

Faith Lutheran
505 2nd Street

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Our Savior's
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 28

DECEMBER 2015

Number 12

Pastor's View

Advent / Christmas ; As I write this on Black Friday I wonder to myself if Advent and Christmas can survive the push of consumerism of America at this time of year. When I was a little boy I could hardly wait for Christmas. I didn't understand the season of Advent. The texts on Sunday were not about the birth of the Christ child. They were about the end times; the coming of God to bring judgment on the world. After four weeks of that end times stuff then the Christmas story. God comes to human kind as a baby. God becomes one of us. A new story of the end times happens. And then our family would put up the Christmas tree and share gifts. There was one gift for each person and one gift for the family. Then we would worship the twelve days of Christmas until the dedication of Jesus. Then the tree would come down. Times change and we have different traditions. Please be aware of the faith traditions you are building in your families. Keep some of the focus on Jesus and God's love for us.

Advent evening worship starts this coming Wednesday. We will start the evening with a meal at 6:00. Check to see if it is a sponsored meal or if it is potluck. Confirmation will be at 6:15 until 6:45. Worship will be at 7:00. We will be using Holden Evening Worship. I have been told that it is a favorite one to use. We should be on our way home by 7:40. I hope you make plans to attend these services. They will help build our community of faith.

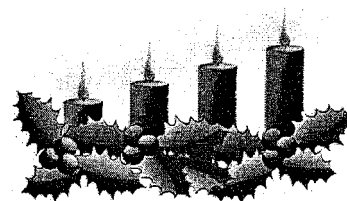
Adult Class- We have had a good turnout at our Sunday School Adult Class. Maybe you would like to try it out. I find it helpful for me to get to know the congregation members. The members that are attending get to figure me out. We all get to know

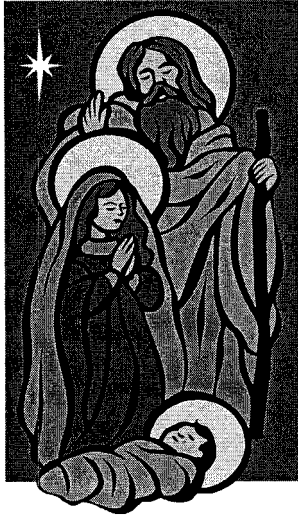
about God in a special way. It is easy to make it part of your Sunday habit. Go to church. Go to Sunday School. Go to church (If you haven't gone.) Go refreshed in the Lord.

Coming up soon, right after Christmas I would like to start a Bible Study (or two). It will be during the winter time so there should be fewer conflicts with summer activities. Give me a suggestion on what we should study. Do you want a book of the bible? A theme from the bible? A study on Marriage? A study on Evangelism? (Outreach) Or a topic: giving, sin, and you get the picture.

Home visitations - Invites to your house; sometimes questions come to me through "official" channels, meaning someone was brave enough to ask the question. It was suggested that some members would like to invite Jane and I to a meal. But there seems to be some fear about what is a proper diet for Jane. Jane is gluten intolerant. This means that she cannot eat wheat, rye, barley. So the easiest diet is to keep it simple; Meat, potatoes, vegetables. If you make gravy; use corn starch for a thickener. For dessert something like; ice cream, fruits, anything without flour. Or if you are still worried; invite us and we will bring food for all of us. We really want to get to know you all. Call and talk to us about food and fellowship.

- Pastor Bill





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

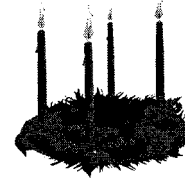


Christmas Day Worship
Faith Lutheran Church
9:00 a.m.

**No Sunday School,
God Squad or Adult Class
on December 27 –
Classes resume January 3, 2016**


*Merry
Christmas*

Midweek Advent Worship Schedule





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.

 **December 2 – Faith Church**

(Meal prepared and served by Faith Council)

  **December 9 – Faith Church**

(Meal prepared and served by God Squad)

   **December 16 – Our Savior's Church**

(Potluck Meal)

Annual Meeting Preparations

Annual meetings are just around the corner! **Committee and organization reports for the congregations' annual reports are due in the church office by December 20, 2015.** These reports include: Pastor's report; Council Presidents; all committees (Education, Stewardship, Christian Outreach, Memorial and Gifts, Property and Management); Our Savior's Cemetery; and God Squad.

Financial reports, budgets and audit reports for the congregations are due in the church office by January 20, 2016. Thank You!

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



At the November Council Meetings

Joint Council:

➤ Pastor reported he has good visits with Bishop Burk and also Assistant to the Bishop Paul Ostrem for a 3-month review and evaluation – there will also be a 6-month review.

➤ Worship Committee has finalized the Thanksgiving Service; Final plans are being made for Advent.

➤ Annual meetings will be held January 31, 2016, immediately following each congregations' worship service – no Sunday School. (In case of inclement weather, they will be moved to February 7, 2016).

➤ Council Retreat Day will be February 6, 9:00 a.m. at Our Savior's.

Faith Council:

➤ "Not Available" except for a designated balance of \$519.49 and a working balance of \$70,820.62.

Our Savior's Council:

➤ Lowden Plumbing and Heating submitted bids for new water lines (Lowden contracts through Clinton company to bore the line); moved and approved placing a new water line with a limited expense amount.

➤ Jason will line up an energy audit with Alliant Energy.

Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report October 2015

Beginning Balance	\$1,265.86
Deposits	\$5,319.03
Disbursements.....	(\$4,695.34)
Ending Balance	\$1,889.55

Noisy Offering Collected December 13



This year's Noisy Offering has been designated for ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water. The goal of this project is to raise \$500,000 for ELCA World Hunger supported water projects around the world in 2015.

Would You Like to Try Something New?

