

There has been much discussion in the news lately about contraception and abortion. While it is not my place as a Pastor to comment on strictly political issues, it is part of my office to give guidance on the moral aspects.

Abortion is Not an Unforgivable Sin

When discussing abortion we recognize that there may be those also within the Church, both female and male, who have either received, facilitated, or otherwise participated in abortion. Therefore, it is important to stress that abortion, though very grave, is not an unforgivable sin. The only "unforgivable" sin that Jesus speaks of is "anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit" (Mark 3:29). This means rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit, which is to create in our hearts repentance over our sins and faith in Christ. Therefore, the only unforgivable sin is unbelief, rejecting forgiveness through Christ. Except for that one unforgivable sin, Jesus comforts us with the assurance, "Truly I say to you, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them" (Mark 3:28).

We see this in the lives of the Apostles, who were not only great saints, but also great sinners. While Jesus was on trial for his life, St. Peter denied

three times even knowing Him, calling down curses on himself and swearing, "I don't know the Man!" (Matthew 26:74). Before St. Paul converted to faith in Christ, he stood approvingly as St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was stoned to death (Acts 7:56-8:1). He confesses to this and other murders, "I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death" (Acts 22:4), and therefore declares, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst" (1 Timothy 1:15).

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, St. Paul gives a list of gross sins and then concludes, "That is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." The Good News is, "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin" (1 John 1:7)—including the sin of abortion.

(It should be noted that medically some procedures, such as surgery necessary following a miscarriage or stillbirth, may be referred to as "abortion." However, in this discussion we are referring to what is properly called an "elective abortion," of an otherwise viable child.)



LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison recently joined other religious leaders testifying before Congress about the disputed government mandate for religious organizations.

A Child Is a Person from the Moment of Conception

The philosophical question of whether an unborn child, even an embryo only a few moments old, is a person with a soul in the sight of God is outside the realm of medical science. For that we must turn to the testimony of God Himself in His Word:

Psalm 139:13—"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb."

Psalm 139:16—"Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to pass."

Isaiah 44:24—"Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb."

Jeremiah 1:4-5—"The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart.'"

Perhaps the clearest example is John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, whose mother Elizabeth exclaimed to the Virgin Mary, "Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy" (Luke 1:43-44).

So, John the Baptist had both a soul and faith in Christ as the Messiah even before he was born. How is this possible? We know that children in the womb can indeed hear and discern. For example, every child is born recognizing his or her mother's voice, and father's voice too, if he was consistently present during the pregnancy. God's Word has inherent power to bring us to faith (Isaiah 55:10-11), and no doubt John had heard the Word already while in the womb. Like John the Baptist, all unborn children are persons with souls in the sight of God.

The Only Possible Exception Is to Prevent the Death of the Mother

Under the concept of self-defense, which is allowed in Scripture, the only exception where abortion may be permissible is to prevent the death of the mother when there is an immediate and unambiguous threat of her death if the pregnancy continues. The *Small Catechism* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod puts it this way: “The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother.”

However, this is an extremely rare circumstance and cannot be used as a broader justification for abortion, for example that carrying the child to term would cause financial distress or emotional hardship.

There Is a Distinction Between Abortion, Contraception, and Different Types of “Contraception”

In the current discussion there has been an unfortunate blurring and

Crossnotes

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equivalence of abortion and contraception. Abortion is always sinful except to prevent the death of the mother. Contraception may or may not be sinful, depending on the type used and the motivation.

The word “contra-ception” literally means “to prevent conception.” However, part of the confusion in the current discussion is that a number of chemicals and devices are wrongly mislabeled as “contraception.” Because, they do not actually *prevent* conception, the fertilization of the female egg by the male sperm, but rather cause the fertilized egg not to survive. Properly speaking, these chemicals and devices are not “contraceptive” but “abortifacient,” because they are causing an abortion of a fertilized egg—which is already a person with a soul in the sight of God.

