



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

MAY, 2017

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.

Printing:
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The Zarse Family

From the Pastor:

When I do my morning walking outside, it is usually about the same time that our neighbors let their two little dogs out and they come out to the road and bark at me, just to show that they are doing their job of protecting the household. Recently, after their barking, one of the dogs began eating some grass. I have seen this before with dogs and it usually means that they have some digestive problem and are trying to make themselves vomit, so that they can get rid of whatever ails them and feel better. Sure enough, this is exactly what happened; the dog retched and vomited and walked away. That in and of itself is a little crude, but upon my return that dog did something that was much more gross – he came back and ate his own vomit!

This is quite Biblical, however. It turns out that the writers of Scripture had observed this same thing. In Proverbs 26:11 the verse says, “Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who reverts to his folly”. 2 Peter 2:22 adds another farm example by saying, “The dog turns back to its own vomit” and “the sow is washed only to wallow in the mud”.

We could shake our heads at the folly of animals, but these passages are actually talking about people and how we are just like these animals in our own folly. I have done it myself many times and I have watched other people do it as well. We do something that doesn’t work and then we go back and do the same thing only harder. We are involved in things we really cannot stomach, but then go back and pick up the same behaviors. My old colleague, Jim used to say, “We really don’t make many mistakes in life – we just make the same ones over and over”.

It happens in relationships. I don’t know how many times I have seen women be in a sick relationship that includes abuse and belittling and finally get out of it, only to return later to the very same man who promises to be good, but then does the very same thing.

All addictive behavior involves this same returning to the vomit procedure. Alcoholics swear off the bottle and dump their booze down the drain, only to go to the liquor store two hours later to get some more. A woman who had an eating addiction was disgusted with herself for buying a big box of doughnuts and threw them down on the driveway and ran over them with the car. Twenty minutes later she was out on the driveway, scraping up the smashed pastry and eating it. One month ago 16 people in Muncie overdosed on literally some “killer heroin” and four were dead. But I already met one of the ones who didn’t die, that had to come back to intensive care on, you guessed it, a heroin overdose.

We do the same thing sometimes with our family of origin. We may know that we come from a dysfunctional family that is damaging to be around, but keep trying to go back and make things right and get hurt again.

We may do it spiritually. We know that we can't sit on our anger and let it build into resentments that poison us, but then somebody does us wrong and we go back to our own vomit and start sitting on another resentment that hurts us.

We may know that being faithful in our spiritual practices keeps us strong and that when we pray, meditate and read Scripture, life goes better. However, it is so easy to go back to our old ways of doing nothing and then wondering why we don't seem close to God and why life seems futile. Like the old sow that is washed, we go back and lie in the mud hole.

This is really what the word "sin" is all about. We all have the inborn tendency to do that which hurts us and other people. We are drawn to going back and eating our own puke and wallowing in our same mud holes. That is why the word, "repent" is so important in Scripture. To repent doesn't just mean to say "I'm sorry", it means "to turn around". It is to do something different than we usually do. It is to go the opposite direction, with God's help.

King David was a man who knew what it was to mess up, but he also knew how to repent. We can follow King David and implore the Lord to "Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within me".

From the
CHURCH
Mouse



We five little Lutheran Church mice were having a discussion on how many people it takes to keep the church running smoothly. It takes a Pastor, Office Secretary, Organist, Sound equipment person, Lectors, Deacons for Worship, Social Ministries, Education, Stewardship, Evangelism, Property, Church Secretary, Treasurer, Funeral Dinner Chairman, Decorator for Easter and Christmas services, janitor, metal recycling people, someone to open and close the church each Sunday, counters of money, someone to check if lights are all off after the service, President of Congregation, Vice-President of Congregation, Greeters each Sunday, Ushers, Snow removal person, Turn the heat or Air-Condition on each Saturday, Lawn mowing of yard, and hopefully we little mice haven't forgotten anyone. If we have forgotten something, please forgive us because we are just little mice.

God has given all his people talents and now as we come to another year for new officers and deacons may you find it important enough to work for God in an area that you are interested in.

**SQUEEKY,
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MOUSE**

DEATHS

**TIMOTHY GENE PIERCE
DIED: APRIL 17, 2017
SERVICE: APRIL 20, 2017**



**CHESTER MADISON ELLIS
DIED: APRIL 18, 2017
BURIED: APRIL 24, 2017**

The ministry of "being here"

It is genuine ministry for you to be present at church. It is a ministry, first of all, to yourself. You need worship, Bible study and other activities because your Christian life needs constant attention, nurture, and support.

