



With the recent installation of the stained-glass window above the Altar, this seems a good time to consider the symbolism featured in our new Sanctuary.

### ***Shape of Sanctuary Floor Plan***

The classic shape for a Christian Sanctuary is cruciform, meaning that if viewed from above it takes the shape of a cross. There was not room on our property to add a Sanctuary with this traditional plan. So, our architect chose another shape from Christian symbolism: the Baptismal shell. If viewed from above, our Sanctuary is in the classic shape of a Baptismal shell, with the entrance doors to the Sanctuary forming the top of the shell, and the curved south wall forming the curved bottom of the shell.

In Christian symbolism, the Baptismal shell usually has three drops of water beneath, symbolizing the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name we are baptized (Matthew 28:19). In our floor plan, the role of these three drops is taken by the three

largest windows, above and to either side of the Chancel. The first of these signature windows to be installed, above the Altar, represents God the Son. The window to the east will represent God the Father, and the window to the west will represent God the Holy Spirit.

The main body of a church in which the congregation gathers is called the Nave. The name comes from the Latin word for "ship" (from which we also get "navy"). This term was probably applied to church buildings due to their typically long, narrow, ship-like dimensions. Symbolically, the Church is pictured as a ship or ark, sailing the ocean of time. The massive wooden beams and ceiling of our new Sanctuary are reminiscent of an ancient ship—and probably not unlike the roof that was upon Noah's Ark!



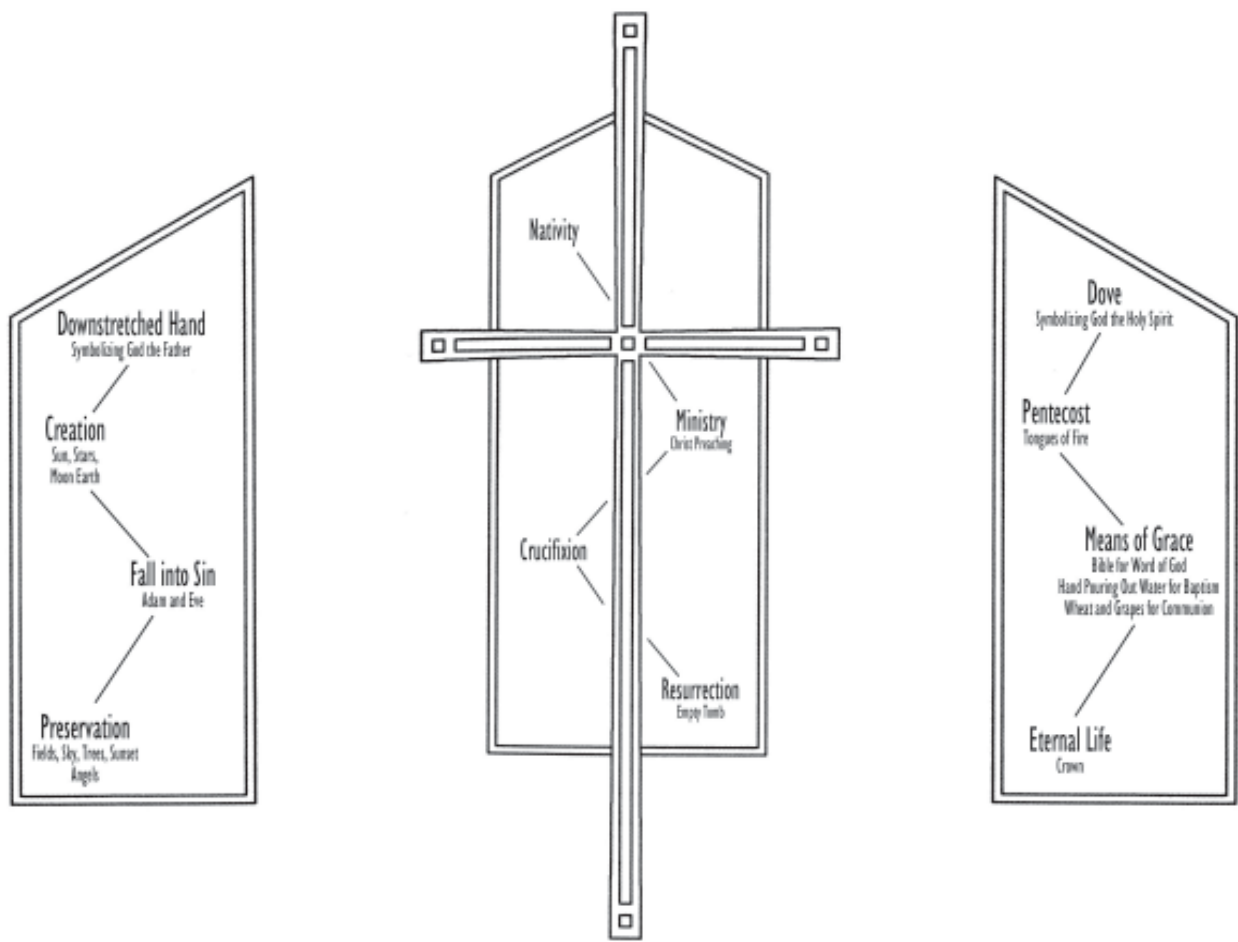
**As this overlay superimposed on the floor plan shows, if viewed from above our new Sanctuary is in the classic shape of a Baptismal shell, with the north entrance doors to the Sanctuary forming the top of the shell, and the curved south wall forming the curved bottom of the shell.**

