



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior
From the Pastor: DECEMBER, 2019

Last week my wife, Deborah told me that she was going out to shop and eat with her sisters on Wednesday. About an hour later I asked what time she was going out tomorrow and Deborah told me, "I said it was Wednesday and tomorrow is Tuesday. You just don't listen!" Later on that same day I was at Ball hospital to help celebrate at a friend's retirement party and the head nurse came up and talked to me and I couldn't for the life of me, remember her name. I have known her for 35 years!

At this point I became alarmed, because I thought that my bad dream must be coming true. You may recall that I have had a recurring dream about going to preach at another church where I had never been before. I was relieved to find my way to the church, but then realized that I could not remember one thing about my sermon and of course, I have no notes. I found myself lying outside the church in the grass, looking up at the sky when the acolyte came out to tell me I had to go in and preach, because they were singing the sermon hymn. I looked up at him and said, "I got nothing". Then I woke up.

If that nightmare comes true some Sunday and I stand up in front of you and say, "I got nothing", then you will know that I truly am losing it and it is time to put me out to pasture.

This memory loss might be funny if it were not happening to so many people that I know. It is not funny to them and it is certainly not funny to their family members who have to take care of them. It is not funny for me to think about for myself either.

There seems to be a huge upswing in the incidence of some form of dementia in our culture. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, comprising almost 70% of dementia cases. When I worked on the geriatric unit of psychiatry at the hospital I noticed that there seems to be two different paths that this disease can take. The first type is where a person is simply quiet, confused, disoriented and forgetful. The second type is where people get irritated, forgetful, irrational and even combative.

In either case, it is not only tragic for the person who has this disease, but it is extremely distressing to the family members and friends of the person, who don't know what to do with their loved one and oftentimes bear the brunt of accusatory and abusive language. At the very least, family members feel guilty for putting their loved one in a care facility, because they just cannot handle them on their own as time goes on and the disease gets worse.

Pastor:
Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

Church Council
President:
George Bennett

Vice President:
David Shears

Secretary:
Carol Shears

Treasurer:
Nancy Sowers

Other Members:
Bill Feldheiser
Becca Kerr
Kathie Loser
Marilyn Pierce
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

Office Phone:
765-724-3671

Email Address:
www.pastorkal
2015@gmail.com

Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

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The dementia causes a non-reversible decline in memory function. The long-term memory still may be largely intact, but the short-term memory is usually almost totally lost. For example, a person may be able to recall very accurately what they did and said 50 years ago, but cannot tell you what they had for breakfast that morning or if they even had breakfast. One interesting thing that I have noticed is that when I am giving private communion to shut-ins and nursing home patients with dementia, they may not be able to carry on a conversation that makes any sense, but when I say the words of institution blessing the bread and wine, they are vocalizing the words along with me. There is something deeply ingrained in the brain and spirit by this means of grace.

Fortunately, just because we experience some memory loss from time to time, that does not mean that we have the onset of dementia. As we age, hormones and proteins in the brain that do upkeep on the brain just don't work as well and we will experience memory glitches here and there.

For example, if you forget to zip your fly, that is a typical thing that can happen. If, however, you become confused about how to get dressed, that should be a warning sign. If you make a mistake on your checkbook, that is not a reason to be concerned, but if numbers start to seem like a foreign language to you, that is not good. If you forget a meeting and then remember it later, that is different than if you are missing meetings right and left. If you wonder for a minute what you are missing and then say, "Ah, it is my keys", that is not as serious as putting the telephone in the freezer.

The other thing that is so devastating about various forms of dementia is that there is a loss of the person before that person is gone. This is what psychologists call "ambiguous loss". The person is still there, but they are kind of gone. Grandma is around, but no longer the grandma that we knew. Dad, but not still Dad.

Oftentimes when a person who has had dementia dies, the family members don't know how to feel. Sometimes they feel guilty for not feeling deeper grief at the death. They really should not beat themselves up for this, however, because they have already grieved the loss a long time ago when the person they knew was no longer there.

