

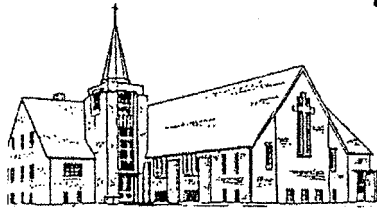
*Calamus Lutheran Parish*

P.O. Box 116 Calamus, IA 52729 Phone (563) 246-2622

Pastor Sarah E.M. Kretzmann

Email: [clparish@fbcom.net](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)

[www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)



*Faith Lutheran*  
505 2nd Street



*Our Savior's*  
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 26

DECEMBER 2013

Number 12

*Pastor Writes*



The legend is that Martin Luther was the first one to bring the Christmas tree as we know it indoors. It is said Luther went out for a stroll in the woods in Germany on Christmas Eve, back in the 1500's. As he trudged through the hills, he was awestruck by the beauty of the night-time sky, all sparkling and brilliant with shining stars. And so, he was inspired to recreate this serene scene in his own home by cutting down an evergreen tree, dragging it into his living room and decorating it with candles, which sparkled and twinkled like the stars in the sky. To be sure, the Luther home rejoiced when the father triumphantly erected the snowy tree in the home, and the six Luther children undoubtedly obediently and orderly took turns lighting the candles and commending their father on his brilliant idea. More than likely, his dutiful and flushed wife Katy brought Luther a mug of her famous home-brew and tenderly kissed him on the cheek, thanking him for thinking of his family in such a touching way. Assuredly, the domestic animals lay at his feet, as the Luther family sat down round the tree and began to sing Christmas carols, the only other sounds being the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the cattle from their nearby barn.

This is an altogether lovely scene. Breathtaking. Calm and bright. Just like Christmas Eve's around our homes, right?

Right.

I've often smiled to myself when this legend presents itself, and I choose that evening to be one I would ask a genie wafting from a bottle, "Please let me be a fly on the wall of the Luther home on *that* Christmas Eve, way back in the early 1500's...I'd like to see how things *really* unfolded..."

Let's be realistic.

It had to have been crazy. And chaotic. Pandemonium? Maybe.

It is Christmas Eve. Not only is the Luther home buzzing with its own six children, but it also hosts some of Katy's relatives and at least half a dozen nieces and nephews from her side of the family. Not to mention the constant stream of students and academics that were perpetual guests at the Luther family home. All preparing for Christmas mass the next morning. Not to mention their dog, either chasing or being chased by any number of small children. Not to mention loud, boisterous music (for the Luther family was very musically inclined). Not to mention heated, arduous debate (by said students and academics, heightened by Katy's potent home brew). Whew!

Luther decides to take a break and go for a calm walk in the woods. Did Katy glare at him? Did she mumble German unpleasantries under her breath? Did she whisper something to him about sleeping on the couch that night? So he leaves the lively home for a serene stroll in the woods, and a short time later bursts through the door, announcing that they would now need to find a place for this tree...ordering Katy to go get candles, urging his children to push the furniture around to make room...leaving a path of melting snow and pine needles on the floor behind him...Katy rushes by, shooing the dog out of the way with a broom, perhaps taking a swing at Luther's backside as she flies by, perhaps taking a hearty swig of her own home brew as she goes...

*What is this fresh mess my husband has now created, she thinks? What is this new chaos, just as things were starting to calm down? My home does not need any more disorder or upheaval... Why can't we leave the untidiness of Christmas outside?*

And yet, isn't that exactly what Jesus wants at Christmas, and always? Doesn't he want to enter  
*(Continued on following page)*

*(Continued from front page)*

our lives, not as we want our lives to be, but as they really are? Our bickering relatives and fighting children do not deter Jesus from the love he has for us. He has not entered into our staged and fake reality; he has entered into our genuine reality—where disease lives, and with it, sorrow and failure and disorder. Jesus understands the human heart is not a beautiful, serene, picture-perfect still life. Rather, it is a hot mess, yearning for God to join us in this struggle of life, to reach out his flesh hand to grasp our flesh hand as we walk through life.

