



### Evidence of Infant Baptism in the Catacombs

Underneath the city of Rome is a very extensive, multistory network of caverns and passages—hundreds of miles in all—that in ancient times was the city’s burial ground—for an estimated 6 million dead!

Until Christianity was legalized in 313 A.D., these Catacombs were often utilized by the Christians for their worship services, which had to be held in secret during times of persecution. Many of the larger caverns were actually converted into churches and the Christian dead would be interred nearby.

Archaeological excavations of these ancient Catacombs have revealed a wealth of artwork and inscriptions left by the early Christians on the cavern walls, providing unparalleled insight into Christian worship and practices prior to 313 A.D. When in Rome you can visit and tour these Catacombs. Or, you can “visit” them at [www.catacombe.roma.it](http://www.catacombe.roma.it) on the Internet.

Opponents of infant Baptism often assert that infant Baptism was not practiced in the primitive Church. Jesus once said that “the stones will cry out” (Matthew 19:40), and the very stones of the Catacombs do indeed cry out in

testimony to infant Baptism in the primitive Church:

“The ordinance of Baptism receives several illustrations from the monumental evidences of the Catacombs. There are numerous epitaphs of neophytes—a term applied only to newly baptized persons—which indicate that this Christian rite was administered at all ages from tender infancy to adult years . . .”

One of many examples is:

CANDIDIS NEOF Q.VXT. M.XXI,

This inscription is translated, ‘Candidis, a neophyte, who lived twenty-one months’ (Withrow, W.H. *The Catacombs of Rome and Their Testimony Relative to Primitive Christianity*. 6th ed. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1895, pp. 532-533.)

There is also much other archaeological evidence which overwhelmingly testifies to the practice of infant Baptism in the early Church, such as a fragment of a tombstone for a child who died very young, likely less than a month old, which describes the child as “dulcissime nate,” literally, “The Most Blessedly Bathed” (*Inscriptiones Latinae Christianae Veteres*, I:1520).

Another example is from about 206 A.D. in a North African tombstone inscription from Hadrumetum:

Arisus in pace  
natus ora sexta  
bixit supra scriptas VIII

This inscription indicates that this child who died nine hours after birth had been baptized (*Inscriptiones Latinae Christianae Veteres*, II:4429-A).

Considering the clear, overwhelming evidence that the Church has always practiced infant Baptism, one wonders when and why some church bodies’ objections to this practice arose. Modern objections to infant Baptism can be traced to the time of the Reformation in the 1500’s. This was also the era in which Humanism arose, and some of the Reformers other than Martin Luther, such as Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, were infected with the spirit of Humanism.

The primary tenet of Humanism is that “man is the measure of all things,” and therefore human reason is the final judge of truth—even passing judgment on the testimony of God’s Word on the basis of whether or not it agrees with human reason. So, if infant Baptism does not make sense to human reason, it is to be discarded.

Perhaps it does not seem sensible or reasonable to us that humans are born sinful and in need



Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
Luther’s Small Catechism, 1545

of a Savior, but the Bible says: "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5 NIV).

Perhaps it does not seem sensible or reasonable to us that infants can have personal, active faith in Jesus as their Savior, but Jesus Himself calls infants, "these little ones who believe in Me" (Matthew 18:6 NIV).

Perhaps it does not seem sensible or reasonable to us that Baptism is more than just a symbolic act but actually effects what it also symbolizes, the washing away of sin, but the Bible says, "be baptized and wash your sins away" (Acts 22:16 NIV).

Perhaps it does not seem sensible or reasonable to us that God should use this act as a means by which to save us, but the Bible says, "Baptism doth also now save us" (1 Peter 3:21 KJV).

Perhaps it does not seem sensible or reasonable to us that through the means of Baptism God grants us the forgiveness of sins and implants in us His Holy Spirit, also to children, but the Bible says, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children . . ." (Acts 2:38-39 NIV).

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## Crossnotes

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*Number 5*

Perhaps it does not seem sensible or reasonable to us that faith in Christ is not a work which we do, but the Bible says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this [faith] not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8 NIV). So faith in Christ is "the gift of God"—and therefore not dependent upon our having attained a certain level of maturity or intellectual understanding.

