



Top Ten Reasons to Go to Church

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"*

(Psalm 122:1)

Late-night talk show host David Letterman is famous for his humorous "Top Ten" lists. That seems to be a good vehicle for communicating humor. It can also be a effective way to communicate the truth!

10. Our Lord's command.

Our Lord says that we should let His Word dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16). Not meagerly, poorly, or scarcely, but richly, abundantly. We should not be on a spiritual starvation diet! The command is given because of our need.

9. Our Lord's love.

Our Lord kept loving us in spite of our sinfulness (John 3:16). He loved us even though we did not love Him (1 John 4:9-19). In His love and mercy, He wants to help us in our need.

8. Our Lord's Sacrifice.

Did our Lord not go out of the way—and all the way—for us? The temple at Jerusalem was the place of the temporary sacrifices that only foreshadowed Christ's sacrifice. How much more should we be glad to go to

the place where the fulfillment, the substance, and the reality are proclaimed and realized!

7. Our Lord's gracious Gospel.

We do not hear the Gospel in the secular media. No earthly president, governor, legislator, judge, or magistrate can pronounce this pardon, this amnesty, this forgiveness and forgetting of sins on God's part. To be sure, we must hear it from the Lord! Hear it now: God forgives you for Christ's sake! That is what we should be in church for.

6. Our Lord's promise to bless, sustain, and nourish us.

Our Lord has not promised to bestow Christ's forgiveness not to create, preserve, and increase our faith through anything we do nor through anything we may dream up—not through our efforts, strivings, works, zeal, tears, sorrow, or prayers. He promises to bless and sustain us in His way, the way which He has chosen in His wisdom—through Word and Sacrament..

5. Our Lord's peace.

At a faithful church we hear and hear again that we need do nothing for our salvation. We have peace with God through Christ's sacrifice; He appeased God's anger against our sin. We are not in church to be busy and noisy—but to hear God's Word of peace.

4. Our Lord's people.

We all like to be with people who share our interests. If we believe in Christ—and love Him—and so care about His Word—we want to be with our fellow Christians. We will want to be with those who have also been baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been born again as God's children, have been clothed with Christ's righteousness; in short, with those with whom we will spend eternity (Galatians 3:26-27).

3. Our Lord's Absolution

We can tell our selves all day long that our sins have been forgiven for Christ's sake. But what a comfort it is—by God's design—for us to hear a living voice proclaim God's Word of grace and forgiveness! That is as certain, valid, true, and comforting as if we were hearing our Lord say it with His own voice. For it is His Word: "If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven them!" (John 20:23).

2. Our Lord's Sacrament.

Where else can we get a meal to sustain our spirits? Where can we find richer food than the very body of our Lord Christ—or more satisfying drink than the very blood of the Lamb of God? Where can we taste greater comfort—or any such comfort at all? Where else do we have a more intimate relationship with anyone at all? Bur this relationship—this union—is with our Lord Himself!

1. Our Lord's presence.

Our Lord Jesus is here in a unique way. If the governor or the president were coming, would not everyone turn out? But here is the King of the Kingdom of God! If a best-selling author were coming, would people not turn out in large numbers? But here is the Author of the Book of Books. If a famous celebrity were coming, would not people turn out in droves and crowds? But here is not some clown or jester whom the world worships, but the One Who deserves the greatest fame and the greatest celebrity—forever!

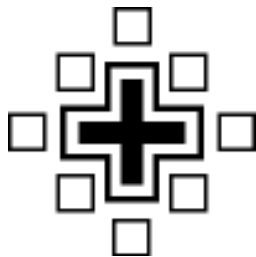
He promises: "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). That is the very definition of a local congregation. If you knew that our Lord would be somewhere, would you not hasten there? The come to church! Then hear His Word of grace and forgiveness and everlasting life!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Hymnal Donations Top Goal Dedication July 15

Our congregation decided to adopt the new Missouri Synod hymnal *Lutheran Service Book* when pledges had been received for 80 copies. We have now received pledges for 100 copies! An additional donation was received for the organist's accompaniment editions.

Dedication of the new hymnals will be during the service on Sunday, July 15. Thank you to all who have contributed.



Bible Class Overview of New Hymnal

During the Bible Class hour after we dedicate our new hymnals on Sunday,

Crossnotes

Published Monthly by

*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

*149 Bison Trail
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049*

*605-232-9117
pastorvogts@longlines.com*

July, 2007

Volume 5

Number 7



Eli Jacob Honner, newborn son of Denise and Patrick Honner, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 2. Also pictured is a new banner made by Jeri Melstad.

