
Pastor Vogts Receives, Declines Call

At the end of May I was notified by telephone that I had been extended a Call to serve as the Pastor of the joint parish of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Winnebago, Minnesota, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Easton, Minnesota. However, it is customary not to publicly announce a Call until the official Call documents have been received, and receipt of these was delayed due to some absences among the leaders of the two congregations who needed to sign the documents.

This already allowed me time to prayerfully consider the Call. Also, I have recently been through the process of deliberating a Call, and many of the factors to take into consideration were similar. Therefore, I have already informed these congregations that I am respectfully declining their Call.

Why would I receive two Calls in a short period of time? Unlike many denominations, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a very informal, ad hoc system in this regard. It is *not* a sign that either the District President or myself requested that I move. These congregations in Minnesota followed the old custom of not contacting me at all prior to extending me the Call—similar to the tradition of a groom not seeing the bride before the wedding—and I was not even aware that I was being considered until after they had extended the Call to me.

It turns out that in both cases, in Kansas and Minnesota, an acquaintance from my college and seminary days is a Pastor at a neighboring congregation, and they—without my knowledge—suggested my name. That's typical of how this often happens in the LCMS.

Another factor may be that for about five years there has actually been an unusual surplus of Pastors in the LCMS, because many "baby boom" Pastors who would otherwise be eligible for retirement chose to delay retiring due to the poor economy and losses in their retirement accounts. As their investments recover, or they simply reach the point where they are retiring regardless, there is going to be a mass exodus of Pastors from active service and probably a resulting increase in the number of congregational vacancies and the frequency of Pastors receiving Calls. The two Calls I have received in a short period of time may represent the leading edge of that demographic trend.

May the Lord grant these congregations the Pastor that they need to shepherd their flock, and may He bless our continued work together at Holy Cross.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



This month I am sharing with you an article about an exciting recent archaeological discovery in the Holy Land. Jesus said that "the stones will cry out" in testimony to Him (Luke 19:40) and this is yet another stunning example of archaeology confirming the historicity and accuracy of the Bible.

Oldest Evidence Found of Bethlehem

by Diaa Hadid, Associated Press

Israeli archaeologists have discovered a 2,700-year-old seal that bears the inscription "Bethlehem," the Israel Antiquities Authority announced in May, in what experts believe to be the oldest artifact with the name of Jesus' traditional birthplace.



This 2,700-year-old seal recently uncovered in excavations at Jerusalem is the oldest known reference to Bethlehem outside the Bible.

The tiny clay seal's existence and age provide vivid evidence that Bethlehem was not just the name of a fabled biblical town, but also a bustling place of trade linked to the nearby city of Jerusalem, archaeologists said.

Eli Shukron, the authority's director of excavations, said the find was significant because it is the first time the name "Bethlehem" appears outside of a biblical text from that period.

Shukron said the seal, 1.5 centimeters (0.59 inches) in diameter, dates back to the period of the first biblical Jewish Temple, between the

eighth and seventh century B.C., at a time when Jewish kings reigned over the ancient kingdom of Judah and 700 years before Jesus was born.

The seal was written in ancient Hebrew script from the same time. Pottery found nearby also dated back to the same period, he said.

Shmuel Achituv, an expert in ancient scripts at Israel's Ben-Gurion University who did not participate in the dig, said the discovery was the oldest reference to Bethlehem ever found outside of the Bible. Apart from the seal, the other mentions of Bethlehem, Achituv said, "are only in the Bible."

The stamp, also known as "fiscal bulla," was likely used to seal an administrative tax document, sent from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, the seat of Jewish power at the time.

It was found as archaeologists sifted through mounds of dirt they had dug up in an excavation outside Jerusalem's Old City walls.

Shukron said the first line most likely read "Beshava'at" - or "in the seventh" - most likely the year of the reign of a king. The second line, he said, has the crumbling letters of the word "Bethlehem." The third line carried one letter, a "ch" which Shukron said was the last letter of the Hebrew work for king, "melech."

Crossnotes

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June, 2012

Volume 10

Number 6

Hebrew words often do not have vowels, which are understood from the context, making several interpretations of the same word plausible. Some of the letters are crumbled, or were wiped away. Three experts interviewed by the AP, one involved in the text and two independents, concurred the seal says Bethlehem.

There are only some 40 other existing seals of this kind from the first Jewish Temple period, said Achituv, making this a significant find, both because such seals are rare, and because this is the first to mention Bethlehem.



As of May 27, 2012

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$89,930
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$70,526
Total Budget Surplus/Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$19,404)



Sermon Audio Now Available

One project that got put "on hold" due to the disruption from the flood was arranging to have audio of our sermons available on our web site. We've now

had an opportunity to work out the technical details, so in addition to the printed text of sermons by Pastor Vogts, beginning in May, 2012 audio is also included for most sermons.

