



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

From the Pastor: **JANUARY, 2020**

Last month Deborah and I flew to Miami, Florida to attend the International Book Fair as part of the ongoing effort to market my book on addictions, "Knowledge to Power: Understanding and Overcoming Addictions". It is quite a culture shock to go to a city that has such congestion, so many honking horns and so much bustle. I also decided that taking Latin, German, Greek and Hebrew in college and seminary may not have been as useful today as if I had taken Spanish instead, because that is what most folks were speaking in Miami. Both Deborah and I decided that there was just too much of everything going on in Miami and it became clear that we were not "city mice", but were "country mice". Getting out of town is always good, but the best part of any trip for me is coming home.

The book fair itself was a little disappointing, because I was not given an opportunity to be one of the presenters with an audience and an interviewer, but I did meet some recovering addicts during my book signing and had some worthwhile interactions.

The best part of the trip turned out to be something that was not really directly connected to the book fair, however. Every night at our hotel there was a social hour in the spacious lobby. There was an offering of wine tasting and people just gathered in the couches that were placed in squares around the lobby to sip and chat.

The first night there was a young single woman from Miami and a couple from Toronto sitting with us. After we introduced ourselves we started talking about what brought us to Miami. I said that I was promoting my book on addictions at the book fair. The young woman said, "Addictions - I need to have that book, because my boyfriend drinks 10 beers to my one and I wonder if he has a problem". I told her she had reason to worry and I went back up to our room to bring a few books down. When I got back and gave her the book, the other couple wanted to see the book and said that this was very coincidental, because just 48 hours before this, back in Toronto, they had to do an intervention on the woman's sister, who had been sober for 25 years, but now had fallen off the wagon and was drinking as if to make up for lost time. I told them that coincidence was "God acting anonymously".

The next night we went to the social hour and the same thing happened. The woman sitting with us shared that her daughter had an eating disorder, anorexia and her mother had died of alcoholism. Her co-worker said that his twin brother had a problem with drugs and

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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

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Marilyn Pierce

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Tues. 1:00 pm

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10:30 A.M.

Printing:
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The Zarse Family

alcohol and he was worried about her. They each took a book with gratitude.

The next night we went to social hour the same thing happened. There were two men who both had people in their families that they were concerned about. They ordered my book on Kindle.

At the airport in Miami we were sitting next to a physician and we gave him a book and asked if he could get it to the people that dealt with addictions in his medical system. He gratefully accepted and said he would indeed do this, because they were always looking for resources to deal with this epidemic disease.

I was very forcefully reminded by all of these encounters that the season of Advent is about being aware and ready for Christ to come into our lives. We get ready to celebrate His first coming at Christmas and we prepare for His second coming at the end of time, but the part we sometimes miss is that Christ comes to us every day in the meantime. He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. But he also comes to us in the faces of people that we meet in our everyday lives. If we are attentive and listening we can hear the despair in the voice of a co-worker who is caught in the vortex of an abusive relationship at home. We can feel the pain of a friend who is having a very difficult time moving through the stages of grief over a lost loved one. We can sense the uncomfortable silence in someone who does not have great social skills and is thus lonely. We can sympathize with those who express guilt and shame.

This is the season to prepare our hearts for the Lord to come in and help us see Him in others, so that we can be of service.



We five little Lutheran Church mice have had a busy month. We have gone to one family Christmas dinner and had a lot of crumbs to eat. We watched Mike Thompson bring the Christmas tree in and get it ready for decorating. We watched the men work on the wall in the basement. They were Mick Bowen, Bill Feldheiser, Dick Zarse, and George Bennett. We watched the tree get decorated by Becky Howard, Kim Zarse, and Debbie Rissman. The poinsettias have gotten watered by Amy McNally, Carol Shears, Jarid Frix, Becky Howard, Donna Kerr, and Kathie Loser.

Now we look forward to Christmas Day the Savior's birth.

Happy Birthday Dear Jesus and Merry Christmas from Squeeky, Angel, Smiley, Scotty, and Tiny. If we five mice left anyone in the above list out, we are sorry. Blame it on Squeeky.

**Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**



To Our Church Family -
We thank each of you for your

prayers, love, and support as we continue to adjust to the loss of our daughter, Anna. We appreciate everyone pulling together here at OBSLC for her beautiful funeral and wonderful dinner, along with the many cards, donations, hugs, and words of encouragement.

God's Peace & Love to All -
Kim and Dick Zarse

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?!

As we think about starting 2020 with fresh thoughts and ideas, try joining any of the conversation lively Bible-study classes that we have at OBSLC. You won't be disappointed!!

Sunday School - 9:30

Children's Class taught by
Andrea Barnett

Confirmation Class taught by
Becca Key-Kerr

Adult Class taught by Donna
Key-Kerr

**Free to be Class - Monday at
11:30 - taught by Pastor Kal**

THANK YOU



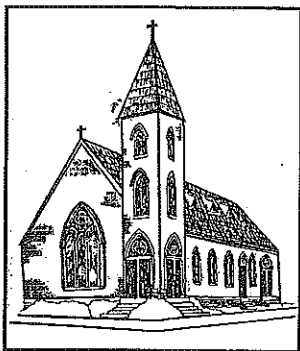
To the following members.

Christmas Tree - Mike Thompson
Decorating tree/flowers - Becky Howard, Kim Zarse, Debbie Rissman, and Kathie Loser.

Watering poinsettias - Amy McNally, Carol Shears, Jarid Frix, Becky Howard, and Donna Kerr.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	1 9:00 am Office 7:00 pm Choir Practice	2 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	3	4
9:30 am S.S. & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship	5 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 11:30 B. C. 4:00 pm Wearhouse	6	7 9:00 am Wearhouse 1:00 pm Office	8 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	9	10 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	11
9:30 am S. S. & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship	12 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 11:30 am B. C. 4:00 pm Wearhouse	13	14 9:00 am Wearhouse 1:00 pm Office	15 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 6:00 pm Church Council	16	17 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	18
9:30 am S. S. & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship	19 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 11:30 am B. C. 4:00 pm Wearhouse	20	21 9:00 am Wearhouse 1:00 pm Office	22 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	23 9:00 am Office 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	25
9:30 am S. S. & Adult Class 10:30 am Worship	26 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 11:30 am B. C. 4:00 pm Wearhouse	27	28 9:00 am Wearhouse 1:00 pm Office	29 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	30 9:00 am Office 7:00 pm Choir Practice	31 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	



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January Participants



ORGANIST

- 5 Marilyn Pierce
- 12 Marilyn Pierce
- 19 Marilyn Pierce
- 26 Marilyn Pierce

ASSISTING MINISTERS

- 5 Andrea Barnett
- 12 Eddie Slaven
- 19 Dick Zarse
- 26 Shon Littlefield

GREETERS

- 5
- 12
- 19
- 26

COUNTERS

- Becky Howard/Connie Knigga
- Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman
- Susie Remington/Marilyn Pierce
- June Zirkle/Kim Zarse

LECTORS

- Mr. Slaven
- Shon Littlefield
- Becca Kerr
- Emily Closser

SOUND EQUIPMENT

- David Shears

ALTAR GUILD

- Dondra Bennett
- George Bennett
- Bethany Bennett

DEACONS

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