

Blessings and Musings

From the Pastor:

As I was considering going on my Lutherland tour this summer, I was a little hesitant and thought maybe I should wait until I retire to do this sort of thing. But my wife, Deborah said, "You had better do it now or you will be too old to go walking around in Europe". The fact that I have just recently had knee surgery seemed to underscore her point.

However, it is hard to think of myself as being too old to do things. I told Deborah, "Oh, I don't think I will get too old. After all, why does everybody call me 'Young Kal'?" "Nobody calls you that except you", Deborah retorted. Don't you just hate it when your spouse is right!

But it is a difficult thing to accept the fact that we are getting old. In my mind I tend to think of myself as being somebody still in their 40's and I have talked to other folks my age who agree with me that that is how we like to view ourselves. This is despite the fact that folks our age have experienced many examples of "MOPS". As you will recall, that is a term that Deborah and I use to describe unexplainable old age maladies and stands for "Mysterious Old People Stuff". MOPS is when you wake up and your ankle hurts, but then a half hour later it seems fine. It is when you wake up dizzy with vertigo and then later on it just goes away. It is when you think twice about taking that big step over the side of the bathtub. It is when you try to remember a person's name that you have known for years and you have to double clutch before the name drops into your brain.

Author Ernst Becker wrote a book entitled, "The Denial of Death" in which he describes the numerous ways that human beings try to pretend that death is not what we are all heading inexorably toward. I should probably write the prequel to that book which would be entitled, "The Denial of Old Age". It is just hard to think of ourselves as old even when you have been limping around for 6 months and you see people younger than yourself in the obituary.

The denial of old age might just be quaint and amusing if it were not for the fact that it gives us a false sense that we will always have time to do things we need to do at a later date. The obvious examples of this are people who have never made a will, because there will be time for that later. Another example is how many people drag their feet at making their funeral plans, as if that will never happen.

However, there are plenty of examples of putting things off that are not as obvious. I think about other trips to see old friends that never get taken. What about making sure we get to see some of the grandkids games and activities? How about financial planning for old

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Worship:

10:30 A.M.

Printing:

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age and to assist our loved ones? Maybe we could even clean out the garage and the basement so the kids won't have that to deal with after we are gone.

But even more important than these things are the words we should take time to say to people we love and even people we don't love. One thing that the pandemic of covid taught me is that you never know when someone who looks healthy might be gone next week. I started calling my sister in Minnesota when covid hit because she is a very social person and I knew that she would be lonely as a skunk locked up in her house trying to stay away from getting infected. I continued that practice and still call her every day and it has made a difference to her, but also to me. Now I need to call my brother more often and my children.

I recall as a hospital chaplain sitting at the bedside of a dying man and how his daughter was crying and said, "I wish I had just one more day. I would tell Dad that I love him". I thought to myself, "Well where was that desire yesterday or the day before?" I tell my wife every day that I love her, because I don't want it to be something that I remember to say someday. I want her to know it everyday. I never hang up the phone on my children without saying, "I love you".

There are plenty of people out there that could use those words or words of appreciation at the very least. Have you told your close friends how much their support and care has meant to you? Why not? Are you going to get around to it someday? Are there people who are faithful servants in the church who have not had recognition and appreciation or at least an arm around their shoulder?

There is another group of people that we should get around to talking to as well and that is the folks with whom we have resentments. We may have relatives with whom we have had a silent feud for years and we are waiting for them to make the first move of reconciliation, but now it has just become a Mexican standoff. Nobody wants to make the first move, but maybe someday we will. Maybe not, because someday never seems to come. We may have coworkers or neighbors who are irritating and we intend to clear the air, but have not.

There are things we need to do and things we need to say in this life and quite possibly old age is the reminder that we will not be around forever and we need to take care of emotional business while it is day before the night cometh when no man can work. I invite all of us to make good use of our old age.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.



