



Sioux City Native Elected LCMS President

From July 8-16 I attended the triennial national convention of our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, held in Houston, Texas. I served as an advisory delegate, representing the LCMS Board for Communications Services as Vice-Chairman.

The highlight of the convention for me was the election of a friend of mine, Rev. Matthew Harrison, formerly Executive Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, as the new LCMS national President. He begins serving as President on September 1, and will be formally installed at a worship service in St. Louis on September 11.

Rev. Harrison, 48, is a native of Sioux City. He grew up at Redeemer Lutheran Church, and is an alumnus of East High School and Morningside College. His parents now live in the Leeds area and attend Calvary Lutheran Church. (See his reminiscences about growing up in Sioux City on page 2.)

Rev. Harrison also served as a missionary among natives in a remote area of Canada, and pastored churches in Iowa and Indiana. He is a noted scholar, and author, translator, and editor of numerous publications.

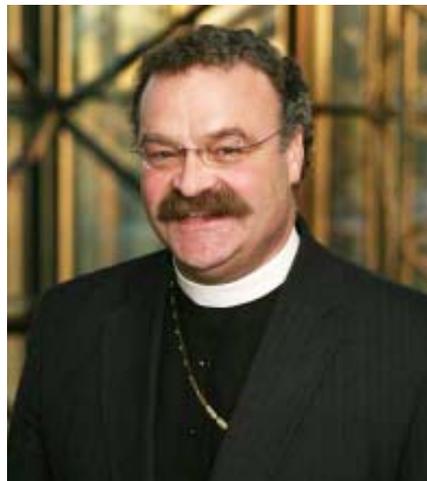
Rev. Harrison has pledged to emphasize missionary outreach around the world and strengthening the doctrinal basis of our Synod. The convention

also elected a unified “team” of Vice-Presidents and members of the Board of Directors and other various Synodical boards that will be supportive of these goals.

Other significant convention action included adoption of a number of restructuring proposals. However, out of the 40 proposed restructuring resolutions only 18 were adopted, and more radical changes to our structure that I and many others—including Rev. Harrison—opposed were not adopted.

The structural changes which were adopted include:

- Beginning in 2013 the President of Synod will be elected directly by lay and pastoral ballots from the more than 6,000 LCMS congregations. (Previously the President was nominated by the congregations but elected by the convention. This year Rev. Harrison was nominated by our congregaton.)



Rev. Matthew Harrison, a native of Sioux City and alumus of East High School and Morningside College, was elected the national President of our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, at the LCMS national convention in Houston last month.

- Also beginning in 2013 the Vice-Presidents of Synod will be nominated according to five geographic regions, East, South, Great Lakes, Great Plains, and West.
- The members of certain other boards will also be nominated according to these geographic regions.
- A number of existing boards and commissions were consolidated into two boards, a Board for National Missions and a Board for International Missions. (This is a structure common among Protestants, with them often referred to as the boards for “home missions” and “foreign missions.”)

The good news coming from this convention is the sharp contrast between the direction of the LCMS and many other denominations. Last summer the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—ELCA, a totally different denomination, distinct from the LCMS—approved many extremely radical proposals, such as “gay marriage” in their churches and openly homosexual clergy. The Episcopal Church has taken the same steps, and recently even elected an openly homosexual bishop. Likewise, the same week as our LCMS convention the national convention of the Presbyterian Church in the USA approved openly homosexual clergy.

This particular “hot button” issue is only symptomatic of these denominations’ departure from Scripture and historic Christian doctrine. As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, we give thanks to God that the LCMS in contrast to these other denominations is 500 years behind the times—still clinging to the Word of God and the historic doctrine of the Christian Church. As an old rhyme puts it:

*God’s Word and Luther’s Doctrine Pure
Shall to Eternity Endure!*

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Reminiscences of Growing Up in Sioux City from the New LCMS President

Rev. Matthew Harrison, a native of Sioux City and newly elected President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, recently reminisced on his blog about growing up in Sioux City.

