

THE ROCK

Issue No. 10

October 2012

Special Dates

- Oct 1 Ladies Bible Study
- Oct 2 Elders meeting
- Oct 3-5 Professional Workers Conference
- Oct. 11 Bible Study
- Oct 14 LWML Sunday
- Oct 14 Gideon Presentation
- Oct 15 Ladies Bible Study
- Oct 17 Ukraine Meeting
- Oct 18 Church Council
- Oct 19 3rd Friday
- Oct 19 Youth Lock in
- Oct 20 Parents Group
- Oct 21 National Sunday School Teachers Day
- Oct 22 Bible Study “Angels & Demons”
- Oct 23 Ladies Guild
- Oct 25 Bible Study
- 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
- Oct 4 Bell Choir Rehearsals start

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Trunk or Treat

It’s that time of year again and the Board of Education and the Board of Evangelism are well into the planning of this year’s “Trunk or Treat.” We need people to bring their cars to join the fun. We like to try new things and some work out and some don’t. No matter what we need your participation with cars and congregation members to help with set up, serving, and clean up.

We will be giving out prizes again this year for best decorated car; funniest car; oldest car; and a prize for the best themed car!!! So start planning your decorating ideas now! Please put your name on the signup sheet in the narthex. You can get as elaborate or as simplistic as you want. If you have any questions or need help with a suggestion, please talk to Kay.

As always, we will include a special invitation to our Church services and Sunday School classes in the children’s treat bags.

We will also need your help in providing the food stuffs, paper goods, and assorted other items to help make this event a success. Soon we will put up our “Pumpkin Patch” board with the items needed. It’s easy—you take a pumpkin, purchase the item on the pumpkin, then return the item with the pumpkin attached to it to church.

We also need help with setting up before and cleaning up after. I will have a signup sheet in the narthex for this the setup crew needs to be here by 4:30 p.m. and the cleanup crew should be here by 6:45 p.m. Please talk to Kay if you want to know what all this entails.

Like in past years we will advertise this event in the Gazette, at other churches and schools in the area and will invite our LCMS sister churches.

We ask all vehicles to be here by 5:00 p.m. so we can get set up and run our lights around the circle.

Please let Kay know if you can help in any way.

The actual event will start at 5:30 p.m. and go until 7:00 p.m. Then after we clear everything up and take the lights down, you should all be home by 8:00 p.m.

Sign up today!!!

P.S. We will also have a surprise attraction this year, so be sure you don’t miss it!

Changing Seasons

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

It's that time of year – time when we make that annual pilgrimage up into the mountains to see the beautiful colors. But that means it's also nearly time to begin raking up all the leaves in my front yard. A change of seasons.

Back in Genesis 1:14 God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark *seasons* and days and years,” Marking the seasons. God Himself created the seasons. And He declared all this “Very good!” back in the beginning. And He remains in control. “The moon marks off the *seasons*, and the sun knows when to go down”(Psa. 104:19).

Although sometimes we might wonder, especially these days as we listen to all the ranting and raving off political pundits and all of their plans to save us. “He changes times and *seasons*; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning” (Dan. 2:21).

Wisdom and knowledge. He calls us to come, to sit down with Him, to reason with His Word as foundation. “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed *seasons*, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD” (Jer. 8:7). What guides our wisdom and knowledge? The world or the Word?

“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy” (Acts 14:17). Brothers and sisters, as the *seasons* change once again, may it be a reminder of the Lord who watches over us with love each step of the way.

And as I watch this changing of seasons once again, I would add a special *Thank You* to the entire family of Rock of Ages for your love and kindnesses this past month as I completed a quarter century of changing *seasons* in the ministry, most of right here at Rock of Ages. It has been a blessed journey.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron

Library—Monthly Featured Items

PONTIUS PILATE - Author Paul I. Maier

Every time we recite the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed, we say ... "he was crucified by Pontius Pilate ..." However, though we say these words, how many of you know anything about this person. This book will give you incite into this man's life and what led up to his fateful verdict. It also relates how his wife, Procula, fired his ambition for political advancement.

Dr. Maier's book, "Pontius Pilate," is written as an historical novel, which makes for easier reading than as an historical reference book. It is a startling, untold story of the ambitious and successful Roman politician whose fateful verdict forever changed the course of history. The book brings to life the Roman governor of Judea as he rises from the political intrigues of imperial Rome and survives the treacherous plotting of Herod Antipas. As one critic states: "A tremendous story ... in drama, romance, color, scope, and depth, this novel is comparable to Ben Hur, The Silver Chalice, and The Robe."



Election Year Blues

As the attack ads heat up and the rhetoric gets deeper I am often left in a quandary. You see- there is no candidate, no political party, who holds the power to “fix” what is wrong in our world. The truth is that ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit we have been plagued by sin.

