

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church **Crossnotes** 2012

February



Pastor's Annual Report



This is an adaptation of the Pastor's Annual Report for 2011 that I presented at the Annual Meeting of the Voters Assembly on January 15, 2012.

Obviously, 2011 was a very unusual and difficult year for Holy Cross. It is extraordinary for a congregation, with virtually no advance notice, to completely evacuate its building for nearly four months, and instead of holding its own services to worship jointly for that length of time with another congregation.

Because people tend to relocate over the summer, that is usually the time each year when we receive most of our new members. Obviously, there weren't too many people moving into Dakota Dunes last summer! And, with our building evacuated and services being held elsewhere, we were not in a position to draw potential new members.

Although the level of Holy Cross members worshipping over the summer at Concordia Lutheran Church was quite good considering the circumstances, all this has had an impact on our levels of membership and attendance. These unforeseen events also caused many other changes in our plans, such as cancellation of Vacation Bible School and our Saturday Summer Services, and postponement of projects originally

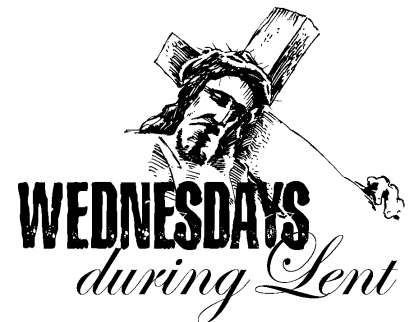
scheduled for the summer, including redecorating the Fellowship Hall and completing installation of our new pipe organ.

On the positive side, I want to express my deep thanks to all the Holy Cross members who worked so hard and so well together despite these extremely challenging circumstances. Also, a great joy for me during this difficult time was that most members of Holy Cross were able to be present for my 25th Ordination Anniversary service and banquet on August 14, and the exceptional love and generosity that you showed to me with this event. My special thanks to the anniversary committee for arranging the extraordinary honor of having my friends LCMS President Matthew Harrison and Kenyan Archbishop Walter Obare present for the occasion.

Other highlights for me and positive developments for the congregation despite the negative conditions last year were the reception of over a dozen new members; I enjoyed researching and publishing a Lenten devotional booklet with excerpts from the writings of Martin Luther; the much needed revision of our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, which should improve the functioning of our congregation; installation of new cabinets in our Church Office, which will greatly aid office operations; the installation, and dedication as part of Bob Barnum's funeral, of the beautiful new Creation window in our Sanctuary; the forthcoming dedication of our new pipe organ; nearly doubling the size of our choir and increasing both the frequency of our performances and level of our repertoire; our very successful new Advent suppers, and high attendance at Advent services, averaging 56; and increased combined attendance at our Christmas Eve services, 165 versus 142 in 2010.

A verse I often relied upon over the summer was Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'* I give thanks to God for seeing us through the tough times of 2011, and pray for His blessing upon us and our congregation in 2012.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Ash Wednesday February 22

Our special Lenten Vespers services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and continue each Wednesday through the end of March, with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on April 5 and 6.

All services begin at 7:00pm and last 30-45 minutes. Before the Lenten Vespers services this year there will be a Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45pm-6:45pm. During Lent, Midweek School is from 6:15pm-7:00pm. Choir Rehearsals follow the Lenten services.

In our Lent services this year we will explore "The Miracles of Lent," looking at miracles that are part of the Lenten story.

Since ancient times Christians have observed this special season in remembrance of our Savior's suffering and death. Come keep a faithful Lent!

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Adopted

Our congregation's revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were approved by the Annual Meeting of the Voters Assembly on January 15. Copies of these new governing documents are available on the table in the Gathering Room. They immediately go into effect provisionally, pending review by the State of South Dakota and the Constitution Committee of the LCMS South Dakota District.

Major features include the newly established positions of Vice-President and Board of Stewardship Chair, and a newly established Church Council, to help improve communication and coordination of our congregation's work. Our new Church Council, consisting of all church officers and board chairs, will have its first meeting on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00pm.

