



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

FEBRUARY, 2023

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:

pastorkal2015
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Sunday School:

9:30 A.M.

Worship:

10:30 A.M.

Printing:

Compliments of
Broadway Press
The Zarse Family

From the Pastor:

Our family Christmas plans had to be changed this year because of what I refer to as "North Dakota weather". That phrase means that you only get an inch of snow, but it is piled up several feet high in a few spots by a 50 mile an hour wind and you have 30 degrees below wind chill.

We did finally manage to see the grandkids and most of my family before the big storm and then we waited until after Christmas to see Deborah's family. For the most part it was a good day with Deborah's family, although I was kind of beaten up by the little girls in the family who thought I looked like a giant play toy and hit me, kicked me and jumped on me. Apparently, I have that effect on females of all ages!

However, there was a sad side to the celebration as well, because Deborah's younger sister, Sheila now has dementia and it is progressing very rapidly. She is only 65 years old, but she cannot remember anything, has trouble with speech trying to string words together and oftentimes just sits and cries in frustration. She has a blank look on her face and is as lost as a puppy on the highway. She really cannot be left alone for any length of time and her husband is going to have to retire early so that he can be with her and take care of her.

The sadness and concern by Sheila's husband and siblings was very apparent, but I felt especially bad for her children to whom her condition seems patently unfair. The grandchildren really don't know what to make of this situation.

This condition of some form of dementia is certainly not a rare thing nowadays, however. There are all kinds of families that are trying to deal with this condition in one of their loved ones. There are numerous members of our two churches who are faced with some very difficult decisions and situations with their loved ones who have some form of dementia. There are decisions that have to be made to keep the affected person safe and this is not always received well by that person. There is oftentimes anger and resentment towards family members who are only doing what is necessary to protect their affected loved one.

The other side of the coin is the difficulty that the person with dementia is going through. They may not know that they need help and are determined to be independent and on their own, even though this is not safe. They may end up railing and raging against their family members and believe they are being persecuted.

When I did groups on the geriatric unit of Psychiatry at the hospital I noticed that there seemed to be two different types of reactions to those who had a form of dementia known as Alzheimers. One group was simply quiet and forgetful,

but the other group was hostile, irascible and combative. The second group is much more difficult to deal with for family and caregivers.

All in all, dementia is a thoroughly disgusting illness and very difficult not only for the patient, but for the family. What makes it even worse is that the problem doesn't stop even after the patient has died from dementia. Many times I have talked to family members who felt horribly guilty after their loved one died, because they didn't seem to feel any sadness or grief. They just kind of felt nothing. What I tried to explain to them is that dementia is a cause for what is known as "complicated grief", because you have grieved the loss of the person you once knew long before they actually died. In other words, you lost them a long time before you actually lost them. The person you were left with in this illness is only a mere shell of the person you once knew and loved. You lost that person as you knew them many years ago as the illness slowly drained away their abilities and their personality.

My hope is that people in our congregations are talking to one another and getting help with making decisions and getting support for the frustrations and sadness that they have with this illness. Comparing notes with other families in the same situation always helps. Asking for strength from the Lord to get through what we must always helps too. We await the Lord's coming to turn around all the evil in the world, but in the meantime we seek His help and the help of each other to endure. Come, Lord Jesus.



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

December 2022

Income for December \$ 7,542.00
Income Year to Date \$ 105,254.38
Expenses for December \$ 11,857.60
Expenses Year to Date \$ 128,376.32
Net Income for December \$ -4315.55
Loss Year to Date \$ -23,121.33



ITEMS OFTEN NEEDED FOR PETE'S PANTRY FEBRUARY

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.



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY from the five Lutheran Church Mice. We wish every member a very happy day. The Lutheran dog, Penny has a birthday on Valentines Day. February should be titled the month of being happy and love our fellowmen.

Have you noticed all the fixing up and painting that has been done and is still getting done? We five little Lutheran Church mice know that Dick Zarse does not want praise for doing the work but, he is doing God's work to keep God's house in order. Whenever you see Dick why not tell him "Thank You"?

Donna Key-Kerr is busy buying food, ordering food for the pantry. We see alot of her at the church each week and she keeps the Worship Committee working each week.

Becky Howard is doing a good job of changing the sign in the front of the Church, plus she arranges the flowers each week.

David Shears is doing a great job with the choir and recording the service each week and putting it on the web site. We say "Thank You" to all these people.