By the way, the web site WebMD has a fascinating online slideshow “From Egg to Embryo” at www.webmd.com/baby/ss/slideshow-conception. This slideshow comments, from a medical, not religious, perspective: “At the moment of fertilization, the genetic makeup is complete.”

Therefore, Christians who use contraception should not be deceived by abortifacients that are misleadingly labeled contraception, but must be very careful to use only a prescription or device that prevents fertilization. The most common examples would be the standard birth-control pill, which prevents ovulation and therefore there is no egg present to be fertilized, and a condom, which prevents the male sperm from reaching the egg. Any “contraceptive” chemical or device that instead in any way prevents an already fertilized egg from surviving is in fact not contraception but an abortifacient, and therefore sinful for Christians to use.

Because abortifacients are routinely misleadingly labeled as contraceptive, and the difference can be difficult to determine, the LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Committee has published the very helpful document “Guidance on Contraceptive Methods,” available online at www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=632, or

search at www.lcms.org for the title “Guidance on Contraceptive Methods.”

However, another point of confusion in the current debate is that there is an important distinction between the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches regarding the use of what is properly called contraception, prescriptions or devices which are not abortifacient but rather prevent fertilization. The Roman Catholic Church has decreed that all forms of contraception are sinful. This goes beyond Scripture, and the Lutheran Church has made no such determination.

In fact, no such determination can be made, because whether or not the use of contraceptives that are not abortifacient is sinful depends entirely on the motivation of the individual, which only the individual and God can know. As St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:5, “Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts.”

The use of non-abortifacient contraceptives *could* be sinful, if it stems from a sinful motivation, such as selfishness (Philippians 2:3), or a rebellious disregard of God’s command—still in effect for us today—to “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28). However, there may also be valid reasons for using non-abortifacient contraceptives, and “Each one should test his own actions” (Galatians 6:4) and “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Of course, under the Sixth Commandment sexual activity is permitted only between husband and wife, so any use of contraceptives outside of marriage is inherently sinful in every case. Also, as with all matters having to do with their sexual relationship, contraceptives should normally be used only by “mutual consent” between husband and wife, whom the Lord commands not to “defraud” one another in sexual matters (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).

The Current Discussion

How does all this relate to the current discussion about contraception

and abortion? We must carefully distinguish between permissible contraception on the one hand, and on the other hand abortion and abortifacients. Unfortunately, the politicians, bureaucrats, news media, and even some Christians have muddled them all together.

From a theological standpoint, it would be acceptable for the health plan of a Christian organization to provide non-abortifacient contraception. However, it would be sinful for a Christian organization to provide for elective abortion and abortifacients, except in the rare instance of preventing the death of the mother.

In the case of our LCMS Concordia Health Plan, which covers most workers in our church body, they carefully maintained their status as a "grandfathered plan" under the new regulations and are presently not subject to the regulations that are in dispute. Also, to avoid becoming entangled in such controversies, CHP does not cover any contraceptives.

However, though our own health plan is not subject at this time to the new regulations, there is indeed an important, pressing issue in this dispute for our church body: the question of religious liberty as guaranteed under the First Amendment of our nation's Constitution. The founders of the LCMS in the 1800's had been punished, even imprisoned, for not complying with unscriptural dictates of the state church in Germany. After considering a number of countries, they selected the United States to emigrate to specifically because of this guaranteed freedom of religion. The founding President of the LCMS, Dr. C.F.W. Walther, said in an address for the Fourth of July in 1849: "What a precious blessing, above all others, is that religious freedom we enjoy here . . . the State safeguards for its citizens to practice, unhindered, both privately and publicly, the religion which each holds in his conscience . . . State and Church . . . are here separated from one another . . . this religious freedom is one of the brightest stars in the flag of our new fatherland" (*Treasury of C.F.W. Walther*, Vol. VI, p. 155).



