

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 12

December 2011

Special Dates

- Nov 27 1st Sunday in Advent
- Nov 27 Final Dress Rehearsal for Children's Program
- Nov 30 Children's Christmas Program
- Dec 2 World Aids Day Concert
- Dec 5 Ladies Bible Study
- Dec 7 Advent Service
- Dec 8 Ukraine Meeting
- Dec 10 Youth to Mr. Biggs Extreme Challenge
- Dec 11 Ladies Christmas Party
- Dec 13 Circuit Pastors meet at Immanuel
- Dec 14 Advent Service
- Dec 16 3rd Friday
- Dec 17 Young Adults Christmas Party
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service
- Dec 26 Office Closed
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve
- Jan 1 New Year's Day Service
- Jan 2 Office Closed

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Annual World AIDS Day Concert

Friday, December 2 at 7 pm

Admission: A non-perishable food item or personal hygiene item for the Southern Colorado AIDS Project

Featured musicians include:

Rock of Ages Bell Choir
Rock of Ages Vocal Choir
Carmen Anthony Sacco
Pup Morris (Local Country music favorite)
Neil Kovack
Mike Burns

Don't Miss this night of great entertainment!!!!

Great Christmas Card Collection

Starting November 20th, we will be collecting cards for our Shut-ins. Please check out the table in the narthex with their pictures and pick up a list of names to address your cards with.

All you have to do is to place the cards you want to go to the shut-ins into the basket on the table.

We ask that your cards be deposited in the basket by Dec. 25th.

During the week between Christmas & New Years we will hand-deliver the notes to each person. Just imagine the smiles when our sisters and brothers in Christ open the shower of cards and love!



Star of Wonder
Children's Christmas Service

Wednesday, November 30th
7:00 p.m.



Our kids have been practicing hard and learning some amazing songs and choreography that will help them to tell the Christmas Story.

Cookies and Punch will be served afterwards by our Ladies Guild!

See you there!!!

The Attributes of God

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This year's Confirmation Class is doing well working their way through *Luther's Small Catechism*. But almost every class seems to have a little bit of difficulty with Question #93: Who is God? In this section, Luther presents thirteen attributes or characteristics of God. So here they are:

- * God is Spirit (God is not created; an attribute "Aseity" means He is self-existent; John 4:24)
- * Eternal (Without beginning or end; beyond the framework of time: 1 Timothy 1:17)
- * Unchangeable (Immutable; Psalm 102:27)
- * Omniscient (All-knowing; Psalm 139:1-4)
- * Omnipresent (Ubiquity – present everywhere, fills all space, yet not spatial; Jeremiah 23:24)
- * Omnipotent (All-powerful; Genesis 17:1; Matthew 19:26)
- * Holy (Without sin and hating sin; Leviticus 19:2)
- * Just (Fair and impartial; Deuteronomy 32:4)
- * Faithful (Keeps His promises; 2 Timothy 2:13)
- * Good (Desires best for our welfare; Psalm 118:1)
- * Merciful (Full of pity – not doing what we deserve; Titus 3:5)
- * Gracious (Showing undeserved kindness, forgiveness; Exodus 34:6-7)
- * Love (John 3:16)

While they might struggle a bit with some of the above attributes, all of our students respond perfectly when asked "Who is the only true God?" Answer: The Triune God!

With Christmas drawing near, our focus this time of year tends to be on the little Babe of Bethlehem. What attributes do you associate with this story? Does the above list seem appropriate? The Holy Scriptures teach us that Jesus was both True Man AND True God. So when He arrived in human form He would have had the attributes a newborn baby – but without sin. For in that little package was also True God.

Luther also helps us understand this mystery by teaching us about Jesus' "Two States" – Humiliation and Exaltation. This one also sometimes confuses our Catechism students. In His State of Humiliation Jesus "put aside" some of the divine attributes for a time. This little Babe of our Christmas celebration came in the first Advent as a humble Servant, living a perfect life for us, dying for us.

But now He has ascended back to His heavenly throne – His State of Exaltation. And now He fully holds all attributes – both human and divine. And in this Advent season we focus also upon the fulfillment of Scripture, the promise that our Savior and King will return in full glory one day soon. And with all those attributes present, it will truly be an awesome sight.

