



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

JULY, 2020

From the Pastor:

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 Key-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

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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 Zarse Family

I know that the question on most of our church member's minds is to know when we are going to open church up again. This is certainly a desire that I have and that all of the members that I have talked to also have. The issue is not about what we want, however, but about what we need to do to be responsible. As followers of Christ we always want to make certain that we are looking out for the welfare of others and not taking the freedom of the Gospel as license to do whatever we want.

There is a longing to get back to "normal", but we must consider that whenever we are back in church, it will certainly not be very "normal". If we are to follow health and safety guidelines that the ELCA and Center for Disease Control have set forth, worship will be very different. There would have to be social distancing in the pews, which might mean that Lutherans would have to sit in a pew that was not "their pew". But that is not the worst. We would all have to wear masks. There would be no singing, because the small aerosol droplets that we expel from singing can travel up to 30 feet. There would be no communion. There would be no passing of the peace and no fellowship afterwards. There would be no hymnals or bulletins. It would be a very different service than what we think of as "normal".

At our recent church council meeting we looked at all of these factors to try to decide when and if we should return to in-person worship. The decision was made that there will be no in-person worship until at least a time after the 4th of July. In the meantime we will be monitoring whether the number of cases of Covid 19 and the deaths from this disease are going down or are still rising.

The reason that we have to proceed with extra caution is because our congregations contain largely at-risk populations. For example, if people over 65 and people with health conditions should not attend church, that would leave out approximately 85% of the regularly attending members. It would also exclude your pastor and both organists. What we do not want to happen is what occurred at St. Peter Lutheran church in New York City. They were having services and activities and now they have 44 members who are dead from the Corona Virus. As health officials trace back where the infections are coming from around the country, they are finding out that churches are real hot spots. We don't want to be one of those hot spots.

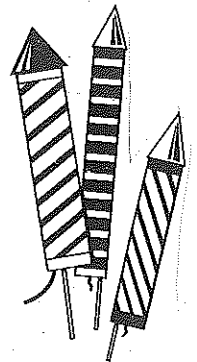
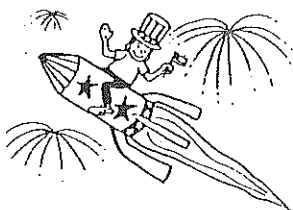
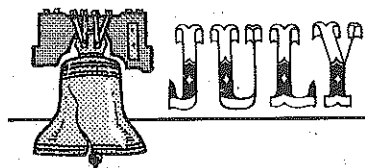
We will be looking at other options such as having worship outdoors, but we are not sure how that would go because of weather conditions. In the meantime we are blessed to have David and Carol Shears producing a very meaningful half

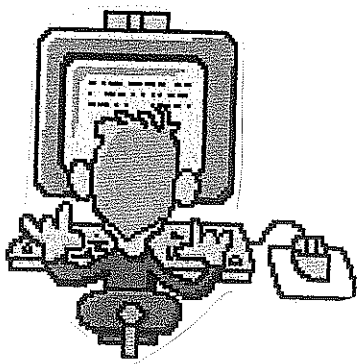
hour service on our website and on You Tube. David has applied for a technology grant at Our Blessed Savior and Kyle Church has applied for the same grant at St. John and both churches have received the good news that they obtained the grant money. This will allow both churches to utilize technology in an expanded fashion to carry out our mission and ministry.

Young people today communicate through media and by using technology and we must strive to speak their language if we are to have any effect on them. Technology has already been a part of the church outreach, but the current Corona Crisis has accelerated this tendency. Even though I am a bit of a dinosaur when it comes to technology, I am struggling to learn what I can to speak this different language to a younger audience.

These are different times and we are in uncharted waters. The desire to go back to what we know is strong, but I remember the prophet Isaiah's words in Chapter 43, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and a way in the desert."

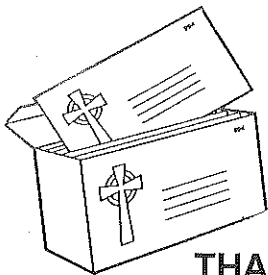
The Lord is still with us and He will make a way for us in this wilderness and do a new thing. We must remember that even though we aren't worshipping together, that does not stop us from worshipping. We are still the church and our mission and ministry still goes on. We pray for God's guidance in the meantime.





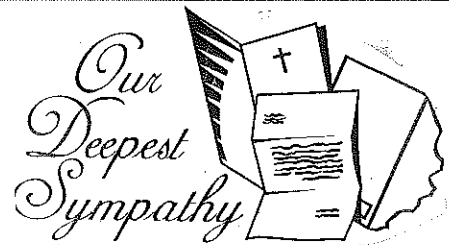
ITEMS NEEDED AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

We need your address and new phone numbers of all members who have changed their phone numbers and addresses. If you haven't gotten in touch with the church office please do soon as soon as possible. This is important so we can stay in touch with you. If we have to cancel church we give you a call. You might want to call the church office to see what phone number we have on file for you. Thanks again.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the members who have been sending in their offerings each week. The bills keep coming in like always and we appreciate the time you take to send your offerings into the church office. It makes life easier for our treasurer, Nancy Sowers. It doesn't matter whether you write a check or have the bank write your check and they will send it to the church office. Thanks again for helping your church stay on board. Thanks again!



