



Is it just a "coincidence" that as we approach Easter a filmmaker claims to have "discovered" the supposed "lost tomb" of Jesus? Or, is this indeed just a shameless stunt to promote a movie and book?

Having worked myself in the Middle East as an archaeologist, specifically excavating rock-cut tombs of this same type from the time of Christ, I planned to write an article about the fallacies of their claims. However, I found this excellent article from The Washington Post, which quotes the most noted archaeologists, who debunk this "lost tomb" sensation:

"Lost Tomb of Jesus" Claim Called a Stunt Archaeologists Decry TV Film

By Alan Cooperman
The Washington Post
February 28, 2007

Leading archaeologists in Israel and the United States yesterday denounced the purported discovery of the tomb of Jesus as a publicity stunt.

Scorn for the Discovery Channel's claim to have found the burial place of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and—most explosively—their possible son came not just from Christian scholars but also from Jewish and secular experts who said their judgments were unaffected by any desire to uphold Christian orthodoxy.

"I'm not a Christian. I'm not a believer. I don't have a dog in this fight,"

said William G. Dever, who has been excavating ancient sites in Israel for 50 years and is widely considered the dean of biblical archaeology among U.S. scholars. "I just think it's a shame the way this story is being hyped and manipulated."

The Discovery Channel held a news conference in New York on Monday to unveil a TV documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," and a companion book about a tomb that was unearthed during construction of an apartment building in the Talpiyot neighborhood of Jerusalem in 1980.

James Cameron, the filmmaker who explored the wreck of the Titanic and directed an Oscar-winning feature film based on its sinking, is executive producer of the documentary. Its claims are based on six ossuaries, or stone boxes for holding human bones, found in the tomb.

The filmmakers contend that the inscriptions on the boxes say Yeshua bar Yosef (Jesus son of Joseph), Maria (Mary), Yose (Joseph), Matia (Matthew), Mariamene e Mara (Maria the Master) and Yehuda bar Yeshua (Judah son of Jesus). They maintain that "Mariamene e Mara" is Mary Magdalene and that Yehuda bar Yeshua may be her son by Jesus.

Dever, a retired professor of archaeology at the University of Arizona, said that some of the inscriptions on the Talpiyot ossuaries are unclear, but that all of the names are common.

"I've know about these ossuaries for many years and so have many other archaeologists, and none of us thought it was much of a story, because these are rather common Jewish names from that period," he said. "It's a publicity stunt, and it will make these guys very rich, and it will upset millions of innocent people because they don't know enough to separate fact from fiction."

Similar assessments came yesterday from two Israeli scholars, Amos Kloner, who originally excavated the tomb, and Joe Zias, former curator of archaeology at the Israeli Antiquities Authority. Kloner told the Jerusalem Post that the documentary is "nonsense." Zias described it in an e-mail to The Washington Post as a "hyped up film which is intellectually and scientifically dishonest."

Jodi Magness, an archaeologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, expressed irritation that the claims were made at a news conference rather than in a peer-reviewed scientific article. By going directly to the media, she said, the filmmakers "have set it up as if it's a legitimate academic debate, when the vast majority of scholars who specialize in archaeology of this period have flatly rejected this," she said.

Magness noted that at the time of Jesus, wealthy families buried their dead in tombs cut by hand from solid rock, putting the bones in niches in the walls and then, later, transferring them to ossuaries.

Magness also said the names on the Talpiyot ossuaries indicate that the tomb belonged to a family from Judea, the area around Jerusalem, where people were known by their first name and father's name. As Galileans, Jesus and his family members would have used their first name and home town, she said.

"This whole case [for the tomb of Jesus] is flawed from beginning to end," she said.

Of course, the primary reason we reject these claims is not just because it is flawed archaeology, as these experts attest from a strictly scientific standpoint. St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:17, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." Though the scientific evidence debunks these sensational claims to

Holy Cross Lutheran will expand building

DAKOTA DUNES - Holy Cross Lutheran Church will hold a public groundbreaking for a \$1.5 million sanctuary addition at 10:15 a.m. March 25. The ceremony will be preceded by worship at 9:15 a.m. and followed by a reception.