July 15 we will have an overview of the new hymnal, going through some of its features and new hymns to help members become acquainted with this new worship resource.



New Member Sunday and Potluck July 22

We will rejoice to welcome several new members at our New Member Sunday on July 22. There will be a welcoming ceremony during the service with a potluck dinner following at 11:30am.



VBS Success!

Nearly 70 children were blessed at our Vacation Bible School the week of June 4-8. Sessions for preschool were in the morning with sessions for kindergarten thru 4th grade in the afternoon.

Thanks so much to all those who helped, especially: Myron Bose, Quinton Bose, Zhahn Bose, Ashley Bargstadt, Daniell Bargstadt, Angela Dial, Sherry Isley, Julie Krogh, Heidi Finkral, Pam Fox, Janet Martin, Kaleb Martin, Kylie Martin, Jeri Melstad, Katie Schmidt, Deb Stein, Anna Vogts, Jacob Vogts, Sarah Vogts, Terese Vogts, Pastor Vogts, and all who donated snacks.

QUEST ^{for} TRUTH

JESUS: THE WAY
THE TRUTH & THE LIFE

2007 Vacation Bible School



Nearly 70 children from our congregation and community enjoyed Vacation Bible School at Holy Cross on June 4-8. The Bible story for the last day was Pentecost, and the children launched balloons with tags attached printed with John 3:16 to symbolize the the disciples, empowered by the Spirit, spreading Gospel throughout the world.



Quarterly Business Meeting July 22

Following the New Member Sunday potluck on July 22, everyone is invited to stay for the Quarterly Business Meeting at 12:30pm. The meeting will include an update on some aspects of the building project.

All adult members of the congregation are also automatically voting members. Your help and input is needed to administer the business affairs of your congregation.



Karen Brock, July 5
 Nichole Dial, July 5
 Nancy Wiese, July 11
 Dolores Hageman, July 13
 James Miller, July 28

We list members' birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the church office at 232-9117 or email holycross@longlines.com.

Summer Sermon Series on the I AM's of Jesus in the Gospel of John

June 3
 "I AM"
 (John 8:48-59)

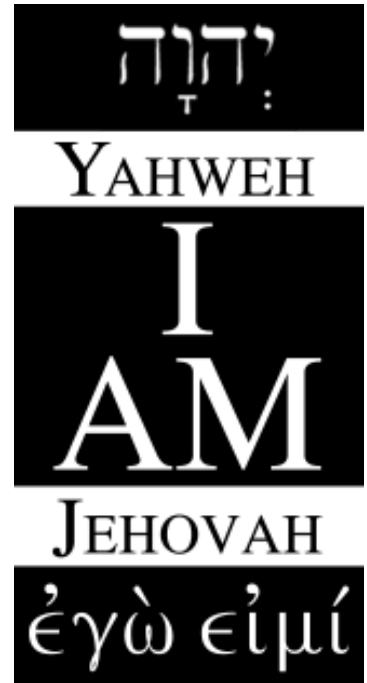
June 10
 "I AM the Bread of Life"
 (John 6:35)

June 17
 "I AM the Light of the World"
 (John 8:12)

July 1
 "I AM the Door"
 (John 10:9)

July 8
 "I AM the Good Shepherd"
 (John 10:11)

July 15
 "I AM the Resurrection and the Life"
 (John 11:25)



July 22
 "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life"
 (John 14:6)

August 5
 "I AM the True Vine"
 (John 15:1)



By *Walter Ries*
 LCMS Missionary
 in the Dominican Republic

Willy and Santa Gaspar, husband and wife, are two of 25 students in the theological training program that I and fellow LCMS missionary Danelle Putnam are leading in Santo Domingo, the capitol of the Dominican Republic. Willy and Santa, like most of the students in the program, are worker-priests. They receive no salary from the mission and are donating their time to help plant a new Lutheran congregation.

Willy is a dentist, but because of the poverty in the country, few people are able to pay him enough, so he teaches part-time at the university and in a local middle school. Willy's wife, Santa, is also very active in their ministry and is a strong prayer warrior for their new mission. She is hoping to eventually become a deaconess.

