

Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

JANUARY, 2023

From the Pastor:

Pastor:
Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

**Church Council
President:**
Tina Gilman

Vice President:
David Shears

Secretary:
Bethany Bennett

Treasurer:

Other Members:
Andrea Barnett
Donna Key-Kerr
Marilyn Pierce
Stephanie Salazar
Dick Zarse
Kim 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:
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The Zarse Family

In the last newsletter we informed the congregation about the possibility of St. John Lutheran and the Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior becoming a shared ministry. Another term for this is a two-point parish. As we said, this does not mean the two churches would merge as one, but would still have their own identity and place of worship and ministry. However, the cooperation would be better and there could be more sharing of staff and resources.

In order to become a two-point parish, some things would have to be accomplished. The percentage of financial support from each congregation would have to be agreed upon for the new entity. For example, there could be a 60-40 split of financial support, because OBS is the larger congregation and would take on the larger portion. This would also mean that I would be spending more time proportionately in ministry for OBS, however. Both congregations would have to have a congregational vote to decide if they want to go along with what both of the church councils are recommending. Then a new call would have to be issued to me, since I am currently only called to Our Blessed Savior and am just contracted year to year at St. John.

Many of the conditions for a two-point parish are already in place. Both churches already share a minister. The worship times are already in place for both parishes. We have a combined choir and a combined Bible study. We already take turns hosting festival worship services. We already have begun to attend and support each other's functions. In many ways we have been functioning as a shared ministry, but this would make the cooperation and use of resources even better.

It is no secret that as our members die off and are not replaced, the financial condition of both congregations is a real concern. St. John Lutheran is month to month trying to stay ahead of the expenses. Our Blessed Savior is taking money every month out of savings and this can only go on at this rate for another couple of years.

The executive committee has suggested that I would take the new call of the two-point parish as a three quarters time minister instead of full time. This would reduce the budget by about \$16,000.00 and would make it possible for both congregations to continue as they are. I have accepted this proposal if the two churches vote to become a shared ministry.

There is no need to fear that my being three quarters time means that some ministerial duties will go lacking. Basically, I will still be doing everything that I am doing now, but for less money. So, for example, if there are four funerals in a

month, I won't be saying that I can only do three of them, because I'm three quarters time. It won't mean that I will only do three of the four Bible studies in the month or only do 3 sermons in a month. It won't mean that the sermons are only three quarters as long as before!

But what it will mean is that when time allows, I will probably be taking more time to do some things I want to do, such as visiting the grandchildren and spending more time outside working on the Ponderosa or even making more time to have lunch with friends. I will still make sure that all the responsibilities of both churches are taken care of, probably because I am too compulsive not to.

I believe that this new plan of two-point parish and three quarters time is going to be essential for the survival of both congregations. This will also set us up well for the future for when I drop over dead or retire. The new combined budget would support a young minister on a full-time basis, because he or she would have a lower base salary than someone with my years of experience and my advanced certifications. This new entity with two congregations that are doing vital work in their respective communities and a reasonable salary would make an attractive position for a young clergy person and their family.

I hope both congregations think about this possibility and pray about it. I believe the church councils have come up with a good plan for our future.

A visit

One day I rang a doorbell
In a casual sort of way,
Twas not a formal visit
And there wasn't much to say.
I don't remember what I said —
It matters not, I guess —
I found a heart in hunger,
A soul in deep distress.
He said I came from Heaven,
And I often wondered why;
He said I came to see him
When no other help was nigh.
It meant so little to me,
To knock at a stranger's door,
But it meant Heaven to him.
And God's peace forevermore.

—Heights Baptist Church
Pensacola, FL



We would like to give a big thank you for the members who donated poinsettias for our Christmas season. The poinsettias make the church look so beautiful.

Becky Howard	Emily Closser
Peggy Cox	Donna Pierce
Tina Gilman	Stephanie Salazar
MM Dick Zarse	MM Mick Bowen
Dr. & Mrs. Herb Berner	
MM George Bennett	Marilyn Pierce

We also want to thank Michael Thompson for the lovely Christmas trees that he picks each Christmas season.



We five little Lutheran Church mice did plan a wonderful Christmas. We gave each other one gift, had a Christmas tree, sang all the Christmas carols in the hymnals, had a good meal, and thanked God for a wonderful day. We wanted a nativity set and we received one, instead of human people, it was all mice. Wasn't that nice, we had never seen one like that! Even baby Jesus was a mouse. Remember we also are mice and it was so nice to have Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the Wise men, and Shepherds all mice. We thank that person for making our

Christmas so great. So now we will glorify God every day and say thank you for sending your son to save us. We mice hope you had a great Christmas too. We want to say Merry Christmas to all members again.

**Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse**



PRAYER LIST

Members who need our prayers. Bob Fletcher, Connie Knigga, Willodene Herrick, Richard Howard, Ralph Grose, Sarah Hall, and Dean Morehead. The Social Ministries Committee sends cards each month to Nursing home members and those who are sick. If you know of anyone that is sick please contact Marilyn in the church office.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

**ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.
BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE**

November 2022

Income for November	\$ 8,655.00
Income Year to Date	\$ 97,712.38
Expenses for November	\$ 9,244.09
Expenses Year to Date	\$ 116,518.72
Net Income for November	\$ - 589.04
Loss Year to Date	\$ -18,805.76



ITEMS OFTEN NEEDED FOR PETE'S PANTRY DECEMBER

Cake Mixes	Coffee
Cans of Icing	Tomato Juice
Instant Oatmeal - all flavors	
Diced Tomatoes	Chili Beans
Crackers	Cereal
Corn Muffin Mix	Soups - all types
Instant Oatmeal - all flavors	
Personal Care Items	
Flour, Sugar, Spices	

****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.



FREE TO BE BIBLE STUDY

As part of moving towards a shared ministry, we are going to have a combined Bible Class with both Our Blessed Savior and St. John participating. The class will be held at St. John on Friday afternoons at 1:00p.m. This is always a good gathering with lively discussion and good fellowship. Come and bring a friend.



THANK YOU

Pastor Kal, Marilyn, and Linda would like to thank the congregation for their generous Christmas gift to each of us. We really appreciate it. We each do the work that God expects of us and we do it with love in our hearts for each one here at The Lutheran Church Of Our Blessed Savior. Thank you for remembering us, it means a lot to each of us. Thanks again!!



BAPTISM

Elvery Louise Key

Born: March 2, 2021

Baptized: December 4, 2022

She is the daughter of Barrett and Anastasia Key
Granddaughter of Donna Key-Kerr

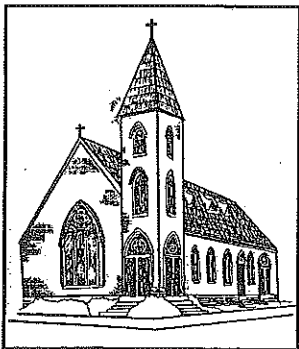
Strength from God

I believe that God can and will bring good out of evil, even out of the greatest evil. I believe that God will give us all the strength we need to help us to resist in all time of distress. But he never gives it in advance, lest we should rely on ourselves and not on him alone.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
executed for resisting Hitler

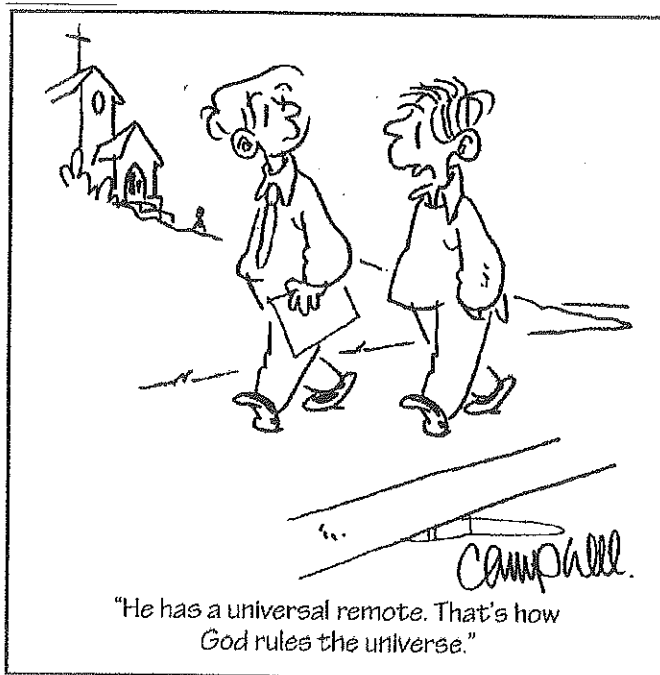
JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	2 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	3 9:00 am Office	4 9:00 am Office	5 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir	6 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood	7.
8 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	9 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	10. 9:00 am Office	11 9 am Office 4:30pm Warehouse open 6:00 pm Church Council	12 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir	13 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood	14 10:00 am Warehouse open shopping only
15 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	16 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	17 9:00 am Office	18 9:00 am Office 4:30 pm Warehouse open	19 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir	20 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood	21
22 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	23 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	24 9:00 am Office	25 9:00 am Office 4:30 pm Warehouse Open	26 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir	27 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood	28 10:00 am Warehouse Open Shopping only
29 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	30 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	31 9:00 am Office				



**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

1 Marilyn Pierce
8 Marilyn Pierce
15 Marilyn Pierce
22 Marilyn Pierce
29 Marilyn Pierce

SOUND EQUIPMENT

1 David Shears
8 David Shears
15 David Shears
22 David Shears
29 David Shears

LECTORS

Donna Key-Kerr
Becca Key-Kerr
Carol Shears
Stephanie Salazar
Tina Gilman

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Andrea Barnett
Dick Zarse
Shon Littlefield
Emily Closser
Peggy Cox

ALTAR GUILD

Dondra Bennett
George Bennett
Bethany Bennett

DEACONS

Becky Howard
George Bennett
Tina Gilman
Becky Howard
Tammy DiRuzza