

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 9

September 2010

Special Dates

- August 29 Rally Day
- August 29 Church Picnic
- September 6 Labor Day—
Office Closed
- September 8 Confirmation
starts
- September 9 Thursday AM
Bible study starts
- September 11 Jr. Youth Laser
Tag
- September 13 Book Club
- September 16-18 Photo Di-
rectory pictures taken
- September 17 council
- September 17 Sr. High Camp-
ing Trip
- September 19 Bell Choir
practice starts
- September 20 Ladies Bible
Study Begins
- September 22 Quilting begins
- September 24 Jr. & Sr. Youth
Lock-in
- September 28 Ladies Guild

It's That Time Again!

Heeeeeeeeeeeeeere's September!

Where did the Summer go!

It's time to let go of the laid back feeling of summer and to gear up for the new year of activities, Bible studies, and fellowship.

We have a lot of activities about to get started so be sure you check out the list and block out the ones that you will enjoy and also learn from as our life is not to remain static but we are to continue to grow in our faith and in our knowledge of the Word and the world. So when deciding what to try this Fall, consider picking out something new to you, something a little bit out of your comfort zone.

Starting in September are:

- Thursday Morning Bible Study—at 9:30 a.m.—2nd and 4th Thursdays
- Book Club—7:00 p.m.—2nd Tuesday
- Ladies Bible Study—at 7:00 p.m.—1st & 3rd Mondays
- Bell Choir—11:30—Sunday mornings
- Vocal Choir—7:00 p.m.—Wednesdays
- 3rd Friday Potluck & Games—12:00 noon—3rd Friday
- Ladies Guild—7:00 p.m.—4th Tuesday
- Pinochle Games—2nd & 4th Saturdays
- Young Adult Activities—as scheduled
- Junior & Senior Youth Activities—as scheduled
- Confirmation Class—6:30 p.m.—Wednesdays

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Also keep an eye out for new and different activities such as the ride on horseback to see the Fall Colors; Trunk or Treat; Volleyball; Children's Christmas Worship; Ladies Guild Christmas Party; Scrapbook Card making events; Thanksgiving Dinner and other activities.

If you have anything you would like to see take place, please talk to



Mea Culpa!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

There is a great big red book sitting in front of me on my desk. And I promised I would not remove it until it was all caught up. The title in gold letters reads: *Church Registry*. It's a fairly new book. We just started this one back in 2007 when we celebrated our Fiftieth Anniversary and everybody reaffirmed their faith and membership. It's amazing how many changes have occurred since that event. And I haven't gotten them all recorded! So, prayerfully, that will have occurred before you get to read this article.

And that's why we are also doing a new pictorial membership directory this month. Our church family is dynamic, it keeps changing. And that is a blessing. But it is a challenge keeping everybody in the church family informed, up-to-date on current activities and changes. Secretary Kay just came in and wanted to review activities for the next couple of months for the calendar. Calendars, newsletters, bulletins – ways in which we try to keep the whole family informed of what is happening here at Rock of Ages.

Books and records, paper and more paper. It is fascinating that our God chose to reveal Himself to us in the pages of a Book, the Bible. And within that Book are more than five hundred references to books and writing and recording. Any book requires five basic factors:

- First, there must be something to record
- Second, there must be a desire on the part of someone to see that certain things are recorded
- Third, there must be an ability to write, to form letters, and construct grammatical sentences
- Fourth, there must be materials gathered upon which to place the recordings
- Fifth, the final product, the book itself, preserving thoughts, ideas, records

We just got an order in from Office Depot this morning. The delivery man carted in over fifty reams of the paper used for keeping records, sharing information, and producing all the documents of our church life. And that should last six months. I am amazed at the amount of paper we go through in a year. So, a question: How many sheets will be used to reproduce this "Pastor's Letter" in a dozen newsletters over the course of a year?

My writings will probably not last all that long and will quickly end up in the proverbial "file 13." But if some little bit can be shared from the greater Book, then it is worthwhile. St. Paul wrote his letters never thinking how many billions of sheets would be used in preserving them within our Bible. Jesus in His early ministry in Nazareth took the Book of Isaiah, "opened the book," and "closed the book." He shared from this same precious Book that we hold today. More than once Jesus asked His listeners "Have you not read?" Here in this Book is the answer, this Book spoke of Him.

So, all this rambling and I still haven't finished updating our *Church Registry*. Mea culpa! But don't worry. Even if your name wasn't recorded in this book, the BOOK promises that Jesus keeps a far better BOOK up in heaven. The Revelation of St. John tells that your names are *written* in heaven. And that is a sure and certain fact. But the prophet Daniel also recorded another aspect of those heavenly books. He notes there will come a judgment day when all "the books will be opened." A Day of Judgment. Scripture is a complex mixture of books – books of Law and books of Gospel or Good News.

Good News. I really like that. It means that if I don't get this *Church Registry* caught up before that final day, I am forgiven! I really don't need to repeat a dozen "mea culpas" for Jesus has written the final chapter from the Cross. We are forgiven. Our names are written in that heavenly Book of Life. Thank the Lord! But Kay still demands that I get this one done. So back to it.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron

Evangelism – Let's See.....

