

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

2009
January

Pastor's Message

for the
NEW YEAR



2008 was an extraordinary year for Holy Cross, with many historic breakthroughs in the continuing development of our congregation. Each of these important blessings in 2008 also comes with a challenge for us as a congregation in 2009 and beyond.

Blessing in 2008:

Of course, the most significant turning point for our congregation in 2008 was the completion, dedication, and occupancy of our new Sanctuary addition. Lord willing, this extraordinary, beautiful facility will serve us our and descendants at Holy Cross for generations.

Psalm 126 says, "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed." That is exactly what it often seems like to me, as I work in my new study or lead worship in our new Sanctuary—out in the

middle of what used to be the lawn—"like those who dreamed." Indeed, February, 2009 will mark my sixth year at Holy Cross, and what the Lord has accomplished here exceeds any dreams I had back then for the future of this congregation. Psalm 126 continues: "Our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Challenge for 2009: We finalized the mortgage on our new addition at the end of 2008, combining it with the existing mortgage from the Educational Wing for a total debt of approximately \$625,000. The new addition also entails increased operating expenses for utilities, insurance, etc. To meet our obligations in 2009 will require an increase in offerings of about 17% over 2008. Unfortunately, this critical year comes during difficult economic times, when many churches are experiencing a decrease in giving.



As I work in my new study or lead worship in our beautiful new Sanctuary—out in the middle of what used to be the lawn—I feel the way Psalm 126 describes: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed."

In Exodus 35, Moses commands the ancient people of God to bring offerings for building the Tabernacle, and Exodus 36:3-7 reports: "The people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, 'The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord has commanded to be done.'"

Like the ancient people of God, may we be inspired by the Lord in 2009 to give "more than enough for doing the work the Lord has commanded to be done."

Blessing in 2008: In 2008 we had a very healthy one-year jump in our average Sunday morning attendance, up 33% over 2007, from 60 to 80. An example was Easter Sunday, with attendance almost doubling from 123 in 2007 to 234 in 2008!

When I first arrived at Holy Cross, I daydreamed about the future of the congregation, and I thought back then that it would be a big milestone if someday our attendance topped 100 on a "regular" Sunday. But, I thought that would be very far in the future. Once again, however, God's dreams were bigger than mine! In addition to Easter Sunday, there were a half-dozen other Sundays in 2008 with attendance over or very near 100.

Challenge for 2009:

Church growth literature describes a building project as an "igniter event," something that brings the congregation together for an exciting development. However, sometimes coming off

the collective "high" of such an "igniter event" can lead to an inverse collective "low."

In some denominations, the Sundays after Pentecost during the summer and fall months are called "Sundays in Ordinary Time," because there are no major festivals such as Christmas, Easter, etc. during that period. You could say that in 2009, following the excitement of our building project, we are now entering as a congregation our own phase of "ordinary time." The challenge is to keep up the excitement and momentum, and redirect it toward the "ordinary" life, work, and activities of the church. As St. Paul says in Romans 12:11, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Blessing in 2008: We were blessed to welcome over 50 new members to the Holy Cross family of faith in 2008! These included many joining from outside the Lutheran faith. Until recently, even many existing Lutherans moving to our immediate area—the 57049 Zip Code—were often bypassing Holy Cross to attend other Lutheran congregations in the Sioux City metropolitan area. For some, our former facility did not have a worshipful atmosphere, and our new Sanctuary has proved a blessing in that regard.

Crossnotes

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*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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January, 2009

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Challenge for 2009: There are still hundreds if not thousands of unchurched individuals in the communities our congregation serves. As Jesus says in John 4:35, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

Also, as we receive new members, it is important to integrate them into the life and work of the congregation. This is called "assimilation" in church growth literature, and it is a key component to a maintaining a healthy, growing congregation. As St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

In Ephesians 3:20-21, St. Paul declares: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

God has indeed accomplished "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" at Holy Cross, "according to His power that is at work within us." And so to Him alone we give all "glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



We rejoice to welcome these new members to the Holy Cross family of faith! We will have a New Member Sunday the first quarter of 2009 to welcome them formally.

GARY, LINDA, SUSAN AND JACKSON AMUNSON—The Amunsons recently moved to Sioux City from Soldier, Iowa. Gary works at Gelita, Linda is a homemaker, and Susan works at Menards. They are at home at 730 Cambridge Circle, Sioux City, IA, 51103; 712-277-0402.

LES & VICKIE BRITSON—Vickie is a professor of nursing at Briar Cliff University and completing her doctorate in nursing from South Dakota State University. Les is a siding contractor. They are at home in Salix, Iowa at 108 Jay Street, 51052; 712-946-7216; vbritson@aol.com.

