

# THE ROCK

Issue No. 3

March 2009

## Special Dates

- Feb 22 Youth Night
- Feb 25 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 25 Lenten Dinner & Service
- Feb 27 Scrapbooking
- Feb 27 Young Adults meet
- March 2 Ladies Bible Study
- March 3 Elders Meeting
- March 4 Lenten Dinner & Service
- March 5 Bible Study
- March 7 Time Changes
- March 10 Circuit Pastors meeting at Holy Cross
- March 11 Lenten Dinner & Service
- March 15 Youth Night
- March 16 Ladies Bible Study
- March 18 Lenten Dinner & Worship
- March 19 Bible Study
- March 19 Church Council
- March 20 3rd Friday
- March 25 Lenten Dinner & Service
- March 27 Scrapbooking
- March 30 Jews for Jesus

## Christ in the Passover

What do the Jewish Passover and Jesus' Last Supper have in common? Steve Wertheim, speaking on behalf of Jews for Jesus, will answer that question in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" here on March 30th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Using a visual display of traditional Passover accouterments, the "Christ in the Passover" presentation enhances the Christian's understanding and appreciation of the Jewish background of the Christian Communion. Ancient and modern Jewish customs are discussed and described with an emphasis on the aspect of redemption which Christ accomplished at Calvary.

A table is set with the traditional Jewish Passover items, including representative foods which are explained, but not eaten. The ceremonial seder plate, the three-compartment pouch in which the matzo is kept, as well as the traditional cup of Elijah are presented, and new insights to their Christological significance are provided.

Jews for Jesus has presented this demonstration in over 5000 churches. It was originally written in 1956 by Moishe Rosen, the founder and former executive director of Jews for Jesus. The demonstration was abstracted from the writings of the late Rabbi Leopold Cohn, who came to faith in Jesus in 1894 and died in 1936.

Dr. Rosen contends that some of the most important elements of Christian doctrine, such as the Trinity, the principle of substitutionary atonement and salvation through a personal relationship with the Messiah, are implied in the Seder (Passover feast) as observed by Orthodox Jews even today. "The Christ in the Passover presentation is one way Jews for Jesus can help churches appreciate the Jewish roots of the Christian faith."

Jews for Jesus is an evangelistic agency best known for creative methods and materials. Their literature deals with contemporary themes including anything from current films to chemical waste. "Broad sides" uses humor and clever illustrations yet have a serious message: namely, that Jesus is the promised Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles.

Jews for Jesus also communicates through original Jewish gospel music and drama, which is presented by mobile teams such as the Liberated Wailing Wall. The organization has permanent branches in seven North American cities as well as over seventy chapters spanning some thirty states. The group also has several international branches.

Dr. Rosen, says, "Our message is not new, but we're telling it in a new way. For too long the Jewish roots of Christianity have been forgotten." In keeping with the Jewish context of Christianity, he and his wife have co-authored a book entitled Christ in the Passover. As with the presentation, this book focuses on Passover to demonstrate the continuity of the Old and New Testament scriptures.

Those attending the special "Christ in the Passover" program here on March 30th will also have an opportunity to examine some of the literature and materials available through the Jews for Jesus organization. Please invite your family and friends to attend this program with you. Speaker, Steve Wertheim will be available to answer questions after the presentation.

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## Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust

"Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being... Cursed is the ground because of you; ...because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 2:7; 3:17, 19).

Dear brothers & sisters,

We are into the season of Lent. It began with those familiar words from the service of Ash Wednesday: "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." God made us out of dust, out of dirt. For Christmas we had a Roomba – a robot vacuum cleaner - become a part of our home. And every so often it takes off on its own around the house. When full, it stops and beeps for someone to empty it. We are always amazed at how much dust it can find. Surely the two of us can't be that dirty! It must be the dog.

The vacuum is especially good at getting under low spaces like beds. It's like the little boy who once asked his mother if the Sunday School story he'd heard was true, that God made us out of dust. She told him that it was true. And then he asked if it was true that we would return to dust someday. Again, she said that was true. At that point he got really excited and exclaimed that she had best come look because somebody was either coming or going under his bed!

Dust to dust. For hundreds, maybe thousands, of years those words have been recited over a grave at the committal of a body. Ash Wednesday and all of Lent help us to recall the reality of the Curse. The reality of our sin is confirmed in those words.

