

**FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK**

"Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent."

James 1:21

A pastor friend recently told me that he discovered his 13 year-old son had been viewing pornography on the Internet. Although this pastor is very technically savvy, he was also naive about what is accessible on-line. Many people are not aware that it is estimated between one-third to one-half of all content on the World Wide Web is pornography. Although adults can also become entangled in this dark side of the Web, the greater danger is that innocent children can accidentally stumble upon such material. That is how the pastor's son mentioned above was ensnared.

Many pornographers actually purposely give their sites addresses very close to those of popular children's sites, so that a simple typing mistake can lead children to disaster. This is one of many tricks pornographers and other predators use to lure children into the dark side of the Internet. Peer pressure also becomes a factor for older children who may be tempted by their peers to check out certain Web sites. And children who have email accounts will likely receive the same adult-oriented spam that clogs your inbox.

Jesus says in Matthew 18:6-7, "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things are

bound to come, but woe to the person through whom they come!"

Jesus tells us that it is our job to protect children from the evils of this world. But, the Internet also has many beneficial aspects, and simply pulling the plug may not be the best answer or even practical for your family. When our family signed up for high-speed, "always-on" access, I checked out the various filtering softwares. Luckily, I found a Web site in which high school kids traded tips about how to circumvent the different products. They're more technically savvy than most adults, and there was only one product they hadn't found a way to get around. That is why I recommend Cybersitter, available in stores or at www.cybersitter.com. (No, I don't have stock in the company!) We've used it and found it very effective. Or, you may find another product that you like better. Whatever your choice may be, if you have children in your home such software, though not foolproof, will help protect them from accidentally entering, or being lured into, the dark side of the Internet.

Another area of concern is the fare on television, either network, cable or satellite. This is another way children can easily stumble upon inappropriate material. While flipping channels in a hotel, I was surprised to find that MTV now also features so-called "soft porn," not even related to music. Fortunately, most digital cable and satellite systems have powerful, flexible parental controls, and newer televisions have the V-Chip. It can be a bit of a pain—the way we have ours set about half the programs require entering our parental passcode—but these tools can be a big help to you in monitoring your children's television consumption, and help avoid them getting even a glimpse of something you don't want them to see.

Ephesians 4:27 says, "Do not give the devil a foothold." The pastor I

mentioned above felt that he had allowed the devil to get a foothold with his son by not being more watchful. "I was actually paying for this stuff to come into my home," he said. Fortunately, his son acknowledged his wrong and they are working together to prevent it from happening again.

While we must protect our children as much as possible, some day they will no longer be under our supervision and we must also give them the tools of self-discipline. The best thing you can do for your children is to lay a solid spiritual foundation in their lives, through regular worship—together as a family—in God's house, Sunday School, confirmation classes, Vacation Bible School, etc. As Psalm 119:9 says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



**New Member Sunday
November 23**

November 23 will be a very special Sunday as we welcome a number of new families into our congregation. Most are joining by Affirmation of Faith, after taking information classes for the past several months with Pastor Vogts.

There will be a special recognition during the service at 9:15am, with a potluck dinner following the Sunday School hour, at 11:30am. Please come for the service and stay for the dinner to welcome these new member of our church family!



Individual Cup Communion

Upon recommendation of the Board of Elders, the Voters Assembly has decided to have Communion by individual cup on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in November. The remaining Sundays will have Communion by the common cup.

Our thanks to Jason and Kathi Beitz for donation of an individual cup Communion set.



BAPTISM

Madisyn Corynn Bietz

Daughter of Kathi and Jason Bietz
Born September 1, 2003
Baptized October 12, 2003

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, a blessing from Him."
Psalms 127:3

Crossnotes

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Volume 1

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Community Thanksgiving Eve Service



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate Thanksgiving
Wednesday, November 26, 7:00pm

Led by Pastor Kevin Vogts
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Dakota Dunes Boulevard & Bison Trail

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.



Missionaries of the Month

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

November 2

Stephen & Krista Wiesenauer
Taiwan

As part of an extended seminary exchange program, Stephen attends the Lutheran seminary in Hsin Ju, Taiwan and works with Taiwanese Lutheran

congregations. Krista teaches English as a Second Language Classes at Concordia Middle School. Pray for the students at the seminary and middle school with whom they work.

November 9

Rev. Juraine and Lorene Hornig
India

Pray for the Honrigs as the work with the India Evangelical Lutheran Church to expand the reach of the Gospel in India.

November 16

Holly Singleton
Panama

Holly is a new volunteer missionary teaching ESL or English as a Second Language classes, which gives many opportunities for witness. Pray that she may adjust to this work and the new culture.

November 23

Dennis Denow
Indonesia

Dennis is working with the Sekolah Pelita Harapan School system to develop curriculum and bring Christian

teachers onto the island of Papua. Give thanks for the Christian government leaders on this island who have given the LCMS the opportunity to meet the educational and spiritual needs of village children in this predominantly Muslim country!

November 30
Frank Durtschy
Brazil

Frank is a house parent for an Lutheran orphanage in Brazil. Praise God for his willingness to serve in this very challenging assignment, and pray for him to have strength and perseverance despite many obstacles.