The Miracles of LENT

2012 Lenten Vespers Services

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday
"Darkness"
Luke 23:44-45

Wednesday, February 29

Lent Service II
"The Resurrection of Lazarus"
John 11:46-53

Wednesday, March 7

Lent Service III
"The Withering Fig Tree"
Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

Wednesday, March 14

Lent Service IV
"Four Miracles in the Garden of Gethsemane"
Luke 22:39-51, John 18:3-6

Wednesday, March 21

Lent Service V
"Tearing of the Temple Curtain"
Mark 15:37-38

Wednesday, March 28

Lent Service VI
"Earthquake"
Matthew 27:51-53

Thursday, April 5

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
"The Last Supper"
Luke 22:7-13, 1 Corinthians 10:16

Friday, April 6

Good Friday
"The Miracle of Good Friday"
1 Peter 3:18

All Services at 7:00pm
Lenten Suppers 5:45pm-6:45pm in Fellowship Hall

In the spirit of that first LCMS President, it was the encroachment of this religious liberty that led our current LCMS President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, to join a Roman Catholic bishop, Jewish rabbi, and two Baptist ministers testifying before Congress at a recent hearing about this controversy. Videos of his testimony and other information about this dispute are available online at www.lcms.org/hhsmandate.

However, while we are compelled to address the moral side of this issue, because we hold dear the separation of Church and State as enshrined in our nation's Constitution, we do not as a church body "take sides" in political matters. Our concern as a church body in this dispute is neither defeating, electing, nor scoring political points for any side, but only preserving the precious religious liberty that has been such a blessing to both our Synod and our nation.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



**Lenten Vespers
Continue Thru March**

Our special Lenten Vespers services continue each Wednesday through the end of March, with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on April 5 and 6.

All services begin at 7:00pm and last 30-45 minutes. Before the Lenten Vespers services this year we are enjoying Lenten Suppers in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45pm-6:45pm. During Lent, Midweek School is from 6:15pm-7:00pm. Choir Rehearsals follow the Lenten Vespers services.

For our Lenten Vespers services this year we are exploring "The Miracles of Lent," looking at miracles that are part of the Lenten story.

Since ancient times Christians have observed this special season in remembrance of our Savior's suffering and death. Come keep a faithful Lent!



We are following up the success of our Advent Suppers this year with Lenten Suppers before our Lenten Vespers Services, each Wednesday thru the end of March from 5:45pm-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. They will be served by various groups in the congregation, with freewill offerings taken to support various

causes. Our thanks to Holy Cross Women in Mission for starting us off with a very successful Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, with an offering for a mission project.

Our schedule of suppers includes:

February 29—Adult Choir, Lasagna, Offering for Good Shepherd Hour Radio Program;

March 7—Board of Elders, Potato Bar, Offering for Artwork in Church;

March 14—Confirmation Classes, Sloppy Joes, Offering for Youth Activities.

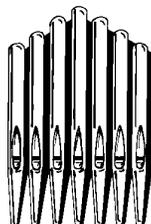
More information about other Lenten Suppers will follow. Everyone is invited come enjoy the good food and fellowship—visitors and guests are welcome!

**BUDGET
UPDATE**



As of February 19, 2012

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$32,320
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$21,455
Total Budget Surplus/Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$10,866)



**Pipe Organ Dedication
on Palm Sunday**

Our new pipe organ is now being used in worship on an occasional and preliminary basis. Because it is a complicated mechanical device with over 800 individual pipes and tens of thousands of moving parts, this

preliminary "shake down cruise" helps reveal any issues that need to be resolved before it is formally dedicated.

A committee consisting of Melissa Jensen, Ron Yockey, and Pastor Vogts has been planning the formal dedication and a dedicatory recital. The Rite of Dedication will take place as part of the 9:15am service on Palm Sunday, April 1. There will not be Holy Communion that Sunday to allow time for the Rite of Dedication.

Members of the former Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux City, who donated the organ to our congregation will be specially invited to the dedication on Palm Sunday. The special guest organist for the service will be Deb Morgan, a former organist at Our Savior's. Following the service there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall, which will also be a time for the members of Holy Cross to visit with and thank the members from Our Savior's for their generous gift.

