



Pastor:
Kal Rissman

**Church Council
President:**
George Bennett

Vice President:
Becky Howard

Secretary:
Susie Remington

Treasurer:
Nancy Sowers

Other Members:
Bill Feldheiser
Janice Feldheiser
Marilyn Pierce
Eddie Slaven
Kim Zarse
June Zirkle

Organist:
Marilyn Pierce

Church Secretary:
Marilyn Pierce
9 AM - Noon
Mon. Wed. Thurs.
and Fri.
Tues. 1:00-3:30pm

Office Phone:
765-7243671

Email Address:
www.ourblessedsavior.com

Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

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Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

FEBRUARY, 2017

From the Pastor:

I consider being on the swim team in High School as both the most thankless sport you can be involved in and as the most useful sport for life. Everybody wanted to attend the basketball games, but very few ever came to watch the swim team, even though we were quite successful. Swimming up and down the pool with your eyes burning (in the days before swim goggles) was a grueling and tedious thing.

However, learning to swim led to becoming a lifeguard and teaching swimming lessons and that was a source of income for me every summer and part-time during the school year. Being a lifeguard is a much better way to meet girls and have food brought to you than being on a swim team, I can tell you that.

The most memorable day I ever had as a lifeguard was July 4, 1969. It was the first nice day we had had all summer and people were ready to do some serious swimming. However, not only were the swimmers not as in shape as they had been at the end of the last summer, but there was a strong south wind blowing up big waves on the lake. People were getting into trouble and drowning left and right. I have only pulled out 10 people in my lifeguarding career, but 4 of them were on that one day on the 4th of July.

One of the rescue situations was a "two-fer"; I got two for the price of one. There was a young woman swimming out towards the raft, with her sister swimming beside her. The first sister got hit in the face with a big wave and took on water and began to go down, whereupon her sister came over to try to save her and was shoved under by the first sister and they both were drowning. By the time I threw the life preserver out towards them and swam out there they had their arms wrapped around each others necks and were drowning each other.

The first thing I did was grab an arm and put my foot on the other sister's chest to pry them apart. I put one on the life preserver and hauled the other sister in.

I thought of this event as I was leading group therapy last week. There was a young woman who was addicted to heroin and she told me that she and her heroin-addicted boyfriend were going to help each other get clean and sober. I had to remind her that two drowning people do not save each other - they drown each other. They need someone besides themselves to save them.

That is true for all of us. We all need a Higher Power to help us do what we cannot do. Sometimes we need to be pried apart from our sick relationships and cling on to the only Life Preserver there is.



BAPTISM

LAYLA GRACE MADDEN

Born: September 29, 2016

Baptized: December 23, 2016

**Sponsors: Raymond and Amy
Howard**

Parents: Bryan and Sarah Madden

**Grandparents: Richard and Becky
Howard**



We five little Lutheran Church mice were having a big discussion on New's Years Eve about **church etiquette**. We five mice are at each service in the balcony. Here are some things we discussed.

There are 12 chimes played as the service starts. Do you know why 12 are played? There is a good reason for 12 and that is because there are 12 Apostles. One chime is for each one of them. Maybe you can name one Apostle for each chime played.

We five mice have noticed that Lutherans can be speaking and moving. They can be loud and enthusiastic. We've even seen them giving each other hugs! But we have also noticed they can be very quiet and solemn.

We discussed times when we observed Lutherans loud and that is when they are singing, saying the creeds and passing the peace.

Then we discussed quiet times like when the prelude starts the service, when the lessons are read, the sermon, after the passing of the peace when the music starts playing, and after having Communion and coming back to our seats. This quiet reverence is impressive.

We all want to honor God and listen to his words. When we need to be loud be loud, when we need to be quiet, let's be quiet.

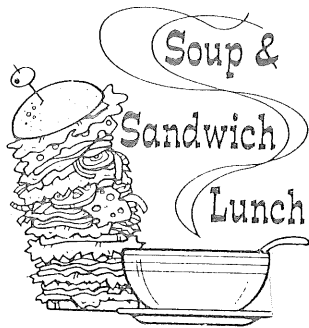
Squeaky,

The Lutheran Church Mouse



MANY THANKS

Pastor Kal, Marilyn, and Linda would like to thank the congregation for the Christmas gifts that were given to us. We thank you very much for your kindness and love. May God bless you all.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 5, 2017 we will have our annual Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday.

