

THE ROCK

Issue No. 2

Feb. 2009

Special Dates

- Jan 25 Youth Night
- Jan 27 Ladies Guild
- Jan 28 Confirmation
- Jan 30 Scrapbooking
- Feb 2 Ladies Bible Study
- Feb 4 Choir starts again
- Feb 4 Confirmation
- Feb 5 Bible Study
- Feb 10 Circuit Pastors at Redeemer
- Feb 11 Confirmation
- Feb 16 Ladies Bible Study
- Feb 18 Confirmation
- Feb 19 Bible Study
- Feb 19 Church Council
- Feb 20 3rd Friday
- Feb 21 Basement in use
- Feb 22 Youth Night
- Feb 25 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 25 Lenten Dinner & Service
- Feb 27 Scrapbooking
- March 2 Ladies Bible Study
- March 4 Lenten Dinner & Service

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Are You Ready for Lent?

What is Lent? - It's the 40-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter.

Lent is a special time for meditation, prayer and penitential practices, increased understanding of Christ's sacrifice and Resurrection, and renewal of baptismal vows and recommitment to the Christian life.

Traditional Lenten Practices help make Lent more meaningful. They include:

Fasting—purpose is to cleanse the body and mind. Give up one big meal a week and donate the money saved to charity; do without between-meal snacks; eliminate wasteful habits and expensive excesses.

Special Commitments—purpose of self-denial is that it strengthens self-discipline and self-control, helps give meaning and direction to life, increases time available for Lenten activities. Watch less television or forego some favorite sports events; forego weekend trips; give up some social events (card games, parties, dining out, etc.)

Good Deeds and Almsgiving—purpose is to strengthen Christian living; encourage compassion and charity in your daily life; ease the emotional and physical pain of people in need. Give time or money to alleviate hunger, poverty and suffering around the world and in your city, look for ways to help your neighbors, take part in community or church programs that help others.

Prayer and Reflection—purpose is to learn more about God and about yourself; learn to rely on God and on your own inner resources; receive spiritual strength. Pray the Psalms or use a devotional guide to choose Lenten prayers, think about attitudes and behavior patterns that you need to change—pray for help in changing them, make prayer a daily habit, accept difficulties patiently—through reflection try to understand them—through prayer try to accept them.

Christian Study—purpose is to increase your understanding of the Bible and Christianity; link that understanding to your daily life to inspire living God's word; strengthen your faith and hope. Read the Bible daily—discuss your readings with family and friends, participate in religious education or Bible study classes.

Church Activities—purpose is to renew and strengthen your faith; share insights about the meaning and relevance of Christ's passion; clarify thoughts and ideas about their faith. Actively participate in regular and special worship services during Lent: Ash Wednesday, Wednesday evenings, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday; Listen carefully to sermons, Bible readings and prayers.

Lent is a Time of Renewal and Preparation—
Be Ready for Easter and It's Promises!!!

Judas Asparagus

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

There is enough of gloom and doom swamping the news today to really depress people. But we have something special. We have the Bible, God's amazing Book of Good News. And sometimes it helps if we can look at it with fresh insight, a different perspective. The following is a very condensed version of the Bible as seen through the eyes of children who have heard and tried to comprehend some of its wonders. May you find some new joy in these words.

The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.'

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Honor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

(continued on page 3)

Judas Asparagus (continued from page 2)

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

Amen.

Pastor Baker

(with thanks to Wally & Joan for sharing)

Lenten & Easter Meals and Worship

Our Lenten schedule is as follows:

February 25—Ash Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Child Care

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 4—Wednesday night

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Ladies Guild

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 11—Wednesday Night

5:30 Lenten Dinner (still available)

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 18—Wednesday Night

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by the Ukraine Team

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 25—Wednesday Night

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Sports Teams

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 30—Monday Night

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Jews for Jesus

April 1—Wednesday Night

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Board of Education

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

April 5—Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

April 9—Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

April 10—Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 12—Easter

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast hosted by Elders

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Education Hour and Egg Hunt

Parish Ministry Assistant

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

Donna and I want to thank all of you who were so generous to us this past Christmas. We are so blessed. Thank You very much.