A separate dedicatory recital will be held two weeks later on Sunday, April 15 at 2:00pm. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

The guest recitalist will be Rev. Dr. Christopher S. Ahlman of Lincoln, Nebraska. He is an LCMS clergyman who also recently received his doctorate in organ performance from The University of Texas at Austin. He teaches at the LCMS Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, and is the music director of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. Dr. Ahlman will select a range of pieces designed to highlight the different aspects of our organ.



Holy Cross Women in Mission held the regular monthly meeting on February 8. Pastor Vogts presented the devotion on the Christian origins and meaning of Groundhog Day.

WIM will be serving a soup supper on Ash Wednesday. In March we will be assembling Easter baskets, and a card making evening is being planned for April.

Consider joining us at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 14 at 9:30am. Caring, sharing, and socializing are always on the agenda! Those serving in March: Chancel Care – Jeri Melstad; Snacks – Mary Mettenbrink; Devotions – Deb Stein.



*The Sermon
on the Mount*

Sermon on the Mount Bible Study

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is 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 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 in the Fellowship Hall as we delve into "The Sermon on the Mount."

Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we delve into "The Sermon on the Mount."

Easter Egg Hunt

*Saturday, April 7
10:30am*

*On Church Grounds
Up to Age 10*

All Children Invited!

Non-Members Welcome!

No Charges or Fees



Community Sunrise Service

*Easter Sunday, April 8
7:00am*

*Second Easter Service
at 9:15am*

Both Services at Holy Cross



Easter Breakfast

*Easter Sunday, April 8
8:00am-9:00am*

*Holy Cross Fellowship Hall
Freewill Donation*



All Invited – Everyone Welcome!



All is well at Holy Cross Preschool. The school year is flying by. It's hard to believe that we have less than three months to go. We've had some really fun and educational activities and more to come. The families are awesome. It's been good to see all the parents enjoy what is offered at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

We are in the process of Fall Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year. Please let your friends and family know that Open Enrollment begins March 1 if they have a children between the ages of 2-6. We will be offering all the classes in the Fall.

Please feel free to stop by the classrooms anytime that we are in sessions which is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 8:30am-11:15am. We are very proud of the accomplishments of the children and would love to have you meet them. We, as staff feel so blessed to be apart of Holy Cross Preschool. Thank you for making it possible.



We have arranged for Easter Lilies through Earl May Nursery & Garden Center for \$12 each. Sign up in the Gathering Room indicating that you wish to have these plants purchased for you, and put your payment in the offering plate marked "Easter Lilies." The deadline to sign up is Palm Sunday, April 1.

You are also welcome to bring your own plants, if you wish to purchase them elsewhere or receive them as gifts. Please sign up on the list indicating that you will provide your own plants and drop them by the church the week before Easter Sunday.

When you sign up, please indicate whom your plants are in memory or honor of, the way you want it printed in the May newsletter.



Sunday Sermons for March

These are the Sunday sermon topics for February. The schedule and sermon topics for our Lenten Vespers services is found on page three of this newsletter. Written copies of Pastor Vogts' sermons are available on our website at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org.

March 4
"Profit and Loss"
Mark 8:31-38

March 11
"We Preach Christ Crucified"
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

March 18
"The Strange Story of the Bronze Snake"
Numbers 21:4-9

March 25
"The Seed of Our Salvation"
John 12:20-33



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

March 4
 Kay Hageman

March 4
 Caden & Todd Peters

March 11 & 25
 Need Volunteers



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.