Crossnotes

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*Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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February, 2012

Volume 10

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Our thanks to those serving on the committee to revise the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws: Harold Mettenbrink, chairman, Linda Amunson, Carroll Gustman, John Isley, Dee Reifke, and Pastor Vogts, advisory.



Annual Church ELECTION

2012 Officers, Elders, and Board Chairs

Our thanks to all those who served Holy Cross so faithfully as officers, board chairs, and board members in 2011, under very difficult circumstances due to the flood, and those who have agreed to serve in 2012. The following were elected at the Annual Meeting on January 15, and installed into office on January 22.

President

Harold Mettenbrink

Recording Secretary

Susanne Stoeger-Moore

Treasurer

Dennis Melstad

Financial Secretary

Dee Reifke

Board of Elders

Gary Amunson

Les Britson

Carroll Gustman

Doug Jansen

Dennis Kuhn

Todd Peters

Ron Yockey

Board of Education Chair

Angela Dial

Board of Evangelism Chair

Marsha Horkey

Board of Church Properties Chair

Les Reifke

Because the proposed revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have not yet had final approval from the congregation, the nominations and elections were conducted according to those formerly in place. Under those, only a chair was elected for most boards, who then recruits additional board members, the exception being the Board of Elders, to which all members were elected and who then select their chairman. Additional nominees for the newly created positions of Vice-President and Board of Stewardship Chair will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

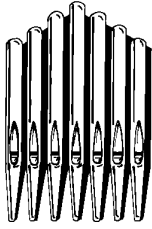
Our thanks to those serving on the Nominating Committee, along with congregational President Harold Mettenbrink, who appointed and chaired the committee: Jackie Baker, Carroll Gustman, and John Isley, with Pastor Vogts as advisory.



We are following up the success of our Advent Suppers this year with Lenten Suppers before our Lenten Vespers Services, each Wednesday thru the end of March beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, from 5:45pm-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will begin with an Ash Wednesday Soup Supper sponsored by Holy Cross Women in Mission. A freewill offering will be taken at the suppers to support projects of the sponsoring groups.

Everyone is invited and visitors and guests are welcome. Come enjoy the good food and fellowship!



Pipe Organ Update

Our new pipe organ was installed in our balcony by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders during the first week of May. Tuning and voicing was scheduled for the first week of June—the very week the church was evacuated due to the flood. This work was therefore postponed and finally completed the week of January 8, making the new organ now ready for use.

A committee consisting of Melissa Jensen, Ron Yockey, and Pastor Vogts is tentatively planning the formal dedication and a dedicatory recital for April and/or May, depending upon the availability of possible guest organists and recitalists. However, we will gradually transition to using the new organ in our services during February and March. Because it is a very complicated mechanical device, with over 800 individual pipes and tens of thousands of moving parts, this “test run” allows any remaining issues to be discovered and corrected before the formal dedication.

A lot of work was done in the balcony to prepare it for the new organ: stiffening the floor joists and putting sound insulation in the floor; laying oak flooring; replacing the glass railing with matching wooden spindles; installing a new door to the storage room behind the organ; adding electrical service; and installing a new shelf above and behind the pipe organ for the speakers of our existing electronic organ (which we are keeping as a backup) and moving the speakers. A few items remain such as installing baseboards and stairs to the storage room and adjusting the balcony lighting. Though this complicated project was delayed due to the flood it has otherwise gone very smoothly and the work has been done mostly by our own members. Our thanks to all those who have helped over the past year with this big project!



