



*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

As we open our Christmas gifts we may be reminded of the saying, "Good things come in small packages." The little town of Bethlehem seemed an unlikely place for the Savior of the world to be born. That's why the Wise Men from the East sought Him first at Jerusalem, the capital city, because they thought the King of Kings would be born there, in a grand palace (Matthew 2:1-6).

But, the Lord had promised that the Messiah would be from King David's line, and so some 700 years before His birth the Lord announces through the prophet Micah that the Messiah will be born in the hometown of David, the little town of Bethlehem:

"But you, Bethlehem . . . though you are small . . . out of you will come for Me One who will be Ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2).

Good things come in small packages, and the Lord says the long-awaited Messiah will be born not in grand Jerusalem, but in the little town of Bethlehem.

Just as the little town of Bethlehem seems an unlikely place for the Savior of the world to be born, a little Baby, humbly born in a stable and lying in a manger—the animals' feeding trough—may seem to us an unlikely way for God to save the world. But, the Lord promises:

"He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace" (Micah 5:4).

Good things come in small packages, and the Redeemer of the world did indeed come into the world as the Babe of Bethlehem.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!*

I wish you a blessed and happy Christmas, and invite you to celebrate your Savior's birth at the special Christmas Eve Candlelight services at Holy Cross. This year we are offering three worship opportunities on Christmas Eve, our new Family Service at 5:00pm, a Festival Service at 7:00pm, and "Midnight Mass" at 11:30pm.

God's blessings at Christmas and always!

Pastor Kevin Vogt



Christmas in the Old Testament Advent Bible Study

The old German Christmas hymn "Behold, a Branch is Growing" says, "Isaiah hath foretold it, in words of promise sure" (*The Lutheran Hymnal, #645*). Beginning November 25 we will have an Advent Bible Study in Adult Bible Class on *The Prophets Have Foretold It: Christmas in the Old Testament*.

We are very familiar with the Christmas story from the *New Testament*. In this Bible study we will look at the many prophecies of Christ's birth that are also found in the *Old Testament*, including:

- ❖ He will be born of a woman—Genesis 3:15;
- ❖ He will be a descendant of Jacob—Numbers 24:17;
- ❖ He will be born in Bethlehem—Micah 5:2;
- ❖ He will be miraculously born of a Virgin—Isaiah 7:14;
- ❖ He will be "Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace"—Isaiah 9:6.

Join in Adult Bible Class on Sunday, November 25 and December 9 and 16 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall for *The Prophets Have Foretold It: Christmas in the Old Testament*. (There will not be Adult Bible Class on December 2 due to decorating of the church, or December 23 and 30 due to the Christmas holidays.)

Women's

Christmas Dinner

All women of Holy Cross are invited to our annual Women's Christmas Dinner, Tuesday, December 11, at 6:00pm at Dakota Dunes Country Club. The cost of the event, which includes tax and gratuity, is \$20. This year there is a choice of entrees, filet of salmon or lemon garlic chicken breast.

Pastor Vogts will give a devotion, and there will be a skit by women of Holy Cross and a cooking demonstration by the club's Chef Jean Paul.

We will have a guest speaker about the work of the Crittenton Center Shelter and Youth Development, and in lieu of an ornament exchange we are collecting items for them. Please bring socks, underwear, or sweatshirts, for male for female, ages infant to 17. A basket will also be passed for a freewill cash donation to buy them cookie dough, and for the children's daily programming needs.

Invitations have been mailed to all women of Holy Cross. Please RSVP with your choice of entree to Betty Gunderson (235-1551) or Ginny Peterson (232-3287) or by email to Mindy Krause (mindy@longlines.com).

Crossnotes

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December, 2012

Volume 10

Number 12



Words and Sayings of the Season

2012 Advent Sermon Series

December 2 (1st Sunday in Advent)

"Joy to the World"
Luke 21:27-28

December 5 (Advent Service I)

*"Merry Christmas—
or Xmas?"*
Luke 3:15

December 12 (Advent Service II)

*"Immanuel, Incarnation,
& Nativity"*
Isaiah 7:14

December 19 (Advent Service III)

*"Gloria in Excelsis Deo
& Peace on Earth"*
Luke 2:13-14

Christmas decorations down from the loft on Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00pm. We will "stage" the items in the Hearth Room so the following Sunday we're all ready to start decorating!

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship!



Decorating December 2

Visitors often comment how exceptionally beautifully our church is decorated for Christmas. However, it is a big job—and your help is needed!

Everyone is invited to stay following worship on Sunday, December 2 and help decorate. There will be Sunday School that day but no Adult Bible Class.

