

Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

NOVEMBER, 2019

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Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

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George Bennett

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Carol Shears

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Nancy Sowers

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From the Pastor:

On our last vacation, we went to Gainesville, Georgia to visit my old supervising pastor from my vicarage days, Rev. Robert F. Maltzahn, otherwise known as "The Bish". We had a good time reminiscing about the days when he was trying to teach me how to be an effective pastor and some of the outrageous methods he used to do this. I reminded him of the time when he said I was looking at my notes too much when I was preaching, so he stole my notes and when I walked up to the pulpit I had nothing and had to do it from memory. We told many stories on each other and had a great time.

But the highlight of the trip was when the Bish said that we just had to see the Memorial Park Cemetery in Gainesville. I was skeptical at this point, but he said that it would change my life, so we went.

When we got inside the cemetery, it was a huge place with roads that led many directions. However, right in the middle of the crossroads was a huge white marble statue in honor of chickens. No kidding! There was a rooster and a hen carved in stone and underneath was a plaque that said that this monument was in appreciation of the poultry industry in Georgia and that Georgia was the number one poultry producer in the United States. We were so flabbergasted that we had to take a picture of it. What chickens had to do with the cemetery, we still don't know.

But that is not all. Further on there was a pond with a replica of Noah's Ark and there were stone animals about 7 feet high coming up the lawn as if leaving the Ark.

But there is even more. Around back of the pond there is a huge white marble monument and 15 foot high marble images of all the United States Presidents spread out in a huge grass rectangle around it. I had Deborah take my picture next to several recent presidents as I mimicked their gestures. They are on her Facebook page.

The Bish was right - this cemetery experience did change my life. I couldn't stop asking why someone would do all this, but the Bish had no answer for it. I just kept thinking that there must be a story behind all this and I would have felt better if only I could have found out what that story was. I thought that this whole thing would make more sense if I just knew the story.

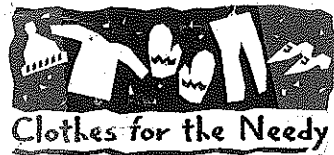
As I kept thinking about this, it reminded me that there are people that we all come across from time to time that do some seemingly whacky things and have bizarre behaviors. They come across like a chicken statue in a cemetery. We are mystified as to why they say the things they say to us and why they do the things they do. People that don't do things the way we do are incomprehensible and irritating. We tend to either write off or put down folks that just don't make sense in how they act. This only leads us to be more intolerant and resentful.

At times like these it is always helpful for me to remember that much like the strange Georgia cemetery, there must be a story behind this. I may not know the story, but if I concede that people who are irritating probably did not get that way for no reason, I can be more accepting and tolerant. Everybody comes from somewhere and what I grew up with is not the same thing that other people grew up with. Their story and background may explain their odd behavior. None of us grow up in a vacuum and the things that have happened to us shape us into the people we are. My version of "normal" is whatever I grew up with and your version of "normal" is whatever you grew up with.

Most of the time we will discover that people who are irritating have stories that include shaming events. Sometimes we will see that the problem is not them, but us! Things that they say or do trigger the memories of our own shaming events and we don't want to be reminded of these things, so we are resentful of these people.

Shame is a feeling of being worth less, being wrong, dirty and unlovable. Shame come to us when other people treat us as if we are worthless and/or abuse us in some way. Many times this happens when we are children and can't distinguish that other big people might not be right about us, but are just unhealthy themselves. The cure for shame is exposure. When we bring to light what has happened to us and the sun is still shining and the world is still turning, we find out that the shame messages were wrong and we are alright.

The way we do this is by sharing our story. I have discovered that I can look beyond a person's most irritating behaviors if they let me know their story. Everybody has a story. Before we make judgments about people and how crazy they are, let's take time to listen and see if we can find out their story. I'm sure that Georgia cemetery has a story too - I just don't know it yet!



HEAVEN'S WEARHOUSE

We are now ready with winter clothes. If you need winter clothes come visit us at the Warehouse. We have clothes and household items for everyone. November 4th and 5th are the first days with winter clothes out on the racks.

We are now accepting clothes, household items, sheets, towels, pillowcases, curtains, small appliances and pictures.

If you are in need of Christmas decorations we have them out now.

Come and visit any time and see how we operate the free clothes warehouse. You will see people that you know. We will be glad to take you around. Pastor Kal keeps our bushes trimmed back and does a nice job of it.

