

Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

FEBRUARY, 2019

Pastor:
Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

**Church Council
President:**
Tina Gilman

Vice President:
Dr. Herb Berner

Secretary:
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
765-215-6088
9 AM - Noon
Mon. Wed. Thurs.
and Fri.
Tues. 1:00 pm

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765-724-3671

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www.pastorkal.com
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Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

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From the Pastor:

Some of you have told me that you saw the story in the news about the grisly and mystifying murder of a husband and wife in Barron, Wisconsin. About two months ago the couple was savagely slain in their home and their 13 year old daughter was abducted. As far as I know there is not much progress made on this case and no clues as to where the young girl might be or if she is dead or alive.

I have been invited to the town of Barron, Wisconsin by the pastor of the Lutheran church there to do a presentation to the community on "Grief and Loss". I am also going to do some presentations on chemical dependency to his congregation and to all the pastors in the Northwestern Wisconsin Synod while I am there in the middle of February.

The "Grief and Loss" discussion is going to be a difficult one, because there is so much uncertainty about the whole situation. This is what psychotherapist Diane Boss has called "ambiguous loss". These are the type of losses that are not well defined and clear cut. The young girl is gone, but nobody is sure if she is gone permanently or not. There is no closure to who killed the parents or why they were killed.

Loss of any kind is always messy emotionally, but ambiguous loss is even messier because of the lack of certainty and closure. There are many other things that might qualify as ambiguous loss. For example, parents who have a son in the military and he has been in battle and is now MIA (missing in action) have that sort of ambiguous loss. He is gone, but is he really gone? They don't know.

Divorce could be another type of this loss. The partner is gone, but they are not really gone, especially if you have children together. There is no permanent closure there either.

Sometimes we have ambiguous loss in a congregation. There can be members who had been active in the past, but now they have not been at church for years. They are gone and we miss them, but they are still around. Sometimes they show up again rather inexplicably and we can rejoice in that.

Probably the ambiguous loss that we all experience now is with people we know and care about who are stricken with some form of dementia. Family members have such a difficult time at the funeral of someone who had dementia and now has died. They don't know how to feel, because they lost that loved one long before they lost them. They were just not the same person that they always knew. They were Dad, but yet not Dad. They were Grandma, but no longer the Grandma that they know. Families have to accept a new reality in the relationship and remember the person they were. It is difficult to lose somebody that you love before you lose them.

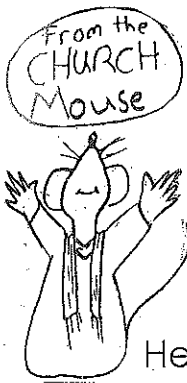
There are many other losses that we will experience in our life that are not as ambiguous, but they will still be painful. It is not like any human being is going to escape all loss, because they won't. In fact, one way to look at life is that it is one giant series of growths and losses. Those who will have joy in life will be those who learn to grieve the best. Those who grieve the best are folks who have strong faith in the Lord, because we have someone to walk alongside us in our grief and because we know how the story ends and know that this feeling of loss will not last forever, because the Lord has done something about death. Death cannot ultimately win, but this side of the grave, it will give us a run for our money and that hurts. We all will have grief, but I wish for you good grief.

Attitudes

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company, ... a church, ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past. We cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you; ... we are in charge of our attitudes.

—Charles Swindoll

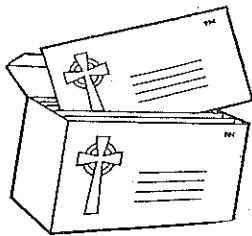


Here we are in February already. It feels like Christmas was just here. Does the time fly for you like it does for the five little Lutheran mice?

We mice have made the month of February known as the love month. We try to do the whole February month as Valentine's month. We try to love each other more and be concerned about each other. We try to be as kind to each other, our relatives, and friends as God is to each one of us in this world each day.

The Lutheran mice wish you a good Valentines Day ---maybe you will think about using the month of February to show extra love for all people.

**Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**



The 2018 Envelope Statements are ready for you to pick up. Please make sure the computer added all columns right. If you have a question contact Marilyn in the church office.



