

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

2012



"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." (2 Timothy 4:3)

There is a new church in our area that advertises itself as being more "relevant" than traditional churches. Each week they explore some "edgy" topic. Among churches advertising their special services in the newspaper the week before Christmas, this church had one of the largest (and most expensive) ads, promoting the theme for their Christmas services:

*"Tough on crime? Too tough?
Not tough enough? Do you
think the courts and prisons
are getting the job done?"*

No, I'm not kidding! No wonder so many churches of this type are having problems with dwindling attendance and finances. Since they launched about a year ago this church must have spent at least \$50,000 on an aggressive advertising campaign. Their "tag line" in their ads promises, "An Hour of Stories and Conversation to Feed Your Soul." But, a seminar on the criminal justice system doesn't sound very inspiring to me, and I certainly don't see how such a lecture would be attractive to anyone or "feed your soul"—especially on Christmas Day!

This helps explain the biggest religion story of 2011: the famous "Crystal Cathedral" in California went bankrupt, has been sold to the Roman

Catholic Church, and will actually become a cathedral for the Roman Catholic Church! This is so significant because television preacher Robert Schuller and his "Hour of Power" and "Crystal Cathedral" were pioneers and trendsetters in the movement known as "church growth."

In the past few decades there have been radical changes in many churches, even entire denominations, particularly in the area of worship. To a large extent this trend can be traced back to the pioneering "church growth" efforts and influence of Robert Schuller. His "Crystal Cathedral" was the model "mega-church," which thousands of other preachers and churches strived to emulate. The now defunct "Crystal Cathedral" campus included the "Robert Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership," which boasted of more than 20,000 graduates from various denominations, and where key leaders in the "church growth" movement were trained.

But, now it appears the "Crystal Cathedral" is also in the forefront of a new, negative trend among such "mega-churches": dwindling attendance and finances—even bankruptcy. Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago, whose pastor Bill Hybels was trained at the "Crystal Cathedral," recently conducted a study to determine why they have such alarming membership losses. The study revealed that a staggering one out of four of members of Willow Creek are dissatisfied and considering leaving. The biggest complaint is that the sermons, worship, and other theological aspects of Willow Creek are shallow and unfulfilling. Saddleback Church in suburban Los Angeles, whose pastor Rick Warren was also trained at the "Crystal Cathedral," recently had a desperate fundraising appeal due to a steep drop in offerings.

An article in the Orlando Sentinel noted: "Some churches got caught up in the heady days of the 1990's and early 2000's when mega-churches proliferated. . . What was once unheard of—a church declaring bankruptcy—has become increasingly common" (Jeff Kunerth, "Even Churches Are going Bankrupt These Days," *Orlando Sentinel*, January 30, 2011). We saw an example of this trend locally last year when a "mega-church" in our area went bankrupt.

But, the real bankruptcy of these churches, and those following their model in an attempt to become "mega-churches," is not just financial. The real bankruptcy of these churches is a sad, spiritual bankruptcy—epitomized by offering a lecture about the criminal justice system on Christmas Day!

Jesus asked, "For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). In their fixation on worldly gains these churches have lost the soul of Christianity. As the Apostle Paul says, "But we preach Christ crucified. . . For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 1:23, 2:2).

In the 95 Theses, which launched the Lutheran Reformation, Martin Luther wrote, "The true treasure of the Church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God." It is sad that some preachers and churches are giving up this spiritual treasure in pursuit of worldly gains—and ironic that many are actually going financially bankrupt in the process. But, any church that has forfeited this "true treasure of the Church" is actually spiritually bankrupt already.

As the Apostle Paul warns in Colossians 2:8, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Voters Assembly January 15

The first quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly for 2012 will be on Sunday, January 15. It is being held immediately following the worship service to encourage as many members as possible to stay for this important meeting.

Under consideration will be final adoption of the proposed revisions to the congregation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Also scheduled is election of church officers and board chairs for 2012. All adult communicant members of Holy Cross are automatically voting members and everyone is urged to attend this meeting and help administer the business side of our congregation.