The Miracles of LENT

2012 Lenten Vespers Services

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday
“Darkness”
Luke 23:44-45

Wednesday, February 29

Lent Service II
“The Resurrection of Lazarus”
John 11:46-53

Wednesday, March 7

Lent Service III
“The Withering Fig Tree”
Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

Wednesday, March 14

Lent Service IV
“Four Miracles in the Garden of Gethsemane”
Luke 22:39-51, John 18:3-6

Wednesday, March 21

Lent Service V
“Tearing of the Temple Curtain”
Mark 15:37-38

Wednesday, March 28

Lent Service VI
“Earthquake”
Matthew 27:51-53

Thursday, April 5

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
“The Last Supper”
Luke 22:7-13, 1 Corinthians 10:16

Friday, April 6

Good Friday
“The Miracle of Good Friday”
1 Peter 3:18

All Services at 7:00pm
Lenten Suppers 5:45pm-6:45pm in Fellowship Hall



Holy Cross Women in Mission held the regular monthly meeting on January 11. Pastor Vogts and the Dobson organ technicians presented an overview of the history and workings of the pipe

organ, which is like the many members of the Church working as one body.

We will continue our schedule of meeting the second Wednesday of the month beginning at 9:30am. WIM is looking forward to a new year filled with many exciting opportunities for caring and sharing. Please join us at our next meeting on February 8 as we plan our Ash Wednesday soup supper. Those serving in February: Chancel Care—Sue Jansen; Snacks—Dee Reifke; Devotions—Pastor Vogts.



The Sermon on the Mount

New Bible Study on Sermon on the Mount

Our new study in Adult Bible Class is on one of the most beloved portions of Scripture, Matthew chapters 5-7, commonly called the "The Sermon on the Mount." This is the longest continuous teaching of our Lord recorded in the Gospels, beautifully illustrated in our sanctuary's altar window.

Packed into this single sermon are such well-known verses as the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14), "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:4), "See how the lilies of the field grow" (Matthew 6:28), "Knock and the door will be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7), and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Join in Sundays at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we delve into "The Sermon on the Mount."



Come to Wednesday Coffee

During February we are continuing "Wednesday Coffee" each Wednesday at 10:00am at the Hy-Vee on Hamilton, except February 8 when Holy Cross Women in Mission has their meeting at Holy Cross. This informal gathering each week provides a fellowship opportunity with your church family at Holy Cross. Ya'll come!



Sunday Sermons for February

These are the Sunday sermon topics for February. The schedule and sermon topics for our Lenten Vespers services is found on page three of this newsletter. Written copies of Pastor Vogts' sermons are available on our website at www.holycrossdakotadunes.org.

February 5

"Shed for You"

Mark 1:29-34

February 12

"Spread the News!"

Mark 1:40-45

February 19

"The Mountain Peek"

Mark 9:2-9

February 26

"On the Mountain of the Lord"

Genesis 22:1-18



The 2012 snack host sign-up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Room. Please help with this fellowship activity!

Snacks are either provided by Women In Mission, or you are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish. Just indicate your choice on the sign-up sheet. 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 to all those providing snacks!

February 5, 19 & 26

Need Volunteers

February 12

Dial



Kash Allyn DeRocher

Son of Rashell & Bobby DeRocher

Born January 31, 2012

7lbs. 2oz., 20 in.

"Children are a heritage

from the LORD."

Psalm 127:3



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.

Collette Funck, February 1
Jacqueleen Baker, February 4
Mary Mettenbrink, February 14
Caden Dial, February 17
Mary Rosene, February 23
Jon Dorr, February 25
Carol Smith, February 25
Cassie Kropp, February 26

Jon & Gail Dorr, February 25
Ryan & Angela Dial, February 27



Worship Assistants

Elders for February

Doug Jansen & Les Britson

Ushers for February

Paul Eickhoff & Kelly Johnson

Chancel Care for February

Sue Jansen

Acolytes for February

Feb. 5 Henry Jensen

Feb. 12 Nichole Dial

Feb. 19 Gracie Nelson

Feb. 22 (Ash Wed.)... Bryce Schroeder

Feb. 26 Anna Vogts

Feb. 29 (Lent) Hayden Jensen

Crucifers for February

Feb. 5 Bear Jensen

Feb. 12 Claire Johnson

Feb. 19 Kathleen Soukup

Feb. 22 (Ash Wed.)..... Brandon Dodds

Feb. 26 Stephanie Stoeger-Moore

Feb. 29 (Lent) Bear Jensen



A large group of members and guests gathered at the Dakota Dunes Country Club on December 6 for the annual Women's Christmas Dinner. In addition to the delicious dinner they enjoyed a presentation on making truffles by the club's pastry chef (with samples!), fun games led by Jackie Baker, and a Christmas devotion by Pastor Vogts.

