



This month I am sharing with you an article featuring our congregation that appeared in the *Reporter*, the national newspaper of our denomination, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. This article is also available online at <http://reporter.lcms.org/pages/page.asp?NavID=19105>.

## ***“Koinonia” Surfaces Amid South Dakota Floodwaters***

*By Kim Plummer Krull  
LCMS Communications*

After a surprise visit from a Kenyan Lutheran friend, the Rev. Kevin Vogts now sees a blessing in the midst of those “enormous black columns” of mosquitoes swirling over floodwaters that forced about 70 percent of his congregation to evacuate their Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, homes.

“By God’s grace, our mosquitoes don’t carry malaria,” said Vogts, pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. “Archbishop Obare explained that mosquitoes in this country don’t carry malaria like they do in Kenya, which is a blessing because we could be dealing with a terrible outbreak right now after all this flooding.”



**The Rev. Dr. Walter Obare, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, and Pastor Vogts greet guests following the worship service commemorating Pastor Vogts’ 25th Ordination Anniversary.**

The Rev. Dr. Walter Obare, Vogts’ friend who is Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), shared his all-too-personal knowledge of the disease-packing parasites when he and LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison traveled to the Dakota Dunes and Sioux City, Iowa, area August 13-14.

Obare was in the United States in conjunction with work on behalf of the



**LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison toured flood damage in the vicinity, including an aerial survey from Omaha to Gavin’s Point Dam, while in the Sioux City area August 13-14 to help celebrate Pastor Vogts’ 25th Ordination Anniversary. YouTube videos of his plane trip and thoughts about the flood are available on our congregation’s home page at [www.holycrossdakotadunes.org](http://www.holycrossdakotadunes.org).**

Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), a campaign to mobilize U.S. Lutherans to help end malaria deaths in Africa. Obare spoke at a Bible study class after Harrison preached at the worship service commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Vogts’ ordination. Because of flooding in Dakota Dunes, the service was held at Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Obare shared his experience with malaria, which killed 10 of his siblings in Kenya. (See video of Harrison’s sermon at [http://youtu.be/\\_OoAEwVTjrw](http://youtu.be/_OoAEwVTjrw) and Obare’s Bible study at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c29YePpMAPM>.)

“I went to Archbishop Obare’s home when I was in Kenya, and it was a great honor to have him here,” said Vogts, who visited Africa in 2004 in connection with LCMS World Relief and Human Care’s (WR-HC) collaborative work with the ELCK, an LCMS partner church. At that time, Harrison served as WR-HC executive director.

The weekend trek also was a homecoming of sorts for Harrison, who grew up in the Sioux City area. The LCMS president acknowledged that most people beyond impacted communities are probably unaware that this summer’s record flooding continues to cause challenges in South Dakota, North Dakota and other areas.

“Unless you are in it, and you see people whose lives have been absolutely thrown topsy-turvy, you just can’t appreciate it,” Harrison said in an interview with a local KTIV television news reporter.

Like most of the Dakota Dunes community, Vogts and his wife were forced to evacuate their home around Memorial Day weekend because of a flood threat caused by problems related to the swollen Missouri River. “Imagine a community of some 5,000 people

packing up all their belongings in about 48 hours and everyone evacuating at the same time," he said.

With floodwaters also putting the church at risk, volunteers from throughout the community quickly organized to move everything out of Holy Cross to minimize potential damage.

"Pastors and members from neighboring churches—everyone worked hard to move the pews, interior doors, cabinetry, everything. It was a really good example of koinonia," said Vogts, referring to the Greek word for "fellowship" that is used in conjunction with the "Life Together" portion of the Synod's "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" emphasis for the church.

Vogts said that the week before he had slept in his own bed for the first time in more than two months. About 20 percent of Holy Cross members had been allowed to return to their homes, he said, but some 50 percent remained evacuated.

While his house escaped damage, other Holy Cross members' homes took in floodwater, Vogts said, "ranging from a few inches to a few feet." For people who remain evacuated, "it will probably be several months before they can return home," he said.

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## Crossnotes

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"It's very unusual," Vogts said of the flooding in Dakota Dunes, which is located on a peninsula between the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers. "Typically, when a river crests, the water recedes and within a short time things get back to normal. But in this case, our crest is lasting three months."

