

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

THE ROCK

Issue No. 3

March 2013

Special Dates

- Feb. 24 Installation of Pastor Maxwell
- Feb 27 Lenten Dinner & Worship
- March 2 Game Day
- March 3 Dining to Donate
- March 6 Lenten Dinner & Worship
- March 7 Thursday AM Bible Study
- March 8 & 9 Ladies Retreat
- March 9 Change Clocks
- March 12 Circuit Pastors Meet
- March 13 Lenten Dinner and Worship
- March 16 Gardening Potluck
- March 17 Youth visit Nursing home
- March 20 Lenten Dinner & Worship
- March 21 Thursday Bible Study
- March 21 Church Council
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 25 “Questions” Bible Study
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Worship
- March 29 Good Friday Service
- March 31 Easter Sunrise
- March 31 Breakfast
- March 31 Festival/Worship
- March 31 Easter Carnival
- April 1 Office Closed

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Ukraine Mission News

After prayerful consideration, Rock of Ages has decided not to send a team to Ukraine in 2013. The mission is still very much alive, as God’s Word is desperately needed among the people of Ukraine. Staying home one year will allow us to raise funds for a trip in 2014 and explore other options to stay connected with our fellow Christians in Ukraine.

We received the below letter from Pastor Alexey in the Ukraine:

“I believe that The Lord Jesus leads the ROA community in amazing ways. This year you have a new pastor! A new wind! I believe that he is a man given for your church from God, at the same time I also know that it is always difficult for the congregation to adjust to new leaders. That's why I will pray for you and your congregation. I know that 2013 will be a good year, a year of new experiences and new discoveries. It would good to spend this year adjusting and strengthening the inner links in your congregation. May God be with you all.

However, I would like to be in touch with you and share our mission news during 2013

Your brother in Christ, Alexey”

As this year of new experiences opens, we are excited to see what God has planned for all of us. Some ways that we have kept in touch with our sister churches in Ukraine include Christmas cards with a picture of the children’s service sent to each of the 12 churches; Easter cards (made by some of our ladies) ; 200 fleece hats made here at ROA along with puzzles, word find books, craft supplies and sport balls collected here at ROA and other sister churches in Colorado Springs. These were sent to Mykolaiv to be distributed to the Alouda boys home and the Lupera Men’s village.

The team is hosting a Lenten meal of our Ukrainian favorites on March 13th. Please come and help us raise funds that will be matched by Thrivent.

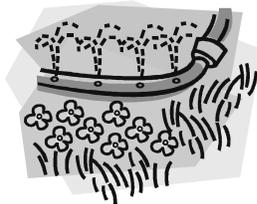
The Team also continues to tell the story of our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine through presentations at other churches. We gave a presentation to Resurrection Lutheran Church February 17th. If you know of a church or group that would enjoy hearing about this unique mission, or have an idea about how we can continue to reflect God’s love across the ocean, please talk to any of the Team members. Please also continue to keep our sister churches, our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and all of Ukraine in your prayers. The ROA Ukraine Mission Team echoes Pastor Alexey’s thanks for your amazing support of this mission, both in years past and in the future.

Watch your bulletin and future newsletters for upcoming projects.

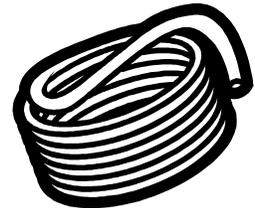
The Pastor's Prayer

Lord Jesus, Your servant Solomon once wrote, "Like a lily among the thorns is my darling among the maidens." Lord, lilies are special flowers in scripture. They symbolize purity and holiness, not of themselves, but because You have made them that way. You once said, "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." You have dressed us as You have dressed the lilies. It is so fitting then that the flowers of Easter are lilies. Because of Your resurrection from the dead, You have given us new life. You have freed us from sin and made us perfect. You have made us lilies in a world of thorns. Thank You for Your Easter resurrection, and thank You for making us Your special lilies. Amen.

Garden Needs:



"Holy" Hoses: The "holier" the better! You don't have to bless them but please let us recycle them! The gardeners are working to set up drip irrigation systems in their beds to be good stewards of our water.



Faith Heroes?

Would you choose a man whom you found hiding in a winepress to be your leader? How about picking soldiers to fight a war by watching them lap up water like dogs? What about a foreigner or a prophetess? In the book of Judges we see God choosing folks just like this. Gideon, who asks God for a sign on a fleece not once but twice. Shamgar the foreigner. Deborah, the lady who judges sitting under a tree. Barak- the soldier God calls to lead who insists Deborah go with him into war. Lest we think that perhaps they are chosen by their, uh, "qualifications" we can look at the book of Hebrews.