It was marvelous to be back in Iowa recently. I landed in Omaha and drove the familiar 90 miles to Sioux City, north on I-29. The Interstate parallels the Missouri River, which runs between two bluffs, one on the Iowa side, the other on the Nebraska side. It's some of the most fertile farmland in the world, thousands of years of deposits from the river snaking this way and now that between the bluffs. The corn looks good, not as good as last year though, and hopefully the standing water from recent storms won't last long enough to do irretrievable damage.

The towns pass one by one to the north, and the order is forever etched in my mind: Missouri Valley, Mondamin, Little Sioux, Blencoe, Onawa, Sloan, Salix (my French Canadian relatives settled here), Whiting, Sergeant Bluff,

Sioux City. On the west just south of Sioux City is the rest stop behind which we used to shoot clay pigeons—challenged our fathers to a contest and beat 'em badly after a summer of practice.

Dad worked for a steel warehouse and fabricating company. I welded my way through a few summers there, and learned well what it is to work in a manufacturing plant. It was priceless experience for all of life, especially for pastoring working people.



Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President-Elect, addresses the LCMS convention shortly after his election. Harrison concluded his brief remarks by saying, "This is the greatest privilege and honor of one's life to stand before this body in this fashion. I could never imagine it. And I pray. . . that the Gospel of Christ may go forth from all of us, in every single place, everywhere around the world, that many may know, many, many more may know, the Gospel of Jesus for eternal life."

The plant where I had my first hourly job (aside from walking beans, i.e. pulling/ cutting weeds out of soybeans; and also de-tasseling seed corn) is just a few miles outside Sioux City. Trucks would come daily from the packing

plants in Worthington and Sioux City, filled with large plastic lined baskets (four ft. square) filled with hog lungs (yes, lungs), ready to be ground, boxed and frozen, then loaded on trucks bound for dog food factories. Another great lesson in work, humility, and life!

At Sioux City the bluffs jut out right to the edge of the Missouri. A tall obelisk marks the spot where Sgt. Charles Floyd's remains are buried, the only member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to lose his life on the journey. I used to ride my bicycle to that very spot as a child, and survey the world to the north (South Dakota) and west (Nebraska). It was just north of this, point that they began encountering more and more hostile Sioux tribes. The Ponca and Yankton were downright unfriendly. Knowing what was coming, and being in their shoes, I would have been too. Hard to believe that all along the river from Omaha to Sioux City were buffalo, elk, deer, and even grizzly bear! It must have teemed like the Serengeti with animal life.

I was baptized at Bethel Lutheran Church in Lawton, ten miles east of Sioux City on Highway 20. The Harrison farm, long since a century farm, is a few miles distant. Grandma (Wulf) Harrison grabbed a lapsed Methodist by the heart and made a Lutheran of him. She'd been a member at the LCMS church in Hinton. Her parents (Karl and Wilhelmina) had come from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany the year before she was born in 1901. Soon after my grandparents were married, in the 20's, grand-dad became a founding member of Bethel. The old church is gone now, replaced by a splendid modern sanctuary twenty-five years ago. I'll never forget that old wooden church, especially the long staircase and how it creaked as folks climbed to the sanctuary for church. The farmers would grab their mail from the church boxes, and gather out front on the sidewalk to talk. We'd run off and eventually meet up at Aunt Loraine's for coffee, then be at Grandma's for lunch, leftovers for supper. The day would end with the guys playing cribbage. I never played, I just listened while playing with "pick up sticks," "tiddly-winks" or toy tractors on the old farmhouse kitchen floor covered with old-style linoleum.

Crossnotes

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But, far and away my most vivid early memory is of my grandmother carrying corncobs in her apron and pouring them into a bin next to the old “cook stove.” How she baked such marvelous pies and cakes on that old cob stove was a mystery to all who came after her.

I must have been eight or ten when we transferred our membership to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sioux City, a church quite a bit closer to the tiny house where we lived on the east side. I remember the very first time I had an inkling that I might like to be a pastor. I must have been a 7th or 8th grader and decided I'd help out with VBS. The young associate pastor (who would become my brother-in-law in five or six years) showed some kindness to me. He invited me into his office daily for a snack. I thought he had a pretty cool job. I was reminded of this recently when I saw a video encouraging pastors to “have a glass of milk” with a young prospect for the seminary! In my case it was Kool-Aide and cookies.

