

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

# THE ROCK

Issue No. 2

February 2010

## *Special Dates*

- Feb 1 Ladies Bible Study
- Feb 2 Elders Meeting
- Feb 4 Bible Study
- Feb 9 Circuit Pastors meet at Redeemer
- Feb 13 Demolishing Strongholds Discipleship Study
- Feb 14 Valentine Luncheon
- Feb 15 Ladies Bible Study
- Feb 16 Book Club
- Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 17 Lenten Dinner hosted by Child Care
- Feb 17 Lenten Worship
- Feb 18 Bible Study
- Feb 19 3rd Friday
- Feb 20 Confirmation moves to Saturday mornings
- Feb 24 Lenten Dinner hosted by Ladies Guild
- Feb 24 Lenten Worship
- Feb 27 Demolishing Strongholds Discipleship Study
- Feb. 28 LVR Sunday
- Feb 28 Youth Night

## **Demolishing Strongholds—A Discipleship Study**

Today it is important to be ready when challenged to take a stand for our faith. Whether it is in the supermarket, the work place, or in the hallways at high school. We want answers to the potentially embarrassing questions about Christianity that come up in our day-to-day life situations.

*Demolishing Strongholds* features four highly engaging speakers: Ken Ham, Bill Jack, Charles Ware, and Carl Kerby. Each will prepare you to stand firm on the authority of God’s Word, and each will equip and challenge you to activate your faith!

*Demolishing Strongholds’* strategic topics include developing a biblical worldview, tips on how to engage and reach friends for Christ, confidence boosting ideas on how to confront our evolutionized culture, examples of “cultural brainwashing,” and an inspiring challenge on how to be God’s players in the game called life.

We will be starting a 6 week comprehensive DVD-based study that will inspire you to go to the next level in your Christian walk and will also challenge you to live out your faith. We will start on February 13th and meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays through April. We will meet from 10:00 a.m. until Noon on these days.

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend and the material also works well for teens so please encourage your youth to attend also.

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Our sessions will be:

Feb. 13—War of the Worldviews—Ken Ham

Feb. 27—Evolution in Pop Culture—Carl Kirby

March 13—Counterfeit Reality—Bill Jack

March 27—Answers to Difficult Issues: How to Share Your Christian Worldview—Carl Kerby

April 10—Simple Tools for Brain Surgery—Bill Jack

April 24—Special Forces for the Savior—Charles Ware—this day we will go until 12:30 to wrap up everything from the weeks before with a final short video.

## The Sign of Jonah

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

How quickly the seasons turn. Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent arrive on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Our theme for this year's midweek worship services will be on "The Sign of Jonah." Sound a bit fishy? Actually, it should be a natural fit. When the Jews asked Jesus for a *sign* He replied, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah" (Matthew 12:38). After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with Good News of God's grace for mankind.

Those people who came to Jesus weren't really searching for an answer. They were testing Jesus, which is not really a good idea. Jesus called them "an evil and adulterous generation." Whoa! That seems a bit strong. He called their bluff. And He did give them a sign. But what did it mean?

Sometimes, we too, treat Jesus that way, thinking we need some sign for our lives. But in reality we simply don't want to hear the words we've been given. The words of Ash Wednesday ring in our ears, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." We simply need to listen and learn from the Word He has given, accepting the sign before us. That Word came down to us at Christmas. It continues to come down to us today. God calls down to us, down into the darkness of this world, this chaos. Jonah didn't want to hear it. The Jews before Jesus didn't want to hear it. Do we?

Our special midweek services this year will be a time for us to explore the meaning of "The Sign of Jonah." It will be a time to sit, to listen, to hear that Word. And as we follow Jonah on his journey as we will also follow Jesus on His way to the Cross. So come, let's follow Jonah and Jesus on two amazing journeys this Lenten season. It might not be as fishy as it sounds.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Ron

### LWML/LADIES GUILD

*Thank you Rock of Ages for your contributions to the Pueblo Center and the College Care Packages!*

Join us for the Lenten Dinner Wednesday Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Casseroles and Crock Pots!**

Salad, Rolls, and Dessert

Freewill Offering: LWML Delegate Fund

**\*\*\*\*\*Our Hospitality Committee needs your help!\*\*\*\*\***

**If you are interested in donating food, time, or funds for our funeral luncheons,**

**PLEASE contact: Marlys Klessig, Fran Gierard, or Mary Ann Collins.**

**Thank you to all who have helped in the past, especially Ellen Herrmann who has given years of service to the planning, set up, and serving of the Rock of Ages funeral lunches.**

## Library—Monthly Featured Item

You Are Invited...

