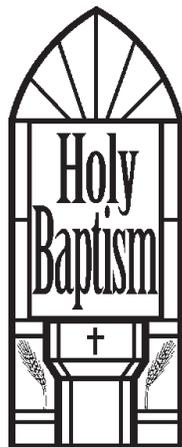
our new sanctuary. Please consider how you can help with this need. As Deuteronomy 16:17 says, “Everyone shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.”

Pastor Kevin Vogts



### As of April 27, 2008

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date .....	\$46,145
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date .....	\$41,571
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date .....	(\$4,574)



*Aubrey Lynn Hamilton*

Daughter of Michael & Heidi Hamilton  
Baptized April 27, 2008

*“Let the little children come  
to Me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs  
to such as these.”*

Mark 10:14

**Page 2**



We welcome into membership **Darrel and Jackie Baker** by transfer from Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Darrel is an oral surgeon and Jackie is a homemaker. They recently sold their home in Sioux City and are building a town home in Dakota Dunes. Also transferring is their son, **Matthew**, who lives in Valencia, Spain where he plays in the symphony orchestra.



Elders for May

Jon Dorr, Joey Schroeder  
& Ron Yockey

May Elders Meeting

May 7, 7:00pm

Altar Guild for May

Terri Hageman & Terry Vogts



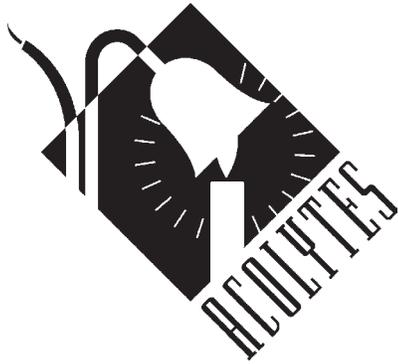
May 4

Kylie Martin

May 11  
Sarah Vogts

May 18  
Dylan Sawyer

May 25  
Sarah Vogts



May 4  
Myron Bose

May 11  
Tiara Selbey

May 18  
Megan Winborn

May 25  
Kasey Michels



Robert Brock, May 3  
Eli Honner, May 8  
Mike Steemken, May 8  
Jason Mensch, May 9  
Ginny Peterson, May 19  
Betty Gunderson, May 26  
Travis Yockey, May 27  
Sue Jansen, May 30  
Tyler Fletcher, May 31

Tim & Denise Fletcher, May 1, 1982  
Randy & Deb Stein, May 1, 1978  
Scott & Shannon Feese, May 8, 2003

Ron & Jeanette Yockey, May 17, 1980  
Mike & Tammy Steemken, May 22, 1987

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](mailto:holycross@longlines.com).

Thanks to Our  
Sunday School  
Teachers!



## Sunday School Concludes May 18

On Sunday, May 18 we will have our final Sunday School classes before we break for the summer. Classes will resume in the fall.

Our thanks to our faithful Sunday School teachers for 2007-2008: Daniell Bargstadt, Barb Dolan, Heidi & Rob Finkral, Angela Dial, Larissa Kommes, Terry Vogts and Pat Winborn.

Adult Bible Class will continue during the summer. Children can play on the playground or in the classrooms while their parents are in Bible Class.



During May in Adult Bible Class we are continuing our study of *The Week That Changed the World*, looking at the accounts of Holy Week from the Gospels,

using a booklet with the four Gospel accounts in parallel columns. Join in Sunday mornings at 10:30am.



## Summer Bible Study on Understanding Islam

In June we will begin a Bible study on "Understanding Islam." An important part of the class each week will be videos featuring Drs. Emir and Ergun Caner, who were raised Muslim by a mosque leader but became Christian and are now both seminary professors.

We will look at the history of Islam and the key differences between Islam and Christianity. Join in Sunday mornings at 10:30am.



## Flowers

The flower calendar is temporarily still located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

April 6  
Nyla Hamm

April 13  
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Kevin's Birthday

April 20  
John & Sherry Isley  
John's Birthday

April 27  
Randy & Deb Stein  
32nd Wedding Anniversary

May 4  
2008 Confirmation Class  
Confirmation Sunday

May 11  
Patrick & Denise Honner  
Eli's 1st Birthday

May 25  
Ron & Jeannette Yockey  
Wedding Anniversary & Travis' Birthday

June 8  
Doug & Sue Jansen  
Birthdays

June 15  
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Jacob's Birthday

June 22  
Doug & Janet Martin  
Kaleb and Kaden's Birthdays

June 29  
John & Sherry Isley  
Wedding Anniversary

**Your Children Are  
Invited to Enjoy**



**Vacation  
Bible School**

**at Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church**

**Monday thru Friday, June 2nd to 6th, 9:00-11:30am**

**For Children Age Three thru Those Who Have Just Completed 4th Grade**

**Bible Lessons ☺ Crafts ☺ Songs ☺ Refreshments**

**No Charges or Fees ☺ Non-Members Welcome!**

**Pre-Registration Appreciated**

**For more information contact Christian Education Office at 235-1688**



**Vacation Bible School  
June 2nd-6th**

Mark your calendars now for our annual Vacation Bible School, which will be held the week of June 2nd thru 6th. This year we are having morning classes only for age three thru children who have just completed 4th grade.

