

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

# THE ROCK

Issue No. 11

November 2010

## *Special Dates*

- Oct 31 Reformation Sunday
- Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 1 Office Closed
- Nov 6 Time change
- Nov 7 Youth & Parents Meet
- Nov 8 Book Club
- Nov. 14 Voters Assembly
- Nov. 19 3rd Friday
- Nov 19 Songwriters Workshop
- Nov 20 Jr. & Sr. Youth Servant Event
- Nov 21 Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 23 Ladies Guild
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Nov Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 27 Decorate Church
- Nov 28 Advent Begins
- Dec 1 Children’s Christmas Service
- Dec 3 World Aides Day Concert
- Dec 12 Ladies Guild Christmas Party

## I am loved World AIDS Day Concert

Join us Friday, December 3 at 7 p.m. for an evening of local Christian music in honor of World AIDS Day. Featured Artists include:

Rock of Ages Choir  
Rock of Ages Hand-bell Choir  
Jeff Brady Glicken  
Neil Kovack  
Mike Burns  
Anthony Carmen Sacco



Admission: Non-perishable food or hygiene item to benefit the Southern Colorado AIDS Project Food Bank

We will also have a coffee shop refreshment area with free-will donation to benefit HIV Care Link

Please consider joining us for worship, and/or volunteering to help with the event. We need volunteers to:

Pray for the concert and for those impacted by HIV/AIDS  
Spread the word!  
Bake cookies, brownies, or other treats for the concession stand  
Serve in the coffee shop  
Help with set-up and take-down

## *November Highlights*

As you know, the holidays are fast approaching. We have several activities coming up in the not too distant future—Please mark your calendars now so you will be ready when the dates arrive!!!

Nov. 6—Time change

Nov. 7—Youth/parent meeting

Nov. 14—Voters Assembly

Nov. 21—Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 24—Thanksgiving Eve Service

Nov. 27 Decorate Church

Dec. 1—Children’s Christmas Service

Dec. 3—World Aides Day Concert

*We hope you join us for many of these events!!!*

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## Coming Home

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Hittites, Babylonians, Persians, oh my! Then came the Greeks, the Romans, the Ottomans, and more. My mind, if not my eyes, is still spinning from the intensive days of seeing and studying all these ancient cultures. And each in and of itself is fascinating. But even more, is seeing how the God of our Scriptures worked through them all and continues to work until this day.

Each of those civilizations is known today mostly through the stones they've left behind. Some written records exist, but mostly just cold, dead stones, bits of pottery, carved and now broken statues. But we have a living Word, a Word that has come down just as true and living today as it was in the Beginning, while all those civilizations are now dust. The prophet Daniel revealed how this would occur already almost three thousand years ago (Daniel, chapter two).

“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44). A kingdom never to be destroyed. That is the kingdom founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. But it was not founded by the power and might of this world, not with swords and armies, but upon a Cross. It is a kingdom that is anchored within the hearts of the faithful.

At times, men have tried to make this kingdom one of power and might upon this earth. In 325, the Roman Emperor Constantine commanded that Christianity would become the religion of the state. But that empire also fell. As Marilyn and I made a big circle through modern Turkey we saw the ruins of each of these empires. Christianity has disappeared from that land. Now the minarets and mosques of Islam dominate.

Islam, too, will fall. That is the promise of Scripture. Only the Cross will stand. And we must keep our focus on the kingdom we have been promised in the Word of Jesus, the kingdom guaranteed by His death and resurrection. It's very easy to become distracted by the physical kingdoms of this world, by the comforts and promises we find here. But again, these will also fall. Jesus promises that He is coming back and that He will then create the new and final kingdom that will endure for all eternity.

It felt great to return home after our tour around Turkey, to familiar home and church and family. But Jesus encourages us to look forward to an even greater homecoming. Looking down at all the ancient stones was interesting, but He encourages us to also be looking up, to be ready for His coming.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Ron

## Evangelism – Let's See.....

Evangelism----- Let's look some more

Last month we looked at many areas of our congregation looking for the elusive description of the word, "Evangelism". We could go on and search out every little nook and cranny to help us identify this idea, but in all truth, we are all evangelists looking for the proper, or should I say right time to spread the word with others who are in need of salvation.

Perhaps a story or two to illustrate this: One is a small congregation in the Midwest, who it seems had a group of people kinda like ours who attended regularly. One day someone brought up the question of why this group of people went to this particular church. After some really in depth searching, it came to light that some 80 percent of the people had been introduced to the Church by a single older lady. She did not possess the gift of gab that you would expect. No, she only told folks that were looking for a church home that she was not a good speaker but if they would come to the church they would meet the person or persons that could tell them all about the Word. In other words she just planted a tiny seed and let it sprout and grow in their hearts.

In another story, a terminally ill woman had a rather unusual request of her pastor. She wanted to be buried with a common table fork in her hand. After a short time the woman died and when people viewed her in the casket, she indeed had a fork in her hand. Many people asked about the meaning of the fork in her hand. The pastor explained, "For all of her life this woman had been told to keep her fork after dinner and with great anticipation she would look forward to what was to come next. She knew that when she was told to keep her fork, the best was yet to come. She wanted to share the message, that the best was yet to come, especially after death when she would be with her Lord!"

So you see, the most effective way to evangelize is not to go door-to-door to tell people about the Lord. It has been proven many times that this is a best a waste of a lot of time and is also very uncomfortable those involved. Each of us has the duty to share our love and faith in Jesus with others and the most effective way is to plant the seeds, pray over them, and let the Holy Spirit sprout them and help them grow.

**"Small things done with great love are changing the world"**

Yours in the lords service John Yenter

## Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 21st

5:00 p.m.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will again host our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Please mark your calendars!



