



Blessings and Musings

The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

NOVEMBER, 2023

Pastor:
Kal Rissman
765-754-7381

**Church Council
President:**
David Shears

Vice President:
Shon Littlefield

Secretary:
Carol Shears

Treasurer:
Helen Gregory
Accountability

Other Members:
Andrea Barnett
Becky Howard
Donna Key-Kerr
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.

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Sunday School:
9:30 A.M.

Worship:
10:30 A.M.

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From the Pastor:

I had an old riding lawn mower that I wanted to get rid of, so I called my guy, Gene, that always works on my mowers and asked if he wanted it and he came out and took it off my hands. He is a faithful member of one of the other congregations in the area and we started talking about church and how things are going. He said that their attendance is really up and the number of kids in Sunday School is amazing. I had to admit that that is not the way things are going in our congregations and that people are dying off at an alarming rate and we don't seem to be replacing them with new people or younger people.

We talked about what kinds of things seem to interest people in wanting to come to church now in the Post-Christian Age. Gene said that he thinks the Bible-based preaching, lively music and friendliness are the things that are working in his congregation. As he was talking, I was thinking that these are things that I believe we have in our congregations and was wondering why this didn't seem to be doing it.

But then he mentioned something else that really caught my attention. He said that they are having a special Sunday with a car show and picnic and dinner and he really thought this would be a good time to see if folks would come who had been missing for a while and folks who had never attended. He said that he took his phone and went through all his list of contacts and wrote down all the people that he hadn't seen in church for a while or those he thought had no church affiliation. He ended up with 12 names and he called all 12 of them and invited them to come to their worship and celebration. He said that two of them promised that they would be there.

At this point I thought I knew what was missing from our churches. It is that personal invitation to come and be with us. Lutherans are notoriously bad at being invitational and it seems to be a real struggle for us to open our mouths and invite somebody to worship. That explains how we got to this point, but it doesn't excuse it. When something isn't working, it makes sense to try something different.

I recall one time at the hospital that some nurses were standing at the counter talking about their religious experiences. One nurse said that she had visited a couple different churches, but was not really comfortable at either one. At this point one of the other nurses said, "Oh, you have got to come to my church! The music is so uplifting and the sermons are so down-to-earth and practical and the people are so welcoming and friendly. I'll pick you up Sunday morning at 9:30.

You will love it!" I was very impressed with this invitation, but all I could think of was that this woman was obviously not a Lutheran.

One very important part of her invitation was when she said, "I'll pick you up". It is intimidating to walk into a place where you may not know anybody and you probably will not be familiar with the order of service and liturgical practices. However, if you are picked up by somebody and sit next to them and they explain what is going on, it is not so intimidating. I have seen our members do a good job of reaching out to visitors and giving them a bulletin and making sure they know what is going on and that is very helpful. But I still think the phrase, "I'll pick you up", works the best.

Certainly, people get much of their information today through their electronic devices and we are trying to do a good job of having our worship live streamed and on our website. But people are also looking for a personal connection with other folks who are striving to be connected also to the Lord, so I still think the personal invitation is the key.

So, do you not think that we have something great to offer at our church? If you do, then work on getting over your shy, Lutheran self and invite and pick them up!

The Chosen

St. John Lutheran is showing episodes of "The Chosen" on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. starting the first Wednesday in November, which is November 1st. This series portrays the life and ministry of Jesus and his disciples and is really well done. Sometimes when we read the Bible, the characters seem rather flat, but in this movie series, the characters are fleshed out and become very real. The personality of Jesus and his disciples comes through with all of their quirks and struggles.

This is the best religious programming that I have seen in a long time. I must confess that most religious programming leaves me rather cold, because it is hoaky and overblown, but not so with "The Chosen". This is a film series that is inspiring and well worth your time. Consider joining the folks at our sister congregation and eat snacks and watch a good show.

Pastor Kal

TREASURER'S REPORT

ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.
BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE

September 2023

Income for September
\$ 6,919.00
Income Year to Date
\$ 94,852.65
Expenses for September
\$ 10,387.95
Expenses Year to Date
\$ 95,362.34
Net Income for September
\$ -3,468.91
Net Year to Date
\$ -508.99



HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Ralph Grose and Reanelle Heritage, 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 or Becky Howard, Deacon of Social Ministries.

TOYS FOR CHILDREN

Bowling for Toys for Children of Alexandria. All members come out and bowl or just come out for food, laughs, and fellowship! Saturday, November 11, 2023 5 - 8 @ Norwood Bowl in Alexandria.



We five little Lutheran Church mice had a very nice weekend at Pastor Kal and Debbie's house. We stole a ride in Pastor's car. We had to hurry and get in his car. If you aren't in the car, you might get left because, he goes so fast. Once you are in the car away he goes. We went to St. John and went to their Free To Be Bible Class. We had to wait on him, but he had a good class. Then we went to his house where it is quiet, restful, has good food and you can hear and watch the cows. You can even fish if you want.

We came to the church picnic to have fun and see all the people. The worship service was really nice with the special music by Eddie Slaven and the Mountain Laurel Band. The sermon was good like always.

After the worship service we had more special music. Then we heard the food was ready. Oh Boy, now we can eat! We had a lot of food and was it ever good!

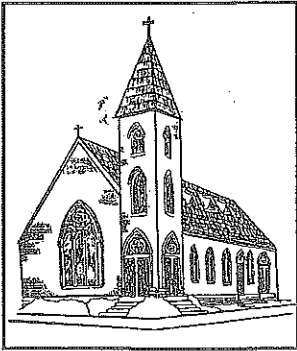
It takes a lot of time, energy, strength and love to get ready for the picnic. We all want to thank Debbie and Pastor for a wonderful day.

We want to thank the grillers and those who helped clean up and put things away.

Squeeky,
The Lutheran Church Mouse

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:30am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	6 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	7 9am Office	8 9:am Office 4:30pm Warehouse open	9 9am Office 9:30-10:50 am Pete's Pantry 7pm Choir	10 9:am Office 1:pm Bible Study St. John Elwood	11 10:00am- 12:00pm Warehouse Open for shopping
12 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	13 9 am Office 9:30 am Pantry	14 9:am Office	15 9am Office 4:30pm Warehouse open 6pm Council	16 9am Office 9:30-10:50 am Pete's Pantry 7pm Choir	17 9 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood	18
19 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	20 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	21 9 am Office	22 9am Office 4:30pm Warehouse Open	23 Church Office, Pete's Pantry, and Choir closed for Holiday	24 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John	25 10:00am- 12:00pm Warehouse Open for shopping
26 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship	27 9:am Office 9:30am Pantry	28 9:am Office	29 9am Office Warehouse Open 4:30pm	30 9am Office Warehouse Open 4:30pm		



**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



November Participants



ORGANIST

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

LECTORS

Becca Key-Kerr
Carol Shears
Stephanie Salazar
Becca Key-Kerr

ALTAR GUILD

~~Louisa Hamilton~~
Linda Hamilton
Amy McVally
Janet Fisk

SOUND EQUIPMENT

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

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Peggy Cox
Emily Closser
Shon Littlefield
Shon Littlefield

DEACONS

Tina Gilman
Donna Key-Kerr
George Bennett
Becky Howard