### ***Baptismal Font and Baptistry***

A prominent and unique feature of our new Sanctuary is the Baptistry. Appropriately, the shell theme is also found here, in the plasterwork of this alcove. The arch of the Baptistry is in the stylized shape of a shell. Also, the ceiling of the Baptistry is a canopy in the form of a shell over the entire space, with the bowl of the shell turned down, as if pouring out water. In the center of the Baptistry is the Baptismal Font.

The eight stained-glass windows in the Baptistry depict the life of Christ, to symbolize that through Baptism we are united with Christ in His life, death, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). These windows were originally installed in 2004 in our former Sanctuary, which is now our Fellowship Hall, and were moved to our new Sanctuary to this space which was specifically designed for them.

The Baptistry is a half octagon and its floor extends into the Sanctuary to form a complete octagon. Since ancient times the octagon has been associated with Baptism. According to tradition, this shape represents the new birth (Titus 3:5) and new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) which God works in us through Baptism, with seven sides representing the first creation in seven days, and the eighth symbolizing the new creation in Christ. The reason this same octagonal shape is also found in the entryway atrium of the Sanctuary addition is to symbolize that the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is the "entrance rite" through which we are incorporated into Christ's Church.



The three largest windows in our new Sanctuary represent the three Persons of the Trinity, and the primary work of each Person: Father (Creation), Son (Redemption), and Holy Spirit (Sanctification). Together, these three windows will tell the entire story of Scripture, starting “in the beginning” at the top of the east window, with Genesis and creation, and ending at the bottom of the west window with Revelation and the “new heaven and new earth” (2 Peter 3:13). The beautiful “red ribbon” device, as seen in the center window which has now been installed, will be repeated in each of these three windows and connect them to tell one unbroken story. The ribbon can be thought to represent a ribbon in the pages of a Bible, and it is red to symbolize the blood sacrifice of Christ for our salvation, which is the unifying theme running throughout Scripture. If you are interested in donating one of the remaining windows in this set, or another a window, please speak to Pastor Vogts.

## Crossnotes

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## Cross and Crucifix

Paul says in Galatians 6:14, “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is therefore customary for the largest, most prominent piece of artwork in a church to be a cross. Our massive cross is richly crafted of oak and poplar. There are five copper inserts, at the end of each radius and in the center, to represent the five wounds of Christ, in His hands, feet, and side (John 20:25-27, Luke 24:39-40). Our Savior’s sacrifice for us on the cross is also beautifully depicted in our processional crucifix, which is customarily placed adjacent to the pulpit, to symbolize that,

“We preach Christ crucified” (1 Corinthians 1:23). The lighted cross surmounting our steeple, which is same cross that formerly adorned the tower of our original building, is a testimony to the world that this is a Christian church, where our worship is focused on the cross of Christ.

## Stained-Glass Windows

The massive cross above the Altar is artistically incorporated with the Altar window, which is the signature artwork of our new Sanctuary. It is really four windows in one, with panels featuring detailed scenes of the nativity, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord.

The three largest windows representing the Persons of the Trinity will also depict the primary work of each Person: *Creation* (Father), *Redemption* (Son), and *Sanctification* (Holy Spirit). And these three windows will together tell the entire story of Scripture, starting “in the beginning” at the top of the east window, with Genesis and creation, and ending at the bottom of the west window with Revelation, and the Second Coming of Christ and the “new heaven and new earth” (2 Peter 3:13).

The beautiful “red ribbon” device, as seen in the center window which has now been installed, will be repeated in each of these three windows and connect them to tell one unbroken story. The ribbon can be thought to represent a ribbon in the pages of a Bible, and it is red to symbolize the blood sacrifice of Christ for our salvation, which is the unifying theme running throughout Scripture.

A conceptual plan has been adopted by the congregation for future windows in our new Sanctuary. The two smaller, square windows above and on either side of the Altar will depict the two Sacraments, the east window being a Baptismal shell to signify Holy Baptism, and the west window a Communion chalice to signify Holy Communion.

The three windows of increasing height on the east wall will portray additional scenes from the life of Christ and major festivals of the Church. The shortest window will be the Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-11), the center window the Baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:13-17), and we will use the height the tallest window to portray the Ascension (Acts 1:1-12). Because the single window on the west wall is adjacent to the Baptistery, it will depict the classic scene of Jesus with the little children (Mark 10:13-16).

