



This month I am sharing with you an article by the Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, about the significance of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, which we just observed in the Church Year on June 24.

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

*by Rev. Dr. James Lamb
Executive Director, Lutherans for Life*

In the Church Year calendar, June 24 is The Nativity of St. John the Baptist. John's nativity followed the course of most Jewish births at the time, I suppose. The age of his parents, however, indicated that his conception was miraculous. Not miraculous like Jesus who had no earthly father, but miraculous because both Elizabeth and Zechariah were "advanced in years" and Elizabeth was barren (Luke 1:7). Thus, friends and relatives, recognizing God's hand in all of this, buzzed about John's future. "What then will this child be?" (Luke 1:66)

Zechariah knew. Through the power of the Holy Spirit he prophesied, "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1:76). John knew. The Holy Spirit filled him too, "even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15). At the very least, he knew when Jesus was present. At six months old, he "leaped for joy" (Luke 1:44) in his mother's womb when the dot-sized embryo that was Jesus showed up in Mary's womb. Babies as old as John leap frequently in wombs. But John does so with the very human emotion of joy.



This 1503 woodcut by renown Lutheran artist Albrecht Dürer depicts The Visitation, as recorded in Luke 1:39-56. After miraculously conceiving Jesus, the Virgin Mary (left) visits her cousin Elizabeth (right), who is pregnant with John the Baptist.

We can learn from this embryo-to-fetus encounter. The Nativity of St. John the Baptist teaches us of the humanity and personhood of the unborn. I find it

difficult to apply words like "glob of cells" or "non-sentient being" to the Spirit-filled, joyful, and leaping-in-the-presence-of-his-Savior John. Such things happen only to a fully human person.

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist gives affirmation to the science of human embryology and fetal development. Unborn babies feel pain and respond to touch and light and sound. They leap and kick and swim and walk. They suck their thumbs, take naps, and "go potty." They recognize their mother's voice and daddy's too if he talks to them. They love classical music, but good luck getting a teen to admit to this!

Philosophers, politicians, movie stars, judges, and sometimes theologians come up with all kinds of illogic, verbiage, sob stories, rulings, and heresy trying to minimize or deny the humanity and personhood of the unborn. But the basics of biology and the Bible bests them every time. When you celebrate The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, you not only celebrate the birth of the way-preparer, you affirm life and humanness and personhood.



Sermon Audio Now Available

One project that got put "on hold" due to the disruption from the flood was

Crossnotes

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Number 7

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 the sermons button at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org 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.

BUDGET UPDATE 

As of June 17, 2012

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$101,975
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$88,017
Total Budget Surplus/Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$13,958)

Guest Preacher 

Guest Preacher July 7-8

The Vogts family will be in Michigan from July 2 thru 11, visiting Sarah at a music camp and attending a reunion for Terry's side of the family.

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 Charles Horkey, a retired Pastor who is a member of Holy Cross (712-898-4983).

Our thanks to Pastor Horkey for also serving as our guest preacher on Saturday, July 7 and Sunday, July 8.



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 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. Audio and the printed versions of the sermons preached so far in this series are available under the sermons button at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org.

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



The Sermon on the Mount

Sermon on the Mount Bible Study

We will have Adult Bible Class each Sunday in July except July 15, due to the Quarterly Business Meeting following worship. Pastor Charles Horkey will lead the class in Pastor Vogts' absence on July 8.

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."

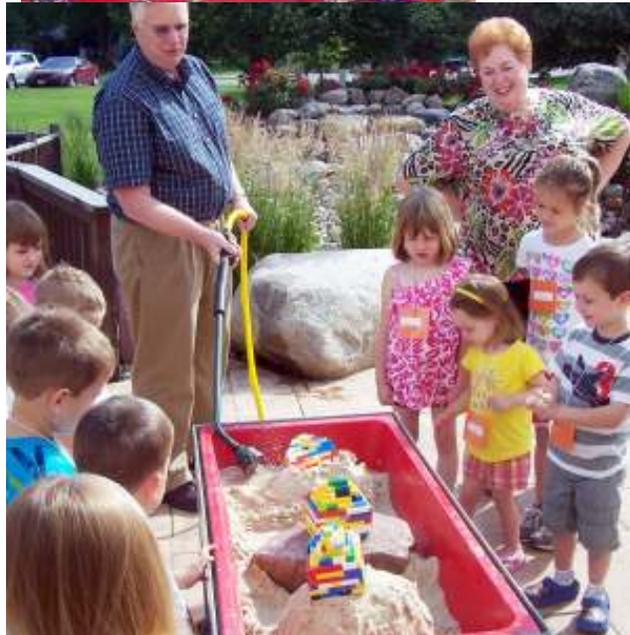
Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our study of "The Sermon on the Mount."



