



Why I Love the Liturgy: A Layman's Point of View

This month I am sharing with you an excerpt and adaptation from a "layman to layman" article about the liturgy, by James Blasius, a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, Naperville, Illinois.

I grew up in a fine Presbyterian church—a good church, excepting for the Sunday school unit on higher criticism that traumatized me. But, one thing of which the Presbyterians never had much, and now have less, is the liturgy. And liturgy is something I desperately wanted. I didn't know it's what I wanted, but I loved the few times we'd do responsive readings from the psalms, the doxologies, and so on.

As a nouveau Lutheran, I may yet have some insights on the liturgy that those who have lived with it don't, in the same way that a person from the third world might have a greater appreciation than an American for the marvel of clean tap water.

1) The liturgy is *memorable*. I love confession and absolution, and miss it terribly when the service doesn't have it. Because I can remember so much of the liturgy, the confession rolls off my lips any time I am reminded of my sinfulness. The words are concise, essential, complete, scriptural. And there are the songs, praise, thanksgiving, doctrine. These appear on the tip of my tongue at appropriate moments. It gives me a wider repertoire than I had as a child, where our regular service component was limited to a doxology and a benediction.

2) It's *Biblical*. Lutheran Service Book has nice scriptural references next to each part of the liturgy, and Christians love to hear the words of scripture. In a world where a typical church service includes only a few verses of scripture, being surrounded by scripture throughout the service is a good thing.

3) It's *participatory*. Try going to a service where your only participation is to sing a hymn, or worse, just sit there and listen to a person with a microphone on a stage. It's better to be able to have a role and speak the words of scripture as part of the body of Christ. Our society is oriented towards the individual, but the church is a body with each part doing working together. Somehow liturgy makes that real.

4) It's *timeless* and *universal*. Liturgy unifies us not only with the Christians next to us, but with the larger church, in all times and places. The liturgy is similar to what was done 1,000 years ago and 1,900 years ago, and the singing of psalms goes back to David's day. Another way to look at it: In New Testament days, there weren't gimmicks like pastors driving up the aisles on Harleys, and there were no swaying dancers in church, but there was most certainly the singing of the scriptures, there were doxologies and scripturally meaningful songs of praise.

5) It's *musical*. Music means something to us that's different from prose. The psalms have been sung since they were first written. Paul writes in Ephesians 5:19 that we should "speak to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." And music is beautiful. There is value in it, and liturgical services are brimming with it.

6) It's a wonderful *vehicle* for the word and sacraments. I think of it like wrapping on a gift. It beautifies the Lord's gifts coming to us through word and sacraments and underscores and highlights what we believe, teach and confess about the means of grace: God acting among us and for us. Reverent, holy, sacred, a place and time set-apart—that's why the liturgy is, a great delivery-system for the word and sacraments.

One can have a good church without a good liturgy, but good liturgy is an excellent tool for worship and the Christian life. I'd put it as second in importance only to sound doctrine, in my opinion, for it supports and enhances the teaching of God's word.



Missionary Presentation at Holy Cross August 19

Anna Horkey, a missionary in Macau sponsored by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will give a presentation on our exciting mission work there, at Holy Cross on Tuesday, August 19 at 7:00pm. Anna is from South Sioux

City, where her father was formerly Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church. She is making presentations in this area while on furlough.

We help fund the evangelistic outreach of Anna and hundreds of other missionaries around the world by giving 10% of our general offerings to our Synod's mission efforts. She has also been included several times in our prayers as one of our Missionaries of the Month. Come and learn more about the wonderful work your offerings and prayers are helping to support!



Midweek Vespers Begins in September

The Voters Assembly at the Quarterly Business Meeting on July 27 approved a proposal by the Board of Elders to begin a regular weekly Midweek Vespers service, starting in September.

Crossnotes

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Volume 6

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This service will follow the customary schedule of Advent and Lent services and be held on Wednesdays from 7:00pm-7:30pm. Midweek School classes for the 5th-8th Grades will be held before the service, from 6:15pm-7:00pm, and a new Midweek Bible Study will be held after the service, from 7:30pm-8:30pm.