Thrivent will provide the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, Rolls and beverages.

You are asked to provide a salad or side dish and a dessert to share with everyone.

Program will be announced at a later date!

## Library—Monthly Featured Item

We remember the tumultuous time of Reformation this time of year. Martin Luther changed the course of history by his brave stance against the errors of the Roman Catholic Church. There has been much written about Luther and his life but much less written about his wife, Katharine. Katharine Luther (Kitty – Kate – Katie) was the woman behind the great man and helped him in his ministry. She coped with incredible demands and survived the continual onslaught of unpredictable developments. She was a former nun who became a talented and knowledgeable wife, mother, and advocate for evangelical reforms. We have three items in our small library about Katharine Luther.

- 1) **KATHARINA VON BORA** – Authors: Rudolf K. & Marilyn Morris Markwald - Non-fiction book - 198 pages plus appendix, bibliography, & index. (This book is the November selection for the Book Club.)
- 2) **KITTY, MY RIB** – Author: E. Jane Mall—A Novel – 170 page book
- 3) **THE LIFE OF KATIE LUTHER – THE MORNING STAR OF WITTENBERG**  
DVD – 27 Minutes in length – Distributed by the ELC Church in America



## Board of Education

### *Youth*

Talk about enthusiasm—these guys have it! They tackle everything with the energy and — of the young.

Our October events were fun and came a long way in relationship building. The Senior youth painted the youth room—take a minute and check it out. The Junior youth went hiking in Waldo Canyon and wore out the adults that walked with them. Then both groups filled the Trunk or Treat bags in record time and then they invaded Old Colorado City for a photo scavenger hunt. Great fun was had by all!!! Ask them about it sometime.

November 7th after Education Hour we will have a meeting with the Jr. & Sr. Youth and their parents to plan the next 3 months

of activities. We also encourage anyone interested in helping with the youth to attend and give us your suggestion and input. We will have a light lunch before the meeting.

On November 20 we are doing a service event at the Medical Mission Clinic. All Jr. & Sr. Youth need to meet at the Clinic at 8:45 a.m. We also need a few more adults to help out with this event.

We can always use the extra “adult” bodies. You may have wondered why I keep putting “adult” in quotations—well, it’s because we need fun loving and kid-like qualities as well as “adult” status.

### *Sunday School*

Our Christmas Service this year will be held on Wednesday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. Our

Theme this year is “Love Came Down At Christmas” and is based on the Advent wreath and the meaning of each candle and what they represent. We will be rehearsing every Sunday in November so parents, please be sure your children are here so they know their parts and feel comfortable with them. The Ladies Guild will be providing the refreshments for after the Service—special thanks to them agreeing to do this.

### *Miscellaneous*

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers for our programs and events. If you have any ideas you want to present for us to look at, please let us know.

We are always looking for ideas!!!

Kay Scharf,  
Chair Board of Education

## 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.

## Songwriter Session

### **Attention all you would be songwriters!!!**

On Friday, October 22nd we had our first session. It was small but good—everyone enjoyed the time to share their love of music.

We will have another session on November 19th at 7:00 p.m. We do encourage you to come even if its just to check us out and see if this is for you!

If you have any questions please talk to Anthony Sacco.



## Together with all of God's Creatures

What would you do if you knew that Jesus would return tomorrow? When Luther was once asked this question, he reportedly answered that he would plant a tree! When I first heard this quote it struck me as a bit odd. After all, what good would a tree be if Jesus were to come back and the world end? Lately I've been thinking a good deal about this as I look around and witness what is happening to God's creation.

Our Synod just published a new document looking at the question of our relationship with God's created world. (If you would like to read it, it is available online as a CTCR document, titled the same as this column.) As this report points out, the issue of the way we humans relate to God's world is increasingly important in today's world. We Christians, who believe God lovingly created the earth and all that is on it, also believe that this same creator commanded his human creatures to tend and care for the earth, its plants, creatures, and other humans. When Adam and Eve first sinned, the earth bore the consequences as well. To this day we can hear the groanings of our world and see the destruction we have brought upon it. But we Christians also have hope. For Jesus came into the world, died for our sins, and rose again thus destroying death. He promises to restore our creation, and in fact has begun this restoration already. We look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, to a time when the groaning will cease.

The question remains- how can we care for God's Earth and God's People in a way that honors the creator? Perhaps more to the point, what steps can we take as the body of Christ here at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church? As I look around, I see some distinct things that our family has already done. For example, the crab-apple trees provide beauty as well as food for our local deer. The majority of our landscaping doesn't require irrigation. We have taken steps to decrease our energy use. Our preschoolers grew vegetables to eat this summer, and provide materials for birds and squirrels to eat and make their nests with.

What more can we do to be faithful stewards in this place? Perhaps we could consider recycling, or growing a garden to benefit our congregation, neighbors, or local food bank. Certainly we can point out God's handiwork when the occasion arises. As we continue the discussion, we look forward to the day that Jesus will return, fully restoring us humans and all of his creation. And perhaps, like Luther, we pass the time by planting trees!

Sarah Sacco,  
Deaconess

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

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## 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!

**November:** Katherina Von Bora by Rudolf K and Marilyn Morris Markwald. Commemorate Reformation Day by learning about the wife of Martin Luther. This informative biography provides a different perspective to the life and times of the great reformer.

**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  
November 16, 2010**

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

*Join us!!!*

**November 27th  
At 9:30 a.m.**



**To help decorate our  
Sanctuary  
for Christmas!!!**

**We do need a few men to be here at  
9:00 a.m. to get the tree set in place.**

**We hope to see you here!**



## 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

