



*From the*  
**PASTOR**

*This is the sermon I preached on June 5, the first Sunday following the beginning of the flooding, and the first Sunday after our church building had been evacuated and we began worshipping jointly with Concordia Lutheran Church.*

***"If It Is the Lord's Will"***

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

We consider these words from the Apostle James: "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:13-15).

***We Pray for Spiritual Blessings Without Any Reservations or Qualifications***

The Apostle John promises, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). How can we know what is "according to God's will"? God's will for us is divided into two categories: spiritual blessings, and what we call "temporal" blessings, the earthly blessings of this world.

Regarding spiritual blessings, God has fully revealed His will for you. Paul sums up God's will for you spiritually this way: "God our Savior . . . wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

You don't have to wonder whether God wants you to be saved, whether God forgives you. The familiar promise of John 3:16 applies to the whole world, including you, personally: For God so loved you that He gave His only-begotten Son, that you would believe in Him and not perish but have eternal life.

***Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.***

***But I pray to You, O LORD, in the time of Your favor; in Your great love, O God, answer me with Your sure salvation.***

***Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from my enemies and from the deep waters.***

***Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.***

***Answer me, O LORD, out of the goodness of Your love; in Your great mercy turn to me.***

***Do not hide Your face from Your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble. Come near and rescue me.***

***Psalms 69:1, 13-18***

There's no doubt that your sins are all forgiven, there's no doubt that God wants you to be saved. "God our Savior . . . wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Because God has revealed this, we pray for spiritual blessings without any reservations or qualifications. We don't have to pray, "Lord, if you are willing, forgive my sins." For God has revealed that He always forgives. As John says, "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). We don't have to pray, "Lord, if you are willing, take me to heaven." As Jesus promises, "For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life" (John 6:40).

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." Because God our Savior has revealed that He wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth, we pray for spiritual blessings without any reservations or qualifications.

***When Praying for Earthly Blessings We Pray "Thy Will Be Done"***

Regarding what are called "temporal" blessings, God has revealed to us the ultimate goal, that He is somehow working all things together, according to His plan for our good. As Paul says in Romans, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). That is the goal, that is where God is taking us through it all: somehow He is working all things together for our good.

However, God has not revealed to us how He is going to bring us to that goal. Our lives in this world are like a GPS system offering many different

possible routes through life. We think we know the best route, the route that we would prefer, the route we would like God to have us take.

But, we must always follow the example of our Lord Jesus himself as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Describing His looming suffering and death like a bitter, deadly cup, He prayed, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me" (Matthew 26:39).

Like our Lord, a lot of us have been fervently praying this week that if it be possible somehow our looming cup of suffering may pass from us. We are told Jesus prayed this so earnestly that His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:44). But, in the end, He concluded, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done" (Luke 22:42).

God wants you to bring to Him your preferences, your desires, your hopes, your plans for the route you would like to take through life, just as His own Son did as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. But, ultimately, the only sure GPS for your life is "God's Planning System." That is why Jesus prayed, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done." That is why Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer simply, "Thy will be done" (Matthew 6:10).

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## Crossnotes

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

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*July, 2011*

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### ***When Bad Things Happen It Is Not a Sign That God Has Abandoned Us or Is Angry with Us***

Paul says in Romans, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). God is not against you, but for you, in all your struggles He is at your side and on your side. Paul then tells us why God is not against us but for us: "He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all" (Romans 8:32). God cannot be not angry with you or punishing you. There's simply nothing left to punish. His own Son completely wiped away God's anger, He already suffered all the punishment for you, in your place.

Paul goes on with beautiful words of assurance based on this Good News: "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" (Romans 8:35-39).

The things of this world are called "temporal" blessings. It's from the same word as "temporary." The dictionary defines "temporal" as "not eternal." All the things that many of us spent last week boxing up and moving away, all the things we may now face losing, they are important, but they are temporal, temporary, not eternal. What we are going through is traumatic and may get worse. But, Jesus assures us that even if we lose those temporal things we have "treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy" (Matthew 6:20), and Peter says you have, "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept for you in heaven" (1 Peter 1:3-4).

