



# Blessings and Musings

## The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

### DECEMBER, 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:**  
Andrea Barnett  
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

**Office Phone:**  
765-724-3671

**Email Address:**  
pastorkal 2015  
@gmail.com

**Sunday School:**  
9:30 A.M.

**Worship:**  
10:30 A.M.

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The Zarse Family

The word, Advent, literally means “coming to” or “coming towards”. In the Christian church the season of Advent is one of preparation for what is coming to us. It is a time to prepare for celebrating the birth of the Christ child at Christmas. But it is also a time to prepare ourselves for Christ’s second coming at the end of time or at the end of our life, whichever comes first.

It seems that being prepared is a big theme outside the Christian church as well. I recently watched a program on television that talked about America’s lack of preparedness for the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Of course, it is difficult to prepare for something like suicide bombers and kamikaze flyers. It is out of the realm of our imagination that someone would do these things and what is unthinkable is beyond preparation.

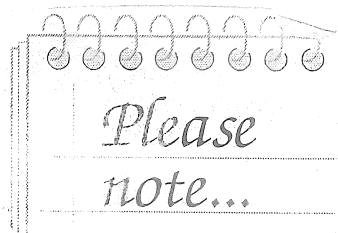
Currently, we are dealing with another type of crisis in our country and in our whole world with the Corona Virus pandemic. We were not very well prepared to deal with this crisis either. We didn’t have enough personal protective equipment, didn’t have enough masks, enough hand sanitizer and for a while, didn’t even have enough toilet paper! Our government did not have a comprehensive policy to deal with the pandemic and various states have been doing some very different things that have added up to a colossal mess. Our research facilities and health organizations were not geared up to face an outbreak of any virus in a rapid fashion either.

In the church we have really been scrambling to try to come up with different ways to worship and communicate with one another. We are fortunate to have people like David and Carol Shears who are tech wizards and can put our half-hour worship service online for those who must stay at home. We are now preparing to use our new tech equipment to do an even better job of sharing worship and keeping in touch.

I talked to my old college roommate, Greg, who is the assistant to the bishop in the ELCA in Northern Wisconsin. He told me something that I hadn’t even thought of concerning preparation in the pandemic. He attended a meeting of all the first call pastors in their synod and he listened to the difficulty that they had connecting with their new parish, because one-third of them had not ever had an in-person worship experience yet in their new parish. Everything had to be done online or over the phone. I can’t imagine how difficult that would be to get to know your people as a new pastor and to connect with them.

There are a lot of things that we are not prepared for and some that we can't prepare for in this life. However, there are other things that we can be well prepared for. For example, we know how to prepare for Christ's second coming. We know that we shouldn't spend a lot of time and energy trying to predict when Jesus will return. That is a waste of time. We know that we should use our time wisely while we wait. That means to heed the prophet's words to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before your God".

We know what that means. It means to take care of the poor, the widow and the orphan. It means to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and clothe the naked. It means to tend the sick and give comfort to the dying. These are all things that we not only know how to do, but can do. If we do these things we are well prepared for the Lord to come back and say to us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".



## WORSHIP

**Because of the spike in Covid-19 cases in our area the Church Council has decided to suspend in-person worship until it is safe to resume.**

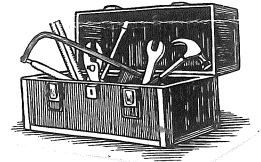
**In the meantime we will continue to offer our on-line worship service at [www.ourblessedsavior.org](http://www.ourblessedsavior.org). Click "Watch" and then scroll down and click the service.**



We five little Lutheran Church mice have been talking about how fast this year has gone. This has been a very hard year to live through. It has been terrible with covid 19, but looking back there have been some wonderful things happening. If you came to church each Sunday you heard all the members who spoke at the Temple Talks about how the virus has changed them in some way. The covid virus has had different effects on everyone. The temple talks were very interesting and not a one was the same. We church mice say "thank you" to everyone that did a temple talk.

