



The Echo... March, 2018

The church newsletter of Rossville United Methodist Church - Rossville, IN

BOB NOTES...

March is a month of contrasts in many ways. Many years the month is stormy as the struggle between winter and spring is carried forth in the weather. Of course in the sports world there is the wonderful thing called March Madness where college basketball teams dreams can all come to a sudden crashing halt on one hand or continue on to the next game with celebration on the other. And spring training games have started reminding us that another baseball season and summer is getting closer.

In the life of the church, we live out almost the whole season of Lent during March. The last week of the month is Holy Week when all the euphoria of Palm Sunday's parade is met with the horror of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion at the end of the week. I find it interesting that Holy Saturday is March 31. And the turn of the calendar into April brings the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

In the meantime, here in my monthly column I continue my series on the books of the Bible. I hope people have been reading these and learning more information about each of the books. We now have reached the New Testament.

The New Testament is divided up into four sections—The Gospels, History, Epistles, and Apocalypse.

It is only appropriate that during this Lenten Season we begin with the four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Four gospels record the eternal being, human ancestry, birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, Son of God and Son of man. Taken together, they set forth not a biography but a person.

Matthew was written originally for the **Jews** and presents Christ as the Son of David, and the Son of Abraham. Because he is portrayed as King, Jesus' genealogy is traced to King David; and the place of his birth to Bethlehem. Matthew, more than any of the Gospel writers, connects events and utterances in the life of our Lord with Old Testament predictions. In many instances we will read, "this was written to fulfill what was written..." Even though Mark was written first, I believe Matthew is placed first because of this connection with Old Testament predictions and it therefore creates a common flow from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels but it is more vivid and detailed than the parallel accounts in Matthew and Luke. Much of Mark is included almost verbatim in Matthew and Luke. Mark was written principally for the **Roman** world and presents Christ as the Servant of the Lord, sent to accomplish a specific work for God. Therefore it is a book of deeds more than words, and contains no long sermons or discourses and very few parables. The action moves quickly from one event to another. Several expressions such as "at once", "quickly" and "immediately" occur more than 37 times in Mark. There is a strong emphasis on Christ's miracles and points to His power as the Son of God.

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Luke, who wrote the third Gospel as well as the book of Acts, was known as “our dear friend... the doctor” who was a fellow worker with Paul. Luke was written principally for the **Greeks**. Its emphasis upon the perfect humanity of Christ traces the genealogy all the way back to Adam. Luke’s narrative of the birth and infancy of the Lord is from the point of view of the virgin mother. He alone tells of Christ’s boyhood and reveals more of Christ’s prayer life. Luke in many ways is the Gospel of compassion. Luke stresses the Lord’s sympathy for the brokenhearted, the sick, the mistreated, and the bereaved. It also shows the ministry of women to Christ. Luke alone records the instances of the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the prodigal son.

John has as its purpose the goal that “you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” It was not written specifically to any particular ethnic group or nation, but to **all** people. Therefore, he presents Christ as the Son of God, the one sent from God and always spoke the message God gave him. John, more than all the others gives lengthy accounts of Christ’s specific words on many occasions, and often begins sayings with “I tell you the truth”, or “truly, truly I say to you...” Other words John focus on are “true”, “truth”, “love”, “witness”, and “world”. John alone reports the great controversy between Christ and His enemies especially in chapters 7-12.

I encourage you if you never take the time to read much of the Bible to sit down and read these four gospels. For in them is included the very basis of the Christian faith and if we as Christ-followers have not read or do not read these gospels, how then can we know what the Christian faith actually entails.

So as we move through this Lenten Season, let us take the time and make the effort to read the words of our Lord.

Reflectively,

Pastor Bob Raschka

Chili Cookoff March 11th

Church Camp Fundraiser Lunch

Join us after church for food and fellowship. Vote for you favorite chili



and help send our youth to camp.

Free will offering!

Carry out available!

Rossville United Methodist Church

110 W. Main St. P.O. Box 568
Rossville, IN. 46065
(765) 379-2981

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am
Worship and Jr. Church: 10:15 am

Email: rossvilleumc@gmail.com
Website: rossinumc.com



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Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

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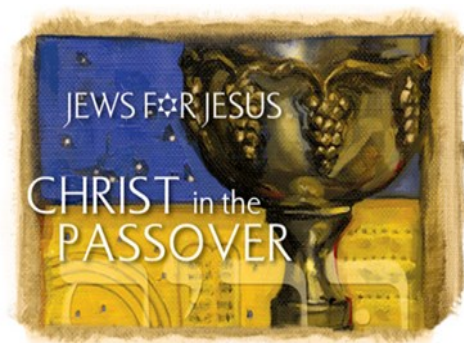
Daylight Savings Time Begins March 11th

Daylight Savings Time returns for its eight month stay on Sunday March 11th at 2 AM. Please do not forget to MOVE YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR when going to bed on Saturday the 10th.

