

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 7

July 2012

Special Dates

- June 24 Softball Practice
- June 29 Youth Pool Party at Colorado Country Club
- June 30 a Day of Board Games
- July 4th office closed
- July 7 VBS Volunteer Meeting
- July 7 Lutherans at the Sky Sox
- July 9 Softball Game
- July 15 Installation of VBS Volunteers
- July 16-20 Vacation Bible School
- July 16 Softball Game
- July 19 Church Council
- July 21 LWML Leadership Workshop
- July 23 Softball Game
- July 23 Summer Bible Study
- July 27 & 28 Youth Group Overnight camping trip
- July 30 Softball Game
- Aug 12 Youth Group to the firing range
- Aug 20 thru 31 Preschool Closed for Cleaning
- Aug 26 Rally Day & Church Picnic

Amazing Desert Journey

Where Jesus



Leads Us

Home

Time is passing quickly and soon the time will be upon us to actively share the Good News about Jesus with all the children entrusted to our care during Vacation Bible School.

Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus teaches the disciples in how important children are to Him: “Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.”

Is it no less important that we continue to instruct children about Jesus? We use many opportunities in which to do this and there is no greater opportunity than Vacation Bible School. During this week we plant the seeds of faith into the hearts of the children left in our care. We do this by praising God in song & prayer; in relating what the Bible tells us; in the hands on crafts that we help the children with; in the snacks we provide to them and in the interaction we have with them during the time they are with us. What better way to show Jesus’ love then to share with His children.

So we need your help!!!

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You're Special!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

It's that time of year – time for the annual commencement speeches. And traditionally these speeches promise glowing futures for the newest crop of special graduates. Special. But this year one particular speech has become famous, the commencement speech by English teacher David McCullough at the Wellesley High School in Massachusetts.

“You're not special!” He actually said it! “Yes, you've been pampered, cosseted, doted upon, helmeted, bubble-wrapped... Yes, capable adults with other things to do have held you, kissed you, fed you, wiped your mouth, wiped your bottom, trained you, taught you, tutored you, coached you, listened to you, counseled you, encouraged you, consoled you... You've been nudged cajoled, wheedled and implored. You've been feted and fawned over and called sweetie pie... But do not get the idea that you're anything special. Because you're not.”

For a couple of generations now our American education system has focused on telling our young people how special they are, making sure every student got an award, a prize, no matter how little they accomplished. We wanted to ensure that their little egos were all happy. And some estimates claim that over twenty-five percent of them still drop out. And in the past couple of generations the number of citizens that now receive some form of government subsidy has risen to over 51%. Commercials on television show the statistics that on international scales, our students come in between #25 and #32.

What happened? Can you imagine if I gave a sermon like that commencement speech? Oh, wait a moment. I guess I have. But there is a little difference. In the kingdom of this world, we are expected to work hard, accomplish things, be self-sufficient. And we have a tendency to think that model should apply in the church as well. But the message from the Bible is that we cannot begin to accomplish anything toward our salvation, we are totally dysfunctional. That could be accomplished by only one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ. He came down for that purpose, to die on a Cross and then to give to us the victory, forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternity.

And you are special to our Lord Jesus. Jesus loves you. But He would also agree with the commencement speech last week. Among our brothers and sisters here in this world there are definite expectations of how we live this life for others. Jesus expects fruits. But we've taken the Scriptures out of our school systems. And too many churches have also replaced that Word of God with human wisdom, preaching platitudes about how special everyone is, but without recognizing the crushing destruction of sin.

Yes, you are special to our Lord. But that great love for you cost Him greatly. And now we are called to imitate that love for one another. And that can be challenging. Our schools are handing out millions of diplomas, many to totally uneducated graduates. The Church hands out something very different. We hand out Baptismal Certificates. Those certificates confirm what has happened in the water of Baptism when God's Word of promise assures us that we are now a part of His family forever.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron



Memorization!

