

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

2008
DECEMBER



Pastor's
Christmas
Message

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14 NKJV)

Jay Leno, host of "The Tonight Show," jokes that the atheists are planning their own re-make of the classic Christmas movie "Miracle on 34th Street." He says the atheists' version is going to be called "Coincidence on 34th Street."

But, these days, it seems it doesn't take an atheist to deny the miracles of the first Christmas:

- Marcus J. Borg is a professor of theology at Oregon State University. His roots are Lutheran (but a different church body than The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod), several of his books have been published by Fortress Press, a publishing house of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and he

has served as a visiting professor at the ELCA's Pacific Lutheran College. In an article in *Bible Review*, Borg writes: "To put it boldly, I am one of those Christians who does not believe in the virgin birth, nor in the star of Bethlehem, nor in the journey of the wisemen, nor in the shepherds coming to the manger, as facts of history."

- John Shelby Spong is the retired Episcopal bishop of Newark, New Jersey. In his book, *Born of a Woman: A Bishop Rethinks the Birth of Jesus*, Spong concludes that

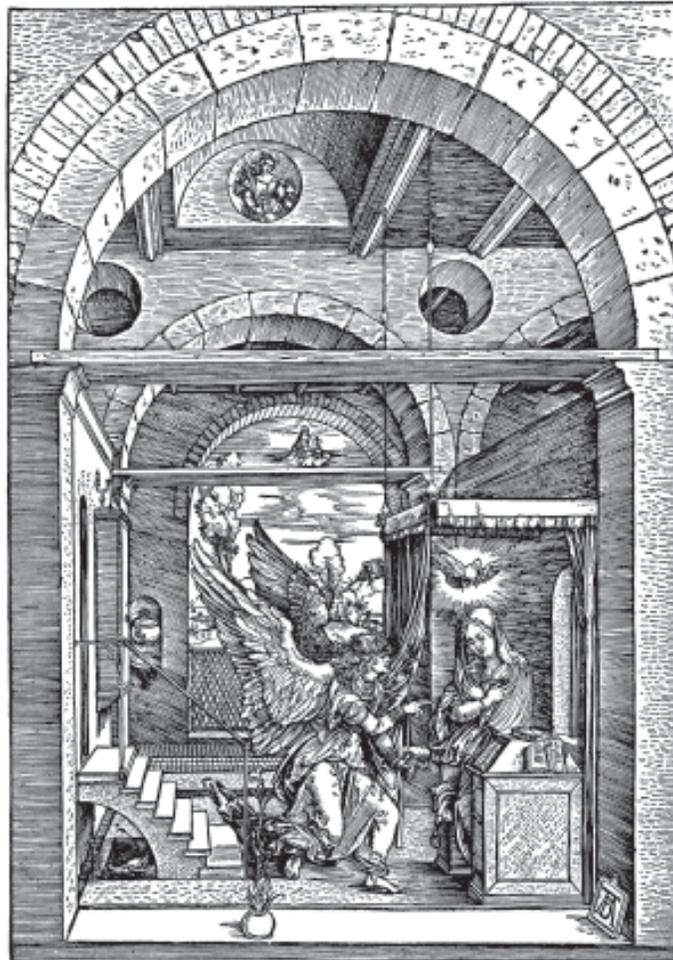
Mary probably became pregnant when she was raped by a Roman soldier. Mary then fabricated the story of the angel's visit and the miraculous conception of Jesus as a way of explaining her pregnancy.

St. Paul himself passes judgement on so-called "scholars" such as Borg and Spong, who reject the teachings of the Bible: "*They do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm*" (1 Timothy 1:7 NIV).

The truth is, all the details of Christ's birth as reported in the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke fit perfectly with both the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah's coming and what we know about the historical situation at that time. All the objections of so-called "scholars" are entirely bogus.