Adding an additional weekly service is a step forward in the development of our congregation and has been requested by a number of members. We previously had Wednesday evening services about 25% of the year, during Advent and Lent. Expanding this worship opportunity to every week will give members the option of an additional weekly worship time, both for those who want an extra spiritual lift during the week, and for those who may not be able to attend on Sunday.

Midweek Vespers will be about a half-hour long and will not include Holy Communion. We will use various orders of service from *Lutheran Service Book*, including Vespers (Page 229ff), Compline (Page 253ff), and the Service of Prayer and Preaching (Page 260ff). During Advent and Lent, Midweek Vespers will have special themes related to those seasons.



Midweek Study on "How to Study the Bible" Begins September 3

Several members have requested a Bible study opportunity in addition to Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. In September we will begin a new Midweek Bible Study on Wednesday evenings.

This is part of our new Wednesday evening schedule, with *Midweek School* classes for the 5th-8th Grades from 6:15pm-7:00pm, *Midweek Vespers* from 7:00pm-7:30pm, and *Midweek Bible Study* from 7:30pm-8:30pm.

Our first topic will be *How to Study the Bible*. This study from Northwestern Publishing House introduces a basic method for meditating on Scripture used by Martin Luther—a combination of Bible readings and prayer.

The study includes the following topics:

Why Should I Study the Bible?

*What It Means to
Meditate on Scripture*

*How to Create Your Own
Daily Bible Reading Plan*

Following this initial study future topics will be suggested by the study participants. Join in Wednesdays at 7:30pm for Midweek Bible Study!



Sunday School Rally Day September 7

Sunday School will resume on Sunday School Rally Day, September 7. During the service our Sunday School teachers will be installed and children will be awarded Bibles and Catechisms.

This year we will begin Sunday School each week with a brief opening. Following snack time in the Gathering Room the adults will go to the Fellowship Hall to begin their class immediately. The children will go to the Sanctuary first for the opening and then go to their classes.

There is always a need for additional Sunday School teachers. We like to have two or more teachers per class so that they can alternate the Sundays they teach. If you would be able to help with our Sunday School program please contact Larissa Kommes (255-6523).

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



Midweek School Begins September 3

Midweek School classes for 2008-2009 will begin on Wednesday, September 3 and continue each Wednesday from 6:15pm-7:00pm. 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.

Following the 45-minute class time, the children will also stay each week for our new Midweek Vespers Service from 7:00pm-7:30pm. Though these services are for all members, they will focus on various parts of the Catechism and staying for the service is part of the Confirmation program.

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



Guest Preachers August 3 and 10

The Vogts family will be attending a nephew's wedding and vacationing in Colorado the first weeks of August.

Our guest preacher on August 3 will be Rev. Donald Winterrowd, a retired Pastor who was formerly at Hope Lutheran Church, South Sioux City. Our guest preacher on August 10 will be Rev. Steven Benson, who is the LCMS

institutional and hospital chaplain in Sioux City.

In case of an emergency requiring pastoral care during Pastor Vogts' absence, you may contact Rev. Ralph Shorey of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City (Church: 258-4820; Home: 258-6515) or Rev. Michael Boykin of Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion (Church: 605-624-3459; Home: 605-624-9255; Cell: 605-675-0777).



As of July 27, 2008

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$84,870
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$83,062
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$1,808)



Stained Glass Delayed to August 25

Installation of the stained glass window above the altar in our new sanctuary was scheduled for August 4, but has been delayed until Monday, August 25. Another set of windows for a church in Wyoming is being installed by the crew on the same trip, and delays in the production of this other church's windows led to the installation of our window being delayed also.

It is actually four windows in one, surrounding the large cross, with panels featuring detailed scenes of the nativity, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord.