There will be a door offering for the ERF after the service.

You may bring canned foods, canned meats, mac & cheese, any box meal for the ERF.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for you to sign if you are planning to attend the luncheon. This way the committee will know how many will attend.

There is another sheet for soup, sandwiches, relish tray, or desserts that you would like to bring.

Then we go downstairs for soup and sandwiches, desserts, and of course drinks. Plan to attend this event.

If you have any questions, contact Kim Zarse.

For his glory

When a child of God

Looks into the Word of God

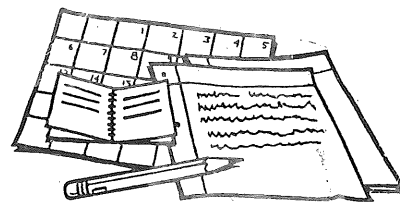
And sees the Son of God,

He is changed by the Spirit of God

In the image of God

For the glory of God.

—Author Unknown



JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The furnace that heats the offices and Bethel room was replaced for \$2400 by Future Heating.

Miller Gas Line put in a new gas meter.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be here and the Maundy Thursday Service will be at St. John Lutheran Elwood.

Pastor Kal received a call from Judy Urban (a former Holy Trinity member) offering us bookshelves and books. It was agreed upon to make room #5 in the education wing a library/meditation room.

I can sleep at night

A farmer needed a hired man. After trying several workers, who all failed to meet his standards, the farmer began to get desperate.

Then another worker applied for the job. The farmer asked him, "What qualifies you for this job?"

The man answered, "I can sleep at night."

That didn't sound too promising, but since he was desperate, the farmer hired the newcomer.

That night there was a terrific thunderstorm. The farmer awoke, ran to the hired man's room and tried to arouse him. He could not.

Muttering to himself something like, "I'll take care of him in the morning," the farmer went outside into the night and the driving rain. He found the barn doors securely closed, the haystack well covered and the tractor put away in the shed. There was nothing he could do but return to the house and go back to bed. Then he understood why his new hired man had said, "I can sleep at night."

Isn't it comforting to know that when we have prepared ourselves for Jesus' coming by faithfully doing the things the Lord has made clear to us, he will take care of those things beyond our control?

Medical Emergencies

As most of you know, we have been working on our emergency preparedness here at Our Blessed Savior. The first and most likely emergency that we are liable to run into is a medical emergency. Because of that, several of us in the congregation have been trained in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and first aid.

We hope nothing ever happens to our members, but this is an older congregation and we have numerous health issues in our midst and it is good to be prepared. Knowing how to be helpful to members who use walkers, wheelchairs or oxygen can even make a difference. Letting others in church know what you struggle with and what your needs are could certainly help.

However, it is not just our older members who have medical issues. One of our younger and newer members, Shon Littlefield, has a request for help from the congregation. Shon has had epilepsy for many years and is on medication to lessen the frequency and severity of his seizures, but he still has them. He has recently been in the hospital to have more brain scans to see if there is something surgically that can be done to lessen the effect of the seizures.

But in the meantime, we can be helpful to Shon in several ways. He said that when he has the smaller seizures, he often does not remember what he has done or said. He knows that he sometimes sort of growls and curses at himself during these seizures. There is nothing that needs to be done at these times, except to keep Shon from walking out of church and possibly falling and hurting himself. Shon added that we do not need to be afraid that he is dangerous to anyone else, but only to himself. If he is having a big seizure (grand mal), we might need to make sure that he is clear from anything that he might slam into that could hurt him.