This is a special month, do you remember why? It is our Savior's birthday. We five church mice would like to say "MERRY CHRISTMAS" not Happy Holidays to everyone. We pray this covid virus will end soon.

**Squeeky,  
The Lutheran Church Mouse**



## THANKS

All the Ladies' Aid members would like to thank Pastor Kal, Dick Zarse, and Dan Barnett for taking the old stove out and installing the new stove. It was most appreciated. Thanks again.

## A big difference

A man who went to the races noticed a priest making the sign of the cross over a horse. That horse went on to win the first race. So he watched each time the priest made the sign, bet on that horse and the horse won.

When the last race came up, the man had won \$20,000. He bet the whole bundle on the horse the priest approached. The gates opened, the horses were off – and the one he had bet on took a few steps and fell dead.

Finding the priest, the man asked what had gone wrong. The priest replied, "That's the trouble with you Protestants: You don't know the difference between a simple priestly blessing and the last rites."

—Homiletics

A blessed Christmas to one and all. Behold God's gift to each of us!!

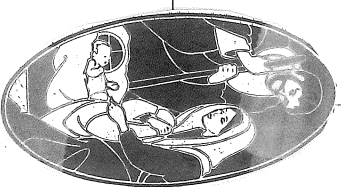
From the Church Staff

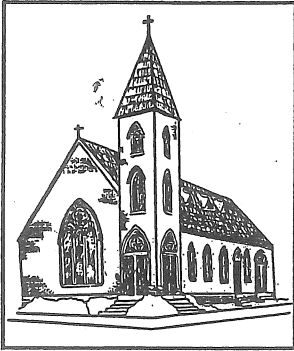
*Pastor Kal  
Marilyn & Linda*



# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Office	2 9:00am Office	3 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30am Tailgate in parking lot	4 9:00am Office	5
6	7 9:00am Office	8 9:00am Office	9 9:00am Office	10 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30am Tailgate in parking lot	11 9:00am Office	12
13	14 9am Office	15 9:00am Office	16 9:00am Office 6:00pm Church Council	17 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30am Tailgate in parking lot	18 9:00am Office	19
20	21 9 am Office	22 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30am Tailgate in parking lot	23	24 9:00am Office	25 OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27	28 9:00am Office	29 9:00am Office 9:30-11:30am Tailgate in parking lot	30 9:00am Office	31 9:00am Office		

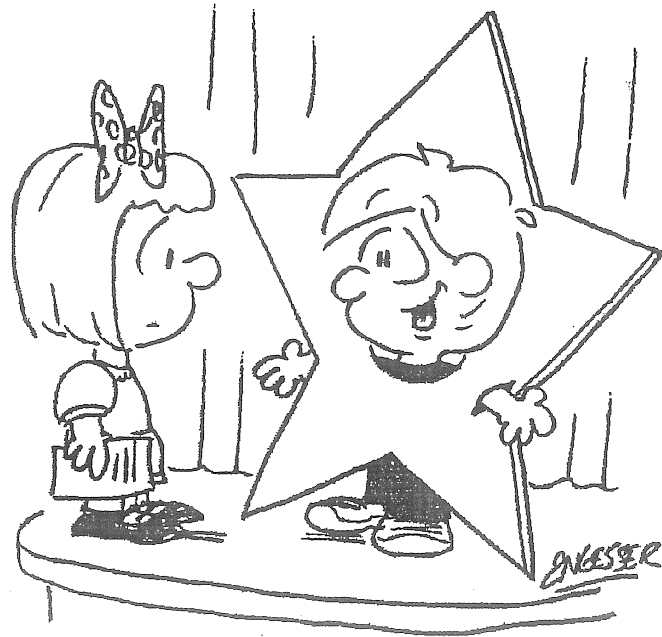




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Alexandria, IN 46001

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**Pastor Kal Rissman**  
**Home: 765-754-7381**

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"I knew someday I'd be a star!"

## DECEMBER PARTICIPANTS