For example, liberal "scholars" claim that the Hebrew word *almah* in Isaiah 7:14 does not mean "virgin" but simply "a young woman of marriageable age," supposedly with no indication one way or the other as to her virginity. (Unfortunately, the translation "young woman" has worked its way into several Bible versions, including the Revised Standard Version and the New Revised Standard Version.)

The contention that "a young woman of marriageable age" does not indicate physical virginity ignores that the punishment for adultery in Old Testament times was being stoned to death (Deuteronomy 22:20-21). In that culture, "a young woman of marriageable age" was either a virgin or she was dead!



Renown Lutheran artist Albrecht Dürer depicted the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary as recorded in Luke 1:26-38 in this 1501 woodcut.

Besides Isaiah 7:14, *almah* is found six other times in the Hebrew Old Testament (Genesis 24:43; Exodus 2:8; Psalm 68:25; Proverbs 30:19; Song of Songs 1:3, 6:8). None of these occurrences in any way indicates a young woman who is not a virgin, and the fact of physical virginity is obvious in the first two instances.

Also, in two places, one of them being Isaiah 7:14, the Greek version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, translated *almah* with *parthenos*, the Greek word for a virgin in the technical sense. So, it seems the Septuagint translators understood *almah* to mean a physical virgin. And in Ugaritic the more common Semitic word for virgin, *bethuwlah*, is used in poetic parallelism with *almah*. In short, the Hebrew words for "virgin" and "a young woman of marriageable age" are synonyms, both indicating physical virginity.

The ultimate objective of this campaign to replace "virgin" in Isaiah 7:14 with "young woman" is to deny the validity of the New Testament's application of this verse to the conception and birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:22-23). Liberal "scholars" claim that Isaiah 7:10ff was not originally intended to be a prophecy about Jesus' conception and birth, but that it originally referred only to some unknown child born immediately after the prophecy was given.

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

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December, 2008

Volume 6

Number 12

The original context of Isaiah 7:10-14 was a confrontation between the great prophet Isaiah and King Ahaz, the most wicked of the Old Testament kings, who reigned from 735 B.C. to 715 B.C. (For an account of Ahaz's reign, see 2 Kings 16 and 2 Chronicles 28.) Foreign armies were threatening Judah, and Isaiah brings Ahaz the good news that Judah will not be conquered. The Lord bids Ahaz to seek a sign confirming this promise.

Because unbelieving Ahaz, who worshipped other gods, refuses to seek a sign from the Lord, Isaiah announces that God Himself will give an amazing sign: The coming Messiah will be born of a Virgin! This was a great humiliation from the Lord for Ahaz and his descendants. The great King of Kings would indeed be born of the house of David, but, because of the wickedness and unfaithfulness of Ahaz and the other Hebrew kings, He would be of female lineage only, miraculously born of a Virgin.

Just as Isaiah 7:14 indicates the deity of the coming Messiah, Isaiah 7:15 indicates His humanity. Isaiah predicts He will be both God and man. Although miraculously conceived and born of a Virgin, He will nevertheless grow and develop in a normal human manner (Luke 2:52), and experience normal human sensations, such as hunger (Matthew 4:2).

Isaiah 7:16ff does not tie the birth of Immanuel to the period immediately following the prophecy; Isaiah does not say when the Messiah is to be born, but simply pronounces an additional judgement upon Ahaz: Before the Messiah comes, Judah will be conquered, and the house of Ahaz overthrown.

Of course, the definitive interpretation of Isaiah 7:14 is found in the New Testament, where the Holy Spirit Himself interprets the meaning of this prophecy: "*An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from*

their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: '*The Virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel'*—which means, '*God with us'*" (Matthew 1:20-23 NIV).

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Check out the new web site of Holy Cross at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org. (For convenience, we also registered www.holycrossdakotadunes.com, and that address likewise directs to the site.)

Because the Internet is now probably the #1 way that people moving to an area connect with a church, the Board of Elders permitted Pastor Vogts to use his continuing education allowance to take a class in web design, so that he could create this new site. Our thanks to Daniell Bargstadt for helping maintain the old web site, which was developed by former member Jason Bietz.

