



*New Year
 Message
 from the
 Pastor*



"All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to pass" (Psalm 139:16).

This year is an especially significant New Year. It seems only yesterday that we entered the 2000's. But, this year we are not only celebrating the changing of the year, but also the changing of the decade, as we close out the first decade and enter the second decade of the 21st century.

The newspapers and television are full of reviews of the past and predictions of the future. But, what about you, personally? What has the past year brought? What does the future promise?

The folk song says, "He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got you and me brother in His hands." As we enter the "teens" of the 21st century, He indeed has got your life in His hands. As Psalm 31:15 says, *"My times are in Your hands."*

Romans 8:28 assures us, *"And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him."* As you look back over 2010, and the first decade of the 21st century, and your entire life, it is easy to see the good in many blessed events: love, laughter, joy, happiness. But, it is much harder to

see the good at other times: illness, suffering, strife, struggle, pain, death.

If you have ever seen a cloth woven in a loom, you know that the front side presents a beautiful pattern, but the back side is a jumbled, knotted mess, with no discernable pattern at all. There is a poem which compares our lives to such a weaving:

***My Life Is But
 a Weaving***

*My life is but a weaving
 between my Lord and me;
 I cannot choose the colors,
 He worketh steadily.*

*Oft times He weaveth sorrow,
 And I, in foolish pride,
 Forget He sees the upper,
 And I the under side.*

*Not 'til the loom is silent
 and the shuttles cease to fly,
 Shall God unroll the canvas
 and explain the reason why.*

*The dark threads are as needful
 in the Weaver's skillful hand,
 As the threads of gold and silver
 in the pattern He has planned.*

*He knows, He loves, He cares,
 nothing this truth can dim.
 He gives His very best to those
 who leave the choice with Him.*

As that poem says so beautifully, in this earthly life we look up toward heaven and see only the back side, the jumbled, knotted mess of our lives, with no discernable pattern that often doesn't make sense. But, God looking down from heaven sees the front side of the weaving of our days, the true pattern of our lives. And God is working all things together for our good, according to His pattern and plan.

In God's wisdom, the weaving of our days indeed has many bright and happy colors: the joyous times of life. But, according to God's plan, the pattern of our lives also has contrasting, darker colors: the times of sadness, suffering, sorrow.

Paul assures us in Romans 8:35-39 that through it all God is with you always: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

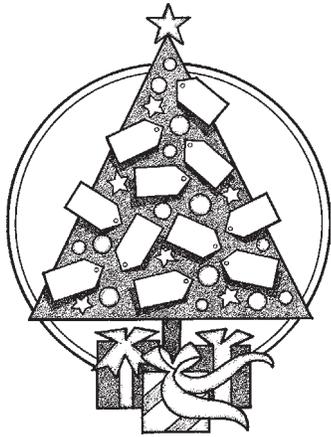
Whatever the New Year brings, whatever the coming decade and the rest of the 21st century and the rest of your life holds, your times are in His hands.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



As of December 19, 2010

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$199,302
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$191,583
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$7,719)



Holy Cross Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously again this year to our Holy Cross Angel Tree for the Sioux City Gospel Mission. The several hundred items donated included Bibles, toys, DVD's, pajamas, shirts, jeans, underwear, socks and other items of clothing, as well as a huge quantity of toiletry items.

Thank you for helping provide a "Merry Christmas" for the homeless children, women, and men the Gospel Mission serves! "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:10).

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

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January, 2011

Volume 9

Number 1



The new offering envelopes for 2011 are in your member mail box. Please pick up your new envelopes and begin using them in January, 2011. Please discard any old envelopes you may have at the end of December to avoid duplication of numbers. If you did not receive envelopes but would like a set or have any questions, please ask Dee Reifke or Jeri Melstad.



& 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.

- Greg Huibregtse, January 4
- Megan Winborn, January 4
- Terri Hageman January 10
- Denise Honner, January 10
- Denny Kuhn, January 11
- Tami Michels, January 16
- Vickie Britson, January 18
- Janet Martin, January 20
- Darrel Baker, January 22
- Erin Fletcher, January 24
- Thelma Reed, January 28
- Caitlyn Bargstadt, January 30

Andy & Pat Winborn
January 7, 1995

Bob & Gloria Barnum
January 20, 1962

Joe & Elaine Van Ackeren
January 25, 1969

Midweek School Break Extended

Due to a schedule conflict for Pastor and Terry Vogts we have extended the Christmas break for Midweek School an additional week. There will not be Midweek School on December 22, December 29, or January 5. We will resume classes on January 12.



