Crossnotes

2006

June – July

In John 4:35, Jesus says: "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." I recently bicycled out to the edge of the Meadows section of Dakota Dunes, where I hadn't been for a few months. I was very surprised not only by the new houses, but entire new streets, full of houses, that hadn't been there just a few months before.

If you go out to where the streets end in the Meadows, or the Prairie, where my family lives, or also Wyndstone and areas of McCook Lake and North Sioux City, you look out onto large, open fields. But, if you look closely, in those fields you will often see survey stakes, trenches being dug, utilities being laid, and streets and lots being platted.

When Holy Cross was started ten years ago, most of this area was fields, of soybeans and other crops. Now, in many places in the communities our congregation serves, there is a new crop: "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

Our church is surrounded by fields ripe for harvest! That is purpose of the Christian Church; that is the purpose of our congregation; to bring in God's harvest, by proclaiming the Gospel. I'd like you to think of our proposed building expansion as a *planter* and a *combine*; a planter, to help us as we plant the Gospel in these communities; and a combine, for harvesting souls, for God.

Jesus also said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37-38). The fields surrounding our church are ripe, and *we* are God's harvesters. The Lord's spiritual harvest at Holy Cross Lutheran Church has only just begun, and our proposed building expansion is for a *bigger, better planter*, and a *bigger, better combine*, to help us bring God's harvest in! "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Building for the Future

Fundraising Campaign Report

At the special congregational meeting on June 15, the Building Committee reported total pledges from our fundraising campaign, "Building for the Future," of between $1.1–$1.2 million. This is a very successful result for a congregation of our size!

By comparison, the largest Lutheran congregation in Sioux City, with over 3,800 members, recently had a building campaign with a goal of $4.5 million, but they also raised approximately $1.2 million. Similarly, a community church in Sioux City with over 1,000 members recently had a building campaign with a goal of $2.7 million. They likewise raised approximately $1.2 million—which seems to be the magic number for church building projects in Sioux City this year! Holy Cross is still considered a mission congregation, so for our congregation to nearly match these much larger, older and more established churches is extraordinary.

For our fundraising phase, the Building Committee thought it was best to present a global proposal, including all the components for possible expansion. As previously planned, we are now assessing the feasibility and scope of the project based upon our financial resources.

At the meeting on June 15 the committee discussed various options with those present and will now take additional time to study these options before seeking congregational approval for construction. This will set back our timetable several months. However, that should not be to our disadvantage, and could even be to our advantage, since the bids would be solicited at a slower time in the construction industry.

As we continue to move forward with this process, we praise and thank God for the generous pledges received.

Tim, Denise and Tyler Fletcher
By Release from
Atonement Lutheran Church,
Fargo, North Dakota

Everett, Barb and Weston Johnson
By Release from
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Larissa Kommes
By Transfer from
Grace Lutheran Church,
Le Mars, Iowa

Welcome to the Holy Cross Family of Faith!

Vacation Bible School Big Success!

Over 50 children attended VBS at Holy Cross, most of them non-member children from the community.

Each child received as a gift from Holy Cross five high-quality Arch books, for each of the five Bible stories covered. The children also enjoyed high quality crafts, an excellent music program, snacks and recess.

In their daily offerings the children gave over $1,300 to buy school supplies for children in the Kibera Lutheran Preschool in Nairobi, Kenya, which Pastor Vogts visited on his mission trip to Kenya last year.

Kibera is the slum area of Nairobi, considered one of the worst slums in the world, which Pastor Vogts also toured. The poverty and living conditions are unimaginable. Several hundred children are blessed to attend the preschool operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya adjacent to the slum. It provides them with critical early childhood education and structure in their often disordered lives. Most of all, they are brought to Jesus as he commanded, "Let the little children come unto Me" (Matthew 19:14).

Thank you to all the staff members who gave so much of their time and talent to help everything go so smoothly:

<u>Board of Education</u>
Daniell Bargstadt
Janet Martin
Terese Vogts

<u>Registration</u>
Daniell Bargstadt
Janet Martin

Vacation Bible School 2006

Julie Krogh leads the children in singing for the closing program.

Joey Ellickson and his group have a "picnic" with loaves and fish to learn the story of the Feeding of the 5,000.

