

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 12

December 2009

Special Dates

- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 24 Ladies Guild
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving eve service
- Nov 28 Decorate the church
- Dec 1 World Aids Day Concert
- Dec 2 Children's Christmas Service
- Dec 3 Thursday AM Bible Study
- Dec 6 Good Shepherd Bake & Craft Sale
- Dec 6 VeggieTales
- Dec 8 Circuit Pastors meet at Immanuel
- Dec 9 Advent Service
- Dec. 13 Ladies Guild Christmas
- Dec 16 Advent Service
- Dec 17 Thursday AM Bible Study
- Dec 18 3rd Friday
- Dec 20 Youth Group Christmas
- Dec 24 Candlelight Service
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service
- Dec 31 New Year Eve Service
- Jan 10 De-decorate Church

The Christmas Present

I heard a knock on my door one Christmas Eve,
As I looked out my window a man I could see,
he was cold and seemed so lonely and upon a bended knee
he asked can you spare anything for me to eat...

I opened up the door and as I helped him in,
he looked up at me with such a peaceful grin,
As he drank down some coffee and had a bite to eat,
I put more wood on the fire so he could warm his feet...

Over there by the fireplace he warmed his tired hands,
I wonder where did he come from, this quiet white haired man,
but I wasn't at all afraid of his peaceful ways you see,
this man dressed in poor, almost as poor as me...

As he left he turned and thanked me for all I had done,
but he forgot to take his gloves, so out the door I run,
He was gone in the blizzard and I couldn't hardly see,
so I took his ole glove's back to the house with me...

Just a little after midnight I awoke in the dark,
there wasn't a bit of fire just glowing cinders in the dark,
and where I'd placed his gloves by my little Christmas tree,
there laid a brand new pair, and a Christmas Card for me...

and it read....

You gave me shelter and food to keep me warm,
you even tried to bring me my gloves in the storm,
so here's you a new pair,... the finest ever seen...
as an angel of the Lord
I'll be sure to tell the King....

Merry Christmas.....

by Billy M. Smallwood

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At The Time of the Cool Breeze

Many of you may not realize that Kay's brother, W.E. Lang Jr., is a pastor of Cove fellowship Ministries. The following is an article from his newsletter that I thought you might like to read. *Pastor Ren*

"As the time grew late and the Sun was in full retreat from its labor, there was a stirring in the tops of the trees. The heat of the day diminished as if spirited away by the evening breeze. It was the time of day that refreshed the land and its creatures. Even more so, the couple that was scurrying along, looking for a place of refuge from the inevitable encounter.

This had been their home. A beautiful place that was verdant with lush green growth. The fields and the trees provided plentiful food. Clearly there had been nothing to fear or to cause discomfort until now. And now fears grew out of the ground. The shadows frightened and made insecurity the ruler of their thoughts. They were distressed and not looking forward to the encounter that would come.

The sound was faint and distant at the first. The familiar steps kept moving, coming closer until the terror of confrontation overwhelmed them. So they moved into the shadows of the trees, hoping that in the darkness they would be lost to sight. They were running although they knew they shouldn't. They were hiding because their action brought the conviction that they could not tolerate His presence. There was a fear that they had never experienced; the fear of something called death. And they did not understand what death was; only that it was close.

The loving calls came. God was looking for His creatures that had crowned His creation. As the sound came nearer and nearer they drew away from the call of love. Yet they could not move away. There was a force of love that had provided a magnet that was so hard to resist. Eventually they responded to the calls of "Where are you?"

In that time of the cool breeze, which should have been a time of being refreshed, the couple laden with their guilt stood before their loving Creator and the One who would bring judgment as well as hope, faith and salvation.

For Adam and Eve had both succumbed to the temptation placed before them by the serpent. They had excuses for their action but could not excuse the outright disobedience to the command of God. Their punishment was swift and sure. They were exiled from the presence of their Creator. No longer would they enjoy that fellowship of love. Now the presence of God brought fear, shame and guilt as out the cool breeze of the Garden they entered into the hot, dry realm of a world of thistles, pain and sorrow.

Our attention must be drawn to another afternoon. This one comes not with cool breezes and refreshing but with darkness and sorrow. For in the afternoon of this day, on a little hill outside Jerusalem, there are three "trees" standing. These trees do not give nourishment. They bring forth death most horrible.

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LWML/Ladies Guild

Thank you for your continued support of the Pueblo Regional Center project.

DECEMBER 2nd

Cookies are needed for the fellowship time after the Children's Christmas Program.

