



"You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14

There is an old saying, "I am somebody—because God don't make no junk." It turns out that uplifting saying applies not only to our egos, but also to our DNA!

For decades it has been commonly taught and widely believed that 99% of the human genome is irrelevant, so-called "junk DNA" supposedly left over from earlier stages of evolution. Though assumed to no longer have any function for modern humans, this vestigial "junk DNA" was said to linger on in our genome as irrefutable evidence that we gradually evolved from lower animals. For example, in 2007 Professor Philip Kitcher of Columbia University attacked divine creation by writing, "If you were designing the genomes of organisms, you would certainly not fill them up with junk."

This is typical of our human arrogance: We can't figure out what 99% of our DNA does, so it must be just "junk" that doesn't do anything—and even taken as proof that God is not our Creator. The Lord pronounces judgment on such human arrogance in 2 Peter 2:10-12: *"Presumptuous and arrogant, they are not afraid to insult the Lord's glory. . . they blaspheme in matters they do not understand."*

The supposed "fact" of "junk DNA" is still widely cited in many high school and college textbooks as "proof" of human evolution from lower animals. However, a fascinating article in *The Jerusalem Post* shows just how wrong such "experts"—and what they declare to be "fact"—can be!

Don't Throw Away "Junk DNA"

*The Jerusalem Post
September 6, 2012*

"Geneticists looking for the origin of inheritable diseases 'now have a new sandbox to play in,' said Shaare Zedek Medical Center's medical genetics director, Prof. Ephrat Levy-Lahad, following the discovery that so-called 'junk DNA' in the human genome has an important purpose after all.

"Instead of 99 percent of the genome being 'irrelevant filler'—as had been thought—and only the remaining 1% of the genome of 3 billion base pairs encoding for vital proteins, the 'junk DNA' serves as millions of DNA switches that power the human genome's operating system. It thus comprises a massive control panel; without these switches, genes would not work and mutations in these regions might lead to human disease.

"The locations of some four million switches were discovered and published recently in three journals: Nature, Genome Biology, and Genome Research by an international research team of hundreds of scientists led by the University of Washington in Seattle. The University of Washington's ENCODE project stands for 'ENCyclopedia Of DNA Elements.'

"The on/off switches controlling genes were encrypted within the remaining genome. Without these

switches, named 'regulatory DNA,' genes are inert. Researchers around the world have been focused on identifying regulatory DNA in order to understand how the genome works. . .

"Levy-Lahad told The Jerusalem Post that 'scientists haven't called the 99% "junk DNA" for years, because it became clear that it wasn't wasted. These parts of the DNA that don't encode for protein must have had a reason to be there, but geneticists didn't know the purpose. . . researchers are beginning to understand how genes are regulated—turned on and off. . .

"I would anticipate that many diseases that we don't understand well will become clearer. For example, there is a large inheritable component to Type II Diabetes, but [we] haven't yet found specific genes responsible for it,' the Shaare Zedek geneticist said. . .

"Autism also has a genetic component, and so do many other diseases. Now, with this discovery, we will have more places in the genome to look. . .'

"The ENCODE discovery, Levy-Lahad continued, 'will in the long term lead to better diagnostics and then to improved treatments and cures.' . .

"Our genome is simply alive with switches: millions of places that determine whether a gene is switched on or off,' says Ewan Birney of the European Bioinformatics Institute, the lead analysis coordinator. . .

"We found that a much bigger part of the genome—a surprising amount, in fact—is involved. . .'

"In many cases, you may have a good idea of which genes are involved in your disease, but you might not know which switches are involved. Sometimes these switches are very surprising. . .' said Ian Dunham of EBI, who played a key role in coordinating the analysis. . .

"ENCODE combined the efforts of 442 scientists in 32 labs in the UK, US, Spain, Singapore, and Japan. They generated and analyzed over 15 trillion bytes of raw data."

This is a great scientific achievement and we should be grateful for the work of these researchers. Their discoveries may lead to major advances and yield great blessings in fighting disease.