To complement the two windows representing the Sacraments, the large window in the Coffee Bar area, which is now frosted glass, will represent the Word of God. This will also provide a stunning point of visual interest as worshippers enter through the archway



**The “slopes” on either side of the Altar in our new Sanctuary represent hands lifted up in prayer, as Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:8, “I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.” The large cross is cradled between these uplifted hands to symbolize that we cling in faith for our salvation to the precious cross of Christ.**

from the entryway atrium, immediately signifying that this is a house of divine worship in which, as the ancient prayer says, we “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” the Holy Scriptures. The window on the landing to the balcony will depict musical praises rendered to the Lord, perhaps with symbols such as a harp, organ, and choir. Finally, the two small clerestory windows in the Hearth Room will depict Luther’s Seal and the logo cross of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The congregation determined that all these windows will be designed and crafted by Bovard Studios, Fairfield, Iowa, one of the largest firms in the nation, whose first design for us is the stunning new window above our Altar. Windows will be installed as donations are made. They do not have to be donated or installed in a specific order or in groupings. If you are interested in donating a window, please speak to Pastor Vogts.

### **“Praying Hands”**

Many members and visitors have inquired about the significance of one of the most unusual features of our new Sanctuary: the “slopes” on either side of the Altar. These actually represent hands lifted up in prayer, as Paul says in

1 Timothy 2:8, “I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.” These enormous “praying hands” mark our Sanctuary as a “house of prayer for all people” (Isaiah 56:7). And it is also significant that the large cross is cradled between these uplifted hands, to symbolize that we cling in faith for our salvation to the precious cross of Christ.

### **Chancel**

Though sometimes an entire Sanctuary is referred to as the “Chancel,” properly speaking the Chancel is the area from which the minister conducts the Divine Service. “Chancel” is derived from the Latin word for “screen,” which in early Christian times separated the Chancel from the Nave, and of which the Altar Rail is a remnant.

### **Altar**

The most prominent furnishing in the Chancel is the Altar, which represents the sacrifice of Christ and upon which is enacted the Sacrament of the Altar which “proclaims the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). Traditionally, the top of a Christian Altar, including ours, is adorned with five crosses to symbolize the five wounds of Christ, with four crosses in the corners to

represent the wounds in His hands and feet, and one in the center to represent the wound in His side, as if He were laid out upon the Altar as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:9). Covering the top of the Altar is the Fair Linen, a large cloth of fine linen, which represents the cloth in which our Lord's body was wrapped for its rest in the tomb (Matthew 27:59). It is customary to "reverence" or bow slightly when approaching the Altar. Such reverence and respect toward the Altar is symbolic of reverence and respect toward God Himself.

### ***Pulpit and Lectern***

The next most prominent furnishing of the Chancel is the Pulpit, from which the Word of God is preached (Nehemiah 8:3-4). Complementing the Pulpit is the Lectern, from which the readings of Holy Scripture are read. The Pulpit may properly stand on either side of the church, with the Lectern on the opposite side. The Altar, Pulpit and Lectern are traditionally adorned with paraments of fine fabric and embellished with symbols (Exodus 26:1).

The seats for the clergy are called Sedilia (si-DILL-e-ah), from the Latin word for "seat." Traditionally, Sedilia are large and imposing, like a throne, not at all to honor the clergy themselves, but to symbolize that they serve, as our Liturgy says, "in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ." Our Sedilia are another beautiful, custom designed feature of our new Sanctuary, finely crafted of oak and poplar.

### ***Altar Rail***

Enclosing the Chancel is the Altar Rail. As noted above, the Altar Rail is a remnant of the screen which separated the Chancel from the Nave in early Christian times. In those days it had a very practical function. Christianity arose in the warm Mediterranean climate, where public buildings, including churches, were often open-air, and so to prevent animals from invading the Chancel it was fenced off with a railing. Although many churches today do not have an Altar Rail, it symbolizes the holiness of the Sacrament of the Altar

(Hebrews 9:2). It also provides a convenient place for the venerable custom of kneeling to receive the Sacrament, a position of humility by which the communicant confesses, "Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof" (Matthew 8:8).

The practice of receiving Holy Communion at the Altar Rail is also a public declaration of one's faith. Martin Luther says, "The Altar and the Chancel were invented for this purpose. The communicants ought to be seen and known openly, both by those who do and those who do not commune, in order that their lives may be better observed, proved, and tested. For participation in the Supper is part of the confession by which they confess before God, angels, and men that they are Christians" (*An Order of Mass and Communion for the Church at Wittenberg*, Luther's Works, Volume 53, pages 33-34).

In addition to receiving Holy Communion at the Altar Rail worshippers come to it also for other purposes, such as presenting the offerings, Confirmation, and entering into Holy Matrimony.

