

THE ROCK

Issue No. 5

May 2009

Special Dates

- April 28 Ladies Guild
- May 3 Voters Assembly
- May 4 Ladies Bible Study
- May 7 Elders Meeting
- May 6 Jr. Confirmation
- May 7 Bible Study
- May 9 Horton/George Wedding
- May 11 SS Teachers Mtg.
- May 12 Circuit Pastors
- May 13 Jr. Confirmation
- May 17 Ladies Salad Supper
- May 18 Ladies bible Study
- May 21 Bible Study
- May 21 Preschool Graduation
- May 25 Memorial Day—
Office Closed
- May 31 Commissioning of
Ukraine Team
- June 3 Ukraine team leaves
- June 13 SS Teachers Appreciation
- June 18-20 Rocky Mtn. District Convention
- June 25-27 LWML Biannual Convention

Ukraine Mission

Only one month to go and the mission team will be back in the Ukraine. It seems impossible that a year has gone by since our last trip, and so much has happened. Our team this year consists of Dawn Atkinson, Dustin Atkinson, John Bentrup, Steve Hunt and myself.

The seminary has all but finished and we will be staying there the day we arrive. This will save us some housing cost as we will not have to rent a place to get rested after the long flight. The showers have been installed and a small Kitchen is ready to use. We will also stay there for one night before returning home.

One of our first objectives will be the village of Kagarlyk where we started out last year. Pastor Alexie has told us that they continue to work on bringing the Word of God to the people of this community. They live in a very poor area of Ukraine and have very little resources to operate with. Hopefully we will be able to identify some way we might be able to help.

Then on to Mikoliav, to the boys detention center and the men's mental Center. I believe we are the only ones who go to these places as they are not a part of any church or organization of any kind and last year they went out of their way to thank us for not forgetting them. We are in the process of finding out what they need the most and finding a way to get it to them. We must always work with their care givers so as not to cause problems within the units. While there we will be staying with the Millers, what a wonderful Christian family. We will be presenting our skits and crafts with the children of both of the Lutheran churches in Mikoliav and visiting with both of the pastors family's, including Victor and his family.

Then its off to the Crimea to spend time with Pastor Krause and his congregation and at the Tuberculosis center for children. He has established a storefront church and also works with a very nice bunch of older women in the area.

Then Pastor wants us to come to Dnepropetrovsk to meet with all that he has going there. We have not been there before but through pictures and stories we feel that we know them some what. At this time we will leave our newest translator. He is from this area and is a very good Christian man who can Quote scripture and can translate in a way to convey a true Christian feeling to the translated message. We feel that this is very necessary to allow the true message to be delivered to the people involved.

Then as always it will be time to come home. It is very hard to convey our feelings of what we have accomplished in this short time, although I know from past experiences that we do have a real positive impact on the folk that we meet and work with.

As always we need to let you all know that we could not do this without your support and even though we have cut a lot of corners with spending this year. We still will need money to buy items that cost more to take along than to buy there, so we ask any of you who are able to please make a small contribution to the mission and we will do our very best to see to it that it is used wisely.

Again we thank you for all of your support and prayers.

In the Lord's service, John Yenter

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Your Assignment Should You Choose to Accept...

Dear brothers & sisters,

A news story from the Netherlands recently reported on a Dutch pastor who states his conviction that God does not exist. In 2007 he published a book that is described as “the manifesto of an atheist pastor.” Neither the local or national church bodies intend to take any action. At least he is open and honest about it. But I have to wonder: What does he preach at Easter?

Maybe it just doesn't matter. There have been numerous articles published recently about “post-Christian” churches, the decline and fall of American Christianity, the secularization of the church. Maybe people just show up for the flowers and music once in a while.

Garrison Keillor, in one of his famous *Prairie Home Companion* soliloquies on the people of the fictitious little town, Lake Wobegone, said this: “My people are not Paradise people. We've lived in Minnesota all of our lives and it has taken a lot out of us. My people aren't sure they'll even like Paradise; not sure perfection is all it's cracked up to be. My people will arrive in heaven and stand just inside the gate, shuffling around. ‘It's a lot bigger than I thought it was going to be,’ they might say. Or we'll say, ‘No thank you, we can't stay for eternity. We'll just sit and have a few minute of bliss and then we have to get back.’”