LES & DEE REIFKE—Les & Dee recently moved to Dakota Dunes from Bridgeview, Illinois to be near their daughter, Holy Cross member Denise Honner, and their grandson Eli. Les recently retired from public works and Dee formerly worked as an office manager. The Reifkes are at home in Dakota Dunes at 251 Levee Trail, 57049; 605-422-0109.

JOE AND ELAINE VAN ACKEREN—Shortly after joining Holy Cross in 2007, Joe and Elaine had a job related move to Canada. They have moved back to the area and have rejoined Holy Cross. Joe is sales manager at State Steel Supply and Elaine is currently a homemaker. They are at home 2600 Castles Gate Drive, Sioux City, IA, 51106; 712-560-0173.

Welcome to the Holy Cross family!



BUDGET UPDATE

As of December 21, 2008

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$155,805
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$150,722
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$5,083)

Final year-end financial information for 2008 will be in the February newsletter.



**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 cards, favorite board games, etc.

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

**Thanks
for
Decorations**

Our thanks to the members of the Christmas Decorating Committee and all those who helped decorate our church on, and with the soup supper; to Gary Gunderson for the tree design; to all those who donated a record 30 poinsettias; and to all those who donated decorations, especially Bob and Gloria Barnum for a tree, garlands, and wreaths, and Ron and Jeannette Yockey for the fresh greens.

The beautiful decorations helped make our first Christmas in our new Sanctuary so very special. Many visitors commented on how exceptional the decorations were. Thanks to everyone for such a wonderful job!



2008
*Poinsettia
Donations*

Thank you to all who donated a record 30 poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas, and to all who helped decorate. The church was especially beautiful for the first Christmas celebrated in our new Sanctuary!

<u>Given By</u>	<u>In Memory or Honor Of</u>
Earl & Dawn Biggers	Our Parents
Angela & Ryan Dial	Our Family
Darrel & Jacki Baker (2)	Walter Baker
Scott & Shannon Feese	Grandparent
Terri & Delores Hageman (2)	Husband/Father Everett Hageman
Nyla Hamm	Dad
Denise & Patrick Honner	
John & Sherry Isley	Our Parents
Dout & Sue Jansen	Our Family
Krause Family	Toby Meister
Krause Family	Nick Pinneke
Dennis & Marleen Kuhn	
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink (2)	Deceased Spouses
Ginny Peterson (4)	Bob Peterson
Les & Dee Reifke	
Mabel Schibonski	Elmer Schibonski
Randy & Deb Stein	Grandparents
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts	Leroy Vogts
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts	Grandparents
Tony & Margaret Waybright	Family
Jeannette & Ron Yockey (4)	Jeannette's Father





Sailor Jo Kommes, daughter of Larissa and Brent Kommes, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 30. "Let the little children come unto Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)



New Youth Bible Study Topic

On December 14 the Youth Bible Study began a new study on the topic of creation vs. evolution.

As part of the class we're watching and discussing segments from the movie "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" which was released in theaters last summer and was the #1 documentary film of 2008. Comic Ben Stein takes an entertaining yet thoughtful look at this important question, which especially confronts young people today.

Our thanks to Jon Dorr for helping launch our new Youth Bible Study and serving as the leader for the first several months, and to Rob Finkral for serving as the leader for this new topic. Youth Bible Study meets Sundays at 10:30am in the Church Library, which is in the Educational Wing across from the Kitchen.



"Undecorating Party" and Potluck Lunch January 4

What goes up must come down! The Decorating Committee (or in this case, the Un-Decorating Committee) is asking for your help to take the Christmas decorations down following the church service on Sunday, January 4.

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class that day, so everyone has an opportunity to pitch in. A potluck lunch will follow. (Perhaps a good way to finish off all those Christmas cookies!) Many hands make light work. The more the merrier!

Business Meeting and Soup & Sandwich Luncheon January 11

The next congregational business meeting will be Sunday, January 11 at 11:30am, right after the Sunday School hour. We will have election of new officers and board members for 2009. Please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room to bring soups and sandwiches for the light luncheon to follow the meeting.



Final Elders Meeting for Current Board January 6

According to the Bylaws of our congregation the officers and boards continue until elections are held in the new year. Therefore, there will be the regular meeting of the current Board of Elders on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00pm.



Midweek Bible Study on Christian Decision Making Resumes January 7

Our Midweek Bible Study on *Christian Decision Making* will resume on Wednesday, January 7. Christians sometimes have difficulty deciding what to do. This study leads class members

to trust that God loves them for Jesus' sake and to be confident that God will guide their steps. Lessons explore scriptural principles and examine people in the Bible who have made wise and sometimes foolish decisions. Join in Midweek Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:30pm—a great way to start the New Year! We meet in the Church Library following Midweek Vespers.



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*.

New Portals of Prayer

The new *Portals of Prayer* daily devotional booklets for January thru March 2009 are available in the Gathering Room.