Recently, Willy and Santa moved to a new community, Las Americas, located between Santo Domingo and the airport, where many new homes are being built. Within a week, they had gotten to know their neighbors and invited them to a community meeting in their garage. Forty neighbors showed up at their very first meeting! Willy had invited me to the meeting to share what Lutherans believe and how the church is reaching out with the Gospel and with human care in the Dominican Republic.

As a result of this initial meeting, five adults invited the Lutheran church to begin a new congregation in their neighborhood. Santa has already organized a weekly Sunday school for

her community and the couple is leading a Bible class for adults.

In the past few months, Willy and Santa have also organized several special activities. One event, showing the Luther film, attracted 75 people! Since the government can not build schools fast enough for the growing population, Danelle is working with Santa to help her learn how to teach children and the couple hopes to eventually begin a school ministry alongside the new emerging congregation.

Please pray for this fledgling new congregation and the workers, Willy and Santa, as they reach out to their neighbors with the Good News of Jesus!



*By Tyrone Brumwell
LCMS Missionary to Muslims
in Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

I first met Ali two years ago. When we met he was friendless and in need of help. As we worked together to get him back on his feet, we became friends. Friendship is a rare commodity for many immigrants. The first couple of months we probably spent 15-20 hours in the car driving back and forth from the immigration office on the other side of the state. After that, he asked for some help with his English. Looking back, I am not so sure the classes were much help in improving his English, since he already spoke very well. But I do know that the companionship was invaluable to him.

Most of the time we would meet in a café. I never had to bring up the subject of God and Jesus. He brought it up himself. It is important not to underestimate the knowledge of God's Law written in the hearts of men. With Ali, it was written on his face. He agreed with the Bible's opinion of his life—it was wretched. But at the same time, he had an aversion to Christianity, like two magnets repelling each other. What was I to do? I gave him a Bible in his own language. I prayed with him every time we met. But like a thirsty man, so accustomed to illusions, he kept walking past the water.

Eight months ago, Ali moved away. It's always tough when someone leaves

without coming to faith. Having helped Ali pack up, I placed him in God's care. This didn't mean I didn't have any contact with him—he still called me about once a week. But for the most part, our meetings were over.

Last month I received a call from him. He told me he was getting married and asked me if I would come to his wedding. He was really excited and insistent about my coming.

When I arrived for the wedding, I sat down in a pew. It was being held at a Christian church. That surprised me. What was even more surprising is that the service started off with Ali reciting the Lord's Prayer all by himself. I told myself, "This is weird," especially since he looked at me the whole time he was reciting it. During the wedding the minister kept talking about these two "Christians" being married. I didn't know what was going on.

As soon as the wedding was over and they marched down the aisle, Ali grabbed me by the shoulders, shook me and said with a great big smile and tears in his eyes, "Tyrone, I am a Christian."

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6).



*By David and Rachel Baker
LCMS Missionaries in Kazakhstan*

Gulia is our best evangelist! She receives no salary and puts in no office hours—she simply shines for Jesus in her daily life. Every week she has stories to tell about how people reacted upon hearing the Good News.

I recently asked her how many people she is able to touch with the Gospel each week. She told me it was usually around ten, unless God gave her a special opportunity to talk with a larger group. And how do the people respond? Three or four out of every ten people react negatively, she said. The most common response from them is that it is not right for a Kazakh to be a Christian. About another third respond with curiosity, but don't seem to take it for anything more than interesting religious small talk. The remaining third,

however, respond with interest—and often with joy!



She relayed one encounter she had on the bus a few days ago. She had asked the woman sitting next to her if she knew about Isa (Jesus) the Messiah. The woman nervously replied, "Not much." Then Gulia asked her if she wanted to hear more. "Yes," was the quiet answer. After listening for a little while, the woman interrupted in a hushed voice, "I am a follower of Jesus, too—but don't tell anyone!" As it turns out, the woman is a new Christian who is learning about Jesus at an English-language Bible study. She has not yet told her family, and is afraid of how people will react to her newfound faith in Jesus.

Pray for this young woman, that like Gulia she also may become a witness to her faith in Isa!



Each month we remember in prayer in our worship specific missionaries sponsored around the world by our congregation, through our Synod and related organizations.

July 1

*Jerry and Carol Loewe
Nigeria*

July 8

*Rev. John and Susan Mehl
Hong Kong*

July 15

*Stephanie Rosburg
Poland*

July 22

Rev. Henry and Ruth Witte
Panama

July 29

Rev. Robert and Laine Rosin
Germany



ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower calendar 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.

