



# Blessings and Musings

## The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

### JANUARY, 2024

**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.

**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

**From the Pastor:**

I am pretty excited this winter, because my old car now has some heat and new shock absorbers. My wife, Deborah thought that it was a sanity check last year, because I went all winter without any heat and just bundled up and drove everywhere. The rear end was bottoming out every time I hit a bump and that was kind of annoying also. But now the old Buick is like a brand- new machine with heat and shocks and everything! I don't know if it is the sentimental attachment, because this was my father's old car or if I am just that conserving by nature, but I am not one to give up on a good vehicle easily.

I have been told by at least two mechanics that this 22- year- old car has the best engine in it that General Motors ever made and that does seem to be true. The outside of it is kind of falling apart in spots, but the inside still thinks it is a young car and keeps going.

I suppose in a way that the old Buick is kind of like its owner. I know that there are parts of me that don't quite look and act like they used to, but inside I still tend to think of myself as pretty young. I may be 72 years old on the outside, but inside my own head I tend to think of myself as still being in my 40's. I don't think that I am the only senior citizen that feels that way. After watching our members try to bowl recently, I am convinced that there are others who think of themselves differently on the inside than what their outside is showing!

This delusion about who we are and what we can do may seem kind of funny, but there is something underneath all of this that is deadly serious. I read a book by Ernst Becker that is entitled, "The Denial of Death". In this book the author talks about all the various ways that we try to put off death, avoid talking about death and try not to refer to ways that we are steadily going downhill that will ultimately result in death.

The acceptance of death is not an easy thing for most of us. In fact, I remember talking to a patient in the treatment center who said at one point, "Well, if I ever die...". I had to interrupt and ask him, "If you ever die...? What do you mean if? Are you on some kind of a different program than the rest of us"? "Well, you know what I mean – when I die". But I think that he originally said what he meant, that it was an "if" instead of a "when".

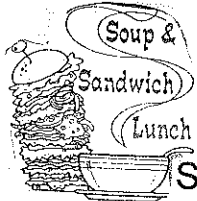
I was forcefully reminded of that this week when I got news from my old college roommate and best friend, Greg Kaufmann. His wife, Diane had a major heart attack with triple bypass open heart surgery and then has more and more complications afterwards. She has now decided to go on hospice care at home.

Greg and Diane are both 72 years old, which is exactly my age, so this strikes pretty close to home. Besides that, these are both great and faithful people who have served the church, been a great asset to their community and a great friend to me and other folks. It just doesn't seem like this situation is right or fair.

But it does powerfully point out that none of us are going to escape death and the more we remember this, hopefully, the better we will use this temporary gift of life that we have been given. For those of us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, this prospect is not bad, because we have something better to look forward to. As my father once said when he was in the nursing home, "I don't think I am going any place worse than here and I would like to get there!" That is the way I feel about it too. I am not worried about being dead -I am just worried about the process of dying to get there. The fear of the unknown is oftentimes more powerful than the pain of that which we get used to.

Remembering that this shell of our body that we reside in for a while doesn't last forever, will lead us to make better use of the time that we have left. As a hospital chaplain, I can't tell you how many times I was at the bedside of someone who was dying and heard their family members say things like, "I just wish I had one more day. I should have told Dad how much he meant to me and that I love him". I always thought to myself, "Well, where was that desire yesterday or the day before that?" I also thought, "Aren't there other people that you need to tell that you love them and that need a hug. Today is the only day that you have, so are you going to do that today?"

Jesus advised his disciples to not spend a lot of time trying to predict when the end of time was going to come or when they were going to die. He entreated them to do the things that they knew they should be doing every day and to treat each day as if it might be their last, because it just might be.



### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Souper Bowl of Caring will be on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th. The youth will be providing information in their skit and there will be a pitch-in soup and sandwich dinner after the service.



