



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

JANUARY, 2019

From the Pastor:

Pastor:
Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

**Church Council
President:**
Tina Gilman

Vice President:
Dr. Herb Berner

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Louisa Hamilton

Treasurer:
Nancy Sowers

Other Members:
Dondra Bennett
Bill Feldheiser
Becca Key
Kathie Loser
Eddie Slaven
Dick Zarse

Organist:
Marilyn Pierce

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

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10:30 A.M.

Printing:
Compliments of
Broadway Press
The Zarse Family

When I was growing up in the Lutheran Church I had a kind of mixed message as to what Lutheranism could tolerate in terms of recreation. My mother was Scandinavian Lutheran and my father was German Lutheran.

Scandinavian Lutherans have a kind of piety that precludes certain activities such as: dancing, drinking and playing cards. German Lutherans on the other hand, believe that all of these things are part and parcel of being a Lutheran. I can remember the church picnics at the German Lutheran Church that always had two big horse troughs filled with ice and cold water. One tank was for cooling the soda pop and one tank held the beer. After the volleyball game was over the men would settle in around the tables in the shelter and play cards and drink beer. I don't remember any dancing, however. I guess that was reserved for the wedding receptions.

With the German Lutherans, as long as you had "pure doctrine" you could pretty much do whatever else you wanted, but the Scandinavian Lutherans had some real scruples about certain behaviors. It took my mother a long time to decide that playing euchre or hearts with the family was an appropriate behavior for a Lutheran, but she eventually began leaning towards the German side as she hung around my father and his family.

Therefore, as an apology to my mother's card-playing reservations, I offer to you a way that playing cards is very spiritual and Godly. My secretary, Julie enlightened me on the following information.

All of the different cards and numbers in a deck of cards have something that corresponds to something in the Scriptures. For example, the Aces are the same as number 1 and that reminds us that there is only one true God. The 2 reminds us that there are two testaments in the Bible, the Old and the New. The 3 of course, stands for the Holy Trinity, the three in one. The 4 represents the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The 5 harkens back to Jesus parable of the five wise virgins who were prepared for the bridegroom's coming and the 5 foolish virgins who were not prepared. The 6 is for the six days that it took God to create the world. The 7 is then the seventh day of creation when God rested and when we rest and worship. The 8 is for Noah, his wife, their 3 sons and their 3 wives, a total of eight people that were saved in the ark during the flood. The 9 recalls the 9 ungrateful lepers who did not give thanks to Jesus for healing them. The 10 represents the Ten Commandments.

The face cards have their own meaning also. The Jack stands for Satan who is wise and sly and like a jack-in-the-box can spring upon us unawares. The Queen honors the most blessed of all women, Mary, the mother of Jesus. The King is for Jesus, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the One who would be King of our hearts.

In addition, there are some other connections with a deck of cards. There are 4 suits of cards, which corresponds to the four seasons of the year. There are 52 cards in a deck and that connects to the 52 weeks that we have in a year. There are 13 cards in each suit and that brings to mind the thirteen weeks in each quarter of the year. Finally, if you add up all the spots on a deck of cards, you will find that there are exactly 365 spots and that is like the 365 days in a year.

Now, I'm not trying to tell you that if you dance, drink beer and play cards that you will become a much more devoted Christian, but I am reminding you that most things are what you make of them and anything can be abused or useful, depending on what you do with it.

Jesus was no killjoy. His first miracle was to turn water into wine for a wedding feast. Another time he made lunch for 5,000 people out of a few scraps. He made people feel special with just a look of acceptance. He healed their diseases and saw past their shortcomings. He didn't come to make our lives restricted and boring. He came that we might have life and have it abundantly. So, deal the cards and remember the Lord!

Vacation

I dreamed that God took a vacation
He did not say where he would go,
He just packed his Spirit and left us,

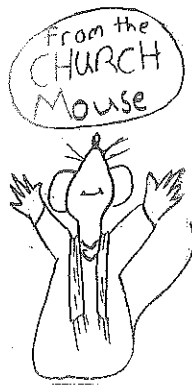
He wearied and tired of much praying
And listening to every weak plea.
Two weeks were just what he'd been needing
Away from the world and me.

