

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 10

October 2012

Special Dates

- Oct 28 Reformation Service
- Oct 31 Reformation Day
- Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 3 Clocks change
- Nov 3 Youth Clean-up at Mission Medical
- Nov 3 Game Day
- Nov 4 Bell Choir Rehearsals start
- Nov 6 Elders Meeting
- Nov 11 Voters Meeting
- Nov 11 Youth Dodgeball Tournament
- Nov 13 Circuit Pastors meet at Holy Cross
- Nov 14 Ukraine Meeting
- Nov 16 Third Friday
- Nov. 17 Parenting Morning
- Nov 18 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 25 Ukraine Presentation
- Nov 26 “Questions” Bible Study
- Dec 1 Decorating Church
- Dec 1 World Aids Day Concert
- Dec 5 Children’s Christmas Program

World AIDS Day Concert

Only 1 month to go! Join HIV CareLink, songwriters from the Colorado Springs Nashville Songwriter’s association, our very own Wolf Lampert, and the community in honor of World AIDS Day 2012. This event is an entertaining way to pray for people impacted by HIV and bless our local AIDS service organization (S-CAP) by helping to fill their food bank.

December 1, 2012 at 7 p.m.

NEWLOCATION: Westside Community Center

Admission: Food or personal Hygiene Items for the S-CAP food bank

If you would like to help out by bringing goodies to share, helping with clean-up or donating extra items for the food bank please speak with Anthony or Sarah Sacco!!

**S A V E T H E
D A T E ! ! !**

**December 16, 2012
12:00 Noon**

**Retirement luncheon for
Pastor Baker.
RSVP’s due by
December 9th**

Children’s Christmas Service

Please join us for an enthusiastic telling of the Christmas story by our Sunday School & Preschool children!

“Hark the Angel Sang Off-key”

Wednesday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m.
We will have punch & cookies provided by our Ladies Guild after the Service.

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Thanksgiving Dinner

Please save November 18th for our
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Thrivent usually hosts this dinner with those attending bringing the side dishes and desserts.

This is still in the planning stages so please watch the bulletin for further details!

Changing Times

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As I sit here at my desk, it is less than two weeks until once again we have an opportunity to once again express our First Amendment freedoms in our national elections. I have mentioned a little statistic in recent Bible studies: in previous elections, approximately 51% of Christians did not vote. As we note the changing culture around us and the declining morality we may have little right to complain if we have not expressed our beliefs in the public arena.

This year, perhaps more than ever, the direction that our nation will take in years to come may well be decided by Christian votes. Our nation, in spite of many problems, remains the best in the world. But we are facing serious challenges. Biblical definitions of marriage are under serious attack. The current health care reform act will force churches to accept health care plans that require covering drugs and procedures that can cause the death of an unborn child. Such requirements directly contradict doctrinal foundations of our faith as well as personal freedoms of choice within our political freedoms.

Our religious freedom is under serious attack. What is religious freedom? It is the right to live, practice and worship according to one's religious beliefs. It is the liberty guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Is our religious freedom really being threatened? Our synodical president Matthew Harrison has believed the issue serious enough to speak before a Congressional hearing, to address our concerns. He has produced new videos and papers for the church, *Free to Be Faithful*, to encourage brothers and sisters within our Missouri Synod to study and then use their voting privilege as citizens.

Nearly two centuries ago, the founders of the Missouri Synod came to the United States seeking religious freedom. Like immigrants from many nations and many faiths, they found that freedom under the First Amendment of our U.S. Constitution. Today that freedom is being seriously eroded and we must speak out now to preserve the right to live – not just worship – according to the teachings of our faith.

We must note that the LCMS takes no position on the PPACA (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) as a whole. That is a matter for government, not churches. But we must learn to distinguish very carefully between the responsibilities God entrusts to the church (see Matthew 28:19, Gal.6:10) and those responsibilities He entrusts to governing authorities (Romans 13:1-6; 1Peter2:13-14).

A couple of months ago we did a study on our Lutheran understanding of being members of “two kingdoms,” the Church where God rules in Word and Sacraments and the world which He created where earthly authorities and laws lead. As Christian citizens we are called to fulfill the duties of citizenship. It is our responsibility as individual Christians to participate as fully as possible in the political system according to consciences formed by God's Holy Spirit.

If you wish further resources we have some brochures here at church. You may also go online and visit www.lcms.org/freetobefaithful to get more information and resources for personal use. Rejoicing in God's rich blessings upon our synod and upon our church family at Rock of Ages, I pray that He will continue to bless you and our wonderful nation.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron

[Some of the resource material above from LCMS *Free to Be Faithful* September bulletin]

Mentors

Titus 2:1-5 “But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”

Mma Seabo welcomed me into her family’s compound with a huge hug and a smile. I knew something was different about this feisty lady, but had no idea just how different she was. It was only a few minutes later that she knocked on the door of my mud hut for a village tour. As we walked along the dirt road she began humming to herself. Curious, I asked her what the song was. Soon, we were belting out the words “We Are Walking in the Light of God.”