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*149 Bison Trail
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

*Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
Church Office: 605-232-9117
Preschool & Fax: 605-235-1688
Pastor's Home: 605-232-4013
Pastor's Cell: 712-898-4818
www.holycrossdakotadunes.org
holycross@longlines.com*

January, 2012

Volume 10

Number 1



Annual Church ELECTION

2012 Nominees for Officers and Boards

Our thanks to those serving on the Nominating Committee, along with congregational President Harold Mettenbrink, who appointed and chaired the committee: Jackie Baker, Carroll Gustman, and John Isley, with Pastor Vogts as advisory.

Because the proposed revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have not yet had final approval from the congregation the nominations and elections are being conducted according to those currently in place. Additional nominees for new positions will be presented as needed at a subsequent meeting when the revisions are adopted.

Under the current Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws only a chair is elected for most boards, who then recruits additional board members, the exception being the Board of Elders, to which all members are elected and who then select their chairman.

Our thanks to all those who have served Holy Cross so faithfully in 2011, under very difficult circumstances due to the flood, and those who have agreed to serve in 2012.

The following ballot will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 15, at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

President

Harold Mettenbrink

Recording Secretary

Susanne Stoeger-Moore

Treasurer
Dennis Melstad

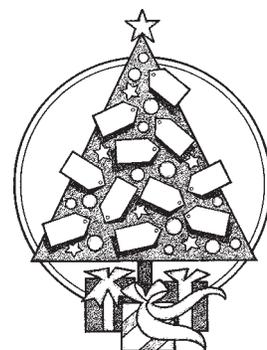
Financial Secretary
Dee Reifke

Board of Elders
Gary Amunson
Les Britson
Carroll Gustman
Doug Jansen
Dennis Kuhn
Todd Peters
Ron Yockey

Board of Education Chair
Angela Dial

Board of Evangelism Chair
Marsha Horkey

Board of Church Properties Chair
Les Reifke



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. We also gave the large number of food items from our Thanksgiving Food Drive, and the freewill offering from our first Advent Supper, hosted by the Board of Elders.

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).

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for the surprise "card shower" on Christmas Eve and your other wonderful cards and many generous gifts throughout the holiday season.

*Rev. Kevin & Terry Vogts
Jacob, Sarah, Anna*



Come to Wednesday Coffee

After a break for Christmas during January we are resuming "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton, except on January 11 when Holy Cross Women in Mission has their meeting at Holy Cross. This informal gathering each week provides a fellowship opportunity with your church family at Holy Cross. Ya'll come!

Women in Mission

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Holy Cross is under Holy Cross Lutheran Women In Mission. We wish to extend a warm welcome to all ladies who would be interested in being a part of this great mission organization!

The January meeting is Wednesday, January 11 at 9:30am in the Gathering Room. Pastor Vogts will have the devotion and Terese Vogts the snack.



2011 Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to all who donated 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.

<u>Given By</u>	<u>In Memory or Honor Of</u>
Darrel & Jackie Baker (2)	Family
Gary & Betty Gunderson	Family
Denise & Pat Honner	Family
Doug & Sue Jansen (2)	Paul Jansen & Nancy Shortridge
Melissa & Irving Jensen (2)	Family
Denny & Marlene Kuhn (2)	Family
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink (2)	Family
Todd Peters (2)	Rev. Carl & Dorcas Brueggemann & Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Peters
Les & Dee Reifke	Family
Mabel Schibonski	Husband, Elmer Schibonski
The Stoeger-Moore Family	Family
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2)	Leroy Vogts & Grandparents
Ron & Jeannette Yockey	Family



Our new Advent Suppers this year were a big success! Each week the Fellowship Hall or Gathering Room was crowded with members and visitors enjoying the good food and fellowship.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of everyone as the last two suppers were served in the Gathering Room due to the redecorating of the Fellowship Hall.

Our thanks to the Board of Elders, Confirmation Classes, Women in Mission, and Adult Choir for taking turns serving. Our thanks also to those who gave generously to the freewill offerings to help each group's special project.