Elders for January

Les Britson & Earl Biggers

Ushers for January

Darrel Baker & Mark Krause

Acolytes for January

- January 2 Nichole Dial
- January 9 Kathleen Soukup
- January 16 Bryce Schroeder
- January 23 Gracie Nelson
- January 30 Bear Jensen

Crucifers for January

- January 2 Tiara Selby
- January 9 Nathan Soukup
- January 16 Kaleb Martin
- January 23 Claire Johnson
- January 30 .. Stephanie Stoeger-Moore



Thank you to everyone for your wonderful cards and many generous gifts during the holiday season.

Rev. Kevin & Terry Vogts



Youth Bowling and Pizza January 9

The Youth Bowling Party originally scheduled for December 12 was postponed due to bad weather. All youth in 5th-12th Grades are invited join the fun on the new date, Sunday, January 9, from 4:00pm-6:30pm. Meet at the Lewis Bowl North on Hamilton next to ShopKo. Proceeds from our successful Soup Supper will be used to pay for kids' bowling fees and pizza!



Potluck Dinner & Business Meeting January 30

Everyone is invited to a congregational potluck dinner on Sunday, January 30 at 11:45am. Please bring a main dish and either a side dish or dessert. Drinks will be provided.

After the potluck dinner the first quarterly congregational business meeting of the New Year will be held at 12:30pm. This meeting will include election of new officers, elders, and board chairs for 2011. All adult members are automatically voting members of the congregation, and everyone is urged to come help administer the business side of our congregation.



2010 Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to all who donated 35 poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas, and to all who helped decorate. There were many comments from visitors on how exceptionally beautifully our church was decorated.

Given By

Darrel & Jacki Baker (3)

Earl & Dawn Biggers

Angela & Ryan Dial
Scott & Shannon Feese
Betty & Gary Gunderson (2)
Hageman Family (2)
Nyla Hamm (2)
Denise & Patrick Honner
Doug & Sue Jansen (2)

Larissa, Brent & Sailor Kommes
Dennis & Marleen Kuhn (2)
Doug & Janet Martin (2)
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink (2)
Todd Peters (2)

Ginny Peterson (2)
Les & Dee Reifke
Mabel Schibonski (2)

Steve & Suzanne Stoeger-Moore
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (3)

Jeannette & Ron Yockey (2)

In Memory or Honor Of

Darrel's Father Walter Baker
Our Grandparents

Our Fathers
Rollan Griffin & Earl Biggers Sr.
Family
Grandparents
Grandparents
Everette & Dolores Hageman
Mother Mildred Lang

Paul Jansen
Nancy Shortridge
Lenny Kommes
Family

Mr. & Mrs. Walter & Edith Peters
Rev. Carl and Dorcas Brueggemann

Bob Peterson
Family
Husband Elmer Schibonski
Sister Evelyn Sexton
Grandparents
Father Leroy Vogts
Grandparents
Eric Yockey





2011 Flower Calendar Available

The flower calendar for 2011 is now 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.

Thank you to all those giving so many lovely flower arrangements throughout 2010 to help beautify our Sanctuary as we worship the Lord!



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 2

Ginger Taff-Lagergren
Uganda

January 9

Rev. Mark and Sandi Eisold
Peru

January 16
Aurora Sandell
Cambodia

January 23
Rev. Mark and Rose Krause
Latvia

January 30
Rev. Carl and Chen-Hsi Hanson
Hong Kong



Guest Minister January 2

The Vogts family will be visiting relatives in Denver the last week of the year, returning on January 3. Our guest minister on Sunday, January 2 will be Rev. David Schoop, retired Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City.

In case of emergency during Pastor Vogts' absence you may contact him by calling either his home (605-232-4013), from which calls are forwarded to his cell phone, or his cell phone directly (712-898-4818), and he will arrange for care from another pastor. Also, he is notified on his cell phone by the voicemail system when messages are left on his extension at the church (605-232-9117).



The Epistles of Love

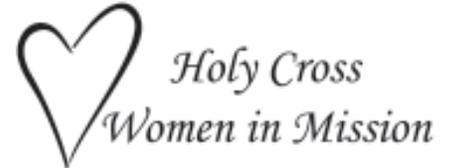
1st, 2nd & 3rd John

We will not have Adult Bible Class on January 2 due to the absence of Pastor Vogts and others for the holidays.

On January 9 we will resume our study in Adult Bible Class on *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*. We will be

looking that Sunday at the topic of the Antichrist. The word "antichrist" occurs in the Bible only in the 1st and 2nd Epistles of John.

Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Gathering Room for our study of *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*.



The first meeting of 2011 for our church's women's group *Holy Cross Women in Mission* will be Wednesday, January 12 at 9:30am in the Gathering Room. All women are invited to attend.



January will be a fun month for Holy Cross Preschool and maybe a little less busy. We had a great time celebrating the birth of Jesus during December. January will consist of snow and winter themes.

We would like the church members to be involved in the preschool. If you have any talents or interests that you would like to share with the kids, please let us know. We will be starting a Story Time and would like for church members to come in and read stories periodically. We would love for you to be involved. Please see Synda at the school or call her at 259-4419 if you are interested in getting involved.

Thank you for all that you do to support the Preschool. You are counted among our blessings! May God bless you!



January Commemorations

On our church calendar in addition to members' birthdays and anniversaries there are also listed historic commemorations of some forbearers in the faith. The following brief descriptions of the significance of these commemorations this month are from the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*.

The Circumcision of Our Lord (January 1)

Already on the eighth day of Jesus' life, His destiny of atonement is revealed in His name and in His circumcision. At that moment, His blood is first shed and Jesus receives the name given to Him by the angel: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

In the circumcision of Jesus, all people are circumcised once and for all, because He represents all humanity. In the Old Testament, for the believers who looked to God's promise to be fulfilled in the Messiah, the benefits of circumcision included the forgiveness of sins, justification, and incorporation into the people of God.

In the New Testament, St. Paul speaks of its counterpart, Holy Baptism, as a "circumcision made without hands" and as "the circumcision of Christ" (Colossians 2:11).

Confession of St. Peter (January 18)

The confession of St. Peter did not arise in the imagination of Peter's heart but was revealed to him by the Father. The reason this confession is important is seen in Jesus' response: "You are Peter [Greek *petros*], and on this rock [Greek *petra*] I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18).



The children of Holy Cross Sunday School did a wonderful job sharing the Christmas story at their Christmas Program on December 19, closing the program by acting out the Nativity scene while the congregation sang "Silent Night."

As the people of God in the Old Testament began with the person of Abraham, the rock from which God's people were hewn (Isaiah 51:1-2), so the people of God in the New Testament would begin with the person of Peter, whose confession is the rock on which Christ would build His Church.

But Peter was not alone (the "keys" given to him in Matthew 16:19 were given to all the disciples in Matthew 18:18 and John 20:21-23). As St. Paul tells us, Peter and the other apostles take their place with the prophets as the foundation of the Church, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

The confession of Peter, therefore, is the witness of the entire apostolic band and is foundational in the building of Christ's Church. Thus the Church gives thanks to God for St. Peter and the other apostles who have instructed Christ's Holy Church in His divine and saving truth.

St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor (January 24)

St. Timothy had Christian believers in his family. His mother, Eunice, was a Christian woman and was the daughter

of a Christian woman named Lois (2 Timothy 1:5). Acts records that St. Paul met Timothy on his second missionary journey and wanted Timothy to continue on with him (16:1-3).

Over time, Timothy became a dear friend and close associate of Paul to whom Paul entrusted mission work in Greece and Asia Minor. Timothy was also with Paul in Rome. According to tradition, after Paul's death, Timothy went to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and was martyred around AD 97.

Timothy is best remembered as a faithful companion of Paul, one who rendered great service among the Gentile churches.

The Conversion of St. Paul (January 25)

St. Paul's life-changing experience on the road to Damascus is related three times in the Book of Acts (9:1-9; 22:6-11; 26:12-18). As an archenemy of Christians, Saul of Tarsus set out for Damascus to arrest and bring believers to Jerusalem for trial. While on the way, he saw a blinding light and heard the words: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

In Damascus, where Saul was brought after being blinded, a disciple named Ananias was directed by the Lord in a vision to go to Saul to restore his sight: "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15). After receiving his sight, Saul was baptized and went on to become known as Paul, the great apostle.

***St, Titus, Pastor
and Confessor
(January 26)***

St. Titus, like Timothy with whom he is often associated, was a friend and co-worker of St. Paul. Titus was a Gentile, perhaps a native of Antioch, who accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem when they brought assistance to the Christians in Judea during a famine (Acts 11:29-30; Galatians 2:1).

It is not known if he accompanied Paul on his first or second missionary journeys, but Titus was with him on the third one, when he helped reconcile the Corinthians to Paul (2 Corinthians 7:6-7) and assisted with the collection for the Church in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:3-6).

It was probably on the return to Jerusalem that Paul left Titus in Crete (Titus 1:4-5). Afterward he is found working in Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10). According to tradition, Titus returned to Crete, where he served as bishop until he died about AD 96.



