

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes



Pastor Vogts Receives Call

Dear Friends in Christ,

Following the service on March 18 I announced that I have been extended a Call to serve as Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Independence, Kansas. Zion was established in 1872 and has about 600 members. Independence is a town of around 10,000, located in the southeast corner of Kansas, about three hours south of Kansas City. (Not to be confused with the Missouri suburb of Kansas City with the same name.)

Under our system in the Lutheran Church, this means I now have two divine Calls, this Call just received, and the Call which you extended to me in 2002 to serve as your Pastor at Holy Cross.

Over the next several weeks I will prayerfully consider these two Calls, seeking to determine which of them I believe the Lord desires me to follow. I would ask for your prayers and your counsel as I make my deliberations.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Easter Message from the Pastor



One of the high points of my life was being in Jerusalem for Holy Week and Easter in 1980, and commemorating

our Lord's Passion and Resurrection in some of the very places where these events took place some 2,000 years ago. The traditional site of Mt. Calvary, where He was crucified, is located inside the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Recent archaeological research bolsters the belief that this church actually does enclose the authentic locations of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.



The tradition that the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem was built over the authentic locations of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection has been bolstered by recent archaeological research, and many archeologists now believe the sites it encloses are indeed genuine.

In a small, dark chapel resembling a cave there is an altar and a large boulder of the original, living rock of the traditional Mt. Calvary. And in the pavement on the floor is an inscription: "This Is the Center of the Universe."

As I stood in that chapel on Good Friday 32 years ago, reading that mystical inscription brought tears to my eyes. For, it is so true that what happened on Mt. Calvary is the central event in the history of the universe. The Apostle Paul puts it this way in Colossians 1:19-20:

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to

reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

That is the Good News of Easter. Because of His Son's sacrifice, you are reconciled and at peace with God, for your sins are all forgiven and you are "holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

Pastor Kevin Vogts

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 1. A special service of Holy Communion commemorating the Last Supper 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.



Pipe Organ Recital April 15

A dedicatory recital for our pipe organ will be held 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. He will also be playing for the worship service that morning.

Crossnotes

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As of March 25, 2012

Total Offerings Budgeted
Year-to-Date \$53,395
Total Offerings Received
Year-to-Date \$36,124
Total Budget Surplus/Deficit
Year-to-Date (\$17,271)



Holy Cross is again sponsoring a Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7 (day before Easter) at 10:30am on the church grounds.

This event is for the entire community, and all children up to age 10 are welcome. Last year over 100 children and about twice that many adults attended. This event has become a real community tradition! There will be plenty of eggs, prizes, snacks and an Easter video.

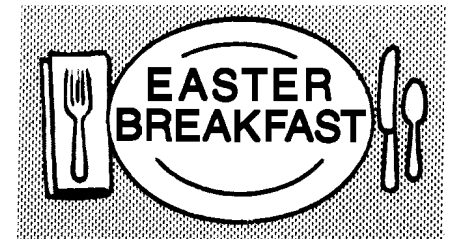
Bring your children and grandchildren, invite your children's friends and neighbor's children.



You are invited to a Community Sunrise Service at Holy Cross on Easter Sunday, April 8 at 7:00am. This simple service will feature the Easter story and

favorite Easter hymns. A second Easter Service, with Holy Communion, will be held at the regular time of 9:15am.

Easter Sunrise Service is one of the most moving and meaningful worship opportunities of the year. Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate the real significance of Easter. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, etc.—everyone enjoys Easter Sunrise services!



Following the Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 8, the Youth Group will host an Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. A free-will offering will be taken. Everyone is invited!



Quarterly Meeting April 15

The regular quarterly business meeting of the Voters Assembly will be Sunday, April 15, immediately following fellowship hour, at approximately 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. There will not be Adult Bible Class that day due to the meeting.

The meeting will include the presentation by the Nominating Committee of a ballot for the open offices of Vice-President and Chair of the Board of Stewardship. These positions were newly created when we adopted revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws after the 2012

election had already taken place. Our thanks to Darrell Baker for agreeing to serve as Vice-President and Rev. Charles Horkey for agreeing to serve as Chair of the Board of Stewardship.

All adult members of Holy Cross are automatically voting members. Everyone is encouraged to come and help administer the business side of our congregation.

For more information about the Voters Assembly contact congregational chairman Harold Mettenbrink.



*The Sermon
on the Mount*

Sermon on the Mount Bible Study

On April 22 and 29 we will continue our study in Adult Bible Class on Matthew chapters 5-7, commonly called the "Sermon on the Mount." This event in our Lord's ministry is beautifully illustrated in our altar window. There will not be class on April 1 due to the reception for the organ dedication; on April 8 due to Easter Sunday; or on April 15 due to the quarterly business meeting.