February 12

*Melissa Karges
Hungary*

February 19

*Rev. Michael Parris
Macau*

February 26

*Robin McCoy
Thailand*

February 5

Ron & Jeannette Yockey

February 12

Harold & Mary Mettenbrink

February 19

Ryan & Angela Dial
Caden's Birthday

A Statement on Recent HHS Decision and Religious Freedom

Many members of Holy Cross have inquired about what effect changes in health care regulations related to churches, much reported and discussed in the news lately, will have on our church body. On February 3 the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, released this statement.

We are deeply distressed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) recent decision to require nearly all private health plans, including those offered by religious employers, to cover contraceptives. This will include controversial birth-control products such as "Ella" and the "morning after" pill, even though the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns that such drugs can cause the death of a baby developing in the womb. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) objects to the use of



The flower calendar for 2011 is now 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 throughout 2010 to help beautify our Sanctuary as we worship the Lord!



Our congregation has designated a tithe 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.

February 5

*Rev. Jonathan & Rachel Mumme
Cambridge, England*

drugs and procedures that are used to take the lives of unborn children, who are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception, and we are opposed to the HHS' decision mandating the coverage of such contraceptives.

This HHS action relates to a provision in the "health care reform" legislation (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) signed into law in 2010. The church's benefits partner, Concordia Plan Services, which provides health care coverage to nearly 48,000 people, has been actively monitoring this legislation and, as a result, Concordia Health Plan (CHP)—the LCMS church workers' health plan—has been maintained as a "grandfathered" plan. As such, employers and workers participating in CHP would not be subjected to the mandate. However, many religious organizations do not have grandfathered plans and cannot avail themselves of the extremely narrow religious-employer exemption, which only is applicable to religious employers that primarily serve and employ members of that faith.

For centuries, Lutherans have joyfully delivered Christ's mercy to others and embraced His call to care for the needy within our communities and around the world. In a nation that has allowed more than 54 million legal abortions since 1973, we must consider the marginalization of unborn babies and object to this mandate.

In addition, I encourage the members of the LCMS to join with me in supporting efforts to preserve our essential right to exercise our religious beliefs. This action by HHS will have the effect of forcing many religious organizations to choose between following the letter of the law and operating within the framework of their religious tenets. We add our voice to the long list of those championing for the continued ability to act according to the dictates of their faith, and provide compassionate care and clear Christian witness to society's most vulnerable, without being discriminated against by government.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a church body of sinners

redeemed by the blood of Jesus, has affected the lives of millions of people with care, aid, housing, health care, spiritual care and much more. We have been a force for good in this nation, promoting education (the nation's largest Protestant school system), marriage and giving people the tools and assistance to be good citizens. We live and breathe Romans 13:3-7. The governing authorities are "God's servant for good." We pray constantly for our President and those in authority. We have sent our sons and daughters to fight for this country. We have provided military chaplains, elected officials, officers, including some who have held the highest military offices and other appointed positions in this country. Our people have and are serving as congressmen and women and senators.

Increasingly we are suffering overzealous government intrusions into what is the realm of traditional and biblical Christian conscience. We believe this is a violation of our First Amendment rights. We will stand, to the best of our ability, with all religious and other concerned citizens, against this erosion of our civil liberty. Come what may, we shall do everything we can, by God's grace, to "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).



LCMS Pastor's Family in Tragic Accident

"A lot of hearts are broken" at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas, and in other LCMS communities after the tragic car accident January 28 that killed the wife and two young children of the congregation's newly installed pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Geske.

Geske had served the Salina congregation less than two months, but already "many people had fallen in love with the family and are devastated," said Dennis Hill, Christ the King's lay minister, speaking of the deaths of Laura Geske, 37, and children Joshua, 8, and Joy, 3.

