
Pastor Vogts Receives Call

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the evening of January 18, I was notified that I have been extended a Call to serve as Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado.

Under our system in the Lutheran Church, this means I now have two divine Calls, this Call just received, and the Call which you extended to me in 2002 to serve as your Pastor at Holy Cross.

Over the next several weeks I will prayerfully consider these two Calls, seeking the Lord's will as to where He desires me to serve. I would ask for your prayers and your input as I make my deliberations.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



You may have noticed several instances in the church bulletin recently where certain words were missing. For example, the Epistle Reading for January 18 was 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, which includes the phrase "homosexual offenders." However, in the bulletin it appeared as " offenders," with white space instead of the word "homosexual."

This glitch was due to the Internet filtering software on our church's computers. Our new "copier" is actually

a networked printer, which prints the bulletins, this newsletter, etc. directly from the computers over our church's internal network, and so all data sent to it goes through the filter. Now that we are aware of this, we can temporarily suspend the filtering when printing to this machine.

However, this is a good reminder for all of us of the importance of carefully monitoring and filtering Internet access for our children. One recent study estimates that 12% of Internet sites are pornographic. And a shocking 25% of Internet search engine results are links to pornographic sites—nearly always unrelated to the information actually requested. This is because purveyors of online pornography purposely "game the system" to lure in unsuspecting Internet users—including children. As a result, a study in the journal *Pediatrics*



"If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). *Jesus and the Little Children, Luther's Small Catechism, 1545*

found that each year about 35% percent of Internet users ages 10 to 17 are exposed to online pornography accidentally.

As an example is the Internet address www.whitehouse.com, which for many years did not direct you to The White House in Washington, D.C. but to a pornographic site based in Thailand. The correct address for The White House is www.whitehouse.gov. Each year, millions of innocent schoolchildren were exposed to pornography while seeking information for a school project from The White House web site, but accidentally getting the pornographic site instead. Fortunately, another group seems to have recently obtained this domain for a legitimate news site.

But, why name a pornographic site www.whitehouse.com in the first place? This was done purposely by the pornographers, specifically to lure in children. St. Peter warns in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Satan is after your children. Don't let him get to them right in your own home—with you providing the means and even footing the bill for his access to them!

This applies not only to young children, but also—perhaps even more so—to teenagers. A University of New Hampshire study found that 38% of 16- and 17-year-old male Internet users deliberately visited pornographic sites in the previous year. This can have very damaging, long-term effects, not only spiritually, but also psychologically, socially, and emotionally. Emory University psychologist Ralph J. DiClemente concludes that exposure to pornography erodes young people's ability to see the opposite sex in a wholesome way, and distorts "what they consider a normal relationship."

Jesus says in Matthew 18:6-7, "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the person through whom they come!"

Jesus tells us that it is our job to protect children from the evils of this world. Many parents intend to monitor their children's Internet usage by having the computer in a common area of the home, which is a good idea. But, despite good intentions, it is not likely you will always be present while they are online. And disturbing images can flood the screen unexpectedly, before you have a chance to prevent your children from seeing them.

However, the Internet also has many beneficial aspects, and simply pulling the plug may not be the best answer or even practical for your family. When our family first signed up for high-speed, "always on" Internet access, I checked out the various brands of filtering software. Luckily, I found a web site where high school kids themselves traded tips about how to circumvent the different products. They're more technically savvy than most adults, and

Crossnotes

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Volume 7

Number 2

there was only one product they hadn't found a way to get around. That is why I recommend Cybersitter, available in stores or at www.cybersitter.com.

The Board of Elders recently adopted a policy requiring all of the church's computers to have Cybersitter brand filtering software. I requested the Elders specify Cybersitter for the church because I have used it myself for many years and found it very effective. Nothing slips past it! For example, in our church bulletin for January 4 it filtered "Sung Amen" so that it appeared as "Sun n" because we have the filter activated in the gambling category and the word "game" is included! There are over 35 separate categories, and you can choose which subjects you want filtered.

Satan is after your children. Don't let him get to them right in your own home—with you providing the means and even footing the bill for his access to them!

