



# News & Views from Rollo Pews

Jan. - Feb. 2020

## From the Pastors Pen

Matthew:14:28-33 teaches....

*<sup>28</sup>Peter said "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."*

*<sup>29</sup>"Come," Jesus said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

*<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **"You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"**<sup>32</sup>And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

Doubt. That's what's been on my mind these days, and I think it's one of our most common defaults. We doubt the weatherperson, the doctor, the salesperson, and of course the news. But far too often, we also doubt ourselves and the decisions we make. And that's where I'm at.

Retirement – no doubt about it! It's time! I've been playing in the dirt for 50 years and it's time to wash up.

Moving – Well I hope it's the right thing to do. I hope and pray often that we're in God's will and that this is the right decision; but we won't know until it happens, and then maybe not for a while there after.

Building a house – Well I hope it's the right thing to do. It's been a major struggle trying to settle on a lot, house plans, and a builder; but like moving, we won't know until we do it.

Yes, we doubt many of the decisions we make in life, even though we've prayed our way through them. And that's what Peter was going through, as he asked Jesus to call him across the water. But as Peter got further and further from the boat, further and further from what was known, further and further from what was safe, further and further from the comfortable, that's when the doubt set in, and that's when he began to sink. Jesus had called Peter. Peter heard His voice, Peter saw his face and outstretched hand, and yet Peter still doubted, as he entered the unfamiliar. Yes, we often doubt the decisions we make, and we do it for the same reason that Peter did, because we have little faith.

When I first came to Rollo as a quest preacher, I had little doubt that I was where Jesus had called me. But when I came back for a trial service, knowing that if the vote was positive, that I would go from ‘guest preacher’ to ‘called pastor’, I had doubts. Many doubt’s! Why? Because just like Peter, I had never walked on water. Just like Peter, I was entering uncharted waters. But it was with your outstretched arms, and God’s Holy Spirit washing over us all, that we agreed to worship together, and thankfully, we haven’t drowned!

The point – your lives and ours are going to change. You will look for, and no doubt find, a new minister to love and care for you. Someone who will teach you and lift you, someone to worship with you, laugh with you, and cry with you.

For us, well we don’t know what God has in store, and we have to move forward trusting that the same God who called us to Rollo, is the same God who is calling us away. And for the church, no different from for us, when we find ourselves starting to sink, and the water rushing in over the top of our sandal’s, then it’s time to reach higher, pray harder, and let Jesus lift us to where he has called each of us. I’m relying on God’s words in Jeremiah 29 where God says;

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you,” declares the Lord,*

What’s next for each of us, only God knows. But as long as we each pray hard, seek hard, and let trust overpower our doubt, then we’ll each see the outstretched arm of Jesus, lifting each of us to new heights. And just like Peter, the winds of doubt will fade away.



Love and blessings,  
PD



Trustees Report by Tami Johnson

The Trustees proposed a budget for 2020 which was presented to the congregation earlier this month. The Trustees appreciate the offerings provided by church members. The trustees continue to search for someone to brick the east door.

## N.I.C.E. Center Report by Sherry McInerney

The NICE board meeting took place on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the NICE Center in Lee. Camilla Boston, Deb Davey and myself, Sherry McInerney, attended as the representatives of the Rollo UCC. I was introduced as the new Rollo rep in place of Deb Davey. Audra Boehne and Dave Koroscik reported the numbers for Sept 2019 were 109 household and 385 individual visits and in Oct 2019 there were 109 household and 390 individual visits to the pantry. Sept 2018 had 109 household and 535 individual visits with Oct 2018 having 108 household and 400 individual visits to the pantry. The Christmas room was beautiful, hope it was well attended. A big thank-you to everyone who donated their time, monetary donations and gifts/supplies!

The NICE Walk 2019 proceeds were presented and the walk was a rousing success. Here's looking forward to more Rollo walkers in 2020!!

The 2019 year-to-date budget was reviewed. NICE has come into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with computerized record keeping. A big challenge and learning curve to those in charge.

Next board meeting will be on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm. We will be voting on new committee heads.