Thank you to Jane Michels and family for the donation of two shrubs in memory of Jim Michels, planted on the church grounds by the retaining pond.

*"Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord."*
Revelation 14:13

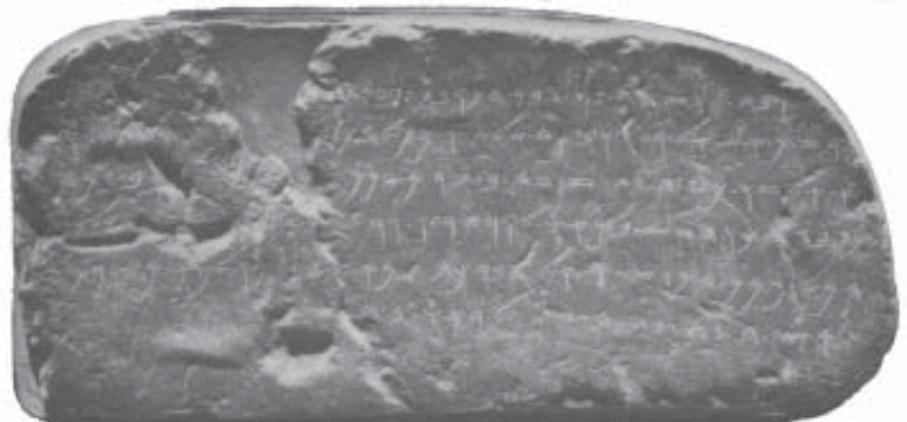


A series of articles on archaeology and the Bible.

Recently we have heard a great deal about Iraq, which in ancient times was part of the great Assyrian empire. Near the modern Iraqi city of Mosul are the remains of the Assyrians' spectacular ancient capital city Nineveh, which is

now being guarded by American soldiers.

Among those who were conquered by the Assyrians were the ancient Hebrews. But, in about 700 B.C. a number of subject peoples rebelled, including the Hebrews under King Hezekiah. The Assyrian King Sennacherib quickly launched a great military campaign to quell and punish this revolt. These events are recorded in the Bible and confirmed by the official Assyrian records, discovered inscribed in cuneiform on clay cylinders from the royal archives at Nineveh.



Discovered in 1880, this inscription confirmed the Bible's account, once dismissed by critics as a fanciful legend, of King Hezekiah constructing an elaborate water tunnel into Jerusalem in 700 B.C. It gives an amazing eyewitness description of this engineering feat, which not only still stands but functions perfectly after 2,700 years.

The most common form of ancient warfare was to lay siege to fortresses and walled cities until they were forced to give up due to a lack of food and water. And, indeed, Sennacherib reports in his royal archives, "I shut up Hezekiah like a caged bird in his royal city, Jerusalem."

What made Jerusalem most vulnerable to such a siege was the lack of a water supply within the fortified city walls. Hezekiah could foresee an attack by Sennacherib was coming, and the Bible reports that he took the wise precaution of providing a secure supply of water within the city:

"When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem, he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they

helped him. A large force of men assembled, and they blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. . . Hezekiah blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the city" (2 Chronicles 32:2-4, 30). "He made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city" (2 Kings 20:20).

The ancient book of Ecclesiasticus, though not included by Protestants as part of the Bible per se, is an important historical record and it also gives this account: "Hezekiah fortified his city and

brought water into the midst of it; he tunneled the sheer rock with iron and built pools for water" (Ecclesiasticus 48:17-19).

The Gihon spring was an ample natural water source several hundred feet outside the city walls. To make it secure in a time of siege, Hezekiah ordered the spring diverted, into a tunnel to be constructed through solid rock under the city walls, ending in a receptacle inside the city which came to be called the Pool of Siloam (John 9:7). This was a remarkable undertaking and would be a difficult feat of engineering and construction even in our day, with sophisticated surveying, measuring and tunneling equipment. Indeed, at one time critics of the Bible alleged that it was simply impossible for the Biblical account to be true, because of the great difficulty of such a project. They dis-

missed it as yet another example of exaggerated ancient legends finding their way into the Bible and erroneously reported as historical fact.

Apparently supporting their criticism was the mistaken belief that the Pool of Siloam was itself a natural spring, and therefore with no need for a tunnel to bring water into it. No one bothered to actually check this out. It was just taken for granted by the skeptics that they were right and the Bible wrong.



The “hard evidence” proved the skeptics wrong—who had dismissed the Biblical story as a hoax—when Hezekiah’s Tunnel was rediscovered in 1880, exactly as the Bible reported.

Then, in 1880 an Arab boy accidentally fell into the Pool of Siloam, and discovered the underwater opening of a long-forgotten tunnel! Sure enough, hewn through solid rock was a channel 1,777 feet long, about two feet wide and varying from about 4 to 12 feet in height. The Pool of Siloam was not a natural spring after all! Rather, an ancient, man-made conduit was still functioning, bringing water from the Gihon spring under the walls and into the city. But, could this be the actual tunnel constructed by Hezekiah, over 2,500 years before?