We don't want to be late for church!

Jews for Jesus presents Christ in Passover March 18

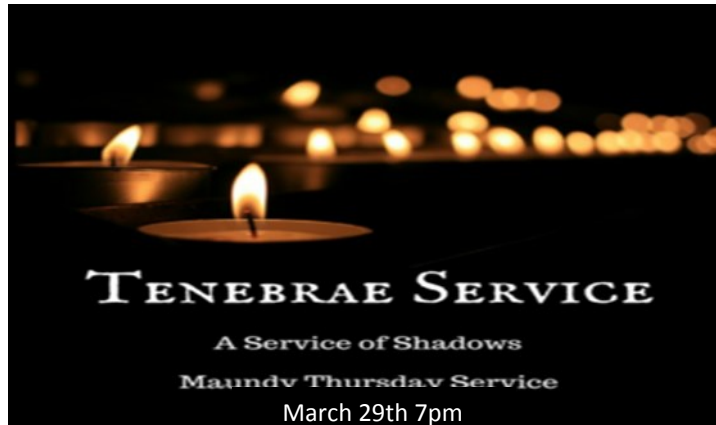
Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Lisa Smolowitz of Jews for Jesus will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" at Rossville United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 18th at 10:15 AM.



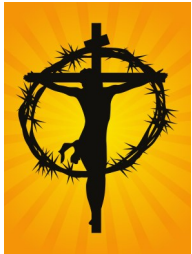
Lisa Smolowitz will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today. Jews for Jesus has presented "Christ in the Passover" at over 38,000 churches. It has been enthusiastically received by Christians who appreciate learning more about the Jewish backgrounds of their faith. Moishe Rosen, who founded Jews for Jesus in 1973, has also co-written the book, *Christ in the Passover*, with his wife, Ceil. This seminal work includes a look at Passover in ancient times and how it is practiced today. It will be available after the presentation. Also available will be a DVD of the Christ in the Passover presentation with David Brickner, the executive director of Jews for Jesus, officiating. Brickner, a fifth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus, succeeded Rosen as Executive Director in 1996. Brickner has kept Jews for Jesus on the cutting edge as the ministry has expanded and established branches in eleven countries, including the United States, Brazil, Israel, Russia, France, and South Africa. "We exist to make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide," Brickner states. "There are still a few that haven't heard of us!"

Lisa Smolowitz will be happy to answer questions after the presentation. Call (765) 379-2981 or visit <http://rossinumc.com> for more information. There is no admission charge.

Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday



Our Maundy Thursday Service this year will be a Tenebrae Service similar to the service done last year on Good Friday by the Ministerial Association. The Tenebrae Service is a very meaningful service which includes readings and the extinguishing of candles after each reading. By the time the readings are complete and we come through to Good Friday events, the sanctuary is dark. Do not miss out on this very gripping service as we recall the events of Christ's passion. The service is scheduled for Maundy Thursday evening—March 29th at 7:00 pm.



Community Good Friday Service

This year's Community Good Friday Service is at the Rossville Church of the Brethren. The service, sponsored by the Rossville Ministerial Association, is on Friday March 30th at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Cantata & Breakfast

The Annual Rossville Community Easter Cantata is being presented this year on Sunday, April 1st at 7:00 AM at the Rossville Church of the Brethren. A choir or community members from various churches has been rehearsing under the direction of Jane Massey. The cantata being presented this year is entitled "Behold the Lamb" and was written by Lloyd Larson. A communitywide Easter Breakfast will be presented after the Cantata at 8:00 AM



"REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL"



Superintendent Chris Newman-Jacobs to go on leave; Kate Lehman Walker is named interim

INDIANAPOLIS - In the past few weeks Chris Newman-Jacobs, Conference Superintendent to the Northwest District, which includes Rossville, has continued to journey through an aggressive treatment and wellness plan with her medical team, along with her family, against her cancer. Due to the challenges of advanced therapy and the unknown progression of cancer and recovery, Chris has decided that her number one priority must be caring for her health and spending time with her family and friends. As a result, Chris will be transitioning to disability leave effective March 1, 2018.