And when you see one of our Catechumens around church, take a moment and check them out on these attributes.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron



Christmas Eve Service
7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 24th



Ukraine Mission

On hearing about this year's mission trip to Ukraine, I can't help but think of the first trip when we worked with the Lutheran brotherhood of Ukraine. We didn't set the world on fire with the amount of work we did or the amount of children that we worked with. We were mostly getting acquainted with the new settings and meeting all the people who were already working in Ukraine. I think that we only worked with about 30 to 40 of the children that we would eventually be working with, but the important thing was we made the contacts with the people who would approve of what we were doing, and the message that we were taking to the children. Like I said not too much work, but enough to spark a little fire and get the ball rolling. The most important thing we did that year was meet with the Millars in Mykoliav. What a wonderful Christian family to work with!

Fast forward to this last year. The work has expanded in every direction and as we covered the work in Kagarlyk and Savron, the team visited all the old places and all of these added new orphanages and old people's homes. In these two villages I believe the team worked with about 300+ kids. Then on to Mykoliav and the Millars where the team went to the boys' detention center and the men's mental center. Then the Government wanted to meet with the team. Now this is not normally the best of news, however in this case, the officials had heard good things about our team and actually had a new place for the team to go. It was called the Eagle camp, and they wanted the team to stay there for two days including an overnight, and work with 600+ children from just young kids to 16 and 17 years olds.

You can imagine the team is now at the end of their trip and in no way had enough material to go around for this amount of children. They did have all the skits that they preformed and told Bible stories and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Mr. Millar went with them and he, without the barrier of language, was able to talk to the young people and answer their questions about sin. In fact, he has been able to go back and begin to teach them in a kind of catechism setting and he will answer the many questions that they have. It is very surprising how open these children are to the Word of God.

After the trip, the team estimated that it made contact with over 1000 children. I personally don't know how they did it, but we are reminded that all things are possible through God, and reminds us that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

That brings us home to new opportunities. Several of the team members cannot go back this year, due to schooling or other schedule problems and this opens the door for new members to join the team. We ask you to think and pray about volunteering to join the team. If anyone has even the slightest feeling of being called to go, please contact Dawn Atkinson, Pete Coggeshall, Karen Twenhafel or myself and we can tell you what this will require and how to get involved.

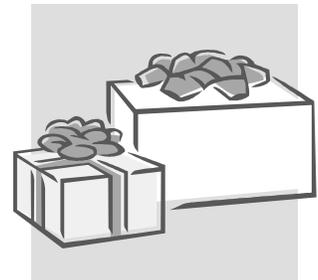
Thank you in advance!

In the Lord's service;
John Yenter

LADIES!

SAVE THE DATE! YOU ARE INVITED!
LADIES GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH at 4PM

Join us for: The Gifts of Christmas Program
Food, Fun & Fellowship following!



Contact Susan Avila for info or to RSVP. See you there!

Library—Monthly Featured Item

There are 7 new books in the library for the fans of authors Jan Karon and Phillip Gulley. For those not familiar with the authors, Jan Karon writes the bestselling Mitford series and Phillip Gulley Harmony series. Karon writes stories about the rector of Lord's Chapel in a small parish in Mitford, off the Atlantic coast on Whitecap island, and the various unforgettable characters who live on the island. Phillip Gulley writes stories about the town of Harmony and the minister Sam Gardner. Both of the authors capture the essence of small-town life with humor and wisdom.

Jan Karon: 1) "A New Song" 2) "Out to Canaan"

Phillip gulley: 1) "Christmas in Harmony" 2) "Signs and Wonders" 3) "Home to Harmony" 4) "Just Shy of Harmony" 5) "Life Goes On"

Find these books in the "Adult Fiction" section.



HUMOR FOR THE MONTH (Children's Humor)

- 1) A grandmother and her young grandson were discussing how old he was on his birthday. The boy then asked his grandmother how old she was. When she told him, his eyes opened wide in amazement and he asked her, "Did you start at one?"
- 2) A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"
- 3) It was the end of the day when a policeman parked his police van in front of the station. As he gathered his equipment, his K-9 partner, Jake, was barking in the back of his van and a little boy was staring at him. The boy asked: "Is that a dog you got back there?" "It sure is", the policeman replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at the policeman and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What did he do?"