"Therefore," Paul says, "we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2

Corinthians 4:18). Fix your eyes not on what is seen, the troubles and traumas of this temporal existence, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

It used to be that when visitors would ask about the possibility of flooding in Dakota Dunes, I would confidently say that Dakota Dunes was safe as long as the Corps of Engineers was in business. The plans and designs of men fail, but God is all-wise and all-knowing, and even when it seems things couldn't be going worse, God's plan for your life is failsafe and foolproof. There's a beautiful, comforting promise from the Lord in Jeremiah that puts it this way: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11). Amen.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

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## ***Church Building Evacuated Due to Flood***

On the updated map from the Corps of Engineers issued at the beginning of the flood crisis Holy Cross was located in the potential 2-4 foot flood zone. Because so many members of Holy Cross were also in the flood zone, and completely occupied moving their own families and possessions and securing their own homes on very short notice, the pastors and members of several other congregations in the Sioux City area of our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, organized and carried out a *complete* evacuation of our church building, including the pews and all other furnishings and even the interior doors and most cabinetry. These items are safely stored at several churches and a warehouse in Sioux City.

Until further notice the Church, Church Office, Christian Education Office and Preschool are closed. For pastoral needs you may contact Pastor Vogts at 712-898-4818. For access to or information about the building you may contact Board of Church Properties

chair Janet Martin at 712-251-0682. For information about the Preschool you may contact Terese Vogts at 712-898-4820.

Questions such as when we might be able to move back into our church building, when preschool will begin, etc. are unknown at this time and depend upon developments.

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## **Joint Worship with Concordia Lutheran Church**

Beginning June 5 and until we are able to move back into our church building worship services for Holy Cross are being held jointly on Sundays at 9:00am (15 minutes earlier than our usual time) with Concordia Lutheran Church in their sanctuary at 2000 Military Road, Sioux City. Saturday Summer Services have been suspended.

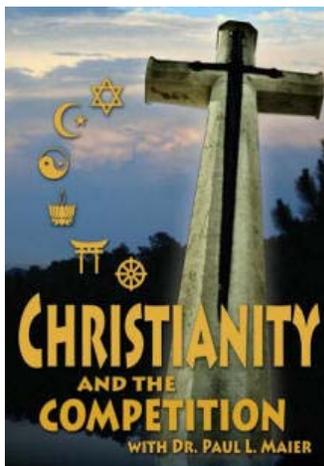
What a blessing that attendance of Holy Cross members at these joint services during June was close to our regular attendance! The Lord says in Psalm 50:15, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me." You will be blessed by remaining faithful in worship throughout this crisis, even though we may not be worshipping in our own sanctuary.

This is also a great opportunity to connect with and show support for your fellow members of Holy Cross who are affected.

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## **Concordia Pastor Accepts Call**

After serving for six years at Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Pastor Kenneth Schmidt announced on June 12 that he has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Van Meter, Iowa, just west of Des Moines. Many Holy Cross members were present for Pastor Schmidt's final service and farewell luncheon on June 26.



## **"Christianity and the Competition" Bible Class**

In our multicultural age, should we insist on the truth of Christianity? There are many competing religions and philosophies. Who is right? The bold claims of Jesus and Christianity, or Christ's religious rivals?

Beginning Sunday, July 3 we will have a new video study in Adult Bible Class on the differences between Christianity and other world religions, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and cults, such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. This eight part DVD series features Dr. Paul Maier, who is both an LCMS pastor and a renown professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University. Watch the YouTube trailer online on our at church's homepage, [www.holycrossdakotadunes.org](http://www.holycrossdakotadunes.org).

