



# Blessings and Musings

## The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

### JANUARY, 2022

**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  
Mon. Tues. Wed.  
Thurs. and Fri.

**Office Phone:**

765-724-3671

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pastorkal2015  
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**Sunday School:**

9:30 A.M.

**Worship:**

10:30 A.M.

**Printing:**

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#### From the Pastor:

My secretary, Marilyn and I were reminiscing about the time when I first came to the parish 17 years ago. I had not been working as a parish pastor for over 20 years and had just been working in the hospital's various addiction treatment programs. Because of this, I admitted to Marilyn that I was pretty rusty about all the things that I needed to do to get up to speed concerning leading a parish. I told her that she and I were going to have to make some excellent mistakes together and learn as we went.

I'll never forget the look on Marilyn's face when I said that we could make mistakes. Her face looked like she had just gotten a get-out-of-jail-free card. "We can make mistakes", she said incredulously? "Oh yes, we're not going to get this all perfect right out of the gate", I replied. "Hopefully, we will learn from our mistakes, however", I added.

The ability to make mistakes is extremely important in our lives. We do learn things by making mistakes, but only if we admit that they are mistakes. Then we are free to try something else that might work better.

The problem is that we tend to think that to make a mistake somehow lowers our worth as a person. We have come to believe that the fewer mistakes we make, the better a person we are. So, to admit that we have failed, screwed up, done wrong or made a mistake means that we are "less than", "not good" or "not good enough".

The word that describes this kind of thinking is "perfectionism". But perfectionism is actually a cover-up for our shame issues. When we work harder and longer than anyone else, it is usually just a smoke screen to prevent others from noticing that we are not good enough. When we do things right – extremely right, we are postponing the inevitable day when people notice that we are not right. We are Adam and Eve all over again. They had to cover up with fig leaves, because they did not believe they were acceptable literally of their naked selves the way God made them.

Of course, this kind of perfectionist thinking causes real problems in our relationships. Think about how many domestic quarrels occur and continue because neither husband nor wife has the ability to be wrong and admit it. I have discovered two phrases that seem to stop arguments in marriages. The first one is when I say, "I could be wrong". The second one is when I say, "You know, you might be right". These phrases really seem to short-circuit a fight.

I have found myself limiting the impact of these phrases, however by adding a phrase. It goes like this, "You might be right – you were that one other time"! "I

could be wrong – I was that other time when I thought I had made a mistake”! This is said in jest, but you can see how it negates the admitting of wrong.

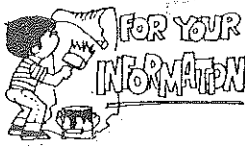
Perfectionism also stifles creativity in other people. For example, when a new young employee comes up with an idea that might be revolutionary in your business, but is told that it is wrong and we have an established way of doing things in the company, he may never come up with another new idea that could really be helpful.

But the most damaging part of perfectionism is that it actually throws the redemptive work of Jesus back in His face. When we pretend we are perfect, we don't really need Jesus saving work on the cross and He died for nothing. We are saying that we are good enough on our own.

Every Sunday we start our worship with the Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness. In that part of the liturgy we say, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” So the question then is, “Do I want to be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness or not”? If I do, then I need to be able to be wrong, to admit my mistakes and have the Lord wipe them out.

This is what Martin Luther discovered as the freedom of the Gospel. We are free to be who we are with warts and all and we are still loved and forgiven by God. This also works in our relationships with other people. One of the things that leads me to want to hang around with my recovering addict friends is their ability to be wrong and still know that they are alright. Humility is the key to recovery.

God gives us the freedom to be wrong and still be loved. What a gift this is to the world. What a gift to each other.



**MEMBER  
TRANSFER  
NANCY SOWERS  
TO OUR SAVIOURS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NAPERVILLE, IL.  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2021**

**RELEASES  
BENJAMIN SOWERS  
MATTHEW SOWERS  
MARY SOWERS  
ON DECEMBER 16, 2021**



**WEDDING  
SHELBY HAAS  
AND  
TREVOR OZENBAUGH  
MARRIED ON OCTOBER 23, 2021**



We five little Lutheran Church mice had a wonderful Christmas. We now have to keep our spirits in high gear during the dark, cold, and ugly winter months of the year. We will be

so glad to have warm to hot weather come back, trees with leaves, green grass, sitting outside, have the sun out more, and all the good things of Spring and Summer.