### ***Credence Table***

Also in the Chancel is the Credence Table, from the Italian for "credenza," a small side table on which traditionally the unconsecrated elements of Holy Communion, and now also the offering plates, are placed.

### ***Sanctuary Lamp and Altar Candles***

The "eternal flame" is properly called the Sanctuary Lamp. It is kept burning at all times to symbolize the abiding presence of God, like the seven lamps that burned continuously in the Tabernacle of the Old Testament (Leviticus 24:1-4).

As with the Altar Rail, the use of candles in worship had a very practical origin: So that the minister and congregation could see to conduct the service. They now have a symbolic

value, just as we continue to adorn with candles birthday cakes and dinner tables on special occasions, although such candles are not needed for lighting purposes. Lighted candles are a symbol of Christ as the Light of the world (John 8:12). They also express our joy as we celebrate our redemption. Two candles traditionally stand upon the Altar, to symbolize the divine and human natures in Christ. Traditionally, Altar candles are real candles of at least 51% beeswax.

### ***Missal Stand***

Also upon the Altar is the Missal Stand, a low bookstand upon which the Pastor's service book (called in Latin the "missal") is placed.

### ***Sacristy and Vestry***

The Sacristy (SACK-ris-tee) is a special room in which are kept the accouterments necessary for divine services. Our Sacristy is located west of the Chancel and features cabinets, a sink, and a cooler for storing flowers. It also includes a Piscina (the east bowl of the sink), which drains directly into the ground and is for the respectful disposal of consecrated Communion wine and Baptismal water and the residue from washing sacramental vessels. The Vestry (VEST-tree) is where the clergy and other participants vest themselves for services. Our Vestry is located east of the Chancel.

### ***Organ and Choir Loft***

Helping to lead congregation's worship is the Organ, which is traditionally located for acoustical purposes in a loft at the rear of the Sanctuary. New speakers were added to our Organ and an interesting modern touch is that there is a cable running from the Organ console in the loft to the Altar, with foot pedal switches at the Pulpit, Lectern, and Baptismal Font, so that when necessary the Organ can be controlled by the Pastor via MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). The loft also provides a place for the choir, soloists, and other musicians, and our Choir Loft has extremely fine acoustics.

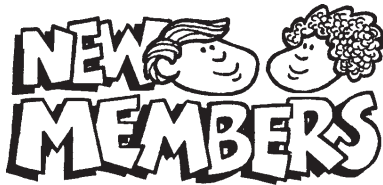
## Bell

Our "new" Bell is actually 130 years old! It was originally cast in 1878 for a Presbyterian church in New York. It is of both very high quality and very large size. Church bells have been used for over 1,500 years to call the faithful to worship. The Board of Elders also plans to introduce the old custom of ringing the Bell during the Lord's Prayer. Work is still under way to finalize our Bell for ringing, with the goal of finding a way to minimize water intrusion where the rope will pass through the roof into the entryway atrium.

We give thanks and praise to God for our beautiful new church building in which to worship Him!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

*This article is also available in booklet form in the Gathering Room*



We welcome as new members of the Holy Cross family of faith **Irvin and Sue Paulson**. They are retired and recently moved back to this area from Nevada. They are at home in McCook Lake at 18 Union Court; 780-2562; irvsue@iw.net.

We also welcome into membership **Dennis and Marleen Kuhn**. They are involved in real estate and recently moved from Sioux City to Dakota Dunes. They are at home at 1028 Pebble Beach Drive; 422-1133.

And we welcome into membership **Rose Chapman**. She recently moved to Dakota Dunes from Orange City, Iowa. She works at the Sterling Green apartments and is at home at 230 Courtyard Drive, #315; 712-540-1309; rose\_chapman@yahoo.com.

We will have a New Member Sunday in conjunction with the Hog Roast on October 19 to welcome these and our other recent new members.



## Hog Roast Fundraiser October 19

The Board of Elders is sponsoring our second annual Hog Roast Fundraiser on Sunday, October 19, from 11:30am-1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Our thanks to Jon and Gail Dorr for donating the hog, to Rev. Donald Meyer of Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, Iowa for roasting it for us, and to Betty Gunderson and Ginny Peterson for coordinating this event. The meal will also include beef brisket, coleslaw, beans and dessert. Members are asked to help with this event by signing up in the Gathering Room to help set up, serve, or clean up, and donating desserts.

A freewill offering will be taken. Both members of the congregation and the entire community are invited!



## Hog Roast Volunteers

Our second annual Hog Roast will be Sunday, October 19 from 11:30am-1:30pm. Volunteers are needed for donating desserts, setting up before the event, working during the dinner, and cleaning up afterward. Please sign up in the Gathering Room.

For more information contact Betty Gunderson—and thanks for your help!



