



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

FEBRUARY, 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

Email Address:
pastorkal 2015
@gmail.com

Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

Printing:
Compliments of
Broadway Press
The Zarse Family

From the Pastor:

My sister has a special "this could only happen to you" category for unusual things that seem to regularly happen to me. The latest of these occurrences literally got my goat.

It all started when I looked out in my pasture and saw something that I thought might be a Black Angus calf, but I knew that the cows shouldn't be calving yet. As I got closer, the animal got up and I was able to see that it was not a calf at all, but rather a black female goat. I could not imagine what a goat was doing in my pasture, because I had never owned a goat in my life, but there she was. She had an ear tag in her right ear, so I knew that she belonged to someone, but to whom? I went up and down our road asking neighbors if they knew anyone who owned goats, but nobody did. I put a notice on Facebook and nobody claimed the goat, so I began to think that maybe I owned a goat!

However, I could see that this was not going to work, because she was constantly walking through every 4-barbwire fence that I have and would graze in my back lawn and liked to come up onto my porch to get out of the rain. By this time, I was used to seeing her every time I pulled up near the garage and decided to give her a name. I called her Annie the Nanny. It was a little unnerving to see her right outside the living room window staring intently at me as I watched television. Not only was she leaving her little black goat pellets all over my porch and sidewalk, but clearly there was no future for her here when spring rolled around. Since she could walk through every fence I have, she would be waltzing over to the neighbor's field destroying their corn next May after planting season.

I knew that Annie had to go somewhere where the boundaries were firmer and I finally found her a home. Our great-nephew, Jason has a few goats and said he would be glad to have one more, so we cornered her in the barn and put her in his truck and now she seems happy. I told Jason that if anybody showed up at my place demanding his goat and threatening to hang goat rustlers, I would send him right over. He said that would be fine.

I believe that God sends me these bizarre things to teach me some lessons, but I am not always sure what the lesson is supposed to be. Maybe the lesson is that I should be more open to new and different things. After all, as a cattle owner I was certainly looking askance at something that was not a cow in my pasture. I have always thought of myself as a cattleman and not a goat boy! Could I adjust and tolerate something different? Am I really that set in my ways?

On the other hand, maybe the lesson is about the importance of boundaries. Annie the Nanny certainly did not have very firm boundaries at my place. The boundaries are good enough for cows, but not firm enough for goats. People need clear boundaries as well. Setting boundaries is very important in the raising of children, for example. Children who grow up without clear and loving boundaries grow up to be insecure adults. Children want to know if anybody cares enough to stop them from going astray until they fall off the edge of the world. They may resent the limits at times, but they are at least secure in them. Adam and Eve had clear boundaries in the Garden of Eden but they transgressed those and that is where the trouble begins.

Another possible lesson is the importance of being able to recognize where home is. Annie the Nanny was really trying to make herself at home, but this was no place for her. This was not her home. This arrangement fit her like a saddle on a sow. In many ways, this is similar to all of us people living on this earth. We would like to think it is our home, but it really is not. God has something much better for us in mind and we need to not get too attached to this world and all its enticing stuff. I am reminded of the old hymn that says, "I'm but a stranger here – heaven is my home". Let's not get too comfortable with this life, because it is not home.

Maybe the lesson is simply to expect the unexpected on this side of the grave. We really don't know how things are going to turn out or what might come our way and it behooves us to trust that whatever it is, the Lord will see us through.

One thing the goat experience is not trying to tell me is that I am the G.O.A.T., meaning the "Greatest of All Time". So, all in all, it was an interesting experience with Annie the Nanny and maybe I learned some lessons. Truth be told, I kind of miss her.

TACKLE



HUNGER

For 2022 our Souper Bowl of Caring event, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for Pete's Pantry from now until February 13th. Look for donation baskets in the narthex.

On February 13th we will have containers of homemade soup for take home after the worship service as we cannot gather in the basement to dine-in as in years past. We have a Thrivent Action Team to promote the event and benefit the needs of Pete's Pantry. Also we want to give a special shout out to all the volunteers working hard to tackle hunger in the Alexandria community. Go Team 😊



We five little Lutheran Church mice are really tired. We had a big Christmas celebration. We celebrated our Lord's birth. Isn't it wonderful that God the Father sent his son to us as a tiny baby? Then he grew up just like we do, with the only difference that he was perfect and we are not perfect. It really makes one feel very close to Jesus. He came as one of us.

Christmas is so full of bright lights and we Lutheran mice are thinking about leaving our Christmas tree up longer to see all the bright lights on ugly dark winter days. It will be a constant reminder that Christmas was bright and cheerful.

