

THE ROCK

Issue No. 4

April 2010

Special Dates

- March 30 Lenten Dinner & Worship
- April 1&2 Women's Retreat
- April 3 Young Adult Concert
- April 5 Cookie Decorating
- April 5 Elders meeting
- April 6 Lenten Dinner & worship
- April 7 Sunday School Teachers Meeting
- April 13 Lenten Dinner & Service
- April 15 3rd Friday
- April 16 Youth Servant Event at Medical Mission
- April 17 Palm Sunday
- April 19 Ukraine Meeting
- April 21 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 22 Good Friday Service
- April 24 Sunrise Service
- April 24 Easter Breakfast
- April 24 Children's Carnival
- April 25 Church office closed
- April 26-28 Tri-Circuit Conference
- April 26 Ladies Guild

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People of the Month

Child: Stella Reed

Age: 1 1/2 years

What are some of your favorite things?

Veggie Tales, princesses, cookies, dancing, giving kisses, counting

Favorite Jesus song, Bible story, prayer, etc? Why?

I like to sing “Jesus Loves Me”. I also like to pray before two of my favorite times; mealtime and bedtime!

I like nativity scenes because I love animals, baby Jesus, and I like to make Mary & Joseph dance.

Youth: Kaitlyn Soyk

Year in School: Junior

What school do you attend?

Liberty High School

What are some of your hobbies?

My hobbies include cross country running as well as running trails, and spending time with friends.

Do you have any ideas for what vocation you might choose?

I want to pursue a career in veterinary science.

What is a Bible verse, story, hymn, or song that has special meaning to you? Why?

My favorite bible verse is Psalm 96:1 because I love to sing.

Adult: Hilda Farrell

Tell us a bit about your life:

I was born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and married in 1940 to Robert Farrell. We had 3 sons, Mike, Tim, and Pat. We moved with Robert's work to Galveston, Texas and then to Tyler Texas, where we lived until moving to Colorado Springs to be closer to Pat and his daughter, Heather.

What Hobbies or Special Interests do you have?

Dancing (Ballroom and Big Band) Robert and I met at a dance! Then, when we grew older we spent a lot of time at our kids competitive swimming meets. I used to quilt when I lived in Tyler, and was involved with the women's group and quilting at Rock of Ages. Robert and I were on the committee to organize dances for the youth group when we lived in Tyler.

What do you like best about being a part of the Rock of Ages family?

I like everything about it, and Pastor went to school in Fort Wayne, Indiana where I grew up.

What is a Bible verse, story, hymn or song that has special meaning to you? Why?

Jesus Loves Me. This song comes to mind- we were always singing it!

I Want Easter!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I'm really ready for Easter. And it is so late this year. I enjoyed the long season of Epiphany, but I want Easter. It is officially Spring now, Daylight Savings Time has come, but we still have four weeks of LENT.

Lent is purple. Lent is penitential. I need a revival! Or is it already fading like the lilies? Maybe we do need a "revival". Maybe we could put a big colored tent out in the yard, get some balloons on the fences, paste up posters around the neighborhood. REVIVAL! COME TO ROCK OF AGES TENT REVIVAL!!!

I can sense the shudders even as I write this. We don't do revivals! It's not tasteful. But then, what do we need? We need Easter. And it's coming. At one time Lent was just one week long. But then it grew, and grew, all the way up to our present forty days. But if you count the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter you find forty-seven. So which is it? Forty or Forty-Seven?

If you look at the little bulletin inserts on Sunday morning, at the top of the sheet with the Introit and Collect (whatever that is), you will note the heading reads "Sunday **IN** Lent." "IN" Lent, not "OF" Lent. Each Sunday morning when we gather we participate in a little Easter celebration. As we listen to the Good News, sing God's praise, receive the Sacraments, we participate in God's "revival." It is not something we cook up. It is His gift, His grace straight from heaven to you.

But we also need this time of Lent. As we make this journey together and with our Lord Jesus, we focus on His Cross, on the amazing gift that He gave us through His sacrifice on the Cross. But then each Sunday morning we rejoice in the amazing news that the Cross is empty, the tomb is empty, our Savior has risen. It doesn't require a special tent, balloons, or whatever we might cook up. He has done it all. And in His promise we are *revived*.

Well, you are probably reading this on the last Sunday in March (hopefully not during the sermon), the Third Sunday IN Lent, with another twenty-eight days to go. But if you are here on this Sunday, rejoice – it is a little Easter! And He will revive you, sustain you for the journey – all the way to His return.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron



Vacation Bible School
 "Hometown Nazareth-
 Where Jesus was a Kid"
 July 11-15, 2011



New Mission Project

The Board of Elders and the Church Council have voted to help a Mission church in Utah.