"And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, of Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness."

And did I mention Jesus? Being the creator of the universe he put on frail human flesh. He was born in a stable. He was crucified on a cross as a criminal. He took on all of our sins as he suffered, died and was buried. And yet. He did all of this so that we could be free from those very sins. So that we could be called the Children of God. So that we could walk a new life. So that we, being fearful like Gideon, being foreigners like Shamgar, being broken by every kind of sin, could have eternal life. So that we could be given the gift of faith and rest in Him- so that we could be made strong out of our weakness. Through faith, trusting in Christ, receiving the gift of Good Friday, God makes these things true in us.

Deaconess Sarah

Library—Monthly Featured Item

"A DAY WITH A PERFECT STRANGER" - Author: David Gregory -- The book describes the relationship God wants to have with people.

Exasperated by her husband Nick's sudden out-of-town business trip as a welcome side if it's time to put an end to this pain-a stranger abroad the plane and her skeptical-stranger. She finds herself confronting the fulfillment. As this stranger's comments touch on personal issues he couldn't possibly know about, she begins to wonder if she's misjudged not only Nick but also the God he now claims to believe in.



new obsession with Jesus, Mattie Cominsky views opportunity to reflect on their marriage -- and to def-fully unrewarding relationship. However, she meets cism soon warms to the perceptive insights of this unspoken longings of her soul for true and lasting

(We have another book and a DVD by David Gregory in our library: "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger.")

Ladies' Retreat

Rock of Ages Lutheran Church invites you to take ten to receive the King's invitation this Lent. Join us as we explore the word, be silent, and taste and see that the Lord is good.

When: March 8th starting at 6pm and March 9th starting at 9am

Who: All Ladies who are interested in learning to rest in Christ in daily life and work, to rest in the Word, and are of confirmation age



*Where: Rock of Ages Lutheran Church 120 N. 31st Street Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: Deaconess Sarah Sacco 632-9394 or sarahdsacco@live.com*

Registration:

Please return this registration and \$5 to Deaconess Sarah by March 3! Cost will cover lunch on Saturday and Retreat Materials

Name: _____
Food Needs? _____

Interested in "Daddy Daycare?" We have several daddies who will be helping to care for little ones! Please RSVP!

Children's Names and Ages: _____

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ISAIAH 26:4**

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LUTHERAN HOUR TIME

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

ITEMS FOR DONATIONS FOR WESTSIDE CARES FOR MARCH ARE: Diapers & Baby Wipes

Newsletter
Deadline
March 13, 2013

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! It is truly hard to believe that we're already in the Lenten season, and that March is just around the corner! Slowly but surely the warmer weather will be upon us, as we transition into Spring.

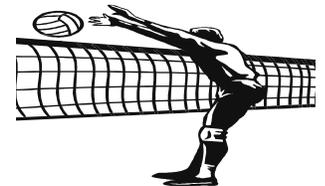
Your RoA Purple Power coed volleyball team finished up their winter sports schedule, and did so with a flourish! However, the recent great play took a "night off" on 1/28, as the team fell in convincing fashion in two sets, 11-25 and 21-25. The team came back though with two thrilling 3-set victories to finish off the season, starting with a hard fought 12-25, 25-17, 15-13 triumph on 2/4. We followed that with a very impressive, total-team effort over a solid opponent on 2/11. We dropped the first set 20-25, but came back by winning the next two sets 26-24 and 15-9!

So, as we finished by playing our best volleyball of the season, the matches have concluded. Your Purple Power finished with a very respectable 4 win and 6 loss record, and finished by winning 4 of the last 6 matches played! We had a lot of fun, welcomed a new member to our team (Becky Vidro), and represented Rock of Ages very well, sharing in fellowship all the while.

Please support the Sports Teams annual Lenten dinner on 2/27, as we serve up a variety of soups, along with salad, bread, beverages and desert. 50% of the freewill offering will go towards the Rock of Ages Youth, as they continue to raise money for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in San Antonio later this year. The other 50% will go towards the annual registration fees for the softball and volleyball teams. We thank you for your support!

Thank you for reading, and don't forget to get out and enjoy the Lord's wonderful creation!

Jim Kuehnert,
Rock of Ages Sports Teams



HUMOR FOR THE MONTH:

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE - A father had two sons, one a pessimist and the other an optimist. One day, the father thought he would put them to a test. He sent the pessimist into a room full of toys and the optimist into a room with a pile of horse manure in it. When he returned later, he went to the room where he left the pessimist and found him throwing a fit, complaining that he did not have more toys to play with. Then he went to the room where he left the optimist and found him digging in the manure. "What are you doing?" he asked. "I know there is a pony in here somewhere," the boy replied.