Our new web site includes news and information on upcoming events, conveniently located on the home page; the current week's Sunday bulletin (usually updated the previous Friday afternoon); the current church calendar; the texts of Pastor Vogts' sermons, beginning with November, 2008; and an archive of newsletters going back to 2003.

Other helpful features are contact information and a map showing directions to the church; information about our worship services; details about our Preschool, After School Care, and other educational offerings; the history of Holy Cross; an explanation of our beliefs; a biography of Pastor Vogts; and links to numerous resources.

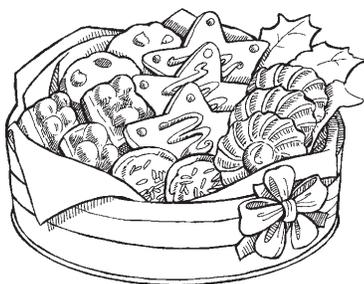
The site is still under construction and additional features will be added. Your input would be welcome and can be emailed to holycross@longlines.com.



Advent Services Begin December 3

The theme for this year's Advent services is *"The Three Wise Women of Christmas: Mary, Elizabeth, Anna."* We hear a lot at Christmastime about the three wise *men*, but we can learn important faith lessons from these three wise *women*!

Advent services are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm, December 3, 10 & 17, and last about 30-45 minutes. Bring your family to meditate on the real "reason for the season"!

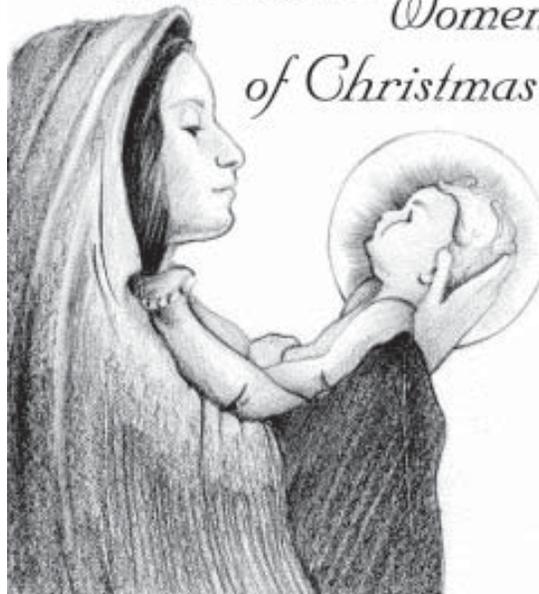


Sign Up to Be an Advent Host

Following our Advent services we will have a fellowship time in the Gathering Room, similar to the snack time following services on Sunday morning.

Sign up in the Gathering Room to serve as an "Advent Host" following one of our Advent services. You may want to share a favorite Christmas treat! For more information contact Pastor Vogts.

The Three Wise Women of Christmas



2008 Advent Services

Wednesdays – 7:00pm

December 3
"Mary"

Luke 1:26-38

December 10
"Elizabeth"

Luke 1:39-45

December 17
"Anna"

Luke 2:36-38



Advent Wreath Donated

Our thanks to Mark and Polly Peterson and family for donating a new Advent Wreath, which also serves as a Christ Candle, in honor of Ginny Peterson.

During the season of Advent and for the "12 Days of Christmas" which follow, ending with Epiphany on January 6, it will be used as an Advent Wreath, and be located between the Altar and Lectern.

When not being used as Advent Wreath, the wreath ring is removed and it serves as a Christ Candle. It is an ancient custom for a Christ Candle to be located near Lectern during the Easter season and be lit for services from Easter through Ascension, to symbolize Christ's 40 days teaching His disciples after His resurrection (Acts 1:3).

During seasons other than Advent, Christmas, and Easter, the Christ Candle is customarily located near the Baptismal Font, and lit during Baptisms to symbolize Christ, the Light of the World (John 8:12). In our Sanctuary, the Christ Candle will be positioned in the Baptistry, centered in front of the windows behind the Baptismal Font.



