

Calamus Lutheran Parish
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches
P.O. Box 116
Calamus, Iowa 52729-0116
Return Service Requested

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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

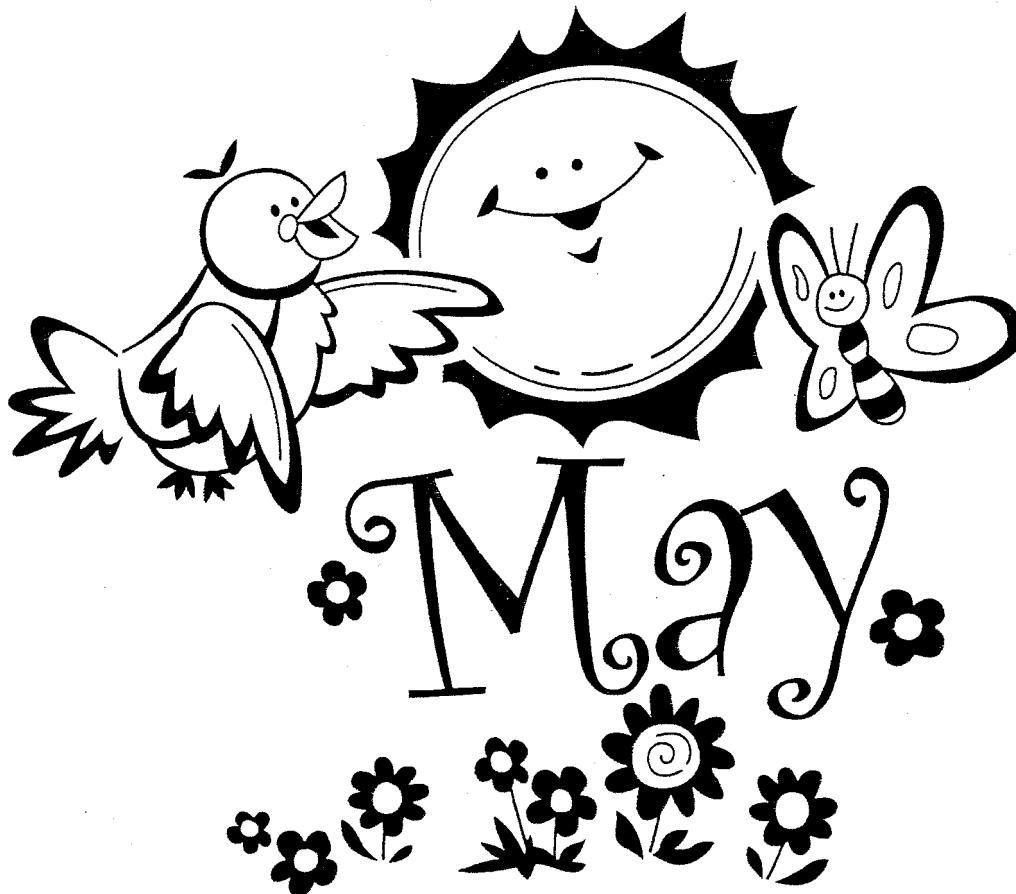


10:30 A.M. Sunday Worship

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
Pastor's emailpastorsarahk@fbcom.net
Church Website.....www.clparish.org

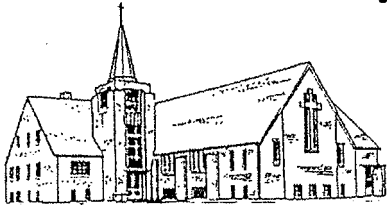


Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches E.L.C.A.

Calamus Lutheran Parish

P.O. Box 116 Calamus, IA 52729 Phone (563) 246-2622
Pastor Sarah E.M. Kretzmann

Email: clparish@fbcom.net
www.clparish.org



Faith Lutheran
505 2nd Street



Our Savior's
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 27

MAY 2014

Number 5

Pastor Writes



Every month I beg you not to judge my parenting.

Almost every month, I use my parenting experiences metaphorically...in repeated attempts to (brilliantly) illustrate humanity's ridiculous shortcomings and God's unending grace. And so, the articles use my parenting to point to something beyond itself, a Greater Truth, if you will. Even so, it is a humbling and vulnerable thing to know with relative certainty that even though I beg you monthly not to judge my parenting, you more than likely do. I know I would, if I were you.

And so here is yet another running attempt to use an example of motherhood as a gesture towards the goodness of God. While some examples and illustrations in the past have been sweet or even somewhat earthy, this one makes me shudder. Yet I insist on poking at it, because buried deep within my mortal humiliation is a shining gem of divine love. Judge, or refrain from judging, because in the end it's not about me, it's about humanity and our bizarre dance with God.

