

Pastor Vogts Accepts Call to Kansas

Dear Members of Holy Cross,

The last week of June I informed you that I had been extended a call to serve as the pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wahoo, Nebraska. To my surprise, the first week of July I was notified that I had also been extended a second call to serve as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola, Kansas, whose call I previously declined last January.

It is unusual but not unheard of for a pastor to have two calls at the same time, or for a congregation to re-extend a call to a pastor who has previously declined their call. In this case, the chairman of their call committee said that several other pastors had also turned down their call in the intervening six months, they were not inclined to call any from the list of additional candidates they received from the Kansas District, and they kept coming back to me as their first choice.

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

I thank you all for your very kind words about my ministry among you, and your prayers for me and my family as I considered this extremely difficult decision. During my 11 years as pastor of Holy Cross I have previously declined six calls that I have received to serve elsewhere. However, after prayerful consideration, I have concluded that it is the Lord's will at this time for me to

accept the call to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola, Kansas. My last Sunday at Holy Cross will be August 18.

I want to stress that the Lord Himself directed your pastor elsewhere. You did not ask your pastor to leave, nor did you do anything to cause him to leave. Neither did your pastor request this call. This is the Lord's will and doing. The Lord Himself directed another call to your pastor, and He moved your pastor to recognize this call as the will of God that he should enter a new field of service. We may indeed say with Job in this situation, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

The Dakota Dunes community and especially the Holy Cross Lutheran Church family will always be very special to Terry and me and our children, since this is really where they grew up. My service as your pastor has truly been a great joy for me, and for my family. You are very kind and loving and simply wonderful people. Whomever the Lord chooses to direct here as your next pastor is very blessed indeed!

Pastor Kevin Vogts



On July 28 we rejoiced to 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.



**Jeremy and Dawn Kleinschmidt
Jessica, Brenden
Not Pictured: Isaiah Nelson**

We also welcomed Fumiko Azuma, the mother of Susanne Stoeger-Moore, who recently moved from Wisconsin, by Affirmation of Faith. She is at home with the Stoeger-Moores at 212 West Pinehurst Trail, Dakota Dunes, SD 57049-5240; 605-422-6678.



Fumiko Azuma

Welcome to the Holy Cross Family of Faith!



BUDGET UPDATE

Year-to-Date as of July 28, 2013

Offerings Budgeted \$122,050
 Offerings Received \$117,777
 Budget Deficit (\$4,273)

WORSHIP



ASSISTANTS

Elders for August
 Carroll Gustman &
 Steve Stoeger-Moore

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
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August, 2013

Volume 11

Number 8

Ushers for August
 Harold Mettenbrink
 & Steve VonMinden

Chancel Care for August
 Linda Amunson

Acolytes/Crucifers for August
 August 4 Caden Peters
 August 11 Need Volunteer
 August 18 Ali Eickhoff
 August 25 Brady Schroeder



Anniversaries and Birthdays

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.

Harold Mettenbrink, August 5
 Steven Stoeger-Moore, August 6
 Terry Vogts, August 14
 Scott Feese, August 15
 Joe Van Ackeren, August 15
 Rashell DeRocher, August 17
 Joey Schroeder, August 18
 Susanne Stoeger-Moore, August 18
 Gary Amunson, August 21
 Sarah Bundschuh, August 23
 Marleen Kuhn, August 23
 Anna Vogts, August 24
 Jessica Kleinschmidt, August 27
 Evan Steemken, August 28

Les & Dee Reifke
 August 9, 1969
 Gary & Betty Gunderson
 August 25, 1956



While many churches and denominations are cutting back on their missionary work, as of February, 2013 our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod had more than 740 missionaries, serving full-time or short-term. This makes the LCMS one of the largest Christian missionary agencies in the world!

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

August 3-4

*Rev. James & Christel Neuendorf
 Dominican Republic*

August 10-11

*Gustavo & Rosana Lavia
 Spain*

August 17-18

*Rev. Michael Parris
 Macau*

August 24-25

*Rev. Alan Ludwig
 Russia*

Bible Class Breaks for August

Adult Bible Class will be breaking for the month of August. Look for more information about Sunday School and Adult Bible Class starting again in September.



Women's Salad Supper August 25

All women are invited to a salad supper at Holy Cross on Sunday, August 25. Sponsored by our women's group, Holy Cross Women in Mission, this event will be a "how I spent my summer vacation" social event, no business will be conducted. Please join in this time of fun and fellowship!

All women are also invited to our next business meeting on Wednesday, September 11 at 9:00am.



Hog Roast October 6

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 6, the date of this year's Annual Hog Roast, sponsored by Holy Cross Women In Mission.

A portion of this year's Hog Roast proceeds will go to Mercy Meals of Siouxland. This newly adopted program was implemented only a year ago by Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Volunteers, ages 11 and up, gather the 4th Saturday of each month from 9:00am-10:30am to package a unique mixture of rice and soy. In partnership with the Orpahn Grain Train of Norfolk, Nebraska, Mercy Meals has distributed over 52,000 of these "super" meals for the needy

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

around the world. The Mercy Meals organization is run solely by volunteers, thus eliminating administrative costs, but relying heavily on donations as each package costs 13 cents.

WIM is excited to sponsor this Christian mission project!



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!

July 7

Stoeger-Moore

August 4

Mary Mettenbrink
Harold's 80th Birthday

August 18

Vogts

Anna's, Terry's, Jacob's
& Sarah's Birthdays

September 8

Doug & Sue Jansen
Our Anniversary

September 15

Lonny & Sallie Book
Our Anniversary

**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!



Three Sundays in August are open to bring snacks for after worship and we need volunteers!. Our thanks to Deb Stein for serving during all of July!