The children of Holy Cross Sunday School did a wonderful job sharing the Christmas story at their Christmas Program on December 21, closing the program by acting out the Nativity scene while the congregation sang "Silent Night."

Read with breakfast or before going to bed; keep it in your desk to read during break at work.

In addition to the brief daily devotions and short daily Bible readings prayers, there are suggested longer readings for each day and a wonderful collection of longer prayers for each day of the week and special needs and occasions in the back of each issue. A great way to help you keep close to the Lord!



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.)

New features have been recently added, including an expanded resources

section with helpful links on the web. The current week's bulletin is posted on the home page, usually the previous Friday. Sermons are posted on the sermons page during the week after they are delivered. Current news and information on upcoming events is on the home page. There is also a complete archive of newsletters going back to 2003.

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.

Pictorial Directory Update

We plan to publish a new Pictorial/Phone Directory in January. We would like our directory to be as up-to-date as possible. Please make sure the office has any changes to address, phone number, and/or email address. Thank you for your help. Email changes to holycross@longlines.com or call the office at 232-9117.



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 new flower calendar for 2009 is 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.

December 7
Teri Hageman

January 11
Teri Hageman
Birthday

See Page 3 for Poinsettia Donations

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for January

Rob Finkral & Carroll Gustman

January Elders Meeting

January 6, 7:00pm

Usher for January

Ryan Dial

Junior Ushers for January

January 4 Quinton Bose
January 11 Jacob Vogts
January 18 Keegan Johnson
January 25 Kendall Martin

Crucifers for January

January 4 Dylan Sawyer
January 7 (Vespers) Sarah Vogts
January 11 Myron Bose
January 14 (Vespers) Dylan Sawyer
January 18 Kylie Martin
January 21 (Vespers) Myron Bose
January 25 Sarah Vogts
January 28 (Vespers) Kylie Martin

Acolytes for January

January 4 Megan Winborn
January 7 (Vespers) Jace Waybright
January 11 Emily Steemken
January 14 (Vespers) Kasey Michels
January 18 Tiara Selby
January 21 (Vespers) Ashley Bargstadt

January 25 Claire Johnson
January 28 (Vespers) Megan Winborn



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.

January 4

Shara Cunningham
South Africa

January 11

James and Christel Neuendorf
Panama

January 18

Rev. James and Mabelle Bloker
Czech Republic

January 25

J.P. and Aimee Cima
Vietnam

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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.

Greg Huibregtse, January 4
Megan Winborn, January 4
Teri Hageman January 10
Denise Honner, January 10
Denny Kuhn, January 11
Rob Finkral, January 15
Tami Michels, January 16
Vickie Britson, January 18
Janet Martin, January 20
Darrel Baker, January 22
Erin Fletcher, January 24
Caitlyn Bargstadt, January 30

Andy & Pat Winborn
January 7, 1995

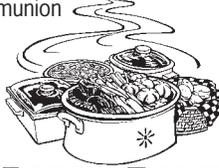
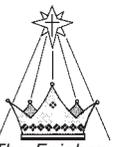
Bob & Gloria Barnum
January 20, 1962



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
 www.holycrossdakotadunes.org

2009 January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for New Year's Eve)</i></p>				<p>1 </p>	<p>2  Wilhelm Loehe, Theologian</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 2nd Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Undecorating Party 11:30am Potluck Lunch</p> <p><i>Greg Huibregtse Megan Winborn</i></p>  <p>POTLUCK DINNER</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7:00pm Board of Elders</p>  <p><i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i></p>	<p>7 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study 7:30pm Board of Education</p> <p><i>Andy & Pat Winborn</i></p>	<p>8 </p>	<p>Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am Closed for Christmas Break December 24-January 6</p> <p><i>Teri Hageman Denise Honner</i></p>	
<p>11 1st Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of Our Lord</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Quarterly Business Meeting 11:30am Soup & Sandwich Luncheon</p> <p><i>Denny Kuhn</i></p>  <p>Quarterly Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9:00am Women in Mission 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>15  Newsletter Deadline</p> <p><i>Rob Finkral</i></p>	<p>16 <i>Tami Michels</i></p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany The Confession of St. Peter</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><i>Vickie Britson</i></p> 	<p>19</p>	<p>20 <i>Janet Martin Bob & Gloria Barnum</i></p>	<p>21 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>22 <i>Darrel Baker</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>Erin Fletcher</i></p>
<p>25 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany The Conversion of St. Paul</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>26  <i>St. Timothy and St. Titus</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>Preschool Schedule Monday-Friday, 8:30am-11:15am Chapel Wednesdays 9:00am</p> <p>After School Care Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</p> <p><i>Caitlyn Bargstadt</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



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Return Service Requested

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
149 Bison Trail
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