Income for January
\$ 7,903.00
Income: Year to Date
\$ 7,903.00
Expenses for January
\$ 14,133.39
Expenses: Year to Date
\$ 14,133.39
\$ Net Income for
\$ -6,230.39
Year to Date
\$ -6,230.39



BRENDA JOYCE MOSTROG
DIED: 1-6-2025

MICHAEL J. HUBERT
DIED: 1-24-2025

WILLIAM H. MCDANIEL
DIED: 2-15-2025

BEVERLY SUE STEVENS
DIED: 2-12-2025
BURIED: 2-15-2025



NEW MEMBER
NANCY ARKINS
1-26-2025

We five little Lutheran Church mice had a wonderful time on Sunday February 9th. We went to the soup, sandwich, dessert luncheon for the pantry. You could bring canned or boxed food, money, or any groceries item. **ALL OF THE FOOD WAS GOOD.**

Pastor Kal is doing okay after his surgery, thanks to our God and Savior.

We mice sent the Lutheran Dog, Penny a birthday card on February 14th. She celebrated her 13th birthday on Valentines Day. Pastor Kal knows that she is the most spoiled dog in Alexandria. She is the most loving dog around. She loves people and she loves all animals (dogs). She loves going to the Vet and she really loves the workers at the Alexandria Animal Hospital and she loves her vet. Dr. Phelps.

God watches over his people and his animals. We mice have learned that Country people think differently about their animals than City people. Country people don't think much about taking their cows to have them killed to eat. City people would have 1,000 cows as pets. We mice and Pastor Kal know that Marilyn would be that way and so would Debbie Rissman. We couldn't eat our pets **NEVER, NEVER, AND NEVER!!**

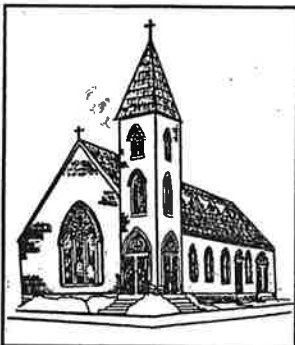
FROM SQUEEKY,
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MOUSE

MARCH 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|----------------------|---|--|---|---|
| S.S. = SUNDAY SCHOOL B.C. = BIBLE CLASS | | | | | | 1. |
| 2 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship | 3 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry | 4. 9:00 am Office | 5 9 am Office 4:30pm Wearhouse open 7 pm Ash Wed. Service Alex. | 6 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir Alexandria | 7 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood | 8 10:00 am Wearhouse open shopping only |
| 9 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship | 10 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry | 11 9:00 am Office | 12 9 am Office 4:30 pm Wearhouse open | 13 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir Alexandria | 14 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood | 15 |
| 16 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship | 17 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry | 18 9:00 am Office | 19 9 am Office 4:30 pm WearhouseOpen 6pm Church Council | 20 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir Alexandria | 21 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood | 22 10:00 am Wearhouse Open Shopping only |
| 23 9:30 am S.S. & B.C. 10:30 am Worship | 24 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry | 25 9:00 am Office | 26 9:00 am Office 4:30 pm Wearhouse open | 27 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry 7 pm Choir Alexandria | 28 9:00 am Office 1:00 pm Bible Study St. John Elwood | 29 |
| 30 9:30 am S.S.& B.C. 10:30 am Worship | 31 9:00 am Office 9:30 am Pantry | | | | | |



St.
Patrick's
Day



**Lutheran Church
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Pastor Kal Rissman
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March Participants



ORGANIST

MAR. 2 Parikesit Tanudjaja
MAR. 9 Parikesit Tanudjaj
MAR. 16 Parikesit Tanudjaja
MAR. 23 Richard Thompson
MAR 30 Parikesit Tanudjaja

LECTORS

Carol Shears
Stephanie Salazar
Linda Howerton
Tina Gilman
Becca Key-Kerr

ALTAR GUILD

Becky Howard
Susie Remington

SOUND EQUIPMENT

MAR. 2 David Shears
MAR. 9 David Shears
MAR. 16 David Shears
MAR. 23 David Shears
MAR. 30 David Shears

ASSISTING MINISTER

Shon Littlefield
Mike Thompson
Andrea Barnett
Dick Zarse
Emily Closser

DEACONS

Tina Gilman
Becky Howard
George Bennett
Donna Key-Kerr
Steve Holcomb