

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 8

August 2010

Special Dates

- July 26 Softball Game
- August 2 Softball Game
- August 3 Elders
- August 6 Baby Shower for Roy & Ruth Fezatte
- August 9 Book Club
- August 16 thru 27 Child Care Closed for cleaning
- August 19 Church Council
- August 21 Christmas Scrap-book Cards
- August 24 Sunday School Teachers Meeting
- August 29 Rally Day
- August 29 Church Picnic
- September 6 Labor Day—Office Closed
- September 9 Thursday AM Bible study starts
- September 16-18 Photo Directory pictures taken
- September 20 Ladies Bible Study Begins



We had a great week at our VBS, traveling back in time to EGYPT and visiting with Joseph, learning about the One True God who is always with us in good times and bad. A big thank you to all who helped during the week. You all did a AWESOME job. We had between 42-49 adults and teens who helped everyday and many others who participated in other ways.

A special thank you to all the ladies who made costumes—Sandy Cogshall, Ardie Fezatte, Kay Scharf, Leslie Humber, Laura Ruth Johnson, Elisabeth Tatusko, Sue Herrmann, Karen Yates, and Marilyn Baker. A big thank you to all of the “Marys” in the congregation who prayed for us and all those who provided the supplies we needed for the week. It took all of us working together to make it happen.

Thank-you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, who provided the food for the picnic on Friday.

We thank God for his love and protection throughout the week. There were 106 children enrolled, and an average daily attendance of 92. On Tuesday, we had 96 children. There will be pictures on our web site at Rock-OfAgesLCMS.org by August 1st if you are interested.

With the help of the congregation we raised over \$383 for our mission project. The money will be used to buy culturally appropriate books for children in Nigeria, Africa so that they can learn to read.

Thank you for your support and prayers. We would ask that you would continue to pray for the children and their families who attended VBS that the Holy Spirit would continue to work in their lives and bring to faith those that do not know Him.

In His Service,
Cindy George, Kim Foster, Suzie Ricker
VBS Directors

*Special thanks to Cindy, Kim and Suzie for
their hard work and dedication
in organizing our VBS this year!!!*

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The Week in Texas

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Our beloved synod has just concluded its 64th Convention. Delegates gathered down in Houston, Texas beginning Saturday, July 10, under the theme *One People – Forgiven*. Internet articles informed us of the many daily events: choirs of 300, Texas style bar-b-cue, ice cream socials... There were 603 pastoral delegates, 592 lay delegates, and 371 advisory delegates registered. So barbecues and ice cream socials can play an important part in getting that many Lutherans to smile at each other and work together for a week under the hot Texas sun.

And these delegates did have some difficult issues to deal with during this convention. In our Adult Bible Study we recently reviewed some of the suggestions gathered by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance. Most of these issues were referred back to the committee once again. Delegates chose to keep having the Convention every three years rather than switch to every four years as recommended in an attempt to save money. A major change was made in that in the future the Synodical president will be elected directly by congregations rather than by delegates to the Convention. They also determined to streamline our Synodical structure by the elimination and consolidation of a plethora of boards under two main boards: Office of National Missions and Office of International Missions. Old commissions will still remain, coordinated under these two.

The delegates did choose a new direction for the Synod electing Reverend Matthew Harrison as our new president. And the delegates once again pondered the usual topics of “recruiting and retaining church workers, affirming that we are indeed against homosexuality as being followed by the ELCA and against abortion.” We will also work with our Lutheran partner church in Germany to form a Luther Museum, Outreach and Visitor Center in Wittenberg.

The theme of this 64th Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was “One People – Forgiven.” This was the focus for the daily worship and devotions and Bible Studies. Perhaps related to this, one resolution passed was the formation of another task force, this one to promote greater harmony within our synod. Near the end of the sessions, the convention chaplain led delegates in a “Service of Reconciliation,” encouraging all members of synod to set aside their differences, forgive one another, and vigorously share the Word of God and His forgiveness with the world. In other words, the life of the Church is still a challenge, much like it was already in the Book of Acts.