This year's theme is "Jump in with Jesus!" Lessons will include the stories of Noah, Jesus calming the storm, and

**VBS Pre-Registration**

*Registration Box in Gathering Room*

**Return To: Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
149 Bison Trail  
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049**

*or Register by Phone by Calling 235-1688 and  
Leaving a Message for the Christian Education Office*

Children's Names

Age or School Grade  
Just Completed

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

the raising of Lazarus. Once again we plan to give all the children several Arch books which coordinate with the lessons.

Volunteers are needed for group leaders, snacks, crafts, music and recess. Sign up sheets are on the table in gathering room. Pre-registration encouraged. For more information about helping with or attending VBS please contact Angela Dial (422-2096; [rnadial@hotmail.com](mailto:rnadial@hotmail.com)) or Pat Winborn (605-761-0245; [pwinborn@iw.net](mailto:pwinborn@iw.net)).

This is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ with the children of our community.



We rejoice on May 4 to celebrate the Confirmation and First Communion of eight young men, following several years of Confirmation instruction. A reception for the confirmands followed in the Fellowship Hall.

*Tyler Jordan Fletcher*

*Keegan Riley Johnson*

*Anthony James Michels*

*Justin Paul Peterson*

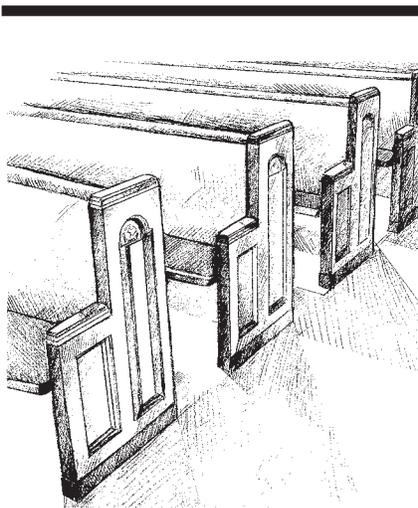
*Zachary Keith Selby*

*Evan Michael Thomas Steemken*

*Trevor Lewis Vilhauer*

*Jacob Aaron Vogts*

Our thanks to Terry Vogts and Rob and Heidi Finkral for assisting Pastor Vogts with Confirmation instruction, along with the parents who sat in on classes.



## **Shortened Pews Available**

Andy Winborn is temporarily storing the pews from our old sanctuary and has volunteered to make shortened versions for those that might like them for their front porch, entryway, deck, etc. They can be custom made for you in any length and fulllength pews are still available. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$100.

If you would like a pew please let Andy know by May 11. You can call Andy at (605) 761-0245 or email him at [awinborn@unioncounty.coop](mailto:awinborn@unioncounty.coop). Our thanks to Andy for moving and storing the old pews and working on this project.



Our congregation has designated a tithe of 10% of our general offerings to support the work of our District and Synod. Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services specific missionaries around the world who are

supported in this way by our congregation.

May 4

*James and Christel Neuendorf  
Panama*

May 11

*Megan Birney  
Togo*

May 18

*Rev. Carl and Chen-Hsi Hanson  
Hong Kong*

May 25

*Marat and Amy Kashenov  
Kazakhstan*



Each Sunday there will be an offering basket at the Coffee Bar for a freewill offering. This offering will be used to cover the cost of coffee, juice, snacks and paper products for the Coffee Bar. Often we have no one signed up on the calendar for snacks and as our Sunday attendance continues to grow it is difficult for some people to provide snacks for our increasing numbers.

We are going to have a trial period of purchasing snacks for Sunday mornings and see how it goes. We will continue to ask members to sign up to serve in the Coffee Bar on Sundays. When signing up you would set up before worship (make coffee, set out napkins, etc.) serve and clean up after snack time. The snack sign up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Area. We will have occasions that exceptions will be made to "purchasing snacks" and a group may provide snacks, such as the youth. We will continue to set out the offering

basket every Sunday as we will always have the expense of coffee, juice and paper products even if the snack is donated.