Church Decorating November 30

Everyone is invited to please come help decorate our "new" church the first time for Christmas! A committee has been planning and preparing, and everyone is asked to help decorate on Sunday, November 30, beginning at 4:00pm.

Afterward we will have a light supper of soup, appetizers, and dessert. If you are able to attend, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.



Amber Hudelson is a 12 year-old girl from Elk Point who has been fighting cancer since January, 2008. A benefit dinner will be held for her on Saturday, December 6, from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the Jefferson Community Center in Jefferson.

Holy Cross, in conjunction with Thrivent, is one of the sponsors helping with this dinner. Tickets: Adults—\$13; Children 4-12—\$6; 3 and Under—Free. Please contact Ryan or Angela Dial for tickets or to volunteer your services. (605-422-2096).



Bible Class on the Church Year

Have you ever wondered about the origin, meaning and significance of the "church year"?

In *The Year of the Lord's Favor*, we are exploring such questions as how this system of celebrations and readings was established, what the annual cycle of these seasons means, why certain colors and symbols are used for the seasons, and what it all signifies.

This class will help you to better understand and appreciate our worship,

and its thematic organization around the Church Year.

Join in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we explore *The Year of the Lord's Favor*.

No Midweek Bible Study for Remainder of 2008

Due to Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year's, the Midweek Bible Study will be taking a break for the remainder of 2008.

We will resume our study of *Christian Decision Making* on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for December
Rob Finkral & Carroll Gustman

December Elders Meeting
December 2, 7:00pm

Usher for December
Tony Waybright

Junior Ushers for December
December 7 Quinton Bose
December 14 Jacob Vogts
December 21 Keegan Johnson
December 28 Kendall Martin

Crucifers for December
December 3 (Advent) Dylan Sawyer
December 7 Myron Bose
December 10 (Advent) Dylan Sawyer
December 14 Kylie Martin
December 17 (Advent) Myron Bose
December 21 Dylan Sawyer
December 24 (Christmas) Sarah Vogts
December 28 Kylie Martin
December 31 (New Year) Sarah Vogts

Acolytes for December
December 3 (Advent) Claire Johnson
December 7 Emily Steemken
December 10 (Advent) Kasey Michels
December 14 Megan Winborn

December 17 (Advent) ... Ashley Bargstadt
December 21 Tiara Selby
December 24 (Christmas) ... Kasey Michels
December 28 Ashley Bargstadt
December 31 (New Year) . Jace Waybright

Women's Christmas Dinner

Women's Christmas Dinner December 2

All women of Holy Cross are invited to our annual Women's Christmas Dinner, Tuesday, December 2, at 6:00pm at Dakota Dunes Country Club. The cost of the meal, which includes tax and gratuity, is \$12.20.

Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament (\$5.00 or less) for a gift exchange. Our freewill offering will go towards buying cookie dough for the Women and Children's Center of Jackson Recovery.

Please RSVP to Betty Gunderson (235-1551); or Ginny Peterson (232-3287).



BUDGET UPDATE

As of November 23, 2008

Total Offerings Budgeted
Year-to-Date \$136,065

Total Offerings Received
Year-to-Date \$138,073

Total Budget Surplus
Year-to-Date \$2,008



November 30

"The Countdown Continues"
2 Peter 3:8-14

December 3 (Advent Service)

*"The Three Wise Women
of Christmas: Mary"*

December 7

*"God's Great 2-for-1
Christmas Special"*

Isaiah 40:1-11

December 10 (Advent Service)

*"The Three Wise Women
of Christmas: Elizabeth"*

December 14

"The Mystery of the Incarnation"
Luke 1:34-35

December 17 (Advent Service)

*"The Three Wise Women
of Christmas: Anna"*

December 21

Festival of Readings and Carols

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

*"The Real Meaning
of Christmas"*

Luke 2:11

December 28

"The Song of Simeon"

Luke 2:29-32

December 31 (New Year's Eve)

*"Our Help in Ages Past—Our
Hope For Years to Come"*
Psalm 90:1-2



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate
the Real "Reason for the Season"

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24
Family Service at 7:00pm
"Midnight Mass" at 11:30pm

Enjoy Your Favorite Christmas Carols
Including "Silent Night" by Candlelight

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!



