



# Blessings and Musings

## The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

### FEBRUARY 2020

#### From the Pastor:

On January 1<sup>st</sup> I called my good friend, Pastor Gregory Kaufmann in Wisconsin to wish him and his family a Happy New Year. During our conversation we both expressed hope that the New Year would be a good one with peace and harmony. Greg commented on how much anger and rage there is in our society and that it seems to be getting worse. I certainly agree with that.

This conversation started me thinking about the growing prevalence of rage in our society. In my book on addictions I have an entire chapter on anger that addicted folks use as a defense against having to hear anything about their addictive behaviors. However, I probably could have added another separate chapter on anger and rage as its own addiction, even apart from drug and alcohol usage.

The term "rageaholic" has come into use in recent years to describe a person who seems to have lost control periodically of their anger. Although "rageaholic" is not a medical diagnosis yet, it is a helpful kind of lay psychological term to look at angry behavior that is beyond the bounds of normal. I do know that there is at least one chapter of "Rageaholics Anonymous" in California that borrows the A.A. Twelve Step program steps to help restore people to sanity.

Although anger is an appropriate emotion to have in certain situations, it seems that going from anger to rage is a common and almost accepted response now in our culture for almost anything. For example, if someone cuts you off on the highway, you can feel justified in running them off the road or getting out at the next stoplight and kicking their window out and punching them in the face. Or if someone is fumbling with their credit card in the line at the grocery store, it is now acceptable to curse and swear at them. If your sister-in-law makes a rude remark, you can always go on Facebook and rake her character over the coals in no uncertain words. If you start thinking about it, you can think of dozens of examples of inappropriate rage.

Where does all this rage come from? Maybe it is because we are such a fast-paced society now that we cannot stand to wait for anything and our impatience leads to frustration and to anger and rage. Certainly this would be in keeping with our other addictive behaviors. We don't want to take the time to deal with any of our feelings in the slow, natural way. This is what makes drug and alcohol usage so attractive - it changes the way we feel in a hurry.

**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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If it didn't do that, nobody would be interested in drugs and alcohol or other addictive agents.

Another possible reason for the attraction to extreme anger is that it leaves us better defended than other emotions. There are some legitimate cases where healthy anger is appropriate, but most of the time anger is covering up something else. In most cases anger covers up either hurt or fear. For example, when my college classmate was dumped by his girlfriend, he tore the room up and broke furnishings in his room. It would make more sense to think that he would be feeling sad at the loss, but he converted all sadness into anger, because it left him better emotionally defended. Or, I remember a young child running out into the street and was almost hit by a car. His mother went out and beat that child. You would think that she was scared, but all you could see from her was anger. Anger leaves us less vulnerable than hurt or fear.

Men in particular use anger as a catch-all emotion, because sadness and fear are not socially acceptable emotions in our culture. Remember the phrase "big boys don't cry"? Likewise, if you would express any kind of fear you would be labeled a big chicken. Women are allowed to be sad and scared, but not angry in our culture or they will be called a "witch" or something that sounds close to that. Therefore women oftentimes go underground with their anger and use passive anger, which is not doing something for another or by using sarcasm, which I call "Chicken Crap Anger", because the person cannot be held accountable for their anger by saying "just kidding"!

Rageaholics don't just have anger - they are anger! It is their identity. Rageaholics get off on their own anger the same way that gambling addicts get off on the high of winning and losing. Our brain makes its own feel good chemicals and we don't need to introduce them from the outside like we do with alcohol and drugs. We can get high by triggering these chemicals in our own brain by addictive behaviors. Many addictions work this way such as: shopping, spending, gambling, eating, gaming, sex, pornography and I-phones.

Jesus had a lot to say about unhealthy anger. He viewed it as one of the most unhealthy things that we can do spiritually. He even compared sitting on anger to murder. Letting go of anger and dealing with hurt and fear will do a lot more for us than building to rage.

**CONGREGATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
FOR GREEN RECORD BOOK  
YEAR 2019**

1. Baptized membership at end of 2018		<u>293</u>
2. Baptized members received during 2019		
a. By Baptism: Children (15 yrs. and younger)	<u>5</u>	
b. By Baptism: adults (16 yrs. and older)	_____	
c. By affirmation of faith	_____	
d. By transfer	_____	
e. From other sources and statistical adjustment	_____	<u>296</u>
f. Total members received this year		
3. Baptized Members removed during 2019		
a. By death	<u>5</u>	
b. By transfer	_____	
c. For other reasons and statistical adjustment	_____	
d. Total members removed this year		
4. Baptized Membership, end of 2019		<u>291</u>
5. Total Confirmed Membership, end of year 2019	<u>160</u>	
6. Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in	<u>0</u>	
7. Average weekly worship attendance in year	<u>52</u>	
8. Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the Congregation in 2019 Who communed	<u>113</u>	

**SYNOD REPORT END OF YEAR - 2019**

1. Baptized Members: 291
2. Confirmed members: 160
3. A. - Confirmed who communed: 113  
B. - Unconfirmed who communed 1st Communion: 2
4. Total of weekly Sunday Services: 2605
5. Average of total weekly Sunday Services (Divide by 50): 52
6. Total number of people at Special Services: 131

## CONGREGATIONAL REPORT 2019

MEMBERSHIP 2019	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
2018 Year Starting Numbers	293	165
By Confirmation		0
By Confirmation Youth		0
By Affirmation of Faith		0
By Transfer		0
By Baptism	3	
By Statistical Adjustment		0
<b>MEMBERSHIP TOTAL</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>165</b>
MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2019		
1. By Death	5	5
2. By Transfer		0
3. By Statistical Adjustment		0
<b>MEMBERSHIP TOTAL AS OF 12-31-19</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>160</b>