Bovard Studios reports that they have a large sketch of our window's design in their reception area, and visitors often comment how striking it is. They said they consider it a signature piece for their firm and one of the finest, most unique windows they have ever produced.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for August

Doug Jansen & Ron Yockey

August Elders Meeting

August 5, 7:00pm

Usher for August

Earl Biggers

Altar Guild

Janet Martin & Jeri Melstad

Junior Ushers for August

August 3—A. J. Michels

August 10—J. P. Peterson

August 17—Zach Selby

August 24—Evan Steemken

August 31—Trevor Vilhauer

Crucifers for August

August 3—Myron Bose

August 10—Myron Bose

August 17—Sarah Vogts

August 24—Kylie Martin

August 31—Dylan Sawyer

Acolytes for August

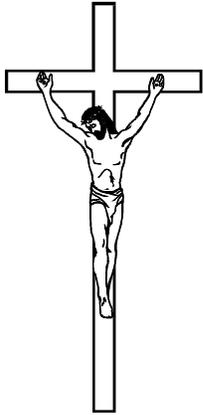
August 3—Jace Waybright

August 10—Emily Steemken

August 17—Tiara Selby

August 24—Megan Winborn

August 31—Kasey Michels



Meditations on Divine Mercy

In our newsletter as space allows we are going to be including selections from Johann Gerhard's *Meditations on Divine Mercy*. Gerhard was a leading Lutheran pastor and theologian in Germany during the 16th and 17th centuries. He suffered extraordinary afflictions in his life, and his experiences are reflected in this inspiring devotional book.

The devotions are in the form of extended prayers. The entire book is available from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040, www.cph.org, stock#12-4183.

Thanksgiving for the Forgiveness of Sins

O ETERNAL AND MERCIFUL GOD, I owe You great thanks and give it to You. When I came, You did not cast me away (John 6:37). Instead, You immediately received me and with great mercy forgave me all my sins. Kindest Father, I was that prodigal child who squandered his inheritance through extravagant living (Luke 15:11). I polluted the gifts of nature. I rejected the gifts of grace. I deprived myself of the gifts of glory and eternal life. I was destitute and hungry. When I hungered, You fed me with the heavenly bread of grace. I was naked and destitute of anything good. You clothed me again with a robe of righteousness and made me rich. I was lost and condemned, but because of



Summer Sermon Series on Philipians

In August we will conclude our "Summer Sermon Series" on the book of Philipians. Here are the remaining weekly topics, with selections from Philipians for you to read in preparation for the sermon:

August 3

Rev. Donald Winterrowd
Guest Preacher

August 10

Rev. Steven Benson
Guest Preacher

August 17

*"The Cause and Characteristics
of Christian Joy"*
Philipians 4:4-7

August 24

"Think on Such Things"
Philipians 4:8-9

August 31

"The Secret of Contentment"
Philipians 4:10-13

Your grace, You gave me eternal salvation. Having mercy on me, You attended to me. You embraced and kissed me (Luke 15:20) by sending Your beloved Son, who is by Your side (John 1:18), and the Holy Spirit, who is the kiss of Your mouth (Song of Songs 1:2).

The Son and the Spirit are the greatest witnesses to Your immeasurable love. You clothed me with the finest robe by restoring original innocence to me. You placed a ring on my hand by sealing me with the Holy Spirit. You shod me with shoes by equipping me with the Gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15). For my sake, You killed the fatted calf by offering up to death for me Your beloved Son. You feasted and delighted me by restoring joy to my heart and true peace to my conscience (Psalm 51:14). I was dead, but through You, I returned to life. I wandered, but through You, I returned to the right path. I was destroyed by poverty, but through You, I returned to the wealth I had previously enjoyed.

Polluted by so many sins, covered by so many faults, corrupted by so many

iniquities, in Your righteous judgment, You could have rejected me. But Your mercy abounded more than my sins. Your goodness was greater than all my iniquities. How often I closed the door of my heart to You when You knocked. Therefore, by Your righteous judgment, You could also have closed to me the door of Your grace at which I was knocking. How often I have closed my ears so I would not hear Your voice when You called. Therefore, by Your righteous judgment, You could also have closed Your ears so You would not hear my voice sighing for You.

But Your grace was more abundant than all my transgressions and faults. You received me with outstretched arms (Isaiah 65:2). You swept away all my iniquities as a cloud (Isaiah 44:22), and You cast all my sins behind Your back (Isaiah 38:17). You remember my sins no more and receive me with the full embrace of Your mercy. For this immeasurable kindness, I will give You thanks throughout eternity.

AMEN.



Summer Bible Study on Understanding Islam

During August we will conclude our Summer Bible Study in Adult Bible Class on "Understanding Islam." There will be no class on August 3 or 10 due to Pastor Vogts' vacation. Class will resume on August 17.