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most beloved portions of Scripture and constitutes the longest continuous record of our Lord's teaching in the Gospels. 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 on April 22 and 29 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we delve into "The Sermon on the Mount."



Holy Cross Women in Mission held their regular monthly meeting on

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!

March 11. Deb Stein presented a devotion connecting the wonders of God's sea creatures to the wonderful story of God sending His Son to earth for our salvation.

The April meeting will include making plans for our summer activities. All women are invited to please join us at our next meeting on April 11 at 9:30am in the Gathering Room. Caring, sharing and socializing are always on the agenda!

Those serving in April: Chancel Care—Mary Mettenbrink; Snacks and Devotions—Jackie Baker.



A complete list of Easter Lily donations will appear in the May newsletter.

The deadline to order Easter Lilies through the church office was Palm Sunday. However, 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 in the Gathering Room indicating that are providing 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 April

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.

April 1–Palm Sunday
“Court TV–Channel 33 A.D.”
 Mark 15:1-39

April 8–Easter Sunday
“The End of the Road?”
 Mark 16:1-8

April 15
“Jesus Came Among Them”
 John 20:19-31

April 22
“No Other Name Under Heaven”
 Acts 4:12

April 29
“My Sheep Listen to My Voice”
 John 10:27-28



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!

April 1
 Organ Dedication Reception

April 8
 Easter Breakfast

April 15
 Vogts

April 22
 Amunson

April 29
 Need Volunteer



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.

Todd Peters, April 2
 Emma Honner, April 4
 Kevin Hamilton, April 5
 Jeri Melstad, April 6
 Chance Feese, April 10
 A.J. Michels, April 14
 Nyla Hamm, April 15
 Pastor Kevin Vogts, April 17
 John Isley, April 22
 Elaine Van Ackeren, April 23
 Gary Gunderson, April 26

Jim & Barbara Goede, April 17, 1982
 Les & Vickie Britson, April 19, 1980
 Todd & Jill Peters, April 21, 2001



Elders for April
 Gary Amunson & Dennis Kuhn

Ushers for April
 Darrel Baker & Les Britson

Chancel Care for April
 Mary Mettenbrink

Acolytes for April
 April 1 Hayden Jensen
 April 5 (Maundy Thurs) Claire Johnson
 April 6 (Good Friday) Henry Jensen
 April 8 (7:00am) Anna Vogts
 April 8 (9:15am) Kaleb Martin
 April 15 Bryce Schroeder
 April 22 Nichole Dial
 April 29 Jacob Michels

Crucifers for April
 April 1 Bear Jensen
 April 5 (Maundy Thurs) Katie Soukup
 April 6 (Good Friday) Bear Jensen
 April 8 (7:00am) Anna Vogts
 April 8 (9:15am) Kaleb Martin
 April 15 Brandon Dodds
 April 22 Gracie Nelson
 April 29 Stephanie Stoeger-Moore



Administrative Professionals Day

thanks

Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 25. Please take a moment to express your gratitude to our gracious, volunteer secretarial staff. Our thanks to Deb Stein, Linda Amunson, Jackie Baker, Dee Reifke, Mary Mettenbrink, and Jeri Melstand for keeping the office under control—and Pastor in line!



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.

April 1

*Rev. Fungchatou & Kalia Lo
Cambodia*

April 8

*Marva Ludgood
South Africa*

April 15

*Rev. Steve & Mary Kosberg
South Korea*

April 22

*Sandro & Michelle Cagnin
Hong Kong*

April 29

*Rev. Ed & Cherie Auger
Cayman Islands*



Lutheran Lecture Series May 5

You are invited to The Lutheran Lecture Series—Midwest on Saturday, May 5 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, Iowa. This year's theme is "The Office of the Keys." The presenter will be Rev. Brian Saunders, a native of Sioux City and now the President of the LCMS Iowa East District. Topics will include: "The Keys Are for Seeking and Saving the Lost," "The Keys Are for Finding the Absent Saints," and "The Keys and Ordinary Care of a Pastor for His Flock," followed by a roundtable discussion.

Registration with coffee and donuts begins at 9:00am. The formal activities start at 9:45am and will continue until 12:00pm when everyone will break for lunch, which will be provided by the host congregation's youth group. The afternoon's lectures will begin at 1:00pm and finish by 3:15pm. A short service of Vespers will follow, and the day's activities will conclude by 4:00pm.