In the midst of upheaval created by the floods, Vogts called the visit by Harrison "a great comfort" and another example of koinonia. "That he was here on behalf of the whole Synod is a wonderful example of why we have a Synod—that we have sister congregations and pastors who care about us and what we're going through," Vogts said.

Likewise, Vogts said, this firsthand flood experience will make him and fellow congregants "more empathetic" when disaster strikes others. "We'll have a better understanding of the need to help," he said.



### **Magician, Clown and BBQ for Sunday School Rally Day October 2**

Due to the flood and displacement of the congregation and many families the beginning of Sunday School this year has been delayed until October. We will kick off a new year of Sunday School with Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, October 2.

During the Sunday School hour everyone is invited to enjoy a performance by the Christian magician "The Magic Man," past secretary of the International Association of Christian Magicians. Your children will thrill to the intriguing illusions he uses to communicate the message of the Gospel.

A lunchtime potluck BBQ will feature hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the Board of Education, with everyone asked to bring a side dish and dessert.

After lunch at 1:30pm we will have another fun performance by "Sonny the Clown," who shares the Gospel with his entertaining clowning routine.

Plan to join in the Rally Day fun on Sunday, October 2!



The choir members have decided to have rehearsals this year on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, in the balcony at Holy Cross. We have many wonderful selections planned for this year.

All Holy Cross members are invited to participate—we need your voice to sing praises to the Lord! Contact Pastor Vogts for more information. *"I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."* (Psalm 9:2).



### **Come to Wednesday Coffee**

Although we are moving back into our church, by popular demand of the participants we will continue to have "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday (except when there is a Women in Mission meeting at Holy Cross) at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton.

This informal gathering each week provides a fellowship opportunity with your church family at Holy Cross. Ya'll come!



## Oktoberfest at Holy Cross October 30

We are celebrating the return to our home church by having a "Thank-You Oktoberfest Dinner" on Sunday, October 30 from 4:00-6:00pm, hosted by Holy Cross Women In Mission.

Also, in gratitude, this invitation is being extended to include the volunteer helpers from Concordia Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, and Redeemer Lutheran churches as well as the C.I.D. office and maintenance crews of Dakota Dunes, and many other volunteer helpers.

Please join us and bring your appetites! The favor of your R.S.V.P. would be greatly appreciated by Wednesday, October 26. You may call the church office at 232-9117, or email the church at [holycross@longlines.com](mailto:holycross@longlines.com).



## Donate Desserts for Oktoberfest

A great meal just wouldn't be complete without dessert. Your help is needed providing these desserts for the Thank-You Oktoberfest Celebration! A sign-up sheet and recipes are on the table in the Gathering Room. Thank you in advance for your baking skills! Questions? Call or talk to Deb Stein (422-2401).



## "The Magic Man"

Past Secretary of the International  
Association of Christian Magicians  
Performing for Sunday School Rally Day  
at Holy Cross  
Next Sunday, October 2  
10:30am in the Fellowship Hall



## Potluck BBQ at Noon

Meat Provided by Board of Education  
Please Bring Side Dish and/or Dessert

## "Sonny the Clown"

Performing at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall



# All Invited — Everyone Welcome!



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).

Ryan Dial, October 2  
Dennis Melstad, October 5

Denise Fletcher, October 8  
Garett Nelson, October 8  
Linda Amunson, October 12  
Jim Goede, October 16  
Les Britson, October 21  
Sailor Kommes, October 24  
Ali Eickhoff, October 25  
Gracie Nelson, October 25

Steven & Susanne Stoeger-Moore  
October 1, 1977

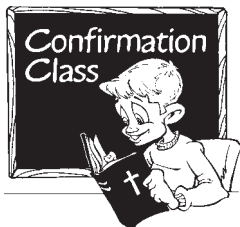
Larissa & Brent Kommes  
October 4, 2003

Bobby & Rashell DeRocher  
October 6, 2007

Doug & Janet Martin  
October 6, 1990

Irving & Melissa Jensen  
October 12, 1991

Denise & Patick Honner  
October 16, 2004  
Doug & Becky Nelson  
October 18, 2003



## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes began on September 21 and are held each Wednesday at 6:30pm.

The Pre-Confirmation class for 5th-6th Grades focuses on key Bible stories and memorization of the Catechism, to prepare for Confirmation class in 7th-8th Grades. If you have questions about Confirmation class please contact Pastor Vogts for more information.