It is a genuine ministry for you to be present at church ... for the rest of us who attend. When you are here, you strengthen my resolve to follow Christ in every way. I enjoy it when you sing with me. I am enriched when you share with me what God is doing in your life. I am called to prayer when you share with me your burdens. You allow me to share my gifts with you.

It is a critical ministry for you to be here for the lost and for the ones searching for a church home. When you are here, they sense that God is real and necessary. When you are absent, God does not seem as important. When you are here, they see a very different testimony.

Think about this the next time you are tempted to say, "I won't go today. No one will miss me," or "What difference does it make whether I'm at church or not?" Remember, just being here is a ministry!

—First Baptist Church
Gracewood, GA



BAPTISM

LILY AVA COX

Born: January 11, 2017

Baptized: April 2, 2017

Parents: Josh and Katharine Cox

Sponsors: Peggy Cox and Caleb Cox

Grandparents: Helen Creer, Mike Creer, Randy Cox, Teresa Baker, and Peggy Cox

ZARA ADAYA-MARIE DOCKERY

Born: February 23, 2017

Baptized: April 23, 2017

**Parents: Joel Dockery
Tasha Hamilton**

Sponsors: Louisa Hamilton and Don Lee Hamilton

Grandparents: Don and Louisa Hamilton



NEW MEMBERS

April 23, 2017

DR. WILLIAM AND THERESA FISHER
Transferred from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Muncie, Indiana. We welcome you as new members of The Lutheran Church Of Our Blessed Savior.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Council will need to replace the President, Vice President, Secretary, Social Ministries, Worship, Stewardship, and Evangelism Deacons. If you would like to volunteer for any of these offices please let George Bennett or Pastor Kal know. We will have elections on May 7, 2017.



DAISIES IN A VASE

Daisies in a vase for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14.

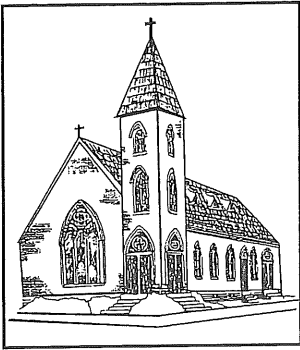
Place your order on the sign up sheet on the narthex table along with payment in designated envelopes.

\$5.00 each with checks made out to Lutheran Youth Group.

If you have any questions, contact Kim Zarse.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Wearhouse	2 9:00am Heavens Wearhouse 1:00pm Office Hours	3 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	4 9:00am Office Hours	5 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	6
7 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship 11:30am Cong.Mtg.	8 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 11:30am Free To Be 4:00pm Wearhouse	9 9:00am Heavens Wearhouse 1:00pm Office Hours	10 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	11 9:00 am Office Hours	12 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	13
14 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship MOTHER'S DAY	15 9:00am Office Hours 9:30 am ERF 4:00pm Wearhouse	16 9:00am Heavens Wearhouse 1:00pm Office Hours	17 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	18 9:00am Office Hours	19 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	20
21 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	22 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 4:00pm Wearhouse	23 9:00am Heavens Wearhouse 1:00pm Office Hours	24 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF 7:00pm Church Council	25 9:00am Office Hours	26 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF	27
28 9:30am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am Worship	29 Memorial Day Church Office/ERF/ Wearhouse closed	30 9:00am Heavens Wearhouse 1:00pm Office Hours	31 9:00am Office Hours 9:30am ERF			



**Lutheran Church
of Our Blessed Savior**
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Alexandria, IN 46001

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



May Participants



ORGANIST

7 Marilyn Pierce
14 Marilyn Pierce
21 Marilyn Pierce
28 Marilyn Pierce

ASSISTING MINISTERS

7 Emily Closser
14 Dick Zarse
21 Peggy Cox
28 Andrea Barnett

GREETERS

2 Dick/Kim Zarse
14 Becky Howard
21 Susie Remington
28

COUNTERS

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

LECTORS

Donna Key-Kerr
Linda Howerton
Michael Slaven
Paulette Haynes

SOUND EQUIPMENT

David Shears

ALTAR GUILD

Becky Howard
Sharon Thompson

DEACON

Tina Gilman
Becky Howard
Tammy DiRuzza
June Zirkle