

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church Crossnotes

2013
February



Dear Members of Holy Cross,

On the evening of Sunday, January 13 I was notified that I had been extended a call to serve as the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola, Kansas. Under the system that we have in the Lutheran Church I was then considered to have two calls, the call they extended to me, and the call I currently have from you to serve as your Pastor at Holy Cross. It was my responsibility over the past several weeks to prayerfully consider these two calls, seeking to determine which of them I believe the Lord desires me to follow.

I have notified Trinity Lutheran Church that I am respectfully declining their call. Thank you for your prayers during my deliberations, and your many kind comments and requests that I remain serving as your Pastor.

May the Lord bless our continued work together at Holy Cross.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Kevin Vogts

Was George Washington a Christian?

"Remember those who rule over you . . . consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."

Hebrews 13:7

On the third Monday of February each year our nation observes Washington's Birthday, which is actually on February 22. As we observe this

holiday we should thank God that He gave such founding fathers to our country.

George Washington died on December 14, 1799. Though he was an Anglican, the memorial service on December 26 was actually held at Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, which at the time was the nation's capital. An estimated crowd of 4,000 packed the church, including President John Adams, and members of the Senate, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court. A Lutheran pastor conducted the service, and it was in a eulogy on this occasion that General L. H. Lee famously referred to Washington as, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

We do well to pause on Washington's Birthday and thank God that He led men of the stature, ability, statesmanship, and Christianity of George Washington in the blossoming of our nation. For, while in many other countries the life of the Church and the open proclamation of the Gospel have been hindered—and even outlawed—by civil authorities, historically we have been blessed by God with an entirely different type of ruler.

Some suggest that George Washington was not really a Christian, and did not believe that Jesus Christ was his Savior. However, throughout his life he was a regular churchgoer—you can still sit in his pew at Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia—and when his family gathered for the reading of his last will and testament, these were the first words from him that they heard: "My beloved, I sincerely trust to meet you all

again in heaven, through the merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

You may have heard it asserted that George Washington was merely a deist, believing in some generic god, but not specifically Christianity or Jesus Christ. But, these final words from Washington himself are not the testimony of a deist, but show his faith in the truth of Scripture, and his hope of salvation "through the merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Washington's faith was also demonstrated when the British had driven the colonial militia out of Philadelphia to nearby Valley Forge, where he struggled to maintain an army intact through the



The memorial service for George Washington was held at Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Washington began his will by telling his family, "My beloved, I sincerely trust to meet you all again in heaven, through the merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

bitter winter. When all seemed lost where did Washington turn? He famously knelt down and prayed in the snow, for God's guidance, help, and protection. Washington's praying spirit is also seen in a beautiful prayer that he personally composed for our new nation:

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that You will keep the United States in Your holy protection, that You would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and finally, that You will most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the divine Author of our blessed religion, without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

So, on the occasion of Washington's birthday, remember and give thanks for the miraculous guidance God gave to the founding fathers of our country, because of which we still today have the priceless blessings of Christian liberty and freedom of worship. Of course, not everything is well with our country, and

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149 Bison Trail
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
Church Office: 605-232-9117
Preschool & Fax: 605-235-1688
Pastor's Home: 605-232-4013
Pastor's Cell: 712-898-4818
www.holycrossdakotadunes.org
holycross@longlines.com

February, 2013

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Number 2

it seems that even these fundamental freedoms could be threatened. Like Washington at Valley Forge, we should kneel and implore God to continue His hand of blessing upon our nation and its leaders. As Paul commands Timothy: *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Year-to-Date as of January 27

Offerings Budgeted \$16,060

Offerings Received \$16,847

Budget Surplus/Deficit..... \$787



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

New Member Sunday February 10

We welcome into membership at Holy Cross David and Gretchen Aubry and their daughters Isabella, Olivia, Ruthie, and Ashley Pelton. They recently moved from Mississippi and Texas and are at home at 639 Bluestem Trail,

Dakota Dunes, SD, 57049; 712-635-5938. David is a chemist and senior manager at Gelita. Olivia and Ruthie are enrolled in Holy Cross Preschool, and Isabella is in kindergarten and Ashley a sophomore at Dakota Valley.

We are having a New Member Sunday to welcome these and other new members of Holy Cross on Sunday, February 10. *Welcome to the Holy Cross Family of Faith!*



Do you desire to study and gain a deeper understanding of the Scriptures? Then join in Adult Bible Class! On Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall we are currently taking *A Longer Look at the Lessons*, each week delving into that Sunday's Scripture readings.