To prepare for decorating the church on December 2 everyone is invited to please come help move the



Holy Cross Women in Mission held their regular monthly meeting on November 14 at 9:00am. As we take a break from business as usual for the celebration of our Savior's birth, mark your calendars for the following events:

- December 2—Church decorating following service;
- December 11—Annual Women's Christmas Dinner.

There is no regular meeting in December due to the Women's Christmas Dinner. Our next meeting will be on January 9, 2013 at 9:00am in the Gathering Room.

Mary Mettenbrink has Chancel Care in December. Those serving in January: Chancel Care—Dee Reifke; Snacks—Jackie Baker; and Devotions—Jeri Melstad.



Wednesday Advent Services Begin December 5

The word "Advent" means "arrival, appearance, approach, coming, dawn." Advent originated as a preparatory season in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, the First Sunday in Advent was also recognized as the beginning of the new Church Year.

Advent has always had two parallel emphases, as both a season of somber repentance in preparation for Christ's Second Coming on the Last Day, and a season of joyful celebration of Christ's first coming in His birth at Bethlehem.

Advent begins with the First Sunday in Advent, which this year falls on December 2. Special Advent services at Holy Cross are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm, December 5, 12, & 19, and last about 30-45 minutes.

Please note that due to the early date of Thanksgiving this year there is a one week gap between our Thanksgiving service on November 21 and the first Advent service on December 5, with no



*Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate
the Real "Reason for the Season"*

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

New! Family Service — 5:00pm
Festival Service — 7:00pm
"Midnight Mass" — 11:30pm

Enjoy Your Favorite Christmas Carols Including "Silent Night" by Candlelight

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!

Wednesday evening service during the intervening week on November 28. Confirmation classes for the 5th-8th grades and choir rehearsal will be held as usual at the regular times on November 28.

The theme for this year's Advent services on both Wednesdays and Sundays is "*Words and Sayings of the Season*," looking at the meaning of some words and sayings we often hear this time of year, including:

December 2
"Joy to the World"

December 5
"Merry Christmas—or Xmas?"

December 9
"Immanuel, Incarnation, & Nativity"

December 12
"Alleluia, Carol, & Noel"

December 19
*"Gloria in Excelsis Deo
& Peace on Earth"*

Bring your family to meditate on the real "reason for the season"!



Again this year before each of our Wednesday evening Advent services we will have a supper in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45pm-6:45pm. Everyone is welcome—bring your family and friends!

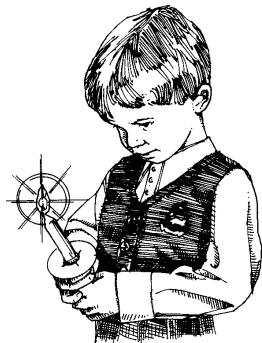
Various groups will be sponsoring these suppers and taking freewill offerings to support different causes.

December 5—5th-6th Grades, serving sloppy joes, with freewill offering for youth activities;

December 12—Board of Elders, pulled pork sandwiches (smoked by Todd Peters), with freewill offering for the Holy Cross general fund;

December 19—7th-8th Grades, serving soups, with freewill offering for youth activities.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy good food and fellowship at our Advent Suppers!



Service Added on Christmas Eve

A request was made last year by Holy Cross members for an earlier service on Christmas Eve, especially for the convenience of families with young children. A survey of other churches in the area showed that many do have such an early evening service.

Rather than replacing one of our existing Christmas Eve services, at 7:00pm and 11:30pm, the Board of Elders decided to experiment this year with three services on Christmas Eve, adding a "Family Service" at 5:00pm. Please note that we will also still have both our "Festival Service" at 7:00pm and "Midnight Mass" at 11:30pm.

The order of worship for each service on Christmas Eve will be different. However, all three services will include favorite Christmas carols such as "Joy to the World," and "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. The sermon at all three services will be "The Spirit of Christmas," based on Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Christmas Eve is a great opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to join you in worship. Everyone loves to be in church on Christmas Eve!



The deadline for ordering poinsettias through the Church Office has passed—thanks to all for your generous donations again this year! They will be displayed beginning the First Sunday in Advent, December 2.

You are also still *welcome* to bring your own plants, which you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Please still sign up on the list in the Gathering Room indicating that you are providing your own plants and drop them by the church anytime before Christmas. When you sign up, please indicate whom your plants are in memory or honor of, the way you want it printed in the January newsletter.



Christmas Caroling December 9

All members of Holy Cross are invited to Christmas caroling on Sunday December 9.

We will meet at the church at 3:30pm and carol at the homes of some of our senior members. Our last stop will be Stony Brook Assisted Living in Dakota Dunes, where the residents always greatly enjoy our visit.

All ages are invited to join in—the more the merrier!



