

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 1

January 2013

Special Dates

- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service
- Dec 26 Church Office Closed
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Service
- Jan 1 Church Office Closed
- Jan 6 De-decorate the Church
- Jan 7 Ladies Bible Study
- Jan 8 Elders Meeting
- Jan 10 Thursday Bible Study
- Jan 12 Ukraine Hat Work Day
- Jan 17 Church Council Meeting
- Jan 19 Ladies Guild Meeting
- Jan 21 Ladies Bible Study
- Jan 24 Thursday Bible Study
- Jan 26 Parent Thing
- Jan 27-Feb 2 National Lutheran Schools Week
- Jan 28 "Questions" Bible Study
- Feb 13 Ash Wednesday

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Compost Day at the Rock

Garden Notes:

On Sunday, January 20 you are invited to bring in compostable items to kick-start the inaugural community gardening season! I know, I know it is cold and dreary but your kitchen scraps can help us start making great soil to grow good food. Here's the plan:

Collect your items the week prior- placing them in a bucket or bag.

Bring them on Sunday and we'll have a collecting bin to place them in outside, near the church entrance.

The following week the preschoolers will help make our very first pile of compost!

Here are items that you can collect (please don't get anything special- just stuff you would normally have) If you want a more extensive list please check online as there are great lists there. And for you more experienced composters we have a source for plenty of "browns"/"colds" so we are mostly looking for "greens"/ "hot" components...

DO BRING

Veggie and Fruit peelings and pieces
Used coffee grounds
Smashed eggshells
Dryer lint
Flowers/flower arrangements
Freezer-burned produce

DO NOT BRING

Dairy products
Meat
Bakery products
Cooked/salty foods

Thank you for helping to build soil and grow our children and community! Also needed for the garden- and we'd love to use reclaimed/recycled materials for these items:

For building an enclosed Compost Heap: 5 wooden pallets
Hardware for securing pallets together- screws, heavy hinges, and a latch

For building deer-deterrent bed covers- PVC pipe (we'll be working on this in March)



Save the Date:

Ladies- confirmation age on up- please save March 8 (evening) and March 9 (morning) for our bi-annual retreat. The theme this year is Lenten Rest- a time for renewing our hearts in Christ during Lent. There will be more detailed information in the coming weeks.

Good News!

“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Rom.10:8-13

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

One last time – GOOD NEWS! That is what I have tried to share with you for many years now. And I remain eager to share that same Good News. God has drawn near to us. Immanuel. Our world seems to be determined to deliver bad news. This world we live in is a world destroyed by sin. But Good News! – God has graciously surprised us. God has come among us as a poor, fragile, baby boy, born in a cave, placed in a manger. We didn’t expect that. Or have we heard that story too many times?

Such amazing news. This is news that God, rather than be all-powerful (omnipotent), all-knowing (omniscient), remaining apart in the heavenly kingdom, became vulnerable, moved in with us, got close to us, came near. God came to us as Jesus of Nazareth.

But even though Jesus spoke beautiful words of promise to us, words of truth, we reacted with scorn, rejection, hostility. But Jesus came near. Any God who would come this near to us had better be able to suffer rejection and violence, because we are a bloody lot who tend to regard our enemies and our saviors in much the same way.

But the Good News is that even when we violently and cruelly reject God only Son, God died for us, and died because of us, upon the Cross. God was that determined to be near us. It is such Good News that God did not allow that horrible, humiliating crucifixion to stop Him. It is Good News that God came back to us. God defeated death and moved into life.

This is news about the direction in which history is moving. Mayan calendars do not give us truth. But God has news for us about the last chapter of history. It is news about who now sits on the throne. As your pastor I’ve had the weekly experience of being sometimes frustrated about how to find the words to share this Good News. But my job was to talk to you about Jesus.

And I confess that I have been sometimes amazed to see you coming back, listening once again to my Good News, listening to Words. It suggests to me that you actually believe these Words are true – God has drawn near to us, is among us, right here, right now. I’ve invited you to consider residency in a new world, tried to help you get a glimpse of that new heaven and new earth.

You are the Church, our church, that very special group of people who have signed on for this new reality. St. Paul wrote, “Faith comes by hearing.” The Christian faith is based upon people hearing and believing God’s Good News. Thanks for listening all these years. God bless you on the journey.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron

Library—Monthly Featured Item

"HEAVEN IS FOR REAL" - Author Todd Burpo

This book will forever change the way you think of eternity, offering the chance to see and believe like a child. The story: when almost 4-year-old appendectomy, his family was overjoyed at later told his parents he left his body during his parents with descriptions and obscure exactly, though he had not yet learned to spoken boldness of a child, Colton tells of describes Jesus, the angels, and how "really, us.