If you want to grow in God's Word and His power for your life come join in with your brothers and sisters as we discuss the Scriptures! *"I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not neglect Your word"* (Psalm 119:16).

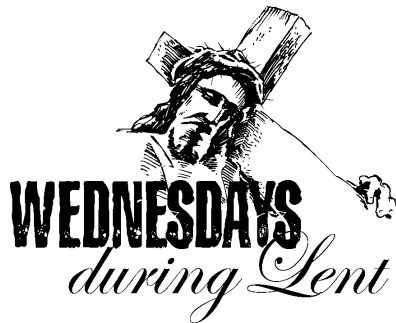


Charles F. Cunningham Jr.

Father of Nancy Sweeny

Entered Eternal Rest
January 19, 2013

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even though he dies, yet shall he live."
John 11:25



Ash Wednesday February 13

Our special Lenten Vespers services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 13, and continue each Wednesday until Holy Week, the last week of March, when Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held on March 28 and 29.

All services begin at 7:00pm and last 30-45 minutes. Before the Lenten Vespers services there will again be a Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45pm-6:45pm to which everyone is invited. During Lent, Midweek School is from 6:15pm-7:00pm and choir rehearsal follows the Lenten services.

In our Lent services this year we will explore *Questions at the Cross*, looking at questions asked by Jesus and other characters in 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 again holding Lenten Suppers before our Lenten Vespers Services, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 13, and continuing each Wednesday until the last week of March, from 5:45pm-6:45pm in the

Questions at the Cross



2013 Lenten Sermon Series

Evening Services
at 7:00pm

Wednesday Lenten Suppers
5:45pm-6:45pm
in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 13
Ash Wednesday
"Where Is My Guest Room?"
Mark 14:14

Sunday, February 17
First Sunday in Lent
*"What Will You Give Me
If I Betray Him?"*
Matthew 26:15

Wednesday, February 20
Lent Service II
*"Could You Not
Keep Watch with Me?"*
Matthew 26:40

Sunday, February 24
Second Sunday in Lent
*"Will You Really Lay Down
Your Life for Me?"*
John 13:38

Wednesday, February 27
Lent Service III
"Shall I Not Drink the Cup?"
John 18:11

Sunday, March 3
Third Sunday in Lent
"If Men Do These Things...?"
Luke 23:31

Wednesday, March 6
Lent Service IV
*"Are You Not One of
His Disciples?"*
John 18:17, 25

Sunday, March 10
Fourth Sunday in Lent
"Shall I Crucify Your King?"
John 19:15

Wednesday, March 13
Lent Service V
"What Is Truth?"
John 18:38

Sunday, March 17
Fifth Sunday in Lent
*"Why Do We Need
Any More Witnesses?"*
Mark 14:63

Wednesday, March 20
Lent Service VI
*"My God, My God,
Why Have You Forsaken Me?"*
Matthew 27:46

Palm Sunday, March 24
"Who Is This?"
Matthew 21:10

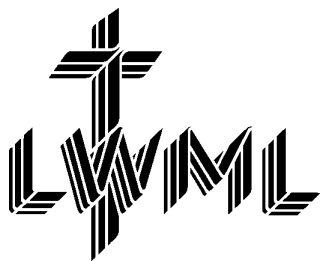
Thursday, March 28
Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
*"Do You Understand What
I Have Done for You?"*
John 13:12

Friday, March 29
Good Friday
*"What Crime Has
He Committed?"*
Matthew 27:23

Easter Sunday, March 31
"Why Are You Crying?"
John 20:15

Fellowship Hall. The suppers will be served by various groups in the congregation, with different menus and freewill offerings taken to support various causes. Our thanks to Holy Cross Women in Mission for starting us off with an Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, with the freewill offering used to help purchase socks and underwear for children at the Crittenton Center.

Everyone is invited come enjoy the good food and fellowship—visitors and guests are welcome!



Holy Cross Women In Mission held the regular monthly meeting on January 9. After the Christmas break we began the New Year with an evening of fun and socializing on January 27 with the second annual Family Fun Night.

On Ash Wednesday, February 13, join us for soup and sandwiches before worship. Lasagna will be on the menu for the Lenten Supper on February 27.

Our next meeting will be on February 13, at 9:00am. Those serving in February: Chancel Care –Jeri Melstad; Snacks & Devotions – Deb Stein.

Sock It to Me Sundays!