DEATH

ADA CROSS

DIED: May 21, 2020

BURIED: May 28, 2020



We five little Lutheran Church mice see a lot of things going on each week. We watch the volunteers for Pete's Pantry bring in food on most Mondays. On Wednesday morning volunteers come and get food ready for Thursday morning tail gate in the parking lot. Thursdays are really a busy day around the church. Food going out empty carts coming back in. We mice are so glad that God's people are getting fed. It makes our little hearts feel good. Right now people from our church that help are: Donna Key-Kerr, Barrett Key, Bethany Bennett, and Janet Gowen. There are other people volunteering from different churches in Alexandria but, we don't know their names. We little mice want to thank each of these special people for their service. Sue Allen is the director of the pantry and puts many hours into keeping it running smoothly. Carol McCoy keeps the financial books up to date and she also puts in many hours. Thank you all!!!!

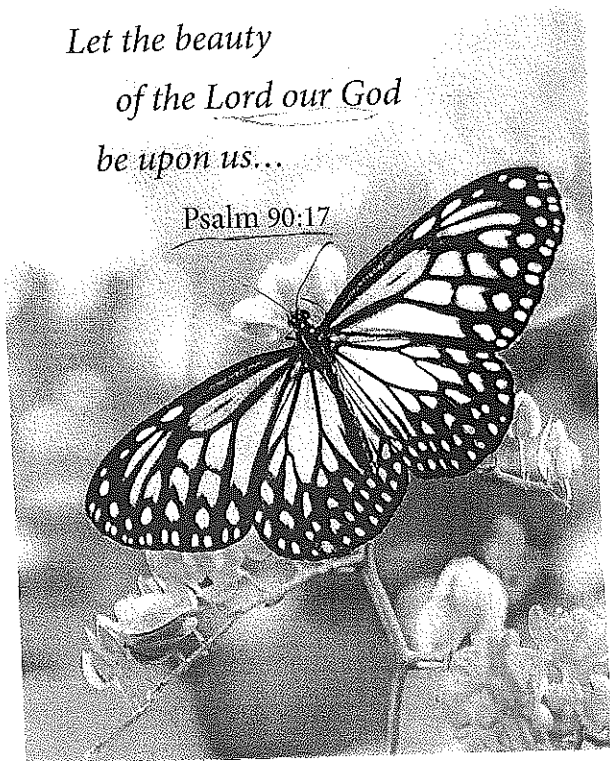
From Squeaky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse

FROM JANICE LITTLE



Let the beauty
of the Lord our God
be upon us...

Psalm 90:17



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for May 10, 2020 would have been dedicated to the glory of God by Susie Remington in honor of her Mother, Marge Ray.

The altar flowers for June 28, 2020 would have been dedicated to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Toby Gilman in celebration of the birthday of their son, Wade on June 26, 2020.

Hi Everyone,
So glad to receive
my cards.
Maybe someday
we will all be in
church again at
the same time.
Love you all.
Thinking of all of
you.
Janice

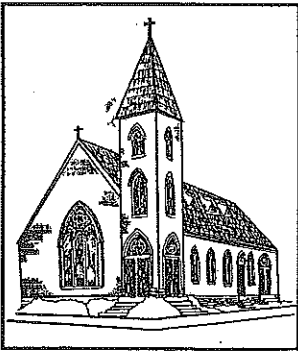
For God's blessing

It is not for me to glorify the country which I love with all my heart and soul. I may not ask your praise for anything admirable which the United States has been or done. But on my country's birthday I may do something far more solemn and more worthy of the hour. I may ask for your prayers in her behalf: That on the manifold and wondrous chance which God is giving her ... on her unconstrained religious life; on her passion for education and her eager search for truth; on her over-zealous care for the poor man's rights and opportunities; on her quiet homes where the future generations of men are growing; ... on her wide gates open to the east and to the west; on her strange meeting of the races out of which a new race is slowly being born; on her vast enterprise and illimitable hopefulness — on all these materials and machineries of manhood; on all that the life of my country must mean for humanity, I am asking you to pray that the blessing of God, ... may rest forever.

—Phillips Brooks, July 4, 1880

JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Office	2 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30 Pantry Parking lot only	3 9:00am Office	4 Independence Day
5 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	6 9:00am Office	7 9:00am Office	8 9:00am Office	9 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30 Pantry Pantry Parking lot only	10 9:00am Office	11
12 9:30 am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	13 9am Office	14 9:00am Office	15 9:00am Office 6:00pm Church Council	16 9:00am Office 9-12 Pantry Parking lot only	17 9:00am Office	18
19 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	20 9 am Office	21 9:00am Office	22 9:00am Office	23 9:00am Office 9-12 Pantry Parking lot only	24 9:00am Office	25
26 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	27 9:00am Office	28 9:00am Office	29 9:00am Office	30 9:00am Office	31 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



July Participants



ORGANIST

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

ASSISTING MINISTERS

5 Eddie Slaven
12 Andrea Barnett
19 Emily Closser
26 Dick Zarse

SOUND EQUIPMENT

David Shears

COUNTERS

Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman
Kim Zarse/Susie Remington
June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
David Shears/Carol Shears

LECTORS

Linda Howerton
Donna Key-Kerr
Dr. Herb Berner
Bonnie Haas

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Rissman
Susie Remington

DEACONS

Donna Key-Kerr
Tina Gilman
George Bennett
Becky Howard