We are looking at the history of Islam and the key differences between Islam and Christianity. An important part of the class each week is videos featuring Drs. Emir and Ergun Caner, who were raised Muslim by a mosque leader but became Christian and are now both seminary professors.

Join in Sunday mornings at 10:30am on August 17, 24 and 31 for the final sessions of this interesting study.



Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care has limited openings. Spaces are filling up fast, so if you are interested—or have a grandchild, friend, neighbor, etc. who may be interested—you are encouraged to please register *now*. Our program includes:

Mom's Day Out

Cindy Feeser, Teacher
2-3 year-olds
\$105 per month
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30am-11:00am

Preschool

Cindy Feeser, Teacher
3-4 year-olds
\$130 per month
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
8:30am-11:15am

Pre-Kindergarten

Julie Larson, Teacher
4-5 year-olds
\$130 per month
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
8:30am-11:15am

After School Care for Kindergarten-6th grade is until 6:00pm and follows the Dakota Valley school calendar (\$10 per day; \$12 per early out day). The children are dropped off by the Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart busses.

To register or for more information call the Christian Education Office at 235-1688.



First Congolese and Guinean Students Graduate from Lutheran Seminary in Togo

Training future pastors is a key aspect of mission strategy, especially in Africa, where the church is growing at an incredible speed and lacks pastors and other trained leaders. For this reason, the LCMS-sponsored Lutheran Center for Theological Education (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo exists to train future pastors, evangelists and lay leaders in firm biblical foundations to lead members of church bodies throughout French-speaking Africa.

Currently, 18 students from six countries are studying at CLET. It may surprise you that students from other African countries often have trouble with culture shock! Although from an American perspective the countries seem about the size of our states and we would assume they have much in common, food, language, weather, and customs can actually be very different. The time at the seminary can be very difficult for students and their families.

Missionary Rev. Glenn Fluegge teaches at CLET. "Our aim is more than education. Our aim is also transformation—academic, personal, theological, and spiritual. The program here is very difficult and stringent. So, what a joy it is to celebrate that two students have recently finished their terms successfully and received their diplomas. They are Jean-Baptiste Mouanga of the Republic of the Congo, and Julien Kotembedouno of Guinea."

Fluegge continues, "I personally traveled to the Republic of the Congo to deliver Jean-Baptiste's diploma at a Reformation service in Brazzaville. What marked this crowded and exciting service as unforgettable was the honor of being able to present Jean-Baptiste Mouanga with his diploma and recommendation for ordination. It was a particular privilege for me, since I have been a part of his pastoral training for the past six years. The church resounded with shouts and singing and lined up to congratulate Jean-Baptiste with hugs and kisses. He will be ordained in August, 2008. Pray for him as he begins to plant new churches in the Congolese region of Nkaye."

Rev. Tim Heiney, missionary in Guinea, West Africa, worked closely with Julien Kotembedouno, the first ordained Guinean to graduate from CLET. He had the honor of officiating at his ordination. "Julien was one of the first Guineans to become Lutheran when Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees started churches in Guinea in the early 1990s," he explains. "He became a leader and teacher. In 1999, he was selected to be one of the first two students from Guinea to be sent to CLET.

"When war broke out in Guinea in 1999, refugee church leaders were scattered and many returned to their home countries. It looked like most of the new churches would cease to exist, but many groups continued to meet and study on their own. After their year of studies at CLET, Julien and a fellow student returned to find the church badly broken up. But under their leadership, God blessed the work in Guinea. Before the war and the scattering, there had been about 90 churches and preaching stations. After the war, even with many of their best refugee leaders gone, the church had grown to about 150 churches and stations."

Heiney continues, "Because of the work of rebuilding the church, Julien's return to the seminary was delayed until the fall of 2003. He completed his studies and was ordained in November, 2007, the first ordained Lutheran pastor in Guinea. He hopes to continue his studies and work toward expanding theological education in French-speaking Africa. Four more students from Guinea are now on their pastoral internships and three more are beginning their seminary studies."

The Lord has brought Jean-Baptist Mouanga and Julien Kotembedouno through many challenging years of training in preparation for the pastoral ministry. Pray that God would continue to raise up workers for the plentiful harvest in Africa!



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.

