

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 12

December 2010

Special Dates

- Nov 28 Advent Begins
- Dec 1 Children's Christmas Service
- Dec 3 World Aides Day Concert
- Dec 6 Ladies Bible Study
- Dec 8 Advent Service
- Dec 9 Thursday AM Bible Study
- Dec 11 Jr. & Sr. Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 12 Ladies Guild Christmas Party
- Dec 13 Book Club
- Dec 15 Advent Service
- Dec 17 3rd Friday
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service
- Dec 27 Office Closed
- Dec 31 New Years Eve Service
- Jan 9 De-decorate church

The Rock Of Ages

LWML

Would Like To Invite
All The Ladies Of Rock Of Ages
To The

SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: 12 December

Where: At the Church

Time: 4:00 pm

Inside this Issue

<i>Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!</i>	2
<i>Love Came Down At Christmas</i>	2
<i>I Can't Believe That's Me</i>	3
<i>Library Selection of the Month</i>	3
<i>Book Club</i>	4
<i>World Aides Day Concert</i>	4
<i>People of the Month</i>	4

**Please Being a Friend
and**

If you want, bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies.

Please RSVP by Friday , 7 December

To: Susan Avila @ 487-7273

or

Leslie Humber @ 531-5069

Merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

It's that time of year again – whatever time that is. We are such a confused people, trying to be so politically correct, trying to please everyone – except our Lord and Savior whose birth we celebrate. “**Peace** on earth, goodwill toward men,” the angels sang. But goodwill seems to have gotten lost in the glitter and frenzied shopping.

And **Peace**? Jesus forewarned us, “Do not suppose that I have come to bring **peace** to the earth. I did not come to bring **peace**, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34). A sword. That seems to be the effect Christianity has on the world. Nothing new. That has always been the case whenever and wherever the Gospel is proclaimed. Conflict. Many will reject that Word, not simply ignore it, but violently fight against it.

But we who have heard that beautiful story are blessed to gather once again this year and celebrate. In John 14:27, Jesus spoke to His disciples, “**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” As we gather together once again to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we gather in that **peace** He gives to His own.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). Faith places us securely at the foot of the Cross. There Jesus assured us of eternal **peace** with God. With sins forgiven in the blood of Jesus we are at **peace** (Col. 1:20). “For He himself is our **peace**, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph.2:14).

May that **peace** be yours this Christmas as you gather once again with brothers and sisters in the one true faith to celebrate Christmas. The source of that true **peace** of Christmas is described by St. Paul: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness” (Galatians 5:22).

“And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron

Love Came Down At Christmas

Children's Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 1st

7:00 p.m.

Join us as the Children tell us the meaning of the Advent wreath and what each candle represents!

See the joy and enthusiasm in the faces of our little ones as they tell the story of Jesus's birth!

A great start to the Advent Season!

Then join us afterwards for refreshments served by the Ladies Guild.

I Can't Believe That's Me

"I can't believe that's me." That's my primary thought when I look at pictures of myself on the Ukraine Mission trip. It's not that I have trouble believing that I traveled to a foreign land and spread God's Word. I'm a Christian – it's my obligation to do that. The pictures that render personal disbelief are those that depict me in roles that, before the trip, I would have never attempted.

There's the picture of me holding a Ukrainian baby. We were in Kygarlyk. There was a 12 year old girl who came to all of our presentations. However, she was often limited in participation as she took care of her 10 month old brother. When she would try to put him down so that she could do a craft or play a game, he would cry and she would have to stop. On our last day there, we pulled out the brightly colored parachute to play with. The girl's face lit up as she eagerly cried "Parachuta! Parachuta!" But then her face fell when she saw her brother firmly ensconced in her arms. I, without thought, indicated that I could hold the baby. As she thrust the boy into my arms, I wanted to immediately hand him back. I've always been a bit afraid of babies – they're small, squirmy and seem to make irrational decisions. But when I saw the girl, so often put in the role of an adult, gleefully run off to play, I steeled myself. I held, cajoled and played with the baby for the next 45 minutes while his sister got to be a kid.

Then there's the photo of Dawn Atkinson, Megan Martin, a couple of Ukrainian girls and me crammed into the back seat of a passenger van. When we were in Savron, geographical distance between the churches dictated that up to 16 people could be in a van meant for 10. On this day, I found myself squished between Dawn and Megan, with Megan's elbow lodged in my ribs and me sitting halfway on Dawn's lap. As someone who greatly values her personal space, this situation should have been unbearable for me. But in the picture, I'm smiling – not a tight, just-get-through-it smile but a full-on grin. I remember being physically uncomfortable but I more recall feeling happy. I was happy because as we bounced down dusty back roads, the van, brimming with God's children, was also over-filled with laughter, singing and joy.

Every morning in Ukraine, I would pray that God would open my eyes to the opportunities that He wanted me to see. I had expected, and often found, occasions to share the wonderful news of redemption in Jesus Christ. I did not, however, anticipate that God would show me ways to break out of my well-worn habits. While there are still times when I can't believe it's me in those photos, I now stare at them in appreciation of how God work's in our lives. I can't wait to see what He does next. Karen Twenhafel

Library—Monthly Featured Item

"HERE I STAND" - The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther - DVD

- 1) Luther's Life (70 minutes)
- 2) Luther's Legacy (60 minutes)
- 3) Bonus Feature: In the Footsteps of Martin Luther (27 Minutes)

We have several items about Martin Luther in our library but this is a good addition for those who would like to know more about Dr. Luther. The DVD was recommended by one of our church members.

Luther never wanted to be a renowned world shaper, though he now usually ends up in the list of the top 10 persons who were most influential in shaping our modern world. However, Martin Luther was more concerned about saving his own soul. In finding his salvation, he rediscovered foundations of Biblical Christianity that shook the late Medieval world and challenged its assumptions about religious authority and how God saves us. In this DVD, we come to understand Luther, what motivated him, the turning points in his life, the issues he confronted, the opposition that sought to defeat him, and the profound changes brought about under his leadership and ministry.



**"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>

Book Club Upcoming Selections

Join us the Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. to discuss these selections. Lively discussion from multiple viewpoints is appreciated!

December: The Christmas Sweater by Glenn Beck. This semi-autobiographical tale from the childhood of Glenn Beck brings the struggle of gift-giving and receiving into light. What is the meaning of a Christmas Sweater? There are several copies of this book available at the Pikes Peak Library, as well as at local book sellers.

January: Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall & Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent. What lessons can people from different backgrounds, rich and poor, learn from each other? Can the helped become helpers? Explore the conflicting emotions involved in loving as Jesus loved in this biography. There are 3 copies available through the Pikes Peak Library District.

Newsletter Deadline December 15, 2010

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME

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

World AIDS Day Concert

Is nearly here! Thank you for your prayers, and to everyone who has volunteered time and goodies for the concert. We look forward to seeing you Friday, December 3, at 7 pm for prayer, local Christian music, and to help stock the Southern Colorado AIDS Project food bank.

Featured performances by:

Rock of Ages Church Choir and Bell Choir
Mike Burns
Jeff Brady Glycken
Neil Kovack
Carmen Anthony Sacco

People of the Month

Please look for this new section in the upcoming months. We will be featuring a young child, a teenager, and an adult in each newsletter in 2011. Thank you in advance for sharing some of yourself with the church family, and helping us to get to know each other better.

Sarah Sacco,
Deaconess



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$12,945.91
Capital Improvement Fund = \$15,391.85
Ukraine Fund = \$10,148.00
Bathroom = — \$3419.30

