

THE ROCK

Issue No. 5

May 2010

Special Dates

- April 24 Easter Breakfast
- April 24 Children’s Carnival
- April 25 Church office closed
- April 26 Ladies Guild
- May 1 Voters’ Assembly
- May 5 Ukraine Team Meets
- May 8 Graduate Recognition
- May 8 Youth Group Rock Climbing
- May 9 Book Club
- May 10 Circuit Pastors at Monument
- May 10 Ladies Guild Salad Supper
- May 12 Bible Study
- May 12 Summer Sunday School Teachers Meeting
- May 14 LWML Spring Conference in Canon City
- May 19 Church Council
- May 20 3rd Friday
- May 20 Singer/Songwriter
- May 26 Bible Study
- May 26 Preschool Graduation
- May 28 VBS Training
- May 29 Youth Group Scavenger Hunt
- May 30 Office Closed

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People of the Month

Child: Abigail (Abbi) Sacco

Age: 2 years

What are some of your favorite things?

Ponies and horses and ponies! I also love to jump, run, and climb and , of course, talk. But most of all, I love ponies!

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

I like Sunday School a lot these days—actually I think it should be Sunday School first! But I like to sing “Jesus Loves Me” and “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” I like to thank Jesus for my food before I eat and say “Now I lay me down to sleep” before I close my eyes.

Youth: Not available at time of printing!

Year in School:

What school do you attend?

What are some of your hobbies?

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

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

Adult: Nathaniel George

What Hobbies or Special Interests do you have?

I like to play in the bell choir, and program computers, and pictures of outer space, and MAD SCIENCE! Bwahahaha!

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

The bell choir. There are some wonderful people in the world, Rock of Ages has some of them.

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

Romans 8:26 (NASB) “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words”

I would like to say something to the teacher who showed me this verse, and helped me find other ways to communicate: Thank you!

Please Note: I would like to apologize to Kaitlin Soyk as in last month’s newsletter I misspelled her name! Sorry Kaitlin!!!

Good News! Bad News!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Once a week the preschool children come up to the sanctuary to spend a little time with Jesus. While preparing a devotion to share with them I discovered a new site on the internet: Good News and Bad News for Pastors.

Good News: You baptized seven people today in the river.

Bad News: You lost two of them in the swift current.

Good News: The Women's Guild voted to send you a get-well card.

Bad News: The vote passed by 31-30.

Good News: The Elder Board accepted your job description the way you wrote it.

Bad News: They were so inspired by it, they also formed a committee to find somebody capable of filling it.

Good News: Mrs. Jones is wild about your sermons.

Bad News: Mrs. Jones is also wild about the "Gong Show"

Good News: Church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks.

Bad News: You were on vacation.

Good News: Your elders want to send you to the Holy Land.

Bad News: They are stalling until the next war.

Good News: The youth in your church come to your house for a surprise visit.

Bad News: It's in the middle of the night and they are armed with toilet paper and shaving cream to "decorate" your house. (I heard the rumors)

Well, the Good News is that I've never lost anyone in a Baptism. God's Word is a Good News – Bad News story, or the other way around, a Bad News – Good News story. Good News! God created a perfect world. Bad News! We messed it up. Good News! God sent a Savior to redeem this mess! Bad News! We nailed Him to a Cross. Good News! Jesus was raised from the dead! Good News! We are saved and have a new relationship with our God.

We just finished our long journey through Lent and Holy Week, a time for meditation on our sins the mess it has made in this world. But now we have once again experienced the joy of Easter. That Good News cannot be trumped. God is victorious over our sin once and forever. Jesus' victory on the Cross has overcome all bad news. Our sin is covered.

But the Good News isn't over! There is more to come! While we may still experience some "Bad News Days" in our lives, Easter promises a victory that is eternal. Christ has promised that He will return, that He will remake this messed up world and we will share the new creation with Him forever.

The world will continue to try and deliver bad news to our doorstep:

Doctor: I have some good news and I have some bad news.

Patient: What's the good news?

Doctor: The good news is that the tests you took showed that you have 24 hours to live.

Patient: That's the good news? What's the bad news?