August 3
Elden Kohn
Taiwan

August 10
Rev. Jacob & Michelle Gillard
Uganda

August 17
Anthony DiLiberto
Peru

August 24
Al and Eileen Turner
Cambodia

August 31
Megan Birney
Togo

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Harold Mettenbrink, August 5
Terry Vogts, August 14
Scott Feese, August 15
Joey Schroeder, August 18
Bob Barnum, August 20
Daniell Bargstadt, August 24
Anna Vogts, August 24
Evan Steemken, August 28

Mike & Daniell Bargstadt, August 10
Anthony & Margaret Waybright, August 16
Gary & Betty Gunderson, August 25

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.



The flower calendar is located on the table in the Gathering Room. 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.

July 6
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink
Wedding Anniversary

July 13
Dolores Hageman
Birthday

July 20
Ginny Peterson
Husband Bob's Birthday

August 17
Marcy, Bryce & Brady Schroeder
Joey's Birthday

August 24
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Anna's Birthday

August 31
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Sarah's Birthday

September 7
Joey & Marcy Schroeder
12th Wedding Anniversary

September 14
Ron & Jeannette Yockey
Jeannette's Birthday

September 21
Doug & Janet Martin
Kendall's & Kylie's Birthdays

September 28
Joey & Marcy Schroeder
Bryce's & Marcy's Birthday



In the Gathering Room is a sign up sheet to bring snacks for fellowship time after worship. You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish. Or, you may indicate when you sign up that you wish to use snacks provided by the congregation.

Those serving snacks are also asked to please prepare the coffee and juice, which along with coffee, cups, napkins, plates, etc. are available in the Coffee Bar. Thank you to all those providing and serving snacks!

Issues, Etc. on the Web

Get a conservative Lutheran perspective on the issues of the day from the Lutheran radio program *Issues, Etc.* The program is broadcast live daily in St. Louis, but you too can listen live daily from 3:05pm-5:00pm Central Time at www.issuesetc.org or an alternate site www.piratechristianradio.com. You can also listen to or download past programs under the "On Demand" tab at www.issuesetc.org. Host and LCMS pastor Rev. Todd Wilken interviews expert guests—many from outside the LCMS—on a wide variety of topics.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049

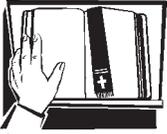
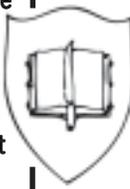
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www.holycrossdakotadunes.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.</i></p> <p><i>Collect for the 15th Sunday After Pentecost</i></p>			 <p>Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am</p>		1	2
<p>3 12th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Rev. Donald Winterrowd</i> Guest Preacher</p>  <p>GUEST PREACHER</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Board of Elders</p> <p><i>Harold Mettenbrink</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm Summer Day Camp</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 13th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p>  <p><i>Rev. Steven Benson</i> Guest Preacher</p> <p>Guest Preacher</p> <p><i>Mike & Daniell Bargstadt</i></p>	11	12	13	14	<p>15</p>  <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p><i>Terese Vogts</i></p>	<p>16</p>  <p><i>St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord</i> <i>Scott Feese</i></p> <p><i>Anthony & Margaret Waybright</i></p>
<p>17 14th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Bible Class</p>	18	<p>19</p>  <p><i>Holy Cross Preschool Begins</i> <i>Joey Schroeder</i></p>	20	21	22	23
<p>24 15th Sunday after Pentecost St. Bartholemew, Apostle</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Bible Class</p> <p><i>Daniell Bargstadt, Anna Vogts</i></p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Stained-Glass Altar Window Installed</p>	26	27	28	<p>29</p>  <p><i>The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist</i></p>	30
<p>31 16th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Bible Class</p>	<p>Gary & Betty Gunderson</p>			<p>Evan Steemken</p>		

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

MISSION REPORT

*Mission Presentation by
Anna Horkey
LCMS Missionary to Macau*

At Holy Cross
Tuesday, August 19
7:00pm

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!



*Sunday School
Rally Day*

Sunday, September 7
Worship—9:15am
Sunday School Resumes—10:30am



*New Midweek Bible Study
on "How to Study the Bible"*

Wednesdays, 7:30pm
Beginning September 3

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church