**SQUEEKY,
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MOUSE**

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT 2022

| MEMBERSHIP | BAPTIZED | CONFIRMED |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 2022 Year Starting Numbers | 281 | 148 |
| By Confirmation | 0 | |
| By Confirmation Youth | 0 | |
| By Affirmation of Faith | 0 | |
| By Transfer | 4 | |
| By Baptism | 1 | |
| By Statistical Adjustment | | |
| MEMBERSHIP TOTAL | 286 | |
| AS OF 12-31-2022 | | |
| MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2022 | | |
| 1. By Death | 4 | |
| 2. By Transfer | 0 | |
| 3. By Statistical Adjustment | 1 | |
| MEMBERSHIP TOTAL | 282 | 145 |
| AS OF 12-31-2022 | | |
| FUNERALS: Non Member | 0 | |
| WEDDINGS: Non Member | 0 | |
| ATTENDANCE STATISTICS | | |
| TOTAL: SUNDAY SERVICES: | 1971 | |
| SPECIAL SERVICES: | 29 | |
| AVERAGE: SUNDAY SERVICES: | 38 | |
| COMMUNING MEMBERS: | | |
| A. CONFIRMED WHO COMMUNED: | 70 | |
| ATTENDANCE: | | |
| ASH WEDNESDAY Alexandria: | 29 | |
| MAUNDY THURSDAY: | 0 | |
| CHRISTMAS EVE Elwood: | 0 | |

Youth & Education

As we begin 2023, take a moment and think about the educational opportunities at our church! They are fun, lively, motivating, and stretch our understanding of Christian beliefs. We may be a small church, but we have a lot to offer!

Sunday School for Children: 9:30 - taught by Andrea Barnett

Sunday School for Adults: 9:30 - taught by Donna Key-Kerr

'Free to Be' Bible Study for Adults: 11:30 on Fridays at St. John Church, Elwood - taught by Pastor Kal

Please join us, and bring a friend!

23rd Annual 'Souper Bowl of Caring' – Sunday, February 12th

It is time to prepare for our annual 'Souper Bowl' Sunday with some fun and a delicious Soup, Sandwich, & Salad Pitch-In Lunch served downstairs after our service!! A menu sign-up sheet is on the narthex table.

So, let's celebrate our individual abundance by donating canned food goods or money that will then be passed on to **Pete's Pantry**.

Please contact Kim Zarse with any questions, and spread the word by bringing your family and friends!!

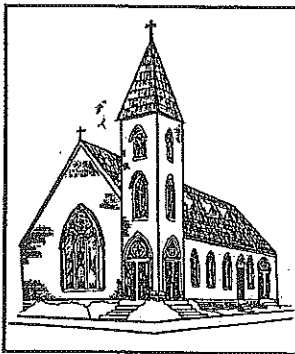


LADIES' AID YEARLY REPORT

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Starting Balance | 2,333.04 |
| Income Jan-Dec, 2022 | 1,170.00 |
| Income Total | <u>3,493.04</u> |
| Expenses Jan-Dec, 2022 | |
| Service Charge | 24.00 |
| Congregation Communion cups | 52.97 |
| Communion Wine | 152.54 |
| Trinity Church Supply Eternal Candles | 489.80 |
| New Microwave | 255.73 |
| Chicken for Church Dinner | 263.60 |
| Picnic Dinner & Funeral Dinner | 356.16 |
| Baptismal Supplies | 35.90 |
| Expense Total | <u>1,630.70</u> |
| Starting total for Jan. 2023 | 1,862.34 |

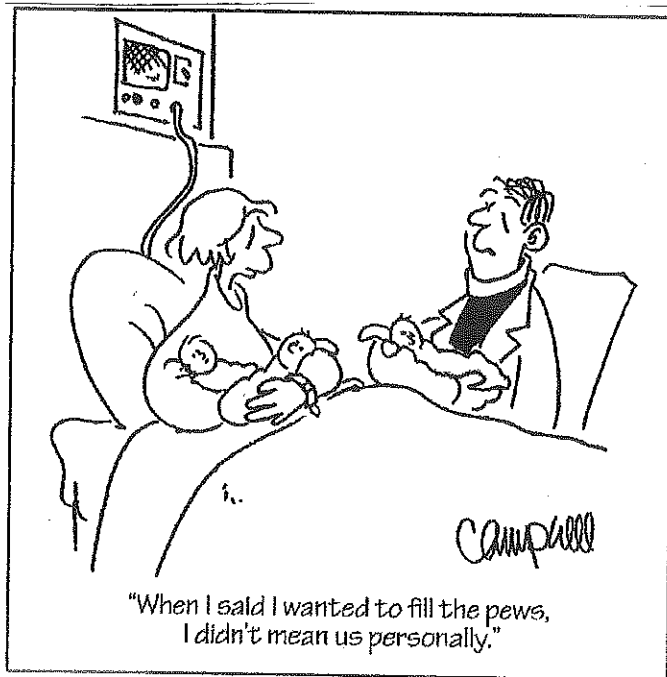
JANUARY 2023

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



"When I said I wanted to fill the pews,
I didn't mean us personally."

February Participants



ORGANIST

5 Marilyn Pierce
12 Marilyn Pierce
19 Marilyn Pierce
22 Marilyn Pierce
26 Marilyn Pierce

SOUND EQUIPMENT

5 David Shears
12 David Shears
19 David Shears
22 David Shears
26 David Shears

LECTORS

Ron Haas
Becca Key-Kerr
Audrey Salazar
Carol Shears
Tina Gilman

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Mike Thompson
Dick Zarse
Shon Littlefield

Emily Closser

ALTAR GUILD

Tina Gilman
Family

DEACONS

Donna Key-Kerr
Becky Howard
Tammy DiRuzza

George Bennett