Doctor: The bad news is that I forgot to call you yesterday!

But the Good News we have in Jesus triumphs over all bad news this world might try and deliver.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron

Ukraine Mission 2011 Report

When I was chosen to be a part of the Ukraine team last year, I felt uncertain about my ability to contribute, as many other members have expressed feeling at times. I did not know what the plan for me was. God used my love for music in Ukraine to communicate without words to the people of Ukraine.

When the team was in Kagarlyk, Uri, the youth pastor there, showed me that his guitar was broken. I had some extra strings, thanks to Anthony Sacco, and was able to share them with Uri. He and I worked together to fix his guitar and share some chords with one another. By this time, some youth had gathered in the church yard. All of us—Uri, me, and the rest of the team joined the youth and sang worship songs that were common to both languages.

In the same way that I was able to make friends with Uri through music, I felt I could contribute to the lessons with the children. It was so much fun to watch their excitement as we sang the songs they already knew. It was also fun to teach them new songs and to learn songs from them.

In the end, I found that I did have a role as a member of the team. I am excited to go back this summer.

Aaron Clymer

Beautiful

Do you know that you are beautiful? Oh, probably you don't fit the Barbie-doll image of "perfection" that our culture likes to thrust on women. But God, the one who wove you together in your mother's womb, sees you as beautiful. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we also look forward to the marriage feast of the lamb. And just who do you think is the bride of the king? You- of course! Listen to these words from a "wedding song"

"Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. The king is enthralled with your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift, men of wealth will seek your favor. All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold, In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her and are brought to you. They are led in with joy and gladness; they enter the palace of the king." Psalm 45:10-15

Yes, the image may be a bit uncomfortable. Perhaps you have only heard words of ugliness, words of hurt, or no words at all. Perhaps you find yourself lonely- longing to be loved as the bride in the Psalm. Maybe you are even beyond hoping that anyone could be enthralled with your beauty. Surely no human being could ever love you enough- could never speak the proper words so you could see yourself as truly beautiful.

We as believers in Jesus are the bride of Christ- the church. Whatever our relationship status may be here on earth, whether or not any human being has called us beautiful or ever will; the Lord, the King, the crucified Lamb, the risen Jesus Christ is enthralled with YOU! In faith he has clothed you in the most glorious wedding gown ever made, washed in His very blood. He is anxiously awaiting the wedding feast when, at last, he will be with YOU forever. The very feast of victory for our God. Yes, the king is enthralled with YOUR beauty. Honor him, for he is your Lord.

Deaconess Sarah

Library—Monthly Featured Item

JESUS - FACT OR FICTION - DVD

The DVD allows you to experience an interactive personal journey with answers to many questions:

- Does God exist?
- Would a loving God allow bad things to happen to good people?
- Is there life after death?
- Does God have a purpose for my life?
- Is there historical evidence for Jesus?

The DVD includes the award-winning feature film "JESUS" which is said to be the most historically accurate film about Jesus.

ALERT: Could everyone please sign out the items taken from the library by signing the enclosed library card and putting it in the metal box provided. It's the only way we have of tracking the checked out books, audio tapes, DVDs, CDs, and videos. The following items are currently missing from the library and there have been requests for them so could they be returned, please.

MISSING FROM LIBRARY:

- 1) "Fireproof" - DVD
- 2) "Passion of the Christ" - DVD

HUMOR FOR THE MONTH:

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100."

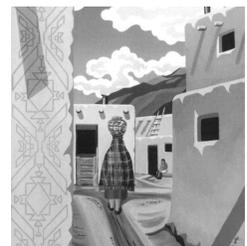
The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes four people to collect all the money!"



Vacation Bible School

“Hometown Nazareth—
Where Jesus was a Kid”

July 11–15, 2011



Summer Sunday School

Our theme for Summer Sunday School is Missions!

Using the “Mission Friends” curricula and the personal experience of some of our members, we will help our children understand

- 1) What a mission is;
- 2) Why we are active in mission work
- 3) Where mission work is done
- 4) The culture of some specific missions
- 5) How they can be missionaries: Pray—Tell—Give



If you would like to help us with our program this Summer, please sign up on the list in Kay’s office. You pick the Sunday you would like to teach and the country you would like to teach on. We have several to choose from.