LADIES AID	Starting bal 2018	
	\$4,702.04	
Income	\$150.00	Funeral Dinner
	\$630.00	Donations
	\$26.50	Kitchen Rental
Potato Feast	\$160.00	Donations
	\$60.00	Meat Donations
	\$2,310.00	Ticket Sales
Refunds	\$6.00	
Total	\$8,044.54	
Expenses	\$117.00	Funeral Dinner
	\$2,435.05	Potato Feast
	\$562.95	Reimbursement
	\$54.35	Shipping
	\$161.91	Communion Wine
	\$409.15	Eternal Light Candles
	\$167.73	Kitchen Supplies
Total	\$3,908.14	
Balance	\$4,136.40	

Education

Youth & Education January Update

As we begin 2019, take a moment and think about the educational opportunities at our church! They are fun, lively, motivating, and stretch our understanding of our Christian beliefs. We may be a small church, but we have a lot to offer!

Sunday School for Children: 9:30 - taught by Andrea Barnett

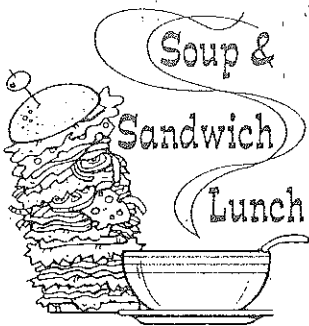
Sunday School for Adults: 9:30 - taught by Donna Key-Kerr

'Free to Be' Bible Study for Adults: 11:30 on Mondays - taught by Pastor Kal

Confirmation Class & First Communion Class – taught by Pastor Kal, as requested

Church Library – in the lounge and in the last classroom in the educational wing

Please join us, and bring a friend!



18th Annual 'Souper Bowl of Caring' – Sunday, February 3rd

A special Youth Skit about Souper Bowl Sunday will be presented during the Children's Sermon!

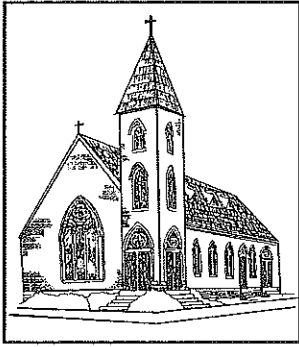
Let's celebrate our individual abundance by donating canned food goods or money that will then be passed on to **Pete's Pantry**, which is housed downstairs, beneath our beautiful sanctuary.

A delicious Soup & Sandwich Lunch pitch-in will be served downstairs after the service. A sign-up sheet is placed on the narthex table.

Contact Becca Key-Kerr or Kim Zarse with any questions. Please spread the word by bringing your family and friends!!

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30am S.S./ b. c. 10:30am Worsh. Luncheon	4 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30am B.S. 4:00pm Wearhouse	5 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	6 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	7 9:00am Office	8 9:00am Office 9:30 am Pantry	9
10 9:30 S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	11 9am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30am B.S. 4:00pm Wearhouse	12 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	13 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	14 9:00am Office	15 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	16
17 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	18 9 am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 B.S. 4:00pm Wearhouse	19 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	20 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 6pm Church Council	21 9:00am Office	22 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	23
24 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	25 9:00am Office 9:30 am Pantry 11:30 B.S. 4pm Wearhouse	26 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	27 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	28 9:00am Office		



**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



"Mom talks to God about us so
we'll be prayer conditioned."

February Participants



ORGANIST

3 Marilyn Pierce
10 Marilyn Pierce
17 Marilyn Pierce
24 Marilyn Pierce

ASSISTING MINISTERS

3 Emily Closser
10 Andrea Barnett
17 Dick Zarse
24 Peggy Cox

GREETERS

3
10 Becky Howard
17
24

COUNTERS

Linda Howerton/Susie Remington
June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
David Shears/Carol Shears
Becky Howard/Connie Knigga

LECTORS

Shon Littlefield
Ron Haas
Michael Slaven
Linda Howerton

SOUND EQUIPMENT

David Shears

ALTAR GUILD

Tina Gilman
Family

DEACONS

Tammy DiRuzza
Tina Gilman
Becky Howard
June Zirkle