Happy Valentines Day this month. We hope that you have a wonderful day. We mice have big plans for that day but they are a secret and we're not telling.

**From Squeaky
The Lutheran Church Mouse**



Pastor Kal, Marilyn, and Linda would like to thank the congregation for the gifts that you gave us this Christmas.

We thank each and everyone of the members for the Christmas cards that you gave to us. All three of us are serving you as God has told us to do. We enjoy doing our serving to God and this congregation. Please keep us in your prayers and we will do the same. Thank you again for your generous hearts.

**The Staff at the Lutheran Church Of
Our Blessed Savior**

The ministry of "being here"

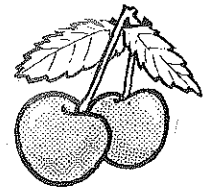
It is genuine ministry for you to be present at church. It is a ministry, first of all, to yourself. You need worship, Bible study and other activities because your Christian life needs constant attention, nurture, and support.

It is a genuine ministry for you to be present at church ... for the rest of us who attend. When you are here, you strengthen my resolve to follow Christ in every way. I enjoy it when you sing with me. I am enriched when you share with me what God is doing in your life. I am called to prayer when you share with me your burdens. You allow me to share my gifts with you.

It is a critical ministry for you to be here for the lost and for the ones searching for a church home. When you are here, they sense that God is real and necessary. When you are absent, God does not seem as important. When you are here, they see a very different testimony.

Think about this the next time you are tempted to say, "I won't go today. No one will miss me," or "What difference does it make whether I'm at church or not?" Remember, just being here is a ministry!

-First Baptist Church
Gracewood, GA



**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

LADIES AID REPORT FOR 2021

February 16, 2021	\$2299.75
Income for 2021	\$2901.72
Expenses for 2021	\$ 631.65
Ending Balance 12-31-21	\$2770.07

EXPENSES FOR 2021

Eternal Candles	\$ 179.20
Checks ordered	\$ 29.97
Communion Supplies	\$ 62.05
Services and Fees	\$ 9.99
Service charge for 2021	\$ 12.00
Communion Supplies	\$ 64.95
Communion Cups	\$ 24.98
Two cup fillers Communion	\$ 34.00
Kitchen Supplies & Chicken	\$ 161.54
3 boxes Communion Cups	\$ 52.97
TOTAL EXPENSES 2021	\$ 631.65

Submitted by Marilyn Pierce



PETE'S PANTRY

Pete's Pantry will be collecting items for the month of February. We will be collecting Spices and Sugar of any kind. All donations are welcome and appreciated.

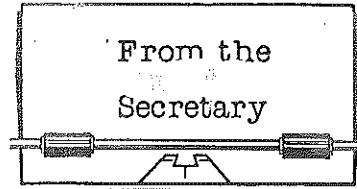


THE PARAMOUNT

The Paramount will present a play on church basement ladies on **March 31st**

at 3:00pm We need to know if anyone is interested in going to this play. all seats are \$35.00

If you are interested let Donna Key-Know.



YEAR 2022 ELECTIONS

Thinking ahead for 2022. Elections of Officers and Deacons are coming up in May. These are the offices that will need elected.

- President: One year term
- Vice President: One year term
- Secretary: One year term
- Deacon: Two year term

We will need to elect another Deacon for Christian Education. This is a two year term and after two years can be elected for another two years.

Tina Gilman and Bethany Bennett can be elected for another year. Their term will be up in 2023.

We will need to elect a new Vice President. This is for a one year term. That person can be elected again for a one year term.

If you would like to run for one of the empty offices please let Tina Gilman know you are interested.

Pray about it and if you would be interested then let someone know. It is our love of God to work for his kingdom.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT 2021

MEMBERSHIP 2020	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
2021 Year Starting Numbers	287	157
By Confirmation		0
By Confirmation Youth	1	0
By Affirmation of Faith		0
By Transfer		0
By Baptism	2	0
By Statistical Adjustment	2	2
MEMBERSHIP TOTAL	292	159
MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2020		
1. By Death	7	7
2. By Transfer	1	1
3. By Statistical Adjustment	3	3
MEMBERSHIP TOTAL		
AS OF 12-31-21	281	148

FUNERALS: Non Member	0
WEDDINGS: Non Member	0

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS	
TOTAL: SUNDAY SERVICES:	1781
SPECIAL SERVICES:	75
AVERAGE: SUNDAY SERVICES:	42

COMMUNING MEMBERS:	
A. CONFIRMED WHO COMMUNED:	81

ATTENDANCE:	
ASH WEDNESDAY:	19
MAUNDY THURSDAY:	0
CHRISTMAS EVE:	56

FEBRUARY 2022

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