All members of both Concordia and Holy Cross are invited to join together and join in this fascinating study on Sundays following worship in the Fellowship Hall in the church basement.

During the time that Holy Cross continues worshipping with Concordia, Pastor Henry Witte and Pastor Vogts will jointly serve on an informal basis as "co-vacancy pastors" for Concordia. Rev. Witte is the LCMS Hispanic missionary in Sioux City and is a member of Concordia. He does not serve a regular congregation, but was already scheduled to be guest preacher at other congregations during all of July and August except July 17. Therefore, other than that Sunday, Pastor Vogts will be conducting services for the jointly worshipping congregations.

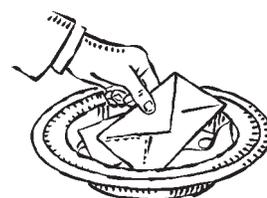
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## **Pastor Vogts' Study and Holy Cross Office at Concordia**

Concordia has graciously allowed Pastor Vogts to set up a temporary office in the pastor's study at Concordia. (Pastor Witte has his office already established in his home.) Holy Cross can also use the adjoining secretary's office at Concordia for our church and preschool office. However, due to the circumstances, there will not be regular office hours.

Mail should still be sent to the regular Holy Cross address, 149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, SD, 57049. For security reasons, it is being held at the post office and picked up there.

You may contact Pastor Vogts by calling either the Holy Cross number (605-232-9117), which is forwarded to ring on his cell phone, or by calling his cell phone directly (712-898-4818).



Several people have inquired how the offerings will be divided while we are having joint services. Bless you for being concerned about the financial status of your congregation even as you may be facing your own financial hardships and uncertainty! Many of our congregation's regular expenses will continue, and there will be additional expenses associated with this crisis.

In dividing the offerings we will follow the traditional custom for

congregations having a joint service: Checks made out to Holy Cross and cash in envelopes marked "Holy Cross" will be credited to Holy Cross; other checks, cash, and loose offerings will be credited to Concordia.

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## Wednesday Coffee Beginning July 6

Everyone is invited to "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday at 10:00am beginning July 6 at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton. This informal gathering each week will provide us an opportunity to keep in touch over the summer, especially while most of our church activities are suspended due to the flood and so many are temporarily relocated. Ya'll come!



## July Commemorations

### St. Mary Magdalene (July 22)

Whenever the New Testament Gospels name the women who were with Jesus, St. Mary Magdalene is listed first (John 19:25 is the only exception), perhaps because she was the first to see the risen Savior alive. Luke 8:2 reports that Jesus had cured her of being possessed by seven demons. Through the centuries, she has often been identified with the repentant "woman of the city" who anointed Jesus' feet as He sat at the table in the Pharisee's home (Luke 7:36-50). But there is no biblical basis for this identification of her with a penitent prostitute. Nor is she to be identified with Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany. According to the Gospels, Mary Magdalene saw Jesus die; she witnessed His burial; and, most important, she was the first to see Him alive again after His resurrection (John 20:11-18). It is for good reason that Bernard of Clairvaux calls her "the apostle to the apostles."

### St. James the Elder, Apostle (July 25)

St. James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee and Salome (see Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40), were fishermen in the Sea of Galilee who were called with Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22). In the Gospels lists of Jesus' disciples, James is listed following Peter and preceding John. Together, these three appear as leaders of the Twelve. Because James precedes John, it is reasoned that James is the elder of the brothers. The Book of Acts records that James was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I, probably between AD 42 and 44 (Acts 12:1-2). Thus James is the first of the Twelve to die a martyr.



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.

July 3

*Rev. Will and Tamara Schumacher*  
South Africa

July 10

*Amanda Arnold*  
Mexico

July 17

*Tim and Megan Dooms*  
Kenya

July 24

*Rev. Herbert Hofer*  
India

July 31

*Albrecht and Karen Roemer*  
Germany



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).