I saw something awhile back that I have to mention even though it's probably old news. Did any of you watch the NCAA Championship Football game between Florida and Oklahoma? I didn't see much as Donna and I were out to dinner and went to a couple stores. When we returned home and turned on the game I noticed that the Florida QB had those black patches under his eyes and he had written on them the words--John 3:16--in obvious silver/white marker. Every time the cameras zoomed into his face during the parts of the game I saw you could not get away from the scripture verse. I thought it was genius and I developed a new respect for the kid.

But that's not the kicker! After the game and Florida had won the National Championship, FOX Sports interviewed some wide receiver--NOT the winning QB who had just won his second championship, was the MVP of the game, the Heisman winner from the year before, and a runner up for the prize again this year (who led his team to victory over the new Heisman winner). I couldn't help but laugh to myself at FOX for snubbing the Christian. I thought, "maybe it was oversight on their part", but I then flipped to ESPN. Watching for some time I came to realize that NO ONE was interviewing the kid! (If the kid was interviewed after the game with his under-eye patches on I didn't see it). Oversight? I think not. FOX and ESPN have a history of snubbing Christian athletes. I'm proud of Tebow's courage to stand up for his faith.

This kind of stuff isn't new. Jesus was quite clear on the subject in Luke 21:17. The apostle Paul loved it. Talking about related things he said,

"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:10

Look up the words hate, insult (s), persecution, etc., in the Bible and see how often these terms are used to describe the reaction to our faith. It's a lot. The devil, the world, even our sinful selves don't want the message of Jesus Christ to be known. Satan rages at the thought that people might believe that Jesus died on a cross, rose from the dead, and took mankind's sins away. The truth is a horrible thing to those forces opposed to the Lord. Paul explains this in 1 Corinthians 1:18,

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

So rejoice Tim Tebow! Rejoice Forgiven Christian! Jesus *is* Lord! He *has* Risen! Tell everybody you meet the Good News--especially what Jesus said about Himself as recorded in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

In the name of Jesus,
Troy Dieters
Parish Ministry Assistant

Life Network Special Events

Thursday, February 19
Anita Renfro
7:00 p.m. at Rocky Mountain
Calvary

Saturday, May 30
Stephen Curtis Chapman
Concert
New Life Church

For more information on these and
other events contact Life Network
at
www.elifenetwork.com

Church Library

"Facing the Giants" - DVD

If you have the winter blahs, are discouraged by the negatives in the economy, or upset by things going on in your personal life, then this is the movie for you. It is a story about a high school football team and their downtrodden coach. The coach turns to God, trusting that God can somehow do the impossible. He and his team discover how faith plays out on the field and off. It is a story about never giving up, never backing down, and never losing faith. It is an inspiration for the "Game of Life." Some of you may have already seen or heard about this movie because it has been featured by ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News, CNN, USA Today, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, and others and was on TV recently. As one person put it: A great movie that every family in America should see.

Faith Active in Love

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jer. 29:11

Purpose. It is something that we all long for. We can spend a whole lot of time, energy, and resources trying to figure out what we are meant to do. Our deep seated need for purpose can be seen especially as we face situations in which what we thought our life purpose is suddenly (or perhaps not so suddenly) taken away. Things like a job loss, an illness or disability, retirement or simply aging often cause deep soul-searching. The crisis does not have to be negative. Facing marriage, the beginning of a family, or graduation can have the same effect. Have you ever found yourself praying fervently that you will know how everything will work out? That you can find your purpose and fulfill God's plans for you?