DECEMBER 6th

Good Shepherd Home Craft and Bake Sale

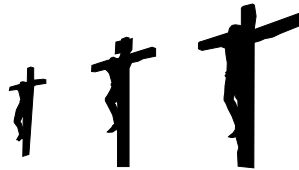
DECEMBER 13th

Ladies join us for an

An Evening of Song and Scriptures!

Our annual Christmas Party at 4pm

Rsvp: Susie Briggs 475-1485



At The Time of the Cool Breeze *continued*

In the midst of the ghastly scene of soldiers, gawkers, mourners and bystanders stands the cross with the written witness of Pilate, **Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews**. On the cross there is the One whose death will reopen the way into the presence of God. The frail form is fighting the battle of the ages from upon the tree which gives new life to those who believe. The scoffers tempt him to come down and prove the He is truly the Son of God. Those who had followed for those short three years are seeing the object of their faith and hope being severely tried by an event they did not comprehend. The graves burst open as death became a vanquished foe. The veil in the Temple is torn in two opening the way to the very presence of God. And God's great plan of salvation becomes a present reality for all mankind. Now the image of God could once again be restored to those who, in faith, relinquish their humanity in order to die to the physical and become reborn as a new creatures whose life is now given to the Father.

Two afternoons that are before us with different results. Will we stay in exile from the Father because we cannot let go of all that we are told is our humanity? Are we being deceived by the taunts that would give the lie that we are okay as long as we are fulfilled? Dare we hope that a rite, ritual or ecclesiastical blessing could procure our salvation?

Jesus told His disciples that they must take up their crosses and meet Him on Calvary to find the life that would bring them back into fellowship with God.

Have we or will we walk in the heated wind of a Friday afternoon to answer God's loving call? **"Come to me you that are weak and heavy laden and I will give you rest!"**

Bringing the Bible to Life

When I was younger I used to dream of becoming an archeologist ala Indiana Jones. What an exciting life, I thought; traveling the world, digging in the dirt, and finding long-lost treasures. Life would be an adventure! Even now, when I'm having a stuck-in-a-rut feeling day, all I have to do is open up an issue of Biblical Archeology or my Archeological Study Bible to be carried away! (okay- it's not nearly so exciting but what's a Deaconess to do?)

Anyway, these forays into Archeology have yielded lots of context to my understanding of Scripture and sometimes motivation to my studies. It is one thing to say that some of Solomon's fortifications still exist, it is entirely different to actually look at photographs depicting them and study the way they were built. It is one thing to talk about King Hezekiah, and another to see the tunnel he built and the inscription that describes what took place. While a visit to the Holy Land would be great, we can provide great opportunities to see exactly how accurate the Biblical History really is, right from our own homes. Sometimes older children can use an added challenge to help them get started digging into Scripture. A project that tests their abilities and gives them the adventure of discovery can be the needed motivation.

Some ideas for using resources: Two years ago, we used Paul Meier's books about Christmas, Easter, and the First Christians for our Advent and Lent devotions. It was quite a bit different than normal, but as we worked through them we gained answers to the questions that many of our cynical friends were asking, and strengthened our own faith in the process. Perhaps your family could benefit from this!

Building things is a great way to learn experientially. Perhaps an older child would enjoy trying to build a scale model of Solomon's temple or the Ark. For a younger child, you could show a picture of what the fallen walls of Jericho look like now, and challenge him or her to build a wall that looks like it. Then, you could try and knock it down the way the Lord had the Israelites do it! Alternatively, you could spend one of those cold winter afternoons making oil lamps, water vessels, and other pottery from play-do or clay, modeling these items on pictures of artifacts. Any way you look at it, Archeology can be a fun way to bring the world of the Bible to life for your family and encourage your children to dig into Scripture.

In Christ

Deaconess Sarah

Special Holiday Events

Wednesday, Nov. 25th—Thanksgiving Eve Service —**7 p.m.**

Let's meet and give thanks to God for all that he has blessed us with before we enjoy the turkey and football!

Saturday, Nov. 28th—Decorating the church—**9:00 a.m.**

The more hands we have the sooner we get done!

Sunday, Nov. 29th—First Sunday in Advent-Worship—**9 a.m.**

Come and start this church season with worship and fellowship!

Tuesday, Dec. 1st—World Aids Day Concert—**7 p.m.**

Bring a nonperishable food item or hygiene item for admission and enjoy the music!

Wed., Dec. 2nd—Children's Advent/Christmas Service "*John the Baptist Presents-A Savior Christ the Lord*" - **7 p.m.**

Come and enjoy this unique way of presenting the prophecies of Jesus' birth!

Sunday, Dec. 6th—2nd Sunday in Advent—Worship w/Communion—**9 a.m.**

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Parish Ministry Assistant

Grace, Peace, and Mercy from our Lord Jesus.