Children's Programs December 14 & 21

Due to the growth of our Sunday School, this year we will have separate programs for Holy Cross Preschool and our Sunday School children.

The Holy Cross Preschool program will be Sunday, December 14 at 4:00pm. The Sunday School program will be the following Sunday, December 21, at 4:00pm.

Children who are both members of Holy Cross and attend our Preschool can participate in both programs. Also, because we need some older children to do readings for the Preschool program, students who are Midweek School age, 5th-7th grades, can be in either or both programs.

Come and experience the wonder of Christmas as seen through the eyes of children!



New Year's Eve Communion Service & "Watch Night" Party

On New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31, we will have a worship service with Holy Communion at 7:00pm. The service will last about 30 minutes.

Everyone is then invited to an informal "watch night" party for all ages in the Fellowship Hall. Bring along snacks and desserts (your Christmas leftovers!). Also bring favorite board games, cards, etc.

Will stay until midnight to "ring in" the New Year together!



Missionaries of the Month

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.

December 7

*Jack and Cathy Carlos
Guinea*

December 14

*Rev. Robert and Susan Pfeil
Kyrgyzstan*

December 21

*Karla Konrad
South Korea*

December 28

*Dale and Sandra Saville
Venezuela*



We have again arranged for poinsettias to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas through Mosher Garden Center for \$11 each. Sign up in the Gathering Room indicating that you wish to have these plants purchased for you, and put your payment in the offering marked "Poinsettias."

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 3. The plants will be delivered to the church on December 5 for display beginning on Sunday, December 7.

You are also welcome to bring your own plants, if you wish to purchase them elsewhere or receive them as gifts. Please sign up on the bulletin board indicating that you will provide your own plants and drop them by the church anytime before Christmas.

After Christmas you may take home the plants you have donated or brought. When you sign up, please indicate whom your plants are in memory or honor of, the way you want it printed in the January newsletter.



My gratitude to everyone for making my birthday celebration such a success. I enjoyed every bit of it!

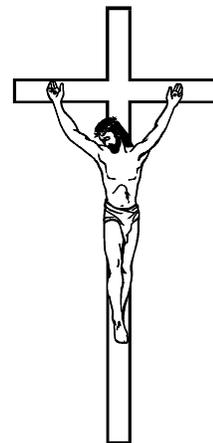
Mabel Schibonski



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Plan now to attend the first Christmas Eve Candlelight Services held in our new Sanctuary, on Wednesday, December 24. A Family Service will be held at 7:00pm, with a "Midnight Mass" beginning at 11:30pm.

"Oh, come, all ye faithful!"



Meditations on Divine Mercy

In our newsletter as space allows we include selections from Johann Gerhard's *Meditations on Divine Mercy*. Gehard 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 CHRIST'S INCARNATION

JESUS CHRIST, only Mediator and Redeemer of the human race, I give thanks to You that in the fullness of time You united Yourself personally to a true human nature and deigned to be born of a virgin (Galatians 4:4). How great is Your love for Your human creatures that You laid hold not of angels, but of the seed of Abraham (Hebrews 2:16). How great is the mystery of godliness that You, being true God, desired to become manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

How great is Your mercy that, descending from heaven for my sake, You endured being born of a virgin (Isaiah 9:6). For me, a most worthless

creature, You, the all-powerful Creator, became man. For my sake, an abject slave, You the glorious Lord, clothed Yourself in servile fashion with a body so with flesh You might free flesh (Philippians 2:7). For me, You were born. Therefore, whatever heavenly goods You bring with You in Your birth will be mine.