Colton Burpo made it through an emergency his miraculous survival. However, Colton the surgery and visited heaven. He astonished details about heaven that matched the Bible read. With disarming innocence and the plain-meeting long-departed family members. He really big" God is, and how much God loves

Retold by his father, but using Colton's uniquely simple words, "Heaven is tor Real" offers a glimpse of the world that awaits us where, as Colton says ..."Nobody is old and nobody wears glasses."

The Five Love Languages

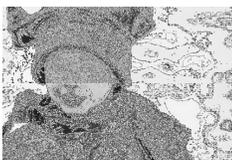
Have you ever wondered why some children in a family can grow up feeling loved, while others may know they are loved but still not FEEL it? One way to understand this phenomenon is through the idea of "love languages." While this may sound a bit sappy, it is actually a very concrete way to think about the way that people communicate and feel love. Popular authors Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell put forth these 5 "love languages" in their book "The Five Love Languages of Children"

- Quality Time
- Appropriate physical touch
- Acts of Service
- Gifts
- Words of Affirmation

While we can use each of the languages, there is likely one language that speaks most deeply to us- that communicates love. This understanding may help to explain the communication gap that can occur within relationships. For example- one person may naturally speak the language of Gifts, while the other may feel loved through Quality Time. Imagine a parent giving gifts- appreciated by their child- but not spending time doing things together. The child would feel unloved, the parent unappreciated, because they are not speaking in the other's primary language. This book offers guidance in determining and acting on the love languages in the context of parenting. Chapman also has written of the application for the love languages within contexts of work, marriage, and singleness.

Want to focus a bit more on this topic in the context of parenting? Come and join our "parenting thing" Saturday, January 26th from 10:30-11:30. We'll have a family devotion time, a snack, and then informal discussion of the topic and playtime for the younger set.

Deaconess Sarah Sacco



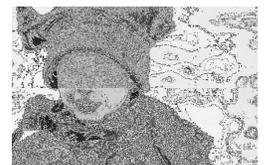
Ukraine Hat Work Day

Saturday, January 12 from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Bring your own bag lunch and we will provide drinks and dessert.

Please see posted flyers for more information.

We will see you there!



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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

Newsletter
Deadline
January 16, 2012

FUNDS UPDATE

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

Rock of Ages Sports Report

Hello sports fans! As winter is truly upon us now, your Rock of Ages coed volleyball team is in the middle of their 10 - match season.

The Purple Power started the season on 11/26/12 with a tough 2-set loss, 12-25 and 19-25. The following week the rust had worn off a bit from the long off-season, but in the end we came up a bit short in both sets, losing 19-25 and 21-25. On 12/10/12 we played the same team from the first match of the season, and were most certainly improved and more competitive. Despite some long rallies and solid team play, the match was still one-sided on the scorecard, as we lost 19-25 and 13-25. The 4th week of the season had your Purple Power matched up evenly with the opposition. However, despite some outstanding setting, rallies and service runs (especially by Wolf Lampert), we just didn't have an answer to the opposing team's outstanding serving through the match. We lost 14-25 and 20-25.

So, with two weeks off in observation of Christmas and New Year's, your Purple Power stand at 0-4. However, the chemistry and consistent play of the team continues to improve week to week. Most importantly, however, is the fun and fellowship we share together, while proudly wearing our Rock of Ages Lutheran purple shirts for others to see and witness.

The 2012-13 volleyball team members are: Dave Foster, Kim Foster, Pam Butler, Wolf Lampert, Jim Kuehnert, Sonja Engledowl, Lewis Engledowl, Ramona Lapsley, Marina Ogburn, and Becky Vidro (with cheerleaders: Robyn and Brooke Foster)



We play our matches on Monday evenings at Eagleview Middle School on Vindicator Drive. Our season resumes on 1/7/13 at 6pm, and you can always see our scheduled matches in the weekly bulletin and the congregational website. We look forward to seeing our fans come out and cheer us on!

Jim Kuehnert,
Rock of Ages Sports Teams

HUMOR FOR THE MONTH:

A young teacher, with obvious liberal tendencies, explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too.

Not really knowing what atheism is, but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like flashy fireworks. There is, however, one exception. A girl named Lucy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different.

"Because I'm not an atheist," Lucy says.

"Then," asks the teacher, "what are you?"

"I'm a Christian."

The teacher is a little perturbed now. Her face slightly red, she asks Lucy why she is a Christian.

"Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian, so I am a Christian."

The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly. "What if your mom was a moron, and you dad was a moron. What would you be then?"

After a pause, and a smile Lucy says, "Then, I'd be an atheist!"