Just then I was faced with a crisis
My heart was in deep despair,
My pastor, my friend, nor my neighbors
Could help with an answer to prayer.

Oh, how I just longed for his Presence,
The touch of his soothing, calm hand;
To feel he was there close beside me,
And know that he would understand.

I woke up to find out I was dreaming,
And fell on my knees and I cried.
Oh, how I thanked God up in Heaven
That he was still here by my side.

And again, it is time for vacations.
I may go by land, sea or air,
Wherever I am on the Lord's Day,
I know I shall worship him there.



January always seems to be a let down month for all of the five little Lutheran Church mice. December is so busy and all the Christmas services with the wonderful carols to be sung. Then there is January! Cold weather, snow, ice, dull and gray days, not much sun out, and longer nights.

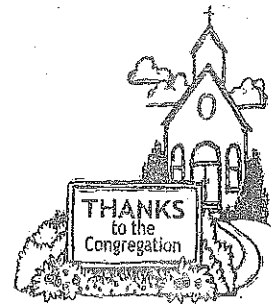
January is a boring month if you don't look for the beauty of the month. The snow can be pretty and makes the day brighter. There is no sound of birds which is missed. If there is ice it can be pretty but dangerous. Little by little we are starting to get the days longer and more light instead of dark days.

We little mice hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and may you have a great New Year!

**Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Mike Thompson for donating the Christmas tree. Thank you for all who donated poinsettias, and to those who helped decorate.



THANK YOU

Pastor Kal, Marilyn, and Linda would like to thank the congregation for the Christmas gifts that you gave to us. We love working for the congregation and hope that you all have a great New Year. Thanks again from all three of us.



DEATH

**MINNIE IRENE LUEKER
DIED: NOVEMBER 28, 2018
FUNERAL: DECEMBER 8, 2018.**

Minnie was the wife of our former Pastor, the late Carl Lueker. She passed away in Longmont, Colorado being 96 Years, 9 Months, and 1 Day old. She was buried at St. John's Cemetery in Lafa, Arkansas.

We need the church

I've never understood those who say they don't need the church. Mine is a profound need to worship and to live in solidarity with the community of the faithful.

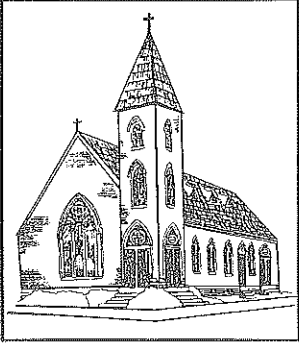
Of course, I can pray for myself and make decisions by myself, but it has to be in the context of the covenant that you and I have with God.

To love mercy in the midst of the unmerciful, to do justice in the jaws of injustice, to be humbly aware of God's grace takes constant communion with God and the community.

—Ann Weems
"Family Faith Stories"

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 9:30 S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	7 9am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30am B.S. 4:00pm Wearhouse	8 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	9 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	10 9:00am Office	11 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	12
13 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	14 9 am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 B.S. 4:00pm Wearhouse	15 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	16 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 6pm Church Council	17 9:00am Office	18 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	19
20 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	21 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30am B.S. 4pm Wearhouse	22 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	23 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	24 9:00am Office	25 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	26
27 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	28 9:00am Office Pantry/W.H. Closed for Holiday	29 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00 pm Office	30 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	31 9:00am Office		



**Lutheran Church
of Our Blessed Savior**
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Church Office

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Pastor Kal Rissman

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January Participants



ORGANIST

- 6 Marilyn Pierce
- 13 Marilyn Pierce
- 20 Marilyn Pierce
- 27 Marilyn Pierce

ASSISTING MINISTERS

- 6 Emily Closser
- 13 Mike Thompson
- 20 Dick Zarse
- 27 Eddie Slaven

GREETERS

- 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

COUNTERS

- June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
- David Shears/Carol Shears
- Becky Howard/Connie Knigga
- Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman

LECTORS

- Shon Littlefield
- Linda Howerton
- Carol Shears
- Michael Slaven

SOUND EQUIPMENT

- David Shears

ALTAR GUILD

- Dondra Bennett
- George Bennett
- Bethany Bennett

DEACONS

- Becky Howard
- Donna Key
- George Bennett
- June Zirkle