
Pastor Vogts Receives Call

Dear Members of Holy Cross,

I was notified last month that I have been extended a call to serve as the pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wahoo, Nebraska.

Under the system that we have in the Lutheran Church I am now considered to have two calls, the call I have just received and the call extended to me a decade ago to serve as your pastor at Holy Cross. It is my duty to prayerfully consider these calls and seek to determine which of them I believe the Lord desires me to follow.

However, consideration of this call will be delayed somewhat because I was elected the pastoral delegate of our Yankton circuit to the national convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which will be held in St. Louis from July 20-25. Pastoral delegates are disqualified if they take a call outside the circuit which elected them, and if I should possibly accept this call it would be too late to substitute the alternate pastoral delegate. Therefore, after consulting with the district president, I am delaying a final decision regarding this call until after the convention.

I would ask for your advice regarding this decision, and your prayers for me and my family during this time.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

ELCA Has Biggest Split in American Church History

Since shortly after its formation in 1988 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America has been fixated on deviant sexual behavior, culminating in the endorsement of homosexual pastors in 2009, homosexual “marriage” in 2011, and the election last month of their first homosexual bishop. Dr. James Nestingen, a highly respected scholar and retired ELCA seminary professor, recently concluded that promoting acceptance of deviant sexual behavior has actually *replaced* the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the primary mission and message of the ELCA.

Those within the ELCA demanding these radical changes asserted it is necessary for the ELCA’s very survival. Supposedly, they simply must move into the 21st century on these issues, or otherwise they will be so out-of-step with modern society that it would mean the demise of their denomination. By the way, this is the same deceptive reasoning behind similar disturbing changes recently in the Boy Scouts of America.

However, the ELCA has now released some startling statistics that show the exact *opposite* has actually happened:

- When the ELCA was formed in 1988 they had 5.2 million members, but they are now down to only 4 million members—a *staggering loss of over 1.2 million members*, or 23% of their membership. They have also lost 1,500, or 13%, of their congregations, from approximately 11,000 to 9,500. As they “celebrate” this year the 25th anniversary of the ELCA, the fact is that during that time they have *lost* more members and congregations than make up many entire denominations!
- Of these losses, over 500,000 members and 1,000 congregations have left the ELCA in just the last four years, triggered by their endorsement

of homosexuality beginning in 2009. This is actually the biggest denominational split in American church history, and is directly attributable to that decision.

- Another measure of the ELCA’s decline is that in 1988, 2.1% of all Americans were members of the ELCA, but by 2011 that figure had fallen to 1.3%. The National Council of Churches reports that the ELCA has “the sharpest rate of membership decline” among all mainline Protestant denominations. Like Avis car rental which used to advertise “We’re Number 2—But We Try Harder!” the LCMS has historically always been the second-largest American Lutheran church body. However, at the ELCA’s current rate of losing members—nearly 6% in 2010—in just a decade the LCMS will surpass the ELCA as the largest American Lutheran church body, and a few decades after that the ELCA will cease to exist.
- Even among those congregations remaining in the ELCA average weekly worship attendance from 2003 to 2011 dropped 26%. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has 2.3 million members and the similarly conservative Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod has 300,000 members, yet even with our smaller combined membership of 2.6 million the LCMS and WELS have more people actually sitting in the pews each Sunday than the ELCA with 4 million members.
- Donations to the ELCA on the national level were \$88 million in 2008 but plunged to only \$40 million in 2011.
- Luther Seminary, the ELCA’s largest seminary, located in St. Paul, Minnesota, announced that last year they had a \$6 million operating deficit on a budget of \$27 million. This was

due largely to a recent sharp decline in donations to the seminary, including a couple that for many years had given \$1 million a year to the seminary but stopped their donations after the ELCA's endorsement of homosexuality. The seminary was forced to cancel many of its programs and lay off a third of the faculty and staff.

- Since the ELCA's endorsement of homosexuality, many other Lutheran church bodies around the world have severed their historic ties with the ELCA, and are instead seeking new relationships with the LCMS. This includes many of the largest and fastest-growing Lutheran church bodies in the world, such as the Lutherans in Ethiopia with over 6 million members—nearly as many as all American Lutheran church bodies combined. The center of world Lutheranism is shifting from Europe and America to Africa, Asia, and South America, and the LCMS is becoming the theological leader of these growing Lutheran church bodies. While the ELCA is becoming increasingly isolated in world Lutheranism, at our national convention this month the LCMS will enter into formal fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia, Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church of Togo.

