

# Blessings and Musings

## The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior

### AUGUST, 2024

#### From the Pastor:

**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

There are certain milestones that we sometimes reach in life that seem important. When we are young, every birthday seems like a big deal, but then they get more special when we reach 16 and can drive a car or reach 21 and we can go into bars. All of the 10 year anniversaries are special too, such as being married for 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years.

On the last day of June this year I reached a milestone that seems important to me. On that day I completed 20 years of being the pastor of The Lutheran Church of Our Blessed Savior and at the same time completed 10 years of being the pastor of St. John Lutheran.

It is certainly not any kind of record as far as tenure goes among pastors, but it seems important to me because of the unlikely nature of how I got to both of these parishes.

I remember sitting in my office at the hospital one morning almost 21 years ago and getting a phone call from a man named Dick Zarse. He explained that he was the president of the Lutheran church in Alexandria and they had an interim coming, but were looking for some pulpit supply for a few Sundays. I was not on any pulpit supply list and nobody in Synod knew who I was so I was so shocked that I said "yes", I will do it. I will never forget my wife Deborah's reaction when I told her this. She said, "You mean you are going to be like the preacher?" "Yes", I said, "just like the preacher". Deborah's mother commented, "If you are going to be the preacher, you had better tone it down a little bit". I replied that I wasn't going to go and be somebody else and if they didn't like it that was fine, because I had a job.

Those services went fine and it was kind of fun to be in the parish again, but then I forgot about it until Pastor George contacted me in the spring and asked me out to lunch. He said, "How many hours do you work at the hospital?" "About 44 hours per week", I replied. "So then you have some time", he responded. "They have never had a part-time pastor, but I think if we had the right fit this could work well. I want you to think about this and pray about this.

I had a meeting with the church council and we outlined what I could do on a part-time basis and they issued me a call. I was installed and served for the next 10 years. Then I was asked if I could be the vacancy pastor for St. John Lutheran since I was the closest pastor around by far. I agreed to that and we eventually had a meeting with the assistant to the bishop and the congregation realized that they really couldn't afford a full-time pastor anymore and asked if there were any part-time ministers out there. He pointed at me and one of the council members

said, "How about you?" I said that I would have to think that over and did. I decided that it was feasible if the times could change to accommodate the two services at the two churches. That is all there was to it. I was in.

That is how I became the pastor of two Lutheran churches by accident. The saying that the Lord works in mysterious ways certainly applies to my getting back into the parish and being pastor of these two churches.

Actually, my entire career has been made up of mysterious and serendipitous stuff. When I graduated from Seminex there were no calls for us, so I farmed with my Dad for half a year. Then I received a call to a part-time, mission church ministry in Jamestown, North Dakota. Jamestown is not the end of the world, but you can see it from there! I worked in building construction as my other job, but wanted to get inside, because the weather is very severe in North Dakota.

It just so happens that the North Dakota State Hospital is in Jamestown and I tried to get into the Addiction Counselor training program, but they said with my church I couldn't do it. However, there was also a chaplaincy training program at this same hospital and they didn't care if I had a church. Once I was a chaplain resident they asked where I wanted to work in the hospital, so I said Chemical Dependency. After I started working there they figured I could do an internship, since I was already doing it. I did another year as addiction counselor intern.

After completing these trainings I worked in the local outpatient clinic for a few years until I saw an advertisement for a position of Spiritual Care Counselor in an inpatient unit in Muncie, Indiana. They wanted somebody who was an addiction counselor, hospital chaplain and who had parish experience. I thought they were looking for me and they were.

Once at Ball Hospital I worked next as Nicotine Dependency Counselor and Staff Chaplain, switching whenever the last position was cut. This brings us up to my meeting with Pastor George and getting back in the parish.

None of these things were ever in my plan when I felt called to ministry in the sixth grade. But apparently, God has quite a little sense of humor and by His grace, here I am. I have just been bouncing from pillar to post throughout my career without a grand plan, but it does show that if you are open to the subtle action of God's Spirit, some interesting things can happen in your life.

**ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.  
BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE  
MAY 2024**

Income for June  
\$ 8,593.00  
Income Year to Date  
\$ 48,175.70  
Expenses for June  
\$ 9,145.58  
Expenses Year to Date  
\$ 49,457.86  
Net Income for June  
\$ -552.58  
Net Year to Date  
\$ -1,179.11

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Andrea Barnett will continue to teach  
kid's Sunday School throughout the  
summer if they want to come.**

**Donna Key-Kerr will do the same with  
the adult bible class.**

We five little Lutheran Church  
mice can't believe it is almost time for  
School to start again. We just got into  
the nice hot weather and summer.  
Before we turn around it will be  
Christmas and COLD weather.

It will be time to start choir practise  
again and a time for the Bible Study on  
Fridays at Elwood St. John Lutheran  
Church.

So pray that God gives us an easy  
Winter and that it goes away quickly.

From **Squeaky,**  
**The Lutheran Church Mouse**

There are 2 local upcoming concerts with available tickets:

1. Selah - at Anderson's Paramount Theatre on Saturday,  
September 7th, 7:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$21.75.
2. Crowder - at Ball State's Emen's Auditorium on Friday,  
September 20th, 7:30 p.m. Ticket price is about \$55.

Both musical groups have won several Dove Awards and  
Grammy nominations.

If you are interested in learning more, you can check their  
websites, and please contact Kim Zaarse if you wish to order  
tickets a a group. Of course, we will meet at a local restaurant for  
dinner beforehand!!!

**ORGANIST**

AUG 4  
AUG 11  
AUG 18  
AUG 25

**LECTORS**

Stephanie Salazar  
Becca Key-Kerr  
Ron Haas  
Donna Key-Kerr

**ALTAR GUILD**

Linda Howerton  
Amy McNally  
Jarid Frix

**SOUND EQUIPMENT**

AUG 4 David Shears  
AUG 11 David Shears  
AUG 18 David Shears  
AUG 25 David Shears

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

Emily Closser  
Andrea Barnett  
Dick Zarse  
Peggy Cox

**DEACONS**

Tina Gilman  
Donna Key-Kerr  
George Bennett  
Becky Howard

# AUGUST 2024

<b>Sunda</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	S.S. = Sunday School B.C = Adult Bible Class			1 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	2 9:00am Office	3
4 9:30am SS & BC 10:30am Worship	5 9:00am Office 9:30am Pantry	6 9am Office	7 9am Office 4:30-6:30pm Warehouse DONATIONS ONLY	8 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	9 9am Office	10 Warehouse open 10am- 12noon shopping only
11 9:30am S.S.&BC 10:30am Worship	12 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	13 9am Office	14 9am Office 4:30-donations only Warehouse	15 9am Office 9:30 am Pantry	16 9am Office	17
18 9:30am S.S.&B.C. .10:30am Worship	19 9 am Office 9:30am Pantry	20 9am Office	21 9am Office 4:30-6:30pm Warehouse 6pm Church Council	22 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	23 9am Office	24 Warehouse open 10am – 12 noon shopping only
25 9:30am S.S.&B.C .10:30am Worship	26 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	27 9am Office	28 9:00am Office 4:30pm-6:30pm Wesrhouse Donations	29 9am Office 9:30am Pantry	30 9am Office	31