## BUDGET UPDATE

### As of September 28, 2008

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date.....	\$115,185
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date.....	\$105,871
Total Budget Deficit	
Year-to-Date.....	(\$9,314)



## New Midweek Study on "Christian Decision Making" Begins October 29

Our new Midweek Bible Study is on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm-8:30pm, following Midweek Vespers.

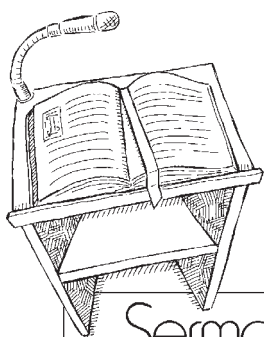
We will continue our first topic on *How to Study the Bible* on October 1, 8, 15 and 22. On October 29 we will begin a new study on *Christian Decision Making*.

Christians sometimes have difficulty deciding what to do. This study leads class members to trust that God loves them for Jesus' sake and to be confident that God will guide their steps. Eight lessons explore scriptural principles and examine people in the Bible who have made wise and sometimes foolish decisions.

Join in Wednesdays at 7:30pm for Midweek Bible Study!

# Women in Mission

Women in Mission, the women's group of Holy Cross, will have its October meeting on Wednesday, October 8th at 9:00am in the Gathering Room. All women of the congregation are invited!



## Sermon Schedule

October 1 (Midweek Vespers)  
"The Fifth Commandment"

October 5  
"We Have Different Gifts"  
Romans 12:4-8

October 8 (Midweek Vespers)  
"The Sixth Commandment"

October 12  
"Without Passing Judgment"  
Romans 14:1-12

October 15 (Midweek Vespers)  
"The Seventh Commandment"

October 19  
"The Threefold Response"  
1 Thessalonians 1:3

October 22 (Midweek Vespers)  
"The Eighth Commandment"

October 26  
"Continue in My Word"  
John 8:31-32

October 29 (Midweek Vespers)  
"The Ninth Commandment"



## Missionaries of the Month

Our congregation has designated a title of 10% of our general offerings to support the work of our District and Synod. Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services specific missionaries around the world who are supported in this way by our congregation.

October 5

*Coral Rose*  
*Kenya*

October 12

*Edward and Shauna Strohschein*  
*Hong Kong*

October 19

*Heath and Andrea Trampe*  
*Latvia*

October 26

*Rev. Edmund and Cherie Auger*  
*Cayman Islands*



## Choir Schedule

Holy Cross Choir is now meeting on Sundays from 11:30am-12:00pm, instead of before the service. An exception during October will be October 19, when we will meet at the old time of 8:15am due to the Hog Roast.

You are invited to help sing praises to the Lord in the Holy Cross Choir! During October we will sing "All Are Welcome" as our inaugural selection on

October 5 and "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast" for Reformation Sunday on October 26. It's not too late to join in! All are invited to participate. For more information contact Pastor Vogts.



The flower calendar is located 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 Coffee Bar.

September 7

*Joey & Marcy Schroeder*  
12th Wedding Anniversary

September 14

*Ron & Jeannette Yockey*  
Jeannette's Birthday

September 21

*Doug & Janet Martin*  
Kendall's & Kylie's Birthdays

September 28

*Joey & Marcy Schroeder*  
Bryce's & Marcy's Birthday

October 5

*Doug & Janet Martin*  
Wedding Anniversary

October 12

*Nyla Hamm*

November 9

*Doug & Sue Jansen*  
Veterans Day

November 16

*Mabel Schibonski*  
Birthday

November 23

*Deb Stein*  
Birthday

November 30  
Randy Stein  
Birthday

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# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



## Elders for October

Jon Dorr & Joey Schroeder

## October Elders Meeting

October 7, 7:00pm

## Usher for October

Dennis Melstad

## Junior Ushers for October

October 5 ..... Kegan Johnson  
October 12 ..... Kendall Martin  
October 19 ..... A. J. Michels  
October 26 ..... J. P. Peterson

## Crucifers for October

October 1 (Vespers) ..... Kylie Martin  
October 5 ..... Myron Bose  
October 8 (Vespers) ..... Dylan Sawyer  
October 12 ..... Sarah Vogts  
October 15 (Vespers) ..... Kylie Martin  
October 19 ..... Myron Bose  
October 22 (Vespers) ..... Dylan Sawyer  
October 26 ..... Sarah Vogts  
October 29 (Vespers) ..... Kylie Martin

## Acolytes for October

October 1 (Vespers) ..... Megan Winborn  
October 5 ..... Emily Steemken  
October 8 (Vespers) ..... Clarie Johnson  
October 12 ..... Ashley Bargstadt  
October 15 (Vespers) ..... Tiara Selby  
October 19 ..... Jace Waybright  
October 22 (Vespers) ..... Emily Steemken  
October 26 ..... Kasey Michels  
October 29 (Vespers) ..... Clarie Johnson



In the Gathering Room is a sign-up sheet to bring snacks for fellowship time

after worship. You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish. Or, you may indicate when you sign up that you wish to use snacks provided by the congregation.