Light of the Valley Lutheran Church in Riverton, Utah, is a church facing many challenges not typical of a new mission. With support from Grace Lutheran Church in Sandy and other Lutherans in the Salt Lake City area, Light of the Valley has sought to reach new people in a growing part of the metropolitan area. This area is referred to by other churches as “the largest domestic mission field” in the United States.

In a practical sense, even the business of finding a building or place to worship is a challenge in Utah. One common option for new missions is to rent a space in a school. However, since the school board in Riverton is entirely Mormon, they oppose a Christian church using any of their spaces. Retail space can be found, but the cost is prohibitive. The congregation which formed about five years ago has rented spaces in a car dealership and a mortuary. Every time they change locations, they lose membership. Currently they meet near a strip mall which carries a rental fee of \$6000 per month. The owner of the building has recently placed it on the market and it is questionable whether Light of the Valley will be in a financial position to purchase the building. Just the required market feasibility study would carry a price tag of \$15,000.

Establishing a Christian church in an urban area that is over 50% Mormon presents some unique challenges. People are not necessarily unfriendly or antagonistic, but often are very closed to Christian outreach. Those who have rejected Mormonism tend to reject God altogether.

The mission of Light of the Valley is to feed believers through the Word and Sacraments and to grow this church. There are many good reasons to stay strong in this mission; many people want to know just what it means to be a Lutheran and will thus engage in theological discussions more easily. Eventually the congregation would like to offer daycare and early childhood education. God is guiding the development of this church and has blessed them with the leadership of Pastor Alan Borchert. Obviously their monetary needs are great as is their need for our prayers and support.

There are photos posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The Foot of the Cross

What do you need to leave at the foot of the cross? As we continue our Lenten journey this month, the words of Scripture speak clearly of our need for Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Perhaps a reading from Wednesday or Sunday service has already struck home- certainly we are surrounded with temptations both within and without. Maybe, as you spend extra time in meditation, you find yourself struck by the utter hopelessness of your situation. The truth is that as we look inwards what we most often find is our own sinfulness- our shortcomings, failures, aches, pains and losses. The enemy, the world, and most especially our sinful selves can seem overwhelming.

In this situation, allow the words of Paul to offer some solace. “If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:17-20

As we approach the cross of Good Friday, remember that whatever sins you commit, whatever sins have been committed against you, whatever hurt, pain, or addiction you battle-these have been crucified with Christ Jesus on the cross. He bears these for you. Leave them at the foot of the cross, trusting in Jesus’ sacrifice and looking to His life in you.

“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by His wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Deaconess Sarah

Library—Monthly Featured Item

"THE ULTIMATE GIFT" - DVD

Based on Jim Stovall's best-selling novel, The Ultimate Gift sends a young man of privilege on an improbable journey. Trust fund baby Jason Stevens (Drew Fuller) loves all of life's gifts, as long as they're bankable. But when his wealthy grandfather, Red (James Garner) dies, Jason receives a most unusual inheritance: 12 tasks, which Red calls "gifts," to challenge Jason to grow as a man. If he succeeds, the experience will not only change Jason forever, but he will discover the real meaning of wealth. Also starring, the young actress, Abigail Breslin (2011 Academy Award nominee) and Brian Dennehy.

"VICTORY OVER THE DARKNESS" - Realizing the Power of Your Identity in Christ" - BOOK Author: Dr. Neil T. Anderson

It's Jesus' promise to you - the promise that you live triumphantly. But what keeps you from really walking in the joy of the Lord? The powers of darkness attack us daily. Dr. Neil Anderson shows us in this book that you can have the power to conquer them by knowing who you are in Christ. Learn how to:

- * Realize the power of your identity in Christ
- * Free yourself from the burdens of your past
- * Stand against the spiritual forces of this world
- * Win the battle for your mind
- * Become the spiritual person you want to be
- * Discover the truth about God's view of you

"CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER" - DVD (Timely reminder of a DVD that has been featured in the past)

Passover is the traditional Jewish feast that Jesus celebrated every year. In this DVD, you can learn the Hebrew names and meanings of each element of this biblical festival and discover the amazing connection between the Passover and the Christian communion. Artistic illustrations, graphics, glimpses of a Jewish family celebrating the feast, and Jewish gospel music add to this meaningful program that you'll enjoy watching again and again. (40 Minutes)

HUMOR OF THE MONTH

The four-year-old boy had heard his parents and pastor talk about Christmas being Jesus' birthday. Later he heard them discuss Good Friday and Easter. When he heard about the death of Jesus and His going to heaven, the little boy thoughtfully turned to his mother and said, "Jesus did everything on the holidays, didn't he?"