There seems to be a lack of “Easter” in our lives. A lack of joy and wonder. The world seems to be wearing us down and many today doubt the story, doubt the wonder. But He is risen! That is the amazing news we share – and not just in church on Sunday morning. Jesus did not command the whole world to go to church. Jesus commanded His Church to go to the whole world.

That is the assignment He has given to you – to share this amazing story. It's too important to leave in the hands of pastors. In fact, you had best keep an eye on them as well.

In the words from that old *Mission Impossible* television series: “This is your assignment should you choose to accept it. This message will self-destruct in ten seconds.”

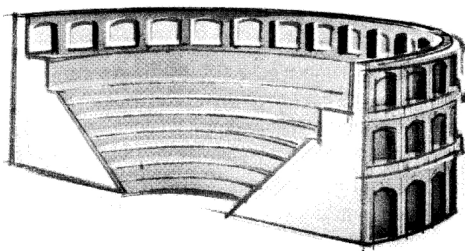
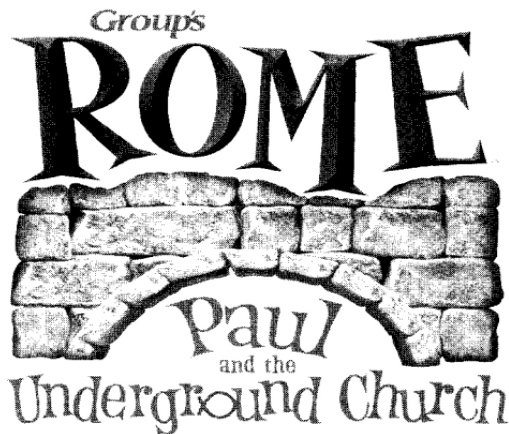
[It is not impossible!]

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron



Vacation Bible School

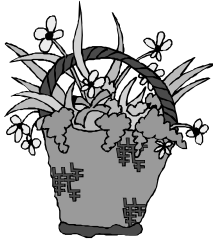


There's No Place Like Rome...

That is why we want you to join us for an exciting Bible-times adventure with Paul and the Underground Church in ancient Rome. That is the theme of our VBS this year. It will be held July 20-24. As we plan and prepare for our Rome VBS, we cherish your prayers. Will you pray that God will grant us wisdom in planning? Pray for the right staff members to join our team. And also pray that God will begin working in the hearts of the children who will visit our church during VBS. We also need volunteers! Thank-you to all who have offered to help already. Look for bulletin inserts for volunteer positions and job descriptions. See me if you would like to help.

In Christ,
Cindy George
VBS Director

Ladies Guild Salad Supper



Baskets Full of Blessings

All women of Rock of Ages and your friends are invited to the Spring Salad Supper sponsored by Ladies Guild/LWML on

Tuesday, May 19, 2009
at 6 PM.

A tasty meal and entertainment will be provided for you. We are hoping that every one will take advantage of this evening of fun, fellowship and inspiration.

If you have questions or to RSVP, please call Sue Herrmann at 635-3059.

Hope to see you there!

Library—Monthly Featured Item

"LOVE COMES SOFTLY"

2004 DVD - Story based on Janette Oke's best-selling book series, and directed by Michael Landon Jr. This is an inspiring story for the whole family with stars: Katherine Heigl and Dale Midkiff. Time period is circa the mid 1800s.

Tragedy strikes, Marty Claridge (Katherine Heigl) when she is suddenly widowed in a recently settled new community in the west. Handsome widower, Clark Davis (Dale Midkiff) suggests a platonic "marriage of convenience" until Marty can return east to her earlier home. As months pass, Marty and Clark discover more to life than their recent loss. Clark's strong Christian faith helps sustains both of them in the end. (This movie has three sequels that are not in our library.)



Parish Ministry Assistant

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

Who was the last person outside of your comfort zone, church family, or intimate circle that you talked about Jesus with? Do you know his/her name? Can you give a description or profile? What was the catapult that launched you into this Christian witnessing?