Chris is in good spirits and continues to seek ways to serve God faithfully while also seeking healing and wholeness. She notes this to the Northwest District and the Indiana Conference:

"As disappointed as I am to be leaving full-time active ministry, it is clear to me that in this season of my life, God is with me as I focus on myself and those closest to me. I have loved the past 30 or so years of serving God and the people of Indiana and I will miss the opportunities I have had to connect with and encourage pastors and laity!" She continued, "But, I anticipate that God will find new ways to place people in my path; those who will need something I can offer, and those who will come alongside my family and me to offer something that we need."

Bishop Trimble stated, "Chris has offered herself as a leader to the Church and has done so boldly while being a good ministry colleague and partner to the Extended Cabinet and has continually served God, fruitfully, in caring for the churches and people of the Indiana Conference. She has offered the fullness of her spirit, life, and ministry experiences to the service that we continue to do in being fully missional."

He continued, "My wife and I, as well as our family and the Conference staff, will continue to hold Chris and her husband, Paul, in our prayers as they continue to walk with God through this storm."

In light of this shift, Bishop Trimble has announced that the Rev. Kate Walker who currently serves in retirement as an Associate Superintendent of the Northwest District, will become, beginning March 1, the Interim Conference Superintendent to the Northwest District until June 30. Walker will work with the staff and leaders of the district to meet the needs of our congregations, Conference, and the Connection, as well as assisting the churches and ministries in moving forward in serving the community with a missional focus.

During this time, Bishop Trimble is inviting the Conference to join with him in prayer as he enters into a time of prayerful discernment prior to naming a new Conference Superintendent to serve the Northwest District. And all are invited to remember Chris and her family in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to seek healing.

* You are welcome to send her cards or notes of encouragement and to lift her and her husband Paul and family up in prayer for healing. She is unable to receive visitors, but knowing we are on her team will help her through this season. Her address is:

Rev. Chris Newman-Jacobs
1873 Alydar Dr.
West Lafayette, IN. 47906

Worship and Sermon Themes March 2018

- March 4 "What Kind of a Friend is This?" Mark 14:43-46
- March 11 "Finding No Guilt" Luke 23:4-7 & 13-16
- March 18 Jews for Jesus Christ in the Passover Presentation
- March 25 PALM SUNDAY "Life and Death" Luke 11:1-11 & Mark 15:33-39



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Rebecca Lowery
- 17 Nancy Disinger
- 24 Dan Cooper
- 25 Brinsley Cooper
- 26 Hannah Dotson
- 27 Christian Shireman



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

January 28, 2018 **\$1,145**
 February 4, 2018 **\$2,029**



February 11, 2018 **\$1,015**
 February 18, 2018 **\$2,847**

Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,272.31



Adult Sunday School 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship and
Jr. Church 10:15 a.m.



*The purpose of the
 Rossville United Methodist Church
 is to love the Lord and our neighbors,
 teach one another to obey the
 commands of God, and proclaim
 Jesus Christ as Savior to all.*

*Scriptural Foundations:
 Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 12:29-31*

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PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests for the church can be submitted to the church office. Pastor Bob or Brandy will start the phone tree system as soon as possible after receiving a request.

March, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Lent Bible Study</i> 7pm	2 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1pm-3pm	3
4 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Milner's Service</i> 3 pm <i>Choir Practice @Brethren</i> 4pm <i>ROCK</i> 6pm	5	6 <i>Adventure Club & Youth Group</i> 6-7:30pm	7 <i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am L.R.E. 6:30pm	8 <i>Lent Bible Study</i> 7pm	9 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1 pm -3pm	10
11 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Chili Lunch after Church</i> <i>Choir Practice @Brethren</i> 4pm	12 <i>AD Council</i> 7pm <i>Worship Team</i> 8pm	13 <i>Adventure Club & Youth Group</i> 6-7:30pm	14 <i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am	15 <i>Lent Bible Study</i> 7pm	16 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	17  Everyone's Irish On March 17th.
18 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Jews for Jesus</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Choir Practice @Brethren</i> 4pm <i>ROCK</i> 6pm	19 <i>Missions</i> 7pm	20 <i>Adventure Club & Youth Group</i> 6-7:30pm	21 <i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am L.R.E. 6:30pm <i>Lenten Bible Study</i> 7pm	22 <i>Lenten Bible Study</i> 7pm	23	24
25 <i>Sunday School</i> 9am, <i>Worship & Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am 	26	27 <i>NO Adventure Club & Youth Spring Break</i>	28 <i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am	29 <i>Maundy Thursday Service</i> 7pm 	30  Good Friday <i>Community Good Friday Service @ Brethren church</i> 7pm	31 <small>shutterstock - 259126379</small>