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***Jesus once said that "the stones will cry out" (Matthew 19:40), and the very stones of the Catacombs do indeed cry out in testimony to infant Baptism in the primitive Church.***

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The Bible says absolutely nothing about an "age of reason" only after which one may have personal faith in Christ and be baptized. Challenge those who make such a claim to point out to you chapter and verse where the Bible says such a thing. They cannot, for the whole notion of an "age of reason" comes not from Christianity but from Humanism.

It was Jesus who instituted Holy Baptism, and so we must let Jesus Himself decide whether or not infants should be baptized. He actually answers this question with complete clarity when he first commands His disciples to baptize: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).

The English translation "all nations" is somewhat misleading, for that makes us think that the Lord is simply commanding evangelization of all geographical/political regions of the world. But the Greek word for "nations" is *ethne*, from which we get "ethnic." It does not refer primarily to nations in the

geographical/political sense, but to "people groups" of any type: race, color, economic status, gender, etc.—including age.

This is reflected in the better in the modern An American Translation "Go and make disciples of all people." With the Greek phrase *panta ethne*—"all nations" or "all people"—Jesus is saying in the very strongest terms possible: "No one is excluded from my kingdom, on any basis," including age, maturity or intellectual attainment. We have Christ's command to baptize all people, and infants are certainly included in that command.

So, do not be misled by those who claim that the early Christians did not baptize infants. The archaeological evidence of the Catacombs and elsewhere quite clearly demonstrates that they did.

Why do we believe that infants can indeed have active, personal faith in Christ? Why do we baptize infants? The simple answer is: "The Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it." As Luther says, writing about Baptism in the Large Catechism: "Men may err and deceive, but God's Word cannot err."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



### **As of April 25, 2010**

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date .....	\$65,059
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date .....	\$57,633
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date .....	(\$7,426)



Mark Waybright  
Father of Tony Waybright

Myrtha Lofgren  
Mother of Janet Gustman

*"Blessed are the dead  
who die in the Lord."*  
Revelation 14:13



### Sermons Topics for May

May 2

*"God's Heavenly Health Plan"*  
Revelation 21:4

May 9

*"If Anyone Loves Me,  
He Will Obey My Teaching"*  
John 14:23

May 13 (Ascension Day)

*"I Am with You Always"*  
Matthew 28:20

May 16

Rev. Robert Rahn  
Guest Preacher

May 23

*"My Peace I Give You!"*  
John 14:27

May 30

Rev. Henry Witte  
Guest Preacher



## Easter Lilies

Thank you to all those who donated a record 31 lilies to beautify our sanctuary this year for Easter! Thanks also to Mary Mettenbrink for arranging and caring for them.

### Given By

### In Memory or Honor Of

Robert & Gloria Barnum .....	Jesus
Earl & Dawn Biggers .....	Our Fathers
Ryan & Angela Dial .....	Family
Shannon & Scott Feese .....	Marvel Wright
Barb & Jim Goede (2) .....	Mothers
Teri Hageman .....	Everett & Dolores Hageman
Denise & Pat Honner	
John & Sherry Isley .....	Our Parents
Doug & Sue Jansen .....	Paul Jansen
Doug & Sue Jansen .....	Nancy Shortridge
Kommes Family .....	Lenny Kommes
Denny & Marlene Kuhn (2) .....	Family
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink (3) .....	Family & Grandparents
Todd Peters .....	Rev. & Mrs. Carl Brueggemann
Todd Peters .....	Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Peters
Ginny Peterson .....	Bob Peterson
Ginny Peterson .....	Parents
Dee & Les Reifke	
Mabel Schibonski .....	Elmer Schibonski
Deb & Randy Stein .....	Family
Steven & Susanne Stoeger-Moore .....	Family
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts .....	Leroy Vogts
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts .....	Grandparents
Tony & Margaret Waybright .....	Family
Ron & Jeannette Yockey (2) .....	Eric Yockey





## Hymnal Donation Drive

Due to the installation of the final four pews in our new Sanctuary, the Voters Assembly last Sunday approved a recommendation from the Board of Elders for a drive for donation of additional hymnals. We would need 32 additional hymnals to fill out each pew. The cost is \$24 each.