After a year's delay, 54 children and about two dozen helpers finally enjoyed our Vacation Bible School "Connect with Christ" the first week of June. VBS was all prepared for the same week last year, but instead because of the flood the church was closed and emptied and many of us were moving out of our homes that week. A great blessing this year was a very large number of eager helpers! Special thanks to Board of Education Chair Angela Dial for a super job as VBS Superintendent. Everything was fantastically organized and went very smoothly!



2012 Vacation Bible School



Pastor Vogts taught the Bible stories using hands-on activities, including building and knocking down the walls of Jericho (with dozens of large boxes), making water come from the rock like the people of Israel in the wilderness (with the help of a remote control for the waterfall in our prayer garden), and here building houses on rock and sand as in Jesus' parable.



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.

- Barry Hageman, July 2
- Taylor DeRocher, July 4
- Nichole Dial, July 5
- Jacob Michels, July 6
- Darla Bauer, July 13
- Shannon Feese, July 16
- Gloria Barnum, July 20

Barry & Kay Hageman
July 2, 1976

Harold & Mary Mettenbrink
July 6, 1985



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.

All of our Missionaries of the Month for July 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.

July 1

Rev. Dr. Fungchatou & Kalia Lo
Cambodia
July 7, 1:00pm & 7:00pm

July 8

Sarah Cusson
Hungary
July 11, 1:30pm

July 15

Rev. Matthew Heise
Russia
July 19, 1:00pm

July 22

Rev. Joel & Iantha Scheiwe
Hong Kong
July 21, 1:00pm & 7:00pm

July 29

Alissa Asmus
Macau
July 25, 1:30pm

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for July

Carroll Gustman & Ron Yockey

Ushers for July

Gary Gunderson & Harold Mettenbrink

Chancel Care for July

Sue Jansen

Acolytes for July

July 1 Nichole Dial
July 8 Caden Peters
July 15 Kaleb Martin
July 22 Gracie Nelson
July 29 Anna Vogts

Crucifers for July

July 1 Jacob Michels
July 8 Caden Peters
July 15 Bryce Schroeder
July 22 Kathleen Soukup
July 29 Anna Vogts



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).



Altar Flowers

The flower calendar for 2012 is 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!

June 3

Dennis & Jeri Melstad
Wedding of Melanie Melstad & Ryan Bye

July 1

Barry & Kay Hageman
Barry's Birthday & Our Anniversary

July 8

Ryan & Angela Dial
Nicole's Birthday

July 15

Ginny Peterson
In Memory of Husband Bob Peterson

August 5

Les & Dee Reifke
Anniversary

August 19

Gloria Barnum
In Memory of Husband
Robert Barnum's Birthday



Snack Volunteers Needed for July

During the summer we continue having fellowship time in the Gathering Room after worship each Sunday. However, so far no one has signed up to host for any of the five Sundays in July.

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!



Women's Spring Luncheon and Outing

A large group of women and Pastor Vogts enjoyed the annual Women's Spring Luncheon and Outing on June 13. This year we went to Tekamah, Nebraska to visit the Burt County Museum (above), featuring two historic homes and a restored one-room school house (like some women remembered attending), had a delicious lunch and shopped at the Serendipity Chocolate Factory & Tea Room (below), and enjoyed a tour and samples at the Silver Hills Winery (we didn't take any incriminating photos there!). Plan to join in the fun next year!



Women In Mission is the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) chapter at Holy Cross. Although we do not hold regular meetings in June, July,

or August, we are enjoying two special summer events in June and July.