And the very fact that it required so much human effort to understand even a tiny part of how our own bodies work—in fact have worked since God created us—should be a cause for humility! As Paul says in Romans 11:33-36: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and how inscrutable His ways! . . . For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen."

Rather than supposed proof of human evolution from lower animals, the marvel of human DNA which we are just barely beginning to understand is actually proof of "the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

So, when it comes to you and your DNA, God don't make no junk!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Crossnotes

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Lutheran Church

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June, 2013

Volume 11

Number 6

BUDGET REPORT

Year-to-Date as of May 19, 2013

Offerings Budgeted	\$81,900
Offerings Received	\$83,074
Budget Balance	\$1,174



Sermon Topics for June

These are the Sunday sermon topics for June. The same sermon is given for both the Saturday Summer Service on Saturdays at 5:30pm and the regular service on Sundays at 9:15am. Pastor Vogts' sermons are available in printed and audio form on our web site, www.holycrossdakotadunes.org, and as podcasts in the iTunes store under "Kevin Vogts."

June 1-2

"What We Learn
from the Centurion"
Luke 7:1-10

June 8-9

"Rabbi Jesus Ruins a Funeral"
Luke 7:11-17

June 15-16

"Children of the Heavenly Father"
Galatians 3:23-29

June 22-23

"Your Sins Are Forgiven"
Luke 7:36-50

June 29-30

"The Fruits of the Spirit"
Galatians 5:22-23



Before our summer break begins, Women in Mission would like to remind all the ladies of the congregation of our upcoming events.

- On Wednesday, June 12 we will be visiting Loess Hills Lavender Farm in Missouri Valley, followed by a tour and luncheon at Sawmill Hollow Family Farm. (Invitations have been sent. Please R.S.V.P. to Jackie Baker, 605-422-3132, by June 5).
- Our fall schedule will begin with a salad supper on Sunday, August 25. This event will be a "how I spent my summer vacation" social event, no business will be conducted.

We hope that you will be able to join us for these times of fun and fellowship!

Chancel Care duties for the summer: June—Sue Jansen, July—Terry Vogts, and August—Linda Amunson. Our next business meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11 at 9:00am.

Please join us in fellowship and service. Those serving in September: Chancel Care—Mary Mettenbrink, Snacks—Mary Mettenbrink, and Devotions—Pastor Vogts.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders for June

Doug Jansen & Steve Stoeger-Moore

Ushers for June

Jon Dorr & Doug Nelson

Chancel Care for June

Sue Jansen

Acolytes/Crucifers for June

June 2 Nichole Dial
June 9 Need Volunteer
June 16 Need Volunteer
June 23 Caden Peters
June 30 Brady Schroeder



**Vacation Bible School
June 3-7**

Join the fun Monday-Friday, June 3-7, from 9:00am to 11:30am for our 2013 Vacation Bible School "Armor of God" based on Ephesians 6:10-17. Classes are for children 3 years of age thru those that just completed 4th Grade. The fun and learning includes Bible lessons, crafts, songs and refreshments. There are no charges or fees and non-members are welcome!

We also need "warriors" to assist the children in learning the awesome love God shows for us through his Son Jesus Christ! Areas of interest include snacks, games, crafts, music, group leaders and assistants. The volunteer sign up sheet is located on Gathering Room table for helping with the week of VBS or bringing snacks.

For questions about VBS contact Board of Education Chair Angela Dial.

"Therefore put on the full armor of God"(Ephesians 6:13).

Saturday Summer Service



Saturdays at 5:30pm

Beginning June 1 Thru End of August

*Abbreviated Version of Service for Following Sunday
with Same Sermon*

Holy Communion Each Saturday



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



Did you know that our Lutheran Church—Missouri Syond is one of the largest Christian missionary agencies in the world? While many churches and denominations are cutting back on their missionary work, as of February, 2013 the LCMS has more than 740 missionaries serving around the world!