Maundy Thursday this year began in a silly frantic sort of way, because even just an hour before service was to begin, I didn't know where any of my sons were. I could hear their voices bouncing around the neighborhood like some ethereal, mythical creatures, but strangely when I called for them to come home and get ready for church, the neighborhood fell silent. Funny, that.

The boys showed up for church, magically gathered by the masterful mother hens of the neighborhood. They had all previously agreed to come up to have their feet ritually washed. They all understood it was a bittersweet service, marked by Holy Communion and the somber stripping of the altar. They are, after all, veteran worshipers. I watched them sing, my heart swelled. I washed their

feet, my eyes teared up. I gave them bread, my voice cracked. All was calm, all was bright. Until...

Until, right smack dab in the middle of this tender holiness there was a horribly jarring episode, one that was so incredulous to me that later I demanded physical proof that the event actually took place, to prove that I had not simply imagined it. During a sober and hushed moment of the service, I saw one of my sons writing carefully on his bulletin. I beheld his bent head and furrowed brow, as he studiously scribbled his words onto the paper. Was he sketching little sweet angels? Listing the holy names for God? Suddenly, he looked up and met me square in the eye, as I stood in the pulpit.

And then it happened, as if from some Denis the Menace episode. His eyes narrowed to little yellow, glowing slits. Realizing he was about to unleash some unknown mischief and that I was powerless to stop it, my eyes widened into the shape of saucers. Our eyes still locked, he folded up his bulletin into a perfect little paper airplane, poised it in the air for a split second as I mentally begged God to cramp his little arm...alas, no such miracle ensued. He fired the paper airplane and it sailed beautifully. It landed in the lap of a neighbor, a fine mother who dutifully saved it for my later perusal.

When I returned home, I demanded to see this bulletin/airplane. This same son was shaking and sobbing...begging for me not to "kill him." Curious about his terror, I opened and read the piece of damning evidence and I felt the blood drain from my face, for written down in perfect handwriting, with perfect spelling, was every single swear word he knew. Including the Big One. In slow motion, I turned to him and he ran, sobbing, up the stairs and hid in his closet.

(continued on next page)

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Does this echo Eden for you, dear reader? (because it should...that is the Greater Truth to which this confession points) As soon as we are inclined to make the assertion that such sordidness has no place in God's church, let's pause to take inventory of our own hearts, shall we? And then let's consider our ancestors, Uncle Adam and Aunt Eve, the very ones who showed us how to look God in the eye and sail the plane of sin and then run screaming into the shadows to hide and sob in fear of God's wrath and judgement.

Yes, such behavior should not be rewarded, and was not. And yes, you can laugh and judge because it was not your son that so blatantly disobeyed how saints are supposed to act in church. And yet. There was something in his childish defiance that heralds the ridiculous Free Will of humanity, a will mysteriously imparted to us by God himself—that makes us cheer, despite ourselves. And there was something about opening his closet door and discovering this little one shaking in fear that made me spiritually bow before the one who forgives all things, who meets the defiant stare of every generation and who knows what it is he will forgive, even before we ourselves even know what sins we are about to commit.

So began Holy Week, and so goes yet another maternal confession, again not to boast or anything, but rather to gladly juxtapose my own silly predicaments and hold them up against God's prevailing Easter goodness and cosmic humor...for only a humorous God can endure the unrelenting generations of Denis after Denis, we who try to out-menance God, only to discover his confounding mercy in our moments of deepest despair. God opens the door, not to kill us, but to release us.

- *Pastor Sarah Kretzmann*

Mark Your Calendars!

**The last day of Sunday School
will be May 19.
Sunday School and Adult Class
will resume
September 7 at Our Savior's.**

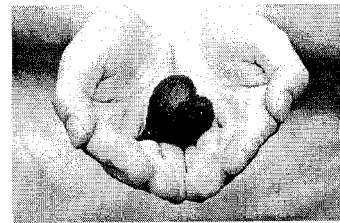
Summer Schedule Begins May 25



**8:00 Worship – Faith
9:30 Worship – Our Savior's**

**The Noisy Offering Will Be
Received May 18**

A Spirit of Generosity



**Wednesday Vacation Bible School
May 7, 14, 21 and 28
3:30 to 5:30PM**

**Faith Lutheran Church,
505 2nd Street in Calamus**

- ♥ For children age 4 through 6th grade.
- ♥ There will be snacks, music, stories, and activities!
- ♥ Join your friends and neighbors after school on the four Wednesdays of May.

