

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 11

November 2011

Special Dates

- Oct 31 Reformation Day
- Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 1 All Saints Day
- Nov 1 Circuit pastors meet
- Nov 1 Elders
- Nov 4 & 5 ROC Conference
- Nov 5 change clocks back one hour
- Nov 6 Good Shepherd home bake sale and Spaghetti Dinner
- Nov 7 Volleyball Game
- Nov 12 Young Adults to Air Force Game
- Nov 12 Youth Lock-in
- Nov 13 Voters Meeting
- Nov 13 Youth Dodgeball Tournament
- Nov 14 Book Club
- Nov 16 Newsletter Deadline
- Nov 18 3rd Friday
- Nov 19 Children's Program Rehearsal
- Nov 20 Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 22 Ladies Guild
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 26 Decorate Church
- Nov 27 1st Sunday in Advent
- Nov 27 Dress Rehearsal for Children's Program

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Got Christmas Cards?

One of the things that really blessed and surprised me the first year I was here at Rock of Ages was what happened to my mailbox in December! I remember the amazement I felt when I walked in on Sunday morning to find it jam-packed with Christmas Cards. Each year, some of these cards bring a smile while others touch me with their beauty.

Regardless of their content, the cards pull us together as a family- let us know that we belong here. They also speak to us of the love of God seen in Christ who came to earth as Immanuel. They are an annual tradition that has deep meaning and many of us look forward to them.

This is also a tradition that our shut-in folks are not able to fully participate in. After all, they are not able to make it here regularly, to take communion, enjoy fellowship, or share in the joy of discovering a boxful of Christmas Cards. It doesn't have to be like that. I would like to invite you to participate in the Great Christmas Card Collection!

Starting November 20, there will be a collection station set up in the Narthex. All you have to do is to place the cards you would normally put in a shut-ins mailbox into the proper basket. There will be a list of names and some photos to jog your memory! Then, during the month of December 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!

In His Peace
Deaconess Sarah

Annual World AIDS Day Concert

Save the date! 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!!!!

Bless You!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

What does it mean to be blessed? This month we celebrate that holiday of Thanksgiving. A time to count our blessings. But so many this year might not be feeling that blessed. As part of God's family we tend to associate that term with religious thoughts or parts of our worship life. But even there it can be misunderstood. A little four-year-old who liked watching football with his father at home watched the pastor raise his hands at the end of worship to pronounce the blessing. The little guy immediately jumped to his feet and shouted "Touchdown!" Or the pastor who was conducting a wedding ceremony for a couple not totally familiar with worship customs. The pastor raised his hand to bless the couple and the bride, misunderstanding the gesture, surprised him with a "high five." Not wanting to exclude the groom, the pastor offered him a high-five also.

So what does it mean to give a blessing or to be blessed? When someone sneezes we often respond, "God bless you." Where did that come from? There are many ancient legends. But in the 14th century, during the time of the Black Plague, Pope Gregory VII decreed that people who heard a sneeze should respond with "God bless you."

Most of us would probably say that we are blessed, even in these difficult times. And we are. But perhaps not in the ways we commonly think. In His famous Beatitudes, Jesus offers us a totally different direction: "Blessed are the poor in spirit... blessed are those who mourn... blessed are the meek... Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me." "Oh, come on now, Jesus. Do You really expect that to fly? That is not how this world works."

Let me tell you about a great definition of blessed. It comes from the rock star Bono of the rock group U2. He was invited by President Bush to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast years ago (when we still had them). Bono was led to focus on the needs of the poor, especially in Africa. He said that in countless ways he was always seeking after the Lord's blessings. But then he met a wise old man who advised him to stop asking God to bless what he was doing and get involved in what God is doing – because it is already blessed.

Get involved in what God is doing. God is with the poor, the meek, the persecuted. Are we? We are indeed all very blessed. I have no doubt. But are you blessed in the way that Christ would have you be blessed? Do your values reflect His values? Particularly in regard to our love for our neighbors? Do we see our blessings as being in His presence and His work or do we see blessings as stuff? Stuff can be a real hindrance to being blessed.

Saints are people who know what it is to be blessed, not in the way this world understands blessings, but in the way Christ Jesus modeled blessedness for us. Are you blessed? Really blessed?

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron

Be a Bold Witness for God – Wear the Cross of Christ

I returned from my second trip to Ukraine last June somewhat uncertain about the impact of my mission this year. At first I did not feel that I had as much impact this year as last year. Through much of July, I was seriously considering not going back to Ukraine again. Then the Holy Spirit had me stop and consider the actual facts about the mission trip this past June. Some of the details of my searching review:

This year there were 6 team members, so there was less actual work for me to do than when there were only 5 team members in 2010. It is clear to me that we don't need to send a team of 6 people again. But for our 2012 mission we are having problems getting team members – the 3 youngest members from this year's team will not be able to go next year. And even some of the older members are not certain about going next year. The Holy Spirit "told" me to go in February of 2010, and I will never regret that decision. You need to listen carefully to hear if the Holy Spirit is telling you to go to Ukraine in 2012.

During the mission in June I wore around my neck a 2+ inch tall stainless steel Cross with a black insert on the front – only taking it off to sleep. There was a team t-shirt with a cross and a message on it, but this can't be worn all of the time. I was able to wear my cross and proclaim Christ to all who saw it – everywhere we went. My intention was to be a bold witness for God. When I thought back on this witnessing, here is what I realized:

When we arrived in Mykolaiv, the team was invited to meet with Ministry of Education officials responsible for orphanages in the area. We drove downtown, went to the Ministry offices and met with the Minister and her assistant. They simply wanted to meet us and to take our measure. They appeared satisfied and immediately invited our team to visit their large (over 600 children) summer camp for orphans on the Black Sea – The Little Eagle Camp. This was unheard of for Ukraine – government officials (not that far removed from the old Soviet Union) actually requesting our Christian presence at one of their facilities. We quickly changed our plans and advised them that we would be delighted to go to this camp the next morning. Later that day, we heard these same officials wanted to meet with us again just before we departed for this camp. The next morning we returned to take pictures and for them to wish us well. The Minister was wearing a cross around her neck, about the size of mine.