Christmas is all about mess...the trail of melting snow and pine needles and a barking dog and a stocky German wife chasing her husband with a broom as their children look on amusedly...it's about the broken toy and the wrong batteries and the maxed out credit card and the downsized job and the failing student and the dying grandmother and the anxious soul and the pacing feet and the wringing hands and the secret tears. It's about a God who is undeterred by our mess; indeed, it's about a God who welcomes the chaos we create...it's nothing he hasn't battled before, and won.

- *Pastor Sarah Kretzmann*

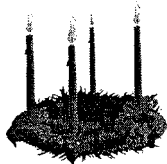


**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
9:00 p.m.



**Christmas Day Worship**  
Faith Lutheran Church  
9:00 a.m.

**First Sunday of Advent -  
December 1**



Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas. We focus on the long-awaited birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, and to the second Advent, when Christ will return.

To help us prepare for the birth of Christ, in addition to Sunday worship, we will have mid-week Advent services on Wednesday evenings. A 6:00 p.m. served meal precedes the 7:00 worship service.

**Midweek Advent Schedule:**

- ◆ **December 4 – Faith Church**
- ◆ **December 11 – St. John's Church  
(Bliedorn)**
- ◆ **December 18 – Our Savior's Church**

**“The Gift of Jesus”**



presented by the children of  
Faith and Our Savior's Sunday School  
Sunday, December 15  
10:30 A.M.  
Our Savior's Lutheran



# At the November Council Meetings

## Joint Council:

- Worship Committee: Services have been planned for Christ the King, Thanksgiving and Hanging of the Greens; guidelines for Altar Ministry, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Lectors and Cleaning committees were reviewed; during Adult Class on November 17 and 24 information will be shared concerning these service ministries;
- Stewardship and Christian Outreach Committee: a potluck, hayride and bonfire were held at Annette and Dirk Braets November 9;
- Education Committee: Teachers and students are adjusting to the limited space for classes and additional material has been ordered to accommodate the larger enrollment; Christmas program practice will be held during a portion of the Sunday School hour with program to be held on December 15 at Our Savior's; No Sunday School on December 22 and 29, classes resume on January 5, 2014; Busy Bags have been filled and will be sent to New Jersey church;
- Photo directory copies were ordered;
- Heather Grau volunteered to create and maintain a parish Facebook page – she will present a sample page, answer questions about ownership and monitoring of content, and explain the procedure for photo publication permissions at the December 12 council meeting;
- Subscription was renewed for the monthly Church Service Directory in *The Observer*.

## Faith Council:

- Financial reports were approved with a designated balance of \$4,319.40 and a working balance of \$8,731.67
- Specific boiler repair costs were confirmed;
- Clarification will be made concerning the Study Bible accounting item;
- Permission was given to the Property and Management Committee to seek bids and begin replacement of two tanks, piping system, material and related labor costs for boiler repair;
- Braet has informed the service provider contact to cease automatic delivery and automatic billing for boiler chemicals as the current supply is sufficient for 2013—2014;
- Requests of transfer of membership to Faith Lutheran Church from Joshua, Tiesha, Alexa and Avery Jacobi was accepted;

- Children waiting for the morning school bus will not be allowed into the church due to past damage and inappropriate behavior within the church building – the front doors will be locked;
- Permission was given to Brad Schroeder and Amber Lindaman of St. John Lutheran (Bliedorn) to have their wedding at Faith on December 7;
- Annual reports are due in December 2013 and financial reports are due in January 2014;
- Explanation was given concerning the division and management of Confirmation and Luther League funds;
- A letter of interest was submitted regarding snow removal – Braet will seek specific cost and service information and inform them of job expectations.

## Our Savior's Council:

- Financial reports were approved with a balance of \$720.11
- Wedding guidelines were finalized;
- Dan has completed the building of the computer and it is now in use;
- \$150 will be donated to the Angel Tree project – emphasis will be put on making this a priority for Luther League to raise the money;
- A reminder was given to submit annual reports on time.

### Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report October 2013

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance..... | \$3,889.39 |
| Deposits .....         | \$3,108.21 |
| Disbursements.....     | \$6,277.49 |
| Ending Balance.....    | \$ 720.11  |

## 2014 Ministry Lists to be Compiled

The 2014 lists for lectors, ushers, communion assistants, greeters (Faith only), altar ministry (Faith only) and cleaners (Our Savior' only) and Sunday morning care for Pastor's boys will soon be compiled. If anyone would like to be added to or removed from the ministry assistants lists, please let one of the following people from your congregation know - at Our Savior's: Dan Burke, Jason Boussetot, Deb Detlefs, and Linda Whitman; at Faith: Diane Christensen, Andrea Shelton and Terri Boussetot. Thank you to all those who continue to assist in these ministries!