The school needs parental permission to have the school buses drop off children at the church for Bible School.

Registration forms are available at the church



At the April Council Meetings

Joint Council:

➤ Worship Committee finalized Holy Week worship services; Confirmation students will be examined on April 30; Confirmation will be held on Pentecost on June 8 at 8:00 a.m. service at Faith; Pastor will be absent on June 1 to attend synod assembly.

➤ The Thrivent \$500 matching funds for the 2014 Thanksgiving meal have been confirmed.

➤ Summer worship schedule will begin on May 25: 8:00 a.m. worship at Faith and 9:30 a.m. worship at Our Savior's.

➤ The God Squad checking account statements will be sent to the church office; approved signatures include Ashley Steffens and Heather Grau.

➤ Because of Pastor's upcoming change in residency the Joint Council will research the Pastoral Package options and re-address the topic at the July meeting.

➤ The components of the comprehensive existing Pastoral Package will be reviewed by Joint Council prior to December 2014.

➤ Gratitude correspondence was read from Messiah Lutheran Church, Palin, New Jersey.

Faith Council:

➤ Financial reports were accepted with a designated balance of \$4,223.52 and a working balance of \$14,360.59.

➤ Payment will be made Josh and Zach Poell for their submitted snow removal fee of \$50.

➤ Council held a general discussion regarding the non-use of parish supplied housing beginning on August 1 – Council will research options and re-address the topic at a later date.

Our Savior's Council:

➤ The financial reports were reviewed.

➤ Cemetery update: sites reviewed.

➤ Front doors are working well and water pipes should be working after they are thawed.

➤ The parsonage renters are still deciding if they will get a therapy dog.

➤ Brian Boussetot will check on lawn care schedule for the summer.

Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report

March 2014

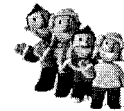
Beginning Balance.....	\$(4,200.01)
Deposits	\$ 13,261.94
Disbursements.....	\$(6,202.12)
Ending Balance.....	\$ 2,859.81

Graduating from High School



Five members of the Calamus Lutheran Parish are graduating from Calamus/Wheatland High School: from Our Savior's – Mikaela Crossen, daughter of Ray and Deb Detlefs; from Faith – Nick Costello – son of Rod and Robin Costello/Smith, Tyler Gasper, son of Keith and Tracy Gasper, Nick Storjohann, son of Laurie and the late Pappy Storjohann and Brendan Williams, son of Jeff and Charity Griebel. Congratulations to all!

News About Our People



Dana Jacobsen of Calamus was welcomed into the family of God and the membership of Faith Lutheran Church on April 22.



A funeral service was held for Don Coobs on April 30 at Our Savior's. Don passed away on April 25 in his home. Burial was in Garnavillo Community Cemetery, Garnavillo, Iowa.

**June 2014 Newsletter Items
due May 21, please.**

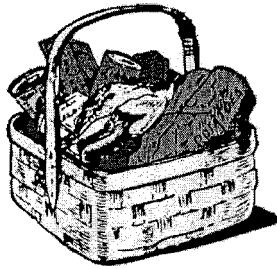
Thanks for your cooperation!

♪ **Choir Rehearsal** ♪

**Wednesday, May 14, 8:00 p.m.
Faith Church**



It's Basket Time Again!



It's that time of year again to be thinking about our annual Basket Raffle which is held in conjunction with Calamus Fun Days. This year it will be Saturday, July 12.

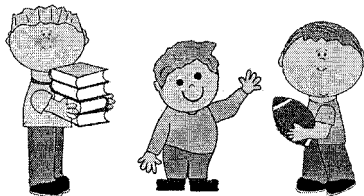
If you have any empty baskets you would like to donate, please drop them off in the basement at Faith. We prefer medium to large size baskets.

Anybody may donate items to be put into baskets we have at the church. Please drop your donated basket items off at Faith. If you need any ideas for putting together a basket, please call me, as I have a list compiled. We would rather wrap a few baskets at a time as we go, than be overwhelmed with this task the week before the raffle.

Andrea Shelton will, again, be my co-chair for this committee. It's really fun to see how creative you can be!

Dawn Dosland
Basket Raffle Co-Chair
563-212-3352

Sunday Morning Child Care for Christian, Jacob & Philip



May 4: Dirk & Annette Braet
May 11: Mark & Marsha Witte
May 18: Ray & Deb Detlefs
May 25: Boys with Nate

Women of the ELCA

In Good Company – Stories of Biblical Women

"Rahab, A Faithful Businesswoman"

"Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." – Joshua 2:12–13

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Marilyn Malmanger

Leader: Marilyn Malmanger



Naomi Circle

Friday, May 16, 9:30 a.m.