The new 2011 snack host sign-up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Room. Please help with this fellowship activity!

Snacks are either provided by Women In Mission, or you are welcome



The children of Holy Cross Preschool presented their Christmas program on December 12.

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!



***Imam's Son Ordained
Lutheran Pastor***

The ordinations of Alexander Gorohov, Kaiypbek Abduvaliev and Osmon Kachkynchiev on December 4 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, brought joyous celebration for the emerging Lutheran Church in Kyrgyzstan. It was a culmination of years of studying and preparing for the ministry.

In 2007 Osmon, with his friend Dushon, went to one of the eyeglass clinics that are regularly held as a ministry of the Lutheran Church throughout the country. While receiving their glasses, they began a conversation with an evangelist who accompanies the

workers of the clinic. The discussion had a profound effect upon both Osmon and Dushon. They were invited to attend some introductory Bible studies in their village. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, faith in Jesus Christ came to both Dushon and Osmon, as they were baptized and later confirmed in the Lutheran Church. Not only that, but the two of them felt God's calling to serve Him in the Pastoral Ministry.

What makes this story even more amazing is that Osmon's father is a Muslim imam in the village where Bishop Kenjebek Botobaev serves as pastor. When Osmon became a follower of Jesus, his father began to occasionally come to worship services to see for himself what had changed his son's life. Bishop Kenjebek and Osmon's father have had many long conversations about Islam and Christianity, Jesus and faith. Through this relationship, Osmon's father has gained a deeper understanding of Christianity and a profound respect for Bishop Kenjebek. This respected was highlighted when Osmon's father presented Kenjebek with a whip and a national Kyrgyz outfit—symbols of power in the Kyrgyz culture—upon Kenjebek's consecration as Bishop.

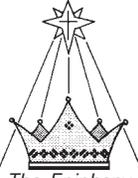
Please pray that these newly-ordained men would be bold in their proclamation of God's Word, that they would be strengthened and sustained in their ministries (all three of them serve in multiple locations), that they would serve God's people in love. Pray that through their ministries, God would use them to call people to faith.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049
 Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
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 Cell: 712-898-4818 Email: pastorvogts@longlines.com
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2011 January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 2nd Sunday after Christmas 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Rev. David Schoop Guest Minister  <i>Wilhelm Loehe, Theologian</i>  Guest Preacher	3	4 <i>Greg Huibregtse Megan Winborn</i>	5	6  <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	7  Happy New Year! <i>Andy & Pat Winborn</i>	1 <i>The Circumcision of Our Lord</i> New Year's Day 8 9:30am "Undeck the Halls!"
9 1st Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of Our Lord 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 4:00pm Youth Group Bowling Party  <i>Teri Hageman Denise Honner</i>	10 <i>Denise Honner</i>	11 <i>Denny Kuhn</i>	12 9:30am Women in Mission 6:30pm Midweek School	13 7:30pm Board of Elders	14  Newsletter Deadline	15
16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal <i>Tami Michels</i>	17  <i>The Confession of St. Peter</i> <i>Vickie Britson</i>	18	19 6:30pm Midweek School	20  Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am Closed for Christmas Break December 24-January 5 <i>Janet Martin Bob & Gloria Barnum</i>	21 Darrel Baker	22
23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	24  <i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i> <i>St. Timothy Erin Fletcher</i>	25 <i>Joe & Elaine Van Ackeren</i>	26 6:30pm Midweek School <i>St. Titus</i>	27 28 29 Preschool Schedule Monday-Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:00am After School Care Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm <i>Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</i> <i>Thelma Reed</i>		
30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany  Quarterly Meeting <i>Caitlyn Bargstadt</i> 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:45am Potluck Dinner 12:30am Quarterly Business Meeting	31  POTLUCK DINNER		E tternal 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. <i>(Collect for New Year's Eve)</i>			

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



Potluck Dinner & 1st Quarter Congregational Business Meeting

Sunday, January 30

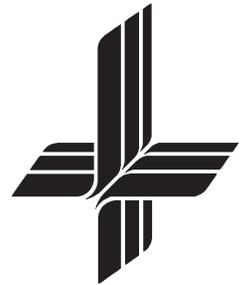
Potluck—11:45am

Please bring a main dish and either a side dish or dessert.

Business Meeting—12:30pm

This meeting will include election of new officers, elders, and board chairs for 2011. All adult members are automatically voting members of the congregation, and everyone is urged to come help administer the business side of our congregation.

All Invited!



Return Service Requested

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

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