But there is an even greater reality. But we don't get to that for a few weeks yet, the reality of Good Friday. There we will witness the reality of our God's great love for us, even though we are but dust. Our God, who once breathed life into us, was willing to Himself take on the form of dust and in that form die for us upon a Cross. Dust to dust. A Savior willing to have those words apply to Himself – for us, in our place.

God did not bring Adam – and us – forth from the dirt of the ground just to kill us! We are not just God's toys or game pieces to be cast aside when we no longer work right. We are his dearest creations. Our value is not found in the soil from which we were made. Our value is found in the image we were given – His own; from the breath which He Himself breathed into us. Therefore God put the eternal Son into the same human body that you and I were given. And by taking on Himself the very dirt from which we are made and the dirt we've done, Christ has overcome our dirt and our death on the Cross. In His holy death, He makes you clean!

Yes, of ourselves, the final words would be "dust to dust." The blood that circulates within our bodies will keep us alive for some time longer, but not forever. But we are washed clean in the Blood of Jesus. The Body and Blood we receive in His Sacrament will keep us to all eternity. Now, with Jesus, amazing things have happened! In the Easter resurrection and promise, you possess the promise of eternity. Ashes, death, weeping, and sorrow are but for a little time – like Lent. We fix our eyes on Jesus, the Risen One, the Author and Perfector of our faith for all eternity.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

**Pastor Ron**

## Sunday School News

Hello Everyone!

Just a quick note on Sunday School for this year. We are gearing up for a fun year with lots in store.

You will notice that the Sunday School classes will be providing bulletin covers for the last Sunday of the month; these will go with the theme for the Holy Gospel. The kids are putting a lot of imagination and time into the projects so please let them know their artwork is appreciated!

We are truly blessed with a great group of kids and a lot of enthusiasm to share with you so we look forward to another great year. As always the more the merrier... if you are interested in helping with Sunday School please let Kay or myself know. Please keep all of the Sunday School staff and Kids in your prayers! And off we go!!!

In Christ,

Karen Bodine



## Lenten & Easter Meals and Worship

Our Lenten schedule is as follows:

### **February 25—Ash Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Child Care

Spaghetti Dinner

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Destructive Pattern of Escalation

### **March 4—Wednesday night**

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Ladies Guild

Mexican Buffet

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Destructive Pattern of Invalidation

### **March 11—Wednesday Night**

5:30 Lenten Dinner hosted by Bell & Vocal Choirs

Soup and Salad

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Destructive Pattern of Negative Interpretation

### **March 18—Wednesday Night**

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by the Ukraine Team

Ukrainian/Russian Cuisine

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Destructive Pattern of Withdrawal

### **March 25—Wednesday Night**

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Sports Teams

Greek Fest

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Secret of Not Having Unrealistic Expectations

### **March 30—Monday Night**

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Jews for Jesus

### **April 1—Wednesday Night**

5:30 p.m. Dinner hosted by Board of Education

Duane's Famous Chili

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service—The Secret of Forgiveness and Absolution

### **April 5—Palm Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Education Hour

### **April 9—Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

### **April 10—Good Friday**

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

### **April 12—Easter**

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast hosted by Elders

Eggs, Ham, etc.

9:00 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Education Hour

11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

### **April 13—Easter Monday**

Church Office Closed

Join us for all of these special and unique opportunities to reflect on and celebrate our Risen Savior!!!

# Parish Ministry Assistant

Grace, Peace, and Mercy from our Savior Jesus Christ.

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*

*You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.*

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 3-4:6*

St. Paul just has a way about him.

In Jesus our Lord,  
Troy Dieters, Parish Assistant

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LWML/Ladies Guild

Join us for:

Lenten Dinner

Wed March 4<sup>th</sup>

Mexican Pot Luck

Freewill offering to Mites

Thanks to all who contributed to the college care packages!

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## Library Rock! (of Ages)

I enjoy spending time in our shelves of knowledge here at the Rock and am pleased by the vast array of resources we now have thanks to some very dedicated volunteers. Along with books and music for all ages, the Christian DVD section is growing nicely. I would like to briefly share with you three new ones that I think you may enjoy:

**The Perfect Stranger.** Ever want to actually sit down to dinner with Jesus? I know we believe, teach, and confess that He is always with us (and He is), but have you ever wondered what it would be like to physically see Him and talk with Him just like you and I would do at any given time? This is a movie about a lady skeptical of Christianity who did just that. The conversation touches upon many different themes very relevant to our own lives. This was the movie that was the inspiration of the “Stranger Series” on television. I like it, so the youth would tell you to stay away. :)

