

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Silent? Holy?

Have you ever made the statement, “I’m so glad Christmas is coming!” As children these kinds of words might have come out of a sense of excitement and wonder for the season. We might have said them because we hoped we would be getting that favorite item we asked for.

As adults, we utter the same words because we hope the Christmas season will help us get our minds off all the stresses and trials of life. Even though the season certainly produces a whole list of anxieties we only have to deal with once a year, it still is a chance to hopefully stand back for a little bit from the struggles we have faced over the months. And we sing or hum or listen to music which reminds us of a distant time or a distant experience when life seemed so much simpler. Maybe this is why the pattern of starting to listen to Christmas music and putting up Christmas decorations has begun earlier and earlier over the past many years.



However, in our hope that Christmas will produce some kind of renewed hope, rekindled joy, and revived relationships, we need to stop for a minute and consider what the birth of Christ might have looked like.

Was it a “silent night, holy night”? No doubt it was holy. After all, God was coming to earth in the form of a helpless infant child. But silent? Seriously?

You might remember the verse, “she wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7) Mary placed the child in a manger (an animal-feed trough). This one point alone has caused artists and poets and lyricists and playwrights, and pastors, and authors, and a host of others to add a variety of animals to the event. If the child was put in a feed trough, there must have been all the rest of the expected surroundings.

Maybe yes. Maybe not. The Bible doesn’t say.

Later on, in Luke 2:16 we read that the shepherds hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, lying in the manger. And then they went and told everybody. The point I am trying to make is not to doubt whether or not all the actors in our traditional nativity scenes were actually there and whether it was in a barn or not. My point is that no matter how much we try to imagine, the night of the birth of the Messiah—God come to earth was anything but silent. Holy? Yes. Silent? No!

There were the sounds of a woman in labor and then the cries of a newborn infant. Eventually there were the sounds of shepherders come to celebrate. And yes, if the feed trough was in a barn, then there could have been the sound of a host of animals. It’s all really lovely to imagine. But I am guessing it wasn’t silent. As much as we try to hope.

Therefore, when the Advent and Christmas season doesn’t go as planned. When everything seems out of sort even though all you want is some peaceful moments in candlelight by a Christmas tree. When the pressures of having everything “just right” seem to about drive you into a panic, take heart. The One whose birth we celebrate did not come at a peaceful time, and most likely was not very silent. Holy? Yes. Silent? Probably not.

Think about these things as you prepare. Fret not when all is not well. Instead, lean on the One whose birth we celebrate. Jesus Christ. His birth was probably not peaceful. But following Him as the Lord of Life and the Light of the World, can bring peace to our soul. After all, the words were foretold “he shall be called ... “the prince of peace” (Isaiah 9:6)

In Love,

Pastor Bob Raschka

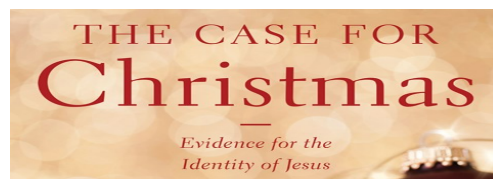


ADVENT SERMON SERIES: -ANTICIPATION- Dec 1st, 8th, & 22nd

BIBLE STUDY: Dec 3, 11, & 18

Who was in the manger that first Christmas morning? Some say he would become a great moral leader. Others, a social critic. Still others view Jesus as a profound philosopher, a rabbi, a prophet, and more. Many are convinced he was the divine Son of God. Who was he—really? And how can you know for sure? If Jesus really was God in the flesh, then there ought to be credible evidence, including Eyewitness Evidence—Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? Scientific Evidence—What does archaeology reveal? Profile Evidence—Did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God? Fingerprint Evidence—Did Jesus uniquely match the identity of the Messiah? The Case for Christmas invites you to consider why Christmas matters in the first place. Somewhere beyond the traditions of the holiday lies the truth. Join us as we study material presented by award-winning journalist Lee Strobel through the lens of Scripture.

