

What's In the Devil's Crosshairs?

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that "we are not ignorant" of the devil's designs (2 Cor 2:11), but I'm not at all sure that still holds true. Sometimes it seems that we have very little awareness that the devil even exists! We may acknowledge his work in the face of a Hitler or Bin Laden, but only the duller minds could possibly miss him in the ultimate fruits of his labor. The devil is a consummate strategist. The real question for us is whether we can anticipate his movements and uncover his work at its beginning



rather than wait for its fruition. Anyone can recognize the black devil. Are we alert and perceptive enough to recognize the white devil?

The devil's ultimate aim is to destroy the church. How might he be working toward that end today? He always attacks at multiple fronts, but I believe he is now making a major assault on the family because he knows, even if we do not, that if he can destroy the family, the whole structure of society and church will fall with it.

The institution of the family, which centers in the institution of marriage, has been under a major spiritual attack in our nation for many decades, but in the present day we have reached a crisis point. Can marriage and family survive the onslaught of demonic rage? How

many Christians even recognize that the battle is being fiercely fought? Of these, how many fully appreciate what is at stake?

The family is under attack on many fronts today, some of which may not be easily perceived by the casual observer. **Marriage and family are being severely undermined by individualism.** The American spirit of individualism is not all bad, but even good things taken to extreme can be detrimental. The Bible clearly

teaches that God loves each person individually. The Shepherd leaves the 99 and goes after the one lost sheep (Luke 15). The Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and so forth (John 10). But the Bible also clearly teaches that God's love unites us into a community. He places us as living stones into a holy Temple (Eph. 2). He forms us into a body which functions as one, etc (Eph. 4). I fear that our culture often encourages individualism to the detriment of community. Husbands and wives often put their individual desires, goals, hopes, needs, careers, etc. above the one flesh union God creates. Some have never understood the marriage vows, or perhaps never even desired to stop thinking in terms of "I" and to start thinking in terms of "we." They have little or no concept of the "yoke" that God has placed upon them. Obviously this is not good for marriage or for families. The same can be said of children, who from infancy are very self-centered. Families used to function as training institutions to teach these little deities that they are NOT, in fact, the center of the universe. They must learn to share space, toys, food, etc. with others in the family, and to participate in the work and sacrifices necessary to keep the family healthy and

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That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31

strong. To this end they learn restraint of their impulses, words and actions. They learn manners that are fundamental to civility. I know that many families are working hard at this today, but I fear that many others are failing miserably by yielding to child individuality at just those points and time when children need to be learning community responsibilities.

Marriage and family are being severely undermined also by a distorted and negative attitude toward authority and structure.

This is, of course, closely connected to individualism, but it deserves a brief comment on its own. Few cultures have ever despised the concept of authority as ours. This contempt for authority reached the stage of ridiculous during the 1960's with the revolutionary spirit on college campuses. Those "in charge" meekly yielded to the demands of the students as they took charge not only of the campus, but of the curriculum as well. Since that time authority has become almost a dirty word, as if we could exist without it. Young husbands are usually quite squeamish to say that they are "head of the house." It seems so ... archaic and "Neanderthal." Never mind that God's Word PLAINLY declares that to be the role for the Christian husband and leaves no room for piously abdicating the responsibility (with the explanation of what Christian headship entails in Ephesians 5:21ff). Some young parents seem extremely hesitant to take charge of their children, as if they had children in order to satisfy their need to be loved and have friends. If you want a friend, get a dog. They are easier to train and they love you unconditionally. Having children comes with a vitally important responsibility that requires perseverance, courage, and a lot of backbone to bend

the will without breaking the spirit. It is not piety to abdicate authority. It is plain cowardice and irresponsibility that will result in all kinds of bad things in the future, as Eli the Judge discovered (1 Sam 2 and 4).

Marriage and family are being severely undermined by society's redefinition of marriage.

Marriage is God's institution, not man's. He designed it and created it to serve mankind. He alone defines what it is. When man asserts his own definitions and calls his perversions "marriage" he is just being foolish. I might just as foolishly call my own painting a Picasso. Calling it such does not make it so. History will show that there is no better or even equal way to raise children than under the loving care and discipline of a dad and a mom in a stable and structured home.

Marriage and family are being undermined by disappearance of the family dinner.