If a site has too much restricted content, it simply shows a blank page. However, it is also very easy to temporarily override, you can select sites to be added to an "always allowed" list, or for very young children you can limit them to only the list of sites you want them to visit, instant messaging and email can be filtered, certain times, like after school, can be restricted to no Internet access, etc.

Another thing I like about Cybersitter is that it is a one-time cost of only \$39.95 per computer and, although it continually downloads updated filters, there is no annual subscription fee like most similar software. Cybersitter has also won the *PC Magazine* Editors' Choice award five times.

Or, you may find a similar product that you like better. Whatever your choice may be, if you have children in your home such software, though not foolproof, will help protect them from

accidentally entering, or being lured into, the dark side of the Internet. As Ephesians 4:27 says, "Do not give the devil a foothold."

There was a sad case in Sioux City last year where a teenager was accidentally shot by another teenager because they didn't realize the gun they were handling was loaded. Giving your children access to an unfiltered Internet connection is like letting them play with a loaded gun. And, spiritually, it could indeed be deadly for them.

While we must protect our children as much as possible, some day they will no longer be under our supervision, and so we must also give them the tools of self-discipline. An article in the journal *Monitor on Psychology* notes:

"Psychologist and technology researcher Larry Rosen, PhD, of California State University . . . found that young people's actions on MySpace—including looking at others' risqué poses, displaying their own and tapping into porn links—are strongly influenced by parenting styles.

"His team asked parents and young people to rate the way parents monitored young people's computer use, dividing parents into four categories: authoritative, combining warmth and control; authoritarian, melding control and low warmth; indulgent, displaying warmth and low control; and neglectful, combining low warmth and low control.

"Authoritative and authoritarian parents were much more likely than indulgent or neglectful ones to limit their youngsters' use of MySpace, for example by keeping tabs on their children's MySpace pages and requiring them to keep the computer in family rooms, the team found. In turn, the teens appeared to internalize those messages by, for example, not looking at suggestive poses of fellow MySpace users as much as those with indulgent or neglectful parents.

"Basically you're looking at clear, obvious differences in parenting styles, even in what kids see on MySpace," says Rosen. "These kids have rules, and they're following those rules." (*Monitor on Psychology*, Vol. 38, No. 10, November 2007, p. 50ff)

The best thing you can do for your children is to lay a solid spiritual foundation in their lives, through regular worship—together as a family—in God's house, Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Vacation Bible School, etc. As Psalm 119:9 says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Holy Cross was again blessed in 2008 with a record level of contributions. Our Preschool and After School Care programs also had a positive year.

The church's budgeted offerings for 2008 were \$161,665. Actual offerings came in slightly over that at \$162,008. The church's total income, including subsidy from the LCMS South Dakota District of approximately \$22,000, was \$186,418. Operating expenses for the church were \$186,811, leaving a shortfall for the year of \$393.

The new year presents several new financial challenges to our congregation. As a District-sponsored mission congregation, Holy Cross has been a beneficiary over the years of generous mission support from the District. However, this subsidy is declining each year, and will soon be concluded.

This year, subsidy will drop from approximately \$22,000 to about \$7,500. Also, 2009 will be our first full year paying the increased mortgage for our new Sanctuary. Due to these and other factors, such as increased utilities, insurance and other operating costs for our expanded facility, to meet the budget for 2009 will require a challenging 17% increase in offerings.

We give thanks to God for the continued healthy trend in our contributions in 2008. Our thanks also

The Characters of Lent



2009 Lent Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm

February 25 – Ash Wednesday

Judas & Peter

March 4 – Lent Service II
Caiaphas & Pontius Pilate

March 11 – Lent Service III

Herod & Barabbas

March 18 – Lent Service IV

*Simon of Cyrene
& Virgin Mary*

March 25 – Lent Service V

*Thief on the Cross
& Roman Centurion*

April 1 – Lent Service VI

*Joseph of Arimathea
& Mary Magdalene*

April 9 – Maundy Thursday

Communion Service

April 10 – Good Friday

Good Friday Service

to Dennis Melstad and Terry Vogts for doing such excellent jobs respectively as the church and Christian education treasurers. It makes their task a lot easier when the necessary funds are readily available—so let's all help make their jobs easier again in 2009!

