

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

# THE ROCK

Issue No. 6

## Special Dates

- May 23 Pentecost
- May 23 Confirmation
- May 26 Last Quilting Group until Fall
- May 27 Preschool Graduation
- May 30 Trinity Sunday
- May 30 Summer Sunday School Teacher Training
- May 31 Memorial Day—Office Closed
- June 2 Make-up Summer Sunday School Teacher Training
- June 5 Very Messy Play Day
- June 6 Commission Ukraine Team
- June 10 Ukraine Team leaves
- June 11-13 LWML Convention
- June 12 Sunday School Teachers Appreciation
- June 14 Book Club
- June 17 Church Council
- June 19 Lutherans at the Sky Sox
- June 20 Father’s Day
- June 26 VBS Training
- June 27 Installation of Church Officers
- July 4 Potluck Brunch
- July 12-16 Vacation Bible School

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June 2010

## Groups EGYPT VBS Joseph's Journey from prison to palace



## Have You Ever Wondered...

What it was like to live as a slave in Bible times?

How did they make mummies?

What happened to Joseph (the guy with the colorful coat)?

Find the answers to these questions—and more—in Egypt!

Our Egypt VBS will be held July 12-16 from 9-11:30 AM. Each day the children will become a part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Bible times. We hope these experiences will make God’s word come alive with meaning for all who participate.

We would appreciate your prayers as we continue planning and preparing for VBS. Thank you to all who have volunteered. We still need some more volunteers especially shopkeepers and assistants. We will be having a staff meeting June 26 at 9:30AM. If you have volunteered, plan to be at this meeting to prepare for VBS.

If you know of children who would like to participate, register them as soon as possible. Registration forms will be available in the narthex or you may register online at [www.rockofageslcms.org](http://www.rockofageslcms.org)

Contact Cindy George, Kim Foster, or Suzie Ricker if you have any questions or concerns or would like to help.

In His Service,  
Cindy George

## Why Me?

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I received a special letter in the mail two or three weeks ago and on the front cover just one word:

# SUMMONS

Now that's the kind of mail that just warms your heart. My name was randomly selected for Jury Duty at the El Paso Combined Court. And so last Tuesday morning I made my appearance along with nearly 300 other residents of our country. After finding a parking spot, getting signed in, filling out the forms I felt I'd had a full day already. But then one of the appointed judges gave an introductory pep talk, working hard for about a half hour in an attempt to convince us what a privilege it was to have been selected, what an honor to serve. The Judge worked hard to convince us that this is a privilege, the foundation of our freedom, to serve as a citizen in our courts.

And he had to work hard, because it was noted that the reaction of approximately 99.99% of the people receiving a "SUMMONS" is negative – "WHY ME???" That brought to mind a favorite old cartoon I have framed on my shelf of the Viking, Hagar the Horrible.



Why me? I don't want this responsibility, thank you. But out of the stormy clouds in that cartoon, God answers: "Why not?" How many times do we ask that question of God? Why me? Why did this happen to me? Why do I have to do that? Why me? Why me? Why me?

There were eight cases being heard by judges that day, some criminal, some civil. I was gathered with a group of about thirty and marched off to one of the court rooms where a jury of thirteen would be selected to hear a case. There the presiding judge once again spent several minutes reminding us what a privilege it was to serve. Then both the prosecuting and defense attorneys proceeded to tell us what a great privilege it was to be there.

Over the next two hours the two attorneys proceeded through the process of jury selection. They carefully questioned and examined each potential juror for attitudes and opinions. And this was the fascinating part. Because not once did they ask me anything. And it soon became obvious that they were very carefully ignoring me. After the questioning period came the dismissals. Each attorney was allowed to dismiss a potential juror that didn't suit their concept of a person who would think favorably or unfavorably toward the defendant.

They had eliminated about twenty when my name finally came up and the judge called me to take a seat in the juror box. But before I could even begin to sit down, the prosecuting attorney called out that I should be dismissed. And everybody wondered why? Not one question had been directed to me.

Because on my information sheet my profession was listed as Minister of Religion. We've taken the Ten Commandments out of our courtrooms and they do not want a pastor bringing them back in. The goal in the courtroom is to select jurors who can be swayed, directed, who will listen to the attorneys and be guided to their decision. Now that is not bad. But what they did not want was someone who might listen to a higher authority, a different source of determining truth and what is right or wrong.