Children's Christmas Program December 16

Our Children's Christmas Program will again be held during the morning service, on the Third Sunday in Advent, December 16 (in place of the sermon).

The service will include many favorite Christmas carols, recitations by the children, an adult choir anthem, and Holy Communion. It's wonderful to see the real meaning of Christmas through children's eyes

All children participating in the Christmas Program need to be present for a brief rehearsal on Saturday, December 15 from 9:30am-10:30am.



Christmas Carol Communion Service December 30

Because many members of Holy Cross are gone elsewhere visiting family on Christmas Eve, for our 9:15am service the following Sunday, December 30 we will have a special "Christmas Carol Communion Service," with favorite Christmas carols used for the different portions of the liturgy. Pastor Vogts' sermon will be "The Living Nativity," based on the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20.

EVANGELISM

COMMITTEE

**Successful
Halloween Event**

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for our Halloween evangelism event. Nearly 75 children and about that many parents and other adults stopped by for a bag of candy printed with an evangelistic message and an invitation to worship and Sunday School, and our church's bouncer which was set up on the front lawn was a big hit!



Holy Cross Angel Tree

Holy Cross will again be sponsoring an Angel Tree for the Sioux City Gospel Mission, beginning Sunday, December 9. These items will help provide a "Merry Christmas" for the homeless children, women, and men they serve.

There will be different cards for different items on the tree in the Gathering Room. Simply take a card for an item that you would like to give and leave your gift under the tree in Gathering Room by Sunday, December 23. All items should be new, not used, and unwrapped or in a gift bag or sack, so that the Gospel Mission staff can match your gift to the right recipient.

Perhaps your children could select a card and pick out the gift—a wonderful way to get them involved in the real spirit of the season.

Thanks for helping provide a "Merry Christmas" for these homeless children, women, and men! *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people"* (Galatians 6:10).

 **Altar
Flowers**

Thank you to all those donating flowers to help beautify our Sanctuary as we worship the Lord. Poinsettia donations will be listed separately in the January newsletter.

November 11

Ron & Jeannette Yockey
In Memory of Eric Yockey

November 18

Dennis & Marlene Kuhn
50th Anniversary

December 2

Stoeger-Moore Family

December 16

Roger & Peg Janke
Birthdays & Anniversary

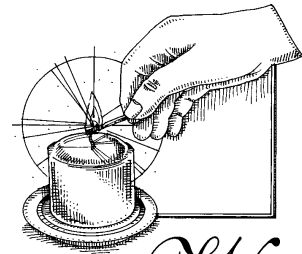
**Guest
Preacher**

**Guest Minister
December 23**

Pastor Vogts' mother, Ruth Vogts, is turning 90 this year on December 18. The entire family—about 35 children and grandchildren and their spouses and great-grandchildren—is gathering for an open house in her honor—and

hopefully a complete family picture—at their hometown of Canton, Kansas on Saturday, December 22.

Because of this unique event, the Board of Elders has given Pastor Vogts special permission to be absent on Sunday, December 23. Our guest minister for the service that morning will be Rev. Leland Schmidt, retired LCMS institutional chaplain from Sioux City.



**Worship
Assistants**

Elders for December

Carroll Gustman & Ron Yockey

Ushers for December

Doug Martin & Harold Mettenbrink

Chancel Care for December

Mary Mettenbrink

Acolytes for December

Dec. 2 Nichole Dial
Dec. 5 (Advent) Brady Schroeder
Dec. 9 Caden Peters
Dec. 12 (Advent) Henry Jensen
Dec. 16 Nichole Dial
Dec. 19 (Advent) Brady Schroeder
Dec. 23 Caden Peters
Dec. 24 (5:00pm) Henry Jensen
Dec. 24 (7:00&11:30pm) ... Anna Vogts
Dec. 30 Kaleb Martin

Crucifers for December

ec. 2 Gracie Nelson
Dec. 5 (Advent) Bryce Schroeder
Dec. 9 Kathleen Soukup
Dec. 12 (Advent) Hayden Jensen
Dec. 16 Gracie Nelson
Dec. 19 (Advent) Bryce Schroeder
Dec. 23 Kaleb Martin
Dec. 24 (5:00pm) Hayden Jensen
Dec. 24 (7:00&11:30pm) ... Anna Vogts
Dec. 30 Kaleb Martin



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.

Randy Stein, December 2
Katelyn Yockey, December 2
Irvig Jensen III, December 6
Helen Hamilton, December 11
Roger Janke, December 11
Peggy (Peg) Janke, December 17
Julie Eickhoff, December 21
Barbara Goede, December 30
Richard & Della Beffert
December 14, 1958
Roger & Peggy Janke
December 28, 1974
Kevin & Terese Vogts
December 29, 1990



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.