A large group of women and Pastor Vogts enjoyed the annual Women's Spring Luncheon and Outing on June 13 in Tekamah, Nebraska (see pictures above). Consider joining us on July 26 for a tour and volunteer opportunity at the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska (see article on page 4).

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12 at 9:30am.



Quarterly Business Meeting July 15

The regular Quarterly Business Meeting of the Voters Assembly will be held Sunday, July 15, following the fellowship hour at approximately 10:30am. 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.



Come to Wednesday Coffee

Summer is a great time to join in "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday this month except the Fourth of July 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!



John & Sherry Isley

John recently retired from 1st Financial Bank and the Isleys are relocating to Fargo, North Dakota to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

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

Mark & Thelma Reed

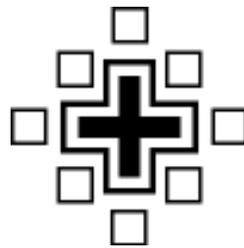
Mark formerly worked at the Delta reservations center in Sioux City, but since they are closing he accepted a transfer to their reservations center in Ogden, Utah.

*"The LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9*

repentant "woman of the city" who anointed Jesus' feet as He sat at the table in the Pharisee's home (Luke 7:36-50). But there is no biblical basis for this identification of her with a penitent prostitute. Nor is she to be identified with Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany. According to the Gospels, Mary Magdalene saw Jesus die; she witnessed His burial; and, most important, she was the first to see Him alive again after His resurrection (John 20:11-18). It is for good reason that Bernard of Clairvaux calls her "the apostle to the apostles."

St. James the Elder, Apostle (July 25)

St. James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee and Salome (see Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40), were fishermen in the Sea of Galilee who were called with Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22). In the Gospel lists of Jesus' disciples, James is listed following Peter and preceding John. Together, these three appear as leaders of the Twelve. Because James precedes John, it is reasoned that James is the elder of the brothers. The Book of Acts records that James was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I, probably between AD 42 and 44 (Acts 12:1-2). Thus James is the first of the Twelve to die a martyr.



July Commemorations

St. Mary Magdalene (July 22)

Whenever the New Testament Gospels name the women who were with Jesus, St. Mary Magdalene is listed first (John 19:25 is the only exception), perhaps because she was the first to see the risen Savior alive. Luke 8:2 reports that Jesus had cured her of being possessed by seven demons. Through the centuries, she has often been identified with the

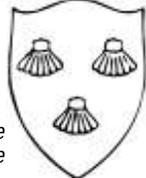


HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

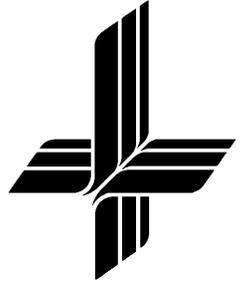
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2012

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class	2 <i>Barry Hageman Barry & Kay Hageman</i>	3	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY <i>Taylor DeRocher</i>	5 <i>Nichole Dial</i>	6 <i>Jacob Michels Harold & Mary Mettenbrink</i>	7 5:30pm Worship with Communion
8 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Charles Horkey Guest Minister 10:30am Adult Bible Class  Guest Preacher	9	10	11 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	12 7:30pm Church Council  Church Council <i>Darla Bauer</i>	13	14 5:30pm Worship with Communion
15 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Quarterly Business Meeting 6:00pm Adult Information Class 	16 <i>Shannon Feese</i>	17  Newsletter Deadline	18 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	19	20 <i>Gloria Barnum</i>	21 5:30pm Worship with Communion
22 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class 6:00pm Adult Information Class  <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i>	23	24	25 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton   <i>St. James the Elder, Apostle</i>	26 Mission Outing, Norfolk, NE	27	28
29 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class 6:00pm Adult Information Class	30  Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am	31	<p>Ruler of the nations, we humbly pray that You look with favor upon our country. Give wisdom to our leaders, bless us with peace and prosperity, and especially grant that Your Gospel may be proclaimed in our land for the salvation of many souls; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>			

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



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

Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting

Sunday, July 15
10:30am

Come Help Administer the
Work of Our Congregation!

