

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 4

April 2012

Special Dates

- March 25 Confirmand Questioning
- March 28 Lenten Dinner & Service
- April 1 Palm Sunday
- April 1 Confirmation
- April 2 Ladies Bible Study
- April 3 Ukraine meeting
- April 5 Bible Study
- April 5 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 6 Good Friday Service
- April 8 Easter Sunrise Service
- April 8 Easter Breakfast
- April 8 Easter Carnival
- April 9 Book Club
- April 12 Wedding Rehearsal
- April 12 Ukraine Meeting
- April 14 Smith/Bochnak Wedding
- April 16 Ladies Bible Study
- April 19 Church Council
- April 20 3rd Friday
- April 21 LWML Christian Life Workshop
- April 21 CPR/AED training
- April 24 Ladies Guild
- April 25 VBS meeting
- April 27 Youth Lockin

Sunday School

Just a Note from Sunday School...

Wow! Can't believe that it's Spring Time already! Please join us for the EASTER CARNIVAL during education hour on Easter Sunday!



We are done with Spring Sunday School lessons in May, but don't worry... We have a great SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL line up. The theme this year is "Up, Up and Away". The lessons will take the kids on great adventures in the sky to discover Jesus! Please join us each Sunday over summer!

Thank you for all the support and prayers for our Sunday School and Staff. We have had a great season and looking forward to an awesome summer of fun!



In His Name,
Karen Bodine
SS Superintendent

May 30th-June 19th Mission to Ukraine

Airline tickets-Check...Passport applications-Check...Travel documents-Check...Insurance-Check...Packing list-Check...Skits, lessons, songs-Check.....Jesus-always waiting on us!

Yes, we are in the later planning stages of our trip preparation and our Lord is there with every step. While we are focusing on the organization of a mission trip, He is making sure we are being fed spiritually to enable us to speak out in His name.

Our lessons this year will be on who we are as Christians. Who we look like out in the world and who we think we are in His kingdom. We are chosen, We are Forgiven, We are Free, We are never forsaken, We are Heard by Him.

These lessons will help us spread His gospel to all whom we meet in Ukraine.

Some years ago, God chose our church to be His messengers in this land almost 6000 miles away. He had a plan and we are just His vessel to fulfill it.

Please keep the mission in your prayers. We are learning our skits, ordering supplies, and raising money to complete our mission. Please keep an eye out for how you can help.

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“To Do” or “TADA”

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

“CHRIST IS RISEN!” “HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!” It is that beautiful time of year again when we echo that joyous response in worship. But does that same joy penetrate into the world of our “TO DO” list lives? The nails in Christ’s hands and feet are now nails in Satan’s coffin. Our God is a Living God! The great foe is dead. Death’s threats can no longer frighten us. Death has been slain by the Resurrected Christ.

The women in the story of that early Easter morning were headed toward the tomb with their “To-Do” list. They had watched their Lord crucified on Good Friday. They had watched Him placed in the tomb. But then the Law demanded they must wait through the Sabbath to finish their chores. And so now on the first day of the week, on Sunday morning, they came to the tomb with spices to finish the chores, giving their Lord their final respects. Their “To Do” list.

But there they learned that the story had not ended at the Cross. It ended with an open tomb. They had come with apprehensions, the fear of death still clinging. But the tomb was empty. Jesus was not there. And they were told to go and tell others about Christ Jesus’ resurrection. Did they fully understand what had happened, what they were told? No. And the Gospels tell us they returned home “afraid yet filled with joy.”

The Resurrection does not completely remove our concerns or fears. But rather the Resurrection empowers us to deal with those fears in faith because our Living Lord walks with us. And we now leave the tomb and go out into our world to share that amazing news.

An old story tells how some parents once asked their little girl, “What did Jesus say when He rose from the tomb?” And the little girl stood up, stretched out her arms, and exclaimed, “TA DA!”