Children make their "Treasure Chests" to go with theme "Treasure Cove: Discover the Riches of Christ."

Julie Krogh leads the children in music.

Parents and children enjoy the picnic lunch after the closing program.

Crafts
Jeri Melstad
Terese Vogts

Music
Julie Krogh

Group Leaders
Joey Ellickson
Heidi Finkral
Quintin Krause
Melanie Melstad
Eden Pitzenburger
Sarah Vogts

Snacks
Nancy Wiese

Closing Lunch
Daniell Bargstadt
Janet Martin
Holy Cross Women in Mission

Lesson Leader
Pastor Kevin Vogts

Early Worship Times August 6 and 13

Pastor Vogts will be on vacation, attending a wedding in Wisconsin and family reunion in Michigan, August 1-15. On the two Sundays he will be absent, August 6 and 13, our worship service time—for those two Sundays only—will be 8:00am instead of 9:15am. *Please mark this change for those Sundays on your calendars!*

It is difficult to find substitute pastors during the summer, and our guest pastors for these Sundays have their own services later in the morning. Our services those two Sundays will be earlier to allow them time to return for services at their own churches.

Our guest pastor on August 6 will be Rev. Ken Schmidt of Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City. On August 13 we will have Rev. Michael Boykin of Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion. Pastor Boykin will be remember by some as the vacancy pastor for nearly three years during the last vacancy at Holy Cross.

Pastor Vogts reads the Easter story for the children's sermon after the Holy Cross Preschool sang for our worship on April 23. In the background is the Easter Egg Tree made by the preschool children.

We Believe: A Study of the Augsburg Confession

For Adult Bible Class during the summer on Sundays at 10:30am we are looking at the Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church. Largely written by a layman, Philip Melancthon, it was also submitted by a group of laymen, rulers of the German states, to Emperor Charles V in 1530 as their official statement of the Lutheran faith.

For our Adult Bible Class it also serves as an excellent discussion guide as we look at what the Scripture says on a number of key doctrines, such as the Trinity, Original Sin, etc. It also touches on controversial issues still pertinent today, such as forbidding priests to marry, and why Lutherans do not require this of our clergy.

The Augsburg Confession is among the official statements of the teachings of the Lutheran Church still officially subscribed to by most Lutheran bodies and congregations, including our own. Come on Sundays at 10:3am to learn more about what your church believes and teaches!

Holy Cross PreSchoOl

Limited Preschool and After School Care Openings

Advance registrations for Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care for the 2006-2007 school year have been very strong and there are now limited

openings for most sessions. You are encouraged to reserve a place for your child as soon as possible, and if you have friends, neighbors, relatives, etc. who may be interested, *please let them know to reserve a place now*, so that they will not be disappointed.

Classes include Mom's Day Out for two year-olds, and Preschool sessions for three, four and five year-olds. Holy Cross Preschool is blessed with a dedicated, professional staff, and an excellent facility. Most of all, education takes place in a loving, Christian atmosphere.

Holy Cross also offers After School Care with bus service from both Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart provided directly to Holy Cross. Children thru 6th grade enjoy a variety of supervised activities from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

These programs of our congregation have blessed hundreds of children over the years, from our congregation and community, helping them to grow and develop not only mentally, socially, etc. but also to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). To register or for more information contact Preschool Director Lynnea Mueller at 235-1688, mailbox #2 or by email at holycrosspreschool@longlines.com.

Zhahn-Luk von Bose

Quinton-Elia von Bose

Myron-Anthony von Bose

Baptized Apri 16, 2006

"Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins."
Acts 22:16

July Sermon Series

FIVE FAVORITE STORIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

There are certain Bible stories with which we are all familiar. But, what do they really *mean*, for you and your faith? During July we will have a special sermon series looking at "Five Favorite Stories from the Old Testament."

July 2
Creation

July 9
Noah's Ark

July 16
Joseph's Coat

July 23
Baby Moses

July 30
David and Goliath

Elders

June 4
Greg Huibregtse

June 11
Don Wiese

June 18
Mike Bargstadt

June 25
Ron Yockey

Alternate
Joey Schroeder

July 2
Ron Yockey

July 9
Joey Schroeder

July 16
Greg Huibregtse

July 23
Don Wiese

July 30
Mike Bargstadt

In the back of the church is a sign up sheet to bring snacks for after worship. You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish.