Continued on page 3

## Why Me? continued

In our American system of Justice, everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty. This is a special blessing that we should cherish. Jury duty is inconvenient, difficult, stressful for people, but “Why me?” is not the question we should ask. It is a privilege and a responsibility. And we as a people – and as Christians - have shirked too many of our duties and privileges thus allowing the devil a playground on which to pervert the laws and morality of our nation.

But we must also remember that we are citizens of two kingdoms – this nation and our Lord’s Kingdom. And they are not even close to the same. Before the Judge of that Kingdom, we are all guilty. There is no presumed innocence. There is no need for a jury, no questionnaires to be filled out for St. Peter at the door. When we, like Hagar, lament our situation here in this world, God might well just answer: “WHY NOT?” Under the perfect LAW of God we are guilty. Period. Everyone of us.

And that is part of the reason an attorney doesn’t want a pastor in his jury. But there is another side. The full story of Scripture includes the GOSPEL! Our God determined not to leave us in our guilty condition, condemned forever without hope. He determined to save, to forgive. And thus He came to us, took our place in that eternal courtroom, let the judgment be pronounced upon Himself and thus proclaimed us innocent! This is just too amazing for words. This is the story that should make us cry out “Why me?”

This story simply does not work in the kingdom of this world, in the courtrooms of this world. As much as we might wish it could at times. Courtrooms of this world reflect this world, they are not perfect, they reflect our sinful condition. But remember always, dear brothers and sisters, you are a citizen of that heavenly Kingdom. Jesus Christ has taken your place, carried your sins to that Cross. In His name, you are truly proclaimed innocent before the Father forever.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,  
*PASTOR RON*

## UKRAINE MISSION REPORT

Ten Years ago, about this time, I stood in front of the altar at Faith Lutheran as we were being commissioned for the first Mission trip to Ukraine. I can still feel the butterflies in my belly, thinking WHAT have I gotten myself into. You see there is quite a lot of uncertainty in going somewhere and doing something that you have never done before. And now after all this time, I look back at all the responses from the people in Ukraine and I have an empty feeling in the pit of my stomach, knowing that I am not returning this year, because of age and declining health. The people of Ukraine have been wonderful to us, especially since we began to work with the Lutheran church of Ukraine. Many times I think of the fact that for ninety years the people were told that there was no god by their government, and only the grandmothers and elders kept the Word of God alive, until the Communist government collapsed and the outside world was allowed to come in and tell them of God’s love and the salvation of Christ. I thank God daily that I have been privileged to be a small part of this truly wonderful time. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you that have given so much to make this mission possible. Like when Frances Gierard made the flags for our Ukraine dinner, or Carl Seay made the potatoes for the dinner. It is impossible to name every one who has given so much, like the quilters who have given us blankets to take with us and leave with very needy people. And all who donate to the mission members all of the little things we take for granted like gloves and Aspirin, reading glasses and above all Bibles in their language.

This year we are probably sending the most qualified team that we have ever sent and they are spending untold hours in preparation. So I must leave room for John and Dawn to add to the report and to lovingly ask for your continued support for the mission. I have a strong feeling we have just scratched the surface and there is much work yet to do. In the Lord’s service, John Yenter.

As John has mentioned we have five brothers and sister in Christ on this year’s team who are blessed with unique abilities that complement each other. This year’s team of Aaron Clymer, Karen Grassi, Pete Coggeshall, Megan Martin, & Dawn Atkinson is sure to have an awesome impact wherever they minister with the love and gospel of our Lord Jesus. In addition to the significant effort the team has been doing to plan the logistics of this mission project, deaconess Sarah has also been working to prepare the team. Sarah has lead the team members in getting to

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## Library—Monthly Featured Item

"The Cross and the Switchblade" (DVD -105 Minutes) - Starring Pat Boone and Eric Estrada

Although the original events depicted in this classic from the drug infested, gang dominated streets happened over 30 years ago, the life-changing solution that Pastor David Wilkerson brought to desperate lives was just beginning. The change in the life of notorious gang leader Nicky Cruz, as shown in the film, proved to be lasting and real. Nicky continues today to reach young people around the world with the same life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ that delivered him from violence and despair. David Wilkerson braved the meanest streets of New York to tell desperate and drug-crazed youth that there was a better way. Three decades later, David is still at it with a ministry based in Times Square that is still changing lives and offering genuine hope to countless souls who had given up on life. The film has shown unique power to connect with the deepest hopes and fears of youth around the world. It remains today one of the most compelling stories of love, grace, and the truth that no one is ever so far gone that they cannot find the way out.