This is a very difficult disease and families going through this need our support and love. Someday when I stand before you and say, "I got nothing", I hope you will still love me too.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

BAPTISMS

EZRA FREDIC COX

BORN: APRIL 17, 2019

BAPTIZED: NOVEMBER 3, 2019

PARENTS: CALEB AND MORGAN
COX

SPONSORS: PEGGY COX AND
CAROL SUE SMITH

LEO VANCE ZARSE

BORN: AUGUST 15, 2019

BAPTIZED: NOVEMBER 17, 2019

PARENTS: AARON AND BETSY ZARSE

SPONSORS: KIM ZARSE AND JOHN
ZARSE



All five Lutheran mice would like to say MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE CONGREGATION!!

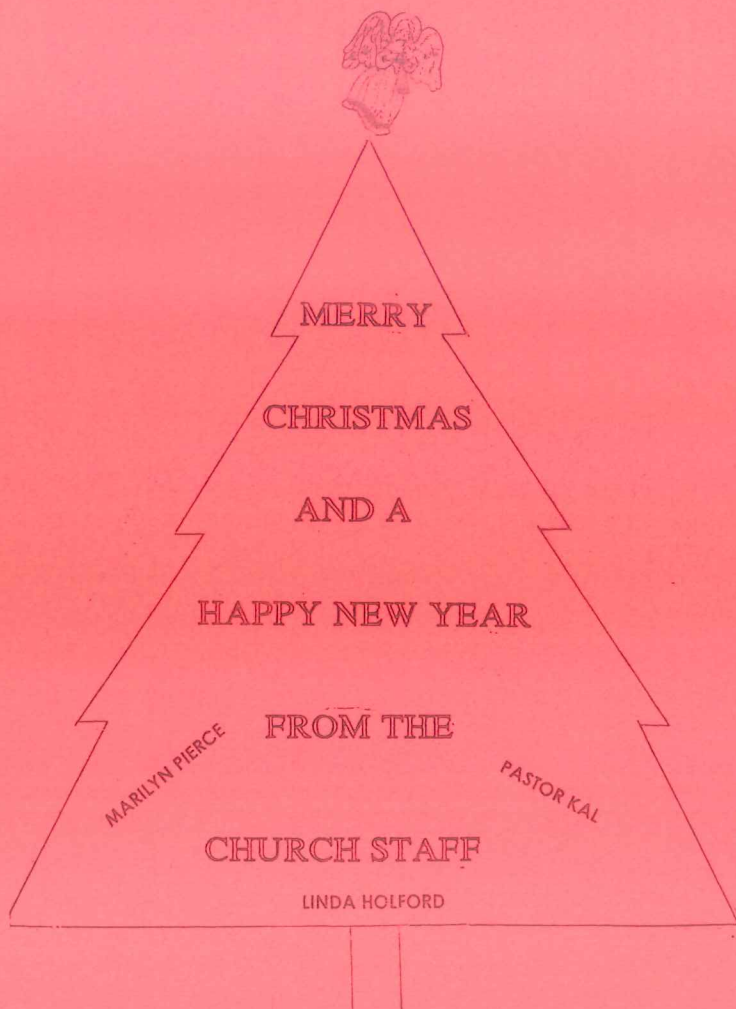
We have been busy little mice this year with helping care for the church and seeing you members every Sunday.

We have enjoyed all our crumbs from your dinners.

Now we celebrate Jesus birth and remember we have Christmas because of his birth, not Santa Claus.

May each of you have a safe journey if you are traveling some where for the Christmas season. The five church mice say to each of you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Squeeky, Scotty, Tiny, Angel, and Smiley.

**SQUEEKY,
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MOUSE**



Kindness

I have wept in the night
For the shortness of sight
That to somebody's need made me blind;
But I never have yet
Felt a tinge of regret
For being a little too kind.