One might argue that God does not command the family to eat together, but I think some things are so obvious that they hardly merit mentioning. The fact is that the Bible has many examples of family and friends eating together. It was a vitally important activity in Biblical times, both Old Testament and New. It implied and fostered intimate friendship, which is why Jesus was so viciously condemned for eating with prostitutes and sinners. Last year our school sponsored a speaker from Cook's Hospital who spoke on the topic of the importance and benefit of the family dinner. It was a great presentation that I think every young family in our congregation would do well to hear. I will request that we sponsor it again and invite the whole

congregation. A meal at the table – without TV, without phones and other electronic devices, gives the family rare opportunity and incentive to talk. It enables parents to hear what their children think about things, what they are doing, what frustrations they are enduring in relationships or school, etc. It fosters a sense of unity and security. It gives opportunity for shared responsibilities both before and after the meal.

Marriage and family are being severely undermined by neglect of spiritual education.

The church used to be a focus or even the focus of the Christian family, and rightly so. Sunday was a time for the whole family to gather to hear the Word, sing the praises of God, and receive the sacrament of the altar. In most Christian families the children were faithfully taught the Bible in Sunday School every week. They also participated in the Christmas Program and VBS. Today families are pulled in every direction trying to keep up with school and sports activities that no longer respect church or family time. This may seem self-serving, but I write it because it is the family that suffers. If a proper BALANCE between the temporal and the eternal is not restored, the family cannot prosper. Faith in Christ is the spiritual life power of the Christian home, and faith comes by hearing. Children are not nurtured in the faith on the soccer field or volleyball court, as valuable as



Crosshairs, cont.

such disciplines are. I think extra-curricular activities that promote teamwork and discipline are truly valuable, but all things must be in moderation. I would not be any more in favor of a monastery life for children than I am for the family schedule to be consumed by temporal matters. **BALANCE! BALANCE! BALANCE!** That is the key to health and prosperity of the family and the devil has robbed us of it.

What will be the consequences of family breakdown? The family is the primary building block of all society, vitally important for the health of both State and Church. No government has enough military and

police to keep order if families fail. Social chaos will result, as we are beginning to see in places like Philadelphia with its “flash mobs.” Schools cannot substitute for the family, nor provide an education if the family fails – as we are discovering in the inner cities and other places. Government programs cannot possibly provide the basic needs of its citizens if the family collapses. If families cease to be incubators of faith, the seed of the Gospel will be sown on the wayside for the devil to take away so that it is not heard or believed. No harvest will result. The devil knows all this. He knows that if he destroys the family, he holds the strategically superior posi-

tion in our culture. We Christians are not ignorant of his designs. As we see the world around us change in alarming ways, we need to be vigilant and alert. We need to repent of our negligence and indifference to God’s Word and His wisdom and return to seek His counsel and follow His ways. Building strong Christian families and homes where the Word of God dwells richly is an excellent place to start. How can this congregation help YOU to build your home on the rock of Christ?

Blessings,
Pastor Huebel

Vacation Bible School 2011 by Kathy Blaschke and Stacey Trollope

FIRST, A THANK YOU...

Our first ever Vacation Bible School fundraiser breakfast was held on June 12th during the adult Sunday School class. Due to the generosity of the congregation, everyone enjoyed some delicious food and we raised a total of \$675.00! We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the following people who helped make the breakfast a wonderful success.

For providing the delicious food and drink: Natalie Anderson, Dona Bolton, Tricia Boyd, Debbie Brashear, Barbara Brewer, James & Beverly Bucklew, Joan Burk, Ed Conaway, Walter & Waldeen Cornelius, Paul & Sharon Dobbs, Paul & Sharon Dobbs, Debbie Goedecke, Schel Hoebelheinrich, Becky Hooper, Marcia Huebel, Kimberly Kass, Tamarra Liddle, Sandi Nietenhoefer, Melanie Reich, Angie Richmond, Christine Sawall, Vera Sweet, Christine Towers, Mildred Turley, Kendra Weber, Carolyn Wilken, and Ben & Renee Williamson

For donating paper goods: Kris Carter, Ed Conaway, Paul & Sharon Dobbs, and Kendra Weber

For assisting with set-up, serving, and clean-up: Natalie Anderson, Tricia Boyd, Debbie Goedecke, Schel Hoebelheinrich, Kimberly Kass, and Melanie & Rachel Reich.

We would especially like to thank Schel Hoebelheinrich

for her willingness to serve as the VBS fundraiser breakfast coordinator!



VBS 2011

We are so humbled and blessed to have had the opportunity to co-direct our 30th anniversary year Vacation Bible School. The as-

signment came late (May 1st), when we both agreed that we were feeling called to volunteer for the task. We each took a couple of weeks to contemplate first...we asked around to see if we would be able to get some of the ‘veterans’ to join us. We had two months to make it work and the Church Council challenged us to make it the largest VBS yet. We knew we had to pray!