Advent Services

“A Child Is Born In Bethlehem”

Exploring some of the ‘special’ births that took place in Bethlehem.

Wednesday Nights at 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation & Choir will be held after services.



Sports Update!

Hello sports fans!

The last four weeks have been challenging ones for your ROA Purple Spikers volleyball team. After winning their division in October, the Spikers got moved up a division, and with that, increased competition. Although they competed well for each week and match, 3 losses dropped ROA back down a division for the rest of the season.

Weekly matches continued on 11/14, as the Purple Spikers gave a valiant three-set battle against a divisional foe. However, they fell just short, and dropped their 4th straight loss. Even with a season record of 2 wins and 5 losses, the Spikers are still in contention for a 2nd divisional title, though.

With the season drawing to a close on 12/12, come on out and watch your ROA volleyball team compete for their division and tournament. Matches are played on Monday evenings at Big House Sports in Colorado Springs. Please check out the weekly bulletin or congregational website for times, and ask Dave/Kim Foster or Jim Kuehnert for more details.

-ROA Sports Teams



Home

Home. What image comes into your mind when you think of it? Perhaps it is a Norman-Rockwell like picture of snow, horses pulling sleighs, and logs crackling on the fire. Maybe you envision perfect order, with a place for everything and everything in its place. It could be that you see pages from your favorite decorating magazine- furniture perfectly appointed and carefully arranged, your very own style of artwork hanging on the walls and perfectly clean floors; everything reflecting your very own personality.

Home. Sometimes this word brings painful memories, images of strife, argument, and pain. Too often we have experienced the worst of humanity within the four walls of our homes. Even if true abuse and hurt have not occurred, I am willing to bet that your own home has not always lived up to your standards. It may be too big, too small, too lonely, or too lively. Perhaps the dust bunnies have come out of hiding, the sofa has rips, or the fridge is looking a bit empty. Maybe you don't even have a place to call your home. I'd even be willing to say that your relationships with the people in your home are not what you want them to be.

Home. As we approach the season of holiday traditions, it is likely that we long in our hearts for this mythical place. Or perhaps it is better to say that we long for a place of peace, for the feeling of love and acceptance we just KNOW exists somewhere. Oh, probably not in our own home, in our own relationships. But the longing for home is there.

Home. Jesus, true God, gave up His perfect heavenly home to become a human being. (John 1) At his birth he made his home in the humblest of circumstances- a human body born of a woman and laid to rest in a manger. Cradled in the arms of a sinful mother; adopted and guarded by a sinful man. And then, after living, growing up, dying on the cross, and rising again He still today chooses to make His home within us. (John 14:23, Ephesians 2:22, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Home. Rest. Joy. These things are promised by the Prince of Peace Himself. No matter what kind of physical or emotional home you find yourself in today, you can rest with Jesus as your true home. Take all of that longing, all the loneliness, all the desire you carry in your heart to Him. He longs to hear of it. He will wash the sins of your heart away with His very own blood and decorate it beautifully- with Himself.

In His Peace

Deaconess Sarah

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

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Newsletter Deadline December 14, 2011

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME

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

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!



January: Constantine Codex by Rock of Ages and Book Club favorite author Paul Maier. This is his most recent book, released just this summer.

February: To be determined



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$14,151.85
Capital Improvement Fund = \$16,400.15
Ukraine Fund = 2050.48



Turtle Cake

1 box German Chocolate cake mix
1 (14oz.) bag of caramels
3/4 cup butter
1/2 can evaporated milk
1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup chopped pecans

Grease a 9x13 inch pan. Mix the cake batter according to package directions. (Use your own high altitude adjustments). Pour half the batter into the pan, and bake at 350° for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the caramels with the butter and milk in saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Pour this over the hot baked cake. Top with chocolate chips and pecans. Pour the rest of the cake batter over the chips and pecans. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes more.



ITEMS FOR DONATIONS FOR WESTSIDE CARES FOR DECEMBER ARE:

RICE AND PASTA