



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

JANUARY, 2017

From the Pastor:

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.ourblessed
savior.com

Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

Printing:
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The Zarse Family

Sometimes when I go on my early morning walks I practice my sermons out loud. I'm pretty sure that some of the neighbors think that I might have gone round the bend when they hear me talking to myself as they let their little dogs out at about 5:00 in the morning. Sometimes I just clear my thoughts out and let my mind be blank for a while as a way of meditating.

It is at these times of meditation that I get some rather random thoughts. Some of these thoughts turn up in sermons, but some of them are too tangential to be used for anything constructive and they just float back out of my brain.

Let me give you an example of one of these and you can see for yourself. A couple weeks ago the Gospel lesson for the day was from the Gospel of Luke and it was Jesus giving his disciples a section of teaching that has come to be called "The Beatitudes". Jesus gives a series of "blessed are you" statements that are pretty surprising. "Blessed are you who are poor, blessed are you when you are hungry, blessed are you who weep now, blessed are you when people hate you, revile you, exclude you and defame you..."

That is some pretty strong and dismal sounding stuff and at first blush it does not seem like it would really fit under the heading of being a blessing.

Then my mind wandered and I thought to myself, "What if instead of giving these surprising Beatitudes, Jesus instead gave "The Platitudes"? Platitudes are sayings that are dull and trite and mean very little. What if Jesus had said things like: "It never rains but it pours", "Here today, gone tomorrow", "If you don't somebody else will", "Tomorrow is another day", "It's always darkest before the dawn", "You never know what you've got til it's gone", "Some are sweet and some are sour", "The hair of the dog that bit you" and "Look twice before you leap"?

It would have been a much different Gospel wouldn't it? But Jesus never did that. He never gave the same tired comments that the scribes gave. Jesus was revolutionary in a way no other rabbi could envision. Jesus turned everything on its head and told us even more things that are surprising like the Beatitudes. "Love your neighbor". "Do good to those who abuse you". "Don't return evil for evil, but overcome evil with good". "Resist evil, but do not become the thing you hate by how you resist." "Help those who can't help you back."

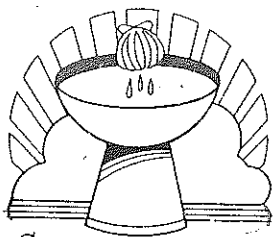
The Beatitudes are certainly more profound than the Platitudes aren't they?



POINSETTIA DONORS

We would like to thank everyone who donated poinsettias for the Christmas season.

Marilyn Pierce	Becky Howard
Amanda Trent	Lucy Hidalgo
Beverly McDaniel	Tina Gilman
Susie Remington	June Zirkle
Angela McDaniel	Donna Pierce
Bill McDaniel	Rachel Bailey
MM George Bennett	
MM Dick Zarse	
Dr. & Mrs. Herb Berner	



Sacrament of Baptism

BAPTISM

ELIJAH RAY CONNER

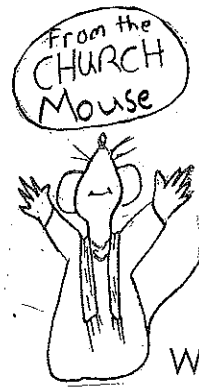
Baptized: December 4, 2016

Son of Travis Conner and Taylor Wells

Sponsors: Linda Holford and Louisa Hamilton

Grandmother: Chasin Wells

Great Grandparents: Rick and Linda Holford



We five little Lutheran mice were discussing our Christmas wishes and how we handled our Christmas Day.

We all received the best gift ever - the Christ Child was born and we remembered that great day. The second best gift was that Squeeky, Tiny, Angel, Scotty, and Smiley all had good health and was feeling wonderful.

We had saved crumbs from the Wehsollek Christmas Party and enjoyed all the crumbs.

We also enjoyed the Christmas Eve service, the Christmas carols, music of the organ, and the sermon. You can't get any better than that, God's Son glorified.

We little Lutheran mice hope and pray that you had a very Merry Christmas.

**From Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**

God's grace

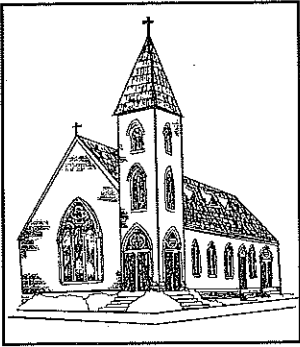
The grace of God means something like:

Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you.

Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

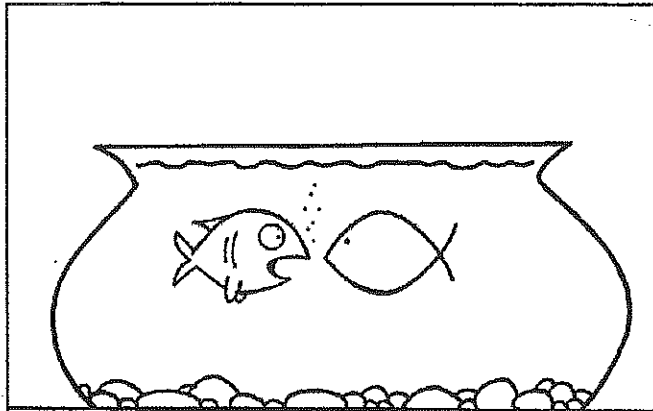
There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it.

—Frederick Buechner



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of Our Blessed Savior**
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Alexandria, IN 46001

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



GLASBERGEN

"Can't we talk about something besides religion for a change?"

January Participants



ORGANIST

1 Marilyn Pierce
8 Marilyn Pierce
15 Marilyn Pierce
22 Marilyn Pierce
29 Marilyn Pierce

ASSISTING MINISTERS

1 Andrea Barnett
8 Emily Closser
15 Brian Pickering
22 Dick Zarse
29 Mike Thompson

GREETERS

1
8 Becky Howard
15
22
29

COUNTERS

June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
David Shears/Carol Shears
Becky Howard/Timothy Pierce
Beverly Stevens/Janice Little
Linda Howerton/Susie Remington

LECTORS

Dr. Herb Berner
Dick Zarse
Carrie Pickering
Janice Feldheiser
Linda Howerton

SOUND EQUIPMENT

Timothy Pierce

ALTAR GUILD

Dondra Bennett
George Bennett
Bethany Bennett

DEACON

Becky Howard
George Bennett
June Zirkle
Steve Holcomb
Donna Key-Kerr

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	2 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	3 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	4 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	5 9:00am Office Hours	6 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	7
8 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	9 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30pm Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	10 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	11 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	12 9:00am Office Hours	13 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	14
15 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	16 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free to Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	17 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	18 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 7:00pm Church Council	19 9:00am Office Hours	20 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	21
22 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	23 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	24 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours	25 9:00am Office Hours	26	27 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	28
29 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	30 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Heavens W.	31 9:00am Heavens W. 1:00pm Office Hours				