Sadly many church going Christians can't answer these simple questions. Why is that--especially since our Lord Jesus Himself told us to be spreading the Gospel message? Only those who can't answer will be able to tell you.

Our Lord Jesus lived, died, and rose again for our sins out of love. We have been given the Holy Spirit by the Father and the Son to give us and keep us in the Christian faith. The Spirit promises to give us the words we need when witnessing. How is it then that so many people who say they believe in Christ don't share that message of love, repentance, and forgiveness?

Even if you don't feel you are gifted in great oratory there are many ways to share the message of Jesus Christ. A few that come to mind are as follows:

1. T-Shirts. Wear a Christian shirt for all to read when you are about the town.
2. Jewelry. Crosses, fish, butterflies, etc., are all Christian symbols.
3. Be nice to people.
4. Serve others.
5. Be generous with time, treasure, and talent.
6. Listen.
7. Smile.

Seven is a good number to stop at. The ways to share are as unlimited as your imagination in the Lord. I encourage you in Jesus' name to do whatever it takes to plant seeds in God's kingdom, knowing that by doing so the Holy Spirit will water and grow them when the time is right. God promises that His Word will not return to Him empty.

So go for it! Peter said that we are all of the "Priesthood of all Believers". Have faith and have fun, and if nothing else, make the devil really mad.

In Him who conquered death and the devil,
Troy Dieters, Parish Ministry Assistant

Special Event

We Invite everyone

To join us

On Sunday, May 17th, after the education hour,

we will show a short video featuring the Concordia Wisconsin Bell Ringers.

For more information please talk to Dona Ebert.

Puzzle Page

Word Find

F R C B S R E Y A R P C
 N E H T R C D W E R E O
 E C L R T E N M T H F N
 H E S L H L A Y H Y Y T
 T I M I O S P D E E L I
 H V T N U W O R Y H T N
 E E U M S D S T N T S U
 G D O E A N T H A B A E
 N L B H N A L R I A F D
 I W A T D N E E R P D S
 K O E D H D S E O T A L
 A R E R L A I N T I E U
 E D A Y E Y T M N Z T O
 R T H E R E O F U E S S
 B K E N I R T C O D N A

Word Find

The words in this Bible verse is what you need to find in the grid to the left. Good luck!

“Then they that gladly received His word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and prayers.”

Acts 2:41,42



Bible Questions

What Did They Eat?

Sometimes Bible people ate unusual things. Match the person with the thing he or she ate.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| John the Baptist | Manna |
| Esau | Locusts |
| Eve | Kernels of corn |
| The disciples | Fruit |
| David | Pottage |
| The Israelites | Showbread |

Finish the question without looking up the reference!

- 1) If God be for us _____? Romans 8:31
- 2) Can the leopard _____? Jeremiah 13:23
- 3) Who made man’s _____? Exodus 4:11
- 4) Could not thou watch _____? Mark 14:37
- 5) Am I my brother’s _____? Genesis 4:9
- 6) Why do you call me “Lord, Lord” and _____? Luke 6:46
- 7) Judas, would you _____? Luke 22:48
- 8) Where is your _____? Luke 8:25
- 9) Who _____? Luke 8:45
- 10) How shall they hear _____? Romans 10:14

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

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

Newsletter Deadline
May 20, 2009

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

Women's Retreat

Saturday, June 6

Calling all Daughters of the King: come spend a day with your Lord and Savior in the company of your sisters! Have you ever wondered why certain types of worship or devotion appeal to you? Have you ever looked around at your sisters in the faith and marveled that God has chosen people who are so radically different to make up His body here on Earth? You are invited to join us as we look at our personalities, discover women of the Bible who share some of our traits, and experience different devotional techniques to enrich our time spent with Christ. St. Paul says it best:

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its part are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all

baptized by one Spirit into one body- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say "because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be a part of the body. And if the ear should say "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body, it would not for that reason cease to be a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." 1 Corinthians 12:12-18

Sarah Sacco, Deaconess



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$135.00
Scholarship Fund = \$9,147.75
Capital Improvement Fund = 13,472.60