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!

August 4
Mettenbrink

August 11, 18, 25
Need Volunteers

Lutheran Church in Mongolia Emerging From Communist Rule

LCMS missionary Rev. Matthew Heise says sometimes it's like driving across the moon. And sometimes it's like driving through a camel farm. Either way he describes it, the Gobi Desert in Mongolia is a fascinating place.

During a recent theological training visit to the country, Heise traveled through the Gobi from the capital, Ulaanbaatar, to Light of the Gobi Lutheran Church in Mandalgov, where he taught about the book of Galatians. "I can honestly say it has been some of the most enjoyable teaching I have ever done in my missionary service," he says of his teaching experiences in Mongolia. "The Mongolian Lutherans are earnest in their faith and their desire to learn more about Christianity."

The Mongol Empire, just north of China and south of Russia, was founded by Genghis Khan in 1206. Khan, famous for his military campaigns and brutality, was

surprisingly tolerant when it came to the religious practices of the Mongol people. Historically, the Mongols adhered to Buddhism, but there is evidence of Christianity in the area reaching as far back as the seventh century. With the collapse of the empire in the 14th century, many in the area converted to Islam. Then, throughout the 60-plus years reign of communism in the 1900s, religious tolerance disappeared.

Protestant guests were not allowed into the region until 1990. That same year, the newly-formed Mongolian democracy counted only four Christians in the entire country! Today, the number stands closer to 60,000, including a growing number of Lutherans. One of these new Lutherans, Nerguisaikhan Myadagmaa "Sainaa," is an encouraging example of how God has worked in the region.



Pastor "Sainaa" serves Communion at Sain Medee (Good News) Lutheran Church in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Sainaa first heard the Gospel in 1997 from his wife, who served as a caretaker for the children of Finnish Lutheran missionaries. After a few years Sainaa and his wife started church services near their home in the capital of Ulaanbaatar. At the first Sunday service, only one person in attendance had been baptized. In the four months that followed, the first members of Sain Medee (Good News) Lutheran Church were taught about Christ and baptized. A new Lutheran church was born!

Starting with about six members, Sain Medee Lutheran Church gradually grew and attracted more members. Sainaa was chosen as the leader for this new church and began to study theology,

attending Lutheran seminaries sponsored by the LCMS in Russia and Kazakhstan, and was ordained as a pastor in 2004.



LCMS missionary Rev. Matthew Heise travels through the Gobi Desert in Mongolia on a camel.

Heise worked with Sainaa, holding a training session at Sain Medee Lutheran Church on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. Then he travelled in a jeep through the Gobi Desert to hold a seminar over three evenings at Light of the Gobi Lutheran Church in Mandalgov. Driving through the Gobi requires a four-wheel drive vehicle and some creativity. "For 90 percent of the way, there was no paved road," Heise said. "You just stay between these tires that are placed at regular intervals so you know you're going in the right direction!"

Despite the emerging status of the Mongolian Lutheran church, Heise reports about Light of the Gobi Lutheran, "I have rarely seen a congregation this alive. We had up to 75 members on any of the three nights—ranging from senior citizens to high schoolers." During Matt's presentation about Galatians, most took copious notes and sang Mongolian hymns. A Lutheran theologian named Puje—one of the first Christians in the country after the fall of communism and a former music teacher—composed many of the hymns sung by the members. Today, Puje serves as the director of the nation's only Bible school and is an inspiration to many Mongolian Christians.

Promising reports of growth and fervent interest coming from the region are an inspiration to Christians around the world. Despite a rocky history in the area, the Word of God has been scattered in fertile soil where it can take root and grow.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 www.holycrossdakotadunes.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p><i>(Collect for the 13th Sunday After Pentecost)</i></p>			<p><u>Preschool Schedule</u> Monday, Wednesday, Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays at 9:00am <u>After School Care</u> Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm <i>Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</i></p>		1	2	3 5:30pm Worship with Communion
<p>4 11th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Charles Horkey Guest Minister</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Guest Preacher</p>	5 <i>Harold Mettenbrink</i>	6 <i>Steven Stoeger-Moore</i>	7 10:00am Wednesday Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 	8	9 <i>Les & Dee Reifke</i>	10 5:30pm Worship with Communion	
<p>11 12th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p>	12	13  Newsletter Deadline	14 10:00am Wednesday Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton  <i>Terese Vogts</i>	15 First Day of After School Care  <i>St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord</i> <i>Scott Feese</i> <i>Joe Van Ackeren</i>	16	17 5:30pm Worship with Communion  <i>Johann Gerhard, Theologian, Died 1637</i> <i>Rashell DeRocher</i>	
<p>18 13th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Joey Schroeder</i> <i>Susanne Stoeger-Moore</i></p>	19 First Day of Preschool 	20	21 10:00am Wednesday Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton  <i>Gary Amunson</i>	22	23 <i>Sarah Bundschuh</i> <i>Marleen Kuhn</i>	24 5:30pm Worship with Communion <i>St. Bartholemew, Apostle</i> <i>Anna Vogts</i>	
<p>25 14th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gary & Betty Gunderson</i></p>	26	27 <i>Jessica Kleinschmidt</i>	28 10:00am Wednesday Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton  <i>Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Theologian, Died 430</i> <i>Evan Steemken</i>	29  <i>The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist</i>	30 Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am 	31 5:30pm Worship with Communion	

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