"Son of Hamas" - Book Recommendation (Book not in our church library, but available through the Pikes Peak Library system or purchase at any book store or On-Line)

"Son of Hamas" was written by Mosab Hassan Yousef, son of one of the leaders of the Palestinian group Hamas. Starting when he was a small boy, Mosab Hassan Yousef has had an inside view of the deadly terrorist group Hamas. The oldest son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a founding member of Hamas and its most popular leader, young Mosab assisted his father for years in his political activities while being groomed to assume his legacy, politics, status, and power. Everything changed when Mosab turned away from terror and violence. In "Son of Hamas", Mosab Yousef - now called "Joseph" -- reveals new information about the world's most dangerous terrorist organization and unveils the truth about his own role, his agonizing separation from his family and homeland, the dangerous decision to make his newfound faith public, and his belief that the Christian mandate to "love your enemies" is the only way to bring peace in the Middle East. It is an interesting read if you want to learn more about the intricacies of the complicated Palestinian vs Israeli conflict of today. However, the book is also interesting because he writes about how he turned from his Islamic upbringing and faith and became a Christian. After becoming a Christian, Mosab eventually had to leave his homeland and is now living in CA.



### Book Club

Join us for a lively discussion Monday, June 14 at 7 pm. As we discuss Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis. This book can be found at the public library or in new and used bookstores. We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming book selections:

June: Screwtape Letters by C.S Lewis

July: Darwin's Black Box by Michael J. Behe

### ROA 4 Handed Pinochle

There is a group of adults from Rock of Ages who play Pinochle twice a month at rotating homes. We share a meal to start and then play 2 games of 4 handed pinochle. We play the 1st and 3rd Saturdays and start at 6 pm. We finish about 9 pm

We invite you to join us for these games. We can accommodate up to 16 people and need multiples of 4. You can come and see how you like it. You can also designate yourself as a substitute player if you want to come occasionally. No experience is required! We provide the rules we play by. We will help you learn to play.

Our purpose is to have fun and we provide a relaxed setting to get to know each other better.

Please direct questions to Marilyn Thiel or any of the other players. You can be added to our email list so you know when we meet. Contact Marilyn at 719-338-6218 or marilyn@marilynthiel.com

## Parish Ministry Assistant

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

Did you know that last month, May, was “Zombie Awareness Month?”

I thought it was funny when I heard that on the radio, thinking of some of the great Zombie movies I’ve seen over the years, some horror and some comedy--some both.

When Donna and I were in Nebraska last month I discovered that I’m the older generation now. Our nephews and nieces and their families and friends are where we used to be. It was a moment of realization that I’m now older. But in a lot of ways I still think like they do, and it was fun to sit back watching and listening to them. They like to suck the marrow out of life like I did at their age (and still do). We even went to the dreaded “Gilbert’s Grave” in the middle of the night because this scary “in the middle of nowhere” cemetery is suppose to be haunted. The kids, while having fun spooking each other, were really into the history of all the old graves and I was happy to see that they were as appalled as I was at the vandalism. After that we went to a supposed haunted farmhouse. Of course the stories of Charles Starkweather began, and all the “ghosthunters” found was a raccoon that had moved into the old house threatening to attack if they didn’t leave. It’s amazing how a mad raccoon in the middle of the night without flash-lights can turn the bravest of souls into mush and into hasty retreat (myself included).

So we didn’t get to see any Zombies. Maybe we were the Zombies the next morning at church since we didn’t get to bed until 4 A.M., but it was worth it.

Driving home reflecting on the weekend it hit me--that the people in Jesus’s day saw Zombies. OK, I don’t know if they were Zombies or not, but they came from the grave. Matthew says this about them in his Gospel:

*“The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus’ resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.” Matthew 27:52-53*

Matthew wrote this right after he described how the curtain was torn in two.