These are appropriate challenges, and they will be difficult ones. Maintaining a synod of over two million souls is not an easy task. But then we remember that Jesus warned it would be difficult. But He also assured that His Church would not fail. And so the delegates have now returned to their 6,000 plus congregations. And we remember that our Synod is built of these congregations = you! You are the Church. And it is right here that the Word of Christ must be shared. We give thanks for a great Synod that helps us maintain the truth and purity of that Word.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron



Letter from Ukraine to Rock of Ages

To Pastor Baker, Tom Briggs, John Bentrup, Pete Coggshall, Doug Atkinson, Alan Peterson, Walter Avila, Jay Pretzer, and the Congregation of Rock of Ages:

Greetings in God's love in the Name of Jesus Christ.

In this letter we are thankful to Jesus and your congregation for all your efforts here in Kagarlyk. You have helped us tremendously in the renovations on the 2nd floor of our church. Thank you for the monetary gift to get this project done. We are excited for it and very thankful deep down in our heart. We pray that God will recognize the efforts and generosity you show us.

2 Corinthians 9:8-15

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."^[a] 10Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

12This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

When we finish with the renovations we will send a full report of the work.

We are also sincerely thankful for the mission teams from the past three years who work with our children. This work has brought a very positive result. The teams are always very well prepared and the children here wait anxiously for the two weeks prior to their arrival. The work of the missionaries is not only for the children, but also makes the adults think of eternal life with God. Even in this way, God keeps His plan going to help all of us survive and look forward to His promise.

May God bless you all, your church, your homes, and your families. Bless your work in God's name.

We pray for you and ask that you continue to pray for us and our church. God's will be done. Remember **1 Peter 5:10-11** And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Sincere wishes and love to all of you from all of us here in Kagarlyk, Ukraine.

June 15, 2010

Help Wanted

Cindy has requested a year off from VBS so we are looking for one or more people to put together next years Vacation Bible School. Cindy has promised to put together a guide/manual for you to use. If you can help give Cindy a break, please talk to Kay Scharf.

SPECIAL THANKS

*To Barbara Hermansen
and Terry & Kathie Horton
for volunteering
to work on the new Photo Directory*

Library—Monthly Featured Item

“Chonda Pierce this Ain’t Prettyville”

A fun DVD by a good Christian comedian. Take a trip to small town America and visit “The Pierce Memorial Funeral Home and Taxidermy”; take a trip to The Holy Land with 30 rednecks; learn about the Amazing Exploding toilet; and then stop for Fried Bologna sandwiches at the Café. All this plus a moving testimony of her faith make this a great DVD for relief of stress and just a down-right good time.



Ukraine Mission Update

It’s hard to believe that our mission to Ukraine has already come and gone for 2010. This brief article is intended to give you an idea of what the Rock of Ages mission team experienced.

The team started the mission in Odessa where we purchased children’s Bibles and stayed at the seminary. Without receiving some of our luggage (especially all five tubs), we proceeded to Kagarlyk. Misha, the elder from the church, greeted us warmly – it was good to see this old friend of the mission. We also met Ura, the youth director who is preparing for seminary in the fall. He and his family are a loving addition for this village church. Our first evening was spent with children performing the lesson and playing games – the crafts would have to wait until the tubs arrived. We attended church service the next day and had a short social time with the fifteen members of this small congregation. Later that evening, we received the tubs and held a VBS session with the children. The next day, Aaron Clymer & Ura held a guitar sing-along for the youth. It was a lot of fun. They would love to have us back again as Misha states in his letter to our congregation. (*The letter is on page 3 of this newsletter*)

Our mission continued to Savran where we have never visited. Pastor Nikoli and family have a very active program in this area. We visited an orphanage, a retirement home and two outlying villages. The children of the orphanage were combined with another orphanage in the summer months so there were about 70 kids to minister to. We would have loved to have more time here so our goal next year will be to see these children more than once. At the retirement home, Pete and Nikoli preached, we sang songs and visited the retirees. We felt their warmth and love in our short time there. Both of the villages had a small church where we held our program of skits, songs, games and crafts. Our time in Savran was great but could have been longer as there is a lot of work to be done there.

Our last stop was in Mykolaiv at our old friends, the Miller family. Our mission work here was an orphanage, two children’s centers for the mentally handicapped, a TB center, the boys home and the men’s center – these last two are familiar destinations as we have been there in past years. Natasha Miller did the research to find the centers most in need and we use this opportunity to get the Word of God into these places. Each day, our visits were short but our program was well received. Culturally, it is difficult to comprehend the isolation society puts upon these people but seeing the warmth in the faces of the children and the men helped us realize that we needed to be there to plant the seed of the Spirit.