A few years later our congregation called a “vicar.” He was then studying at the Ft. Wayne Seminary, and was originally from Schleswig, Iowa. He played a guitar and sang, and one day he asked if I'd like to come to the youth group meetings. I told him I played the banjo and he asked me to bring it. Out of this unfolded several years of activity in youth endeavors, including especially Camp Okoboji in the “Iowa Great Lakes.” I was coming to a more vivid realization of the truth of Christ. My pastor at Redeemer, Rev. Paul Mueller was a big part of that. He always received my questions with kindness and answered them with clarity.

One Sunday a friend's child was baptized. I believe Kathy and I had just been married (1981). That Sunday an older friend returned to Redeemer for the occasion. He was studying at the Ft. Wayne seminary. He had brought something as a gift for me. It was a the Book of Concord. I'll never forget his words. “Matt, I know right now you have no idea what this is. I didn't either. Aside from the Bible, this is the most amazing book you're ever going to read.” It was

August–September Sermon Series



Blessed Are

Revelation's Seven Beautiful Beatitudes

The word “beatitude” means a blessing that is pronounced, and the state of blessedness which results. When we hear the word “beatitude” we think first of the famous beatitudes which Jesus proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-11). However, there is another set of beatitudes in the Bible, “Revelation's Seven Beautiful Beatitudes,” which we will meditate on for our sermons during August and September.

August 1 — Revelation's First Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 1:3 — “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

August 8 — Revelation's Second Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 14:13 — “Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.’”

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August 22 — Revelation's Fourth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 19:9 — “Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’”

August 29 — Revelation's Fifth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 20:6 — “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them.”

September 12 — Revelation's Sixth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 22:7 — “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

September 19 — Revelation's Seventh Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 22:14 — “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

a hook. Soon Kathy and I went to Ft. Wayne for a visit. That must have been 1983, during a terrible blizzard. I recall sitting in on a class by a youthful looking professor by the name of Wenthe (now the seminary president) studying the Old Testament. I was hooked.

After a year as missionaries among the natives in a remote area of Ontario, Kathy and I headed to Ft. Wayne in the fall of 1985. The adventure has never ceased. In many ways I miss western Iowa more than ever, but the trek out of Iowa has been the most gratifying, challenging, and blessed journey.

*Rev. Matthew Harrison
President-Elect
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



As of July 18, 2010

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$110,983
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$104,606
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$6,377)



Next month's newsletter will include pictures and information about the latest group of new members welcomed to Holy Cross at the New Member Sunday on July 25, which could not be included in this issue due to the printing schedule.

We welcome our new members to the Holy Cross family of faith!



**SATURDAY
Worship**

**Saturday Summer
Service**

This year we are holding a Saturday Summer Service on Saturdays at 5:30pm during the months of June, July, and August. The Saturday service is a shortened version of the service for the following Sunday, with the same sermon, and Holy Communion is celebrated at this service each week.



**Sunday School
Teachers Needed—
Classes Begin
September 12**

Additional Sunday School teachers are needed for the 2010-2011 school year, with classes beginning September 12, the Sunday after Labor Day.

Classes range from preschool through high school. We would like two teachers per class. If you are interested in sharing your time and talent in this way, please contact Sunday School Superintendent, Pat Winborn at 605-761-0245, pwinborn@iw.net.

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



During August we will conclude our current Adult Bible Class on *Bible 101: An Introduction to Understanding the Bible*. Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall to learn the history and structure of the Bible, principles of Bible interpretation, and how to apply the Bible to your life.



**New Bible Class
Begins September 12**

What is the meaning of love? What are the four kinds of love found in the Bible? How does God want you to show love toward Him and toward others?

On September 12 we will begin a new study in Adult Bible Class, *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*.

John is often called the "Apostle of Love" because the word "love" occurs in his writings over 100 times, more than any other books of the Bible. Though his Epistles of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John are some of the shortest books in the Bible, the word "love" occurs in them more than 50 times!

Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall beginning September 12 as we learn about love from the Author of love with our study of *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*.



MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

Located just a half-hour from Holy Cross is the biggest mission support organization in the LCMS, and one of the biggest of any denomination in the United States.

LCMS Mission Central, located on an old farm outside Mapleton, Iowa, brings missionaries from around the world to speak about their work in an old barn turned into a charming country chapel. This unique organization raises millions for missions each year—with no overhead, 100% going directly to support missionaries.

All of our Missionaries of the Month will be speaking this month or next month at Mission Central. You are invited and encouraged to visit Mission Central on the dates and times listed beneath their country of service, and hear their wonderful stories of how, "All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing" (Colossians 1:6).

For more information and directions to Mission Central speak to Pastor Vogts or visit www.missioncentral.us.

August 1

Enoch Peterson

Turkey

August 14, 1:00 pm & 7:00pm

August 8

Rev. David & Rachel Baker

Kazakhstan

August 14, 1:00 pm & 7:00pm

August 15

Lynette Lierman

Hong Kong

August 21, 1:00 pm

August 22

Sara Cusson

Hungary

August 27, 2:00pm

Saturday Summer Service



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

*Abbreviated Version of Service for Following Sunday
with Same Sermon — Holy Communion Each Saturday*

August 29

Rev. Carl & Grace Kaye

Thailand

September 10, 1:00 pm & 7:00pm

August 8

Les & Dee Reifke

Anniversary

August 22

Betty & Gary Gunderson

Anniversary

September 12

Doug & Sue Jansen

Anniversary

September 19

Doug & Janet Martin

Kylie & Kendall's Birthdays



Altar Flowers

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.

July 4

Allen and Heather Mehlhaff and Girls

Harold and Mary Mettenbrink's

Wedding Anniversary

July 11

Ryan & Angela Dial

Nichole's Birthday



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.

Harold Mettenbrink, August 5

Terry Vogts, August 14

Scott Feese, August 15

Joe Van Ackeren, August 15

Rashell DeRocher, August 17

Joey Schroeder, August 18

Bob Barnum, August 20

Gary Amunson, August 21
 Marleen Kuhn, August 23
 Daniell Bargstadt, August 24
 Anna Vogts, August 24
 Evan Steemken, August 28

Les & Dee Reifke
 August 9, 1969

Mike & Daniell Bargstadt
 August 10, 1996

Gary & Betty Gunderson
 August 25, 1956

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for August
 Carroll Gustman and Ron Yockey

Ushers for August
 Doug Jansen and Les Reifke

Chancel Care for August
 Dee Reifke

Acolytes & Crucifies for August
 August 1 Kathleen Soukup
 August 8 Stephanie Stoeger-Moore
 August 15 Bryce Schroeder
 August 22 Emily Steemken
 August 29 Kaleb Martin



Snack Hosts Needed for All of August

No one has signed up yet to serve snacks for any Sunday in August. Please help with this fellowship activity by signing up on the table in the Gathering Room.

Snacks are either provided by Women In Mission, or you are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish. Just indicate your choice on the sign-up sheet.

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!



Hog Roast Date Set

Holy Cross Women In Mission will once again host the fourth annual Hog Roast/Bake Sale. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 3, from 4:00pm-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Proceeds will be used towards one or more of the following unfinished interior church projects: Secretary's Office – Cupboards & Countertops; Hearth Room – Furnishings; Gathering Room – Cabinets. The 20% Mission Monies from the proceeds will go to Ft. Wayne Seminary Washer/Dryer Fund to purchase new washers and dryers for campus housing.

Our sincere thanks to Jon and Gail Dorr for donating the hog; to Rev. Donald Meyer of Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, Iowa for roasting it for us; to Ron and Jeannette Yockey for donating the beef brisket; and to Betty Gunderson and Deb Stein for coordinating this event.

Tickets are now available for sale. Once again, we are asking for your help with pre-sale of tickets. Ladies, if you have not received your information letter, please call Jackie Baker (422-3132), or Dee Reifke (422-0109). The cost is \$8.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child.

Tickets will also be available for purchase in the Atrium after church services beginning in September, and in the Church Office during normal office hours (9:00am-11:00am), Tuesday thru Friday.

