

Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

DECEMBER, 2021

Pastor:
Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

**Church Council
President:**
Tina Gilman

Vice President:
Dr. Herb Berner

Secretary:
Bethany Bennett

Treasurer:

Other Members:
Andrea Barnett
Becca Key-Kerr
Donna Key-Kerr
Marilyn Pierce
Stephanie Salazar
Dick Zarse

Organist:
Marilyn Pierce

Church Secretary:
Marilyn Pierce
765-717-2992
9 AM - Noon
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Thurs. and Fri.

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9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

Printing:
Compliments of
Broadway Press
The Zarse Family

From the Pastor:

My wife, Deborah was looking at some pictures of our family and commented, "Look at how white your hair is now"! She used to say that my hair was gray, but now she is thinking that it is white. I have always maintained that I am tinting my hair platinum blonde and can always let it grow out to its natural brown if it gets to be too much trouble to keep tinting it platinum. Deborah responds that I am a "big fat liar" and that nobody believes that. I then remind her that it says in Proverbs 16: 31, "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life". She says that is a bunch of crap also! I counter this by reminding her that my buddies still call me "Young Kal". She says we are all deluded.

Despite this lack of respect, I suppose that maybe she does have a point. It is difficult to think of ourselves as being old. That recent 70th birthday should have been a clue, but denial is an interesting phenomenon. In my mind, I am still a young man in my 30's. I still climb the antennae tower and run around on my roof as if I am still working on the roofing crew like when I was in Seminary. I still have the fantasy that someday I will get in shape and look good in my swim trunks like when I worked as a lifeguard in college. I still look in the mirror and pretend not to notice the wrinkles on my face and the hair growing in places like my ears where I don't really need hair. I assume that the pain in my right hip is a temporary strain and will be gone any day now.

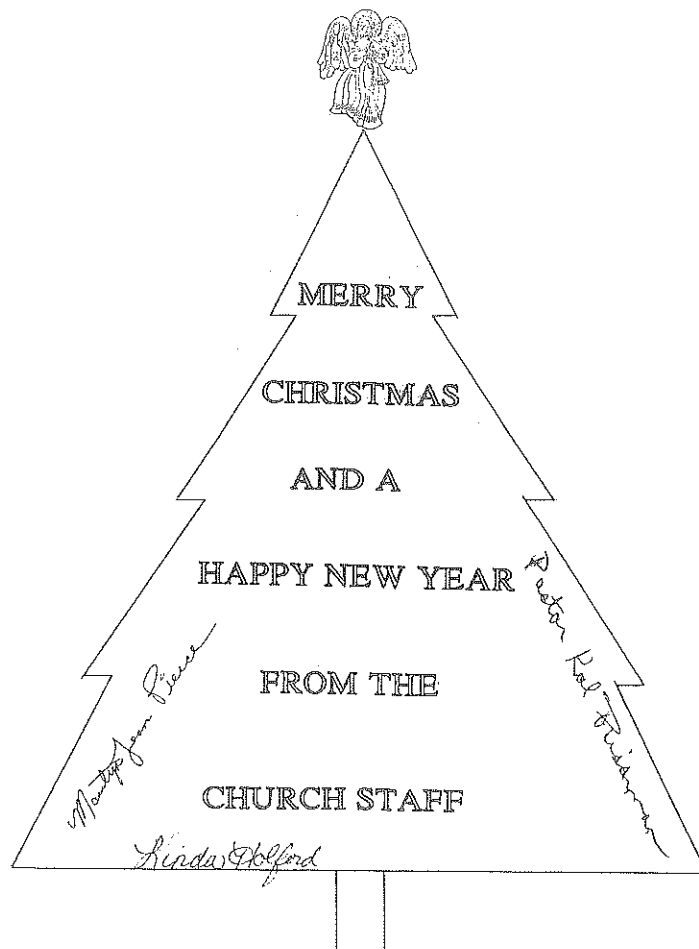
It's too bad that we didn't know all the stuff we know now back when we were young. Likewise, it's too bad that we don't have the energy and abilities now that we had when we were young. When we were young we spent a lot of time and energy on things that weren't really all that important. But when we get older we know what is important – we just can't do it anymore. There never seems to be that point in life when we know what is valuable and we can still do it.

