

**FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK**

What is the most important job in the world? President of the United States? Famous inventor of marvelous machines? Doctor discovering miracle cures? Actually, many of us already hold the most important job in the world: parent.

It seems odd to think that, for many of us, our children will live most of their lives after the year 2000. We tend to think of our little ones always under our care and guidance. But they will grow into a life of their own, and we must prepare them for it. That surely is the most important job in the world.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." But, the opposite is also true: fail to train up your child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will suffer for it. Researchers have noted a common thread in the lives of many criminals: a lack of parental direction and discipline in their younger years. Of course, even those with the best upbringing can wander off the right path. But, a good foundation in early life is a child's the best hope for happiness and success.

Parents often fret when their children leave the nest at around age 18. But, by then, it is practically too late. The time to focus on your children's future is in their youngest years. That will set the pattern for their lives.

Maybe you cannot leave your children a big inheritance in the way of money and property. But there is a

much greater, much more valuable inheritance and heritage that is within the grasp of every parent. Paul says in Ephesians 6:4, "Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

Recipe for Raising Children

1 Cup of Psalm 127:3—"Children are a heritage from the Lord, a blessing from him." Your children are just on loan to you from the Lord. He has entrusted them into your care because he thinks that, in all the world, *you* are the parent for this child.

1 Cup of Proverbs 22:6—"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

2 Tablespoons of Mark 10:14—"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Carefully mix in Proverbs 13:24 and Hebrews 12:11 as needed—"He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him"; "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Balance with generous measures of Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4—"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged"; "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Sprinkle in generous amounts of Ephesians 6:18—"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

Stir together in a pot called home, adjusting ingredients as seems best to achieve proper consistency. Let rise for approximately 18 years and then serve to the world.

Important: For good results, do *not* use a pressure cooker for this recipe!

That is the greatest gift you can pass on to your children, bringing them to Jesus, bringing them up in the training and instruction of the Lord, sharing with them the Good News that "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten

Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The Good News that their sins are forgiven on account of Jesus Christ.

For a parents these days, there are so many important things to consider in your children's upbringing: good education, appropriate discipline, proper socialization, developing a positive feeling of self-worth. And there is an abundance of organizations and activities to help in your children's growth and development. These things are important and they have their place.

But, in the hectic shuffle of modern life, don't neglect your children's greatest need: training and instruction in the Lord. Bring them faithfully to Sunday worship at 9:15am and Sunday School at 10:25am, and the other worship, educational and fellowship opportunities our congregation provides, including our excellent Christian preschool.

God bless you as you continue doing your best for the Lord in the most important job in the world.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Preschool Enrollment Record

The Preschool Registration Night on July 30 garnered a record 45 registrations for Preschool and Mother's Day Out, the highest ever at that point and already more than last year's final enrollment of 44, and there have since been



Holy Cross has been blessed this year with our highest preschool enrollment ever and the return of our experienced staff.

several more registrations and many inquiries.

Our Preschool classes for this year will include:

Three Year Olds—Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30am to 11:00am, taught by “Miss Sharon” Godwin.

Three and Four Year Olds—Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am to 11:00am, taught by “Miss Julie” Krull.

Four and Five Year Olds—Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 12:15pm to 3:00pm, also taught by “Miss Julie.”

“Miss Julie” is returning for her third year and “Miss Sharon” for her second year at Holy Cross. Both hold degrees

in education and are state certified teachers.

Our Mom’s Day Out program for two year olds and three year olds not yet toilet trained is on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30am to 11:00am, led by “Miss Diane” Bald, who is currently pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education and returns for her second year at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross also offers the only After School Care program conveniently located in Dakota Dunes, also led for the second year by “Miss Diane.” Children thru 6th grade enjoy a variety of supervised activities from 3:00pm-6:00pm. Bus service is provided directly to Holy Cross from both Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart elementary schools.

Also returning to Holy Cross for her second year is preschool aide “Miss Sandra” Diaz.

There are still some openings and an additional class might still be added if there is sufficient interest. Brochures about the Preschool and After School Care programs are available on the table in the entryway and in the tract rack.

Spread the word to friends, neighbors, co-workers and family about our high-quality Christian Preschool and After School Care. For more information, contact Board of Education members Janet Martin at 232-9657 or Terese Vogts at 232-4013.