Those bringing snacks are also asked to please prepare the coffee. Simple instructions are posted near the coffee maker. Coffee, cups, napkins, plates, etc. are all provided and in the kitchen. Thank you to those providing snacks!

June 4
Holy Cross Women in Mission

June 11
Finkral

June 18
Dial

June 25
Vogts

July 16
Finkral

July 2, 9, 23, 30 — *Need Volunteers*

Zhahn-Luk von Bose

Confirmed June 4, 2006

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
2 Peter 3:18

Thank you for these flower donations to beautify our worship. The sign-up sheet to provide flowers for worship in 2006 is on the bulletin board at the back of the church. 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 church kitchen.

May 7
Rob & Heidi Finkral
Wedding Anniversary

May 21
Ron & Jeannette Yockey
Wedding Anniversary
Travis' Birthday

June 4
Don & Nancy Wiese
19th Wedding Anniversary

June 11
Doug & Sue Jansen
Birthdays

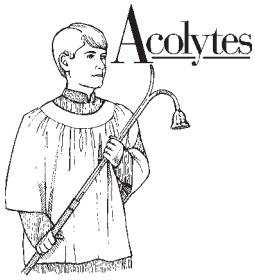
June 18
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Jacob's Birthday

June 25
Doug & Janet Martin
Kaleb and Kaden's Birthdays

July 2
Mabel Schibonski
July Fourth

July 9
Don & Nancy Wiese
Nancy's Birthday

July 16
Ginny Peterson
Bob Peterson's Birthday



June 4
Jacob Vogts

June 11
Sarah Vogts

June 18
Trevor Vilhauer

June 25
Justin Peterson

July 2
Keegan Johnson

July 9
Sarah Vogts

July 16
Trevor Vilhauer

July 23
Jacob Vogts

July 30
Justin Peterson

June 4
Jacob Vogts

June 11
Sarah Vogts

June 18
Evan Steemken

June 25
Quinton Bose

July 2
Dylan Sawyer

July 9
Zachary Selby

July 16
Kendall Martin

July 23
Quinton Bose

July 30
Kylie Martin

HOLY CROSS Women in Mission

Holy Cross Women in Mission will be meeting to make quilts for different needy organizations. Our next meeting is June 27 at 1:00pm at the church.

If anyone in the congregation has fabric remnants or clothing that can be cut up to make quilts would be appreciated. You can bring them to the church secretary's office.

You do not need to know how to sew. Come and join us for this time of fellowship.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

We are now listing in the newsletter each month and have prayers in worship each week for those having birthdays and wedding anniversaries. This information was recently requested from all members.

If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify church secretary Nancy Wiese, 232-9117 mailbox #4 or email nancywiese@longlines.com.

Don & Nancy Wiese
June 5, 1987

Doug Jansen , June 13

Quintin Krause , June 13

Kaden Martin, June 20

Jacob Vogts, June 22

Kaleb Martin, June 27

John & Sherry Isley
June 27

Karen Brock, July 5

Nichole Dial, July 5

Nancy Wiese, July 11

James Miller, July 28

Missionaries of the Month

Each month we remember in prayer in our worship specific missionaries sponsored around the world by our congregation, through our Synod and related organizations. You are encouraged to remember them also in your personal and family prayers.