The answer came with discovery of an amazing inscription on the tunnel wall, written in old Hebrew script from the time of Hezekiah. Just as we have inscribed cornerstones and plaques commemorating construction of new buildings, bridges, etc., this dedicatory inscription told the remarkable story of the tunnel’s construction. It seems teams began tunneling from each end and met

Holy Cross Preschool

Soup Supper

Help Support Holy Cross Preschool

Sunday, November 16

4:00pm-7:00pm

Adults-\$5 Children 4-12-\$3 Under 4-Free
Matchings Funds by Thrivent

Donations and Workers Needed
Contact Janet Martin (232-9657)

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

in the middle, as is still generally the practice in constructing tunnels today. The inscription records the moment they broke through and the waters began to flow:

“The boring through is completed. Now this is the history of the excavations. While the workmen were still lifting up the pick, each towards his fellow, and while three cubits remained to be cut through, each heard the voice of the other who called, since there was a crevice in the rock on the right side. And on the day of the breakthrough, when the excavators had struck pick against pick, and met man to man, the waters flowed from the spring to the pool, a distance of 1,200 cubits. The height of the rock above the head of the stone-cutters was 100 cubits.”

This inscription has been removed and is now in a museum in Istanbul, Turkey. If you visit Jerusalem you can actually walk through Hezekiah’s tunnel, which I myself have done. After 2,700 years it still functions perfectly and still brings water into the city. Wading through cold spring water about to your knees, you come to the very spot in the middle of the tunnel where it is believed

the breakthrough described above took place.

It is amazing that this tunnel was constructed in the first place, that it still exists, and that it still functions perfectly. Jesus said, “the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:40), and this is yet another example where “hard” evidence of archaeology proves the skeptics wrong and backs up the Biblical record!



**Donate
Flowers
for Worship**

A sign-up sheet to provide flowers for worship is on the bulletin board. These will be listed in the bulletin and newsletter. 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



November 2
Alex Kaardahl

November 9
Casey Johnson

November 16
Austin Munns

November 23
Morgan Kaardahl

November 26 (Thanksgiving Eve)
Jacob Vogts

November 30
Kendall Martin



Reaching "Post-Christians" in Paris

Rev. Francois Poillet, pastor of Church of the Holy Savior located in Paris, France, serves the only confessional Lutheran congregation in the capital of France. Trained as an automobile mechanic and electrician, Poillet earned his high-school equivalency and then a masters degree in French linguistics. After studying for the ministry, he was ordained in 1990, but for twelve years was unable to devote himself fulltime to ministry due to financial hardships in the LCMS partner church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church-Synod of France and Belgium.

"From 1996 to 2002, I directed a private junior college to support myself," says Poillet, who began work at the Paris mission location in 1998. "Thanks to the commitment of the LCMS beginning in 2002, I can work fulltime for the mission to reach a greater number of Parisians."

Rev. Poillet is innovative in his outreach activities. He began with less than 10 people, and now an average of 50-60 are worshipping in the congregation. Most of the worshippers are Parisians. One third are from minority groups, and many are students.



Rev. Francis Poillet sets up a stand at a local market. He uses Christian literature to initiate conversations and relationships.

Poillet describes French society as one in need of "moral guarantees," in a "post-Christian era in which most people live without God and the beautiful promises of His Gospel." In March 2003, a survey for the French magazine *La Vie* and newspaper *Le Monde* revealed that 41 percent think that the existence of God is unlikely or impossible.

"It is our duty and privilege to proclaim the Good News of forgiveness and eternal life that the Lord has prepared for all men," says Poillet.

The Paris congregation was originally established in 1934, "which enables it to be represented on most Paris maps and affords us some recognition by government authorities. Considering all the problems with the proliferation of cults, it's a real advantage," says Poillet. Located in the most densely populated sector of Paris, the mission is situated on the periphery of the city, right next to "large suburbs where 10 pastors could work from morning to night!" explains Poillet.

"Sometimes I feel like 'the last of the Mohicans,'" says Poillet, "but my goal, with the Lord's blessing, is truly to rebuild His tribe!"

Preschool Enrollment Growing

During October, Holy Cross Preschool received a large number of inquiries and several new students. As a result, both the morning and afternoon Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes for four and five year-olds are full, at 12-13 students each. There are limited openings in the Tuesday-Thursday class for three year-olds and Monday-Wednesday Mom's Day Out program for two year-olds and three year-olds not yet toilet trained.

The After School Care program has also remained very strong, with 15-20 students in attendance, a large increase over last year.

Registration Night for next year has already been set for March 16, 2004. For more information contact Board of Education members Janet Martin (232-9657) or Terese Vogts (232-4013) or call the Preschool at 235-1688.

Sermon Themes for November



November 2
"For All the Saints"
Revelation 14:13

November 9
"Two Will Become One"
Matthew 19:3-14

November 16
"The Mighty Mite"
Mark 12:41-44

November 23
"Your Mandate from the Lord"
Mark 13:32-37

November 26 (Thanksgiving Eve)
"An Attitude of Gratitude"
Philippians 4:4-7