VBS Big Success

Over 40 children attended our very successful Vacation Bible School the first week of June, learning about Jesus their Good Shepherd. This was an excellent enrollment, especially since Holy Cross did not hold VBS last year. By way of comparison, the largest LCMS church in Sioux City had about 200 in attendance for VBS, after a major advertising campaign that included radio spots, so proportionally our congregation had a spectacular turnout!

Sessions were held in both the morning, for younger children, and evening, for older children. So, the church was busy with nonstop activity all week—and many of the VBS staff were too!

Over two-thirds of the children attending were non-members. They had a *wonderful* time learning about Jesus’ love, and their parents were very appreciative of our high-quality VBS program. A crowd of over 100 filled the sanctuary for the closing program.

Thanks to the very dedicated 2003 Vacation Bible School Staff:

Crafts, 1-5 Craft Leader, and Preschool Lesson Leader

Terese Vogts

1-2 Grades Lesson Leader

Janet Martin

3-5 Grades Lesson Leader

Pastor Vogts

Song Leader

Jill Ellickson

Snacks and Recreation

Jeri Melstad

Preschool Craft Leader

Marjo Johnson

Helpers

Melanie Melstad, Diane Bald, Paula Harker, Sarah Vogts

Crossnotes

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Summer Sunday School and Bible Class

During the months of June, July and August the Sunday School hour features a Christian video and/or activities and crafts for the children. This allows for a "change of pace" for the children and makes scheduling teachers easier around vacations, etc. Regular Sunday School classes will resume in September.

The Adult Bible Class is currently enjoying lively discussions of *Life Lessons from the Parables*.

Join in each Sunday, beginning with the Children's Sermon and Sunday School Opening at 10:25am.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).



This Summer's Last Movie Night August 17

Disney's *101 Dalmatians 2* will be projected on the big screen at Holy Cross for this summer's last *Free Family Movie Night* for the community. This new, all-animated sequel to the original classic was never shown in theaters and is not the sequel with live actors with which you may be familiar. It is great fun for the whole family, and Anna Vogts gives it a "two thumbs up"! Free popcorn and koolaid will also be served.

Under a special license available to non-profit organizations, we have shown one movie each month this summer, inviting the community. The first film in June had 26 in attendance. Due to vacations that dropped to 16 in July. This is a good response for our first year. We plan to continue this program next summer and may have a movie night in the fall and winter.

Thank you to Doug Martin for loan of the digital projector from St. Luke's Occupational Medicine, and to Dennis Melstad for the loan of the theater-style popcorn popper from the Boy Scouts Council and the sound system from the Dakota Dunes Development Corporation.

Mark your calendar for August 17. See you at the movies!



Sermon Themes for August

August 3

"The Irony of Materialism"
John 6:24-35

August 10

"A Special Invitation"
Mark 6:31

August 17

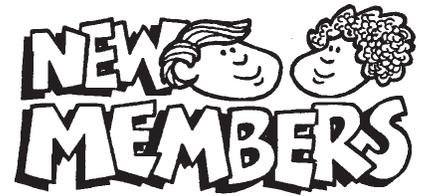
"The Body of Christ"
Ephesians 4:16

August 24

"A Living Parable of Persistent Prayer"
Mark 7:24-30

August 31

"Be Imitators of God"
Ephesians 4:31-5:2



Marcy Schroeder
and Bryce and Brady
By Transfer from

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City

Marcy and her husband Joey are building a new home in the Deer Run subdivision. Joey has a chiropractic practice with offices in Dakota Dunes and Sioux City.

We will have a New Member Sunday later in the fall to recognize the Schroeders and other new members.

Welcome to the Holy Cross family!



Mark Your Calendar!

Family Fun Carnival September 14

Our first *Family Fun Carnival* for the community will be Sunday, September 14, from 4:00pm-7:00pm on the west lawn of the church. Activities will include a children's inflatable "bouncer" (thanks to Paul Kaardal for arranging this), carnival games, crafts and food, all free for the community. There will also be a special appearance by "Sonny the Clown."

This is the same day as the Diabetes Walk, so there will be many visitors to Dakota Dunes that day. A banner in the median of Dakota Dunes Boulevard will invite people—and the children will be attracted by the "bouncer," which we plan to put out near the church sign. Arrangements are also being made for a "big top" tent so that the fun can continue rain or shine.