Those serving snacks are also asked to please prepare the coffee and juice, which along with coffee, cups, napkins, plates, etc. are available in the Coffee Bar. Thank you to all those providing and serving snacks!

All Sundays in October have been signed up for but you are encouraged to sign up thru the end of the 2008.

## October 5

Mary Mettenbrink

## October 12

Terry Vogts

## October 19

Gail Dorr

## October 26

Pat Winborn



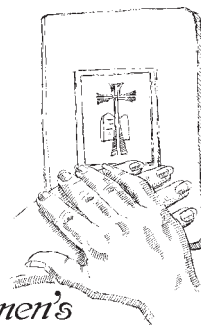
## **Midweek Vespers**

In September we began new a regular weekly Midweek Vespers service on Wednesdays from 7:00pm-7:30pm. Midweek School classes for the 5th-8th Grades are held before the service, from 6:15pm-7:00pm, and our new Midweek Bible Study is after the service, from 7:30pm-8:30pm.

This additional weekly worship time is both for those who want an extra spiritual lift during the week and for those not able to attend on Sunday. Attendance at this service for the first month averaged 32.

Midweek Vespers is about a half-hour long and uses various orders of service from *Lutheran Service Book*, including Vespers (Page 229ff), Compline (Page 253ff), and the Service

of Prayer and Preaching (Page 260ff). During Advent and Lent, Midweek Vespers will serve as our customary Advent and Lent services, with special themes related to those seasons.



## *Women's Bible Study*

## **Women's Bible Study Begins October 7**

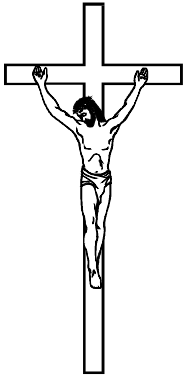
The new six week Women's Bible Study, *A New Song: I Have Set my King on Zion*, will begin on *Wednesday*, October 8 at 1:00pm for that week only. The remainder of the meetings will be held on *Tuesdays* at 1:00pm in the Gathering Room at Holy Cross.

For anyone wishing to attend, the books have arrived and are on the table in the Gathering Room. Your cost for the book is \$13.00. Anyone is welcome to join as long as there are still books available. Questions? Call Gail Dorr and leave a message, 712-376-2458.

This study will encourage and uplift you as you reflect on the time and place of God's fulfillment of the Messiah and the wonderful, incredible, eternal reign of our Savior-King.

This series is a new approach to individual and group study. Each book in the series provides six weeks of stories—faith narratives—based on biblical psalms. Following each day's reading are questions that will facilitate your own reflection on the Bible. And at the end of each week are discussion starters for fruitful conversation.

*Sing a new song! Our God does marvelous things . . . for you!*



## **Meditations on Divine Mercy**

In our newsletter as space allows we include selections from Johann Gerhard's *Meditations on Divine Mercy*. Gerhard was a leading Lutheran pastor and theologian in Germany during the 16th and 17th centuries. He suffered extraordinary afflictions in his life, and his experiences are reflected in this inspiring devotional book.

The devotions are in the form of extended prayers. The entire book is available from Concordia Publishing House, 1-800-325-3040, www.cph.org, stock #12-4183.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR REDEMPTION THROUGH CHRIST**

ETERNAL, OMNIPOTENT GOD, I give to You the greatest thanks because You created me when I was nothing. I thank You much more because You redeemed me when I was lost and condemned, caught in the jaws of hell. But You removed me by the blood of Your Son (Colossians 1:14). I was a slave to Satan. But by Your grace, You freed me from the dominion of the devil and placed me in the kingdom of Christ. I am entirely indebted to You because You formed me in my entirety. I am obliged to praise You with my tongue because You gave it to me (Psalm 51:15). My mouth is obliged to announce Your praise because it breathes the air and breath You provide. My heart is obliged to cling to You with continual love because You

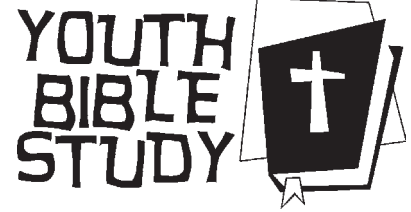
formed it. All my members are obliged to serve You quickly because, however many and great they are, You wondrously made them all.

If I am already indebted to You because You have made me, what can I possibly give back to You for my redemption from servitude and captivity to sin? You have rescued the lost sheep from the claws of the infernal wolf (John 10:28). You have freed the runaway slave from the prison of the devil. You have anxiously sought the lost coin (Luke 15:8). In Adam, I fell. You raised me up. In Adam, I was held captive by the chains of sin. You broke those chains. In Adam, I perished. You desired to save me again. Who am I, miserable worm, that You were so anxious for my redemption and desired to do so much for my salvation? If the parents of our race were utterly rejected by You after the fall, and they, together with all their descendants, were removed from the sight of Your glory and cast into the deepest hell, not one of us could complain of injustice. We receive what our deeds deserve. What else could we ask or expect from You, who created us in Your image and provided us with sufficient power to guard our innocence?