Barry Hageman, July 2  
Taylor DeRocher, July 4  
Karen Brock, July 5  
Nichole Dial, July 5  
Jacob Michels, July 6  
Darla Bauer, July 13  
Shannon Feese, July 16  
Gloria Barnum, July 20

Barry & Kay Hageman  
July 2, 1976

Harold & Mary Mettenbrink  
July 6, 1985



During July Holy Cross members are providing snacks for fellowship time following worship at Concordia. Coffee and juice are provided. Please sign up on the sheet in the entry at Concordia.

July 3

Sue Jansen

July 10

Mary Mettenbrink

July 17

Linda Amunson

July 24 & 31

Need Volunteers



# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor

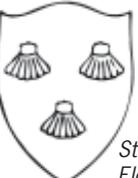
Office: 605-232-9117 Home: 605-232-4013

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[www.holycrossdakotadunes.org](http://www.holycrossdakotadunes.org)

**2011**

*July* 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> <b>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00am    Worship with Holy Communion at Concordia Lutheran Church 10:15am    Adult Bible Class in Concordia Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b>  <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> <i>Taylor DeRocher</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Karen Brock Nichole Dial</i>	<b>6</b> 10:00am "Wednesday Coffee" at Hy-Vee on Hamilton  <i>Jacob Michels Harold &amp; Mary Mettenbrink</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>  <b>8</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Barry Hageman Barry &amp; Kay Hageman</i>
<b>10</b> <b>4th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00am    Worship with Holy Communion at Concordia Lutheran Church 10:15am    Adult Bible Class in Concordia Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00am "Wednesday Coffee" at Hy-Vee on Hamilton  <i>Darla Bauer</i>	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Board of Elders at Concordia	<b>15</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Shannon Feese</i>
<b>17</b> <b>5th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00am    Worship with Holy Communion at Concordia Lutheran Church 10:15am    Adult Bible Class in Concordia Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00am "Wednesday Coffee" at Hy-Vee on Hamilton  <i>Gloria Barnum</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>5th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00am    Worship with Holy Communion at Concordia Lutheran Church 10:15am    Adult Bible Class in Concordia Fellowship Hall	<b>25</b>  <i>St. James the Elder, Apostle</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00am "Wednesday Coffee" at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>6th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00am    Worship with Holy Communion at Concordia Lutheran Church 10:15am    Adult Bible Class in Concordia Fellowship Hall	 <i>merciful Father in heaven, from You comes all rule and authority over the nations of the world for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well. Graciously regard Your servants, those who make, administer, and judge the laws of this nation, and look in mercy upon all the rulers of the earth. Grant that all who receive the sword as Your servants may bear it according to Your command. Enlighten and defend them, and grant them wisdom and understanding that under their peaceable governance Your people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity. Protect and prolong their lives that we with them may show forth the praise of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i>					

**Deadline for Calendar Submissions or Changes is the 15th of the Prior Month**  
**Email to [holycross@longlines.com](mailto:holycross@longlines.com) or Leave Voicemail Message at Church Office**  
**This Calendar May Not Reflect Late Submissions or Changes**



*During the Flood  
Holy Cross Is Worshipping Jointly  
with Concordia Lutheran Church  
in Their Sanctuary at  
2000 Military Road, Sioux City  
(Across from Sunset Hills Golf Course)*

*Sundays, 9:00am  
(15 Minutes Earlier Than Our Usual Time)*

*“Call upon Me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.”  
(Psalm 50:15)*



**“Wednesday Coffee”  
Wednesdays, 10:00am  
Beginning July 6  
at Hy-Vee on Hamilton**

Everyone is invited to “Wednesday Coffee,” each Wednesday at 10:00am beginning July 6, at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton. This informal gathering each week will provide us an opportunity to keep in touch over the summer, especially while most of our church activities are suspended due to the flood and so many are temporarily relocated. Ya’ll come!



**Return Service Requested**

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor  
149 Bison Trail  
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

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Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church