

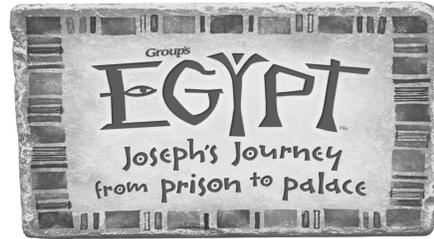
“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock.”
Isaiah 26:4

THE ROCK

Issue No. 7

Special Dates

- June 27 Installation of Church Officers
- June 28 Softball Game
- July 4 Potluck Brunch
- July 5 Office Closed
- July 5 Doubleheader Softball Games
- July 6 Elders meeting
- July 11 Installation of VBS staff
- July 11 Hughes/Duckwitz Wedding
- July 12-16 Vacation Bible School
- July 12 Book Club
- July 12 Softball Game
- July 15 Church Council
- July 19 Softball Game
- July 26 Softball Game
- August 2 Softball Game
- August 3 Elders
- August 7 Christmas Scrapbook Cards
- August 29 Rally Day



July 2010



Our Egyptian Vacation Bible School is almost here. It will be held July 12-16. We are looking forward to a great adventure as we “travel” back in time to ancient Egypt. We will meet with Joseph, who will tell us about the One True God who gives us hope and is always with us in good times and bad. Joseph has hope because of God’s promise of a Messiah, given first to Adam and Eve and then to his great grandfather Abraham. We have hope because we have seen that promise fulfilled in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you know of children who would like to participate, please register them as soon as possible. It really helps us with planning. Children ages 3-12 are invited to attend. Registration forms are available in the narthex on the bookshelves.

Please pray for the VBS staff as well as the children and their families. Please pray that we would clearly present the gospel and the hope we have because of what Christ has done for us. Pray that the children would be open to hear the gospel.

2 If you would like to donate items for snacks and other activities during the week, please check the blue tri-fold on the table in the narthex for tags indicating the items we need. Take a tag or two and return it with the item by the date indicated on the tag.

4 Thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to a great week.

4 In His Service,
4 Cindy George

5 “ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope’ “ (Jeremiah 29:11)

5 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

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When You Lie Down

Why Go to Church?

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

In the past few weeks we've had a few Sunday morning worship services go a little bit over an hour. OK. A couple went waaaaay over an hour. I apologize. But we were having such a good time – Confirmation, Commissioning our Mission Team to Ukraine, and just lots and lots of us sharing the amazing gift of the Sacrament together at the Altar.

Just recently someone asked, “Why would someone sit in church for an hour when that’s not how we live anymore? Short bursts of information – internet, I-pads, Kindle, Blackberry – people have all they want right there in their hands. Old –style books, newspapers, land-line phones, even television sets are so “yesterday.” Today’s generation wants it all in the palm of their hand. Actually “go” to church?

Most of us were raised in the era when “going to church” was the accepted norm in society, even encouraged by various “Blue Law” in many states. No longer. In many ways today, church going is like the hardcopy of our newspapers, slowly becoming extinct.

BUT I LIKE HOLDING THE MORNING NEWSPAPER IN MY HANDS! I like the feeling of holding that paper while I’m enjoying my morning cup of coffee. And to many of us, “going to church” still just feels right. But we must recognize that it just doesn’t make sense to more and more Americans.

So is modern America becoming more and more secular, material? “Postmodern” is the tag many researchers love to attach to our current culture. And their research claims that people today believe that they are very spiritual. But the studies also show they are very much Biblically illiterate. They no longer have the connections we cherish to the church. So why would they take up that old habit of “going to church”?

So why do YOU keep “going to church”? One answer I’ve heard is “For flesh-and-blood contact with other Christians.” And we are blessed here at Rock of Ages. There truly is a great joy we find on gathering together on a Sunday morning around the Word. Unfortunately, many in this Postmodern world have had the opposite experience, even a negative experience when they tried this “going to church” thing. And now, immersed in the American culture, they believe that they can get everything they need from the internet or Wal-Mart.

What else is offered here in church? The Word. A Story. Now with our Missouri-Synod training we tend to be a bit nervous about this “story-telling” thing in worship. But that is the major gift we have to share – a Story, THE Story. We feel safer when we call it Gospel. More doctrinal. But the Storyteller is at the heart of our faith. And our Sunday morning stories (Readings) bind us together as we listen. Mark 4:2, “[Jesus] taught them many things by parables (stories).” Last Sunday, a sinful woman fell at Jesus’ feet in tears. This offended the politically correct people at the dinner party. How did Jesus handle it? “Let me tell you a story.”

Healing, forgiveness, peace begins as we sit together and listen to these ancient stories. Because the Promise in those stories has not and will not change. This world will continue to change as it offers us newer and newer toys to distract us. But our need, our emptiness, our sinfulness cannot be helped no matter how many toys we have. Only the Story – a Savior. This Story will continue until He returns. But Jesus did once ask “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” Or will everyone be concentrating too hard on whatever little instrument is in their hands?

