

NEWS & VIEWS FROM ROLLO PEWS

March/April 2018



From the Pastors Pen

Sometimes I see it coming and sometimes I don't. Today I didn't.

Emotions. Some of us are better at hiding them than others. I am not. As time has gone on and the older I get, the more it seems that life is so very precious. And maybe it's because of the many times when we've been concerned about Joshua; from the time he was a year old with open heart surgery to 2001 when we were told we'd probably not bring him home from the hospital in Rockford.

Life is precious. It's just that simple. And it's when we tread on that edge of life and death, that we realize our mortality and understand that God is far more in control than we. And it doesn't have to be ourselves. I have found that the more appreciation that I have for life, the more it bothers me when others hurt – when others suffer loss. It seems that I feel their pain, feel their broken hearts, and suffer right along with them.

In today's children's time I had hoped to share some pictures of when Denny and I were 10 and were honorary Santa Claus's. I remember much of it as if it were yesterday, but wouldn't until some years later really appreciate what an honor it was. With a lack of children in worship I decided to share these pictures with the congregation, and that's when my emotions took over. Some 6 years later, the pain of losing Denny is still as fresh as it was the day I sat by his bed and held his hand as he died.

Preaching often raises my emotions in much the same way. I think that the more I grow in my relationship with Jesus that the more I feel his agony and pain. And without a doubt, the more I think about God's pain, Mary's pain, and the disciple's pain, the more I feel it as well. And Jesus was much the same way. Pain, agony and sadness brought out his emotions as well. When Lazarus was dying, his sisters Mary and Martha sent for Jesus who came 4 days later, after Lazarus had died. The story is told in the 11th chapter of John and finishes as follows;

*³⁴ And Jesus said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ **Jesus wept.** ³⁶ **So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"***

Love, that's why our emotions show from time to time. Jesus wept out of his great love for Lazarus, as well as his love for his grieving sisters. And I know that's the case with me. I think that the more we grow in our relationship with Jesus, the more we start to sense the sadness, the loss, and the pain of others. The more we let Jesus into our lives, the more we sense the need to be the love and comfort of Jesus to those mourning and hurting. And honestly, I think that's one of the biggest calls on our lives as Christians – to be the comfort and presence of Jesus in the lives of others.

When Denny died and I spoke at his service, I concluded my remarks with the following; *'They say that time heals all wounds, but I don't want this one to heal. I want to scratch and pick at it. I want to make it bleed over and over. I never want it to heal.'*

Lent is upon us and I feel the same way about walking with Jesus to the cross each and every year. The more I grow in my relationship with Jesus the more it pains me to see how much his love for us cost him. It's this sense of his love and pain that overwhelms me almost every time I walk into the pulpit to preach. So please bear with me when it becomes more than I can handle.

Answering His call....

Love Pastor David

(Written 1/1/18)



Trustees Report by Keith Fassig

- All bills have been paid.
- Welcomed Tami Johnson to committee and she accepted the job of secretary.
- Waiting on Deprato Restoration to come and examine south stain glass window and give a bid as to what it would cost to fix.
- Jeff Hyatt from Sandwich is going to look at it and give a bid also.
- The insurance on the church was increased to cover the value of the current contents.

Diaconate Report by Barb Bend

The Diaconate said a sad farewell to Deb Davey, who served us admirably for 3 years, and welcomed new member Ann Gilmore, a wise veteran . We discussed the responsibilities of each member.

We have been working on updating the calling tree, directory, and membership list. If you have any changes or additions to any of these, please let a Diaconate member or Jessica know. We want to stay current & not omit anyone.

After a moving Advent season, we now are looking ahead to Easter. Ash Wednesday service is Feb 14 at 7 PM. This is a beautiful way to begin the six weeks leading up to Easter. The Bible Study and soup suppers continue the following five weeks (Feb 21-Mar 21). There is a sign up sheet in the basement, if you would like to provide the meal for one week. Maundy Thursday service will also be at 7 PM. Once again, we will try an all night Prayer Vigil following the service. There will be a sign up sheet on the back table. It is just one hour to talk to your Lord and is such a special Rollo tradition. Please prayerfully consider joining us. Good Friday service will be announced. Easter is April 1. Our traditional Easter breakfast will begin at 7:30 with worship to follow at 8:30

Treasurers Report by Wayne Davey

BUDGET \$75,297.00		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
REVENUE	January 31, 2018	\$6,274.75	\$13829.00	\$7,554.25
EXPENDITURES	January 31, 2018	\$6,274.75	\$3,239.70	\$3,035.05