Our congregation has designated a tithe of 10% of our general offerings to support the work of our South Dakota District and national Synod—over \$20,000 per year. Each month we also remember in prayer in our worship services—and you are encourage to remember in your personal prayers—specific missionaries around the world who are supported in this way by our congregation.

June 1-2

*Mike & Cindy Rodewald
South Africa*

June 8-9
 Rev. Steve and Mary Kosberg
 South Korea

June 15-16
 Walter and Ana Ries
 Dominican Republic

June 22-23
 Brogan Albers
 Macau

June 29-30
 Rev. Charles Evanson
 Lithuania



Jean-Lare Daribosa, a recent graduate of the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Dapaong, Togo, kneels next to four other graduates during their ordination.

Gospel Seeds Fall on Rich Soil in Africa

Adapted from *Lutherans Engage the World*, May-June, 2013

Church planting and evangelism was at the heart of early mission work by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Africa, which began in Nigeria in 1936. Individual missionaries traveled great distances, crossing cultural barriers to spread the Gospel. Those seeds planted for nearly a century by both European and American Lutheran church bodies and mission societies have blossomed into Lutheran churches with more than 20 million souls. Indeed, with some 70 million total Lutherans worldwide, Africa is rapidly becoming the center of world Lutheranism!

Since the 1960s Africa has been a hotbed of political strife. The resulting poverty, corruption, and disease have in

Holy Cross Vacation Bible School



Monday thru Friday, June 3rd to 7th
 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

VBS Pre-Registration

Place in Box in Gathering Room

Or Mail To: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 149 Bison Trail
 Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

or Register by Phone by Calling 235-1688 and
 Leaving a Message for the Christian Education Office

Children's Names	Age	School Grade Just Completing
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

many cases caused people to flee their homes and tribal regions in search of peace, security, and a means to make a living. When it is safe to return home, many do. Along the way these refugees often came into contact with Lutherans elsewhere, and then returned with the Gospel and planted new churches in their own homelands. Because of this African-initiated Lutheran churches are exploding in many locations.

However, many of these African Lutherans have little idea what it means to be truly Lutheran. They are hungry to learn the real basis of the Lutheran faith in light of God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions. In response the LCMS has recently focused on theological education that will strengthen the biblical and confessional foundation of the native African Lutheran pastors who serve these churches.

Despite the significant growth of Lutheranism in Africa in the past 80 years, Islam is one of the greatest challenges to mission work there today. Ironically, efforts to convert people to Islam in Africa are indirectly fueled by the very people who first brought them the Gospel. Because the “petrodollars” Islamic countries earn from our oil imports is lavishly funding the construction of mosques and other Islamic efforts throughout Africa, including majority Christian countries and areas where Lutheranism is strongest. There is an intense effort to pressure Lutherans and other Christians to convert to Islam—and ultimately to take over for Islam what are now majority Christian tribes and entire countries.

The growing presence of Islam in the region amplifies the need for more LCMS pastors, deaconesses, and other missionaries to serve in Africa. LCMS donor money to Africa—including the 10% of our general offerings tithed each year to missions by Holy Cross—helps to grow and mature in the 21st century the Gospel seeds faithfully planted in Africa in the last century by our LCMS forbearers.



We rejoiced to celebrate the Confirmation and First Communion of Kaleb Martin, Gracie Nelson, Bryce Schroeder, Katie Soukup, and Anna Vogts on May 19.

Lead to the Same God?”, “Does Christianity Promote Inequality Between the Sexes?”, “How Do We Judge the Authenticity of Scripture?” and “Is Christ a Credible Historic Figure?”

The video presenters include Ravi Zacharias and other well-known “apologists” or defenders of the Christian faith as they answer questions from university audiences across the United States. After watching segments of their presentations we will discuss and study the issues they present.

Join in Sunday mornings at 10:30am in the Hearth Room!

are available in the Coffee Bar. Thank you for helping with this fellowship activity.