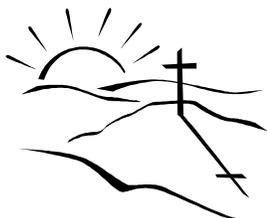


Easter Breakfast

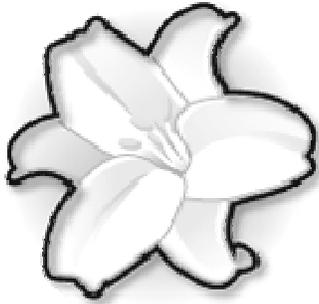
Hosted by our Board of Elders

April 24th 7:30 a.m.

Please join us for good food
and fellowship!!!



Holy Week and Easter Schedule



April 17—Palm Sunday—

9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Education Hour

April 21—Maundy Thursday—

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion— “Refuge” Joshua 20:7-9

April 22—Good Friday—

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service— “Nobody” Deuteronomy 7:7

April 24—Easter—

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

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

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion— “Buried” 2 Kings 13:21

10:30 a.m. Easter Carnival—in playground area. Includes egg hunt, crafts and games!

April 25—Easter Monday—

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED!!!!!!

note from Sunday School...



Sunday School is going great! We’ve had great attendance and the classes are having a blast! The children are doing several activities and projects. The younger classes have been collecting offerings in their “piggy” banks and at the end of the season they will be donating their offerings to a mission. The older groups have been doing a joint study and going out on several different adventures away from the church... such as laser tag, movie nights, LVR trips, and sledding.

Thanks to all the Sunday School staff for their hard work and help to make the program strong and successful! We need teachers to teach Summer Sunday School! It starts in June and Runs to the end of August. It’s a weekly sign up and combined class... so you can pick the date(s) you would like to teach! Please let me know if you are interested. There will be a meeting before classes start to review lessons, crafts, projects, etc.

THANK YOU for keeping us in your prayers and your support!

We have several things coming up...

April 24th- THE EASTER CARNIVAL! ~ Games, Egg Hunt, Crafts, Music

April 7th- Evening teachers meeting

May 12th- Evening Summer Sunday School teacher meeting

June 5th- SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL! ~Missions across the World – Kids will travel all over the world and learn different things each place they visit!

July 30th- Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Picnic

August 28th- Rally Day!



IN HIS NAME!

Karen Bodine

SS Superintendent



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

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Newsletter Deadline April 12, 2011

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME

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

DECORATE EASTER COOKIES APRIL 5TH AT 6:00 P.M.

Bring a couple dozen cookies to decorate, your favorite decorating tools and join us for fun & fellowship! We will provide the frostings.

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!

April Has Christianity Failed You? By Ravi Zacharias. Zacharias asked this question, and to his surprise filled a 5,000 seat venue with people answering “yes.” In this book, he explores many of the concerns that people leaving the fold speak of.



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = 413,945.91
Capital Improvement Fund = \$16,057.39
Ukraine Fund = \$3,558.55



Mission Update

As many of you know for the past couple of years, our congregation has given the Colorado Springs Corvette Club a \$1000 to help with their Christmas Food Basket program. This year they won an award—please read the following:

“Practicing the Golden Rule has won four car clubs the coveted Eagle One Golden Rule Award for conducting the most outstanding service program in their region during 2010.

The Grand Prize, for the most compassionate deed, was bestowed on the Colorado Springs Corvette Club, winner in the Western Region.

During the Christmas holiday season, the Club donated baskets containing a complete Christmas dinner and enough food for a week that fed over 1,000 needy family members, primarily children.

In recognition of this achievement, Eagle One and associate sponsor Valvoline donated a total of \$1,500 to a favorite charity of the club.”

To read more about this, please see the information posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Rent A Youth

As a fund raiser for activities, our Junior & Senior Youth are available to “rent” for chores such as Spring Cleaning; yard work; painting; etc. during the month of April. They will be available on the weekends except for Saturday, April 16th when they are doing volunteer work for Medical Mission Clinic.



We suggest a minimum of \$15 for a half day and \$30 for a full day. We also ask that you provide all the tools and supplies for the project plus snacks and water to keep them nourished.

If you are “renting” a youth, sign-up sheet on the narthex where you can get the phone number, whether it would be a full or half day, how many youth you need, and what the task will involve.



interested in there will be a podium in the narthex where you can fill in your name, whether it would be a full or half day, how many youth you need, and what the task will involve.