A pledge form has been placed in each member mailbox and a pledge box and additional pledge forms are on the table in the Gathering Room. For more information speak to an Elder or Pastor Vogts.



## Guest Preachers May 16 and 30

Rev. Robert Rahn, founder of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, had a trip scheduled through our area but had a late cancellation. The Voters Assembly on April 25 approved him giving a mission presentation during the Sunday School hour after worship on May 16. He will also preach for a mission emphasis service that morning.

LHF, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, provides materials such as catechisms, hymnals,

## Holy Cross Vacation Bible School



## Bee-Lievers in Christ

Tuesday thru Friday, June 1st to 4th, 9:00-11:30am

For Children Age Three Thru Those Just Completing 4th Grade

Bible Lessons ☺ Crafts ☺ Songs ☺ Refreshments

No Charges or Fees – Non-Members Welcome!

Pre-Registration Appreciated

For more information contact Christian Education Office at 235-1688

## VBS Pre-Registration

Registration Box in Gathering Room

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

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

Children's Names	Age	School Grade Just Completing
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

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

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

children's Bible story books, and seminary textbooks in dozens of different languages to emerging Lutheran churches around the world. More information about their remarkable work can be found on their web site at [www.lhfmissions.org](http://www.lhfmissions.org). A freewill offering will be taken following the service to support the work of LHF. Please plan to

stay after worship to learn about this important, interesting, and exciting Lutheran mission work!

The weekend of May 30, the Vogts family will be attending the wedding of a niece of Terry Vogts in St. Louis. Our guest preacher for May 30 will be Rev. Henry Witte, LCMS missionary to Hispanics in the Sioux City area.



# SATURDAY Worship

## Saturday Summer Service Begins June 5

At the Quarterly Business Meeting in January the Voters Assembly voted to hold a Saturday Summer Service this year, during the months of June, July, and August, with the first service on June 5.

The Saturday service will be at 5:30pm and will be a shortened version of the service for the following Sunday, with the same sermon. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service each week.



## Bee-Lievers in Christ

Vacation Bible School at Holy Cross will be Tuesday thru Friday, June 1-4, from 9:00am-11:30am. This year's fun theme is "Bee-Lievers in Christ."

## Ascension Day Service and Sloppy Joe Supper

Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13

Free Sloppy Joe Supper — 6:00-7:15pm  
(Provided by Board of Elders)

"Come As You Are" Worship Service  
with Holy Communion — 7:30pm



Classes are for children 3 years of age thru those that just completed 4th Grade. The fun and learning includes Bible lessons, crafts, songs and refreshments. There are no charges or fees and non-members are welcome!

Pre-registration is appreciated. You can put the form on this page in the box in the Gathering Room.

We also need "worker bees" to volunteer their time! Areas of interest include snacks, games, crafts, music, group leaders and assistants. Sign up sheets and registration sheets available on gathering room table.

For questions about VBS contact Board of Education Chair Angela Dial.



Join in Sunday mornings at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall for our current study in Adult Bible Class, *Bible 101: An Introduction to Understanding the Bible*.

Learn the history and structure of the Bible, principles of Bible interpretation, and how to apply the Bible to your life.



The flower calendar for 2010 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 cabinet in the Vestry (small room east of Altar). They may be delivered during Office Hours, Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00am-11:00am, and placed in the flower cooler in the Sacristy (small room west of the Altar) . Or, you can simply bring them early on Sunday morning.