"We praise God for the recent growth He has given our congregation and we rejoice to be erecting this new sanctuary to His glory," said the Rev. Kevin Vogts, Holy Cross pastor.

Holy Cross, a Missouri Synod Lutheran church located at 149 Bison Trail, was the first church in Dakota Dunes. It was organized in 1995 and completed in 1998. Connecting the west of the church's existing building, the addition will include a new

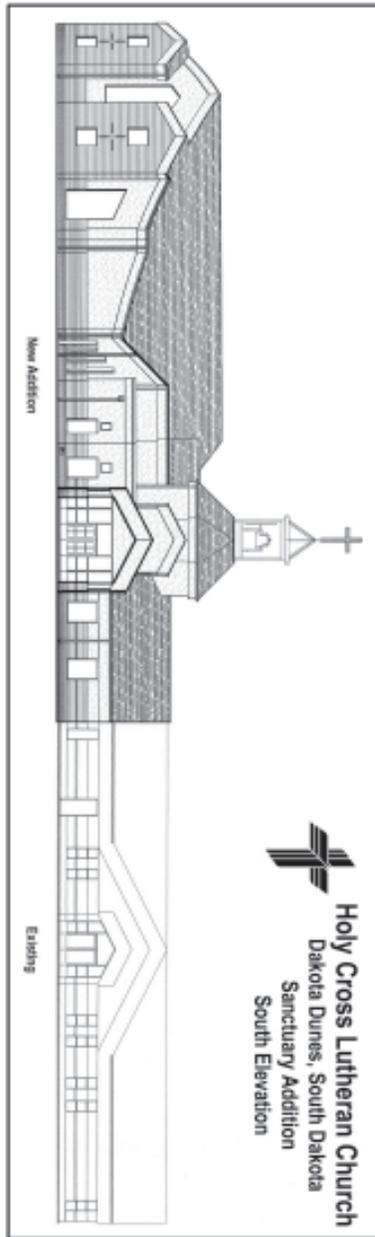
sanctuary with a balcony, a new main entry with a bell tower and atrium and a gathering room, as well as offices, restrooms, a nursery, a sacristy, a cloak room and storage. The existing sanctuary will become a fellowship hall.

The expansion will also benefit Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care by providing additional space for activities and a separate office.

Holy Cross received \$1.25 million in pledges for the construction through fundraising.

The project's general contractor, HCI construction, reported the new sanctuary should be completed by Christmas.

Brad Mollet, the architect who designed the addition,



Architect's sketch of proposed Holy Cross addition

also designed the new South Dakota Governor's Mansion project included Gary Gunderson, a second-generation owners' new flagship store at Lakeport Commons. The

Dr. Douglas Martin, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center's medical director for occupational health services; John Isley, vice-president of First Financial Bank; Dennis Melstad, president of the Dakota Dunes Development Company; and Ron Yockey, president of Beef Products, Inc.

have found Jesus' "lost tomb," it cannot prove he rose from the dead, let alone that his death and resurrection was payment for our sins.

But, as St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We live by faith, not by sight." By faith we trust the Good News of Easter, as St. Peter says in 1 Peter 1:21, "You have come to trust in God, who raised Christ from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Building for the Future

Congregation Approves Building Project Groundbreaking March 25

At the special congregational meeting on March 6, the congregation approved proceeding with a \$1.5 million building project for a new sanctuary.

Groundbreaking has been set for Sunday, March 25th at 10:15am. Following worship at the regular time of 9:15am, we will process outside for the

Crossnotes

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Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

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April, 2007

Community Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7 • 10:30am

On Church Grounds at
Dakota Dunes Boulevard and Bison Trail

Up to Age 10 • Plenty of Eggs!

Prizes • Snacks • Easter Video

All Children Invited—Non-Members Welcome!