Crossnotes

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The Lord warns:

"There will be false teachers among you, who will surreptitiously introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful, licentious ways." (2 Peter 2:1-2)

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you formerly had when you lived in ignorance. Instead, just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:14-15)

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2)

These passages show how misdirected and sinful it is to accommodate the church's doctrine and practice to the world's wicked ways. It is also foolish and futile.

On the one hand, the world will never be satisfied—until Christians completely renounce their faith. More importantly, *the Lord will never bless such unfaithfulness to Him and His Word.*

We see from the sad example of what's happened to the ELCA—the biggest split in American church history—that whatever churches and other organizations such as the Boy Scouts imagine they will gain by giving in to the world is dwarfed by what they will surely lose.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



**BUDGET
UPDATE**

Year-to-Date as of June 23, 2013

Offerings Budgeted \$105,990
Offerings Received \$107,117
Budget Balance \$1,127



Sermon Topics for July

These are the sermon topics for July. 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."

July 6-7

"Let Us Not Become Weary"
Galatians 6:9-10

July 13-14

"The Good Samaritan"
Luke 10:25-37

July 20-21

"Entertaining the Word"
Luke 10:38-42
Rev. Charles Horkey
Guest Minister

July 27-28

"Don't Be Captive to the World"
Colossians 2:6-8

WORSHIP



ASSISTANTS

Elders for July

Gary Amunson & Ron Yockey

Ushers for July

Les Reifke & Randy Stein

Chancel Care for July
Terry Vogts

Acolytes/Crucifers for July
July 7 Caden Peters
July 14 Need Volunteer
July 21 Ali Eickhoff
July 28 Brady Schroeder



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
Shannon Feese, July 16
Gloria Barnum, July 20

Barry & Kay Hageman
July 2, 1976
Harold & Mary Mettenbrink
July 6, 1985

MISSION NEWS

LCMS Sends New Missionaries

Thirty-five new missionaries and their spouses stood before the altar at the LCMS International Center chapel in St. Louis on June 14, where they were encouraged by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison during the "sending service" to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. . . Have

Saturday Summer Service



*Saturdays at 5:30pm
Thru End of August*

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

Holy Communion Each Saturday

courage. The Gospel gives you courage. Jesus was put to death for your transgressions."

The service marked the conclusion of a two-week orientation where the missionaries learned everything from how to raise financial support to how to speak the Gospel effectively in the mission field. The missionaries and their families from 16 states and Canada will soon be sent to the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Guinea, Hong Kong, Kenya, Macau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Singapore, Southern Asia, Taiwan and Togo. They join a group of more than 110 LCMS missionaries worldwide, making the LCMS one of the largest Christian missionary organizations in the world.



Rev. David and Vicki Riley and their daughter Shannon will serve as LCMS missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

The new missionaries range in age and experience and include recent college graduates, mid-career couples, and retirees. About half of the new missionaries will serve as long-term career missionaries and the other half will serve as Globally Engaged in Outreach (GEO) missionaries, who typically stay in the field between one and two years.

Rev. David and Vicki Riley and their 14-year-old daughter, Shannon, are headed to the Dominican Republic as career missionaries after having served a dual parish in southern Arkansas. A pastor since 1993, Riley also served in Kentucky. Rev. Riley said he had never considered serving the church overseas until he read an article about missionary service in which a question was asked: "Have you ever considered being a missionary?"

"I thought to myself, no," he said. "Then the Holy Spirit said, 'Think about that.' Just like the Holy Spirit had called me into the ministry 20 years ago, now He was saying, 'Think about being a missionary. This is an opportunity I am giving you.'"

Riley will become a specialized mission developer, where he will participate in teaching, preaching, pastoral care and church planting.

Admittedly, he is a little nervous about living in another country, learning a new language and moving out of his comfort zone. But that anxiety is tempered by excitement.