We will need all the members possible to help set up and work at the various activities. If you can help or have ideas or suggestions for this event please contact evangelism board chair Janet Martin (232-9657).



Our sympathy to Jane Michels and her children and grandchildren upon the death of Jim Michels on June 17, after a struggle with cancer. His funeral and interment were conducted by Pastor Vogts on June 21 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenfield, Iowa.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. . . they will rest from their labors."

Revelation 14:13

Digging Up the Bible



A series of articles on archaeological discoveries relating to the Bible.

The dominant worldview in the 1700's and 1800's was Rationalism, which holds that anything which is not rational, which doesn't make sense according to man's reason or scientific conclusions, must not be true. Even much of the Christian Church was so infected with this worldview that anything spiritual or miraculous was downplayed. (Thomas Jefferson actually composed his own edited version of the Bible by literally cutting out with a scissors anything supernatural.)



Sunday, August 17, 6:30pm

Disney's **101 Dalmatians 2**

*New All-Animated Sequel to the Original Classic
Never Shown in Theaters*

Presented at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Projected on Big Screen • Free Popcorn and Koolaid

All Ages Welcome

(No unattended children, please)

No Charges or Fees

All Invited – Everyone Welcome!

*Presented Under License from Christian Video Licensing International
CVLI License #501228800*

Because the Bible contains so many things which are not rational or scientific, such as miracles, the scholars and experts of the day proclaimed it to be nothing more than a hodgepodge of old myths and fables with little or no basis in historical fact. The Bible characters, the stories, the cities mentioned—all of it mere fantasy. If you would actually go look in the Bible lands for the places described in the Bible, the experts asserted, you wouldn't find anything there to back the Bible up.

Other scholars, especially from England and Germany, who still had faith in the Bible as God's Word, took up this challenge. They ventured to the lands of the Bible and began exploring and excavating. This was the beginning of discipline we now call archaeology. What they discovered rocked the world of their day. Jesus said that "even the stones will cry out" in witness to him (Luke 19:40), and that is exactly what

happened. All across the Bible lands there was one astonishing discovery after another that gave evidence to support the Biblical record of persons, places and events.

One of the earliest and most amazing finds was in 1830 at Nineveh in modern Iraq, and is now enshrined in the British Museum in London. Colonel R. Taylor uncovered a clay six-sided prism, approximately one yard tall, inscribed with cuneiform writing. It turned out to be the official royal record of the first eight military campaigns of Sennacherib, King of Assyria from 705-681 B.C.—and one of those characters from the Bible whom some experts had said never existed! Another, nearly identical prism was later acquired by American archaeologists and is on display at the University of Chicago.

In the account of his third campaign, which took place in 701 B.C., Sennacherib describes his march to the

west, describing in detail how he defeated the nations surrounding ancient Israel, then conquered the major cities of Israel, and ended by laying siege to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem: "Hezekiah himself I shut up in Jerusalem his capital city like a bird in a cage." This discovery rocked the world because it provided such extensive confirmation for events recounted in the Bible (2 Kings 18:17-19:36 and Isaiah 36:1-37:37).

Interestingly, Sennacherib's account does not record the defeat of Hezekiah, or the fall of Jerusalem, as one would expect. The story simply ends with him returning to Nineveh. Why does this otherwise very boastful account end not in triumph but with an anticlimax? What could explain the failure to record his final triumph over King Hezekiah and Jerusalem?



This six-sided clay prism, approximately one yard tall, was discovered at Nineveh in modern Iraq in 1830. It contains the official royal history of Sennacherib and confirms the record of events found in the Bible.

The Bible gives us the answer in 2 Kings 19:20, 32-36: "Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria. . . By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city. . . I will defend this city and save it . . .' That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there

Family Fun Carnival



Sunday, September 14

4:00pm-7:00pm

Rain or Shine Under the "Big Top"
on the Grounds of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Free Children's Inflatable "Bouncer"

Free Carnival Games and Crafts

Free Food and Prizes

Special Appearance by "Sonny the Clown"

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there."

It was common for ancient official royal histories to gloss over or omit anything negative, so, rather than contradicting the Bible, Sennacherib's failure to mention the reason for his retreat back to Nineveh fits perfectly with the Biblical account. Indeed, the Bible explains what is otherwise an inexplicable gap in Sennacherib's account.