We look forward to continuing this new tradition with suppers before our Lenten services too!



Fellowship Hall Redecorating

As approved by the Voters Assembly on December 1 the Fellowship Hall has been repainted by Blankenship Meier Painting. Before painting the damage to the north wall from the leaking "cross" window was repaired by members of the Board of Church Properties and the temporary wall removed. The new color is the same as the Gathering Room.

As approved by the Voters Assembly on April 27—but delayed due to the flood—the carpeting in the Fellowship Hall was replaced during the Christmas break of the Preschool and After School Care. The new carpet is the same as previously installed in the classrooms, Library, and Christian Education Office.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and patience as this work disrupted some activities.



The new 2012 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 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!

January 1
Reifke

January 8
Dorr

January 15
Vogts

January 22 & 29
Need Volunteers



The Sermon on the Mount

Sermon on the Mount Bible Study Begins January 22

On January 22 we will begin a new study in Adult Bible Class on one of the most beloved portions of Scripture, Matthew chapters 5-7, commonly called the "The Sermon on the Mount." This is one of the longest continuous records of our Lord's teaching in the Gospels (beautifully illustrated in our sanctuary's altar window).

Packed into this single sermon are such well-known verses as the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14), "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand

is doing" (Matthew 6:4), "See how the lilies of the field grow" (Matthew 6:28), "Knock and the door will be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7), and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Join in Sundays at 10:30am beginning January 22 as we delve into "The Sermon on the Mount."



Guest Minister January 15

Pastor Vogts has been invited to give a presentation at a theological conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana on January 16. Therefore our guest minister on Sunday, January 15 will be Rev. Charles Horkey, a Holy Cross member and retired pastor. His message will be "Follow Me," based on John 1:43-51.

In case of an emergency during Pastor Vogts' absence you may contact him by his cell phone (712-898-4818) and he will arrange for care from another pastor.



Altar Flowers

2012 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!

December 11

Susanne & Steve Stoeger-Moore
Celebration of God's Blessings



Murdered Park Ranger Daughter of LCMS Pastor

Margaret Anderson, a ranger who was killed while on duty January 1 by a gunman in Washington's Mount Rainier National Park, was living her dream, according to her father, an LCMS pastor. Margaret and her husband, Eric, also a ranger at the park, had wanted to work together for a long time, the Rev. Paul Kritsch, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield, New Jersey, told The Seattle Times. The couple got that opportunity about four years ago when they began working at Mount Rainier. They have two daughters, ages 3 and 1. Kritsch said the death of the youngest of his three children "doesn't seem real. We're going to miss her terribly and . . . can't believe she is gone."

Anderson, 34, was shot and killed after she and another ranger attempted to stop a vehicle driven by suspect Benjamin Colton Barnes, who fled on foot and was found dead in a river in the



The children of Holy Cross Sunday School did a wonderful job sharing the Christmas story at their Christmas Program on December 18, closing the program by acting out the Nativity scene while the congregation sang "Silent Night."

park January 2. He also is a suspect in a January 1 shooting in Skyway, Washington, that left four people wounded.

The Rev. Jim Buckman, a missionary with the LCMS New Jersey District and a member of Redeemer, Westfield, where Kritsch is pastor, visited with the grieving pastor and his wife, Dorothy, the night of the shooting.

"I was really struck by their faith—they are both very strong Christians," Buckman told the LCMS newspaper Reporter. "But I think that their daughter's faith was even more important to them in that situation because they know where their daughter is—and that is a tremendous gift to them."

Anderson took her job "very seriously" and, as a member of a search-and-rescue squad, "had rescued many people" and had helped recover bodies. "This was not the first time she had risked her life for others, by any means," Buckman said.

The congregation is collecting cards and condolences for the slain ranger's family and has started a college fund for the Andersons' two young daughters. Cards and contributions may be sent to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield, NJ 07090-4015 (if sending a check, please

make it payable to "Redeemer Lutheran Church" and note "Margaret Kritsch Anderson" in the memo line).



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.