No Charges or Fees



groundbreaking ceremony. Don't miss this very important event in the history of our congregation!

The congregation authorized an additional debt for our Sanctuary Addition of up to \$250,000. The entire project, including landscaping, architect's fees, parking lot expansion, furnishings, etc., is budgeted at approximately \$1.5 million. Pledges from our "Building for the Future" fundraising campaign were approximately \$1.25 million, leaving the balance for a loan of approximately \$250,000.

The Finance Committee of the LCMS South Dakota District met on March 8 and recommended to the District Board of Directors that our request be granted for a loan from the South Dakota District Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and at their meeting on March 11-12 the Board of Directors approved our loan.

The general contractor, HCI Construction, has proposed an expeditious construction schedule, so that, Lord willing, we should be able to celebrate Christmas, 2007 in our new sanctuary!

We praise God for having brought our congregation to this milestone, and ask everyone to please continue to keep this important project in your prayers.



Donate Lilies for Easter

Sign up on the bulletin board to donate lilies to beautify our church at Easter, which falls this year on April 8. Note whom or what they are in memory or honor of. As we focus on the promise of the resurrection, Easter is a wonderful occasion to remember loved ones.

Lilies will be obtained again this year from Mosher's Garden Center. Cost is \$10 per plant and the deadline for signing up to order is Palm Sunday, April 1. Put payment in offering marked "Easter Lilies."

You are also *welcome* to bring plants you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Please still sign up, noting you will bring your own plants.



Holy Week Services

During Holy Week, our Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion will be on April 5 at 7:00pm. Continuing our Lenten sermon series "I Believe," on the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, the sermon will be on, "He Ascended into Heaven and Sits at the Right Hand of God, the Father Almighty."

The Good Friday on April 6 is also at 7:00pm, with the sermon theme, "He Was Crucified, Died and Was Buried."

Bring your family to meditate on our Savior's sacrifice for our salvation.



Community Sunrise Service at Holy Cross

You are invited to a Community Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 8 at 7:00am, held in the sanctuary at Holy Cross. This simple service will feature the Easter story and favorite Easter hymns. A second Easter Service, with Holy Communion, will be held at the regular time of 9:15am.

Easter Sunrise Service is one of the most moving and meaningful worship opportunities of the year. Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate the real significance of Easter. This is

a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, etc.—everyone enjoys Easter Sunrise services!



Holy Cross is again sponsoring a Community Easter Egg Hunt, on Saturday, April 7 (day before Easter) at 10:30am on the church grounds. This event is for the entire community, and all children up to age 10 are welcome.

Last year over 100 children and at least that many adults attended. This event has become a real community tradition. There will be plenty of eggs, prizes, snacks and an Easter video. There are no charges or fees for this free community event.

Donations to help defray expenses would be appreciated. Place in offering plate marked "Easter Egg Hunt."



- Todd Peters, April 2
- Kevin Hamilton, April 5
- Jeri Melstad, April 6
- Pastor Kevin Vogts, April 17
- John Isley, April 22
- Paul Rosene, April 24
- Gary Gunderson, April 26
- Braylen Bietz, April 28

Jill & Todd Peters
April 21, 2001

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 secretary at 232-9117 or email holycross@longlines.com.



Preschool Open House and Registration Night

Tuesday, March 27
6:00pm-7:30pm

See the Facility Meet the Staff

Register to Reserve Your Child a Place for Next Fall

- Providing quality Christian education in Dakota Dunes since 1996
- Preschool classes for Ages 3-5
- Mom's Day Out program for 2 year olds
- Excellent facility
- Christian atmosphere

For More Information Call 235-1688 - Voicemail Box #2



You may have noticed that the cornerstones of many Lutheran churches have the letters "U.A.C." This stands for "Unaltered Augsburg Confession." The Augsburg Confession of 1530 was later altered by some who wanted to compromise, but orthodox Lutherans stuck to the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession*. This was so important that Lutheran churches began inscribing it on their cornerstones.