What is Evangelism?

I have been searching out the term “Evangelism” and have found many thoughts about this subject. One of these has caught my eye. Its kinda simple and easily passed over.

“Small things done with great love are changing the world”

Wow! This has made me wonder just what that means. I think we need to explore what all this covers, so in the next several newsletters we will be asking the question- Who could be the evangelists in our congregation?

Could it be the people who keep the bushes and trees all trimmed up and looking nice for all of us to see on Sunday morning? Not to mention keeping things safe for all of us, including the voters who will be using our buildings for the purpose of casting their ballots in the next election. Seems to me, the place is always looking nice and very attractive. Are they evangelists?

Or maybe Lynn Wittrock, you all know that he is the guy that keeps all of our financial records up to date, always ready to help answer questions about how much we have in this account or that. Always carrying around his big account book and doing the tedious and thankless job of keeping all accounts accurate and up to date and is always responsible to Pastor, the church council and the congregation for all things financial. Boy I'm glad I don't have that job. Is he an Evangelist?

Or maybe the folks who keep the building clean. Lord they also do a thankless job that most are not aware of. Some probably don't notice how nice and clean the sanctuary and the narthex look on Sunday morning, because we don't see them cleaning during the week making sure the Lord's house is clean and in order for our Worship. They are just doing this job out of their love for our Lord and doing a wonderful job. Are they evangelists?

Or maybe our Elders, you know the fellows who make the services true and always have to make the hard decisions about what is to be done as it relates to service. The ones who have to make sure the true message is preached in the sermons, and sometimes fill in for Pastor when he is on a short trip or has an illness that prevents his presence in the pulpit. And have you noticed that they do such a good job that some of us think they might have missed their calling! The elders' job is not an easy one in that it goes far beyond Sunday Service. They truly serve out of their love for the Lord. Are they evangelists?

Who could be the evangelists in our congregation?

John Yenter,
Board of Evangelism Chair

Ladies' Bible Study

Prayerfully consider joining our ladies' Bible study this year! As we study the missionary journeys of Paul as recorded in the second half of Acts we'll encounter controversy, adventure, conversions, and everywhere the Gospel of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit! The discussion-based format encourages us to dig into the Word and apply it to our everyday lives. We will be meeting the first and third Mondays of the month from 7-8:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Fall Colors –

I am trying to set up a horseback ride to enjoy the Fall colors. If you are interested in going please sign up in the narthex. We will be riding out of Mule Creek Outfitters near Lake George. We will ride into Pike National Forest.

Depending on what the majority of people want, we could go for one or two hours on either September 26th or October 3rd. Feel free to contact me (Suzie Ricker – 471-3242) if you have any questions. I will need two weeks advance notice to the ranch in order to make the reservations. Anyone under the age of 18 must have written permission from his/her parents. (The ranch has no age restrictions!) Cost: \$25 for one hour/ \$45 for two hours

Library—Monthly Featured Item

CARPENTER'S CLOTH - Christ's Journey to the Cross and Beyond

Author: Sigmund Brouwer

The author journeys alongside the Man who accepted death on a cross for all of us. It was the author's intention to remain true to Scripture and to historical facts of Christ's life. It is a series of essays and vignettes regarding events in Christ's life on this earth. Titles of some of these stories: Follow the Carpenter, Jesus Teaches Parables, What Jesus Stood For, The Price of Silver, Drops of Blood, and many more. It is a wonderful small book with beautiful illustrations.



THE EXILES

Author: Robert L. Wise

This is the 2nd book in the People of the Covenant Series. It is a historical novel about the majestic saga of the dramatic events surrounding the rise of the 1st century church and one family's determination to carry Christ's message into hostile first-century Rome.

“As the savage persecution of Christians sweeps through Rome, Jarius Ben Aaron and his family are called to carry the Gospel into the city. Can this brave family, equipped only with Christ's magnificent teaching, conquer the fierce swords and godless brutality of Nero's evil City?”

Board of Education

Our youth are excited and ready to roll!

We had a meeting with our youth and their parents and have come up with lots of activities for the next 3 months.

The youth had many ideas of things they wanted to do and be involved in and the parents have agreed to assist our Jr. & Sr. High teachers in carrying out these activities.

The youth have chosen fun things, mission/servant activities, learning activities and I'm sure there is much more they want to get into!

If any of you in the congregation would like to work with the youth and help with activities, please talk to me. We'll get you set up in whatever area you want to

assist in.

So as you can see, our youth are enthused and willing to try new things.

Sunday School is ready for the Fall. We have teachers and some substitutes but could always use more. We have lesson materials and children but could always use more children. We have chosen a Christmas Service for the Sunday School and Preschool to do. We are planning to present our service on Wednesday, December 1st. We have several activities planned for the kids so if you want to be a part of this—please talk to Kay.