The five Lutheran Church mice have really had it great. The Potato Feast was on October 26th and we ate and ate all the crumbs up. Boy, were we ever full!

Now it is November and if there are any Thanksgiving family dinners we will be full of crumbs again. Isn't it wonderful how God looks after us? He always sees that we have enough to eat; he takes care of us every day.

We house Pete's Food Pantry here at the church and give free food to the needy. A number of Alexandria churches support Pete's Pantry and a lot of individual community people from Alexandria, Summitville, Orestes, and far away cities.

If you would like to donate money or food items for the Pantry, feel free to do so. There is a basket in the narthex for food items. May you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

**From Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**



FUNERALS

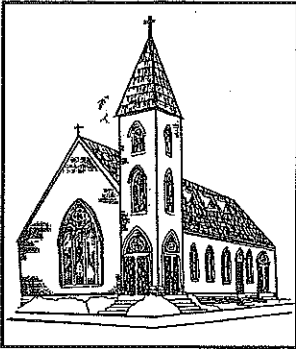
ANNA CAROLINE KELLY

Died: 10-13-2019

Buried: 10-21-2019

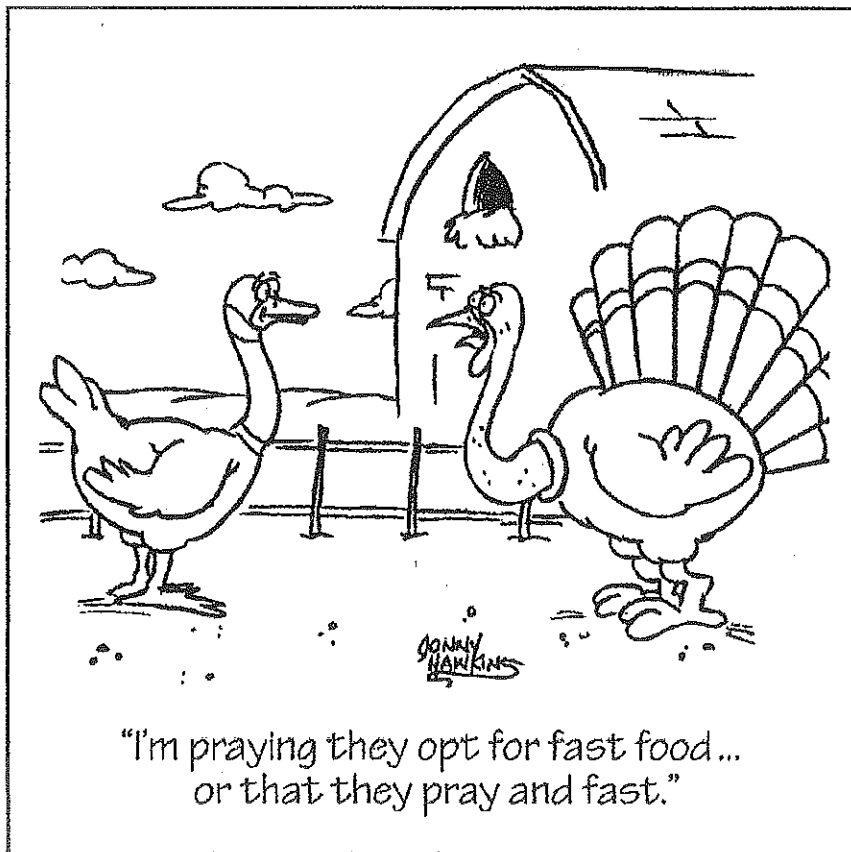
BEVERLY NOFFZE

Buried: 10-23-2019



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"I'm praying they opt for fast food...
or that they pray and fast."

November Participants



ORGANIST

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

ASSISTING MINISTERS

3 Emily Closser
10 Peggy Cox
17 Shon Littlefield
24 Eddie Slaven

GREETERS

3 June Zirkle
10 Becky Howard
17 Susie Remington
24 June Zirkle

COUNTERS

Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman
Linda Howerton/Susie Remington
June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
David Sghears/Carol Shears

LECTORS

Shon Littlefield
Michael Slaven
Kathie Loser
Linda Howerton

SOUND EQUIPMENT

David Shears

ALTAR GUILD

Beverly McDaniel
Kent McDaniel
Angela McDaniel

DEACONS

Donna Kerr
Tammy DiRuzza
Becky Howard
George Bennett