Because You were given to me, so also shall all things be given to me. My nature is glorified more in You than it was disgraced in Adam through sin. Because You assumed into the unity of Your person that which was only tarnished by Satan, You truly are flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone (Ephesians 5:30).

You are my brother. What can You deny to me, the person to whom You are most intimately joined by the same essence of flesh and by the feeling of fraternal love? You are the bridegroom (Matthew 22:2) who, according to the good pleasure of the heavenly Father, bound the human nature to Yourself as a bride by means of a personal covenant. With a thankful soul, I proclaim and acknowledge that I, too, am invited to the celebration of this marriage.

I am no longer amazed that heaven, earth, sea, and all that is in them were made by God for us because God Himself ordained to become a man for the sake of His human creatures. Truly, You cannot reject me and turn me away because You cannot deny that You Yourself are a man and therefore my brother (2 Timothy 2:13). You can never forget me because you have engraved me on the palms of Your hands (Isaiah 49:16).

Your communion with humanity daily and continually makes You mindful of me. You cannot forsake me because You, by the closest bond of the personal union, ordained to join the human nature to Yourself. Therefore, no matter how much my sins hinder me from coming to You for mercy, the communion of the two natures in You will not allow me to be driven away. I will depend totally on You, the one who totally assumed my humanity.

AMEN.



New Year's Eve Communion Service & "Watch Night" Party

Communion Service – 7:00pm
Start the New Year with the Lord!

Followed by "Watch Night" Party
for All Ages in the Fellowship Hall

Bring Snacks and Desserts,
Board Games, Cards, Etc.

Stay Till Midnight to "Ring In" the New Year
All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Altar Flowers

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 Coffee Bar.

November 2

Jane Michels

In Memory of Jim and in Celebration
of Life & God's Blessings

November 9

Doug & Sue Jansen
Veterans Day

November 16

Mabel Schibonski
100th Birthday

November 23

Deb Stein
Birthday

November 30

Randy Stein
Birthday

Page 7

December 7

Teri Hageman

*Poinsettia Donations Will Be
Listed in the January Newsletter*



We list members' birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. However, our records are not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the church office at 232-9117 or email holycross@longlines.com.

Randy Stein, December 2
Katelyn Yockey, December 2
Helen Hamilton, December 11
Melissa Rehnelt, December 15
Sherry Isley, December 26
Levi Finkral, December 30

Kevin & Terese Vogts
December 29, 1990

T.J. & Tami Michels
December 31, 1989



Christmas Carol Communion Service December 28

Because many members of Holy Cross are away visiting family on Christmas Eve itself, for our 9:15am service on Sunday, December 28 we will have a special "Christmas Carol Communion Service." Favorite Christmas carols will be used for the different portions of the liturgy.

BIRTH

Clarissa Anne Mensch

Daughter of Christie & Jason Mensch
Born October 29, 2008
6 lbs 5 oz, 18 in

*"Children are a heritage from the
LORD, a blessing from Him."
Psalm 127:3*



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!

There are just a few spots left for 2008. You are encouraged to sign up through the end of the year.

December 7
Waybright

December 14
Winborn

December 21 & 28
Need Volunteers



*by Rev. Obot Ite, Pastor
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Kingston, Jamaica*

The recent visit of Ms. Gretel Johnson to our congregation was a big cause for joy. Gretel called and requested the church's address and promised to be in the service the following day. I arranged to pick her at the bus stop when she arrived in Kingston.

On Sunday morning, while I was preparing to begin the service, she called again to indicate her arrival in Kingston and she was later led by my wife, Abasifreke, to the church. At the end of the service, she shared this thrilling story with me:

"I had been listening to the Lutheran Hour program aired in the radio station here in Jamaica since I was a child," she said, "and the Holy Spirit has been urging me to belong to the Lutheran Church. I grew up telling my parents about the Lutherans.

"But, I didn't know how to follow through. Though I was serving as a youth leader in my former church, I wasn't satisfied anymore with the teachings of that church. The struggle to find and share in a Lutheran Church was so strong that I couldn't concentrate again for any meaningful works in the church.