Can you imagine? What would be your thoughts if you were witness to these things? I’m not sure how I would have reacted if a holy person would have appeared to us when we were with the kids at the cemetery. Matthew says that they went into the city after Jesus rose from the dead. Before that, we are told that Jesus had raised Lazarus and some others. We can be assured that one day after our death we too will be raised to life, and if we are alive when the Lord comes the Apostle Paul said that our bodies will be instantly changed. If we believe in Jesus we go to heaven. If we don’t, we go to hell. Simple as that. Doesn’t matter what the world says. It’s what the Bible says. You either believe (by the power of the Holy Spirit) or you don’t.

So I encourage you to be believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Then when the time comes for departure from this world or Jesus’ return, there is no doubt where you will be spending eternity. Now that I think about it, wouldn’t it be funny if Jesus came back next May during Z.A.M.? Maranatha!

In Jesus our Lord,  
Troy Dieters, ROA-PMA

## UKRAINE MISSION REPORT continued

know each other better before they start living with each other 24/7 in Ukraine. She has conducted several short team building activities prior to our meetings. With her encouragement the team has worked together on the Thrivent sponsored Habitat for Humanity house. On May 14-16 the team was at Lutheran Valley Retreat. While there, we were lead by LVR director Steve Johnson through team building activities and a service project. We also used this time at LVR to continue practicing our lessons, skits, and songs. The LVR setting also allowed the group to have time for prayer and devotion with minimal distractions.

Our lessons were prepared by Sarah and are all about Jesus and how he interacts with us. The lessons will reflect on his natures as God and man, as our Savior, our Shepherd, and our Friend. Our crafts follow these lessons and our songs are all of the many favorites that enhance the lessons and a few thrown in for fun. Aaron has been learning all of the songs so he can lead us on the guitar. We are all very excited to be going and we look forward to sharing with our the friends we have made there and pray that our lessons touch the new mission areas too. I am sure we will find the hospitality that we have come to know in past trips. We thank everyone that participates in donations, planning support, and daily prayers while we are there.

*Ukraine Mission Team 2010*

**“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>

## Newsletter Deadline June 16, 2010

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

### When You Lie Down

*Deuteronomy 6:3-9* “Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you- ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Have you tried family devotions? I know that we have in our house, and had a difficult time with formal readings, prayers, and the like. Perhaps these kinds of devotion have worked for you, but in our chaotic, toddling, exploring home nobody sits down for more than a couple of minutes, let alone listens to a long reading from a book with no pictures. But, we have the command from Deuteronomy, and the desire to share our faith in Jesus. Which leaves us with this question: How can we practically, naturally, and faithfully do this?

In the coming weeks I’ll be exploring this question. If you have any suggestions that have worked for your family, I would love to share them with the entire Rock family. I think the key lies in the last verses in Deuteronomy. We don’t have to have mini-sermons and organ pipes in our homes. Instead, we are to LIVE our faith, intentionally sharing moments together and teaching as we wake up, go about our days, and lie down to rest.

To get us started, I’d like to think about “when you lie down.” Does your nightly routine include Jesus? From birth we all must rest. For many this can be difficult. Perhaps it is hard for a young child to say goodbye to all that has been happening, or conversely for some it is difficult to face the long, lonely night. At the same time many of us have cherished memories of reading about Jesus, praying or singing to Him as we drifted off to sleep. Whatever our age, the reminder of Jesus’ promise to never leave us nor forsake us is perhaps never more needed than at night.

When Abbi was born I searched my mind for lullabies, and didn’t really care to sing about babies falling or mockingbirds and the like. They didn’t help either one of us to focus on Jesus and experience His peace. So by default I started singing what calmed me. Some favorites are “Jesus Loves Me” and “Oh How I Love Jesus.” We also love “Abide with Me,” “Amazing Grace,” and singing the service of evening prayer. No matter what has transpired during the day there is a psalm, hymn, or spiritual song that can be lifted up as prayer to express our needs, feelings, and experience. Do you have some favorites to share? What a gift we can give to our children and ourselves, a gift that can never be taken away, God’s Word written upon our hearts.

Peace  
Deaconess Sarah



### FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00  
Scholarship Fund = \$12,741.15  
Capital Improvement Fund = \$13,826.36  
Ukraine Fund = \$2251.68  
Bathroom = \$1271.00