“The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9 served as the memory verse for the first two weeks of Summer Sunday School. Like our little ones, I memorized these words. We played a couple of games with them, searched for show and tell items that reminded us of them, and repeated them over and over again. Memorization! Perhaps some of you have terrible memories of boring memorization as a kid- maybe you break out into a sweat remembering the interrogation of church elders at confirmation testing your small catechism knowledge. On the other hand, perhaps you can still rattle off entire books of the Bible or catechism answers!

Whatever your relationship with memorizing Scripture- I know that the Lord can use these words when we least expect it. At least 3 times in the weeks we were memorizing the Joshua verse situations came up where those very words were needed. I didn't have to go looking in my concordance to find them- they were hidden in my heart! What a joy to know God keeps his promises!

What a blessing to have the words of scripture inscribed onto a brain- ready for God to speak in moments of happiness or pain- joy or crisis. Praise God for keeping his promise to be with us wherever we go- sometimes audibly through words committed to memory in youth or in age!

Deaconess Sarah

Library—Monthly Featured Items

"THE HOLY LAND" - Author George W. Knight (Reference Book)

This book is a guide to the history, culture, geography of the holy land and will transport you to the land of Abraham, David, Jesus, and Paul where the story of the Bible played out in real life. It explains the who, what, when, where, and why of some of the Bible places. It provides details on the history, setting, and importance of each locale. This book is an ideal read for "armchair travelers" who want to better understand the Bible story. Each entry is accompanied by helpful photographs and paintings.



HUMOR FOR THE MONTH:

Domestic Bliss: (Mothers, you should especially appreciate this one)

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His 3 children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open as was the front door to the house.

Proceeding to the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and a throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room, the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over the toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she may be ill or that something serious had happened. He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in the bed in pajamas, reading a novel.

She looked up at him, smiled, and asked him how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today"?

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?" "Yes," was his incredulous reply. She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it."

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LORD GOD IS AN EVERLASTING ROCK."
ISAIAH 26:4**

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**Newsletter Deadline
July 18, 2012**

**ITEMS FOR DONATIONS
FOR WESTSIDE CARES
FOR JULY ARE:
*Fruit juices***

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

FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = \$210.00
Scholarship Fund = \$14,151.85
Capital Improvement Fund = \$16,949.47

Upcoming Book Club Selections:

July: NO Meeting!!!

August/September: Blue Like Jazz- "I never liked jazz music because jazz music doesn't resolve. I used to not like God because God didn't resolve. But that was before any of this happened." —Donald Miller

August is going to be discussion on "Blue Like Jazz" the movie—including a viewing. (Location to be announced) The movie is billed as an "atypical" Christian film that looks deeply into real life questions and struggles.

September will be discussion on the book "Blue Like Jazz"



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.

Rock of Ages Sports Report

Summer has arrived, and that means it's time to dust off those gloves and bats, stretch those arms and legs, and start our softball season!

With a few practices leading up to actual games, and a rainout on June 4th, your Rock of Ages coed softball team finally kicked off their season on Monday, June 11th in Widefield. Although a great effort was given, the opposing team's bats and defense were a bit too much to overcome in a 13-7 loss. However, it was a fun time, and our team (as always) enjoyed each other's fellowship, and were good sports in the loss.

Our season continues on every Monday evening this summer, with the exception of July 2nd. We play our games at the Widefield Community Center/Park, which is located at 705 Aspen Dr, 80911. Please see Dave/Kim Foster or Jim Kuehnert for directions to the park, and check out the weekly bulletin, Rock of Ages website and Facebook page to view our updated game schedule.

Come on out on Monday evenings, and root on your RoA softball team to a victory! We'd love to see you at the ol' ballpark!



2012 Rock of Ages Softball Team Roster:

David Foster (RoA member); Kim Foster (RoA member); Jim Kuehnert (RoA member); Shannon Crump (RoA member); Pam Butler (RoA member); Thom Humber (RoA member); Joel Watts (RoA member); Milt Fisher (RoA member); Suzie Ricker (RoA member); Bill Beck (RoA member); Nathaniel George (RoA member); Sonja Engledowl (RoA member); Lewis Engledowl; Arby Archuleta; BJ Archuleta; Nichole Babas; Alli Entemeier; Justin Landry