FUNERALS: Non Member 2

WEDDINGS: Non Member 0

### ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

TOTAL: SUNDAY SERVICES: 2605  
SPECIAL SERVICES: 131  
AVERAGE: SUNDAY SERVICES: 52

### COMMUNING MEMBERS:

A. CONFIRMED WHO COMMUNED: 113

### ATTENDANCE:

ASH WEDNESDAY: 31  
MAUNDY THURSDAY: 0  
CHRISTMAS EVE: 100

## HEAVEN'S WEARHOUSE MONTHLY COUNT - 2019

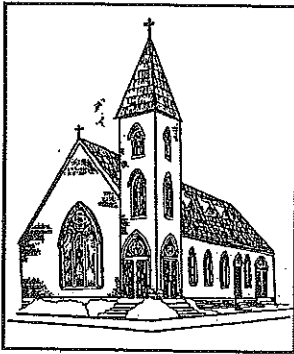
<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>MONTHLY TOTALS ADDED</u>
JANUARY	111	111
FEBRUARY	78	189
MARCH	62	251
APRIL	80	331 CLOSED 2 WKS *
MAY	109	440
JUNE	109	549
JULY	149	698
AUGUST	138	836
SEPTEMBER	119	955
OCTOBER	64	1019 CLOSED 2 WKS*
NOVEMBER	138	1157
DECEMBER	93	1250 CLOSED 3 DAYS*

\*CLOSED TWO WEEKS FOR CHANGE OVER TO SUMMER OR WINTER CLOTHES IN APRIL AND OCTOBER.

\*CLOSED THREE DAYS IN DECEMBER BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS EVE, NEW YEARS EVE, AND ONE DAY OF BAD WEATHER.

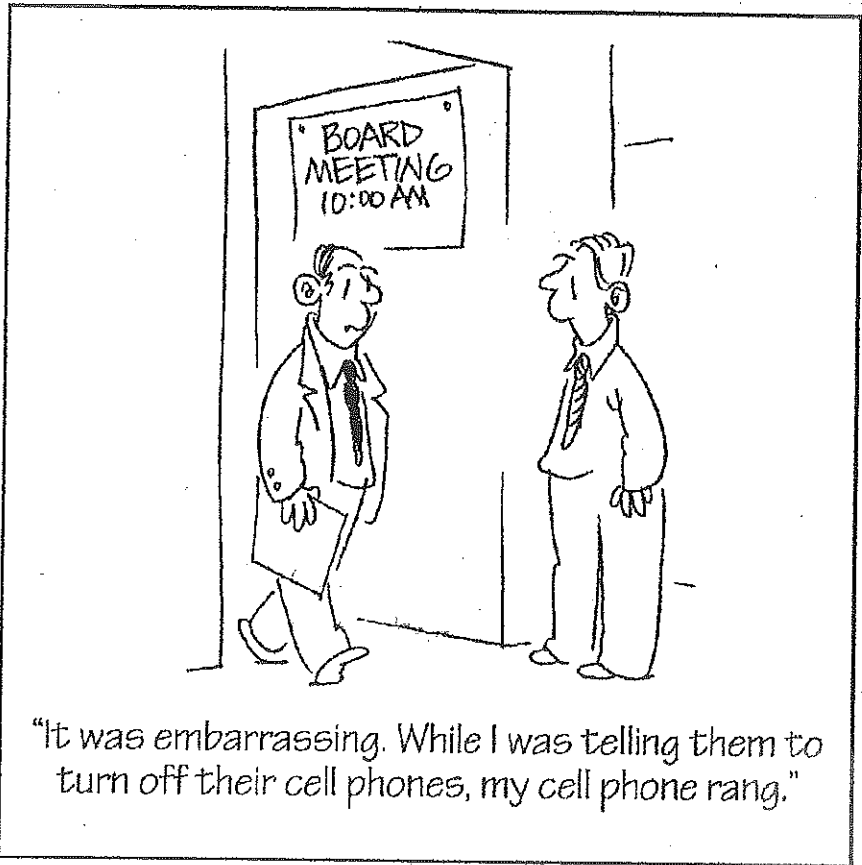
# FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am S.S./ B.C. 10:30am Worship	3 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30am B.C. 4:00pm Wearhouse	4 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	5 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	6 9:00am Office 7:00pm Choir Practice	7 9:00am Office 9:30 am Pantry	8
9 9:30 S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	10 9am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30am B.C. 4:00pm Wearhouse	11 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	12 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	13 9:00am Office 7:00pm Choir Practice	14 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	15
16 9:30 S.S./ B.C. 10:30am Worship	17 9 am Office 9:30am Pantry 11:30 B.C. 4:00pm Wearhouse	18 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	19 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 7:00pm Church Council	20 9:00am Office 7:00pm Choir Practice	21 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	22
23 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	24 9:00am Office 9:30 am Pantry 11:30 B.C. 4pm Wearhouse	25 9:00am Wearhouse 1:00pm Office	26 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry 6:00pm Ash Wed. Service	27 9:00am Office 7:00pm Choir Practice	28 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	29



**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



## February Participants



### ORGANIST

2 Marilyn Pierce  
9 Marilyn Pierce  
16 Marilyn Pierce  
23 Marilyn Pierce  
26 Marilyn Pierce

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

2  
9  
16  
23  
26

### GREETERS

2 June Zirkle  
9 June Zirkle  
16 June Zirkle  
23 June Zirkle  
26

### COUNTERS

David Shears/Carol Shears  
Becky Howard/Connie Knigga  
Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman  
Susie Remington/Kim Zarse

### LECTORS

### SOUND EQUIPMENT

David Shears

### ALTAR GUILD

Tina Gilman  
Family

### DEACONS