

# Blessings and Musings

## The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

### MAY, 2020

#### From the Pastor:

**Pastor:**  
Kal Rissman  
765-754-7381

**Church Council  
President:**  
George Bennett

**Vice President:**  
David Shears

**Secretary:**  
Carol Shears

**Treasurer:**  
Nancy Sowers

**Other Members:**  
Bill Feldheiser  
Becca Kerr  
Kathie Loser  
Marilyn Pierce  
Eddie Slaven  
Dick Zarse

**Organist:**  
Marilyn Pierce

**Church Secretary:**  
Marilyn Pierce  
765-215-6088  
9 AM - Noon  
Mon. Wed. Thurs.  
and Fri.  
Tues. 1:00 pm

**Office Phone:**  
765-724-3671

**Email Address:**  
[www.pastorkal.com](http://www.pastorkal.com)  
[2015@gmail.com](mailto:2015@gmail.com)

**Sunday School:**  
9:30 A.M.

**Worship:**  
10:30 A.M.

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The current Corona Virus pandemic has brought about some eerie parallels to other events in American history. I saw a film clip about the great Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918 and saw how people then had to stay home and hunker down until the wave of illness had passed.

I also remember talking to people like my parents who went through the Great Depression and World War II and they told stories of rationing gas and certain food stuffs and tires during the war. My father would never eat grape jelly as an adult, because he said they had a grape arbor on the farm and every day in his school lunch would be grape jelly sandwiches and he got pretty sick of them during the depression. But he added that they were still better than the lard sandwiches that some kids had to eat.

This current crisis feels a lot like those past times with empty grocery shelves at times, restricted travel, social distancing and people unable to work, causing a depressed economy. There is no question that this is a tough time for people here and everywhere.

My grandfather used to say, "Tough times bring out the best and the worst in people". That certainly has been true in this current Corona crisis. There are people who are hoarding toilet paper, hand sanitizer and meat. There are selfish people who are paying no heed to what happens to other people around them and are infecting others. There is even a church that is holding services against government decrees to cease gathering. The pastor's rationale is that God will protect them. He doesn't seem to understand that God gave us a brain to help protect ourselves and others.

However, there are others who are doing generous, considerate and loving things to help and support others. There are members of this congregation for example, who are calling people who live alone to check and see if they need anything and sometimes calling just to talk, because it gets pretty lonely all locked up all alone. There are people going to work in hospitals and nursing homes who are endangering themselves in order to take care of the sick and the elderly. There are even corporations who have suspended their regular manufacturing and have switched to making ventilators, gowns and masks to help the health care workers and the sick. There are numerous individuals and organizations that are getting outside of self and making sacrifices.

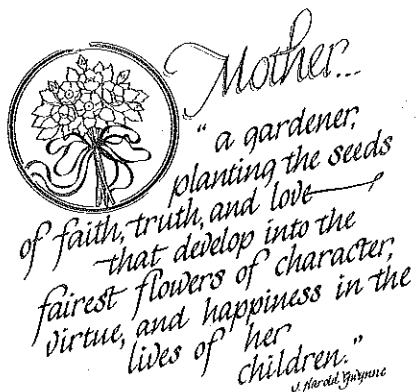
Despite how terrible this crisis is, I still believe that the Lord will make something good out of it. Maybe people will realize what a privilege it is to be able to go to church and they will actually go. Maybe people will want to get

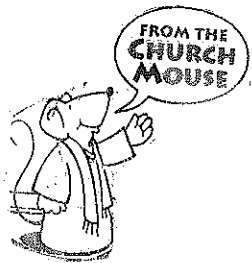
together with their families more after this. Maybe husbands and wives will get used to actually talking to each other when hunkered down at home and will continue this practice after the threat is over. Maybe people will continue to make phone calls to their neighbors and friends to see if there is anything they need. Maybe people will read good books, including the Bible instead of just watching television. Maybe we, as a culture, will realize that there is a difference between what we want and what we need.

The Lord doesn't cause any evil and it is important that we do not lay this health problem at His feet. This is the work of the forces of evil that regularly trade in sickness, heartache and death. Neither does the Lord necessarily need something evil to happen before He can bring something good to us. However, this is another opportunity for the Lord to do what He does best and that is to take evil things and turn them around to bring something good out of them.

We have just celebrated Easter Sunday. We were not able to get together and sing our "hosannas" and smell the Easter flowers and hear the Gospel message that "He is risen; He is risen indeed". But I hope we were together online and in spirit to celebrate this high festival of the church year, because this is the best example of the Lord taking something bad and turning it around to something good. Consider Good Friday and Easter Sunday for a moment. Just when the devil thought that he had really done a trick by killing the Son of God, then God turned that around for our salvation and raised Him from the dead!

I believe that although the forces of evil will always give us a run for our money this side of the grave, still the outcome is already determined and God wins. In the meantime, He will keep using evil to bring out something good. I am excited to see what it might be.





We five little Lutheran Church mice are staying 6 ft. away from each other. We are so tired of not being able to go anywhere and do what we want to do. We get to go out to the parking lot and run, play, or just walk around, then back inside. Won't it be nice to feel free again?

At least we can now hear Marilyn practicing the organ again. She took two weeks off of practice and now we can have another activity during the day, listening to the organ.

We think the devil was real happy with himself because no church services on Sundays. He probably started this virus so people couldn't go to church. **WRONG --** Pastor Kal, David Shears, and Carol Shears have been putting great services on our web site. Everyone that has a computer can get on at 10:30am each Sunday to watch the service. You can feel like you are with other members. So Devil you didn't WIN! God can use this evil for his good.