I know you have seen it because it was there before Halloween. It's just getting bigger now, and noisier too. You can't hide from it no matter where you go. The pressure is on. Will you survive? Yes, but at what cost? The deadline is quickly approaching not unlike the sound of hooves during the apocalypse. Our Lord's admonitions to persevere have never been so needed as they will be now because—it's the *Christmas Shopping Season!* May God have mercy on us all.

Yes, its that most wonderful time of the year when we (in the name of Christ) are to make material-istic merry, put on our best Victorian non-humbug demeanors, and smile every time we hear a bell ring. Not to mention the more than normal busyness, phoniness and put upon guilt by those who think that you should empty your bank account for their particular charity every time they call you while you eat dinner. And I'm not knocking any of it.

I would though like to encourage you to keep watch on something else this season, a keeping of your focus so to speak on something a whole lot bigger and more important than the usual chaos. Focus on a manger. A baby. The Son of God who Is God who came to die on a cross, rise from the dead, take away all of our sins, and give us His Holy Spirit to give us faith so we may believe and receive the greatest saving gift of all—no matter what we've done or where we've been. I encourage you by the power of this same Holy Spirit to keep watch on these things and constantly ponder them as you sojourn through the thick forest of the world, because our Lord Jesus said:

"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them."
Luke 12:37

So have no fear little flock. Enjoy this years spectacle knowing the real reason for the season, and what lies ahead for those who do. Tell people about it. Then if anyone by chance happens to wish you a "Merry Christmas", without a dazed look in your eyes you can simply smile and reply "Why yes it is!"

Blessings,
 Troy Dieters, Parish Ministry Assistant

Library—Monthly Featured Item

LOOK WHATS NEW!!!

For those who still have VHS players we have had some excellent videos recently donated to the library. These videos are:

- “**Jacob**” (94 minutes)
- “**Joseph**” (2 videos—185 minutes)
- “**Jesus**” (77 minutes)
- “**Jesus of Nazareth**” (3 video set—382 minutes)

Please check out these and all the other videos and DVD's we currently have on our shelves. If you would like to write a review for the newsletter on something that has really peaked your interest, please talk to Sandy Coggeshall or Kay.



**"TRUST IN THE LORD FOREVER, FOR THE
LORD GOD IS AN EVERLASTING ROCK."
ISAIAH 26:4**

Rock of Ages Lutheran Church
120 N. 31st Street P.O. Box 6941
Colorado Springs, CO 80934
Phone: 719-632-9394
Fax: 719-632-0772
Email: rockofages@qwest.net
Web Site: <http://RockOfAgesLCMS.org>

**Newsletter Deadline
December 16, 2009**

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME
Sun. 7:30 a.m. KZNT 1640 AM

***"John the Baptist Presents-
A Savior Christ the Lord"***

When: Wednesday, December 1st

Time: 7:00 p.m.

***Please join us as our Sunday School and Child Care
tell us of the prophecies of old and the fulfillment of
those prophecies.***

***Refreshments afterwards provided by our Ladies
Guild.***

Special Holiday Events—continued

Sunday, Dec. 6th—Ladies Guild Craft & Bake Sale proceeds go towards
the Good Shepherd Home—**10 a.m.**

Wed., Dec. 9th—Advent Evening Service—**7 p.m.**

Stop midweek to refocus on what this season is all about!

Sunday, Dec. 13th—3rd Sunday in Advent—Worship—**9 a.m.**

Sunday, Dec. 13th—Ladies Guild Christmas Program—**4 p.m.**

Come and share the joy of the season with your sisters in Christ!

Wednesday, Dec. 16th—Advent Evening Service—**7 p.m.**

Won't you join us for an hour of peace and calm from the hectic busy world?

Sun., Dec. 20th—4th Sunday in Advent—Worship w/Communion—**9 a.m.**

Sunday, Dec. 20th—Youth Group Christmas Party—**4 p.m.**

It's party time for all Junior and Senior high youth!!!

Thursday, Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve Service—**7 p.m.**

Come and worship our New Born King!

Friday, Dec. 25th—Christmas Day—Worship with Communion—**10 a.m.**

Take an hour from all the meal preparation, gift opening, and goodie eating to show our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ that He truly is the Best Gift of all!!!

Sunday, Dec. 27th—Worship Service—**9 a.m.**

Thursday, Dec. 31st—New Years Eve Service with Communion—**7 p.m.**

Sunday, Jan. 10—De-decorate church—**following Education Hour**

The more hands the faster it gets done! Please plan on staying for 30 minutes to an hour (depending on the
number of people helping) so we can get this final holiday task done.



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$9,461.15
Capital Improvement Fund = \$13,472.60
Ukraine Fund = \$6213.90