Hostess: Janice Berger

Leader: Diane Christensen

Calamus Lions Club Blood Drive



Thursday, May 8, 2:30—6:00 p.m.
CALCO, 201 Main Street



Sign up by calling Paul Ketelsen
563-357-0064 or online at
www.bloodcenterimpact.org
Walk-ins are Welcome!

If you were to complete the sentence "We were put on this earth to...", how would you finish it?

God Squad (Luther League) Monthly Meeting



God Squad Welcomes all Junior High and High School Youth!

Where: Our Savior's Church, in the Kitchen

When: Sunday, May 4, during Sunday School Hour – 9:25 a.m.

Need Help with Springtime Chores?

The God Squad is available for helping with some spring time cleaning chores: Raking up leaves/picking up sticks and indoor/outdoor spring cleaning. Please contact Collette Christensen, Ashley Steffens, Heather Grau, Makenna Christensen, Noah Gronewold, Katie Banowetz or Beth Tulley if interested. Congregation T-shirt orders end Sunday, June 1st.

Wednesday Night God Squad Lounge



Cancelled for the
summer

Thank You!

Youth Members of the Luther League "God Squad" would like to thank everyone that attended the Annual Easter Breakfast and Egg hunt for their support. We had a great turn out this year and we look forward to seeing everyone next year!

God Squad Offering Parish T-Shirts for Sale



The God Squad (formerly known as Luther League) is offering everyone in the Calamus Lutheran Parish the opportunity to purchase a parish t-shirt as a part of the God Squad's fund-raising campaign. The proceeds of their fund-raisers will go towards the Youth Gathering in Detroit in 2015.

The shirts will be red with blue writing and sizes will range from YM – Adult XXL. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the churches. Please include your name and size – cost of each shirt is \$15. Shirt orders will be taken through June 1.

Open House Graduation Party for

Tyler Ryan Gasper,
son of Keith and Tracy Gasper



Sunday, May 18, 3:00–7:00 p.m.
Wapsi Oaks Country Club
Everyone Welcome!

*"A child needs your love most
when he deserves it least."*

- Erma Bombeck

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 2: Bobbie Hesse
 Tim Olson
 May 3: Jean McNeil
 Courtney Knoche
 Heather Grau
 May 4: Nolan Christensen
 May 5: Kale Whitman
 May 6: Robert Voss
 Noah Maske
 May 7: Sarah Koch
 Lans Carstensen
 Alicia O'Donnell
 Ben Untiedt
 Jason Sullivan
 May 8: Jacob Grau
 May 11: Marilyn Schau
 Victoria Cunningham
 Serina Carpenter
 May 12: Mark Witte
 May 14: Lois Wilhelm
 May 15: Natalie Tendall
 Brayden Williams
 Nora Glover
 May 16: Randy Behne
 Meggan Septer
 May 17: Logan Bickel
 May 18: Brenda Aiken
 Kara Olson
 May 19: Roger Ihns
 Nick Storjohann
 Caylee Boussetot
 Tysen Steffens
 May 21: Doug Boussetot
 Pastor Brenda Peconge
 May 23: Courtni Knudtsen
 Alison Edens
 Emma Olson
 May 24: Keith Steward
 William Schaver
 Kenneith Schaver
 May 25: Ronda Koslofsky
 May 26: Yale Christensen
 Amy Glover
 Rusty Porth
 Caden Will
 Austin Hewer
 May 27: Jesse Jackson
 Isabella Spooner
 Brayleigh Schaver

May 28: Meryne Henning
 Lena Perrone
 May 30: Dave Whitman
 Garrette Perrone
 Peter Whitman
 May 31: Lucy Lee-Petersen
 Skye Doerscher
 Karen Eschbach
 ♥
 May 1: Kristin & Roy Schlinkert
 May 7: Daniel & Megan Will
 May 8: Shane & Amy Glover
 May 9: Doug & Sheri Siemen
 May 11: Lance & Wendy Seastrand
 May 13: Eric & Joyce Sands
 May 18: Luke & Jessica Shelton
 Dave & Tammy Olive
 May 19: Dick & Dolores Johnson
 May 20: Dion & Dawn Olson
 Scott & Theresa Grau
 May 24: Kevin & Kim Miller
 May 26: Zach & Rebecca Shorter
 May 29: Ben & Julie Lindaman
 May 31: Ashley & Troy Steffens

If a birthday or anniversary date was incorrect or omitted, please notify the church office.