December 2
Rev. Steve & Mary Kosberg
South Korea

December 9
Britt Anderson
Kenya

December 16
Rev. Roger James
Sri Lanka

December 23
Sandro & Michelle Cagnin
Hong Kong

December 30
Rev. Tom & Brenda Chryst
Singapore



As usual the Holy Cross Church Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's, from December 24 thru January 2, so that our office volunteers may enjoy time with their families.



A newer member of Holy Cross recently commented how nice it is that many members stay for fellowship time after worship each week, something he's not experienced in previous congregations.

In the Gathering Room is a sign-up sheet to bring snacks. *Most of December is still open and we need volunteers!*

Thank you to all those providing snacks throughout 2012!

December 2
Stoeger-Moore
December 9, 16, 23, 30
Need Volunteers



December 2
*"Words and Sayings of the Season:
Joy to the World"*
Luke 21:27-28

December 5 (Advent Service I)
*"Words and Sayings of the Season:
Merry Christmas—or Xmas?"*
Luke 3:15

December 9
*"Words and Sayings of the Season:
Immanuel, Incarnation, & Nativity"*
Isaiah 7:14

December 12 (Advent Service II)
*"Words and Sayings of the Season:
Alleluia, Carol, & Noel"*
Luke 2:11

December 16
Sunday School Children's
Christmas Program

December 19 (Advent Service III)
*"Words and Sayings of the Season:
Gloria in Excelsis Deo
& Peace on Earth"*
Luke 2:13-14

December 23
Rev. Leland Schmidt
Guest Minister

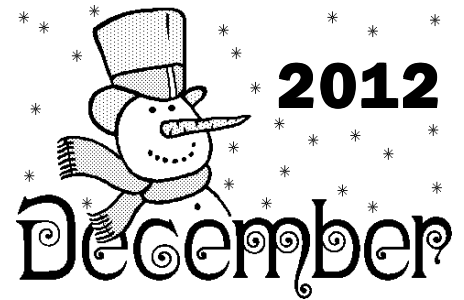
December 24 (Christmas Eve)
"The Spirit of Christmas"
Luke 2:14















December 30
"The Living Nativity"
Luke 2:1-20



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 2 1st Sunday in Advent 8:45am Choir Warmup 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Church Decorating <i>Randy Stein, Katelyn Yockey</i>  | 3 | 4 11:30am Office Staff Christmas Luncheon 7:00pm Board of Trustees | 5 10:00am Coffee 5:45pm-6:45pm Advent Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Service I 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 6 <i>Irving Jensen III</i> | 7 Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am (Closed for Holidays December 24-January 2) | 1 8 |
| 9 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 3:30pm Christmas Caroling  | 10  Women's Christmas Dinner <i>Helen Hamilton Roger Janke</i> | 11 6:00pm Women's Christmas Dinner | 12 10:00am Coffee 5:45pm-6:45pm Advent Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Service II 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 13 | 14  Newsletter Deadline <i>Richard & Della Beffert</i> | 15 9:30am Christmas Program Rehearsal |
| 16 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:45am Choir Warmup 9:15am Children's Christmas Program with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 4:00pm Holy Cross Preschool Christmas Program  <i>Peg Janke</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 10:00am Coffee 5:45pm-6:45pm Advent Supper 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Advent Service III 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal | 20  <i>Katharina von Bora Luther, Died 1552</i> | 21  <i>St. Thomas, Apostle Julie Eickhoff</i> | 22 |
| 23 4th Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Leland Schmidt, Guest Minister  Guest Preacher | 24 Christmas Eve  CANDLELIGHT SERVICES 5:00pm New! Family Service 7:00pm Festival Service 11:30pm "Midnight Mass" | 25 | 26  <i>St. Stephen, Martyr</i> | 27  <i>St. John, Apostle & Evangelist</i> | 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs Roger & Peggy Janke</i> | 29 <i>Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts</i> |
| 30 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:15am Christmas Carol Communion Service  <i>Barbara Goede</i> | 31  | God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas) | | |  December 5, 12, 19 5:45pm-6:45pm | |

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



Words and Sayings of the Season

2012 Advent Sermon Series

December 2

"Joy to the World"

December 5

*"Merry Christmas—
or Xmas?"*

December 19

*"Gloria in Excelsis Deo
& Peace on Earth"*

December 9

*"Immanuel, Incarnation,
& Nativity"*

December 12

"Alleluia, Carol, & Noel"



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

December 5—5th-6th Grades, Sloppy Joes,
Offering for Youth Activities

December 12—Board of Elders, Pulled Pork
Sandwiches, Offering for General Fund

December 19—7th-8th Grades, Soups,
Offering for Youth Activities

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!



Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church