Pastor Geske was traveling with his family on I-70 near Topeka when another vehicle crossed the grass median and hit the Geske minivan head-on. Laura and the two children were pronounced dead at the scene. Pastor Geske and another son, Jacob, 3, were hospitalized for several days for injuries they sustained.

Geske got "lots of calls and emails from all over," Hill said, including from former parishes and communities where the couple has touched lives. Because Christ the King is a newer congregation with a smaller building the funeral was held February 4 at Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, with burial in the family plot of Laura Geske at Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Paxico, Kansas.

Before moving to Kansas, Geske served as pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for five years and Laura taught at Eastridge Elementary School, both in Amarillo, Texas. Dawn Danner, secretary at Prince of Peace, remembers Laura Geske as a dedicated teacher and, as the mother of twins Joy and Jacob, a proud member of Mothers of Multiples. "Laura was very quiet until you got to know her, and then she was very talkative and very humorous. She always had the right thing to say," Danner said.

The Geskes met as students at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. Laura taught at Topeka Lutheran School from 2000 to 2006 while her husband served his first congregation, Trinity Lutheran School, McFarland, Kansas.














The day after the accident, Hill had the difficult task of preaching for Pastor Geske at his grieving congregation. His sermon focused on Romans 8:38-39, about how nothing, not even such terrible tragedies or death itself, can separate Christians from the love of God in Christ.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. <i>(Collect for the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany)</i></p> | | | <p>1 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal <i>Collette Funck</i></p>  | <p>2 Presentation of our Lord </p> | <p>3 </p> | <p>4 Church Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am <i>Jackie Baker</i></p> |
| <p>5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 8:45am Choir Warm-Up 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class</p> | 6 | <p>7 7:00pm Board of Trustees</p> | <p>8 9:30am Women in Mission 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>9 7:30pm Board of Elders</p> | <p>10 11 <u>Preschool Schedule</u> Monday, Wednesday, Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays 9:00am <u>After School Care</u> Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm <i>Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</i></p> | |
| <p>12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class</p> | 13 | <p>14  Valentine's Day <i>Mary Mettenbrink</i></p> | <p>15 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 6:30pm Midweek School 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal </p> | <p>16 7:00pm Church Council  <i>Philip Melancthon Born, 1497</i></p> | <p>17  Newsletter Deadline <i>Caden Dial</i></p> | <p>18  <i>Martin Luther Died, 1546</i></p> |
| <p>19 Last Sunday after the Epiphany The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class </p> | 20 | <p>21  Soup Supper</p> | <p>22 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>23  ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Mary Rosene</i></p> | <p>24  St. Matthias</p> | <p>25 <i>Jon Dorr Carol Smith Jon & Gail Dorr</i></p> |
| <p>26 1st Sunday in Lent 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class  Lent <i>Cassie Kropp</i></p> | <p>27 First Sunday in Lent <i>Ryan & Angela Dial</i></p> | 28 | <p>29 10:00am Coffee at Hy-Vee on Hamilton 5:45pm Lent Supper 6:15pm Midweek School 7:00pm Lent Service 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>A mighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. <i>(Collect for Tuesday of Holy Week)</i></p> | | |

Deadline for Calendar Submissions or Changes is the 15th of the Prior Month – Email to holycross@longlines.com or Leave Voicemail Message at Church Office – This Calendar May Not Reflect Late Submissions or Changes



Ash
Wednesday
SERVICE

Wednesday, February 22
7:00pm

Lenten Vespers Services Each
Wednesday During Lent at 7:00pm

Meditations on "The Miracles of Lent"
(See Page 3)

Come and Keep a Faithful Lent!



Before Each Lenten Vespers Service
In the Fellowship Hall — 5:45pm-6:45pm

Sponsored by Various Groups
Different Menus

Freewill Offering to Benefit Various Causes

First Supper Ash Wednesday, February 22

Soup Supper Sponsored
by Holy Cross Women in Mission
Freewill Offering for Mission Project

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!



Return Service Requested

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

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