Join in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 10:30am as we continue our look at the Scriptural teachings contained in the Augsburg Confession. It's still as relevant today as in 1530!



Help Needed for Church Secretary Duties

Our thanks to Nancy Wiese for serving so faithfully and efficiently for several years as our volunteer church secretary. Nancy needs to take a break due to pending knee surgery. Help is needed to fill some of the duties done by Nancy. Our thanks to new member Deb Stein for taking on some of the

correspondence tasks. Other volunteers are needed especially in these areas:

Preparing and/or Copying the Bulletin—If you are comfortable with a computer you could help prepare the bulletin. It is done in Microsoft Word and we have templates and procedures which make it relatively easy. Help is also needed to copy and fold the bulletin, usually on Fridays.

Copying and Preparing Newsletter for Mailing—Once a month help is needed to copy, fold, address, and mail the newsletter.

Copying and Preparing Special Mailings—Several times a year help is needed to copy and fold special mailings, for Easter, Christmas, etc.

Changing Church Sign—To keep community interest, we like to change our church sign on average about every other week. This varies with the time of the year and events.

If you could help with any of these needs please contact Pastor Vogts (232-9117, 232-4013).



Preschool & After School Care Open House March 27

Mark your calendar now for the Holy Cross Preschool and After School Care Open House, to register for the 2007-2008 school year, on Tuesday, March 27 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Classes include:

Mom's Day Out (2-3 Year Olds)

Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:30am-11:00am
\$90 per month
\$65 Registration Fee



2007 Lent Sermon Series on the Apostles' Creed

March 28 – Lent Service VI
“He Will Come to Judge the Living and the Dead”

April 1 – Palm Sunday
“He Suffered Under Pontius Pilate”

April 5 – Maundy Thursday
“He Ascended into Heaven and Sits at the Right Hand of God, the Father Almighty”

April 6 – Good Friday
“He Was Crucified, Died and Was Buried”

Preschool

(3-4 Years Olds)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
8:20am-11:15am
\$115 per month
\$65 registration Fee

Pre-Kindergarten

(4-5 Year Olds)

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
8:20am-11:15am
\$115 per month
\$65 registration Fee

After School Care

(Kindergarten-6th Grade)

Bussing available from Dakota Valley and Sacred Heart; follows Dakota Valley school calendar; \$8 per day, \$10 early out days, \$45 registration fee.

Classes always fill up fast, so register early! For more information, or if

you are unable to attend the open house, please leave a message at 235-1688 in the Preschool (#2) or After School Care (#3) voicemail box.



The new flower calendar for 2007 is on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Occasions to remember include anniversaries, birthdays, in memory of loved ones, etc. Flowers may be obtained anywhere and you may provide

your own vase or use one of the assortment in the church kitchen.

March 18

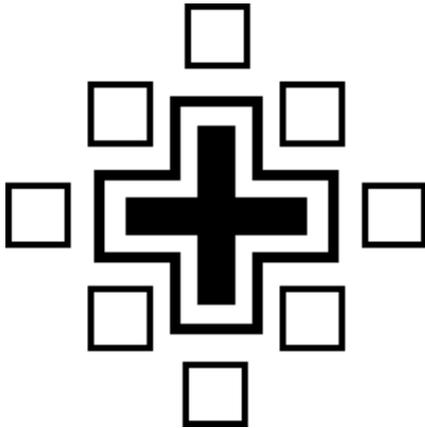
Joey & Marcy Schroeder
Brady's Birthday

March 25

Doug & Janet Martin
Groundbreaking

April 15

Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts
Pastor's Birthday



New Hymnal Donations

The congregational meeting on February 18 approved a recommendation by the Board of Elders to adopt the new Missouri Synod hymnal *Lutheran Service Book*. We have already been using the orders of worship and many new hymns from this hymnal for several years. It is a blending of the best features from previous Missouri Synod hymnals, *The Lutheran Hymnal* and *Lutheran Worship*.