Rev. Obot Ite, Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Kingston, Jamaica and his wife, Abasifreke, are natives of Nigeria who are jointly sponsored by the LCMS and the Lutheran Church of Nigeria as missionaries in Jamaica.

"Therefore, I have been looking for opportunity to make such a move. So, yesterday I decided to call. Thank God you were there at the right time to answer to my call. This is how God works for his people. I feel at home and would like to continue with the Lutheran Church. This is my family now and I felt at home throughout the service."

Gretel, a single parent with two children—a boy and a girl—lives with her parents in Bio Content District in St. Catherine. She has expressed a desire for her children to be baptized and has already accepted the offer to study for her confirmation.

Gretel anticipates conflict with her family as she takes these bold steps in the direction of the Holy Spirit. She also hopes for the whole family to join her in the Lutheran Church in the future. Help us pray for these families in this moment of their great beginnings. We are much encouraged by these testimonies. We are convinced that nothing shall be able to separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049
 Rev. Kevin D. Vogts, Pastor
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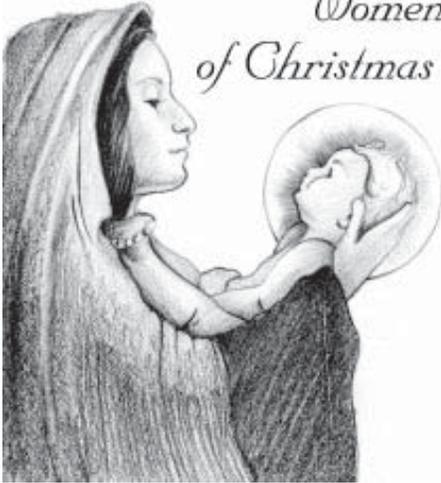
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Women's Christmas Dinner 6:00pm 7:00pm Board of Elders <i>Randy Stein</i> <i>Katelyn Yockey</i>	2 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Advent Fellowship Time 7:30pm Board of Education	3 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Advent Fellowship Time	4	5	6 5:00pm-8:00pm Amber Hudelson Benefit  <i>St. Nicholas</i>
7 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Advent Fellowship Time	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p align="center"><u>Preschool Schedule</u> Monday-Friday, 8:30am-11:15am Chapel Wednesdays 9:00am</p> <p align="center"><u>After School Care</u> Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</p> </div>		
14 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm Preschool Christmas Program	15  Newsletter Deadline <i>Melissa Rehnett</i>	16	17 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Advent Fellowship Time	18	19	20  <i>Katharina von Bora Luther, Died 1552</i>
21 4th Sunday in Advent St. Thomas, Apostle 8:50am Choir Warmup 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 4:00pm Sunday School Christmas Program 	22	23  CANDLELIGHT SERVICES	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service 11:30pm "Midnight Mass"	25  Christmas Day	26  <i>St. Stephen, Martyr</i> <i>Sherry Isley</i>	27  <i>St. John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>
28 First Sunday after Christmas Holy Innocents, Martyrs 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class	29 <i>Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts</i>	30  Happy New Year! <i>Levi Finkral</i>	31 7:00pm New Year's Eve Communion Service 7:30pm "Watch Night" Party <i>T.J. & Tami Michels</i>	<p>Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. <i>(Collect for Christmas Day)</i></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

2008 Advent Services

Wednesdays – 7:00pm

*The Three Wise Women
of Christmas*



December 3
"Mary"
Luke 1:26-38

December 10
"Elizabeth"
Luke 1:39-45

December 17
"Anna"
Luke 2:36-38

*Bring Your Family to Remember
the Real "Reason for the Season"*



Church Decorating This Sunday

Everyone is Invited to Come Help Decorate
Our "New" Church for Christmas
for the First Time!

This Sunday, November 30
Beginning at 4:00pm

Soup Supper Following—Bring Appetizer or Dessert



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church