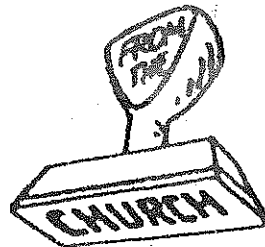
Bill Feldheiser has been calling people living alone and others to see if they are doing okay. We need to keep check with everyone.

Members have been sending their contributions into the church office which helps keep the church

going. The bills do not stop coming in.

So we five mice say take care and may God bless each one of you. Keep safe. We will get through this together. Keep the faith.

From Squeaky,  
The Lutheran Church Mouse



### **SECRETARY** REMINDER

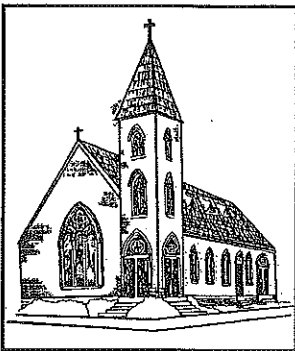
If your address or phone number has changed please send your new information to the church office as soon as possible. The addresses and phone numbers are important. If we need to get in touch with you either by letter or a phone call we need the current information. If we need to cancel church we call and put it on facebook. If you haven't been notified when we have closed then you might check with the church office and see if we have your current phone number. We appreciate your helping keep our records current.



A big thank you to all the members who have been sending in their offerings each week. The bills come in like always and we appreciate the time you take to send your offerings into the church office. Thanks again!!

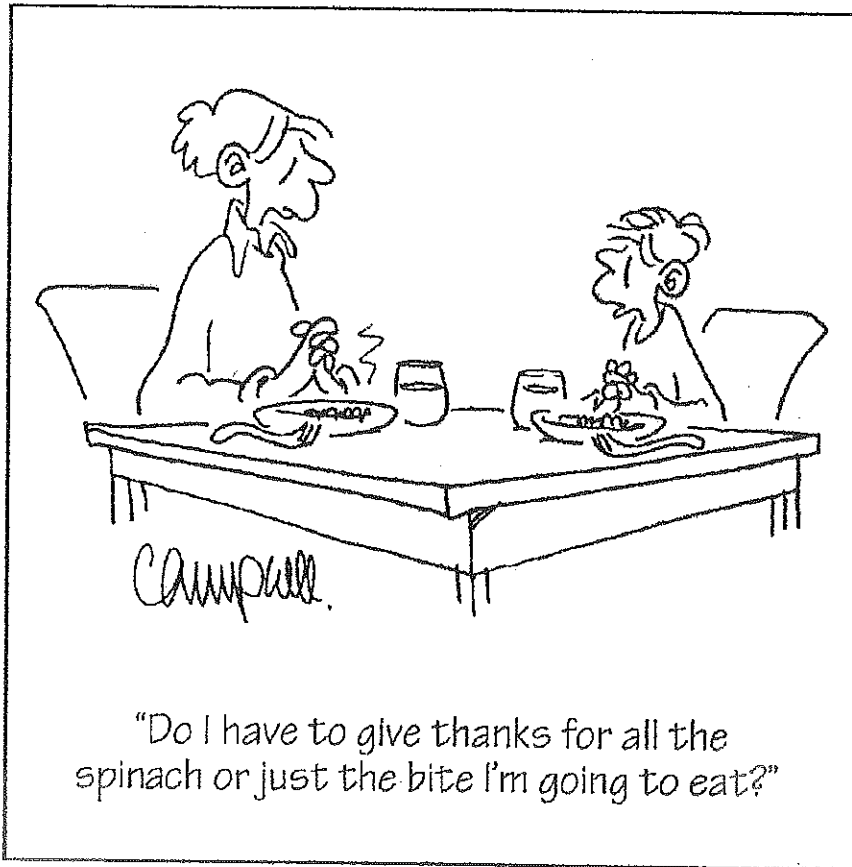
# MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00am Office	2
3 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	4 9:00am Office	5 9:00am Office	6 9:00am Office	7 9:00am Office 9-12 Pantry Parking lot only	8 9:00am Office	9
10 9:30 am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	11 9am Office	12 9:00am Office	13 9:00am Office	14 9:00am Office 9-12 Pantry Parking lot only	15 9:00am Office	16
17 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	18 9 am Office	19 9:00am Office	20 9:00am Office 6:00pm Church Council	21 9:00am Office 9-12 Pantry Parking lot only	22 9:00am Office	23
24 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	25 9:00am Office	26 9:00am Office	27 9:00 am Office	28 9:00am Office 9-12 Pantry Parking lot only	29	30
31 9:30am S.S./B.C. 10:30am Worship	<p>Pete's Pantry has been changed to once per week during the corona crisis. It is on Thursday from 9:30am -11:30am. The schedule will revert to its usual format of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday when the crisis is over.</p>					



**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



# May Participants



**ORGANIST**

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

**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

- 3 Emily Closser
- 10 Dick Zarse
- 17 Peggy Cox
- 24 Shon Littlefield
- 31 Andrea Barnett

**GREETERS**

- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24
- 31

**COUNTERS**

- Kim Zarse/Susie Remington
- June Zirkle/Marilyn Pierce
- David Shears/Carol Shears
- Becky Howard/Connie Knigga
- Emily Closser/Debbie Rissman

**LECTORS**

- Shon Littlefield
- Carol Shears
- Eddie Slaven
- Linda Howerton
- Dr. Herb Berner

**SOUND EQUIPMENT**

- David Shears

**ALTAR GUILD**

- Becky Howard
- Sharon Thompson

**DEACONS**

- George Bennett
- Tina Gilman
- June Zirkle
- Becky Howard
- Donna Kerr