**The Story of the Twelve Apostles.** Made by the *History Channel*, it goes into the lives of Jesus' followers--average men of their time turned into bold revolutionary witnesses of the Christ, proclaiming a message that would reverberate throughout the Roman Empire and into our lives today. Taken from the Bible and Church tradition, this story covers what is known about all the disciples, including: Peter, denier of Jesus who would become the “Rock”; of James and John the “sons of thunder”; Matthew the tax collector who was murdered by cannibals; Simon the Zealot who would be cut to pieces preaching in Spain; Judas Iscariot; and even Matthias who replaced the betrayer. Narrated by Martin Sheen, overall I thought the production was good and worth the time.

**Auto B Good's “Life in the Fast Lane”.** Did you like the movie “Cars”? Do you dig “Veggie Tales”? Then you would like this. Family fun in the city of Auto-- Johnny, Izzy, EJ, Cali and other friends have adventures and learn Christian lessons with a “positive-traction” message. There are even music videos to sing along with after the story which “drive home” the main point. I recommend this to everyone. It will be a “gas”.

So whether you enjoy a dinner date with the Lord, learn some things about the disciples, or cruise around with some new friends, I think you will be richly rewarded by whatever choice you make in the Library Rock (of Ages).

In Him who is all Knowledge,  
Troy Dieters, Parish Assistant

## *Ukraine Mission*

After taking a little time off this winter, we are again in the thick of planning for this year's mission trip. We will be taking less people this year due to the short supply of funds and the increasing cost to make the trip.

Pastor Alexey Navrotsky has invited us back again to all the places we have been before and for a short trip to Dnepropetrovsk to see several of the churches in that area.

Due to some unfortunate layoffs, our team members will be some what changed. We will be having our Ukraine dinner and fund raiser on the 18th of March and we will have some new faces on the team. We have several new pieces of video to show including one from the Church in Canada.

At the time of the dinner we will have the members named and will be practicing our skits and stories that we will be sharing with the children in the various churches, the boys detention center and the men's mentally challenged area, as well as the Church in Yalta. It seems like a lot to do in such a short time, But we will be staying for a couple of extra days.

We know that we could not do this mission without you, and we thank all of you for your continued prayers and support.

Yours in the Lords service,  
John Yenter

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

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**2009**  
**Lutheran Valley Retreat**  
**Summer Camp brochures**  
**are in the church office**  
**see Kay if you need one!!!**

**Newsletter Deadline**  
**March 18, 2009**

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

## Faith Active in Love

**"Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:30-31**

Where do you spend most of your time in your imagination- the past, the present, or the future? In the book The Shack, Jesus asks this question of the main character, Mack. Jesus has just asked the man to take a giant leap of faith- to step off of the dock and walk across a lake with Him. Mack is simply unable to step off, imagining all of the possible things that could go wrong. He sees himself failing- going under and perhaps even drowning. Who can blame him, really? Its not like walking on top of water is an everyday occurrence- and even "The Rock" Peter had a hard time with this one! That's when Jesus asks his question.

What about you? Many of us spend a lot of time in the past- rehashing things that went wrong or living in what we think of as "the good times." Much of the rest of the time we spend thinking of the future- planning, worrying, and waiting. Much of our lives can feel like a waiting game. We might be waiting to find a new job, waiting for our engagement to end and marriage to begin, waiting to find "the one", waiting for our children to grow up, waiting for retirement, or waiting to die. Whatever particular thing we happen to be waiting for right now, we think that once it happens the uncertainty will disappear and we will finally be able to take that next step. We will "know" the answers, and will finally be able to really live. Or, perhaps we just keep imagining how terrible things will be- seeing failures, bankruptcy, loneliness and fear. Yes, waiting can be a very hard thing.

In the book, Jesus points out to Mack that in all his imaginings, in all his worries, plans and schemes, he rarely if ever pictures Jesus there with him. Think about it. Do you? Whether you are waiting for something good, bad, or indifferent, is Jesus there with you? Do you see him by your side, in your heart, working for you? The truth is that He has promised to be there and he IS and WILL BE! Your strength is renewed through Him living in you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Knowing this, you can step off the dock and onto the water with confidence, seeing him with you.



### FUNDS UPDATE

Building Fund = -0-  
Scholarship Fund = \$9,147.75  
Capital Improvement Fund = -0-

Please note that the Elevator Fund is now closed.  
All future donations will be put into the Building  
Fund.