# First Luther League Monthly Meeting



Luther League Welcomes all Junior High  
and High School Youth, for our first  
official meeting of the year!

**Where:** Our Savior's Church, in the Kitchen

**When:** Sunday December 1st, during  
Sunday School Hour – 9:25 a.m.

**Agenda:** Elect 2014 Youth Officers, Angel  
Tree planning and discuss other ideas for  
2014

**There will be no Sunday School or  
Adult Classes December 22 or 29.**

**Classes resume January 5, 2014,  
9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's Church**

## FAITH CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2014  
Following 8:00 a.m. Worship

×

## OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2014  
Following 10:30 a.m. Worship

×

### Annual Meeting Preparations

Annual meeting are just around the corner!  
**Committee and organization reports for the  
congregations' annual reports are due in the  
church office by December 20, 2013.** These  
reports include: Council Presidents; all committees  
(Education, Stewardship, Christian Outreach,  
Memorial and Gifts, Property and Management);  
Our Savior's Cemetery; and Luther League.

**Financial reports, budgets and audit  
reports for the congregations are due in the  
church office by January 20, 2014. Thank You!**

## Luther League Lounge!



**Who?** All 7-12 graders

**What?** Weekly Wednesday  
5:30 p.m. fellowship meetings

**Where?** Faith Church

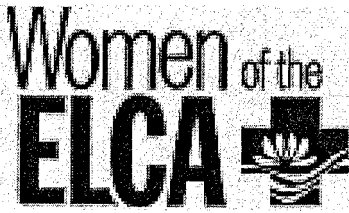
**The Noisy Offering Will Be  
Received December 8**

**January Newsletter Items  
Due December 20, please.  
Thanks for your cooperation!**

## CROP Walk Results

Thank you to all who supported the 2013 Calamus  
Lutheran Parish CROP Walk either by your  
donation or your walking! We were able to raise  
\$410 of the total \$1,735.50 donations at the walk  
that was held in Wheatland in October. This will be  
combined with the receipts of the DeWitt walk and  
the Carroll Assistance Center will receive a portion  
of that amount to help feed the hungry in our area.  
Thanks for your help!





**In Good Company –  
Stories of Biblical Women**

**"Miriam, A Loving Protector"**

"When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him." – Exodus 2:3–4



**Combined Circles**

**Friday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.**

**Squiers Manor,**

**418 W. Pleasant Street, Maquoketa**

**Leader: Lois Wessels**

*We will meet at Faith Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m. for those who would like to carpool. Reservations are to be called in to the church office (246-2622) by Monday, December 9.*

**Women's Wednesday Night  
Bible Study Schedule**

- ◆ No Bible study on Thanksgiving Eve or on December 11 when we have our Advent service at St John Lutheran, Bliedorn.
- ◆ There will be Bible study following Advent Service on December 4 at Faith Church and on December 18 at Our Savior's.
- ◆ No Bible study on Christmas or New Year's.
- ◆ Resume regular Bible study schedule at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday starting January 8, 2014

**♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪**



**Wednesdays, following  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship  
at the church where we have our  
worship.**



**Come join us—we'd love to have you!**  
♪ Diane Christensen

**Sunday Morning Child Care  
for Christian, Jacob & Philip**

December 1: Hal and Andrea Shelton  
December 8: Ray and Deb Detlefs  
December 15: Rod and Robin Costello-Smith  
December 22: Boys with Nate  
December 29: Sharyl Banowetz/Jeannene B

**Christmas at  
Luther 2013**

**"Full of Grace and Truth"**

Thursday, December 5 – 5:45 p.m.  
Friday, December 6 – 6:30 and 9:15 p.m.  
Saturday, December 7 – 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, December 8 – 2:30 p.m.

*Center for Faith and Life – Luther College  
Box Office (563)387-1357*



A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;  
It makes no noise at all,  
But softly gives itself away.