The verse from Jeremiah 29:11 can offer us all hope, no matter what our situation. Here, God promises Israel, and us, that He has plans. Further, these plans offer us hope and include our wholeness. In short, they are far more long-term, realistic, and sure than any plans that we may have for ourselves.

However, God is in the habit of not telling us just what these plans are. I can think of so many examples- perhaps Eve as she receives the promise that her descendent will fix the problem that Adam and she caused. Or Abram and Sarai as time passed and the promised son was not born. Think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, waiting those long 9 (closer to 10, really) months for Jesus to be born and then raising him in her home for all those years. Or, consider Anna, the prophetess who was widowed after only 7 years of marriage and then waited in the temple, praying each day for at least 60 years for the redemption of Israel.

God did have plans for each of these people. He was preparing to use them each in unique ways to bring about the salvation of humanity. Pretty important, eh? But the thing is that the lives each of them led looked pretty, well, ordinary. Sure, there might have been some exciting moments, but day to day life was lived out in pretty routine ways, doing whatever job there was to be done. By doing these things- imagine cooking, cleaning, raising families, tending flocks, praying- these people fulfilled their purpose in God's plan without even knowing it. Take heart- even if it doesn't seem like you have "purpose"- God is fulfilling his plans for you. He has prepared for your wholeness, your future. And, you can rest assured that God's plans will not crash with the stock market or be contingent upon your health or wealth.

3rd Friday

We had such fun on January 16th!!!

There were 25 people for the potluck and about 20 of those stayed to play card games and dominos!

Be sure you join us on February 20th at noon for our next event!!!

For more information, please cal Gene or Clara Luber.

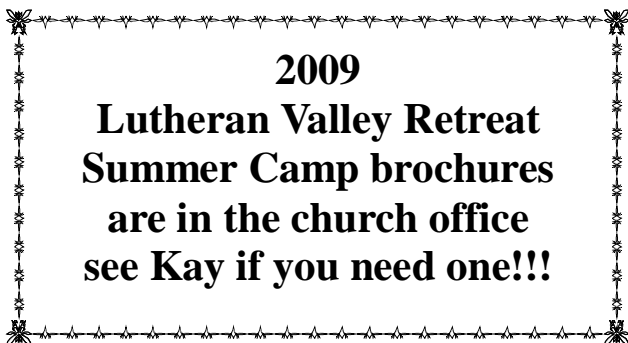
"TRUST IN THE LORD FOREVER, FOR THE
LORD GOD IS AN EVERLASTING ROCK."
ISAIAH 26:4

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Newsletter Deadline February 11, 2009

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME

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



**2009
Lutheran Valley Retreat
Summer Camp brochures
are in the church office
see Kay if you need one!!!**

Special Gifts

Due to generous Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings and other donations received, we were able to send out the following "special gifts":

Don Peterson	\$1475
John Reschar	\$1100
Westside Cares	\$1428.78
Megan Martin	\$1487



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = -0-
Scholarship Fund = \$9,147.75
Capital Improvement Fund = -0-

Please note that the Elevator Fund is now closed.
All future donations will be put into the Building Fund.



We have several items in our Creation Library In Pastor's office.

**Just speak to Pastor
if you are interested
in checking out any of these materials.**

There are DVD's and books available!

Young At Heart

Young At Heart's next meeting will be a potluck luncheon held at Holy Cross Church in Hiller Hall. The singing "Harmonizers" will entertain us, a group of 10-15 Seniors from the Senior Center in Security. Why not join us on Monday, February 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

We had a delightful potluck luncheon at our last meeting. Everyone brought a gift and we played Chinese Gift Exchange. What fun!!!

Rose Blunt (632-1701)
Reporter for Rock of Ages

More Information About Young At Heart

For people 55 and older
Meets the 1st Monday of the month
At 11:30 a.m.
Annual dues \$10.00
Purpose is to promote Christian fellowship,
Spread the Gospel of Christ,
Provide fun and educational programs,
Raise funds for local and national charities.