And so it was. She walked in the light of God to the health clinic where we arranged to do some community service projects in collaboration with the nurse and the school. These projects were so simple- using recycled soda and juice bottles to make hand-washing stations outside of outhouses, digging a garden patch for a family who due to illness with AIDS didn’t have strength to dig but desperately needed the nutritious produce, and cleaning up trash for another family. With the light of God they turned out to be probably the most meaningful and sustainable projects I have ever been involved in.

Mma Seabo walked in the light of God as she awoke early each morning to begin the day’s cooking for her family- including two very elderly and blind aunties and several grandchildren. She walked in the light of God as we moved cattle to a new pasture- nearly getting lost along the way. She walked in God’s light as we taught each other and the children games and sang hymns together.

After a week God’s Light began to shine even on me! Mma Seabo had me convinced to sing a solo with her at the beginning of a church service. It also marked the beginning of God’s action to bring me back to Him! At any rate I now count Mma Seabo as my African mother and mentor in the faith. I’m sure she doesn’t know how much impact her simple actions had on me and all those around us. By simply walking in God’s light in her daily life she was able to love those around her and care for her homestead, animals, and entire village. Mentoring by simply walking in God’s Light- “Lesedi Modimo”

Deaconess Sarah

Library—Monthly Featured Items

WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU ALZHEIMER’S, MAKE APRONS! - Author Gwen O’Leary

“Alzheimer’s is a disease that afflicts all gender, race, social and economic classes. It incapacitates the brain of one family member, while holding other family members hostage in a montage of caregiving responsibilities. Many families are ripped apart as they struggle with the decisions of how to manage their loved one’s care. Our family was lucky. The disease that fractured our mother brought our family together.” Gwen O’Leary

This book is based on journal entries made by the author while she cared for her mother and father. Mother had Alzheimer’s and father had other health issues including the need for dialysis several times a week. This book is both humorous and heartbreaking at the same time. She is able to show the inability of a person with Alzheimer’s to break through the fog of the disease yet they are still there and still want to be treated with respect and dignity. This is a good book for anyone who has ever been touched by this disease and also for those who haven’t been touched. It is a fast read and entertaining while delivering a great message. Find it in our church library.

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LUTHERAN HOUR TIME

Sun. 7:30 a.m. KZNT 1640
AM

ITEMS FOR DONATIONS FOR WESTSIDE CARES FOR NOVEMBER ARE: Canned Fruits & Vegetables

FUNDS UPDATE

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

Newsletter
Deadline
December 19,
2012
(for January—no
newsletter in
December)

Rock of Ages Sports Report

Hello sports fans!

As the leaves have changed and fallen, and the rakes have come out of the shed to clean up those yards, the Fall and Winter sports seasons are upon us. That means football games a plenty on our Saturday and Sunday afternoons. There's nothing quite like gathering together on Sunday mornings to hear God's Word, share in the fellowship and study that He's given us, and then refreshed for the week ahead, go ahead and relax that afternoon as we root on our favorite football teams.

Since Rock of Ages does NOT have a football team.....that means it's volleyball season for your Purple Power! We start our season on Monday, November 26th, as the matches will be played at the City Auditorium in downtown Colorado Springs. A schedule has not been created yet, but once we have it, will be shared with the congregation via the weekly bulletin and website, along with future newsletters. We look forward to bumping, setting, serving and spiking our way to a great season!

Come on out and enjoy some exciting games at the City Auditorium in the season ahead, and share in our Christian fellowship. In the meantime, why don't you go out and enjoy God's beautiful creation!

Lord's Blessings,
Jim Kuehnert, Rock of Ages Sports Teams



Youth Group Update

We have now registered 25 people for the National Youth Gathering in July of 2013. We thank you for all the help and support you have given us towards this goal. Now that we are registered, we now have to raise funds for transportation, lodging and meals.

We will continue with the “Red Box” in the narthex and the greeting cards but will be adding other opportunities for you to continue your support.

Here are a couple opportunities at the Applebee's on Garden of the Gods and I-25 :

1) The 1st Sunday of each month is “Dining to Donate” We will have the Dining to Donate info printed in the bulletin that Sunday and then you take the bulletin with you when you go to eat that day.

Show the waitress/waiter the bulletin and the youth will get 15% of your purchase. This starts Nov. 4th and will continue until the gathering date.

2) On November 17th we will be having the pancake breakfast from 8-10 am. At Applebee's. They will have cooks, and the youth will wait, serve and clean-up. Tickets for this are \$7 each and will be available for purchase Nov. 4th.

Starting on Monday, November 12 we are asking people to "Like" this Applebee's on face book and if we get 100 likes we can keep all \$7. If we get 50 likes, we keep \$6, and under 50 likes we keep \$5. That **HAS** to be done that week, and not before.