"Give to the LORD the glory due His name. Bring an offering, and come into His courts." (Psalm 96:8)



BUDGET UPDATE

As of January 25, 2009

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$10,820
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$8,546
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$2,274)



The church officers, elders, and other board chairs for 2009 were elected at the congregational business meeting on January 11 and installed into office on January 18. An orientation

meeting for the officers, elders, and other board chairs was held on February 1.

Congregational Chairman—Ron Yockey

Church Treasurer—Dennis Melstad

Recording Secretary—Doug Martin

Financial Secretary—Dee Reifke

Elders—Earl Biggers, Rob Finkral,
Carroll Gustman, Tony Waybright

Christian Education Chair—Angela Dial

Evangelism Chair—Gail Dorr

Church Properties Chair—Andy Winborn

Under our current bylaws, except for the elders only the board chair is elected by the congregation, and other board members are recruited by the chair. For the elders, the entire board is elected by the congregation, and then they subsequently elect the chairman.

Our thanks to all the incoming officers, elders, and board chairs for serving in 2009, and all those who served in 2008.

Special thanks to Doug Martin for his many years of service as congregational chairman since the founding of Holy Cross. Under his leadership the congregation was formally organized, called two pastors, and constructed two buildings!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Midweek Vespers Sermon Series on Lord's Prayer

Midweek Vespers each Wednesday from 7:00pm-7:30pm gives 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.

Our current sermon series for Midweek Vespers is on the Lord's Prayer. Come for this brief worship experience on Wednesdays at 7:00pm.



"The Characters of Lent" is the theme for our 2009 Lent Services, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 25, at 7:00pm and continuing each Wednesday during Lent. Each week we will look at two Biblical personalities and their part in the Lenten story.

We will begin on Ash Wednesday by considering the stories of Judas and Peter. Bring your family for these brief services—about 30 minutes—to meditate on our Lord's suffering for our salvation.



Midweek Bible Study on Christian Decision Making

Our Midweek Bible Study on *Christian Decision Making* will continue until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25. There will be Midweek Bible Study during the Lenten season.

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. We meet in the Church Library following Midweek Vespers.

Portals of Prayer



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



Bible Class on the Church Year

Have you ever wondered about the origin, meaning and significance of the "church year"? During February we will continue our study on *The Year of the*

Lord's Favor, 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*.



Our Holy Cross Women in Mission Community Service Project will be Wednesday, February 4. We will be helping to make the Gourmet Double Chocolate Carmel Apples for the Siouxland Humane Society in the basement of the Greek Orthodox Church, 900 6th Street in Sioux City. The first shift is from 9:00am until 1:00pm, however, you can work as many or as few hours as you have available. Wear warm, comfortable clothes and shoes. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room table. We may be able to do a car pool. For more information call Deb Stein (422-2401).

Women in Mission new officers for 2009 are as follows: President: Janet Martin; Vice-President: Mary Mettenbrink; Treasurer: Sherry Isley; Secretary: Deb Stein. May God guide and direct them in their service to Holy Cross.

Our next regular business meeting will be Wednesday, February 11 at 7:30pm following the Midweek Vespers service. Remember to bring your mite boxes with your mission offering, or pick up a box at the meeting. All are welcome!

Holy Cross Women in Mission is part of the the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, which is the national women's

group of the LCMS. The LWML Pledge expresses the purpose of the LWML and our local chapter:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His Blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing his praises, our lips to proclaim Him redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.