Overall, the mission went very well. We are thrilled to have had this opportunity and delighted to share all that we experienced with you. Watch for our presentation sometime in the near future and continue to keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers.

Sunday School News

Just a Note from Sunday School...

Hey Everyone! What a great time we are having in Summer Sunday School! The Dinosaurs are all coming back to life this summer. Thanks to all the teachers and supporters that we have had during lesson time. I would like to invite all the kids to attend as there is something special each Sunday. We will be taking a field trip to the Dinosaur Museum in August and we are planning on a Game Day with a “Big” and “Messy” craft on July 25th! If you are planning on being there that Sunday, I suggest you bring some clothing that won't be in danger if paint or other decorating products get on it.

Please keep all the Sunday School in your thoughts and prayers and thank you for your continued support and bringing the kids back to church time! Don't forget about Rally Day towards the end of August! See you back in time!

In His Name!



Karen Bodine
SS Superintendent

Parish Ministry Assistant

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Hebrews 13:5-6

Priorities. What are yours? For some it's power and prestige. For others it's position in life. Still others think the size of their bank account and other assets are what's important. Everyone has their own set of priorities.

I would like to encourage you to not listen to what the world says your priorities should be. Money is the key to everything secular. Money is god for many. Money gets you what you need, in a secular world. Anything less is looked down upon. It's all about priorities.

Money isn't in itself evil. The Bible says the problem is the “love of money”. Nasty things can come with the love of money in the way we live our lives and the way we treat other people. Even in Jesus day the love of money was a problem. In the book of James (Jesus' half-brother) James talks about how we need to treat everyone the same no matter what their bank account is. So what do we do? Give up all our money? No, I don't think so.

I think we need to recognize money for what it is, a tool. We use it while we are here in this world, but that's it. We need to be careful that money and all the worldly stuff that comes with it doesn't become our god. We live in this world but we are not a part of this world. Our home is waiting for us with our Lord. We need to focus on that—on what Jesus did on the cross (and after) - and not only live for Him but live in Him, not letting anything distract us from why we are here, even the love of money. Will worldly people hate us for it? Yes. But the Bible makes it clear that God is with us, we don't need to be afraid. As the writer of Hebrews put it in the verses up above, “What can man do to me?”

Priorities. Amen.

In the Love of Jesus,
Troy Dieters, ROA-PMA

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

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Newsletter Deadline August 18, 2010

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

Book Club Upcoming Selections

Whether or not you enjoy a book or agree with the thesis, you are invited to join in the discussion on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at The Rock.

August : Origin by J.A Konrath Described as a techno-thriller in the spiritual realm, this book is an action-packed summer read. It is available as a free download at: www.jakonrath.com/freebies.htm#origins

September: Son of Hamas by Ron Bracken. Reviewed in a previous newsletter, this timely selection describes life in a religion and culture we are increasingly in contact with.

October: The Red Tent by Anita Diamont: This fictional book begins with the Biblical account of Dinah, one of Jacob and Rachel's daughters.

November: Kitty My Rib by E. Jane Mall. Ever wonder what Martin Luther's wife's life was like? This Biography of Katherina Von Bora will open up our Lutheran heritage.

December: Do you have a book you'd like to discuss? Suggest it to Deaconess Sarah sarahdsacco@live.com or Karen Grassi.

AIDS Walk 2010:

Join team Sacco in supporting the ministry of HIVCareLink on August 14 in Denver. We can use walkers as well as donations. You can access at <http://www.aidswalkcolorado.org> Currently, CareLink is renewing transportation ministry here in Colorado Springs, as well as running a monthly play group for families impacted by HIV/AIDS. You can make a difference in this mission!

New Photo Directory

Check your calendars and reserve September 16, 17, & 18 to get your photos taken for our new directory.

If you already know you won't be in town, please arrange to have your photo taken by Marilyn Baker so we will have one to put into the directory.

More info will be coming to you soon!

Hope to see you there!!!



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$12,741.15
Capital Improvement Fund = \$14,677.75
Ukraine Fund = \$7806.87
Bathroom = - \$2774.30