We all still have our “TO DO” lists. But I encourage you in the glorious promise of Easter, do not let the “TO DOs” get in the way of the “TA DA” of the Easter story. Share that “TA DA” wherever your “TO DOs” take you.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron

HUMOR FOR THE MONTH

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Spring

As I write this, the season is just beginning to change. Winter is fading away. The promise of warmth and new life to supplant the barrenness, the greyness, and cold of winter brings hope that life will come from what seemed (and what was) utterly dead. While Spring does eventually come every year, the season of Winter can make a person wonder if maybe this year it won't. We have limped through February, pined through March, and now April is just around the bend.

Just as the seasons outside our walls change- so too the seasons in our souls. In the darkness of February, when everything is cold and seemingly dead, my soul has a hard time feeling hope. Perhaps you, too, long for seasons of light, of warmth and green things. In the winter's dryness we long for living water to soothe the parched places.

As we journey through Lent, we walk with Jesus through some barren, wintery, dry places. We pause at the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus can see only his impending death. Where he feels utter abandonment by his disciples and even by God the Father. Where he cries out for deliverance, and then surrenders to our redemption. To Good Friday- the most deadly day of all- where hope hangs dead on the cross. Where salty tears offer the only moisture to the parched ground. Where Jesus is laid to rest in the tomb- ashes to ashes and dust to dust.

But the journey does not end in death. On Easter Sunday what was dead was made alive! It is revealed that in the seemingly dark, dry, barren Hill of Golgotha God was bringing forth something new. And so it is in our hearts. What was dead in sin and selfishness, in idolatry and hopelessness, is given new life in Christ. Jesus pours water and blood from his side, watering the barren ground of our souls with Himself. He brings forth life from death. The winter may have been long and dreary, filled with difficulty and sorrow or just plain ordinariness. But God will bring forth spring.

Deaconess Sarah

Library—Monthly Featured Items

Yes, we do have some things for young and old in our small church library. This month we have two new VeggieTales DVDs for the kids: "Princess and the Pop Star" and "God Loves You So Much." These DVDs were donated by one of our members.

In "God Loves You So Much", the Veggie Kids have a question for Larry - how can we know that God loves Us? In a colorful tale told with story and song, Larry paints a picture of how much God loves us all - even when we dirty up our clothes, forget to blow our noses, or don't listen to our Moms and Dads!" In the end, the kids learn that God loves us no matter what.

In "Princess and the Pop Star", Princess Poppy Seed's life on the family's farm is far from the glamorous but lonely world of her favorite pop singer Vanna Banana. On a chance meeting at a playground, Vanna and Princess cross paths and discover they look almost exactly alike - which leads to a crazy secret plan where they decide to switch lives. However, they learn the life God gave them is the one for which they were uniquely and lovingly designed.



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ISAIAH 26:4**

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***ITEMS FOR DONATIONS
FOR WESTSIDE CARES
FOR APRIL ARE:***

Breakfast Items

**Newsletter Deadline
April 18, 2012**

LUTHERAN HOUR TIME
Sun. 7:30 a.m. KZNT 1640 AM

Upcoming Book Club Selections:

Book Club Selections:

April/May: **The Ragamuffin Gospel** by Brennan Manning. Do you ever doubt God's love for you? Think that you don't measure up? This book encourages believers to rest in Christ's mercy, shown to us on the cross.
June/July: **Man Seeks God** by Eric Weiner. When a health scare puts him in the hospital, Eric Weiner-an agnostic by default-finds himself tangling with an unexpected question, posed to him by a well-meaning nurse. "Have you found your God yet?" The thought of it nags him, and prods him-and ultimately launches him on a far-flung journey to do just that.



Disclaimer: The Books chosen for discussion in Book Club do not necessarily reflect LCMS doctrine, beliefs, or practice. Many times they are chosen for this reason! Whether you agree with all that you read, or find yourself disagreeing heartily, it adds to the discussion and we can learn from each other.



FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$14,151.85
Capital Improvement Fund = \$16,688.38
Ukraine Fund = \$3058.73