Jackson Amunson, March 2
 Kay Hageman, March 5

Gail Dorr, March 6
 Tim Fletcher, March 6
 Stephanie Stoeger-Moore, March 7
 Tamela Mahrt, March 11
 Doug Martin, March 14
 Madeline Smith, March 14
 Susan Amunson, March 17
 Caden Peters, March 18
 Brady Schroeder, March 19
 Paul Eickhoff, March 20
 Bennett Jensen, March 21
 Mark Krause, March 25
 Merlin Schincke, March 25
 Melanie Melstad, March 27
 Darrel & Jacquleen Baker
 March 9, 1974



Elders for March
 Todd Peters & Ron Yockey

Ushers for March
 Joe Van Ackeren & Jacob Vogts

Chancel Care for March
 Jeri Melstad

Acolytes for March
 March 4 Kaleb Martin
 March 7 (Lent) Nichole Dial
 March 11 Kathleen Soukup
 March 14 (Lent) Henry Jensen
 March 18 ... Stephanie Stoeger-Moore
 March 21 (Lent) Hayden Jensen
 March 25 Bryce Schroeder
 March 28 (Lent) Nichole Dial

Crucifers for March
 March 4 Jacob Michels
 March 7 (Lent) Gracie Nelson
 March 11 Claire Johnson
 March 14 (Lent) Bear Jensen
 March 18 Anna Vogts
 March 21 (Lent) Bear Jensen
 March 25 Brandon Dodds
 March 28 (Lent) Gracie Nelson



**Missionaries
of the Month**

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.

March 4
Aurora Sandell
Cambodia

March 11
Rev. Carl & Deborah Rockrohr
South Africa

March 18
Sean Harlow
Philippines

March 25
Rev. Rudolph & Ramona Blank
Venezuela



The flower calendar for 2012 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 flowers to help beautify our Sanctuary as we worship the Lord!

February 5
Ron & Jeannette Yockey

February 12
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink

February 19
Ryan & Angela Dial
Caden's Birthday

March 25
Scott & Shannon Feese
Scott's & Chance's
Baptismal Anniversary

April 1
Denise & Patrick Honner
Emma's Birthday

April 29
Randy & Deb Stein
36th Wedding Anniversary (May 1)



**March
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 occasions 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 these commemorations this month are from the excellent Concordia Publishing House publication *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (1-800-325-3040; www.cph.org; also available for Kindle).

**St. Patrick, Missionary
(March 17)**

Patrick is one of the best-known of the missionary saints. Born to a Christian family in Britain around the year AD 389 he was captured as a teenager by raiders, taken to Ireland, and forced to serve as a herdsman. After six years, he escaped and found his way to a monastery community in France.

Ordained a bishop, it is believed that Patrick made his way back to Ireland in the summer of 433, and there spent the rest of his long life spreading the Gospel and organizing Christian communities.

He strongly defended the doctrine of the Holy Trinity in a time when it was not popular to do so. His literary legacy includes his autobiography, Confession, and several prayers and hymns still used in the Church today. At least one tradition states that Patrick died in Ireland on March 17 around the year AD 466.

**St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
(March 19)**

St. Joseph has been honored throughout the Christian centuries for his faithful devotion in helping Mary raise her Son. Matthew's Gospel relates that Joseph was a just man, who followed the angel's instructions and took the already-pregnant Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:24).

In the Gospels according to Matthew and Mark, Jesus is referred to as "the carpenter's son" (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). This suggests that Joseph had building skills with which he supported his family. Joseph was an important figure in the early life of Jesus, safely escorting Mary and the child to Egypt (Matthew 2:14) and then settling them back in Nazareth once it was safe to do so (Matthew 2:22).

The final mention of Joseph is at the time the twelve-year-old Jesus visits the temple in Jerusalem for the Passover (Luke 2:41-51). Joseph, the guardian of our Lord, has long been associated with caring parenthood as well as with skilled craftsmanship.

The Annunciation of Our Lord (March 25)

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that God has shown her favor and will use her as the means for the Messiah's birth. So Mary conceives Jesus when the angel says: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35).

This same Spirit who hovered over the waters and brought forth creation (Genesis 1:2) will now "hover over" the waters of Mary's womb to conceive the creation's Redeemer. As the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary, she conceives Jesus "through her ear" (as Martin Luther says). The one who is conceived is called Holy, the Son of God. This is the moment of the incarnation of our Lord.