We will try and keep our spirits high but that will be hard work. With God by our sides we will get through the awful Winter months.

Squeeky,  
The Lutheran Church Mouse



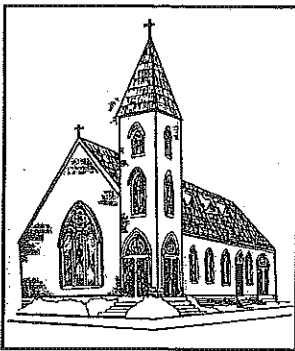
**ALTAR GUILD FOR 2022**

- January Dondra, George, Bethany Bennett
- February Tina Gilman
- March Susie Remington, Becky Howard
- April Dick Thompson, Emily Closser
- May Becky Howard, Sharon Thompson
- June Judy Stevens
- July Debbie Rissman, Susie Remington
- August Linda Howerton, Amy McNally, Jarid Frix
- September Kim Zarse, Dick Zarse
- October Bonnie Haas and Tammy DiRuzza
- November Linda Howerton, Amy McNally, Jarid Frix
- December Linda Holford, Louisa Hamilton

There is an opening in June for someone to help Judy Stevens. Please let Marilyn know if you would like to help that month. You may be asked to help more than one month.

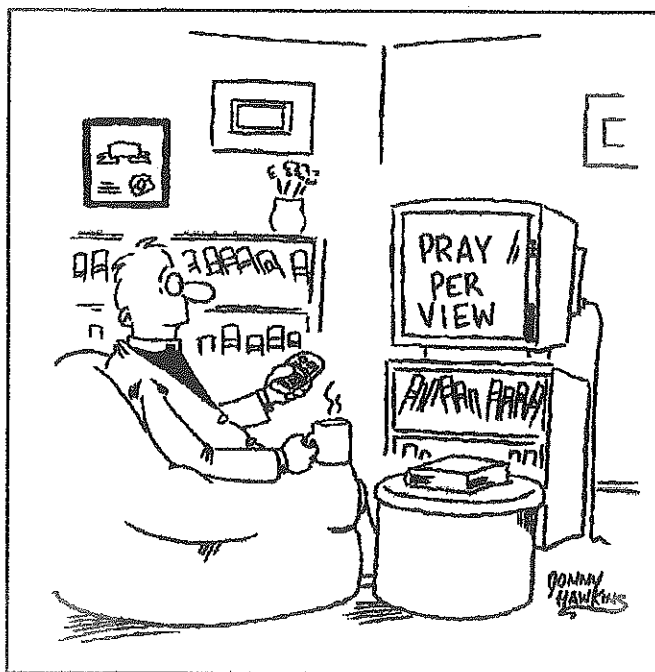
# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	3 9am Office 9:30am-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass Study	4 9am Office	5 9am Office 4:30-6:30pm Warehouse open Bring items only	6 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	7 9am Office	8 9am Heaven's Warehouse open Shopping only
9 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	10 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass	11 9am Office	12 9am Office 4:30-6:30pm Warehouse open Bring clothes only	13 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	14 9am Office	15
16 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	17 9 am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass	18 9am Office	19 9am Office 4:30pm-6:30pm Warehouse open 6pm Church Council	20 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	21 9am Office	22 Heaven's Warehouse open Shopping only
23 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	24 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am BibleClass	25 9am Office	26 9am Office 4:30-6:30pm Warehouse open Bring clothes only	27 9am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry	28 9am Office	29
30 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30am Worship	31 9:00am Office 9:30-10:50am Pete's Pantry 11am Bible Class					



**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



## January Participants



### ORGANIST

2 Marilyn Pierce  
9 Marilyn Pierce  
16 Marilyn Pierce  
23 Marilyn Pierce  
30 Marilyn Pierce

### LECTORS

### ALTAR GUILD

Dondra Bennett  
George Bennett  
Bethany Bennett

### SOUND EQUIPMENT

2 David Shears  
9 David Shears  
16 David Shears  
23 David Shears  
30 David Shears

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

### DEACONS