You showed Your incomprehensible and unspeakably great love toward us when You promised a Son, a Savior, to the first parents after the fall (Genesis 3:15). In the fullness of time, You sent this Savior to us. Through Him, You recall us from death to life, from sin to righteousness, from hell to heavenly glory. O Lover of all humanity, whose delight is in the children of men (Proverbs 8:31), who can offer worthy praise for this philanthropy? Moreover, who can conceive of it? These are the incomprehensible riches of Your goodness. This is the immeasurable treasure of Your kindness, which our impoverished understanding cannot grasp. The slaves were so valuable that for their redemption the Son was given up to death. The one hostile to You was so loved that You appointed the beloved Son to be my Redeemer. My soul is astounded as I reflect on this kindness. It is deeply moved and melts in love for You.

**AMEN.**

**Page 8**



## **Youth Group and Bible Class Forming**

Holy Cross will soon be having its first youth group/Bible study meeting and you are invited! We will be meeting Sunday, October 12 during Bible study time to get acquainted and get things started. We ask that all interested youth grades 7th thru 12th *and their parents* please attend this meeting.

We are all excited to have enough older youth to get a youth group started, and thankful that God has blessed us with people willing to be involved as leaders.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss this exciting moment in Holy Cross history. *You* can be a member of the *first* youth group at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.



One of the joys of being located in a growing, mobile community is the large number of new members we frequently receive. However, members also sometimes move on to other locations.

After several years as a faithful member, we bid farewell and Godspeed to Justin Benson. He is moving to Austin, Minnesota, where he has taken a new job. (It is probably just a coincidence that this also puts him much closer to his fiancée!)

*"The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)

# Vocation Your Calling from God

## Bible Class on Vocation

Our current study in Sunday morning Adult Bible Class is on the topic of *vocation*.

Related to the words “vocal” and “voice,” vocation literally means your “calling” from God in life. While we tend to think of vocation mostly in terms of our work, each of us actually has many different vocations, in our work, family, and society. Next to the doctrine of forgiveness through faith in Christ, vocation is perhaps the key doctrine to help you have a happy and satisfying life.

Join in Sundays at 10:30am as we look at, “*Vocation: Your Calling from God.*”

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Christie Mensch, October 1
- Ryan Dial, October 2
- Dennis Melstad, October 5
- Denise Fletcher, October 8
- Heidi Finkral, October 8
- Michele Miranda, October 11
- Earl Biggers, October 15
- Alex Waybright, October 18
- Emma Bargstadt, October 26

Doug & Janet Martin  
October 6, 1990

Denise & Patick Honner  
October 16, 2004

Earl & Dawn Biggers  
October 20, 1984

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](mailto:holycross@longlines.com).

## Congregational Meeting



## Quarterly Business Meeting October 26

All adult members of Holy Cross are automatically voting members of the congregation. The next quarterly business meeting of our Voter’s Assembly is Sunday, October 26 at 12:30pm.

Everyone is urged to come and help administer the business side of Holy Cross. For more information contact congregational chairman Doug Martin (232-9657).



## Portals of Prayer

The new *Portals of Prayer* daily devotional booklets for October thru December are available in the Gathering Room.

Read with breakfast or before going to bed; keep it in your desk to read during break at work. In addition to the

brief daily devotions and short daily Bible readings prayers, there are suggested longer readings for each day and a wonderful collection of longer prayers for each day of the week and special needs and occasions in the back of each issue.

A great way to help you keep close to the Lord!



## India “Daughter” Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Hebrews 13:7 served as one of several “theme verses” for the Golden Jubilee celebration of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC), held in August, 2008 on the campus of Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil, India.



## Opening service for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Hundreds of pastors and lay people from across India and Sri Lanka, along with guests from the United States and other countries gathered to celebrate

the IELC's 50th year as an independent church body.



**Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Vadasery, India.**

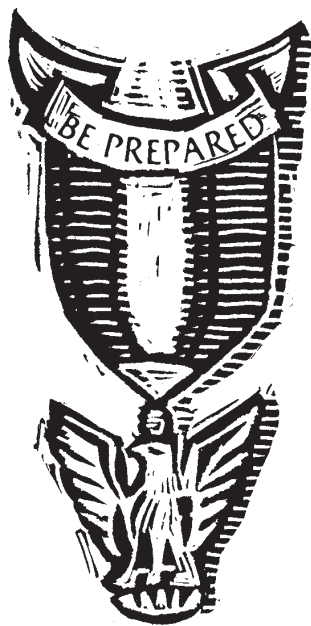
The Bible passage from Hebrews reads, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith," and was meant to remind the IELC members of their past leaders, both from India and from abroad. India became the first overseas mission field for the LCMS when missionaries arrived in 1895. In the 50-plus years that followed, the LCMS served as the "mother church" for the Lutheran church in India, and hundreds of LCMS missionaries served there as the church grew during that period. In 1958, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed (thus the reason for the celebrations this year).