[thanks to notes from Dale Meyer in the Spring, 2010 Concordia Journal, St. Louis]

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron

Rocky Mountain District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention Highlights June 11-13, 2010

Women of the Rocky Mountain District LWML met in convention June 11-13, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel in Grand Junction, Colorado. Theme for the convention was "Made Holy". The convention theme was based on Galatians 3:27 (NIV) "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Through Baptism we are made holy chosen by God to serve Him with all that we are and have was the goal statement. Convention attendees were motivated to reflect on the blessings and benefits of their Baptism; joyfully give thanks and praise to our Lord for all He has done for us; faithfully serve God where He calls us; and go forth to proclaim our salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The convention logo was designed by Sarah Hulsey. The hands in our logo represent the Father who offers us life through the waters of baptism. The Holy Spirit, represented by the dove, is God actively bringing the gift of faith in Jesus through baptism.

President Susan Weimer called the convention to order at 1:00 p.m. on Friday June 11. The convention candle was lit followed by the procession of the cross, district LWML banner, zone banners, Young Woman Representatives, Teens and Executive Committee.

Friday afternoon business include adopting the mission goal of \$125,000 with \$75,000 going towards district mission grants, \$40,000 to LWML and \$10,000 for scholarships. Eloise Kuhlmann brought greetings from LWML President Jan Wendorf. She talked about the 2011 Convention in Peoria, IL next summer, the revised LWML website, Heart to Heart Sisters, and other things happening in LWML.

Nominees for officers were introduced and voted on. Carol von Soosten was elected President; Jude Piepkorn, Vice President Gospel Outreach; Sylvia Bean, Vice President Servant Resources; and Rev. Timothy Storck, Jr. Pastoral Counselor. Nominating Committee members will be Nancy Lund, Cindie Corvin, Susan Avila, Sue Mumm and Cheryl Shutz.

Mission Grants selected are Trinity/HOPE, RMD Debt Assistance Program, King's Camp at LVR, Veterans of the Cross, Developing Religious Life Curriculum for God's People, Opening Outreach Center for Lutheran Blind Mission in Ft. Collins, University Chapel in Boulder, Missionary Household set up LBT, Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso, TX, Training Pastors for Gospel Outreach in Africa, Mission Outreach to Immigrants from Ethiopia, and partial funding for Scholarship assistance to Students Preparing for Ethnic Ministry.

Saturday Bibles studies were led by Pastoral Counselors Rev. Gary Piepkorn and Rev. Gary Rahe. The Bible studies focused on the various aspects of Baptism and how it works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this.

There were 252 registered guests, delegates, pastors and voting Board of Directors in attendance. Three offerings were collected during the convention. The first offering amount of \$2,262.64 goes to the 2010-2012 Mission Goal. Second offering of \$1,366.61 goes to the Blind Ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church and School in Grand Junction. The third offering will go to the Pregnancy Centers in Grand Junction and Rifle. The amount will be published in the next *Tidings*. Donations for the back drop quilt raised \$760.34 to go towards our mission grant goal. YWR's had hand made crosses available for a donation totaling \$184.00 which will go to the University Chapel at Boulder.

Enrichment sessions were held Saturday afternoon. Convention attendees could hear about leader development from Eloise Kuhlmann, Jan Struck's humor, Cathy Rosilli transforming faith, Ida Mall about witnesses, and Julie Lemke taught about technology.

Sunday morning session included an invitation from the Rio Grande and Pecos Zones to come to the next district convention in El Paso, Texas June 22-24, 2012. LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. Randall Goulter was the proclaimer for the closing worship service. Rev. Gary Rahe installed the newly elected officers.

Newly elected President Carol von Soosten closed the 45th convention of the Rocky Mountain District LWML in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. She encouraged everyone to go forth remembering always the grace received through Holy Baptism. You are a child of God. . . Serve Him with gladness!

These are just a few highlights of the convention. Watch for pictures and more details in the next *Tidings*.

Library—Monthly Featured Item

"And the Shofar Blew" - Francine Rivers, International Best-Selling Author

This book is a powerful and almost prophetic statement of the church in America today. Paul Hudson seemed like the perfect pastor to lead Centerville Christian Church and his wife, Eunice, seemed like the perfect pastor's wife. It didn't take long for Paul to turn the church around as attendance was up and everything was going so well, or so it seemed. Unfortunately, the pastor and congregation were moving away from the message of the Bible and placing emphasis on a more secular message of building a bigger church, increasing membership, and schemes to bring in more and more money. The salvation given by Jesus Christ was becoming almost of secondary importance to the pastor and congregation. It is a thought provoking book.