There never seems to be that time when everything comes together and life is smooth. We make it through the struggle of adolescence and then we are faced with the responsibilities of adulthood. We worry about the safety of our children when they are little and helpless and then we worry more when they start driving vehicles and dating. We work and plan for our future retirement and then realize when we get there that we aren't really interested in all that stuff we thought would be so neat. We were always going to travel and see the world, but now we can only make it from the big chair to the kitchen and back and find it is easier to just see the world on the Travel Channel on t.v. We struggled and saved, only to find that it all goes for medical bills and the price of a stay at the nursing home.

Shouldn't there be at least one or more times in our life when there is no struggle or worry and we find the balancing point of peace and serenity? The answer to that is apparently no there is not. Jesus said to his disciples, "In this life you will always have troubles". There will always be something that we will be struggling with on this side of the grave. We will never have "arrived" until we arrive to be with the Lord in eternity.

Nor does it make any difference if we have tried to follow the Lord and be faithful. Christians are not exempt from the struggles that other folks have. Jesus said, "Rain falls on the righteous and also on the wicked". There is no Christian lucky rabbit's foot or 4-leaf clover that keeps us from all harm. As a matter of fact, Christians are guaranteed to have more struggles than the average, because if we follow Jesus, we will freely participate in the sufferings of others!

What this all amounts to is that no matter what age we are or what stage of life we are in, we will always need the Lord. We may have the same struggles as others or even more, but we also have more power to deal with the struggles. We also have more presence of God to help us walk through the tough times. We don't have less problems, but we do have more power and presence. We need the Lord when we are young. We need the Lord when we get old. We need the Lord in between. We just need the Lord.





We five little Lutheran Church mice love Christmas and we enjoy reading about the birth of Jesus Christ. The more we read the more we learn about our Lord.

The church is so beautiful during the Christmas Season. All the red Poinsettias on the windows, shelves behind the altar and the two on the altar. It makes one feel close to God. The Christmas tree each year is always perfect and beautiful. Wouldn't Martin Luther really be proud of us when it is all lit up and it lights up a service. Did you know that Martin Luther is responsible for having Christmas trees? The month of December is so bright and wonderful. Let us all remember to say MERRY CHRISTMAS instead of Happy Holiday. We five mice hate to hear Happy Holiday. MERRY CHRISTMAS, that is what December is all about, our Lord's BIRTHDAY, not Happy Holiday.

Merry Christmas to all from the five Lutheran Church mice. Squeeky, Tiny, Scotty, Angel and Smiley.

**From Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**

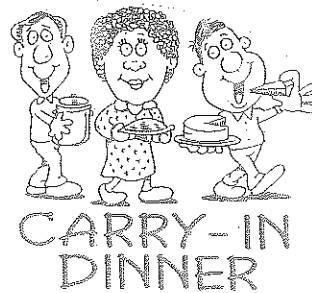
P.S. If any of you have any dinners downstairs in the month of December, please leave us some crumbs. We thank you ahead of time.



A BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the members who provided Christmas Poinsettias for the Christmas Season.

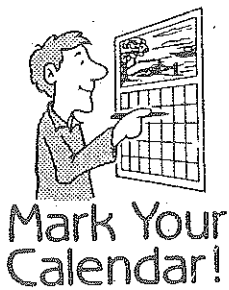
June Zirkle	MM Dick Zarse
Becky Howard	MM Randy Loser
Donna Pierce	MM George Bennett
Bob Fletcher	MM Mick Bowen
Donna Key-Kerr	MM Toby Gilman
Marilyn Pierce	Dr. & Mrs. Herb Berner



CHURCH DINNER

It has been a long time since we have been able to get together here at the church for a big dinner. The Picnic at the Ponderosa reminded me of how integral food is to Lutherans. Food is what we do best! Our fellowship and understanding of one another is always better when we break bread together.