**Four recent graduates of Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, India, who will soon begin serving as Lutheran Pastors.**

The people of the IELC have an amazing amount of respect and gratitude for the LCMS and still refer to our church body as their "mother church." The past and present leaders of the IELC have certainly followed the advice from Hebrews and have imitated the faith of those great servants of God that came to India to serve as missionaries.

In fact, maybe the tide has now turned. Maybe it's time for us to start looking to them as examples! The IELC



**You are Cordially Invited to Attend the Presentation of the Eagle Scout Award**

to

**Jacob Aaron Vogts of Troop 149**

**Saturday, October 25th, 2008 at 7:00pm**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
149 Bison Trail  
Dakota Dunes, South Dakota**

**Reception Following**

has so many amazing members, faithful clergy and devoted laity, who are living their life with a strong faith that is definitely worth imitating. The people of the IELC struggle with financial hardship and discrimination from anti-Christian groups, but despite their struggles they are sharing Jesus with the people around them and the church is growing rapidly.

### ***Dakota Dunes "Life Chain" October 5***

The members of Blessed Teresa Roman Catholic Church, Dakota Dunes invite the members of Holy Cross to participate in the 2008 "Life Chain" on Sunday, October 5 from 2:30pm-3:30pm.

Life Chain is a peaceful prayerful gathering of Christians for life. It is a non-judgmental, non-confrontational public witness for life. Come out and meet at the Village Square in Dakota Dunes.

Bring your whole family. Lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome. Parking will be available at the banks and the Village Square strip mall. We will be standing on Dakota Dunes Boulevard.



*Jacob James Michels  
Kasey Lynn Michels*

Children of T.J. & Tami Michels  
Baptized August 31, 2008

*"The washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."*

Titus 3:5

### ***Issues, Etc. on the Web***

Get a conservative Lutheran perspective on the issues of the day from the Lutheran radio program *Issues, Etc.* Broadcast from St. Louis, you can listen live Monday-Friday from 3:05pm-5:00pm Central Time at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org), or download past programs under the "On Demand" tab.



# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bison Trail, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049

Rev. Kevin D. Vogts, Pastor









Office: 605-232-9117 Home: 605-232-4013

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

www.holycrossdakotadunes.org

## 2008 OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
 <p><i>Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptations, defend us against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Collect for Reformation Day)</i></p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study 7:30pm Board of Education</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>		
<p><b>5</b> <b>21st Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:50am Choir Warmup 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><i>Dennis Melstad</i></p>			<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>7:00pm Board of Elders</p>	<p><b>10</b>   <b>11</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Church Office Hours</b> Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am</p> </div>			
<p><b>12</b> <b>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:30am Youth Meeting (with Parents) 11:30am Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p><b>13</b></p>  <p>COLUMBUS DAY</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>  <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <i>Denise &amp; Patick Honner</i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><i>Johann Gerhard, Theologian, Born 1582</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>  <p><i>St. Luke, Evangelist Alex Waybright</i></p>
<p><b>19</b> <b>23rd Sunday after Pentecost New Member Sunday</b></p> <p>8:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 11:30am-1:30pm Hog Roast</p>  <p><b>Hog Roast</b></p>			<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:00pm Jacob Vogts Eagle Scout Court of Award</p> <p><i>C.F.W. Walther, Founder of Missouri Synod, Born, 1811</i></p>
<p><b>26</b> <b>24th Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday</b></p> <p>8:50am Choir Warmup 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 12:30pm Quarterly Meeting</p>  <p><b>Quarterly Meeting</b></p> <p><i>Emma Bargstadt</i></p>			<p><b>27</b></p> 	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible Study</p> <p><i>St. Simon &amp; St. Jude, Apostles</i></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Midweek Vespers 7:30pm Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>  <p><b>Reformation Day</b></p>	

**Deadline for Calendar Submissions or Changes is the 15th of the Prior Month**  
**Email to [holycross@longlines.com](mailto:holycross@longlines.com) or Leave Voicemail Message at Church Office**  
**This Calendar May Not Reflect Late Submissions or Changes**

**New!**



## ***Midweek Vespers***

A New Weekly Worship  
Opportunity at Holy Cross!

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*



Sunday, October 19

11:30am-1:30pm

BBQ Sandwiches, Beef Brisket,  
Coleslaw, Beans, Desserts

Freewill Offering to Benefit Memorial Fund

*Open to Community*

*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*



**Return Service Requested**

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

**Crossnotes**  
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church