If you plan to attend please register in advance by emailing Trinity Lutheran Church at tlcmarcus@midlands.net. You can also speak with Holy Cross member Jon Dorr for more information.



Altar Flowers

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!

March 25

*Scott & Shannon Feese
Scott's & Chance's
Baptismal Anniversary*

*Harold & Mary Mettenbrink
In Memory of Harold's Friend
Gaylord Becker*

April 1

*Denise & Patrick Honner
Emma's Birthday (April 4)*

April 15

*Vogts Family
Pastor's Birthday (April 17)*

April 29

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

May 6

*Denise & Patrick Honner
Eli's Birthday (May 8)*



April 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 the festivals of and forbearers in the faith. This year the moveable festivals of Holy Week and Easter also fall during April. The description of Palm Sunday is adapted from the classic work *The Sermon and the Propers*, and the other observances are from the excellent

Concordia Publishing House publication *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (1-800-325-3040; www.cph.org; also available as "E-Pub" for Kindle).

Palm Sunday (April 1)

The earliest names for this Sunday were "The Lord's Day of Palm Branches" and "Hosanna Sunday." This Sunday is the gateway to Holy Week, which has been observed from the earliest days with the greatest solemnity. The object of the observance is to commemorate the last week of our Lord's life and to help the faithful in reliving it vividly, to spend these holy days and hours each contemplating my heart, my life, my soul, in the light of that suffering.

Holy Week is not merely a sorrowful outpouring of sympathy with the suffering Lord. Through the entire week breathes a victorious, joyous spirit. The suffering is no more than a passage to the glory of the resurrection. On Palm Sunday we acclaim our King; Maundy Thursday is a festive celebration of our Lord's death; on Good Friday we elevate Christ as a sign of victory; and the work of salvation does not end with death, but continues on Easter into the victory of the resurrection.

Maundy Thursday (April 5)

Maundy Thursday, the Day of Commandment (Latin *Dies Mandati*), most properly refers to the example of service given us by our Lord and the directive to love as we have been loved (John 13:34). Yet we must not forget the command given in the Words of Our Lord to "do this in remembrance of Me." This day, with its commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper, is set off from the rest of Holy Week as a day of festive joy.

Good Friday (April 6)

Good Friday is the high point of Holy Week, but not of the Church Year—for we know that after Good Friday a day is coming when death will give way to life. If the commemoration of Good Friday was separated from Easter, we would

remain in our sins, and thus the ultimate word of Good Friday would be "you are condemned." Even as we stand at the foot of the cross and contemplate the price of our sin, we gather as children reconciled to God. In the services of Good Friday, the Church does not leave us in the darkness and the shadow of death but rather fills us with the certainty of victory over sin, death, and the devil, pointing us to the final victory that will be celebrated on Easter.

Easter Sunday (April 8)

Easter is the oldest and highest of all Christian festivals—the festival of festivals, the feast of feasts! On this day, when Christ first stepped triumphantly from the ranks of the dead, all our waiting is declared to be a waiting that is already completed; Christ's triumph makes all the waiting that follows in our lives of faith a building anchored on the foundation that was laid when He whom the builders rejected became the Cornerstone. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

St. Mark, Evangelist (April 25)

St. Mark was the author of the second Gospel, which he composed, according to some Early Church Fathers, when the Christians in Rome asked him to write down the preaching of the apostle Peter.

Mark, also known as John Mark, was originally from Jerusalem, where the house of his mother Mary was the center of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 12:12). He was brought from Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 12:25), and it was from this city that they set out on the first missionary journey.

When Paul and Barnabas were preparing to go on the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them again, but Paul objected because Mark had left them during the first journey. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas as his new companion (Acts 15:37-40). Later, Paul reconciled with Mark and

was working with him again (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11).

Based on the vision of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:1-10, 10:14), in Christian art St. Mark is traditionally represented by a winged lion, St. Matthew by a winged man, St. Luke by a winged ox, and St. John by an eagle. It is thought that of these four the winged lion was chosen for St. Mark because he begins his gospel with St. John the Baptist as the "voice of one crying in the wilderness," like a roaring lion.



Finally, Mark was found laboring with Peter in Rome (1 Peter 5:13). Tradition says that Mark was instrumental in founding the Church in Alexandria, becoming its first bishop, and also that he suffered a martyr's death.



Come to Wednesday Coffee

During April we are continuing "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton, except April 11 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!



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!



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10:30am

On Church Grounds

Up to Age 10

All Children Invited!

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Holy Cross Fellowship Hall
Freewill Donation



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