

News & Views

From Rollo Pews

November-December 2018



From the Pastor's Pen

It's in the 11th chapter of John where Jesus' friend Lazarus has died and where his sisters Mary and Martha were mourning his passing. When Martha heard that Jesus was near, she went out to meet him. Several important verses pass (**which you should read**), and then Martha returned and had this exchange with Mary;

"The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

*³⁵ **Jesus wept.***

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Jesus wept. This is not only the shortest verse in God's word, but I think one of the most powerful. What it shows, is just how human Jesus was, during those days when he walked the same soil we walk, breathed the same air, rested in the same nights, and ministered in the same days. Jesus was human, God incarnate. And therein, Jesus had human thoughts, feelings and emotions, no different from those who had gathered along side of Mary and Martha, to comfort and weep with them, at the passing of their brother and friend Lazarus.

On Sunday, as I often times do, I read something that bothered me to read and to hear. It was a story of a woman who had spent many months traveling and spending long days in the hospital with her husband who had cancer. The article was not about her ordeal, and not about her husbands suffering. The article was about the kindnesses that were shown to her along the way. And while it's just my nature, it breaks me up to hear of the suffering of others. It breaks me up to tell stories of the pain and anguish in others people's lives, and I'm glad you tolerate these feeling in me, because it's just a part of who I am. I often blame my over-sensitive side on the times we've spent in difficult, life changing times with Joshua, but in reality, I know it's just a piece of how I was made. You see when you hurt I hurt, when you suffer I suffer, and when you rejoice I rejoice. That's just how God made me, and maybe the only trait I have in common with Jesus who wept for the same reason.

Now let me tell you the point to all of this;

On Monday past, I and two of my sisters, met with Mom's doctor to discuss setting up hospice support. Mom has been through a lot over the last few years as you know, and we have had her on our prayer list many times. What we have come to find out, is that the cancer she has affects less than 1% of all breast cancer patients, and that treatment is no longer an option. We, and she, have opted for quality of life, especially considering that at 90, she's already been blessed with quantity. The rareness of this leaves us with no idea or timeframe, but does give us a great deal of opportunity to spend quality time with her.

All this to say that the next many months or so will not be easy. This will be especially true in church, where we worship our loving God, and our Jesus who weeps for us. I have no doubt, that like the congregations that surrounded and supported Mary and Martha, that you will all be there for us, and for that, I am truly grateful. Much like 7 years ago when you walked through this when we lost Denny, I know you will see us through this as well.

Your prayers are important. Please pray for us during this time. Pray that we find comfort in the promises of our loving God. And give thanks that Moms healing is just around the corner, in the arms of our weeping Jesus.

Blessings, gratitude, and much love,
PD and family.



Trustee's Report by Tami Johnson

There is some remaining brick work that needs to be finished near the carport. The Trustees are working to obtain bids for the project.

The Trustees wrote a short cleaning list, and asked members to sign up and complete the cleaning at their convenience. A big thank you to the workers who completed their tasks! Bovard Studios, from Fairfield Iowa, removed 6 sections of stained glass. The project is expected to take 3 months. When the windows are returned, the upper windows will be cleaned. The work being done will fix what was wrong with the windows. The protective glass will remain in place until the windows are returned in January. Thank you to all who have donated to the project.



Diaconate's Report by Barb Bend

The Diaconate continues to meet and hopefully serve the needs of the congregation. We prepare and serve communion, change the paraments, update the prayer list and assist other committees as needed.

We feel our membership update is completed as far as we can determine.

The church has been busy! The funeral of Janis Fugate was held at our church September 15. She would be our only one to celebrate on All-Saints Day, if her family is so inclined. The church is decorated for fall and nonperishable foods and shoeboxes are appearing like magic. The goals for shoeboxes is 153! So far we have 113! Way to go! Both of these collections will be dedicated Nov 11, with Thankful Harvest dinner to follow. The Hospitality Committee will have more information as the day gets closer.

The Ecumenical Service will be held in Earlville on Wednesday, Nov 21.

After church, on Nov 25, we will be hosting a "Hanging of the Greens" time to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent Season. We realize "many hands make light work" and would appreciate all hands try to attend. (Especially people unafraid of heights to climb ladders!) Advent is such a rich and meaningful part of our church! There is also plans for a Christmas Celebration sometime in December.