"I'm looking forward to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to individuals who may not have heard it before, or maybe they've heard it before but they've fallen away from the faith," he said. "And then to have the opportunity to baptize individuals of all ages, not only infants or teenagers but people of all ages!"

Rev. Peter Haugen said he found sessions by Rev. Dr. Detlev Schulz, professor and chairman of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, very helpful during the orientation because Schulz focused on why the Synod, from a theological perspective, is involved in overseas mission work.



Rev. Peter and Bethany Haugen will serve with their four children as LCMS missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

"Our mission is a living Word and Sacrament ministry," said Haugen, who with his wife, Bethany, and their four children, ages 7 to 12, will serve as career missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

New GEO missionary Caitlin Worden will soon be heading to Lima, Peru, where she will work at a community center that serves at-risk youth as part of her deaconess internship through Concordia Theological Seminary. Worden said she is excited to see the Gospel at work in her life and in the lives of those she is serving.

"As a missionary I know that I will be leaving behind much and be outside of

my element," she said. "When I am in the field I am not alone, the whole of the LCMS is praying for me, creating resources for me and helping me. Our whole church is backing me as a missionary. I know that the Lord has great plans for me and I can't wait to experience them."

The orientation included daily prayer, chapel services, in-depth education sessions, interactive learning and networking activities aimed at providing a solid foundation as they prepare for their service. Session titles included "Confessing Christ Alone," "Encountering Islam" and "Being Lutheran."

During one session, the missionaries participated in an activity called the "plunge," where they experienced being immersed in other cultural settings. For that, they traveled by bus to the Christian Friends of New Americans, a St. Louis-based LCMS Recognized Service Organization that cares for refugees and immigrants by helping them with language, offering classes on culture and connecting them with local LCMS congregations for pastoral care.



Caitlin Worden will serve her deaconess internship as an LCMS missionary in Lima, Peru.

In another session, Dr. Mike Rodewald, LCMS regional director to Africa, brought a bag full of dried Mopane caterpillars—an important protein source for many people in rural southern Africa—for those who wished to taste something different from an American diet. The goal was to help illustrate that people from different cultures may look at the same thing but categorize and understand it differently.

During Rodewald's presentation, titled "Barriers to the Gospel," he encouraged the missionaries to ask questions of the people with whom they are working and not make assumptions. He also said they should avoid judging the actions of others without first knowing their motivations.

Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, LCMS regional director to Eurasia, discussed "engagement" with the missionaries and encouraged them to be patient because God will use them appropriately. "Find out what God has already been doing in the place where you are going," Smith said. "Be persistent. Sometimes you have to share the Word over and over using many different styles and forms."

It takes a tremendous effort by the entire LCMS to support our missionaries through their prayers and their gifts. "We need more missionaries," said the Rev. Randy Golter, executive director of the LCMS Office of International Mission. "In the smallest of the LCMS' five regions, Latin America, we're 70 missionaries short. Come follow us! Follow Jesus into the mission field!"

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.

This month all of our Missionaries of the Month are among those just newly placed by our Synod in the mission field.

July 6-7

*Rev. David & Vicki Riley
Dominican Republic*

July 13-14

*Rev. Peter and Bethany Haugen
Papua New Guinea*

July 20-21

*Caitlin Worden
Peru*

July 27-28

*Rev. Charles & Cheryl Ferry
Indonesia*



Summer Bible Class "Questions of Faith"

Join in Adult Bible Class this summer on Sundays at 10:30am in the Hearth Room as we consider "Questions of Faith."

In this video-based study we will look at some key questions such as "Do All Religions Lead to the Same God?", "How Do We Judge the Authenticity of Scripture?" and "Is Christ a Credible Historic Figure?"

Pastor Vogts at LCMS Convention July 16-26

Pastor Vogts was elected the pastoral delegate from our Yankton circuit to the LCMS national convention being held this month in St. Louis, and he will be gone July 16-26. Pastor Charles Horkey will serve as our guest minister for services on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21. If you need pastoral care in Pastor Vogts' absence you may contact him on his cell phone (712-898-4818) or you may contact Pastor Horkey (712-898-4983).



Most of the summer is open to bring snacks for after worship and we need volunteers!. Our thanks to Deb Stein for serving during all of July!