June 3

Doug & Sue Jansen
Birthdays

June 10

Carroll & Janet Gustman
32nd Wedding Anniversary

June 17

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Jacob's Birthday

June 24

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

July 15

Ginny Peterson
In Memory of Bob Peterson

August 12

Rev. Kevin Vogts
Jacob, Sarah & Anna
Terry's Birthday

August 19

Marcy, Bryce & Brady Schroeder
Joey's Birthday

August 26

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Anna's Birthday



Preschool Teacher Opening

Holy Cross Board of Education is now taking applications for a part-time preschool teacher for this fall. Please contact Daniell Bargstadt at 235-1688 (preschool mailbox) for more information.

You may submit a resume and letter of application to Holy Cross Board of Education, 149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, SD, 57049 or you may also talk to Daniell or another Board of Education member, Janet Martin, Sherry Isley or Terry Vogts. If you know of anyone who may be interested please let them know of this opportunity.



July 1

Sarah Vogts

July 8

Justin "J.P." Peterson

July 15

Zachary Selby

July 22

Kylie Martin

July 29

Trevor Vilhauer



July 1

Tyler Fletcher

July 8

Keegan Johnson

July 15

Evan Steemken

July 22

A.J. Michels

July 29

Myron Bose



July 1

Doug Jansen

July 8

Ron Yockey

July 15

Mike Bargstadt

July 22

Jon Dorr

July 29

Carroll Gustman

Next Elders Meeting

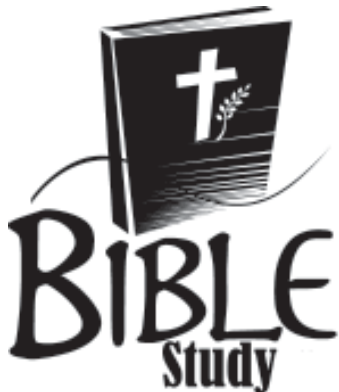
July 5, 7:00pm



Preschool and After School Care

- Providing quality Christian education in Dakota Dunes since 1996
- Pre-Kindergarten Class for ages 4-5
- Preschool classes for ages 3
- Mom's Day Out for 2 year olds
- After School Care for K-6th grade, bus service from Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart
- Excellent facility
- Christian atmosphere
- Classes filling fast—register *now* for next fall

To Register or For More Information Call 235-1688



At the request of several members Adult Bible Class will continue during the summer months. There will be no Sunday School, but children can stay and play.

During July we will continue our study of the Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church in Adult Bible Class on the July 1, 8 and 22.

On July 15 we will have a special session introducing the new *Lutheran Service Book* hymnals, which will be

dedicated that day, looking at some of the new hymns and other features of our new hymnal.

There will be no Adult Bible Class on July 29 due to Pastor Vogts' vacation.

Join in Adult Bible Class Sundays at 10:30am!



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. 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!

July 1
Youth Group

July 8
Dorr

July 15, 22, 29
Volunteers Needed



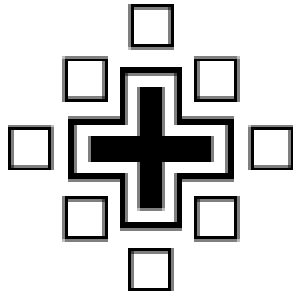
Guest Preacher July 29

From July 23-30 the Vogts family will be vacationing in Colorado and attending the 50th Anniversary of Terry's home congregation, Christ Lutheran Church Winner, South Dakota.

In case of emergency you may contact Pastor Vogts by cell phone (712-898-4818) and he will arrange for pastoral care for you, or call Pastor Michael Boykin at Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion (605-624-9255).

Our guest preacher on July 29 will be Rev. Jerry Bruin, a counselor at Lutheran Family Services and interim Pastor for Bethany Lutheran Church, Sioux City.

Our service will be at the regular time of 9:15am. However, in order to allow time for Rev. Bruin to get to Bethany for their service, we will not have Communion that Sunday at Holy Cross.



**Lutheran Service Book
Dedication
July 15**

- 9:15am—Worship with Lutheran Service Book
Dedication Ceremony
- 10:30am—Special Bible Class with Introduction of
New Hymnal and Explanation of Features



**New Member Sunday,
Potluck Dinner and
Quarterly Meeting
July 22**

- 9:15am—Worship with New Member
Welcome Ceremony
- 11:30am—Potluck Dinner
- 12:30pm—Congregational Quarterly
Business Meeting

Return Service Requested

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

Crossnotes
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church