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.

October 2

*Rev. Tony and Connie Booker  
Czech Republic*

October 9

*Rev. Rudolph and Ramona Blank  
Venezuela*

October 16  
*Ken and Gail Horvath  
Vietnam*

October 23  
*Marva Ludgood  
South Africa*

October 30  
*Rick and Marla Steenbock  
Germany*

## "When I Suffer Pains and Losses" Bible Study Begins October 9



Why do bad things happen to us? Is it a punishment? Is God sending us a message? Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall beginning October 9 for our new Adult Bible Study, *When I Suffer Pains and Losses*.

Named after a touching hymn by the famous Lutheran hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt—who experienced many pains and losses in his own life—this study will seek God's answers from the Bible to the questions we have about suffering.



Women in Mission met for their regular monthly meeting on September 14. After a long summer recess it was good to reconnect.

The October calendar features several special opportunities for Christian fellowship. The first Sunday in October we will celebrate LWML Sunday. Join in the celebration by wearing purple.

On October 30 WIM will host a Thank You Oktoberfest in honor of all the volunteers that helped Holy Cross during the flood event.

A sharing and caring event will encourage members to donate to the Fort Wayne Seminary Donation Day. Watch for further details in the bulletin.

All women are invited to join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 12 at 9:30 a.m. Those serving in October: Chancel care - Jeri Melstad; Hostess - Terry Vogts; and Devotions - Pastor Vogts.



Elders for October  
Carroll Gustman & Mark Reed

Chancel Care for October  
Jeri Melstad

Acolytes for October  
October 2 ..... Nichole Dial  
October 9 ..... Jacob Michels  
October 16 ..... Hayden Jensen  
October 23 ..... Bryce Schroeder  
October 30 ..... Kathleen Soukup

Crucifers for October  
October 2 ..... Gracie Nelson  
October 9 ..... Brandon Dodds  
October 16 ..... Bear Jensen  
October 23 ..... Kaleb Martin  
October 30 ..... Claire Johnson



September 11  
Doug & Sue Jansen  
40th Anniversary

September 18  
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Thanksgiving

September 25  
Doug & Janet Martin  
Kylie's and Kendall's Birthdays

October 2  
Less & Dee Reifke  
God's Blessings



# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor


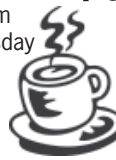












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## 2011 OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Magic Show 12:00pm Potluck BBQ 1:30pm Clown Show <i>Ryan Dial</i> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00am Wednesday Coffee  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Dennis Melstad</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Bobby &amp; Rashell DeRocher</i> <i>Doug &amp; Janet Martin</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> <i>Steven &amp; Susanne Stoeger-Moore</i> <b>8</b> <i>Denise Fletcher</i> <i>Garett Nelson</i>
<b>9</b> 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>  <b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Women in Mission 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Linda Amunson</i> <i>Irving &amp; Melissa Jensen</i>	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Board of Elders	<b>14</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 18th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am Choir Warmup 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Quarterly Business Meeting <i>Jim Goede, Denise &amp; Patick Honner</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>Johann Gerhard, Theologian, Born 1582</i>	<b>18</b>  <i>St. Luke, Evangelist</i> <i>Doug &amp; Becky Nelson</i>	<b>19</b> 10:00am Wednesday Coffee 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Church Office Hours</b> Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am <i>Les Britson</i>
<b>23</b> 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class  <i>St. James of Jerusalem</i>	<b>24</b>  <i>Sailor Kommes</i>	<b>25</b> <i>C.F.W. Walther, Founder of Missouri Synod, Born, 1811</i> <i>Ali Eickhoff</i> <i>Gracie Nelson</i>	<b>26</b> 10:00am Wednesday Coffee 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <i>St. Simon &amp; St. Jude, Apostles</i>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Reformation Sunday 8:45am Choir Warmup 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 4:00pm-6:00pm "Thank You" Octoberfest Hog Roast 	<b>31</b>  <i>Reformation Day</i> <i>All Hallows Eve</i>	<p><b>A</b>lmighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptations, defend us against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Collect for Reformation Day)</p>				

**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



# This Sunday October 2

## "The Magic Man"

Past Secretary of the International  
Association of Christian Magicians

Performing for Sunday School Rally Day  
at Holy Cross

Next Sunday, October 2  
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