Please talk with one of the officers of Women in Mission if you have any questions: Janet Martin, Daniell Bargstadt and Sherry Isley.



Items for the bulletin are due on Monday and newsletter articles are due on the 15th of the prior month. Please place articles in Deb's slot in the Church Office, or email them to [holycross@longlines.com](mailto:holycross@longlines.com).



"You can't preach the Good News of God's love to people whose stomachs growl louder than you can preach," said Seminarian Gordon Smith and his wife, Laurie. The Smiths are among over 140 Concordia Seminary students and family members who recently took a short-term mission trip to help the impoverished peoples of Guatemala.



**Students from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and family members minister to impoverished people in Guatemala.**

Over the past seven years, Concordia Seminary has sent 10 short term (9-10 days) mission teams to Guatemala City. Groups of students, their wives, and youth serve those who reside next to the city garbage dump where they scavenge for a living. Vultures fight with shoeless children for food. Cardboard boxes serve as makeshift cribs. This is where these future pastors and their wives and children reach out with the hope of the Gospel through words and deeds.

***You can't preach the Good News of God's love to people whose stomachs growl louder than you can preach.***

The program began when Renee Gibbs, wife of Professor Jeffrey Gibbs, first went with a seminary couple. She wanted to expose other seminarians to this unique mission experience. The short-term mission trips can fulfill the required cross cultural component of field education. Gibbs has returned to Guatemala with groups nine times. Participants help with soup kitchens by the dump, conduct evangelistic house visits, and help with medical clinics, Bible classes, and vocational programs. They present Vacation Bible School at

several sites, and they visit the ministry's Lutheran school for 150 children that's a block from the shanty and dump area. This variety of activities gives team members ample time to form relationships, especially with the young national leaders who serve as their guides and translators.

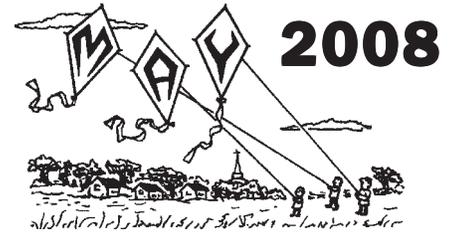
Seminarian Jake Scott commented, "One of the biggest things I learned was the value of training local leaders. It was so encouraging to visit the 'shanty town' going door-to-door with Coca. Watching him share the Gospel and just love people the way that Christ loves us, knowing that he had come from that background, was unbelievable. He has such a passion and such a deft touch that I think is best served by locals who have been trained and equipped to lead missions."

Gibbs recalls the baptism of a woman named Cristina: "She visited our medical clinic because of her cancer. As one of our seminarians shared the hope of everlasting life with her, she said she wanted to be baptized. The next day about 15 of us crowded into her shanty home—one 12 by 15 foot room with plastic and corrugated walls, where nine people lived. To hear her answer the baptismal questions and to witness her new birth in Christ was the highlight of that trip. Now she is asleep in Jesus, waiting the day of resurrection."



# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049  
 Rev. Kevin D. Vogts, Pastor  
 Office: 605-232-9117 Home: 605-232-4013  
 Cell: 712-898-4818 Email: [pastorvogts@longlines.com](mailto:pastorvogts@longlines.com)  
[www.holycrossdakotadunes.org](http://www.holycrossdakotadunes.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><i>Grant, we pray, almighty God, that even as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind ascend and continually dwell there with Him; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</i></p>				<p>1</p> <p>Ascension Day</p> <p>St. Philip and St. James</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	
<p>4</p> <p><b>Confirmation Sunday</b></p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00pm-Board of Elders</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p><b>Pentecost Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Mother's Day</b></p> <p>PENTECOST</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>South Dakota Circuit Pastors Conference</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm-Board of Education</p> <p>7:00pm-Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Armed Forces Day</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>Trinity Sunday</b></p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Sioux City Circuit Pastors Conference</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	
<p>25</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Bible Class</p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>The Visitation</p>	

**Deadline for Calendar Submissions or Changes is the 15th of the Prior Month**  
 Email to [holycross@longlines.com](mailto:holycross@longlines.com) or Leave Voicemail Message at Church Office  
 This Calendar May Not Reflect Late Submissions or Changes



# Jump in with Jesus

**Crossnotes**  
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

Your Children Are  
Invited to Enjoy

## Vacation Bible School

at Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes

Monday thru Friday  
June 2nd to 6th, 9:00-11:30am

For Children Age Three thru  
Those Who Have Just Completed 4th Grade

**All Invited - Everyone Welcome!**