

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock.”  
Isaiah 26:4

# THE ROCK

Issue No. 8

August 2009

## *Special Dates*

- August 2 Circuit Forum at Immanuel
- August 4 Elders Meeting
- August 6 Board of Education Meeting
- August 9 Gideon Presentation
- August 10 Young At Heart meets here
- August 17-28 Child Care Closed for cleaning
- August 19 Newsletter articles due
- August 20 Church Council meeting
- August 30 Rally Day & church picnic
- August 30 Confirmation meeting with parents
- Sept. 1 Elders meeting
- Sept. 7 Labor Day—Office Closed
- Sept. 16 Confirmation begins
- Sept 17 Council meeting
- Sept. 18 3rd Friday
- Sept. 27 Olive Wood Display

## ROME—PAUL & THE UNDERGROUND

Last week our Vacation Bible School children learned about the first-century believers and their underground church. They needed to meet in secret to avoid persecution by the Romans. We are very blessed today to have freedom of religion in our country so that we don't have to meet in secret but there are countries in the world today where Christians still have to meet in secret to escape persecution.

Our mission focus for Vacation Bible School was a program by the International Bible Society called “My Monthly Bible Reader”. The IBS works through ministry partners to distribute issues to thousands of children. The books are illustrated—much like comic books but the message inside is to help these children grow in their Christian faith. In some areas the books are distributed each month without interference but in other areas—the rural, impoverished villages so heavily recruited by al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups—books are passed out quietly. To be caught distributing them would prompt powerful persecution.

If you feel the calling to help with this project, we will be accepting your donations through August 2nd. \$4.00 will provide a year's subscription (12 issues) for one child. To view copies of these books, go to [www.MyMonthlyBibleReader.com](http://www.MyMonthlyBibleReader.com) there is also copies of a couple of pages on the stand in the narthex. Each book is a total of 8 pages.

Please give you donations to either Cindy George or Kay Scharf.

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## Rally Day & Church Picnic

Sunday, August 30th

We start the day with Worship at 9:00 a.m.  
followed by our Rally Day Program outside  
And the Church Picnic at 11:30 a.m.

The children have been doing an “animal” theme for the summer and will have fun bringing all of their lessons together on this day.

Should be lots of fun so plan to attend!!!

## The Loose Lids of Life

### *Grumpus interruptus*

You've heard the expression: "Keep a lid on it!" Some days that's harder than others. It's summertime here in the church office. It's supposed to be quiet. I just spilled coffee from my travel mug down my shirt again. Can't seem to keep a tight lid on it. Just like much of life.

It seems that most days I just can't keep a lid on all the little interruptions in life. I lay out my plans, my course for the day and then something comes up to blow it all off course. How do I respond to these daily "interruptions" when everything seems determined to blow my world off course? Should I become angry or frustrated at the "interruption" of my plans and purposes?

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[Abigail just came in and wanted to sit on my lap at the computer and help with this newsletter].

I've found that the higher I prioritize my personal agenda, the less I can see God's purposes behind my daily "interruptions." There's an old Latin phrase, *Deus Interruptus*, "God Interrupts." God has plans for us and God wants to be a part of our lives. *Deus Interruptus*. Now I could stick to my own agenda and attitude – *grumpus interruptus* – but that really doesn't accomplish much. I've learned (slowly) that when I make myself available to *Deus Interruptus* – God's Interruptions – that incredible and miraculous things can happen.

In his *Small Catechism*, Luther wrote, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the Holy Cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest."

As you begin each new day this summer, consider inviting God to interrupt your life and agenda at any moment and any time. It could be interesting. Just add this little prayer to Luther's: "Dearest God, feel free to interrupt my agenda today with Your own at anytime or in any place. Amen." I guarantee that *Deus Interruptus* is far better than *grumpus interruptus*.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron

### **Young At Heart**

**Will hold their August meeting here at Rock of Ages**

**On Monday, August, 10th**

**At 11:30 a.m.**

**There will be a pot luck luncheon before the meeting.**

**Watch bulletin for further details.**

## Parish Ministry Assistant

Grace, Peace, and Mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

I do hope your August is going well and that the dog days of summer (ruff) aren't getting you down. For many, school will start soon and routines will become routine again. I know we are gearing up for fall programs here at the Rock. It just seems like yesterday that we finished Vacation Bible School with Paul and the Underground Church in Rome.

Paul's message about Jesus our risen Lord and Savior was good those few days the children were able to spend with Him and then worship with fellow believers in the Underground Church. On **Day One** he wanted the children to know that **God's love is a gift**. He wrote, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Romans 6:23).