### Treasurers Report by Wayne Davey

#### FROM THE MONEY COUNTER

BUDGET		Budget	Actual	Over/Under Budget
\$73,247.00				
REVENUE	November 30, 2019	\$67,139.52	\$76,034.11	\$8,894.59
EXPENDITURES	November 30, 2019	\$67,139.52	\$57,893.89	(\$9,245.63)

Current Balance in Checking Account:	\$ 33,972.00
Current Balance in Savings Account:	\$ 26,343.74
150 Anniversary Fund:	\$ 1,215.73
Bathroom Fund:	\$ 700.21
Building Fund:	\$ 1,015.00
Diaconate Fund:	\$ 1,536.72
Memorial Account:	\$15,481.23
Undesignated:	\$ 6,394.85
 Current CD Balance as of 11/28/2019:	 \$ 4,439.69
Memorial Fund:	\$ 18,882.81



\* Memorial Funds are currently located within the CD Investment & Savings Account

## Diaconate Report by Barb Bend

We would like to thank everyone that helped us with the Hanging of the Greens November 24! The few, but mighty, enjoyed chili after we were finished. The sanctuary looks festive and was completed with the beautiful poinsettias December 15. They arrived just in time for the Christmas Celebration held that day. The choir sang meaningful, lovely songs, the children gave it their best (thanks Zach) and the refreshments were delicious.

Rose, of the Jesus Film Project, approached us about an annual donation. We felt it should be decided on an annual basis and invited her to contact us again next year.

Small gifts were delivered to the shut-ins as a little reminder of Rollo UCC Church. They enjoyed the visit probably more than the gift.

We accepted a request for a transfer of membership from Andrea Pfeiffer to the Grace Luthern Church in River Forest. We are also looking forward to welcoming new members to our congregation.

Dates and times were set for Christmas Eve service (Dec 24 at 10:00 pm) and the Annual Meeting (Jan 19 after church service).

Please remember January is Rollo's turn to help at the NICE Center.

We wish all of you a Joyous Christmas and New Year!

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# Happy Birthday!!!

January 07 – Leah Richardson  
January 08 – Wanda Masters  
January 12 – Gloria Foster  
January 18 – Devon White  
January 20 – Brad Martin  
January 23 – Heidi Johnson  
January 25 – Camilla Boston  
January 30 – Bill Fassig



Feb 04 – Dave Bend  
Feb 05 – Joel Svendsen  
Feb 08 – Donald Oest  
Feb 15 – Alexis Olson  
Feb 21 – Carol Bend  
Feb 27 – Keith Fassig  
& Jordan Johnson  
Feb 28 – James Baird  
& Katie Goble

**Please Remember In Your Prayers & Thoughts**

All our Service men & women  
The Lost  
'Shut-Ins'  
Carol & Larry Svendsen  
Duane Fassig  
Swede Svendsen  
Fred Weiss (*Carol Svendsen*)  
Greg Delay  
Ray McInerney  
JR Gardner  
*Family of George Durban*



**Announcements**

- Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Service at 10 p.m.
- Jan. 5** - Diaconate Mtg after worship  
*Annual Mtg Reports are DUE!!*
- Jan. 12** - Trustees Mtg. after worship
- Jan. 18** - Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m.
- Jan. 19** - Annual Mtg after worship  
*Hospitality Committee in charge of Pot-Luck Dinner to follow mtg.*
- Jan. 26** - *Cookie Fellowship:*  
Maegan G. & Becky O. & Jeff S.
- Feb. 2** - Diaconate Mtg after worship
- Feb. 9** - Diaconate Mtg after worship  
Council to follow  
*Newsletter Reports are DUE!!*
- Feb. 15** - Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m.
- Feb. 23** - *Cookie Fellowship:*

**Five New Members were accepted during our Dec 22nd worship service. We welcome Jon & Samantha Ritter, Zachary Kasper, Mike & Debbie Peters.**

**There will be no Kids Club (Sunday School) the months of January & February. Kids Club will resume on March 1st.**

**January is Rollo's month to assist at the NICE Center!**

**Lay Readers**

- Dec. 29 - Carol Bend
- Jan. 5 - Jeff Svendsen
- Jan. 12 - Ron Wald
- Jan. 19 - Ann Gilmore
- Jan. 26 - Stacy Richardson
- Feb. 2 - Maegan Gletty
- Feb. 9 - Barb Bend
- Feb. 16 - Curt Foster
- Feb. 23 - Laura Fassig
- Mar. 1 - Bob Gilmore
- Mar. 8 - Tami Johnson
- Mar. 15 - Jeff Svendsen
- Mar. 22 - Laura Fassig
- Mar. 29 - Ellen Sue Kupecz



**Annual Meeting Reports are due no later than January 5th. Please email them to me or leave on church desk.  
[j-rr-2@hotmail.com](mailto:j-rr-2@hotmail.com)**

**Cookie Fellowship**

- Jan. 26** - Maegan Gletty & Becky Oest & Jeff Svendsen
- Feb. 23** - Susan & Rachel Foster & Ann Gilmore
- Mar. 29** - Laura Fassig & Paula Bend & Becky Stevens



**Ushers**

- January** - Jeff & Larry Svendsen
- February** - Dave Gibson & Brian Oest
- March** - Bob Gilmore & Ron Bend



**Rollo UCC**  
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