Go to www.holycrossdakotadunes.org/sermons and click on the speaker icon after the sermon title to listen online, or right-click to download as an MP3. If you prefer a CD of a particular sermon just ask Pastor Vogts.



Summer Sermon Series on Stained Glass Windows

We are very blessed to have some truly extraordinary stained-glass windows at Holy Cross. Many newer churches do not include such traditional artistic features, and visitors are often in awe at their beauty.

However, they are much more than just *beautiful*. An important goal in designing these windows was to have them also be *meaningful*, a multi-media teaching tool conveying an important spiritual message.

Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 27 and thru the end of July we are having a Summer Sermon Series on "Sermons in Stained Glass," focusing on the meaning of the various stained-glass windows in our church. This includes not only the windows in our Sanctuary but also the very fine windows in the entryway of the Educational Wing.

The final sermon in this series will feature the preliminary concept for the Holy Spirit window which will someday be added at the west front of the Sanctuary.

May 27
"Creation"
Genesis 1:1-5

June 3
"Redemption"
John 3:16-18

June 16 & 17
"Baptismal Shell"
Ephesians 5:26-27

June 23 & 24
"Communion Chalice"
1 Corinthians 10:16

June 30 & July 1
"Good Shepherd"
Mark 6:34

July 14 & 15
"Angels"
Matthew 18:10

July 21-22
"Baptistery Windows"
Romans 6:3-5

July 28-29
"Holy Spirit"
Ephesians 4:3-6



**Guest
Preacher**

Guest Preacher June 9-10

The Vogts family will be on a trip with Pastor's side of the family in Branson, Missouri the weekend of June 9-10. Our guest minister for both the Saturday and Sunday services that weekend will be Rev. David Schoop, retired pastor from Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City.

If you need pastoral care in Pastor Vogts' absence you may call him on his cell phone (712-898-4818) or you may call Pastor Henry Witte of Concordia Lutheran Church (Cell: 712-202-4751).



Walter Peters

Father of Todd Peters

Entered Eternal Rest
May 21, 2012

*"Come unto Me, all you who
are weary and heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28



*The Sermon
on the Mount*

Sermon on the Mount Bible Study

If you have a Bible with the words of Christ in red, you will notice that all of Matthew chapters 5-7 is red. These chapters are the longest continuous record of our Lord's teaching, commonly called the "Sermon on the Mount." This key event in our Lord's ministry is beautifully illustrated in our altar window.

During June we will continue our study in Adult Bible Class on "The Sermon on the Mount." Packed into this single sermon are many well-known and beloved passages of Scripture, including 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).

There will be no Adult Bible Class on June 10 due to Pastor Vogts' absence. Join in on June 3, 17, and 24 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we delve into "The Sermon on the Mount."



Women's Spring Luncheon and Outing June 13

All women are invited to the Annual Women's Spring Luncheon & Outing scheduled for Wednesday, June 13. We will depart from Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 9:00am sharp.

We will travel by caravan to Tekamah, Nebraska to visit the Burt County Museum, the site of the 1900 Houston Brothers homes complete with leaded glass windows, ornate woodwork & beautifully landscaped grounds. Also included in our tour will be a charming 1903 one-room schoolhouse.

Our next stop in Tekamah is lunch at the Serendipity Chocolate Factory & Tea Room, rated in the top 10 of state teahouses. There we will enjoy chilled peach soup, a choice of either chicken or taco salad, followed by cream puffs or a house specialty chocolate dessert.

Before we head home, we will stop at the Silver Hills Winery where we will be given a personal tour of the vineyards and an overview of the art of wine making. A tasting will follow for any or all non-designated drivers!

Please R.S.V.P. to: Jackie Baker at 422-3132 by June 11th. Cost for the food & fun is \$14.00. Checks may be made payable to Jackie Baker. All women are welcome to join in the fun, food, and fellowship!



Melanie Melstad and Ryan Bye

United in Marriage
June 2, 2012

"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one."

Matthew 19:5-6



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.

- Briley Schroeder, June 5
- Becky Nelson, June 9
- Doug Jansen, June 13
- Quintin Krause, June 13
- Richard Beffert, June 16
- Les Reifke, June 17
- Donna Vondracek, June 17
- Kaden Martin, June 20
- Emily Steemken, June 21
- Jacob Vogts, June 22
- Alfa Fisher, June 24
- Della Beffert, June 25
- Kaleb Martin, June 27

Gary & Linda Amunson
June 11, 1972

Carroll & Janet Gustman
June 21, 1975

Rev. Charles & Marsha Horkey
June 30, 1978

Holy Cross Vacation Bible School

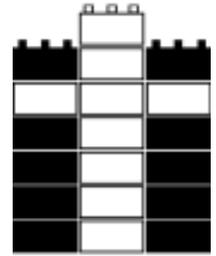
Monday thru Friday, June 4th to 8th
9:00-11:30am

For Children Age Three Thru Those Just Completing 4th Grade

Bible Lessons ☺ Crafts
Songs ☺ Refreshments

No Charges or Fees – Non-Members Welcome!
Pre-Registration Appreciated

For more information contact Christian Education Office at 235-1688



Connect
with
Christ



MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services specific Missionaries of the Month around the world who we are helping support by our congregation's gift to the LCMS of 10% of our general offerings.