April 4

Denise & Patrick Honner  
Emma's 1st Birthday

April 11

Scott & Shannon Feese  
Chance's Birthday

April 18

Vogts Family  
Kevin's Birthday

April 25

Janet & Carroll Gustman  
In Memory of Janet's Mother  
Myrtha Lofgren

May 2  
Denise & Patrick Honner  
Eli's Birthday

May 16  
Steven & Susanne Stoeger-Moore

June 13  
Doug & Sue Jansen  
Birthdays

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# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for May  
Earl Biggers & Ron Yockey

Chancel Care for May  
Jeri Melstad & Dee Reifke

Acolytes for May  
May 2 ..... Gracie Nelson  
May 9 ..... Claire Johnson  
May 16 ..... Bryce Schroeder  
May 23 ..... Korey Ehlers  
May 30 ..... Kaleb Martin

Crucifers for May  
May 2 ..... Megan Winborn  
May 9 ..... Tiara Selby  
May 16 ..... Emily Steemken  
May 23 ..... Ashley Bargstadt  
May 30 ..... Jace Waybright

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# Birthdays & Anniversaries

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](mailto:holycross@longlines.com).

Robert Brock, May 3  
Eli Honner, May 8  
Mike Steemken, May 8



## 2010 Easter Egg Hunt



A record group of 130 children plus about double that many adults enjoyed our annual Easter Egg Hunt on our church grounds on April 3. The children also received prizes and about 75 stayed for an Easter movie following. Thanks to all those who helped with this event, especially the youth and others who stuffed eggs and Terry Vogts.

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Ryan Waybright, May 15  
Glenda Schincke, May 17  
Ginny Peterson, May 19  
Bobby DeRocher, May 26  
Betty Gunderson, May 26  
Travis Yockey, May 27  
Jace Waybright, May 29  
Sue Jansen, May 30  
Tyler Fletcher, May 31

Tim & Denise Fletcher, May 1, 1982  
Randy & Deb Stein, May 1, 1978  
Scott & Shannon Feese, May 8, 2003  
Ron & Jeanette Yockey, May 17, 1980  
Mike & Tammy Steemken, May 22, 1987  
Paul & Julie Eickhoff, May 29, 1999



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

missionaries around the world who are supported in this way by our congregation.

May 2

*Rev. Ed and Cherie Auger  
Honduras*

May 9

*Robin McCoy  
Thailand*

May 16

*Lutheran Heritage Foundation*

May 23

*Rev. Jacob and Michelle Gillard  
Uganda*

May 30

*Ashley Effken  
Czech Republic*

# Saturday Summer Service



*Saturdays at 5:30pm in June, July, and August  
Beginning June 5*

*Abbreviated Version of Service for Following Sunday  
with Same Sermon*

*Holy Communion Each Saturday*



## Sunday School Topics for May

Sunday School will conclude for the summer on May 23, and resume after Labor Day. Our thanks to our faithful teachers and Board of Education members who this year have helped "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD!" (Psalm 78:4)

May 2—The key point of today's Sunday School lesson comes from the Bible story about the choosing of the seventy-two to go and tell others about Jesus. God chose the seventy-two to serve Him in a special task (Luke 10:1-24). God places us in various callings, giving us opportunities to serve Him and share our faith with others.

*As a family, talk about the various callings (vocations) each of you have*

*and discuss the opportunities God gives you in these roles to share your faith. Who in your life needs to hear about the Savior?*

May 9—Today's Sunday School lesson is about the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-13). The children will learn that our heavenly Father invites us to pray and promises to hear our prayer for the sake of His Son, Jesus.

*What things have you prayed for? How has God answered your prayers? Review what the catechism has to say about the Lord's Prayer.*

May 16—Today's Sunday School lesson teaches the children that Jesus, our risen Savior, ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us there with Him (Acts 1:1-11).

*As a family, talk about heaven and what it will be like. Look up passages in God's Word that speak of heaven, especially look at Revelation 22. Ask the children to tell you about Jesus' ascension and what it means for them.*

May 23—Today's Sunday School lesson teaches the children that at Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church (Acts 2:1-21). Now, through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

*Ask the children to tell you about what happened at Pentecost. Ask them when they received the Holy Spirit (in Baptism). Review the Third Article of the catechism in your family discussions.*



Isn't it nice to have snack time after worship? We need volunteers to help! In the Gathering Room there is a new sign-up sheet to bring snacks for fellowship time after worship in 2010. Why not sign up for a birthday or other special event?