- Janet Gustman, January 3
- Greg Huibregtse, January 4
- Terri Hageman, January 10
- Denise Honner, January 10
- Dennis Kuhn, January 11
- Rev. Charles Horkey, January 16
- Tami Michels, January 16
- Vickie Britson, January 18
- Janet Martin, January 20
- Darrel Baker, January 22
- Erin Fletcher, January 24
- Thelma Reed, January 28
- Joe & Elaine Van Ackeren
January 25, 1969



Sermons for January

Written copies of Pastor Vogts' sermons are available on our website at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org.

January 1
"Shed for You"
Luke 2:21

January 8
"Follow the Word
to the Word Made Flesh"
Matthew 2:1-12

January 15
"Follow Me"
John 1:43-51
Guest Minister Rev. Charles Horkey

January 22
"Fishers of Men"
Mark 1:16-20

January 29
"Amazed at His Teaching"
Mark 1:21-22



Worship Assistants

Elders for January
Gary Amunson & Doug Jansen

Ushers for January
Ryan Dial & Les Reifke

Chancel Care for January
Dee Reifke

Acolytes for January
January 1 Hayden Jensen
January 8 Nichole Dial
January 15 Kathleen Soukup
January 22 Bryce Schroeder
January 29 Jacob Michels



The children of Holy Cross Preschool presented their Christmas program on December 11.

Crucifers for January
January 1 Bear Jensen
January 8 Gracie Nelson
January 15 .. Stephanie Stoeger-Moore
January 22 Brandon Dodds
January 29 Kaleb Martin

January 22
Mike & Sarah Weider
Indonesia
January 29
Rev. Gustavo & Rosana Lavia
Spain



Our congregation has designated a title 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 1
Bruce & Sarah Wall
Peru

January 8
George & Shary Frahm
Cambodia

January 15
Rev. David and Joyce Erber
Nigeria

Pipe Organ Tuning Week of January 8

The final assembly, tuning, and "voicing" of our new pipe organ was scheduled to take place the first week of June. Obviously, this work was delayed due to the flood, which caused our congregation to evacuate our sanctuary for the summer.

Because of its size and complexity the pipe organ was the only major item not removed to storage. Thankfully we did not have any flooding in our church building, which would have been devastating for a pipe organ, and the electricity, and therefore the air-conditioning, never failed.

Final work on the organ is now scheduled for the week of January 8, and will take several technicians from Dobson Pipe Organ Builders the entire week to complete. It is not certain when we will be able to begin using the new organ in worship, but Lord willing it will be soon!

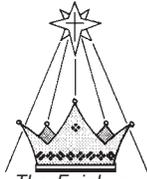


HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049
 Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
 Office: 605-232-9117 Home: 605-232-4013
 Cell: 712-898-4818 Email: pastorvogts@longlines.com
www.holycrossdakotadunes.org

2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 The Circumcision and Naming of Our Lord—New Year's Day 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 	2  Wilhelm Loehe Theologian Died 1872	3 Janet Gustman	4 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 6:30pm Midweek School  Greg Huibregtse	5 7:00pm Nominating Committee	6  The Epiphany of Our Lord	7	
8 1st Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of Our Lord 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am "Undeck the Halls!"	9	10 Teri Hageman Denise Honner	11 9:30am Women in Mission 6:30pm Midweek School Dennis Kuhn	Preschool Schedule Monday, Wednesday, Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays 9:00am After School Care Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar			14
15 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Guest Minister Rev. Charles Horkey 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Voters Assembly Annual Meeting 	16 Rev. Charles Horkey Tami Michels Annual Meeting	17  Newsletter Deadline	18 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 6:30pm Midweek School The Confession of St. Peter Vickie Britson 	19 7:30pm Board of Elders Janet Martin	20	21	
22 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class Darrel Baker	23	24 St. Timothy Erin Fletcher	25 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal The Conversion of St. Paul Joe & Elaine VanAckeren	26  St. Titus	27 	28 Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am Thelma Reed	
29 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class	30	31	<i>Eternal 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. (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



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church