February Elders Meeting
February 5, 7:00pm

Usher for February
Doug Jansen

Junior Ushers for February
February 1 Trevor Vilhaurer
February 8 Jacob Vogts
February 15 Zhahn Bose
February 22 Quinton Bose

Crucifers for February
February 1 Dylan Sawyer
February 4 (Vespers) Dylan Sawyer
February 8 Myron Bose
February 11 (Vespers) Kylie Martin
February 15 Sarah Vogts
February 18 (Vespers) Sarah Vogts
February 22 Kylie Martin
February 25 (Ash Wednesday) . Myron Bose

Acolytes for February
February 1 Emily Steemken
February 4 (Vespers) Ashley Bargstadt
February 8 Kasey Michels
February 11 (Vespers) Claire Johnson
February 15 Ashley Bargstadt
February 18 (Vespers) Megan Winborn
February 22 Jace Waybright
February 25 (Ash Wednesday) ... Tiara Selby

Church Directory

UPDATE

Our thanks to Andy Winborn for taking new photos of our congregational members the last two Sundays of January. Members who would still like to have photos updated for our new 2009 directory may email your own photos to holycross@longlines.com, or give them to Andy, Deb Stein, or Pastor Vogts to be scanned and returned.

We plan to publish the updated directory in February, with a copy mailed to each household. 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. Email changes to holycross@longlines.com or call the office at 232-9117. Deadline for changes is February 10. Thank you for your help.



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.

February 1

*Rob and Gerlinde Lindsey
Germany*

February 8

*Rev. John and Susan Mehl
Hong Kong*

February 15

*Jack and Cathy Carlos
Guinea*

February 22

*Phil and Kerri Schielke
Kazakhstan*

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

January 25

Joe & Elaine Van Ackeren
40th Wedding Anniversary



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.

Jackson Amunson, February 2
Jacqueleen Baker, February 4
Mary Mettenbrink, February 14
Irvin Paulsen, February 16
Caden Dial, February 17
Mike Bargstadt, February 20

Mary Rosene, February 23
Jon Dorr, February 25
Carol Smith, February 25
Vaughn Finkral, February 26

Robert & Karen Brock
February 13, 1999
Jon & Gail Dorr
February 25, 1978



February 1

"The Promised Prophet"
Deuteronomy 18:15-20

February 4 (Midweek Vespers)

"Our Daily Bread"
Matthew 6:11

February 8

"They Shall Soar Like Eagles"
Isaiah 40:29-31

February 11 (Midweek Vespers)

"Forgive Us Our Trespasses"
Matthew 6:12

February 15

*"Behold, How They
Love One Another"*
Mark 2:1-12

February 18 (Midweek Vespers)

"Deliver Us from Evil"
Matthew 6:13

February 22

"We Are Being Transformed"
2 Corinthians 3:18

February 25 (Ash Wednesday)

"Judas and Peter"
Matthew 26:69-27:5



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049







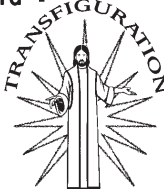




Rev. Kevin D. Vogts, Pastor

Office: 605-232-9117 Home: 605-232-4013

Cell: 712-898-4818 Email: pastorvogts@longlines.com

www.holycrossdakotadunes.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 8:45am Choir Warm-Up 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am 2009 Officer, Elder & Board Chair Orientation 12:30am Adult Information Class	2 Presentation  of our Lord <i>Jackson Amunson</i>	3 9:00am Women in Mission Service Project 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study 7:30pm Board of Education	4 <i>Jackie Baker</i>	5 7:00pm Board of Elders	<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</p> <p align="center"><i>Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</i></p> </div>	
8 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 12:30am Adult Information Class	9	10	11 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study 7:30pm Women in Mission	12	13  <i>Robert & Karen Brock</i>	14 <i>Mary Mettenbrink</i>
15 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 12:30am Adult Information Class	16  <i>Philipp Melancthon Born, 1497 Irvin Paulsen</i>	17  Newsletter Deadline <i>Caden Dial</i>	18 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study <i>Martin Luther Died, 1546</i>	19 	20 <i>Mike Bargstadt</i>	21 3:00pm Kendall Martin Eagle Scout Court of Honor 
22 Last Sunday after the Epiphany The Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:45am Choir Warm-Up 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Church Council Orientation 12:30am Adult Information Class	23  <i>Mary Rosene</i>	24  <i>St. Matthias</i>	25 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service <i>Jon Dorr Carol Smith Jon & Gail Dorr</i>	26  <i>Vaughn Finkral</i>	27	28
<p> Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)</p>				<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am</p> </div> </div>		

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