Treat your family and friends to a fabulous feast! The menu consists of pulled pork or beef brisket; coleslaw, beans, dessert and beverage.



Calling All Bakers!

The Bake Sale was such a nice success last year that we just knew we had to keep it as part of the Hog Roast events. Volunteers are needed to make the three different desserts that are planned. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room with the chosen recipes that we will be using. Additional volunteers are needed to donate homemade baked goods and canned goods for our Bake Sale table. Let your culinary talents shine! A separate sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Room, as well. Questions may be directed to Angela Dial or Deb Stein (605-422-2401).



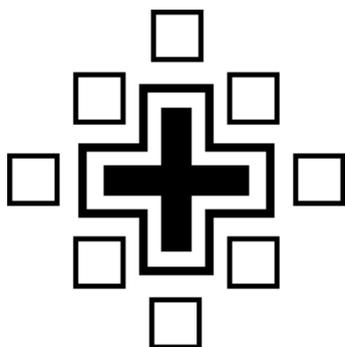
You are invited to help sing praises to the Lord in the Holy Cross Choir! Choir practice this year will again be for a half-hour on Sunday mornings, from 11:30am-12:00pm, beginning September 19. On Sundays when we perform we warm-up before worship at 8:45am and do not have rehearsal.

Music has been purchased and we have some really beautiful selections this year! We plan to sing for worship about a ten times, and the dates can be adjusted depending on choir members' schedules. Once again we will distribute CD's with recordings of the selections

for the choir members to become familiar with them.

We hope to have our former choir members back and need new members too! All are invited to participate. It is a real joy to sing in the choir loft of our new sanctuary, with its excellent acoustics.

For more information about the choir contact Pastor Vogts.



August 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 festivals 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 the commemorations in August are from the new *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. This

Holy Cross Preschool

- Celebrating 15 years providing quality Christian education in Dakota Dunes
- Excellent facility
- Christian atmosphere
- Mom's Day Out program for 2 year-olds
- Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes for Ages 3-5



After School Care

After School Until 6:00pm
Kindergarten thru 6th Grade

Quiet Time for Reading or Homework

Snack with Juice • Crafts

Games • Free-Play • Outdoor Activities

Bus Service to Holy Cross from Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart



Limited Openings — Call Now to Register! (235-1688)

excellent publication is available from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040, www.cph.org, stock #12-4318.

St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord (August 15)

St. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is mentioned repeatedly in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, with nearly a dozen specific incidents in her life being recorded: her betrothal to Joseph; the annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the Messiah; her visitation to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptizer; the nativity of our Lord; the visits of the shepherds and the Wise Men; the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple; the flight into Egypt; the Passover visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve; the wedding at Cana

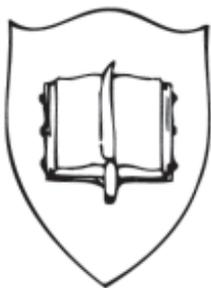
in Galilee; her presence at the crucifixion, when her Son commended her to the care of His disciple John; and her gathering with the apostles in the Upper Room after the ascension, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. Thus she is present at most of the important events in her Son's life. She is especially remembered and honored for her unconditional obedience to the will of God ("Let it be to me according to Your word" [Luke 1:38]); for her loyalty to her Son even when she did not understand Him ("Do whatever He tells you" [John 2:1-11]); and above all for the highest honor that heaven bestowed on her of being the mother of our Lord ("Blessed are you among women" [Luke 1:42]). According to tradition, Mary went with the Apostle John to Ephesus, where she died.

Johann Gerhard, Theologian (August 17)

Johann Gerhard (1582-1637) was a great Lutheran theologian in the tradition of Martin Luther (1483-1546) and Martin Chemnitz (1522-86) and the most influential of the seventeenth-century dogmatists. His monumental *Loci Theologici* (23 large volumes) is still considered by many to be a definitive statement of Lutheran orthodoxy. Gerhard was born in Quedlinburg, Germany. At the age of fifteen he was stricken with a life-threatening illness. This experience, along with guidance from his pastor, Johann Arndt, marked a turning point in his life. He devoted the rest of his life to theology. He became a professor at the University of Jena and served many years as the superintendent of Heldburg. Gerhard was a man of deep evangelical piety and love for Jesus. He wrote numerous books on exegesis, theology, devotional literature, history, and polemics. His sermons continue to be widely published and read.