Summer Sunday School Teachers Meeting is Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

May Day—A cornucopia of holidays

May 1st, often called **May Day**, just might have more holidays than any other day of the year. It's a celebration of Spring. It's a day of political protests. It's a neopagan festival, a saint's feast day, and a day for organized labor. In many countries, it is a national holiday.

Beltane

Beltane was a Celtic calendar feast ushering in the start of summer. (It also went by a variety of other spellings and names in assorted dialects of Gaelic.)

Walpurgisnacht

[St. Walburga](#) (or Walpurgis), the abbess of the monastery of Heidenheim, helped [St. Boniface](#) bring Christianity to 8th Century Germany. She died on Feb. 25, 779. As her remains have been moved on multiple occasions, several days have been designated in her honor, one of which is the first of May.

Fertility Festivals

Some cultures, such as those found in India and Egypt, had spring fertility festivals. The Roman festival celebrating [Flora](#), goddess of fertility, flowers, and spring, was celebrated from April 28 through May 3.

Bringing in the May

In medieval England, people would celebrate the start of spring by going out to the country or woods—"going a-maying"—and gathering greenery and flowers, or "bringing in the may." This was described in "The Court of Love" (often attributed to [Chaucer](#), but not actually written by him) in 1561.

Labor Day

In many countries, May Day is also Labor Day. This originates with the United States labor movement in the late 19th Century. On May 1, 1886, unions across the country went on strike, demanding that the standard workday be shortened to eight hours. Labor leaders, socialists, and anarchists around the world took the American strikes and their fallout as a rallying point, choosing May Day as a day for demonstrations, parades, and speeches. It was a major state holiday in the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

May Day Bank Holiday

In the United Kingdom, the first Monday of May is a bank holiday. Since May 1 does not always fall on a Monday, May Day festivities have been moved to the Monday bank holiday for the public's convenience. Some communities in England still commence celebrations at sunset on April 30 with processions through town centres and floral decorations. Padstow holds the annual Obby Oss, which is thought to be the oldest May Day celebration in the country dating back to the 13th century.

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

Rock of Ages Lutheran Church
120 N. 31st Street P.O. Box 6941
Colorado Springs, CO 80934
Phone: 719-632-9394
Fax: 719-632-0772
Email: rockofages@qwest.net
Web Site: <http://RockOfAgesLCMS.org>

Newsletter Deadline May18, 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!

May: The Magician's Nephew by C.S Lewis. This book presents the beginnings of the mythical kingdom of Narnia. Our discussion leader, Mr. Joel Watts, C.S Lewis fan, will help us to find the gospel elements in this “children's” story.

June: Paul Maier: Flames of Rome This historical novel by a Rock of Ages favorite author is sure to offer some exciting early summer reading.

July: To be determined

August: The Hobbit by J.R. Tolkien. Join our discussion leader and resident Tolkien expert Thomas Humber for an enlightening discussion of this story. The book presents the story before the story found in the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

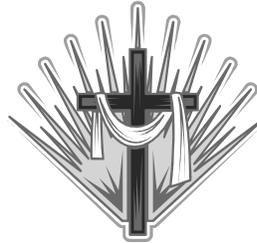
Death & Resurrection

Death. It seems so final. It is the one common future waiting for every living being. Though we try delaying it and denying it – it always comes. The good news? Death is no longer final as it was defeated at the cross.



Resurrection. The word is so full of hope! Resurrection is defined as: ‘to return to life.’ The resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the very heart of Christianity – by it Christ conquered death, sin and Satan. Before His resurrection, the death of Jesus had defeated, demoralized and depressed His followers. Death, it seemed,

had defeated life. At His resurrection His disciples were renewed as they were filled with new life, new power – with the presence of the Holy Spirit! They preached the good news of Jesus with resurrection at the heart of their message.



“He Is Risen. Alleluia!”

Preschool Graduation



Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us as our Preschool students graduate and then join us afterwards for cookies and punch.



FUNDS UPDATE

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