Our prayers were answered in countless ways! *That* is why co-directing Vacation Bible School is very rewarding! Many of those ‘veteran volunteers’ took on key roles immediately and coordinated their whole area. We had individuals that were able to help prior to VBS, and handled important administrative tasks to help us with



marketing and registration. We had youth that were very excited about helping with decorating and skit preparations. We had faithful volunteers that were willing to come to the training and information meetings. And then we closed registration (we set a deadline...good idea!) with 217 children and 72 volunteers registered!

We had some 'firsts' this year:

- ☆ We had a very successful fundraising breakfast and short presentation to the adult Sunday School class so that the members could get excited about our Big Jungle Adventure.
- ☆ We offered online registration through Concordia Publishing House which was linked to the Church's website...all of those families saw our beautiful website...marketing, marketing, marketing!
- ☆ We worked with the school staff to send out 8000 flyers to the public schools in the surrounding area, advertising the School's summer programs and VBS.

- ☆ We utilized every square inch of the facility throughout the week...bringing all of those families through our beautiful property.
- ☆ We brainstormed and implemented a "mini VBS" program for preschool age children. God sent us amazing leaders and experienced youth volunteers to make it a great success. We had new Early Childhood Center inquiries as a result.
- ☆ We prepared the program amidst a renovation project that scheduled a break in the construction for the week of VBS. ☺

Here are some statistics:

- ☆ Registered: 217
Attended: 198
(17% members, 83% non-members)
- ☆ Volunteers: 72
- ☆ \$4100 budget (\$2500-Church budget, \$1600-fundraising/donations)
- ☆ Mission Offerings: Kampala Lutheran Church - Uganda Building Fund (\$588.00)
Lutheran Braille Workers – Work Center #132 (\$495.00)



Some of our most rewarding memories:

- ☆ We witnessed, and had many compliments about the youth that were involved. We had 39 of them and they ranged in age from 7th grade through college. They put their electronic devices aside and were completely engaged with the children...and the children loved them! Many of them branched out into leadership roles, and they helped make our closing program a very fun experience for all. We have been complimented for their enthusiasm, maturity, willingness to help and respectful attitudes. Pat them



VBS 2011, cont.

on the back when you see them, they certainly deserve it!

- ☆ Getting to know the volunteers... beyond Sunday mornings.
- ☆ The generosity of individuals and their willingness to contribute with their time and talents.
- ☆ The sincerity of the parents in their appreciation of the program and all that Messiah has to offer.
- ☆ The faces of the children as they sang and learned about our Savior's love for them.
- ☆ A *full* sanctuary for our closing program.
- ☆ A *full* Fellowship Hall where

families gathered for fellowship, refreshments and the slide show. They also gathered up the information that we had displayed to market our school.

- ☆ That another local church liked our skit decorations so much, they took them to use for their VBS the following week.
- ☆ That *God* orchestrated our Vacation Bible School... He responded to our prayers beyond all that we could hope or imagine and that, at the end of the day, He provided for a very successful week.
- ☆ That He helped us all grow in our 'faith journey with Jesus'. We

sincerely thank all of you that were involved...in *any* capacity.

In His Service,
Stacey Trollope & Kathy Blaschke



**...sing psalms,
hymns and
spiritual songs
with gratitude
in your hearts
to God.**

Colossians 3:16



*Have you been thinking
about ringing handbells?*

- 🔔 Would you like to praise God with heart and hands?
- 🔔 Would you like to become a 'ding-a-ling' in the very nicest way?
- 🔔 Would you like to learn to play our new handchimes?

Here are your options:

Confirmation Handbell Choir
(11 members)

- 🔔 Participants: Confirmation students in grades 7 & 8 with music knowledge
- 🔔 Rehearsals: Tuesdays 6:00pm – 6:55pm
- 🔔 Begins Tuesday, Sept. 20
- 🔔 Season ends on Confirmation Sunday, May 6, 2012

Sr. Youth Handbell Choir
(11 members)

- 🔔 Participants: Grades 9-12 (with

music knowledge

- 🔔 Rehearsals: Wednesdays 6:00–6:55pm (not during Advent or Lent)
 - 🔔 Begins: Wed., Sept. 14
- Adult Handbell Choir**
(11 members)
- 🔔 Adults with music knowledge
 - 🔔 Rehearsals: Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
 - 🔔 Begins Tuesday, Aug. 30
 - 🔔 3 positions available this season

*Have you been thinking
about singing in the
choir?*

- 🎵 Would you like to sing praises to the LORD with others?
- 🎵 Would you like to make some new friends?
- 🎵 Would you like to have a padded chair and a for-sure place to sit?