Located just a half-hour from Holy Cross is the biggest mission support organization in the LCMS, and one of the biggest of any denomination in the United States. LCMS Mission Central, located on an old farm outside Mapleton, Iowa, brings missionaries from around the world to speak about their work. This unique organization raises millions for missions each year—with no overhead, 100% going directly to support missionaries.

Most of our Missionaries of the Month will be speaking this month at Mission Central. You are encouraged to visit Mission Central and hear their wonderful stories of how, *"All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing"* (Colossians 1:6).

The dates of the missionaries' presentations at Mission Central are listed below. For more information and directions to Mission Central visit www.missioncentral.us or speak to Pastor Vogts.

June 3

Rev. John & Susan Mehl
Hong Kong

June 10

Rev. John Cima
Vietnam

June 19, 1:00pm & 7:00pm

June 17

Rev. Carl and Chenhsi Hanson
Hong Kong

June 22, 1:30pm

June 24

Matt and DeeDee Wasmund
South Korea

June 23, 1:00pm & 7:00pm



Elders for June

Gary Amunson & Todd Peters

Ushers for June

Jon Dorr & Doug Nelson

Chancel Care for June

Jackie Baker

Acolytes for June

June 3 Nichole Dial
June 10 Hayden Jensen
June 17 Kaleb Martin
June 24 Gracie Nelson

Crucifers for June

June 3 Jacob Michels
June 10 Henry Jensen
June 17 Bryce Schroeder
June 24 Kathleen Soukup



**Mission
Outing
July 26**

Please plan to join the women of Holy Cross on Thursday, July 26 when we visit the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska. There we will tour the huge warehouse where items are stored prior to their shipment to help thousands of needy people all over the world. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and serve God by volunteering whatever tasks are set before us; big or small for the strong and not-so-strong.

All you need to bring is a willing heart and a bag lunch. We will depart from Holy Cross at 9:00am and return around 4:00pm with renewed spirits and thankful for our many blessings. Questions? Call Jackie Baker (422-3132).



**Snack Volunteers
Needed for Summer**

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!



We rejoiced to celebrate the Confirmation and First Communion of Brandon Dodds, Bear Jensen, Claire Johnson, and Stephanie Stoeger-Moore on May 20.

June 3
Dorr

June 10, 17, 24
Need Volunteers



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!

May 6

Denise & Patrick Honner
Eli's Birthday

May 13

Terri Hageman
Our Mom's Memory

May 20

Confirmation Class

June 3

Dennis & Jeri Melstad
Wedding of Melanie Melstad & Ryan Bye

July 8

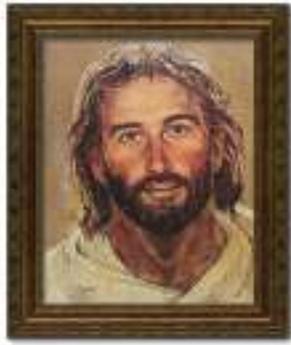
Ryan & Angela Dial
Nicole's Birthday



**Come to
Wednesday
Coffee**

Summer is a great time to join in "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton.

We began this informal gathering last summer during the flood, as a way for members to keep in touch during the evacuation and while our church building was closed and many activities cancelled. It's become a real tradition and a good-sized group gathers each week. Everyone is invited-ya'll come!



New Artworks Installed

You may notice several pieces of new artwork around the church building. These were purchased from a designated fund which was donated for that purpose at the time the new Sanctuary was built in 2007 but had not yet been utilized.

The paintings are from our LCMS Concordia Publishing House and produced with a special high-quality "oil-print" process. CPH has approximately 60 pictures available in this series, which the Board of Elders narrowed to 12, and then at the Quarterly Business Meeting in April the Voters Assembly voted on six. The *Crucifixion* and *Last Supper* are in the Gathering Room; the *Sermon on the Mount* is in the hallway by the Pastor's Study; and the *Head of Christ*, *Garden of Gethsemane*, and *Good Shepherd* are in the Fellowship Hall. Also in the entry of the Educational Wing is another picture in this series, *Jesus and the Little Children*, already purchased by the Board of Elders several months ago as a sample. (If you would like to see all the pictures available in this series go to www.cph.org/framedprints.)