When we arrived at The Little Eagle Camp, we first met with the man who was the camp manager responsible for all operations. He then turned us over to the woman who was responsible for children's programs. Both were very friendly and cooperative. The next day and also the following day, this woman was wearing a cross about the size of mine. It was clear to me that both cross wearers were already Christian, but were shy about showing it in public. I hope that my wearing of the cross was responsible for them both publicly to wear their own cross – particularly the woman who dealt each day with so many children.

We don't know all of the effects our presence in Ukraine has on people. I've told you about those I witnessed on the spot. But we also saw a delayed effect from our visit last year when we returned to the TB Sanatorium near Mykolaiv. This year there was not the difficulty getting into this facility and we were allowed to stay longer. (Last year the Millers negotiated for 45 minutes for us to only be allowed about 30 minutes with the children.) When we arrived at the same room we presented in last year, the walls had been painted with a few Bible scenes, and there were pages with written Bible verses taped on the walls. It seems there was a nurse who last year had seen us from the hall. After we left, she decided that if God had sent us so far to visit her hospital, she needed to do something – and she did. We were told that the pages of Bible verses were removed during government inspections, and then taped back up again after they are over.

The Holy Spirit wants us to be bold in proclaiming our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe all team members in the future need to wear a cross during the full mission. For such a simple effort, the value of wearing a symbol of our Lord's sacrifice transcends all barriers.

Pete Coggeshall

Library—Monthly Featured Item

Erasing Hell ‘What God Said About Eternity, and the Things We’ve Made Up’

By: Francis Chan & Preston Sprinkle

This is a Bible Study book as the authors quote scripture to answer questions about eternal destiny. This book reveals the truths about hell even as one sometimes just does not want to believe it is real.

I quote “This is not a book about who is saying what. It is a book about what God says. It is not a book about impersonal theological issues. It is a book about people God loves. It is not a book about arguments, doctrine or being right. It is a book about the character of God.”

This book reminded me of how God wants us to live.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY—

“A smile is the light in the window of your face that tells people you are home.”

Author unknown



HUMOR FOR THE MONTH: Top Ten Reasons Eve Was Created

10. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.

9. God knew that one day Adam would require someone to locate and hand him the remote.

8. God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.

7. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor's, dentist, or haircut appointment for himself.

6. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage out on the curb.

5. God knew if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.

4. As the Keeper of the Garden, Adam would never remember where he left his tools.

3. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.

2. As the Bible says, It is not good for man to be alone!

And the #1 reason why God created Eve...

1. When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that!"

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
9:00 A.M.

The more that help the sooner we get done!



Sports Update!

Hello sports fans!

Well, the leaves have changed, the days have grown shorter, the cool weather has arrived, and your Rock of Ages sports teams have taken the sporting action indoors, and turned their attention to volleyball season. The ROA Purple Spikers started their season with a thrilling 3-set victory on 10/3. The next week was an extremely close and competitive match, but alas, the Spikers came up a bit short in a 3-set loss on 10/10. However, the Spikers came back with a fury on 10/17 for a resounding 2-set victory.

So after 3 weeks of league action which was good enough to win the move the team up to Division

The volleyball matches are House Sports, 2660 Vickers Dr., calendar, weekly bulletin, schedule of matches.



tion, the Purple Spikers have 2 wins and 1 loss, first round of competition in Division 4, and 3! Way to go Spikers!!

played on Monday evenings this Fall at Big here in Colo Springs. Check out the monthly and congregation's website for the updated

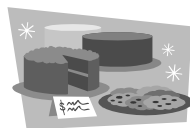
This year's team roster consists of: David Foster, Kim Foster, Ramona Lapsley, Pam Butler, Jim Kuehnert, Sonja Engledowl, Lewis Engledowl, Wolf Lampert, Joel Reed, Cari Reed, and Marina Ogburn (cheerleaders: Robyn and Brooke Foster, Stella Reed)

-ROA Sports Teams

GOOD SHEPHERD BAKE & CRAFT SALE & SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

BAKE & CRAFT
SALE



AFTER

CHURCH

SPAGHETTI DINNER
11:30 A.M.



ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE
AND THE DINNER GO TO BENEFIT
GOOD SHEPHERD HOMES

JOIN US AND HELP SUPPORT THIS

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!!!

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

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Newsletter Deadline November 16, 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!



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

January: To be determined



FUNDS UPDATE

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



Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us!!!

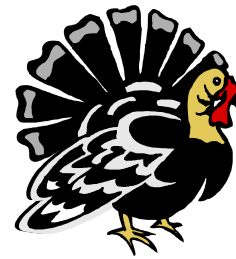
November 20th

5:00 p.m

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for
Lutherans

Turkey,
Gravy,
Rolls and
will be
Thrivent



Potatoes,
Stuffing,
Beverages
provided by
Financial for

Lutherans.

We ask **you** to bring side dishes and desserts to share and a huge appetite!

ITEMS FOR DONATIONS FOR WESTSIDE CARES FOR NOVEMBER ARE:

***Canned or Boxed Soups and
Canned Vegetables***