Here are your options:

3rd-6th Grade Choir

- 🎵 Participants: anyone in grades 3-6 with an interest in singing
- 🎵 Let's do it again this year!
- 🎵 Singing on Sunday, Oct. 2 and Feb. 5 **only** - at the late service
- 🎵 Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings three weeks prior to each Sunday singing.

Adult Choir

- 🎵 Participants: Confirmed youth up through white/gray or no hair age
- 🎵 Basses, Tenors, Altos, Sopranos (Bass voices are especially needed.)
- 🎵 Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- 🎵 Begins: Wednesday, Aug. 31

Do you play an instrument?

- ☆ Instrumentalists are also used throughout the season. Plus, there are opportunities to play in our Reformation and Easter orchestra groups. See Mrs. Main regarding your particular instrument.

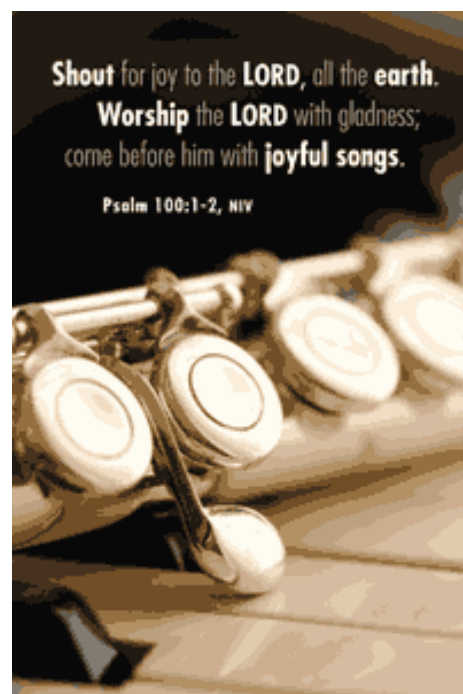
*If you are interested in any
of the above groups
contact Vicki Main:*

phone: 940-391-8593

email: vickinotes@msn.com

**Or, there's a sign-up sheet
on the Music Office door**

The **Music Ministry Kick-off Gathering** will be at Ray & Vicki Main's cabin on **Sunday, August 28** from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. Individuals and their families are all welcomed. Watch for details in upcoming Sunday bulletins, but save the date now!



The Camel's Nose by Stephen Inglehart

It is said that there is an old Arabian story about a man, his tent, and his camel. On a cold night, the camel

requested of the man that he allow the camel to put his nose in the tent to be warmed. The man acquiesced, and after a time the camel request that more of his body be allowed into the tent. Once again, the man acquiesced. You can see where this is going, can't you? Pretty soon the man has a tent full of camel and he is on the outside looking in. The moral of the story? Don't let the camel's nose into the tent.

I would submit that the camel's nose is already in our tent. It's pretty hard to keep it out altogether, because the camel we're talking about here is really the world, that is, the fallen world, all those ideas and influences which are contrary to and hostile to the Gospel (here used in its broad sense, referring to whole Truth, the whole of God's revelation to us). We don't need to go looking for a camel to invite into our tent. We are surrounded by 'camelness' and it comes unbidden into our tent. It doesn't even ask our permission, as did the camel in the mid-eastern allegory. All we have to do is drive down the road. It's there on the billboards, promising us that if we just drink this beer or smoke these cigarettes we'll be surrounded by scantily clad beauties - or hunks - of lusty appetite. In the recent past all we had to do was watch a bus pass us on the street, plastered with a sign proclaiming that we can be "good without God." It's on the tube, it's at the theater, it's on the radio, and it's on the internet. There is a fellow by the name of Ceelo who has a song and video out

entitled "F... You'." You can guess the missing three letters, no doubt. If not, check on Youtube, where it's spelled out for everyone in it's repugnant entirety. How did we get from hearing Herman's Hermit's singing "Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter," and the Irish Rover's recording a hit song about Unicorns and Noah's Ark, to having Ceelo singing his.....song? Hint....it has to do with the camel and his sneaky proboscis. We let it in an inch at a time, by letting boundaries get pushed back a little here, and a little there, until it is no longer "little" at all.