~Eva Logue

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 1: Dan Burke  
 Dec 4: Alyssa McElmeel  
 Jackson Wieck  
 Dec 5: Michele Bliler  
 Dec 8: Dale Gronewold  
 Cynthia Burke  
 Dec 9: Jason Boussetot  
 Brooklyn Calef  
 Jeff Griebel  
 Maddon Hoker  
 Dec 10: Dion Olson  
 Lucas Hayes  
 Dec 11: Josh Jacobs  
 Michael Gronewold  
 Alex Rickertsen  
 Dec 13: Camdon Boussetot  
 Brandon McMahan  
 Dec 14: Andy Bickel  
 Erin Bickel  
 Drake Mayerhofer  
 Dec 16: Malinda Malmanger  
 Andrea Carstensen  
 Dec 17: Hazel Richards  
 Brenda Hayes  
 Andrew Grau  
 Teisha Jacobi  
 Dec 18: Meghan Tendall  
 Alexander Harkness  
 Dec 19: Chloe Gronewold  
 Dec 20: Brenda Christensen  
 Dec 22: David Braet  
 Emily Elsner  
 Holli Mosher  
 Dec 23: Savannah Elias  
 Sharon Boussetot  
 Henry Mueller  
 Sharon Hayes  
 Dec 24: Carter Henning  
 Dec 27: Allison Dwyer  
 Dec 28: Kristin Schlinkert  
 Karragan Whitman  
 Patricia King  
 Ryan Dick  
 Dec 29: John Matthews II  
 Lydia Whitman  
 Dec 30: Sheri Siemen  
 Bobby Thomas  
 Marilyn Steward



Dec 2: Dirk & Annette Braet

If there are errors or omissions in the birthday or anniversary list, please notify the church office.

## Christmas Thoughts



*Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia*

Great little One!  
 whose all-embracing birth  
 Lifts Earth to Heaven,  
 stoops Heaven to Earth.  
 ~Richard Crashaw



"It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!"... *Then* the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"  
 ~Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*



It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas when its mighty Founder was a child Himself. ~Charles Dickens



It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas when its mighty Founder was a child Himself. ~Charles Dickens



O Christmas Sun! What holy task is thine!  
 To fold a world in the embrace of God!  
 ~Guy Wetmore Carryl

MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2013

FAITH

Ushers:

Mark Witte  
Gary Braet  
Dirk Braet  
Brian Tulley

Acolytes:

Brianna Williams  
Garrett Condon

Altar Ministry:

Larry & Sharyl Banowetz Family

Communion Assistant:

Dirk Braet

Greeter:

December 1: Sharyl Banowetz  
December 8: Ruth Braet  
December 15: Annette Braet  
December 22: Marilyn Steward  
December 29: Keith Steward

Lectors:

December 1: Doreen Henning  
December 8: Ashley Steffens  
December 15: Kevin Henning  
December 22: Yale Christensen  
December 29: Mark Witte

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Ray Detlefs  
Art Bousselot  
Shane Glover

Acolyte:

Drake Olson

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lector:

December 1: Jason Bousselot  
December 8: Cindy Burke  
December 15: Mark Olson  
December 22: David Olson  
December 29: Kay Olson

Cleaners:

Dan and Cindy Burke

Christian, Jacob & Philip Caregivers

December 1: Hal & Andrea Shelton  
December 8: Ray & Deb Detlefs  
December 15: Rod & Robin Costello-Smith  
December 22: Boys with Nate  
December 29: Sharyl Banowetz/Jeannene B

If You Cannot Do Your Assigned Task On That Particular Day, It Is Your Responsibility To Trade With Someone Or To Find Your Own Substitute And Notify The Church Office Of The Change.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

December 24 ~ 9:00 p.m. ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church