June 4
Jonathan and Jordan Benning
Poland

June 11
Nate and Teri Watt
Nigeria

June 18
Danelle Putnam
Dominican Republic

June 25
Cassie Thomas
Macau

July 2
Diane Nelson
Guatemala

July 9
Michael Vogel
Taiwan

July 16
Brent Kilback
Papua New Guinea

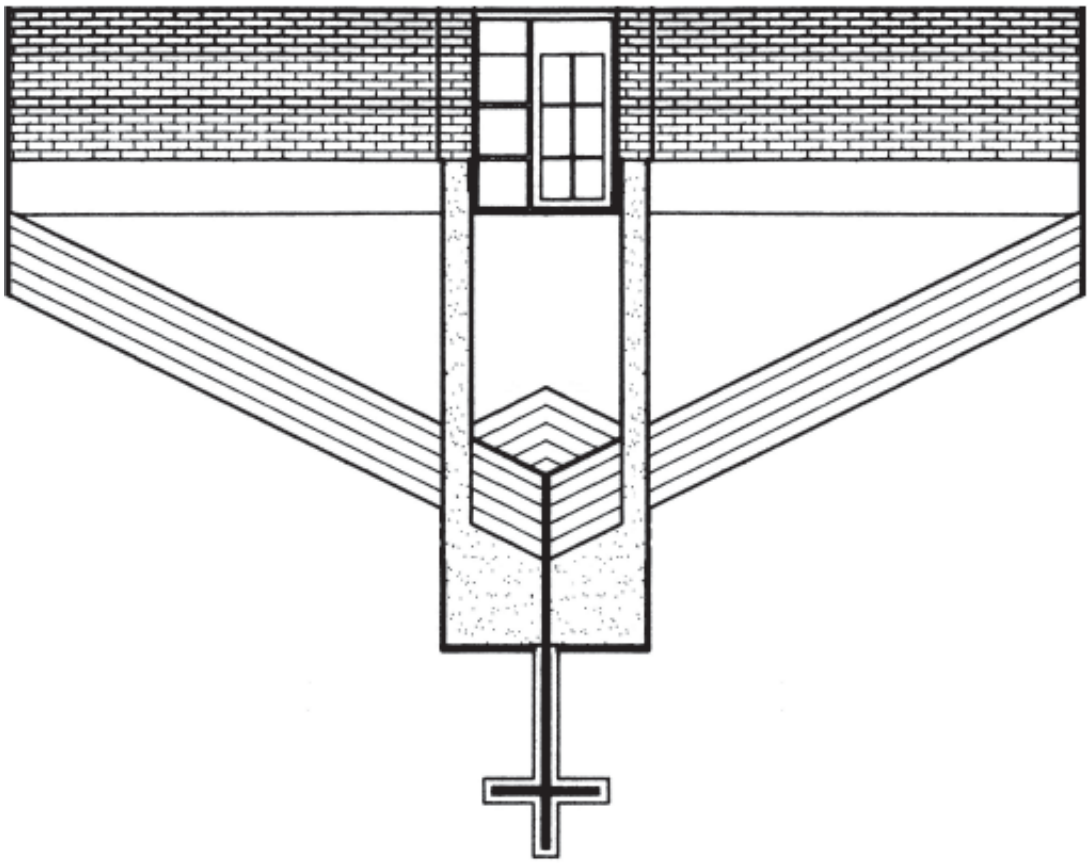
July 23
Elden Kohn
Togo

July 30
Peg Wolfram
Cambodia

We had a great New Year and Easter Celebration at the Child Rescue Orphanage in Krang Lovea where our Lutheran youth shared the Good News of Christ's resurrection with the children. Their program opened with a welcome and prayer, followed by three dances and Christian songs. It was really special to see our youth perform with such confidence. Then one of the youth gave the "Easter Message of Hope." He normally is a very quiet young man, but when he speaks the Word he becomes very animated and draws everyone's attention. Even non-Christians stop and listen. One of the joys of the day, was after he finished speaking, he was sitting with the people who were attending from the village, and seemed to hold them spellbound, as he shared the Easter story and the salvation that Christ gave us from the cross! Even when the food was being served they waited to hear the rest of his story. After lunch, he worked with the young children and casually talked at length to the older boys. What an amazing young man! He is about 22 years old, and though he is not a Pastor he is a fine young man of God. He does not attend a Bible college, but a regular university. We firmly believe that someday, if God so wills, he will share the Easter story throughout Cambodia!

We also recently witnessed more than 164 souls baptized into God's family. As I watched, a vision of John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus floated through my mind and it was a very emotional time, as well, as very beautiful. It certainly was a strong reminder of how God is working in His Kingdom, here in Cambodia. Statistics show that only 2 percent of the population is Christian in this country. Six months ago it was 1 percent! The Holy Sprit marches forward to spread God's Word and Hope in Christ our Savior.

Crossnotes

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

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