The Bible Study will meet on Tuesday December 3rd and Wednesday December 11th at 7:00 pm and Wednesday December 18th at 6:30pm. Join us as we add more depth to our understanding of Christmas.



Missions Christmas Dinner December 8th After church

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch.

Lunch is a freewill offering with all proceeds being donated to different missions.

Menu: Baked Potato Bar (topping choices: butter, sour cream, shredded cheese, bacon, cheese sauce, broccoli, BBQ pork, green onions), Salads, Holiday desserts, & Drinks

LADIES DAY OUT December 13th

Seven ladies met for lunch Nov. 8th at City Barbeque for lunch. Everyone enjoyed good fellowship and good food. The next Ladies Day Out will be Friday, Dec. 13th. We will be traveling to One More Cup, 4138 S. Michigan St. in Burlington. All ladies of the church are invited. Please meet at the church parking lot to leave promptly at **11am** to carpool.

All ladies are invited! For Questions Contact Jane Emens (765-242-0633)



HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE

Our handbell choir will rehearse on December 8th after the missions dinner. We will be performing at the December 15th Christmas program. This is always a fun time available for all ages. Join us on the 8th after the missions dinner!



CHRISTMAS CHORAL ENSEMBLE

Our Christmas Choral Ensemble will be coming together to share a piece at the December 22nd worship service. We will rehearse for this performance after the morning service on Dec. 15th. We need both women and men to join us as we sing "Go Tell it On the Mountain"



This year's Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th during the worship service. The program will feature our handbell choir, solos, duets, and a video skit. Plan to join us on this special Sunday for a festive worship experience.



Diane Miller Dec. 1st	Jeff Miller Dec. 5th
Arlene Gangwer Dec. 6th	Zoey Shelly Dec. 14th
Grace Shireman Dec. 14th	Phyllis Patterson Dec. 15th
Rita Rothenberger Dec. 16th	Elaine Hathaway Dec. 16th

Rossville United Methodist Church

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 Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am
 Worship & Jr. Church: 10:30 am

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BRING IN THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS!

We will once again be offering the congregation the opportunity to bring in Christmas Cards for each of the families, couples, or individuals within our congregation. A list of all the names is available in our address directory. Please pick one up if you haven't already. Also a list of "shut-ins" is available to mail Christmas joy to. The dates to bring in cards are Sunday **Dec. 8th** – **Dec. 22nd**. Cards will be available for pick-up after church the 22nd.



Make plans now to join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the coming of the Savior into the world. A special service is coming together which will include carols, prayer, the reading of the Nativity of Christ, a solo, a moving and inspirational story, and the traditional candle lighting. The service is on Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 pm. Bring the neighborhood and celebrate Christmas with us!

December Worship Schedule

December 1st "Ready?" Luke 21:25-36
 December 8th "Change Your Mind" Luke 3:1-6
 December 15th Christmas Program
 December 22nd "Anticipated" Luke 1:39-45
 Christmas Eve "A Story for Christmas—Five-Quarters of a Mile"
 Luke 2:1-20
 December 29th Guest Speaker Gary Hathaway

RUMC Breakthrough Prayer

God, may Your preferred will break through in our church and in our lives, opening the door to the future You have chosen for us. We exchange our wills for Yours to fully follow You. Amen

Stewardship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>
Oct 27 th	\$1,303	\$62.40
Nov 3 rd	\$3,091	\$83.60
Nov 10 th	\$ 743	\$26.00
Nov 17 th	\$1,377	\$30.00



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>Communion</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>TOPS 6pm Trustees 6:30pm</p>	<p>3</p>  <p><i>Bible Study 7pm</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p><i>Missions Lunch</i> <i>Handbell Practice</i> <i>after Lunch</i> Milner's 3pm Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>TOPS 6pm Missions Team 6pm Administrative Council 7pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>  <p><i>Bible Study 7pm</i> Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>  <p><i>Ladies Day Out</i> Meet at church parking lot 11am Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Christmas Program</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p><i>Choir Practice</i> <i>After Church</i> Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>  <p><i>Bible Study 7pm</i> Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Christmas Service</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Church Office Closed for Christmas</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	<p>31</p>				