To a dinner with Jesus of Nazareth. This is the premise of the intriguing read, *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory. Nick, one of the main characters, is a typical American – overworked, cynical and not particularly God-fearing. He is not an atheist but has doubts about himself, his marriage and how God figures into his life. When the invitation to dinner with Jesus lands on Nick’s desk, he first thinks it’s a prank. But he goes anyway and finds himself before a thirty-something man in a blue business suit. The man introduces himself as Jesus. Nick thinks of a few smart-alecky responses but settles on “Uh-huh.” With that exchange, both the dinner and book take off.

The conversation between Nick and the man calling himself Jesus begins the way most conversations between strangers start, by trading personal information. In an unassuming manner, “Jesus” speaks of his birth in Bethlehem, childhood in Nazareth and how his family called him “Yeshua.” Nick attempts to leave the dinner but is stopped when Jesus reveals personal knowledge of Nick. Still struggling with his doubts that “Yeshua” is indeed God, Nick stays. What follows is an interesting conversation covering family dynamics, world religions and God’s desire to have an all-encompassing relationship with each of us.

The book, 100 pages long, is a quick read but one that will stay with you. You can’t help but wonder along with Nick if this **man** is Jesus. Nick’s doubts are your doubts and you want the answers to his questions. Just like Nick, by the time dinner and the book are ending, you don’t want to leave. I recommend that you R.S.V.P. quickly to your own dinner with a perfect stranger.

Karen Grassi



### Rock Of Ages Book Club

If you do read *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger*, please plan to join the kick-off meeting of the ROA Book Club. We will discuss this book and its implications for our own relationship with God. We will also determine our next book selection. We will meet at the church on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome. February’s book is in the church library, available at Christian and secular bookstores or online. It is a quick read, so you could share a copy with a friend. If you have any questions, please ask Deaconess Sarah or Karen Grassi.

### Young and Not So Young

*Did you know that we have about 50 people between High School and the age of 40?*

We would like to invite these people together for a Valentine’s Lunch on February 14th to just have time to sit and visit with each other and to meet new friends. We will offer free child care and the lunch would be on us.

Keep an eye out for more details and plan to join us and just enjoy a few hours of child free fellowship and fun!

## For You

*Philippians 2:5-8: “You should think in the same way Jesus Christ does. In his very nature he was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death. In fact, he died on a cross” NIV*

As we venture into Lent, I find myself contemplating the mystery of the incarnation, expressed in this hymn from the very early church. It is incredible to think that the Creator of the Universe, the omniscient, omnipotent One, would give up these very qualities to take on my humanity.

While I have often contemplated what the incarnation meant for Jesus as a pre-born baby during Advent, a newborn at Christmas, and a man hanging on the cross on Good Friday, I haven’t often stopped to contemplate what this meant as he grew between these phases of his life. The Bible says “Jesus became wiser and stronger.” (Luke 2:52 NIV)

Can you imagine Jesus trying to say his first words- pointing at the fig on the table as his mother Mary tried to decipher? His frustration as he struggled to express himself? Can you see Jesus holding onto Joseph’s hand as he braved that first wobbly, unsure step, and then fell? Dropping his cup on the floor time and again as he “discovered” the gravity He created? Giggling as he played “peek-a-boo?” Can you imagine him crying when Mary walked away, crawling after her calling “Mama, Mama” because as a human he didn’t yet know she was in the next room?” How humiliating! While Jesus didn’t sin, he experienced everything it means to grow up, to be tempted, to be hungry, to lose someone he loved. He probably even got the flu!

The most amazing thing to contemplate is that he did this out of love FOR YOU! FOR ME! I can’t even begin to fathom how deep and wide His love is; how much I matter to Him. It is hard to believe He would give up so much just to save me, to bring me back into a relationship with Him. But that is the Good News. He even died on a cross for me, and for YOU. Praise God.

*Deaconess Sarah*

## The Meaning of the LCMS Logo Cross



Introduced in 1984, the LCMS logo cross is three crosses in one. It declares that “we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity.”

The open arms point upward toward God in prayer and openly receive God's grace. The lower arms point down, as if open to embrace the world with God's love.

The 12 individual parts of the logo cross remind us of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles. The four arms appear to be in motion, as we urgently tell the world what God's love in Jesus Christ means to us and, uniquely, as Missouri Synod Lutherans.

The Cross logo is a registered trademark of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and must be used in conformance with the specifications set forth in the Graphic Standards Manual at [www.lcms.org/?11222](http://www.lcms.org/?11222).

## Parish Ministry Assistant

Grace, peace, and mercy from God our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit. Amen.