I assured Shon that this is a congregation that will help if we know what is needed. I appreciate his openness in letting us know what he is going through and how we can help. I suggest other members also let us know if there are medical needs that they have.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT 2016

MEMBERSHIP 2016	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
2016 Year Starting Numbers	283	158

By Confirmation		5
By Confirmation Youth		0
By Affirmation of Faith	4	4
By Transfer	2	2
By Baptism	6	
By Statistical Adjustment		

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL	295	169
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MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2016

1. By Death	1	1
2. By Transfer	0	0
3. By Statistical Adjustment	3	1

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL	291	167
AS OF 12-31-16		

FUNERALS: Non Member 1

WEDDINGS: Non Member 0

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

TOTAL:	SUNDAY SERVICES:	3451
	SPECIAL SERVICES:	28
AVERAGE:	SUNDAY SERVICES:	69

COMMUNING MEMBERS:

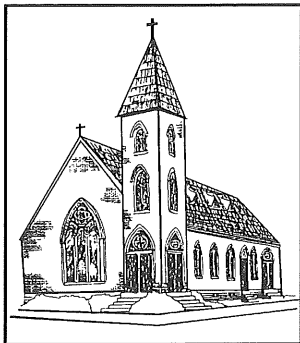
A. CONFIRMED WHO COMMUNED: 124

ATTENDANCE:

ASH WEDNESDAY:	28
MAUNDY THURSDAY:	0
CHRISTMAS EVE:	128

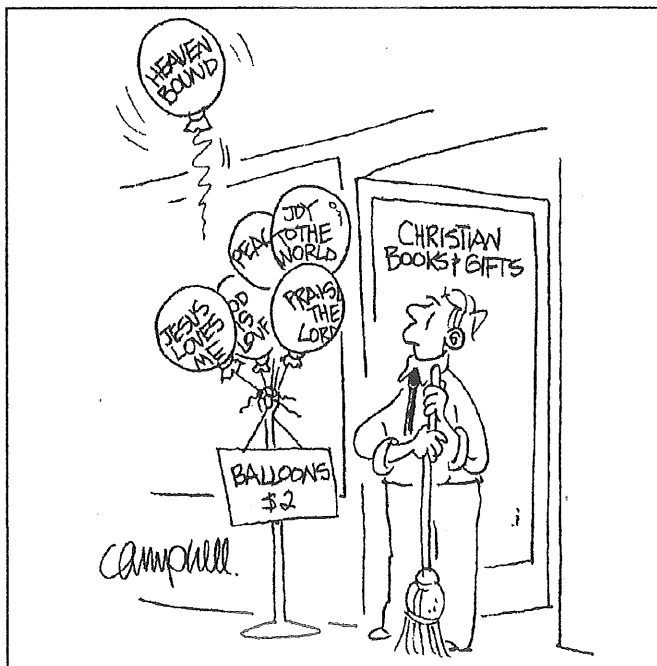
FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	2 9:00am Office Hours	3 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	4
5 9:30am Sunday School/BC 10:30am Worship 11:30am Lunch	6 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30pm Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	7 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	8 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	9 9:00am Office Hours	10 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	11
12 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	13 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free to Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	14 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	15 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 7:00pm Church Council	16 9:00am Office Hours	17 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	18
19 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	20 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	21 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	22 9:00am Office Hours	23	24 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	25
26 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	27 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	28 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours				



**Lutheran Church
of Our Blessed Savior**
309 West Washington
PO Box 206
Alexandria, IN 46001

Church Office
765-724-3671
Pastor Kal Rissman
Home: 765-754-7381
Work: 765-747-3508



February Participants



ORGANIST

5 Marilyn Pierce
12 Marilyn Pierce
19 Marilyn Pierce
26 Marilyn Pierce

ASSISTING MINISTERS

5 Eddie Slaven
12 Mike Thompson
19 Emily Closser
26 Peggy Cox

GREETERS

5
12 Becky Howard
19
26

COUNTERS

June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
David/Carol Shears
Becky Howard/Timothy Pierce
Beverly Stevens/Janice Little

LECTORS

Youth
Eddie Slaven
Michael Slaven
Paulette Haynes

SOUND EQUIPMENT

Timothy Pierce

ALTAR GUILD

Tina Gilman
Family

DEACON

Tammy DiRuzza
Tina Gilman
Becky Howard
June Zirkle