On **Day Two** Paul talked about how **God's love changes us**. We aren't the same worldly selves after the Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe in Jesus. We are changed people. Paul wrote, "*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think*" (Romans 12:2).

On the **Third Day** of VBS, Paul wanted everyone to know that **God's love is always with us**. Paul showed his visitors that like how he was always chained to a Roman Guard, God's love through Jesus is always with us no matter what. Paul wrote, "*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love*" (Romans 8:38).

**Day Four** brought the beginning of the conversion by the Holy Spirit of Paul's guard Brutus Flavius Macro into believing in Jesus as His Lord and Savior. Paul talked about Jesus and how His sacrifice on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice for all time to take sins away. He spoke of how Jesus died on the cross for all of us, even though we don't deserve it, because He loves us all, and how Jesus rose from the dead in victory over death and the devil. He continued by saying that the Holy Spirit then gives us faith to believe, and Brutus was beginning to believe! Paul was telling Brutus about how **God's love saves us**. Paul wrote, "*But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners*" (Romans 5:8).

On **Day Five**, the last day of VBS, Paul encouraged his friends to tell everyone about Jesus and what He has done for us. He said that **God's love is worth sharing**. Brutus, Paul's guard was proof of that. He had become a fellow Christian, from hearing Paul always talk about Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "*For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ*" (Romans 1:16).

Never underestimate the power you have been given by the Lord. Always tell others about Jesus somehow and God will use that message for His glory. Enjoy the rest of August, and if you find time, maybe read the book of Romans in the Bible. It's Good News. Really!

In Jesus Name, Troy Dieters, Parish Ministry Assistant

## Library—Monthly Featured Item

### “Veiled Freedom”

By J.M. Windle

In 2001, American forces freed Afghanistan from the Taliban. But are Afghan people truly free?

Veiled Freedom is an incredibly entertaining fictional story of life in Afghanistan today. Three main characters all searching for the truth and freedom must cope with brutal violence, corruption, greed, discrimination and other monumental challenges. Will true freedom ever come to Afghanistan? What is the source of that freedom, and what is its cost?

With interesting characters and mysterious subplots, J.M. Windle educates the reader on the myriad of complex social, political and cultural issues that continue to plague Afghanistan. Her thorough research and experiences traveling in Afghanistan led to such accurate detail in her writing that she was investigated by government agencies to see if she received classified information. Heartbreaking yet hopeful, Veiled Freedom is a fascinating book that will teach Christians just how they should be praying for the Afghan people.



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LORD GOD IS AN EVERLASTING ROCK."  
ISAIAH 26:4**

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**Newsletter Deadline  
Aug. 19, 2009**

**LUTHERAN HOUR TIME**

Sun. 7:30 a.m. KZNT 1640 AM

## Confirmation Meeting

*Sunday, August 30*

*After the Church Picnic,  
Pastor would like to meet with  
all of the parents and children  
of our 2nd year confirmation class.*

*Time depends on when  
you have had your fill of  
some great food!!!*

### *Faith Active in Love*

"Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.' This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them." Acts 15:1-2

Hmmm, sound a little familiar? While we as Lutherans tend to put the beginning of the debate over the Gospel with Luther and the Reformation, we see in Acts that this is no new question! Even in the very early days, (maybe especially then) there was debate and dissension over this key topic- Just what does it take to be saved? As sinful human beings, living in a broken world where we learn from a very early age that nothing comes free, we find it hard to believe that there is NOTHING we can do that will merit our salvation. It is wholly and completely a gift through Jesus Christ. The way that this revelation affects everyday life and worship are profound and far-reaching- taking the apostles and believers in Acts on a journey that they could never have anticipated.

As we look into Acts, we see further questions arise, like just who is the Gospel meant for? How do we organize ourselves to serve the Lord and one another? What do we do in response to persecution? As the Lord continued to work amongst his people, these and many more issues arose. In fact, as we see the chapters unfold it becomes clear that not much in the church has changed in the past 2,000 years, at least as far as human nature goes!

This fall, our Women's Bible Study will begin digging into the book of Acts. Please join us as we journey through this action-packed, theologically stimulating study! We will also be focusing on sharing our faith with others by practical experiences along the way. We hope to see you on the first and third Mondays of the month, starting in September!

*Deaconess Sarah Sacco*



### FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$195.00  
Scholarship Fund = \$9,147.75  
Capital Improvement Fund = \$14,247.52  
Ukraine Fund = \$2,634.00

