

THE ROCK

Issue No. 1

January 2010

Special Dates

- Dec 27 Office Closed
- Dec 31 New Years Eve Service
- Jan 3 Ladies Bible Study
- Jan 5 Confirmation Resumes
- Jan 9 De-decorate church
- Jan 10 Book Club
- Jan 10 Elders
- Jan 11 Circuit Pastors meet
- Jan 13 Thurs. AM Bible Study
- Jan 17 Ladies bible Study
- Jan 18 Ukraine Meeting
- Jan 20 Council Mtg.
- Jan 21 3rd Friday
- Jan 21 Singer/Songwriter
- Jan 22 Ladies Guild
- Jan 27 Thurs. AM Bible Study
- Jan 28-30 Jr. High LVR Retreat
- Jan 29 Sr. Youth Glow Golf
- Jan 30 Ukraine Team outing
- Jan 30 End of Life Planning Speaker
- Feb 1 Elders Meeting

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People of the Month

Child: Colt Walker Bodine

Age: 3 months

Favorite things? I like Christmas music and lights. I'm learning how to make noises and I've found my hands and love to play with them. I like it when daddy carries me around and mommy sings to me. I love to move and be in motion. I'm working hard at eating and sleeping and I love bubble baths. I love spending times with my grandparents and friends.

Favorite Church stuff: My mommy sings Jesus loves me every night before bed and we say a prayer every night. But, as young as I am I can tell you how much power there is in prayer. My daddy, mommy and me love all of our friends at church! Thank you for praying for me as I grow.

Adult: Jim Kuehnert

Vocation: Operations Manager for a wireless company

What hobbies or special interests do you have?

I am a sports junkie! I enjoy participating in sports activities (baseball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, hiking, etc.) I also enjoy viewing all sports. I like traveling, history, geography, grilling on the BBQ, and spending time with friends and family.

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

Unlike, unfortunately, the previous congregation I belonged to, this is truly a family! We are a welcoming and outgoing group of God's Children. We also know how to laugh and have fun together. I've felt welcomed from the very beginning.

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

Nothing gives me more hope, comfort, and pleasure than the greatest story ever told, especially the Easter message!

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” - This hymn energizes me, and was my dad's favorite song for Reformation.

“O Holy Night” - A beautiful song that reminds me of Christmas Eve's with my family, all listening to the songs on the record player.

JOY!

“For the Joy of the Lord is my strength”

Joy to the World! Comfort and Joy. Merry Christmas. We have been singing these carols, hearing these words, and surrounding ourselves with the fervor of Christmas for weeks now. If we believe all that rhetoric, we would think that we are filled with, surrounded by, and experiencing joy constantly! So, is that the case for you?

Truth is, joy can be difficult to “feel.” Especially as the gifts are unwrapped, the feasts eaten, the tree taken down, and the family gone home. It all seems so anticlimactic- this hanging of joy on one day. Perhaps this whole season leaves you feeling less than joyful? With dwindling light, icy winds blowing, and colds going around the winter blues can overwhelm even the most optimistic of us. That doesn’t even take into account the other griefs and sorrows that can sometimes be more keenly felt this time of year.

From the time of Jesus’ birth, through his death and resurrection, joy is being proclaimed as central to the Christian life. For example, in John 15:11 Jesus tells his disciples “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” As he prepares his disciples for his impending death and resurrection, he turns again to joy in Chapter 16. It starts in verse 17, but I will quote starting at 19 “Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, ‘Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘in a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come, but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you. Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.’” Jesus points to His resurrection (and eventual return later in the passage) as the source of the joy that the disciples and later we ourselves will experience.

Jesus’ resurrection changes everything. Yes, we mourn and grieve. Jesus did, after all, die on the cross for our sins. But our grief will eventually turn to joy. Even in the midst of our sadness, our holiday let-down, our winter blues, and all of the other physical, spiritual, and mental issues we all grieve, Jesus is there. He offers us himself, and in him we find joy. Perhaps it is fleeting for the moment. But we cling to the promise of the resurrection. Spring will come. Jesus is Alive, and in Him we walk in newness of life.

Deaconess Sarah Sacco

Board of Education

Junior Youth will be going to a retreat at LVR the end of January. This will include youth from other area churches. As time grows closer, we will give more specifics as to what you need to bring with you. The dates are Jan. 28th through the 30th.

Senior youth’s next activity is Glowgolf. On January 29th at 1:00 p.m. Glowgolf is located at 750 Citadel Drive East, Suite 2072.