The hymnals will not be ordered or used in services until pledges have been received for 80 copies, the amount needed for our present sanctuary plus some extra copies. When we move into our new, expanded sanctuary we will need approximately 30 more copies.

Pledge sheets are available in the back of the church along with a sample copy of the hymnal. They may be given in memory loved ones, etc. with dedication plates in the hymnals. Cost is \$20 per hymnal. Thanks for your donations!



Community Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunrise Service—7:00am
Second Easter Service with Holy Communion—9:15am

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!



April 1

Mike Bargstadt

April 5 (Maundy Thursday)

Mike Bargstadt

April 6 (Good Friday)

Jon Dorr

April 8

Jon Dorr

April 15

Carroll Gustman

April 22

Doug Jansen

April 29

Ron Yockey



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

April 1

*Bethanie Frick
Japan*

April 8

*Jonathan and Jordan Benning
Poland*

April 15

*Kristy Lorfeld
Panama*

April 22
Joanna Henderson
Lithuania
April 29
Brent Friedrichs
Nigeria



By Bethanie Frick
LCMS Missionary in Japan

Ever since the Holy Spirit enabled me to pray in Japanese, I've had several opportunities to pray for and with my Japanese friends and children at the kindergarten where I teach as part of my missionary service in Japan.



One little boy at a kindergarten was doubled over with a stomachache, and I at first brought him to the teachers. Then later I asked how he

was doing, and he said his stomach still hurt. I told him that Jesus can heal him, and asked the boy if he wanted me to ask Jesus to heal him. He nodded yes, so with one hand over his tummy I prayed simply in Japanese. And Jesus healed him! When I looked up from praying, he had the biggest grin on his face, full of the purest joy I've ever seen.

A few minutes later he came back to me and said, full of wonder, that his stomach didn't hurt anymore. So I said we should thank God, and prayed again, thanking Jesus for healing him. A few minutes later he came back again and said he was hungry. We were about ready to eat lunch, so I said, that's good, you can eat pretty soon. Praise God!

Ukraine Outreach Support

Congregations in the Sioux City area are helping support our sister Missouri Synod congregation, Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado with their mission project in the Ukraine. (Several members of Rock of Ages have ties to Sioux City congregations.) Nothing breaks the ice better with children than playing ball whether it is soccer, football or beachball. (The deflatable type is necessary when only 12 suitcases are allowed.) Or would you be willing to donate work gloves or socks for 300 men and women?

Check the poster in the back of the church for a complete list of items, and place your donations in the tub under poster by April 10. You may also give cash donations as noted on the poster. Place in offering marked "Ukraine Mission." This year the team going to Ukraine from Rock of Ages will be sharing God's word and love with over 400 children and 300 adults. Please reach out in Christian love to help someone halfway around the world.



April 1
Myron Bose
April 5 (Maundy Thursday)
Kendall Martin
April 8
Jacob Vogts
April 15
Quinton Bose
April 22
Kylie Martin
April 29
Evan Steemken

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April 1
Dylan Sawyer
April 5 (Maundy Thursday)
Tyler Fletcher
April 8
Sarah Vogts
April 15
Keegan Johnson
April 22
Trevor Vilhauer
April 29
Zachary Selby



In the back of the church is a sign up sheet to bring snacks for after worship. You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish.

Those bringing snacks are also asked to please prepare the coffee. Instructions are posted near the coffee maker. Coffee, cups, napkins, plates, etc. are all provided and in the kitchen. Thank you to those providing snacks!

April 1
Youth Group
April 8
Finkral
April 15
Dial
April 22 and 29
Need Volunteers

Community Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7 • 10:30am

On Church Grounds at
Dakota Dunes Boulevard and Bison Trail

Up to Age 10 • Plenty of Eggs!

Prizes • Snacks • Easter Video

All Children Invited—Non-Members Welcome!

No Charges or Fees



Community Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunrise Service

7:00am

Second Easter Service with Communion

9:15am

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!



Return Service Requested

Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

149 Bison Trail

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor

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Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church