



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

JULY, 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.

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765-724-3671

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pastorkal 2015
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Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

Printing:
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The Zarse Family

From the Pastor:

At the end of June, 2022, I will have been the pastor of this congregation for 18 years, which doesn't seem possible. Secretary, Marilyn checked the records and informed me that Pastor Fred Hubert holds the longest tenure as pastor at 18 years plus 2 week. I am now going for the record! I have been the pastor at St. John for 8 years, which also is surprising.

These milestones started me thinking back on my career and the unlikely twists and turns that it has taken. I knew that I wanted to be a Lutheran minister in the 6th grade. I can't tell you exactly how I knew that – I just felt that it was something important and I should do it. I suppose that is what is meant by the "divine call". But what I had envisioned in 6th grade was not at all how things turned out.

Everything was going along as planned through prep school and college, but when I got to Seminary; that is when my plans took a dirt road. There was the Missouri Synod controversy, which led to the Seminary in Exile and we were all told that if we didn't knuckle under, there would be no churches for us when we graduated. This was a pretty big threat, because when you put in 12 years of religious training, you kind of want to do that ministerial work. The threat turned out to be real, because there were no churches for most of us when we graduated. I ended up working on the farm with my dad for half a year sort of marking time.

Then I received a call to be the part-time minister of a split-off mission congregation in Jamestown, North Dakota. I accepted immediately. I found a job working in building construction with the son of one of our members. I did this construction job 44 hours a week and then took care of the congregation the rest of my time.

The North Dakota State Hospital happens to be located in Jamestown and it is a large psychiatric and chemical dependency hospital. I had tried to become an addiction counselor intern, because I was interested in this field, but they said since I had the church, I wouldn't be able to do this. I was really looking to get indoors somewhere, because construction in the winter is not pleasant in North Dakota.

The opportunity came when there was an opening in the chaplaincy training program in this same hospital and the Lutheran supervisor didn't care if I had a church part-time. When he asked what part of the hospital I would like to do my chaplaincy work in, I said I wanted chemical dependency.

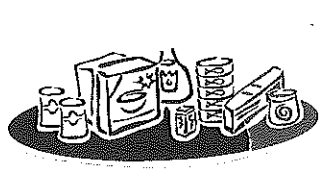
Once I became the chaplain intern for chemical dependency I was sitting in on groups, doing lectures on spirituality and listening to moral inventories. The director then said that he thought I could do the internship to be a certified addiction counselor, since I was already doing it. I then worked at the outpatient clinic and resigned as pastor, because the church had grown enough to support a full-time pastor and they called another Seminex grad.

One day I saw a chaplaincy newsletter that had job opportunities listed. One position was for a Spiritual Care Counselor, which required chaplaincy training, addiction counselor certification and parish experience. I said to my wife that they were looking for me and so they were. I moved to Muncie, Indiana to work in the new treatment center. As the years went by I switched to strictly addiction counselor, then nicotine dependency counselor and finally slid over to become hospital chaplain. I was fortunate to have the varied training so that I could stay one step ahead of unemployment.

Then one day I received a call from Dick Zarse, who was the president of Our Blessed Savior and he asked if I could fill in for a few Sundays until their interim pastor arrived. I was not on any pulpit supply list and thus, I was so surprised that I said "yes". Later, I was offered the position of pastor and have been here for 18 years since. In the meantime, I was the vacancy pastor for St. John Lutheran and they asked if I could be the part-time minister there too and I have been there for 8 years. This is how I wound up back in the parish by accident.

I give you all this history to demonstrate that you never know what the Lord has in store for you. My career has not turned out at all the way that I thought it would. My 6-word memoir would be "Not exactly what I had planned"! I would like to tell you that this was all because I was very faithful and accepted all of God's plans along the way, but that would certainly be romancing the truth. For the most part, I have just been bouncing from pillar to post not really knowing what would turn up next. I certainly did not anticipate all the twists and turns that my life would take and it is only when I look in the rearview mirror that I can see the hand of God leading me here and shoving me there.

I wish I had been less concerned about where I thought I should be going and more concerned about paying attention to the new thing that the Lord was laying in front of me. There is an old saying that goes like this, "If you want to make God laugh, just tell Him your plans!" I'll bet the Lord has had some really good chuckles over me. But the thing that always comforts me is that I can see that no matter where I have gone and what I have done, the Lord has always been right there with me to see it through.



ITEMS OFTEN NEEDED FOR PETE'S PANTRY

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

Bread/Buns

Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Relish

Tomato Soup

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup

Baked Beans

Grape Jelly

Ramen Noodles - any flavor

Cereal

Garden Produce is Always Welcome

Canned Chicken, Tuna, or other canned

Meats

Tea Bags or Instant Tea or Instant

Lemonade

Fruit - can peaches, mandarin oranges, pineapple, mixed fruit, applesauce

Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash or

Bar Soap, Deodorant

Personal Care Items

****PETE'S PANTRY CAN BUY MEAT FOR \$.19 A POUND AND MANY TYPES OF DAIRY ITEMS COST \$.10 A POUND. MONEY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO HELP THE PANTRY SECURE AS MANY LOW COST ITEMS AS POSSIBLE EACH WEEK.

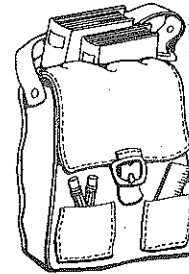


The five little Lutheran Church mice went on Vacation. They have been so

busy watching over the church that they said they needed a vacation. They love their job but would like to see some time away. They will be back in the August Newsletter. Have a great summer and we love you all.

Squeaky,

The Lutheran Church Mouse



**HEADING
BACK TO
SCHOOL**

BACK TO SCHOOL

Our congregation will be collecting monetary donations that will go to Alexandria's Back To School supplies giveaway. Donations will also be accepted. Below is a list of items needed.

24 Crayola Crayons

Dry Erase Markers

#2 Pencils

Glue Sticks

Colored Pencils

Pocket Folders

Composition Books

Crayola Markers - Broad Line

Scissors

Notebooks or Loose Leaf Writing

Paper

Yellow Highlighters

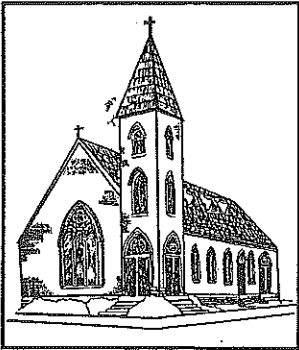
Pink Wedge Erasers

Black or Blue Pens

Plastic Ruler

JULY 2022

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



**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



"The church sure has changed since I was a kid."

July Participants



ORGANIST

3 Marilyn Pierce
10 Marilyn Pierce
17 Marilyn Pierce
24 Marilyn Pierce
31 Marilyn Pierce

SOUND EQUIPMENT

3 David Shears
10 David Shears
17 David Shears
24 David Shears
31 David Shears

LECTORS

Becca Key-Kerr
Dick Zarse
Stephanie Salazar
Becca Key-Kerr
Dick Zarse

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Andrea Barnett
Peggy Cox
Mike Thompson
Emily Closser
Shon Littlefield

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Rissman
Susie Remington

DEACONS

Donna Key-Kerr
Tina Gilman
Becky Howard
Donna Key-Kerr
George Bennett