The annual Women's Spring Outing & Luncheon was at the Loess Hills Lavender Farm followed by a tour and luncheon at Sawmill Hollow Family Farm. It was a fun day and very interesting learning about these unique organic farms in our area.

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 for helping with this fellowship activity.



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!

June 16

Randy & Deb Stein
Birth of Grandson Duncan
3rd Birthday of Granddaughter Harper

June 23

Funeral of Al Fisher

July 7

Stoeger-Moore



The third quarter congregation business meeting of the Voters Assembly will be Sunday, July 21 following the worship service and coffee hour, at approximately 10:30am. (There will be no Adult Bible Class that day.) All adult communicant members of Holy Cross are automatically voting members and everyone is urged to attend this meeting and help administer the business side of our congregation.



We welcome into membership at Holy Cross Jeremy and Dawn Kleinschmidt, and their children Isaiah Nelson, Jessica, and Brenden, by transfer from Hope Lutheran Church, South Sioux City, Nebraska.

They are at home at 4000 Bennington Road, Sioux City, Iowa, 51103; 712-560-9696; jeremyanddawnk@longlines.com.

We will welcome the Kleinschmidt family as members of Holy Cross during the service on July 28. *Welcome to the Holy Cross Family of Faith!*



Dolores Pankow
Mother of Marsha Horkey
Entered Eternal Rest
June 1, 2013

Alfa Fisher
Entered Eternal Rest
June 13, 2013

Bradley Coulter
Father of Larissa Kommes
Entered Eternal Rest
July 2, 2013

*"Come unto Me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28*



Our Vacation Bible School at Holy Cross "Armor of God" was a great success with over 50 children from our congregation and community in attendance. This vital outreach would not be possible without our faithful volunteers! Thank you to Deb Stein, Mary Mettenbrink, Linda Amunson, Bear Jensen, Melissa Jensen, Hayden Jensen, Henry Jensen, Anna Vogts, Stephanie Stoeger Moore, Sarah Vogts, Terry Vogts, Jackie Backer, Jeri Melstad, Becky Nelson, Gracie Nelson, Nichole Dial, Denise Honner, Dee Reifkee, Caden Peters, Sarah Bundschuh, Joey Briggs, Jayden Mitchell, Eryn Sandwell, Julie Eickhoff, Angela Dial, and Pastor Vogts.



New Atrium Sculpture & Hearth Room Cross

Our new Risen Christ sculpture now installed in one of the entryway atrium niches recently arrived from Italy, where it was custom hand carved out of lindenwood by the Demitz company. Our thanks to Ron and Jeannette Yockey for donating this lovely sculpture in memory of Mabel Schibonski, and to Lonnie Book for securely mounting it.

This sculpture was chosen for this location because it depicts Christ's arms extended in welcome as you enter the church, and in blessing upon you as you leave.

Our thanks also to Lonny for crafting the new cross for above the fireplace in the Hearth Room. It is the logo cross of Holy Cross and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as found on the outside cover of this newsletter, beautifully rendered in three woods.

**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 LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor

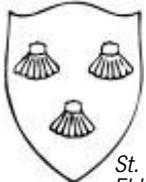
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2013

July ★★

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am</p> 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Barry Hageman Barry & Kay Hageman</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton</p> 	<p>4</p>  <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY</p> <p>Taylor DeRocher Nichole Dial</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm Worship with Communion</p> <p>Harold & Mary Mettenbrink</p>
<p>7 7th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Adult Bible Class</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30pm Board of Elders</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>7:30pm Church Council</p>  <p>Church Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30pm Worship with Communion</p>
<p>14 8th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Adult Bible Class</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Shannon Feese</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm Worship with Communion</p> <p>Gloria Barnum</p>
<p>←----- Pastor Vogts at LCMS Convention in St. Louis -----></p>						
<p>21 9th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Charles Horkey Guest Minister</p> <p>10:30am Quarterly Business Meeting</p> 	<p>22</p>  <p>St. Mary Magdalene</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>St. James the Elder, Apostle</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm Worship with Communion</p>
<p>←----- Pastor Vogts at LCMS Convention in St. Louis -----></p>						
<p>28 10th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Adult Bible Class</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton</p> 	<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

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Crossnotes

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

Return Service Requested



New Risen Christ Sculpture in Atrium