*Christmas Day Worship Service*

December 25 ~ 9:00 a.m. ~ Faith Lutheran Church

## DECEMBER 2013

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY    | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                                   |
|--|-----------|--|---|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b><br>8:00 Worship – F<br>9:25 SS/AC – OS<br>9:25 Luther League OS<br>10:30 Worship - OS | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b> Advent I<br>6:00 Meal – F<br>7:00 Worship – F<br>7:45 Choir – F<br>7:45 Women's Bible Study - F<br><b>11</b> Advent II | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br>Schroeder/Lindaman Wedding - F |
| <b>8</b> Noisy Offering<br>8:00 Worship – F<br>9:25 SS/AC – OS<br>10:30 Worship - OS           | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>7:00 Committee Night - OS                   | <b>11</b> Advent III<br>6:00 Meal – Bliedorn<br>7:00 Worship – Bliedorn<br>7:45 Choir– Bliedorn                                 | <b>12</b><br>6:00 Worship Committee – OS<br>7:30 Joint Council - OS | <b>13</b><br>9:30 Carpool from Faith Church to Circle Meeting at Squiers Manor, Maquoketa<br>L- Lois Wessels | <b>14</b>                                  |
| <b>15</b><br>8:00 Worship – F<br>9:25 SS/AC – OS<br>10:30 SS Program - OS                      | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b> Advent III<br>6:00 Meal – OS<br>7:00 Worship – OS<br>7:45 Choir – OS<br>7:45 Women's Bible Study - OS                 | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>                                  |
| <b>22</b><br>8:00 Worship – F<br>No SS/AC - Class resumes 01.03.2014<br>10:30 Worship - OS     | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> Christmas Eve<br>9:00 Candlelight Service - OS | <b>25</b> Christmas Day<br>9:00 Christmas Day Worship - F   | <b>26</b><br>Church offices closed                                  | <b>27</b><br>Church offices closed   | <b>28</b>                                  |
| <b>29</b><br>8:00 Worship – F<br>No SS/AC - Class resumes 01.03.2014<br>10:30 Worship - OS     | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>  |   |   |  |  |



## Put Your Brain to Work!

**What's a commonym you ask?** A commonym is a group of words that have a common trait in the three words listed. For example: the word: A car – a tree- and elephant...they all have trunks. These will make you think!

1. A Bull - A Car - A Shoe Salesman \_\_\_\_\_
2. A Courtroom - A Dugout - A Park \_\_\_\_\_
3. A Football Team - A Phone - A Stereo \_\_\_\_\_
4. Yellow - Black - Baltic \_\_\_\_\_
5. Dark - White - Milk \_\_\_\_\_
6. Steak - Spaghetti - Tartar \_\_\_\_\_
7. A Bobbin - Spider Webb - A Screw \_\_\_\_\_
8. Tow - Row - Show \_\_\_\_\_
9. Rally - Stock - Drag \_\_\_\_\_
10. Families - Trees - Hair \_\_\_\_\_

**What's a wuzzle you ask?** A wuzzle is a saying/phrase that is made up of a display of words, in an interesting way. The object is to try to figure out the well-known saying, person, place, or thing that each wuzzle is meant to represent

|  |        |   |
|--|--------|---|
| GIVE GET<br>GIVE GET<br>GIVE GET<br>GIVE GET | ROOD   | <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">GO</div> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> May 8    May 8 |
| IMPOSSIBL                                    | NOON T | UNOTU   |

- Answers to Wuzzles**
1. Forgive and Forget
  2. Back Door
  3. Go on a double date
  4. Almost impossible
  5. Afternoon tea
  6. Not in use
- Answers to Crononyms**
1. All have horns
  2. All have benches
  3. All have receivers
  4. Seas
  5. Chocolate
  6. Sauces
  7. They have threads
  8. Boats
  9. Car race
  10. They have roots

Calamus Lutheran Parish  
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches  
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**Calamus Lutheran Parish  
Worship Schedule**



**8:00 A.M. Sunday Worship  
Faith Lutheran Church  
505 Second Street, town of Calamus**

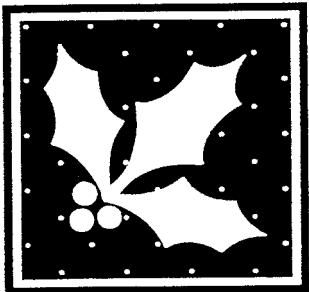


**9:25 A.M. Sunday School/Adult Class  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church**



**10:30 A.M. Sunday Worship  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2589 – 190th Avenue, rural Calamus**

Church Office..... 563.246.2622  
Pastor Sarah's Office..... 563.246.2558  
Church email address.....[clparish@fbcom.net](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)  
Pastor's email .....[pastorsarahk@fbcom.net](mailto:pastorsarahk@fbcom.net)  
Church Website.....[www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)



*December*