We five little Lutheran mice have been so busy. We are getting ready to celebrate Jesus birth. We want to take time to read out of the Bible about Jesus birth. We love to sing the Christmas hymns. We love the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

The church is so beautiful when all the candles are lighted and the lights are turned off. Christmas is special in many ways. The Poinsettias are so pretty and makes the service so special.

Squeeky, Angel, Scotty, Tiny and Smiley would like to tell all the members of The Lutheran Church Of Our Blessed Savior MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

**SQUEEKY,**  
The Lutheran Church mouse



### HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Ralph Grose, Roselynn Brown, Barrett Key, and Matthew Barnett. 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.



### THANK YOU

Pastor Kal, Marilyn Pierce, Amy McNally would like to thank the congregation for the wonderful Christmas gift. We love working for you and our Lord. We hope that each of you had a great Christmas. Thank you for letting us serve you.

From the Staff,  
Pastor Kal, Marilyn, and Amy.

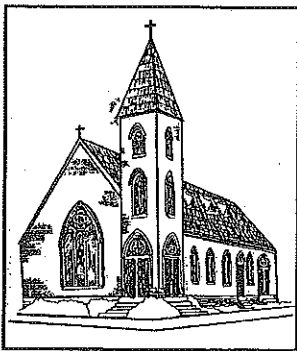
**A BIG THANK YOU**  
WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PEOPLE WHO DONATED THE POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

- MM George Bennett
- MM Dick Zarse
- MM Mick Bowen
- MM Toby Gilman
- Donna Key-Kerr
- Becky Howard
- Stephanie Salazar
- Louisa Hamilton
- Marilyn Pierce

B.C. = Bible Class S. S. = Sunday School for children

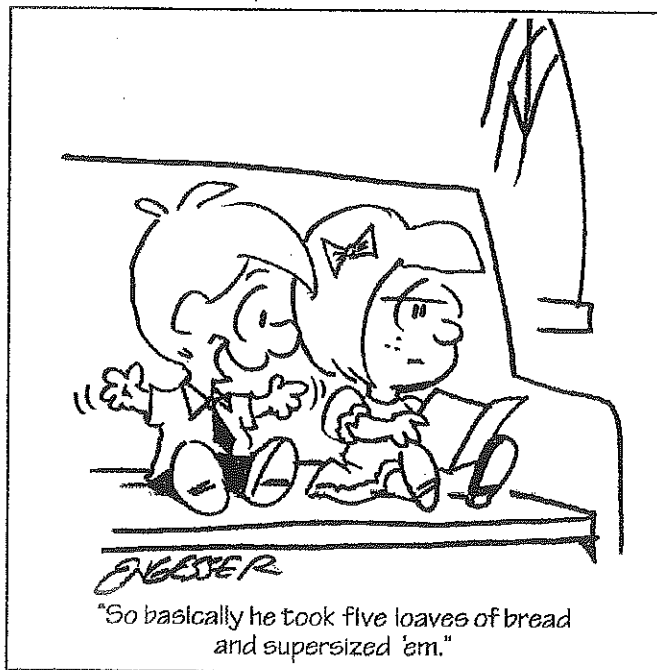
# JANUARY 2024

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



**Lutheran Church  
of Our Blessed Savior**  
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Alexandria, IN 46001

**Church Office**  
765-724-3671  
**Pastor Kal Rissman**  
Home: 765-754-7381



"So basically he took five loaves of bread  
and supersized 'em."

## January Participants



### ORGANIST

7 Marilyn Pierce  
14 Marilyn Pierce  
21 Marilyn Pierce  
28 Richard Thompson

### LECTORS

Stephanie Salazar  
Becca Key-Kerr  
Donna Key-Kerr  
Dr. Herb Berner

### ALTAR GUILD

Dondra Bennett  
Gorge Bennett  
Bethany Bennett

### SOUND EQUIPMENT

7 David Shears  
14 David Shears  
21 David Shears  
28 David Shears

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

Mike Thompson  
Emily Closser  
Dick Zarse  
Peggy Cox

### DEACONS

Tina Gilman  
Donna Key-Kerr  
Becky Howard  
George Bennett