June 2
Vogts

June 9
Peters

June 16, 23, & 30
Need Volunteers



Summer Bible Class “Questions of Faith”

Join in Adult Bible Class this summer on Sundays at 10:30am in our new Hearth Room as we consider “Questions of Faith.” In this video based study we will look at some key questions such as “Is God in Control?”, “Do All Religions



Most of the summer is open to bring snacks for after worship and we need volunteers!

Those serving snacks are also asked to prepare the coffee and juice, which along with cups, napkins, plates, etc.



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!

May 5

Denise & Patrick Honner
Eli's Birthday

Todd & Jill Peters

Ron & Jeannette Yockey

May 12

Ryan, Nicole & Caden Dial
Mother's Day

May 19

Confirmation Class



We are again holding a Saturday Summer Service this year during the months of June, July, and August, with the first service on Saturday, June 1.

The Saturday services will be at 5:30pm and will be a shortened version of the service for the following Sunday, with the same sermon. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service each week.

**Join in
Wednesday
Coffee**



Summer is a great time to join a group of Holy Cross members who gather to enjoy "Wednesday Coffee" together each Wednesday at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton. We have lots of interesting conversations, fun, and fellowship. Everyone is invited—ya'll come!

Holy Cross Preschool 2012-13 Closing Program



**Mom's
Day
Out**

Preschool



**Pre-
Kindergarten**

Holy Cross Preschool celebrated the conclusion of another successful year sharing Christ with the children of our congregation and community at the closing program on May 13. A large crowd of parents, grandparents, siblings and other family and friends enjoyed singing by the Mom's Day Out (two year old), Preschool (three year old), and Pre-Kindergarten (four and five year old) classes. All our classes are already nearly full for next fall! If you know anyone interested in Holy Cross Preschool or After School Care please have them contact the Christian Education Office as soon as possible to reserve a place (605-235-1688; holycrosseducation@longlines.com).



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Cell: 712-898-4818 Email: pastorvogts@longlines.com
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2013

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class	3	4 7:00pm Board of Trustees	5 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	6	7	1 5:30pm Worship with Communion <hr/> 8 5:30pm Worship with Communion
<p>Armor of God Vacation Bible School Monday-Friday, June 3-7, 9:00am-11:30am <i>Briley Schroeder</i></p> 						
9 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class <i>Becky Nelson</i>	10	11  <i>St. Barnabas Gary & Linda Amunson</i>	12 Women's Spring Luncheon & Outing 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	13 <i>Doug Jansen Quintin Krause</i>	14  Flag Day	15 5:30pm Worship with Communion
16 4th Sunday after Pentecost Fathers' Day 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class  <i>Richard Beffert</i>	17 <i>Les Reifke Donna Vondracek</i>	18  Newsletter Deadline	19 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	20	21  <i>Emily Steemken Carroll & Janet Gustman</i>	22 5:30pm Worship with Communion <i>Jacob Vogts</i>
23 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class	24  <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist Alfa Fisher</i>	25  <i>Presentation of the Augsburg Confession(1530) Della Beffert</i>	26 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	27 	28 	29 5:30pm Worship with Communion <i>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</i>
30 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Adult Bible Class <i>Rev. Charles & Marsha Horkey</i>	<p>God, our heavenly Father, You watch over and care for all of us as Your dear children. We thank You for the gift of earthly fathers who represent You in our families. For those whose fathers are not present with them, help them to know of Your own loving care and abiding presence. Strengthen all fathers with Your Holy Spirit to lead and guide their families in faithfulness and love. In the name of God's only Son we pray. Amen.</p>				 <p>Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am</p>	

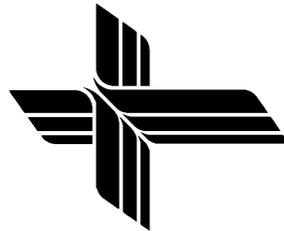
Deadline for Calendar Submissions or Changes is the 15th of the Prior Month – Email to holycross@longlines.com or Leave Voicemail Message at Church Office – This Calendar May Not Reflect Late Submissions or Changes

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Return Service Requested



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See Registration Form Page 5