Hanging in the peak of the south end of the Fellowship Hall is a statue of the Risen Christ. This was purchased by the Board of Elders several months ago for possible use in one of the niches in the entryway Atrium. Unfortunately, when it arrived it was defective, with painting flaws on the face. The company gave us a refund and said that we could keep it. Pastor Vogts' nephew, who recently graduated from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska with an art degree in

Saturday Summer Service



Saturdays at 5:30pm

Beginning June 9 thru End of August

(No Services June 2 or August 4 Due to Weddings)

*Abbreviated Version of Service for Following Sunday
with Same Sermon — Holy Communion Each Saturday*

painting, was able to repaint the face perfectly. However, it was decided that overall the statue was not high enough quality for use in the Atrium and the Board of Elders decided to hang it in the Fellowship Hall instead. Our Fellowship Hall is used for many community activities, so these artworks help give a witness to visitors.



While Women In Mission will not hold regular meetings in June, July, or August; everyone is reminded of the summer events scheduled in June and July.

The invitations for the day trip and luncheon in Tekamah, Nebraska on June 13 have been mailed. RSVP's are kindly requested by June 11.

On July 26, a tour and volunteer opportunity are planned at the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska. Consider joining us for these events. Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12 at 9:30am.



Web Site Updated

The Holy Cross web site at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org has recently been updated. Apologies that some links, especially on the "Beliefs" and "Resources" page, had been broken, primarily due to the LCMS restructuring its own web site. All the links are now working again and you will find many valuable resources.

New to the web site on the "Resources" page is an extensive collection of Martin Luther's writings, including the complete "Philadelphia Edition" of Luther's Works and the "Church Postils" collection of Luther's sermons. Also new to the "Worship" page are recordings of our pipe organ from the recent dedicatory recital.

The current week's bulletin and other news and upcoming events are on the "Home" page. Also included on the "Sermons" page is a sermon archive, with audio beginning in May, 2012, and on the "Newsletter" page a complete archive of newsletters going back to 2003.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
 Office: 605-232-9117 Home: 605-232-4013
 Cell: 712-898-4818 Email: pastorvogts@longlines.com
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2012

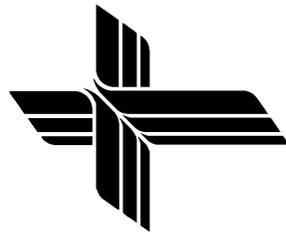
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Trinity Sunday  9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class 6:00pm Adult Information Class	4 ←-----→ Connect with Christ Vacation Bible School Monday-Friday, June 4-8, 9:00am-11:30am <i>Briley Schroeder</i>	5 Primary Election in Gathering Room 7:00pm Board of Trustees	6  10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton	7	1 6:00pm Melstad-Bye Rehearsal 8	2 3:30pm Melstad-Bye Wedding 9 5:30pm Worship with Communion <i>Becky Nelson</i>
10 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Rev. David Schoop Guest Minister  Guest Preacher	11  <i>St. Barnabas Gary & Linda Amunson</i>	12	13 9:00am Women's Spring Luncheon & Outing 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton <i>Doug Jansen Quintin Krause</i>	14 7:30pm Board of Elders  Flag Day	15	16 5:30pm Worship with Communion <i>Richard Beffert</i>
17 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Fathers' Day 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class 6:00pm Adult Information Class  <i>Les Reifke, Donna Vondracek</i>	18  Newsletter Deadline	19	20  10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton <i>Kaden Martin</i>	21  Summer Begins! <i>Emily Steemken Carroll & Janet Gustman</i>	22 <i>Jacob Vogts</i>	23 5:30pm Worship with Communion
24 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class 6:00pm Adult Information Class  <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist Alfa Fisher</i>	25  <i>Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (1530) Della Beffert</i>	26	27  10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton <i>Kaleb Martin</i>	28  <i>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</i>	29  <i>Spiritus Ginsko</i>	30 5:30pm Worship with Communion <i>Rev. Charles & Marsha Horkey</i>
<p>Lord God, heavenly Father, You preserved the teaching of the apostolic Church through the confession of the true faith at Augsburg. Continue to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. <i>(Collect for the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, June 25)</i></p>				 Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am		

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

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
Crossnotes

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

Return Service Requested



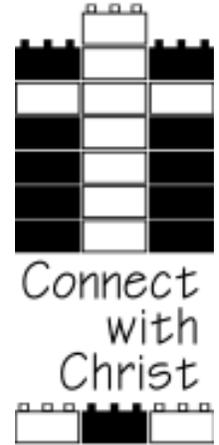
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For Children Age Three Thru Those Just Completing 4th Grade

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