St. Bartholomew, Apostle (August 24)

St. Bartholomew (or Nathanael, as he is called in St. John's Gospel) was one of the first of Jesus' twelve disciples. His home was in the town of Cana, in Galilee (John 21:2), where Jesus performed His first miracle. He was invited to become one of the Twelve by Philip, who told him that they had found the Messiah in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. (John 1:45). Bartholomew's initial hesitation to believe, because of Jesus' Nazareth background, was quickly replaced by a clear, unequivocal declaration of faith, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49). He was present with



The symbol for St. Bartholomew is a knife over a Bible because of his missionary preaching and tradition says he was martyred by being flayed alive.

the other disciples (John 21:1-13) when they were privileged to see and converse and eat with their risen Lord and Savior. According to some Early Church Fathers, Bartholomew brought the Gospel to Armenia, where he was martyred by being flayed alive.

Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Theologian (August 28)

Augustine was one of the greatest of the Latin Church Fathers and a significant influence in the formation of Western Christianity, including Lutheranism. Born in AD 354 in North Africa, Augustine's early life was distinguished by exceptional advancement as a teacher of rhetoric. In his book *Confessions* he describes his life before his conversion to Christianity, when he was drawn into the moral laxity of the day and fathered an illegitimate son. Through the devotion of his sainted mother, Monica, and the preaching of Ambrose, bishop of Milan (AD 339-97), Augustine was converted to the Christian faith. During the great Pelagian controversies of the fifth century, Augustine emphasized the unilateral grace of God in the salvation of mankind. Bishop and theologian at Hippo in North Africa from AD 395 until his death in AD 430, Augustine was a man of great intelligence, a fierce defender of the orthodox faith, and a prolific writer. In addition to *Confessions*, Augustine's book *City of God* had a great impact upon the Church throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (August 29)

In contrast to the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (observed on June 24), this festival commemorates his beheading by the tetrarch Herod Antipas (Mark 6:14-29). From the perspective of the world, it was an ignominious end to John the Baptist's life. Yet it was in fact a noble participation in the cross of Christ, which was John's greatest glory of all. Christ Himself said that there had arisen none greater than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11). He was the last of the Old Testament prophets and also the herald of the New Testament. As the forerunner



One symbol for St. John the Baptist is the baptismal shell with three drops of water to signify the three Persons of the Trinity.

of Christ, John fulfilled the prophecy that the great prophet Elijah would return before the great and terrible Day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-13). By his preaching and Baptism of repentance, John turned "the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). And in the footsteps of the prophets who had gone before him—in anticipation of the Christ whose way he prepared—this servant of the Lord manifested the cross by the witness of his death.



Lutheran Radio & Web Resources

Get a conservative Lutheran perspective on the issues of the day from the Lutheran radio program *Issues, Etc.* Host and LCMS pastor Rev. Todd Wilken interviews expert guests—many from outside the LCMS—on a wide variety of topics. Listen live daily from 3:05pm-5:00pm Central Time at www.issuesetc.org, or download past programs under "On Demand Archives."

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast Sundays at 8:30am on KSCJ (1360 AM) and at 9:30am on WNAX (570 AM) and also at 1:00pm on KDCR (88.5 FM). *The Good Shepherd Hour* is a local program sponsored by LCMS churches in the Sioux City area and is broadcast every Sunday on KSCJ (1360 AM) at 8:00am. The speaker is Rev. Steve Benson, LCMS institutional chaplain for Sioux City.



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Revelation's Seven Beautiful Beatitudes

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Revelation 19:9 — “Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’”

August 29 — Revelation’s Fifth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 20:6 — “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them.”

September 12 — Revelation’s Sixth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 22:7 — “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

September 19 — Revelation’s Seventh Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 22:14 — “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