Current Balance in Checking Account:	\$25,923.87
Current Balance in Savings Account:	\$10,825.68
150 Anniversary Fund:	\$ 1,215.73
Bathroom Fund:	\$ 600.21
Building Fund:	\$ -0-
Diaconate Fund:	\$ 1,835.72
Memorial Account:	\$ 881.23
Undesignated:	\$ 6,292.79

Current CD Balance as of 1/28/2018:	\$ 4,380.93
Memorial Fund:	\$ 4,207.81

From the Money Counter



* Memorial Funds are currently located within the CD Investment

"Methinks thou dost protest too much"

This great quote from Shakespeare should probably hang on each of our refrigerators and dangle from a string on our car mirrors. As Christians we are all too guilty of looking and complaining more about what we don't have than what our God has blessed us with. This is the point behind our 'Complaint Free World' Lenten series and will hopefully be life changing for years to come. Lent you see is a time of self-reflection and change. It is a time to think about our relationship with Jesus and how we might improve it, by improving our lives as Christians. And one of the simplest and most obvious ways to improve our lives and relationships, is by learning to appreciate them more. We each need to be more appreciative of the people around us from our families, friends, work-places and social gathers, and of course our church. I really believe in the ability of this exercise to be life changing for each of us as individuals as well as in every relationship we have. I believe that by participating we will become more accountable to one another as well as to our God.

Thank you for playing along! May God bless us throughout these important days of Lent.

Announcements

- Feb. 25** - *Cookie Fellowship*: Susan & Rachel Foster & Ann Gillmore
Baptism for Eila Diane Oest
- Feb. 28** - Soup at 5:30 p.m. followed with Bible Study at 6 p.m.
- Mar. 4** - Diaconate Meeting after worship
- Mar. 7** - Soup at 5:30 p.m. followed with Bible Study at 6 p.m.
- Mar. 11** - Trustees Meeting after worship
- Mar. 14** - Soup at 5:30 p.m. followed with Bible Study at 6 p.m.
- Mar. 17** - Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m.
- Mar. 21** - Soup at 5:30 p.m. followed with Bible Study at 6 p.m.
- Mar. 25** - *Cookie Fellowship*: Laura Fassig, Paula Bend & Judy Martin
- Mar. 29** - Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m.
- Mar. 30** - Good Friday at 7 p.m.
at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- Apr. 1** - *Easter Sunday* - Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
followed with Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Ushers

March - Bob Gilmore & Ron Bend
April - Joshua Marquardt & Wayne Davey

Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts

All our Service men & women
The Lost
Lyle & Marion Wald
Richard Epperson
Doug Komes
Bianca (*Jamie Gibson*)
Guy Capici (*Junia*)
Nancy (*Beth White*)
Betty Leslie (*Laura Fassig*)
Renee (*Junia*)
Jody (Pastor)
Leota Benson
Vera Weiss (*Carol Svendsen*)
Kyle Raymer (*Joetta*)
Richard Bend
Ruth McInerney
Rachel (*Maegan Gletty*)
Kareen Holloway (*Jessica Olson*)

Lay Reader

March 4 - Bob Gilmore
March 11 - Tami Johnson
March 18 - Jeff Svendsen
March 25 - Ellen Sue Kupecz

Rollo Congregational Church
Pastor David Marquardt
2471 W eddell St.
Earlville, IL 60518

Happy Birthday!!



April 04 – Kristen Thomas
& Tami Wooden
April 05 – Carol Bateman
April 11 – Larry Svendsen
& Chris Martin
April 14 – Wyatt Gletty
April 18 – Richard Bend
April 19 - Cole Walters
April 20 – Wayne Martin
April 26 – Henry Williams
April 30 – Landon Benson

Mar 02 - Hunter Walters
Mar 03 – Jeffrey Adam Svendsen
Mar 08 – Shirley McDowell
& Benjamin Maple
Mar 11 – Lyle Wald
Mar 13 – Jeff Svendsen
Mar 16 – Ruth McInerney
Mar 17 – Joshua Marquardt
Mar 19 – Dave Benson
Mar 20 – Ashley Simmons
& Jason Jordal
Mar 21 – Christine Schilling
Mar 23 – Cierra Bend
Mar 24 – Audrey Kuring
Mar 25 – Wayne Davey
Mar 26 – Olivia & Madelynn Lyons
Mar 28 – Judy Svendsen
Mar 30 – Maegan Gletty
Mar 31 – Bryan Wald