The date of the Annunciation falls on March 25, because the Ancient Church believed the crucifixion occurred on that date. In antiquity, people linked the day of a person's conception with the day of his or her death. Thus, in the Annunciation, the Church joined together both the incarnation of Jesus and the atonement He accomplished.



Come to Wednesday Coffee

During March we are continuing "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton, except March 14 when Holy Cross Women in Mission hold their meeting at Holy Cross.

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



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recently commissioned 32 new career and long-term missionaries, educators and human care workers into global service with a special "sending service" at the LCMS International Center Chapel in St. Louis, Missouri. The sending service served as the conclusion of their ten day New Missionary Orientation. These newest LCMS missionaries will begin their service in 16 countries.



Holy Cross Women In Mission has begun an on-going collection of toiletry items (soaps, lotions, shampoos, etc.) for local women's shelters. Look for the red box under the table in the Gathering Room. All are invited to contribute to this outreach!



Lenten Food Drive

During the month of March we are having a Lenten food drive for the Gospel Mission. There is a box in the Gathering Room. All types of non-perishable foods are welcome. They use these contributions both for the homeless people they shelter and for their food bank. "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" (Matthew 25:35).

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our special Lenten Vespers services continue on Wednesday evenings thru March 29, beginning at 7:00pm and lasting 30-45 minutes. A Lenten Supper is served in the Fellowship Hall each week from 5:45pm-6:45pm, Midweek School is from 6:15pm-7:00pm, and Choir Rehearsal follows the service.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 1. A special service of Holy Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 5 at 7:00pm.

On Good Friday, April 6, also at 7:00pm, we will have a traditional Tenebrae Service. "Tenebrae" (TEN-uh-bray) is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." The Tenebrae Service is marked by a gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights, symbolizing the death of our Lord, interspersed with readings, prayers, hymns, and other musical selections related to His Passion. Our Tenebrae Service will feature seven candles, gradually extinguished as we read Christ's seven last words from the cross.

Bring your family to meditate upon our Savior's sacrifice for your salvation.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
M erciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. <i>(Collect Wednesday of Holy Week)</i>			10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Vespers 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	1  Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am <i>Jackson Amunson</i>	2	3
4 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class	5 <i>Kay Hageman</i>	6 7:00pm Board of Trustees <i>Gail Dorr Tim Fletcher</i>	7 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Vespers 7:45pm <i>Stephanie</i> Choir <i>Stoeger-</i> Rehearsal <i>Moore</i>	8 7:30pm Board of Elders	9 <i>Darrel & Jackie Baker</i>	10
11 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:45am Choir Warm-Up 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Tamela Mahrt</i>	12	13	14 9:30am Women in Mission 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm <i>Doug</i> Lent <i>Martin</i> Vespers <i>Madeline</i> 7:45pm <i>Smith</i> Choir Rehearsal	15  Newsletter Deadline	16	17  <i>St. Patrick Susan Amunson</i>
18 4th Sunday in Lent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Caden Peters</i>	19  <i>St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus Brady Schroeder</i>	20  <i>First Day of Spring Paul Eickhoff</i>	21 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Vespers 7:45pm <i>Bennett</i> Choir <i>Jensen</i> Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 5th Sunday in Lent The Annunciation of Our Lord 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class  <i>Mark Krause, Merlin Schincke</i>	26	27	28 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Vespers 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>Preschool Schedule</u> Monday, Wednesday, Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays 9:00am</p> <p><u>After School Care</u> Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm</p> <p><i>Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</i></p> </div>		

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



Lenten Vespers

Each Wednesday During March
7:00pm

Meditations on *"The Miracles of Lent"*
(See Page 3)

Come and Keep a Faithful Lent!



Before Each Lenten Vespers Service
In the Fellowship Hall — 5:45pm-6:45pm

Sponsored by Various Groups
with Different Menus (See Page 4)
Freewill Offering to Benefit Various Causes

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church