—Author unknown

POTATO FEAST REPORT



2019 PF

Tickets	314	\$3,188.00
Expenses		\$843.23
Donations		\$472.50
Bazaar		\$428.50
Total		\$3,245.77

2018 PF

Tickets	244	\$2,340.00
Expenses		\$849.23
Donations		\$210.00
Bazaar		\$311.75
Total		\$2,012.52

2017 PF

Tickets	291	\$2,683.50
Expenses		\$848.94
Donations		\$437.60
Bazaar		?
TOTAL		\$2,272.16

2016 PF

Tickets	311	\$2,820.50
Expenses		\$912.35
Donations		\$500.75
Bazaar		\$921.75
TOTAL		\$3,330.65

2015 PF

Tickets	288	\$2,600.00
Expenses		\$819.03
Donations		\$351.97
Total		\$2,132.94

2014 PF

Tickets	257	\$397.00
Expenses		\$264.42
Doantions		\$397.00
Total		\$2,405.08

2019

TICKETS

Presale Adults	154	1540
Presale Kids	4	20
At door Adults	154	1617
At Door Kids	2	11
TOTAL	314	\$3,188.00

EXPENSES

Meat	\$232.38
Supplies	\$144.86
Food	\$310.99
Potatoes for 350	\$155.00
TOTAL	\$843.23

DONATIONS

At Door	\$218.50
Leftovers	\$84.00
Meat Donations	\$170.00
TOTAL	\$472.50

Combined Total \$2,817.27

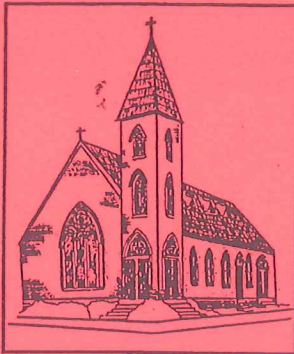
Bazaar \$428.50

Total \$3,245.77



DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Sunday School & B.C. 10:30am Worship	2 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 Bible Study 4:00pm Wearhouse	3 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	4 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	5 9:00am Office	6 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	7
8 9:30am Sunday School & B. C. 10:30am Worship	9 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 Bible Study 4:00pm Wearhouse	10 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	11 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	12 9:00am Office	13 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	14
15 9:30am Sunday School & B. C. 10:30am Worship	16 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 Bible Study 4:00pm Wearhouse	17 9:00 am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	18 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 6:00pm CHURCH COUNCIL	19 9:00am Office	20 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	21
22 9:30am Sindy School & B. C. 10:30am Worship with Childrens Program	23 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 Bible Study 4:00pm Wearhouse	24 Wearhouse closed for Christmas Eve	25 Office and Pantry closed for Christmas Day	26 9:00am Office	27 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	28
29 9:30am Sunday School & B.C. 10:30am Worship	30 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 Bible Study 4:00pm Wearhouse	31 Wearhouse closed for New Years Eve				



**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



"I'm a sheep again?! What about a reindeer?"

DECEMBER PARTICIPANTS



ORGANIST

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

ASSISTING MINISTERS

1 Mike Thompson
8 Eddie Slaven
15 Peggy Cox
22 Dick Zarse
24 Shon Littlefield
29 Emily Closser

GREETERS

1 Susie Remington
8 June Zirkle
15 Becky Howard
22 June Zirkle
24 June Zirkle
29 June Zirkle

COUNTERS

Becky Howard/Connie Knigga
Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman
Linda Howerton/Susie Remington
June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce

David Shears/Carol Shears

LECTORS

Audrey Salazar
Shon Littlefield
Carol Shear
Bonnie Haas
Becca Kerr
Paulette Haynes

SOUND EQUIPMENT

David Shears

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Holford
Louisa Hamilton

DEACONS

George Bennett
Tina Gilman
June Zirkle
Becky Howard
Donna Kerr
Tammy DiRuzza