The Sundays in February will be dedicated to collecting donations of new socks for the Crittenton Center Shelter & Youth Development. We will have a laundry basket for donations (male or female, infant to 17) under the table in the Gathering Room. All are invited to contribute to this outreach! Will our basket runneth over?

The Sundays in March will be dedicated to collecting new underwear

for the Crittenton Center Shelter & Youth Development. The same laundry basket used for the sock collection will magically change into the collection site for donations of new underwear (male or female, infant to 17). Please help fill our basket!



We're bringing back children's quiet bags as we phase out children's bulletins. When they enter church children can pick up a quiet bag from the basket under the table in the Gathering Room. The bags contain Bible coloring sheets, crayons, and an assortment of Bible story books. After church please return the quiet bags to their basket or an usher.



Hearth Room Update

You may have noticed that the beautiful fireplace, stonework, mantel, cabinets, wood trim, and carpet in the Hearth Room have been installed!

The furnishings now in place are only temporary, borrowed from other parts of the building. As the Hearth Room Committee continues the process of selecting new furnishings and decor, everyone is invited to begin utilizing this lovely room. The fireplace is electric—does not produce heat, for ambiance only—and is controlled by a timer switch on the north wall.

Thanks to all who helped make this project possible and to everyone for your patience!



Our heartfelt appreciation for the cards, calls and blessed prayers during this challenging time. The power of God's love through each of you is truly amazing. Thank you!

Darrel & Jackie Baker



The flower calendar for 2013 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 giving so many lovely flower arrangements to beautify our altar!

January 13

Denise & Patrick Honner
Celebration of God's Many Blessings

February 3

Steve & Susanne Stoeger-Moore
Celebration of God's Many Blessings

February 17

Ryan & Angela Dial
Caden's Birthday

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for February

Carroll Gustman & Steve Stoeger-Moore

Ushers for February

Les Reifke & Randy Stein

Chancel Care for February

Jeri Melstad

Acolytes for February

Feb. 3 Nichole Dial

Feb. 10 Henry Jensen

Feb. 13 (Ash Wed.) ... Brady Schroeder

Feb. 17 Gracie Nelson

Feb. 20 (Lent) Kaleb Martin

Feb. 24 Nichole Dial

Feb. 27 (Lent) Caden Peters

Crucifers for February

Feb. 3 Kathleen Soukup

Feb. 10 Hayden Jensen

Feb. 13 (Ash Wed.) ... Bryce Schroeder

Feb. 17 Anna Vogts

Feb. 20 (Lent) Kaleb Martin

Feb. 24 Kathleen Soukup

Feb. 27 (Lent) Caden Peters



In the Gathering Room is a sign-up sheet to bring snacks in 2013. Most of March is open and we need volunteers!

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.

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. Thank you for helping with this fellowship activity.

February 3

Stein



Slade Bradley Kommes, son of Larissa and Brent Kommes, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 20. He was born on December 29 at 10:04pm. He was 8 lbs 3 oz and 21 inches long and joins "big sis" Sailor. "Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a gift from Him" (Psalm 127:3).

February 10

Reifke

February 17

Stein

February 24

Horkey/Gustman

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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.

Collette Funck, February 1

Jacquleen Baker, February 4

Mary Mettenbrink, February 14

Caden Dial, February 17

Mary Rosene, February 23

Jon Dorr, February 25

Carol Smith, February 25

Cassie Kropp, February 26

Jon & Gail Dorr, February 25

Ryan & Angela Dial, February 27



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.

February 3

Rev. Arthur &

Deaconess Eva Rickman

Dominican Republic

February 10

Ivan and Jennifer Rasch

Ghana

February 17

Rev. Tom and Brenda Chryst

Singapore

February 24

Rev. Khurram Khan

Missionary to Muslims

in Dearborn, Michigan



From Muslim to Missionary

Ebou was seventeen when he traveled from his home country of Senegal to the United States to pursue higher education. While in the States, he studied the Koran and became curious about the importance of Jesus. His search led him to the Bible and to belief in the deity of Christ and in His saving work on the cross.

From a pastor in Wisconsin Ebou heard about the work of People of the Book Lutheran Outreach, so-called because Muslims describe Christians and other non-Muslim adherents to faiths which claim a revealed scripture as "People of the Book." POBLO an outreach organization to Muslims sponsored by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The pastor mentioned the opportunities Ebou would have as a missionary, but asked if he was afraid that his family and friends would retaliate when they learned that their brother was now a professing Christian seeking to convert other Muslims. Ebou replied, "I have no fear, this has been my dream!"