Book Club

Monday, July 12, 7 pm. "Darwin's Black Box." Come discuss this book that kick-started the intelligent design movement. Book is available at the PPLD by reservation, on Amazon.com and at local booksellers.

August Selection: "Origin" by J.A Konrath. This summer-read is described as a techno-thriller in the spiritual realm. It is available as a free download at www.jakonrath.com/freebies.htm#origins

Be sure to sign the email list to stay informed about what we are reading and doing!!!



POTLUCK

SUNDAY, JULY 4th

AFTER CHURCH



Those whose last name begins with the letters A thru K are asked to bring a main dish and a salad item.

Those whose last name begins with the letters L thru Z are asked to bring a main dish and a dessert item.

Get creative with the July 4th theme!

Join us for good food, great fellowship, and lots of fun. There will be door prizes and surprises!

Parish Ministry Assistant

Grace and Mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Wolf and the Lamb ~ Aesop

A wolf saw a Lamb drinking at a brook and set about finding some good reason for catching him. He went to a place a little higher up the stream, and called out:

“How dare you muddy the water that I am drinking!”

“How can I,” said the Lamb, humbly, “when I drink with the tips of my lips only? And, besides, the water runs from you to me, not from me to you.”

“Well, last night, while I was trying to sleep, you kept me awake forever with your bleating.”

“But how could that be?” asked the Lamb. “I slept on the other side of the hill, inside my master’s barn, with my nose nestled into my mother’s side.”

“Well you called my father names a year ago,” growled the Wolf, finding another reason.

“I was not born a year ago,” said the Lamb.

“You can make all the excuses you want,” said the Wolf, “But I am hungry, and shall eat you just the same.” And without further ado, he gobbled up the little lamb.

Good ‘ol Aesop, reminding us that some people, having made up their minds to do wrong, will not be stopped by the best of reasons.

So what are we to do in a world with people like this? While the Bible gives us many examples, I’ve focused upon just a few for now: Paul says to pray continually. Peter said to give your troubles to the Lord because He cares for you. Before any of that, Jesus said to turn your cheek and don’t repay evil for evil. Jesus also said on the cross, “Father, forgive them.”

Do we? Do we forgive those who hurt us, whether unintentionally or on purpose?

Our Lord Jesus died and rose again to take our sins away. He forgives us through faith in Him so that we can go to heaven. He gives us the Holy Spirit to give us that faith. The Spirit also helps us in our daily lives as Christians, to do the Lord’s will, including not repaying evil for evil, praying continually, giving our troubles over to Him, and forgiving others—just as our Triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) yet One God forgives us.

We’ll never be able to change the hearts of anyone who is looking for trouble. Only God can do that. But we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, change how we respond to those who intend to hurt us in any way. Paul wrote:

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:19-21

In Jesus’ name,
Troy Dieters, ROA-PMA

17th Annual Innkeeper Dinner

SAVE THE DATE for Lutheran Family Service’s 17th Annual Innkeeper Dinner” Colors of Hope” and Silent Auction at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort – Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 5:30 pm. If you would like more information about the event or are interested in donating a silent auction item please contact Rebecca Hamilton-Lyons at Rebecca.hamilton-lyons@lfsco.org or call 314-0232.

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

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Newsletter Deadline July 14, 2010

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

In the Messy

Whenever I hear the passage from Mathew 18, I end up wondering just what Jesus meant when he said “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven...” I know that I have heard many excellent sermons on this topic, several coming from the pulpit here at Rock of Ages. But the other day at our Messy Play Day I “heard” perhaps the best one yet- and there weren’t any words!

We set out on Saturday with the goal of getting messy. After all, if there is one thing that characterizes small children, it is making messes. They don’t have to try very hard- just get some water, some dirt, some paint, and pudding and you have all the ingredients you need- no encouragement needed! Before long the little ones were covered from head to toe. The substance depended on the individual’s preferences- for some it was water, others it was shaving cream, and still others preferred chocolate pudding. What a glorious, colorful, joyful mess!

We were having such a great time, and then... they all got tired of making messes! Seriously, it was close to noon and the fun of being as messy as they wanted started to wear off. A few tears and whines began to appear. The smears of chocolate pudding started to smell a little funky and the wet clothes began to chafe. They were tired of being messy and wanted to get clean!

After we cleaned up the mess and took a good nap, I was reminded of how very like those little messy children we adults are. We joyfully go about making messes in our lives- glorious, crazy messes. At some point, though, the fun wears off and we get tired of the mess we’re in. We desperately need somebody to come along and help us wash off. That is, after all, what happens to us in baptism as our sins are washed away. Jesus comes down into our mess with his living water and makes us clean again. He gives us His rest, and clothes us with radiant, glowingly clean white robes of righteousness. Praise Jesus for being in the messy with us!

Dcs. Sarah



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$12,741.15
Capital Improvement Fund = \$14,677.75
Ukraine Fund = \$5962.87
Bathroom = - \$2152.20