The United States of America is no different. Just look around you, or if you are brave enough into your own heart, and you will see what I mean. The problems and challenges that we face today, while in some ways unique, have in essence been around since the end of Eden. They will not be resolved by some new or old program. We will only be saved by the return of Jesus Christ- only then in the new creation will things be as they were created to be.

And yet- we are called as Christians to be the hands, feet and mouth of Jesus. We are the body of Christ on this earth and our very job, our calling, is to care for God’s creation as best we can. So we face a dilemma- knowing that we cannot “fix” things ultimately we look for the best solution we can see. Thinking, informed Jesus-followers may come to different conclusions about what that “best” is. There are no cut and dried answers when following Jesus, and we may often find ourselves between a rock and a hard place.

As the Women’s Bible study group and I have studied the book of Philemon we have seen Paul struggle with this dilemma as well. A runaway slave- Onesimus- is converted by Paul in Rome. It turns out that this slave belonged to another of Paul’s converts and a leader of a house church in Colossae- namely Philemon. Under Roman law, Philemon was entitled to beat, brand, or even stone Onesimus should he return. Knowing this, Paul asks Onesimus to return and face Philemon. However, Paul asks Philemon to consider another way- forgiveness and acceptance as a brother in Christ. Paul even goes so far as to offer himself in Onesimus’ place. After all, how could one who had received the gift of forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Christ for his sins act towards others with less mercy?

Paul’s dilemma reached even deeper. In God’s eyes, under the redemption of the cross- there are no more distinctions- slave or free, Greek or Hebrew (Democrat or Republican??) are all equally sinners and equally saved by Christ. Knowing the redemption of Jesus Christ throws the whole system of slavery upside down- you cannot own another from this perspective! And that is precisely the heart that Paul shows- speaking the truth in love to Philemon and calling upon him to take the better way- the way of Christ. We don’t know what Philemon ends up doing- but the picture, the struggle itself is illuminating to us. As Paul says- may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Deaconess Sarah

Parent's Group



Join us Saturday, October 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the basement or the playground at church (depending on the weather) for a pilot parent’s group! We will begin with a time of devotion led by one of our families, and then continue with time for the kids to play and the adults to study and talk. Come and help to form this group and its’ goals!



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

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**Newsletter Deadline
October 17, 2012**

**ITEMS FOR DONATIONS
FOR WESTSIDE CARES
FOR OCTOBER ARE:
*Pasta, Sauces, & Beans***

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

Rock of Ages Sports Report

Fall greetings! It's hard to believe we are entering the final 3 months of 2012, as we continue to put the warmer weather behind us.

The Rock of Ages coed softball team finished up the Summer with a couple of "exhibition" games. On August 19th, your Purple Power had a friendly and self-umpired (thank you, Dave!) contest against a young team preparing to play their 1st season together in the Springs Parks & Rec Fall season. Though we certainly had the advantage in runs scored, we were able to have some fun, add a few extra members to the roster that day for some added enjoyment, and once again display our Christian attitude when it comes to competition. Milt Fisher even took the time to give some pointers to their young pitcher.....as Dizzy Dean did for him back in the late 1920's! (Just kidding, Milt.)

On September 9th, the Rock of Ages Youth Group teamed up with your Purple Power for an enjoyable picnic and softball game at Vermijo Park. It was a delightful and relaxing day, as the Lord provided us excellent weather. Thank you to all who attended, contributed food and beverages for the potluck picnic, and especially to Dave/Kim Foster and Carl Seay for organizing the day. (Dave/Kim.....special thanks for the grill and table.)

So, with the bats and ball gloves packed away for the Fall and Winter months, we look forward to volleyball season. Please stay tuned to future monthly newsletters and bulletin announcements for our coed volleyball schedule. The season will not start until November, as we'll be playing our matches at the City Auditorium.

Lord's Blessings to all, and get out and enjoy His wonderful creation this Fall!

-Jim Kuehnert
Rock of Ages Sports Teams



HUMOR FOR THE MONTH:

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR
NOSE WHEN YOU'RE BORED...

- 10) Look down it at somebody (Pride)
- 09) Poke it into someone else's business (Strife/
Dissension)
- 08) Snoop around with it (Nosey/Gossipy)
- 07) Get it out of joint (Anger)

- 06) Cut it off to spite your face (Bitterness)
 - 05) Pay through it (Materialism)
 - 04) Find something right under it (Love / Salvation)
 - 03) See past it (Eternity / Hope)
 - 02) Keep it clean (Humility / Obedience)
- AND THE NUMBER ONE THING TO DO
WITH YOUR NOSE...
- 01) Get it stuck in a book (The Bible!)