POBLO equips and supports Ebou as he fulfills his dream of spreading the love of Christ. He enjoys working with our organization because it enables him to do what is in his heart effectively.

He believes that his Muslim background is a great asset. He understands the culture, the religion, the beliefs, and most importantly, he says, he lived it. He can relate to the questions and fears of the Muslims people he meets.

He doesn't find the work of the missionary tedious or discouraging. In fact, he claims it brings increased joy to his life. "It's tough if you think it's you doing it—it's the Holy Spirit giving the right words to say in each moment."

You can learn more about the exciting work of POBLO at www.poblo.org.



New Missionaries in the Dominican Republic

Rev. Arthur and Deaconess Eva Rickman are among the newest missionaries sponsored by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. They have just begun serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic, where Arthur is planting churches and training pastors. The Rickmans also work with other LCMS missionaries in the area to establish group homes for children with developmental disabilities, schools, and clinics where the Dominican people can receive holistic care.

Arthur and Eva are from Long Beach, California, where they attended Bethany Lutheran Church. They both earned undergraduate degrees from California State University, Long Beach. Arthur graduated with a Bachelor of Science in microbiology, and Eva earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry, biochemistry and English. As Arthur studied for his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Eva worked concurrently toward a Master of Arts in Religion and Deaconess Certification. The couple then spent two years in Panama, where Arthur served as vicar, or pastoral intern, while Eva trained deaconesses in the Lutheran

Church of Panama. After graduating, the Rickmans initially moved to Grand Mound, Iowa, where Arthur served his first pastorate at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Arthur's hobbies include hiking, fishing and cooking, and Eva enjoys reading, jogging and sewing. They both enjoy spending time with their three children, Bethany, Zoe, and Noah.

Please pray for the Rickmans as they adapt to their new life. They write, "Please pray for health and safety for our family, especially for our three little ones. Pray also that God would prepare the hearts of the people in the Dominican Republic to hear His Word." Thanks be to God that Pastor Rickman has accepted the call to serve the people of the Dominican Republic.



Lots of exciting things are happening at Holy Cross Preschool! Two new students enrolled last month in the Pre-K Class. The After School Care Program has also enrolled some new students. We also were able to get a new Mom's Day Out Class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings started on January 15. Linda Larsen is the teacher for Mom's Day Out with Char Curry as her aide.

Enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year will be starting on February 12 for church members children and current students. Open enrollment for all others begins March 1. Please call the Preschool Office (605-235-1688) if you have a child or grandchild that you're wanting to enroll for the Fall. Also please tell your friends, neighbors, and family about Holy Cross Preschool, and thank you so much for all the support and encouragement the congregation gives to this ministry.

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).



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
<p>Oalmighty and eternal God, we implore You to direct, sanctify, and govern our hearts and bodies in the ways of Your laws and the works of Your commandments, that through Your mighty protection, both now and ever, we may be preserved in body and in soul; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p><i>(Collect for the 1st Sunday in Lent)</i></p>					1 <i>Collette Funck</i>	2 Presentation <i>of our Lord</i>
3 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class	4 <i>Jackie Baker</i>	5 7:00pm Board of Trustees	6 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Preschool Schedule Monday-Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays 9:00am After School Care Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm <i>Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</i></p> </div>		
10 Last Sunday after the Epiphany The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 	11	12 ASH WEDNESDAY	13 9:00am Women in Mission 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	14 Valentine's Day <i>Mary Mettenbrink</i>	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 <i>Philip Melancthon Born, 1497</i>
17 1st Sunday in Lent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 1st Sunday in Lent <i>Caden Dial</i>	18 <i>Martin Luther Died, 1546</i>	19	20 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Vespers 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23 <i>Mary Rosene</i>
24 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 2nd Sunday in Lent <i>Jon Dorr Carol Smith Jon & Gail Dorr</i>	25 <i>Jon Dorr Carol Smith Jon & Gail Dorr</i>	26 <i>Cassie Kropp</i>	27 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Vespers 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Ryan & Angela Dial</i>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am </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



Ash
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE

Wednesday, February 13
7:00pm

Lenten Vespers Services Each
Wednesday During Lent at 7:00pm

Meditations on *"Questions at the Cross"*
(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
Different Menus

Freewill Offering to Benefit Various Causes

First Supper Ash Wednesday, February 13

Soup Supper Sponsored by
Holy Cross Women in Mission

Freewill Offering for Crittenton Center

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!



Return Service Requested

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
149 Bison Trail
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