Trunk or Treat is fast approaching. This year we are looking for some people who would be willing to come early to help set up and some to stay after to help clean up

as well as those who participate with decorated trunks. This year you are free to decorate your trunk how you see fit but please not too scary. We will also ask people to donate items for this event so please watch your bulletins for more information.

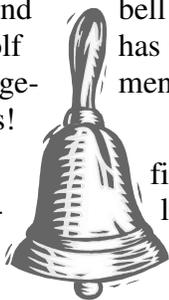
Also watch for a couple of pot luck brunches—not scheduled yet but sure to be a part of our activities.

If you have any questions for the Board of Education; want to help with any of our activities or events, or have suggestions of other activities for us to do, please talk to me. We want the Board to be “user friendly” and can only do this with your help and support.

Kay Scharf,
Chair Board of Education

Hand Bells

We have been blessed with an advanced hand bell group this summer. Let's continue this blessing with our regular hand bell choir during the winter months. Wolf has agreed to continue to do some nice arrangements for us—now all we need are ringers!



Hand bell first rehearsal will be September 19th following Education Hour. No experience is necessary just a desire to have fun, learn something new and honor our Savior with glorious sound of hands bells.

Come join us!

D.J. Ebert

Mission Books—Book Mission

A recent study shows that while in middle income families the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods the ratio is 1 age appropriate book for every 300 children.

The Child Care Center will be collecting children's books for Westside Cares during the month of September. We are collecting books for ages birth to 5 years old. If you would like to donate a new or used (in good condition) book, we would appreciate it.

You can also make a monetary gift (make checks payable to "Scholastic Books" and we will purchase books for you.

Thank



You!

Missionary Lizards

Maybe you noticed Steggy and Friends in the Narthex as you entered church. Perhaps you've been wondering what is going on in Sunday School this summer. Seriously- Dinosaurs? What do they have to do with the Bible, with Jesus, with the Gospel? Why on earth would we want to send our kids to look at dead dino bones? Let me explain.

I don't know about many of you, but I had a bit of a fascination with dinosaurs as a child. My personal favorite was triceratops. This may have been helped along by a cute character named "Sara" in the movie Land Before Time. I know many of our Sunday School students like dinosaurs, too. It is fascinating to think these huge animals once lived on the Earth, and that we can dig their fossilized bones up out of the ground.

Evolutionists capitalize on that fascination. So can we! In fact Ken Ham is fond of referring to Dinosaurs as Missionary Lizards. Using the story of dinosaurs we can easily share our faith. For example- how did Dinosaurs come to be? We know that God created them- the sea-dwelling Plesiosaurs on day 5 and the land-dwelling ones on day 6. Another intriguing question- why are there no more dinosaurs? Why do we find their fossils in rock layers? Couldn't Noah's flood provide the answer? After all, we find billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the earth- just what you would expect to find if the earth was covered by a catastrophic flood.

The disconcerting thing about Dinosaurs is that they are dead. The Dinosaur Resource Center is filled with bones, but has no living displays! Even one of our toddlers noticed this and asked about it. This points to the reality of sin. The earth is groaning under its weight- including all of God's creatures. We all will wind up dead. We, however, have hope in this hopeless situation. We have been promised new life in Jesus Christ, through his death and resurrection. He is the ark of salvation, the One who will return to create a new heaven and a new Earth, one that is no longer groaning, one where death has not the victory.

So, next time you find yourself talking about Dinosaurs, I challenge you to share your faith! If you want more ammo- check out Pastor's Library for some interesting books. D is for Dinosaurs will get you caught up with our children!

Deaconess Sarah

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

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Newsletter Deadline September 15, 2010

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

Book Club Upcoming Selections

Whether or not you enjoy a book or agree with the thesis, you are invited to join in the discussion on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at The Rock.

September: Son of Hamas by Ron Bracken. Reviewed in a previous newsletter, this timely selection describes life in a religion and culture we are increasingly in contact with.

October: The Red Tent by Anita Diamont: This fictional book begins with the Biblical account of Dinah, one of Jacob and Rachel's daughters.

November: Kitty My Rib by E. Jane Mall. Ever wonder what Martin Luther's wife's life was like? This Biography of Katherina Von Bora will open up our Lutheran heritage.

December: The Christmas Sweater by Glen Beck Based on a deeply personal true story, The Christmas Sweater is a warm and poignant tale of family, faith, and forgiveness that makes us question whether we really know what's most important in our own lives.

Do you have a book you'd like to discuss? Suggest it to Deaconess Sarah sarahdsacco@live.com or Karen Grassi.

New Photo Directory

Have you signed up yet?

September 16, 17, & 18 we need you to get your photos taken for our new directory.

If you already know you won't be in town, please arrange to have your photo taken by Marilyn Baker so we will have one to put into the directory.

You can sign up on line by going to our web site and clicking on the link there or on Sunday mornings after church service in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please talk to Barbara Hermansen 579-8015 or Terry Horton 260-6774

Hope to see you there!!!



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$12,945.99
Capital Improvement Fund = \$15,042.16
Ukraine Fund = \$9141.80
Bathroom = — \$3419.30