On Sunday, December 5th we are having a church dinner in the basement immediately after the service. Chicken will be provided by the Ladies Aid, but we would ask that each family bring a dish to pass. There will be good food and good fellowship, so plan to attend.



Mark Your
Calendar!

COMING EVENTS

December 3rd. - Christmas
Parade starting time 6:00pm to meet at
Cornerstone Church. We will be having
a float in the parade this year.

December 5th - Congregational
dinner after church service.

December 12th - Congregational
Meeting after church service.

December 19th - Children's
Christmas program during children's
Sermon.

All of December there will be a hat
and glove drive.

Adult class will be going caroling.
The date is not known at this time.

December 24th - Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at 6:00pm here at
church. 8:00pm at St. John Lutheran in
Elwood. Plan to attend either service.

December is going to be a busy month
so please put those dates on your
calendar.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR
BLESSED SAVIOR.



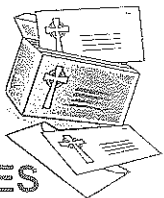
LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid members would like to
thank everyone who contributes to the
treasury of the Ladies' Aid.

The Ladies Aid has many things that
they pay for out of their fund. Here are
some of the items:

- Communion Wine
- Eternal light candles
- Sometimes meat for dinners
- Communion cups
- Candle oil
- Supplies
- Kitchen supplies of plates, cups,
napkins, paper towels, dish soap,
spoons, forks, and knives.


There are envelopes in the narthex
marked Ladies Aid if you would like to
donate to the fund. The above items
are not cheap and since we don't cater
dinners anymore we have to get by with
donations from the congregation.

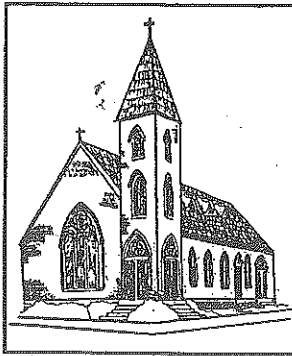


2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

You may pick up your 2022 offering
envelopes on Sunday December 5th.
There are some envelope numbers that
have changed. When you receive your
envelopes please make sure if your
number has changed or is the same.
Please don't use your 2022 envelopes
until the first Sunday in January 2022.

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	6 9am Office 9:30am 10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass Study	7 9am Office	8 9am Office 4:30-6:30pm Warehouse open Bring items only	9 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	10 9am Office	11 9am Warehouse open Shopping only
12 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	13 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass	14 9am Office	15 9am Office 6:00pm Church Council	16 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	17 9am Office	18
19 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	20 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass	21 9am Office	22 9am Office 4:30pm Warehouse open Bring items only	23 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	24 9am Office 6pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Warehouse closed for Christmas day
26 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	27 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass	28 9am Office	29 9am Office	30 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	31 9am Office	
						



**Lutheran Church
of Our Blessed Savior**
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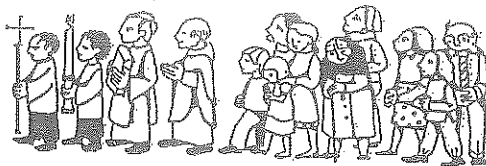
Church Office
765-724-3671

Pastor Kal Rissman
Home: 765-754-7381



"He's today's greeter."

DECEMBER PARTICIPANTS



ORGANIST

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

SOUND EQUIPMENT

5 David Shears
12 David Shears
19 David Shears
24 David Shears
26 David Shears

LECTORS

Tina Gilman
Dr. Herb Berner
Carol Shears
Becca Key-Kerr
Bonnie Haas

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Emily Closser
Mike Thompson
Dick Zarse
Shon Littlefield
Shon Littlefield

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Holford
Louisa Hamilton

DEACONS

George Bennett
Steve Holcomb
Becky Howard
Donna Key-Kerr
Becca Key-Kerr