But there's even more confirmation of the Bible's historical accuracy. The Biblical account of Sennacherib concludes: "So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there. One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer cut him down with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king" (2 Kings 19:36-37). This event too was duly

recorded for the royal library at Nineveh, and the clay tablet which recounts it, also in the British Museum, is almost identical to the Biblical text: "On the twentieth day of the month Tebet, the son of Sennacherib king of Assyria slew him in rebellion. . . Esarhaddon his son sat on the throne of Assyria."

Far from being myths, fables and fantasy, many such details of the Biblical record are confirmed by the findings of archaeology.



***Portals of Prayer
Now Available***

The latest issue of *Portals of Prayer* is now available free in the entryway of the church. This excellent booklet of brief devotions is perfect for family or personal use. Keep by your bedside or kitchen table to read each morning or evening. Take a copy to work for a

spiritual “pick me up” during your lunch or breaktime each day.

Our thanks to Mabel Schibonski for donating a bulk *Portals of Prayer* subscription to our congregation.



Mission Work Grows in Former Soviet Union

The Lutheran churches in the former Soviet Union continue their reawakening and recovery from the long, oppressive Communist reign. In May, 2003 four new Lutheran ministers were ordained by Jaan Kiivit, the Archbishop of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, at St. Mary Cathedral in Tallinn, Estonia.



Newly ordained Lutheran ministers pose before the Lutheran cathedral in Tallin, Estonia.

Sergei Glushkov completed his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana and is now head pastor of the Lutheran congregations in Ekaterinburg and Reftinski.

After his ordination, Igor Kizyaev went back to serve his parish, Holy Trinity, Chita. Igor founded the congregation in Chita in 1999, and for a long time there was no clergyman as the parishioners waited patiently for Igor to complete his seminary studies. Missionary work and work with the deaf have become priorities for the congregation. Now Holy Trinity has become a spiritual home for more than twenty-five deaf people.



Four more adults were recently confirmed at the Lutheran mission congregation in Tomsk, Siberia.

Alexander Hahn, who is from Bishkek, Republic of Kirgiziya, will serve the congregation in Tomsk, where he was already serving as a student due to the death of their former Pastor. The congregation in Tomsk is growing, and four adults were recently confirmed.

“For me, to be a Pastor means having an opportunity to serve God and his people, to shepherd his flock,” said Vladislav Ivanov, who will serve in Omsk, “so that more people may hear the saving news of Gospel and through this good news may have true faith and eternal life!”

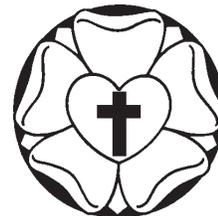
Holy Cross Parade Entry

For the second year Holy Cross was represented in the Dakota Dunes Fourth of July Parade.

Thanks to Doug Martin for donating his beautiful red pickup, Janet Martin and everyone else who helped decorate, and all the children who rode in the back. They threw candy and imprinted mini frisbees to the crowds, while Pastor and Terese Vogts distributed

tri-highlighters, also emblazoned with church information.

With the American and Christian flags flying through the sunroof, bunting, classy church signs on the doors, and even flashing lights, it was surely the finest entry of all!



New Luther Movie in Theaters this Fall

Four years ago the former Aid Association for Lutherans undertook a massive project: A modern movie depicting the life, struggle, and faith of Martin Luther.

After nearly four years of work, the motion picture *Luther* will be released in the United States on September 26th in 300 theatres, in 55 major urban areas across the country, with more to come throughout the year. European release is set for Reformation Day, October 31st. It will be released on DVD sometime in 2004.

Presented as an epic story with all the majestic pageantry, suspense-filled drama, and historical spectacle that people expect on the big screen, *Luther* features an “A list” of stars, including Joseph Fiennes (*Shakespeare in Love*) as Martin Luther.

A trailer of the movie that gives a taste of the it’s drama and high production values is on-line at www.lutherthemovie.com. Next month’s newsletter will feature a review of this exciting film.

Reactions from focus groups have been extremely positive, captivating viewers of all ages and religious backgrounds. If this is an indicator, we are about to launch a movie with a Christian message that succeeds with mass market audiences—a rarity in today’s entertainment world.