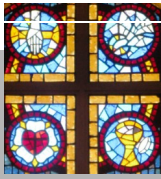
So, the camel's nose is in our tent, if not the entire camel. And since this article is written as a contribution from the School Board at Messiah, of particular concern is the camel is pushing his proboscis into our children's tents. It is tempting to think the answer is to go the hermit route and simply find a cave somewhere, so that we are simply removed from the world and it's lures. We are not given permission to do that. Isolation is not the answer (at least not entirely). We are to live, though not "of" the world, nonetheless still in it, to be God's witnesses and to "give a defense of the hope that is in us". Rather, we are to be equipped with the whole armor of God, and remain still in the world, surrounded as we are by godless worldliness, and do battle for the sake of the Gospel. It is the Gospel itself, God's own Word, which provides our protection. It is God's own Word of Truth that sets us free, that teaches to see the traps of the devil and the world for what they are. It is God's own Word of Truth that brings us forgiveness when we have succumbed to temptation and let the camel's nose (or more)

into our tent, and it's God's own Word of Truth that gives to us and produces in us the capacity to recognize and resist. That Word is delivered to us in the Divine Service every Sunday, in Bible Study and Sunday School, in our own personal devotional life and reading of Scripture, and for our kids, it is delivered in our school. They will someday grow into adulthood, and take their place among those called upon by Holy Scripture participate in that Spiritual Warfare in which every Christian is to be engaged. They also need to be taught how to recognize and resist the assaults and lures of the Devil, the World, and their own sinful flesh, for it is the most natural thing in the world for the old sinful nature to welcome not only the camel's nose, but the whole camel, into our tents.

In our MLCA, the Word of God is delivered daily to our children, in class and chapel, so that they are equipped to recognize the dangers of allowing the camel's nose access to their lives, and be equipped to say what the poor tent owner in the Arabian fable did not have the sense to say: "No." Sorry, Mr. Camel, but keep your nose, and the rest of you out of my tent. You have no place in here.

Stephen Inglehart
School Board Chairman





Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

Mrs. Kathy Blaschke, Financial Director

www.messiahkeller.org

1981 ✠ 30th ✠ 2011

August Events in our History

1985:

Vacation Bible School moved to



August (we had air conditioning now) and we participated in the annual Keller parade for the next five years. The parades were on Monday evening, after our first day of VBS, and all the participants got to ride on the floats.

1989: Pastor Huebel taught a well-received “advanced doctrine” course on Wednesday evenings covering a variety of topics in the Bible.

1993: Then Seminarian Dennis Kitzmann, visiting from Fort Wayne, preached at Messiah on August 8th. The service was followed by a potluck dinner.

1996: Our first Kindergarten class began in 1996 with Ruth Rohloff teaching five students. The class was held in today’s four-year-old classroom.



2000: Pastor Christopher Bramich was installed as the MLCA Headmaster/MLC Assistant Pastor on August 20th. The Grammar School



teachers were installed and the newly renovated building down the hill was dedicated on August 13th. On

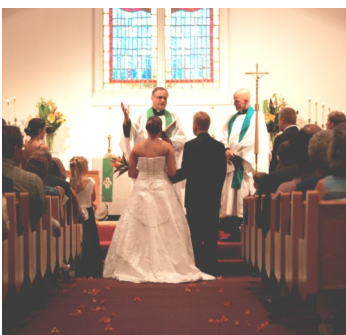
the 16th, Messiah Lutheran Grammar School opened its doors to 22 students in grade K-5. Ruth Rohloff taught Kindergarten and the sainted Debbie Sales courageously taught grades 1-5. Christina Vogelsang (now Roberts) rounded out the staff teaching music.

2004: The School of Logic (grades 7 and 8) opened with two students, Elizabeth Allensworth and Patricia Foltz. Ray Main taught the class, which met for the first time in what is now the Financial Director’s office. The next year the combined 7th/8th grade class moved into the youth room, then finally settled “down the hill.”



2005: The summer Vicar marries the Sr. Pastor’s daughter: Hans Fiene, now pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church in Channahon, IL, married Katie Huebel on Aug. 19, the whole congregation was invited to the wedding and reception. Also that month, Ray Main became the Headmaster of MLCA.

2006: The MLCA School of Rhetoric began its first school year in August 2007. Its all-too-short life was blessed with some wonderful teachers, two of whom are still with us, Liz Cottrell and Tina Hildebrand, and a vibrant (if small) student body. It also developed an international flavor with the inclusion of several foreign exchange students



from Japan, China, Denmark, and Portugal. Our prayers are that this school reopens to be a blessing to the congregation and community once again.

2008: The northern half of the upstairs Academy wing was finished out over the summer and dedicated on August 24. The upstairs currently houses rooms for art, music, and science, as well as grades 5—8. The south side remains unfinished until more classroom space is needed. Plans are underway to move the church and school library in the southeast corner of the building.



For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations. —Psalm 100:5