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

### Snacks for May

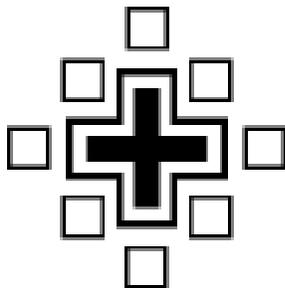
May 2 ..... Women in Mission  
May 16 ..... Stoeger-Moore  
May 9, 23, 30 ..... Need Volunteers



# Confirmation

We rejoice on May 2 to celebrate the Confirmation and First Communion of Myron Bose, following several years of Confirmation instruction. Our thanks to Women in Mission for hosting a reception for Myron after the service.

Midweek Confirmation Classes have concluded for this school year and will resume after Labor Day. Our thanks to Terry Vogts for assisting Pastor Vogts with Confirmation instruction.



## May Commemorations

You may have noticed on our church calendar that in addition to members' birthdays and anniversaries there are also listed historic commemorations of some of our forbearers in the faith.

The Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church states:

*"We gladly keep the old traditions set up in the church . . . among them being certain holy days, festivals, and the like."* (Article XV)

*"It is also taught among us that saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened when we see what grace they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling."* (Article XXI)

A list of such occasions commonly observed in the Lutheran Church is included on pages xi-xiii in the front of *Lutheran Service Book*. The following brief descriptions of the significance of these commemorations this month are from the new *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. This excellent publication is available from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040, www.cph.org, stock #12-4318.

### St. Philip and St. James, Apostles (May 1)

St. Philip is mentioned in the lists of the apostles (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13), but only in John's Gospel is more told about him. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee and one of the first disciples called after Peter and Andrew. Philip also was instrumental in bringing Nathanael to Jesus (John 1:43-51).

It was to Philip that Jesus posed the question about where to buy bread to feed five thousand men (John 6:5). During Holy Week, Philip with Andrew brought some inquiring Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-22). And on Maundy Thursday evening, Philip asked Jesus to show the Father to him and to the rest of the disciples (John 14:8).

According to tradition, Philip went to labor in Phrygia and was buried there.



**The symbol for St. Philip (top) is a cross with two loaves of bread, because it was he that posed the question to Jesus about where to buy bread to feed the 5,000 (John 6:5). The symbol for St. James the Younger is a saw because tradition says he was martyred for the faith by being sawed in two.**

St. James was a son of Alphaeus and was also called "the Younger" (to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee, "the Elder," whose festival day is July 25). His mother, Mary, was one of the faithful women who stood at the cross of Jesus (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40).

James is mentioned in the same apostolic lists as Philip, but there is no other mention of him in the New Testament. There is also no information regarding his field of labor or the circumstances of his death, except that he may have been martyred by being sawed in two.

### The Visitation (May 31)

John the Baptizer and Jesus, the two great figures of salvation history, now come together in the visit to Elizabeth by the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:39-45), both of whom conceived their children under miraculous circumstances.

Thus John is brought into the presence of Jesus while they are still in their mothers' wombs. This presence of the Lord causes a response by the child John as he leaps in Elizabeth's womb. John's response to the presence of Jesus, the Messiah, foreshadows John's own role as forerunner.

Already now, a new creation is beginning, and a baby still in the womb hails the new creation's inception. Foreshadowed in John's leap are the miracles of Jesus, who will cause all creation to leap at His presence: "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them" (Luke 7:22).

The incarnate presence of the Messiah also evokes a response from Elizabeth, who proclaims Mary's blessedness. Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) provides the theological significance of this meeting as Mary sums up her place in salvation history. Mary's song is a hymn to God for His gracious gifts to the least in this world, whom He has lifted up out of lowliness solely because of His grace and mercy.





## **Ascension Day Service and Sloppy Joe Supper**

*Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13*

*Free Sloppy Joe Supper  
6:00-7:15pm*

*(Provided by Board of Elders)*

*"Come As You Are"  
Worship Service with  
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