Sunday School is going great with lots of activities and bunches of enthusiastic kids and teachers. Our Christmas Service went very well with a good attendance. Special thanks to the Ladies Guild for hosting the Cookies and punch afterwards!!!

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please talk to me anytime. Kay

Third Friday

January 21st

Noon

Join us for a potluck lunch followed by games in the afternoon.

We have great fun and lots of fellowship!!!

Please come and try us out!

Library—Monthly Featured Item

Book Review: The 4 book series “Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers” by Joey Allan was recently added to our library. They are targeted at kids ages 4-7, and attempt to tackle theology on a level that kids can understand and engage with.

The characters portrayed in the series are little kids, named things like Gracie and Angel, who explain whichever theological thought is being presented. One downfall is the fact that each book only has one character, so two of the books have a boy and two have a girl. The gender of the story teller impacts the desire of the reader to interact... at least in my house! The artwork and characters (particularly the girls) really appealed to my almost-2 year old. She declared the books hers as I was attempting to read them, so we gave them a whirl.

Overall, the language is a bit preachy- and pretty abstract. In defense of the author, a two-year old is not the target audience! The author also has Reformed Theology, which comes out especially in the title “The Gospel.” It offers several different biblical metaphors for salvation, but emphasizes a need to “ask Jesus into your heart.” Since my audience can’t yet read, it was easy to emphasize a more Lutheran understanding and talk about the Holy Spirit and baptism. On the stronger side, it presented realistic ideas of sin (coloring on the walls and hitting, anyone?) and forgiveness. This was ultimately what stuck and what she talked about after reading the books.

“The Bible” offers lots of information about the Scriptures, their organization, and why they matter. “The Trinity” talks about God’s attributes using words small kids can understand. I wanted it to introduce the big words like omniscient along with it. I guess the reading parent can supply those. “The Mission” talks about sharing your faith and loving your friends. This was my favorite. Overall, I would recommend these books with the understanding that parents can fill in where necessary!



Advent Anticipation!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

The deadline set for this newsletter mandates that I must write something for January even before we’ve gotten to Christmas! My mind is still in Advent, a time of anticipation, expectation. But that doesn’t need to end. The Christmas celebration recalls the first Advent, the birth of a promised Savior. That promise was fulfilled. We rejoice in the Good News that came from that First Advent – a Savior who came in humility, as a Servant, to die in our place. Now because of that Advent we can anticipate the Second with joyful expectation.

In January we leave Christmas behind once again. But Scriptures promise a Second Advent, the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this time He will come in glory, with all the hosts of angels and saints. St. John and the other apostles believed that time was close as they penned our New Testament. How much closer must it be now? As you read this we will be entering a new year, 2011 Anno Dominio, in the Year of Our Lord, another year wherein we are blessed to live in His grace.

How will we walk into that New Year? Prayerfully, in anticipation, trusting that He might return any day. I have a little sign on my office wall. It’s the first thing I see as I come in the door and it helps me maintain that focus. It simply reads:

Perhaps Today!

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron

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

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Newsletter Deadline January 18, 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 **Same Kind of Different as Me** by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. What does it mean to love those who are outcast, to care for those who are helpless? This true story of friendship, redemption, struggle, and loss may challenge our views of the homeless. Join us for a lively discussion Monday, January 10 at 7 pm.

February **Katharina Von Bora** by the Markwalds. This biography of Martin Luther's wife offers a different look at the life and times of the reformation.

March **Pilgrim's Progress** by John Bunyan. This classic Christian allegory was initially begun by the author while in prison! Perhaps it has been on your reading list for a while...

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.

Coming Soon

Daughters of the King women's retreat.

Open to ladies ages 13 and up, this overnight retreat will be focused on recovering a biblical body image.

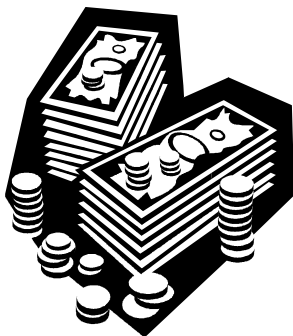
Whether we like to admit it or not, whatever our age we all struggle with being comfortable in and caring for the bodies we were blessed with. Stay tuned for more information to follow!

+ + +

Younger Adult Luncheon:

Sunday, February 13 11:30-1

Childcare will be provided!



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