Treasurer's Report by Wayne Davey

FROM THE MONEY COUNTER

BUDGET \$75,297.00		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
REVENUE	September 30, 2018	\$56,472.75	\$54,713.08	(\$1,759.67)
EXPENDITURES	September 30, 2018	\$56,472.75	\$46,029.50	(\$8,683.58)

Current Balance in Checking Account:	\$ 12,509.89
Current Balance in Savings Account:	\$ 10,478.11
150 Anniversary Fund:	\$ 1,215.73
Bathroom Fund:	\$ 650.21
Building Fund:	\$ -0-
Diaconate Fund:	\$ 1,436.72
Memorial Account:	\$ 881.23
Undesignated:	\$ 6,294.22

Stain Glass Window Repair Fund:	\$ 6,343.52
Goal:	\$13,500.00
Away From Goal:	\$ 7,156.48

Current CD Balance as of 10/28/2018:	\$ 4,397.33
Memorial Fund:	\$ 4,207.81

* *Memorial Funds are currently located within the CD Investment*



Ushers List

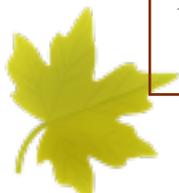
November - Dakota Goble & Darryl Kupecz
 December - Dave Bend & Harold Svendsen
 January - Jeff & Larry Svendsen

Cookie Fellowship List

Nov. 25 - Katie Koks, Ellen Sue Kupecz
 & Barb Bend

Lay Readers List

Oct. 28 - Ellen Sue Kupecz
 Nov. 4 - Becky Oest
 Nov. 11 - Susan Foster
 Nov. 18 - Bob Gilmore
 Nov. 25 - Curt Foster
 Dec. 2 - Stacy Richardson
 Dec. 9 - Tami Foster
 Dec. 16 - Becky Oest
 Dec. 23 - Katie Koks
 Dec. 30 - Carol Bend
 Jan. 6 - Jeff Svendsen



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Each box is Christmas gift wrapped, covered in clear shipping tape so that the box will be just as special as the love that is packed within. Once prepared, each box is filled with items of toiletries, school supplies, clothing, and small toys for boys and girls ages 2 to 14. Once these boxes are complete they are shipped all around the world as part of Samaritan's Purse World Outreach.

Thank you to those who have donated items, brought in filled shoeboxes or that came to the wrapping/filling workdays. If you have a shoebox yet to donate please let Gail know so it can be tagged and counted for shipping.

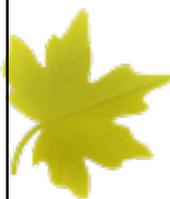
How can you help and participate in changing a child's life?

- ❑ Sponsor a box by simply donating \$20 per box toward the shopping that has been done for you.
- ❑ Shipping, Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$9 donation per box to help off-set some of their cost.
- ❑ These shoeboxes will be dedicated during our Thankful Harvest worship service on Sunday, Nov 11th. Gail then delivers to the shipping stage so that each package is tracked as to its final destination.

Donations can be given to Gail or Church Treasurer Wayne Davey.



We will hold "Hanging of the Greens" after church Nov 25. We will decorate the sanctuary in record time if "many hands" help out.



We would like to go GREEN!! If you are getting the newsletter by mail and would like to receive the newsletter via email please email me at:

j-rr-2@hotmail.com

Anyone in your family that has moved or would like to receive the newsletter also please give us that information. Thank you!!!



Please bring nonperishable food items for the NICE Center!



Announcements

Oct. 28 - Cookie Fellowship: Martha B., Jane B. & Betty G.

Nov. 4 - Diaconate Mtg after worship
All Saints Day

Nov. 11 - Trustees Mtg after worship
Thankful Harvest & Shoebox dedication

Nov. 17 - Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m.

Nov. 25 - Cookie Fellowship: Katie K., Ellen Sue K. & Barb B.

'Hanging of the Greens' after worship

Dec. 2 - Diaconate Mtg after worship

Dec. 9 - Trustees Mtg after worship

Council to follow - *Newsletter Due!*

Dec. 15 - Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m.

Operation Christmas Child



Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts

All our Service men & women
The Lost
'Shut-Ins'

Lyle & Marion Wald

Doug Komes

Nancy (*Beth White*)

Betty Leslie (*Laura Fassig*)

Leota Benson

Vera & Fred Weiss (*Carol Svendsen*)

Rachel (*Maegan Gletty*)

Pat & Bill Unzicker

Marvel Burtis & family (*Carol S.*)

Lorna Roberson (*Laura Fassig*)

Emiline Rood (*Mary Foland*)

Joe Barshinger

Happy Birthday

Nov 02 – Mike Johnson

Nov 03 – Deb Davey

Nov 11 - Gage Gibson

Nov 19 – Matt Maple

Nov 23 – Delaney Bend

& Joshua Johnson

Nov 23 – Mike Martin

Nov 24 – Curt Foster

Nov 28 – Randall Wald

Nov 29 – Gail Marquardt

Dec 02 – Joetta DeLay

Dec 06 – Marion Wald

Dec 07 – Dave Bateman

Dec 09 – Katie Simmons

Dec 19 – Sara Lyons &

Ann & Bob Gilmore

Dec 24 – David Marquardt



Rollo Congregational Church
Pastor David Marguardt
2471 Weddell St.
Earlville, IL 60518