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study Summer Schedule

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study will be meeting every other Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. beginning May 7 and again on May 21 in the basement at Faith Church. If you have any questions, please call Ashley Steffens.

You Are Invited To A ♪ Piano Recital ♪



On Saturday, May 10 at 2:30, Mrs. Hudson (music teacher at Cal-Wheat elementary) hosts a spring piano recital at the Butterworth House in Moline. Several students from our parish will be sharing their musical talent. Come support them and enjoy a lovely afternoon.

MINISTERS FOR MAY 2014

FAITH

Ushers:

Shirley Ferguson
Ruth Braet
Judy McMahon
Andrea Shelton

Acolytes:

Beth Tulley
Anne Tulley

Altar Ministry:

Terri and David Boussetot

Communion Assistant:

Marsha Witte

Greeter:

May 4: Sharyl Banowetz
May 11: Joan Shelton
May 18: Rusty Porth
May 25: Vera St. John

Lectors:

May 4: Laurie Storjohann
May 11: Julie Gronewold
May 18: Rusty Porth
May 25: Ruth Braet

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

David Olson
Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

Maia Glover

Communion Assistant:

Katrina Harkness

Lector:

May 4: Joe Morehead
May 11: Jason Boussetot
May 18: Deb Detlefs
May 25: Amy Glover

Cleaners:

Marcia Edens
Mark Olson

Christian, Jacob & Philip Caregivers

May 4: Dirk & Annette Braet
May 11: Mark & Marsha Witte
May 18: Ray & Deb Detlefs
May 25: Boys with Nate

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.

Summer Worship Schedule Beginning May 25



8:00 Worship – Faith Church
9:30 Worship – Our Savior's Church

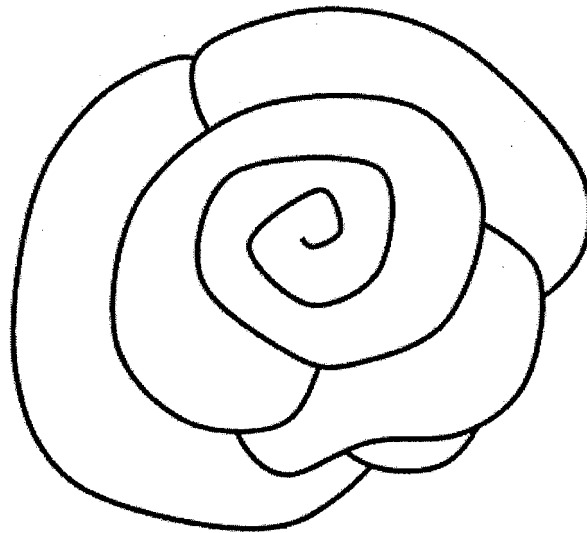
MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 God Squad Bake Sale 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 SS/AC-OS 9:25 God Squad - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	5	6 7:00 Committee Night - F	7 Vacation Bible School 3:30 - 5:30 Faith Church 7:30 Women's Bible Study at Faith	8 6:00 Worship Committee - F 7:30 Joint Council - F	9	10
11 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 SS/AC-OS 10:30 Worship - OS	12	13	14 Vacation Bible School 3:30 - 5:30 Faith Church 8:00 Choir - F	15	16 9:30 Naomi Circle H-Janice Berger L-Diane Christensen	17
18 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 SS/AC-OS 10:30 Worship - OS	19	20	21 2:00 Lydia Circle H/ L: Marilyn M. Vacation Bible School 3:30 - 5:30 - Faith 7:30 Women's Bible Study at Faith	22	23	24
25 SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS 8:00 Worship - F 9:30 Worship - OS	26	27	28 Vacation Bible School 3:30 - 5:30 Faith Church	29	30	31

Mother's Day Word Search

R H H I A Z E B A P M Y S S C
L E E E R P L V Q J R A T P A
O O H O L E P Z I C O D F E R
V D N T S P S R W G X I I C N
E O X S O P Y P E K R L G I A
H O E L P M A X E C S O V A T
I D N E T S I L I C I H F L I
T H A N K V G A S T T A R R O
C O M M A N D M E N T H T S N
Y E B O Y F P L E A S E S E S

APPRECIATE
BLESSED
CARNATIONS
COMMANDMENT
EXAMPLE
FORGIVE
GIFTS
HELP
HOLIDAY



HONOR
LISTEN
LOVE
MOTHER
OBEY
PLEASES
RESPECT
SPECIAL
THANK