*“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5*

Have you gotten your significant other (or possibly yourself) a Valentines Day Present yet? Well, while you shop, I hope you consider the gift of love you have been given by God this chocolate season. He didn't send pajama grams or teddy bears, buy roses or candy or jewelry, or write sweet little love poems that specifically rhyme with blue—for you. No, much more than any of these He gave of Himself out of love and mercy (grace) He has for us. Even though we are sinful, God still came down to His creation and died on the cross. But Jesus didn't stay dead—no—He rose from the dead taking our sinfulness (our transgressions) away from us. He then gave us His Holy Spirit, who gives us faith and lives with us, so that we may believe in Him and be saved.

But still, if you want get goodies too, go for it! There's nothing wrong with that. I like the chocolates with the yellow, orange, pink, and brown crème in them. Donna likes the ones with nuts and caramel. How we've spent so many Valentine's Days together is a mystery—and gift—of God.

No matter what you do though, I encourage you to focus on what true love is in Jesus our Lord.

In Christ,  
Troy Dieters, PMA

## Ukraine Team Update

With the new year those involved with the mission are now meeting twice a month making plans for another trip to Ukraine in June. The 2010 team as of now includes Megan Martin, Karen Grassi, Pete Coggeshall, Aaron Clymer, Dawn Atkinson, and John Bentrup. Pastor Alexey Navrotsky of the Ukrainian Lutheran synod has sent us a formal invitation to minister again with the lay Pastor in Mikolaiv where in the past years we have been visited a mentally challenged mens home and a boys detention facility. There also might be new opportunities to minister at an orphanage and prison. We will also again be visiting the village congregation in Kygarlik where we have ministered the past two years. Pastors Alexey also is making plans for us to minister to three small congregations around the city of Savron where we have not previously visited. We are very excited about this new opportunity around Savron. The team is also planning for our big fund raising event when we host the Lenten dinner on March 17. The team is asking for prayers on the following items and tasks.

\* Give prayers of thanks that God has given ROA this ministry to further his Kingdom in a land open and safe to hearing his saving gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\* Give prayers of thanks for the wonderful Christian fellowship all past team members have enjoyed with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine.

\* Give prayers of thanks for Sarah Sacco, John & Gladys Yenter and others for their skills and past experience as they help the 2010 team members prepare.

\* Give prayers of thanks for the \$7200 donated so far for this mission.

\* Pray for all the people in the Ukraine as they too are suffering greatly from the current economic recession.

\* Pray to calm any anxieties that our new 2010 team members Aaron, Karen, & Pete may have with this new experience they are preparing for.

\* Pray for the spirit to supply us with wisdom and creativity as the team and supporters work to prepare lessons, crafts, music, messages, and devotions.

\* Pray that the Lord provides us with generous donors to provide the additional \$6000 needed to pay the expenses for the 2010 mission.

Yours in Christ,  
John Bentrup

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

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## **Newsletter Deadline February 17, 2010**

### **LUTHERAN HOUR TIME**

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

## **Just a Quick Note from Sunday School~**

We have a loaded calendar full of exciting things coming up the next few months. The Sunday School program is in full swing and we're looking forward to some fun new things and events. We will be planning something very special for Easter this year as well as trying to make a few trips with groups to LVR. More details will follow as the events get closer. Thanks for all your prayers and support!

IN HIS NAME!

Karen Bodine



## **Lenten Meals and Services**

It's time again to start thinking about Lent and Easter and along with that comes our Lenten Dinners and worship services. Following is our schedule thus far:

February 17th—Ash Wednesday—5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner hosted by Child Care Center  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—"God is Calling"

February 24th—Wednesday—5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner hosted by Ladies Guild  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—"Saved in the Storm"

March 3rd—Wednesday—5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner hosted by Bell Choir  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—"Our Providing God"

March 10th—Wednesday—5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner hosted by Sports Teams  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—"Praying in the Belly of the Great Fish"

March 17th—Wednesday—5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner hosted by Ukraine Team  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship—"The God of the Second Chance"

March 24th—Wednesday—5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner hosted by Board of Education  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship—"About Face"

March 28th—Palm Sunday—9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

April 1st—Maundy Thursday—7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

April 2nd—Good Friday—7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

April 4th—Easter—6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

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

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

10:30 a.m. Sunday School Easter Carnival and Egg Hunt

April 5th—Easter Monday—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



## **FUNDS UPDATE**

Building Fund = \$210.00

Scholarship Fund = \$12,741.15

Capital Improvement Fund = \$13,826.86

Ukraine Fund = \$7,264.70