The 2016 lists for lectors, ushers, communion assistants, greeters (Faith only), altar ministry (Faith only) and cleaners (Our Savior' only) 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, Ashley Steffens and Terri Boussetot. Thank you to all those who continue to assist in these ministries!

There will be no Committee Meetings in December or January.

♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪



Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16,
following

7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship at
the church where we are
having our worship.

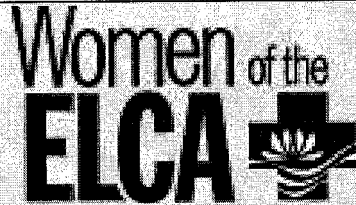


Come join us—we'd love to have you!

♪ Diane Christensen



"How can God stoop lower than to come and dwell with a poor humble soul? Which is more than if he had said, such a one should dwell with him; for a beggar to live at court is not so much as the king to dwell with him in his cottage." – William Gurnall



Friday, December 18 – 10:00 a.m.
Squiers Manor
418 W. Pleasant Street, Maquoketa
Leader: Lois Wessels



"Imagining – an Advent Lesson"

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth... 'For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'"

Then the angel departed from her."

- from St. Luke, Chapter 1

We will meet at Faith parking lot at 9:30 a.m. for those who would like to carpool.
Reservations are to be called in to the church office by Friday, December 5 ~ 246-2622

Angel Tree Time



The God Squad will soon be shopping for our local Angel Tree. We have not yet received our Angel Tree names but if you are interested in either shopping for an angel or making a donation and have the God Squad shop for you, please contact Heather Grau, Ashley Steffens or Colette Christiansen.

"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus."

- Neal Marwell

News About Our People



Florence Petersen celebrated her November 21st 96th Birthday with her family.



A funeral service for Donna Gasper was held at Faith Church on Saturday, November 21. Donna passed away on November 18. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Grand Mound, Iowa.

"Sing a Song of Christmas"



presented by the children of
Faith and Our Savior's Sunday School –
Sunday, December 20 – 10:30 a.m.
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Join the children in singing all the familiar hymns of Christmas. The children will tell the history and meaning of the songs as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior. The loose offering that day will be for Yusuph and Vanessa, the children sponsored through compassion International.

Great little One!
whose all-embracing birth
lifts Earth to Heaven,
stoops Heaven to Earth.

- Richard Cranshaw

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 1: Dan Burke
 December 2: Bob Barnard
 December 4: Alyssa McElmeel
 Jackson Wieck
 December 5: Michele Bliler
 December 8: Dale Gronewold
 Cindy Burke
 December 9: Jason Bousselot
 Brooklyn Calef
 Jeff Griebel
 Maddon Hoker
 December 10: Dion Olson
 Lucas Hayes
 December 11: Josh Jacobi
 Michael Gronewold
 Alex Rickertsen
 December 13: Camdon Bousselot
 Brandon McMahon
 December 14: Andy Bickel
 Erin Bickel
 Drake Mayerhofer
 December 16: Malinda Malmanger
 Andrea Carstensen
 December 17: Hazel Richards
 Brenda Hayes
 Andrew Grau
 Teisha Jacobi
 December 18: Meghan Tendall
 Alexander Harkness
 December 19: Chloe Gronewold
 December 20: Brenda Christensen
 December 22: David Braet
 Michelle Fitzgerald
 Emily Elsner
 Holli Mosher
 December 23: Savannah Elias
 Sharon Bousselot
 Henry Mueller
 December 24: Carter Henning
 December 28: Kristin Schlinkert
 Karragan Whitman
 Patricia King
 Ryan Dick
 December 29: John Matthews II
 Lydia Whitman
 December 30: Sheri Siemen
 Bobby Thomas
 Marilyn Steward



December 2: Dirk & Annette Braet
 December 16: Pastor Bill & Jane Runaas

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

Christmas Program Rehearsal



6:00 p.m. Wednesday,
December 2 and 9 at Faith



6:00 p.m. Wednesday,
December 16 at Our Savior's

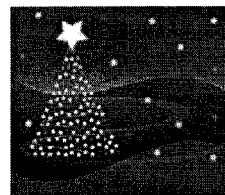


9:00 a.m. Saturday,
December 19 at Our Savior's

Please Make Every Effort To Attend!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 2015 CHRISTMAS LUMINARY

December 11th and 13th
5:30—8:00 p.m. ~ Grace Camp
2675 – 242nd Street DeWitt IA



Complimentary cookies and cider to enjoy in the Andrew Retreat Center. here will be a free-will donation to support the luminary at the exit gate. (Grace Camp is located west of DeWitt on Highway 30. Turn south onto blacktop 260th Avenue and left onto frontage road 242nd Street)

Away in a Manger

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

Find only the underlined words in the puzzle.

Away in a **manger**,
 No **crib** for His **bed**,
 The **little Lord Jesus**,
Laid down His **sweet head**.

The **stars** in the **bright** sky,
Looked down where He **lay**,
 The little Lord Jesus,
Asleep on the **hay**.

The **cattle** are **lowing**,
 The poor **Baby wakes**,
 But little Lord Jesus,
 No **crying** He makes.

I **love** Thee, Lord Jesus,
 Look down from the sky,
 And **stay** by my **side**,
 'Til **morning** is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
 I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me **forever**,
 And love me I **pray**.

Bless all the dear **children**,
 In Thy **tender** care,
 And take us to **heaven**,
 To live with **Thee** there.

MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2015

FAITH

Ushers:

Mark Witte
Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley
Gary Braet
Dick Johnson

Acolytes:

Caleb Banowetz

Altar Ministry:

Sharyl and Larry Banowetz Family

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Greeter:

December 6: Gary Braet
December 13: Ruth Braet
December 20: Annette Braet
December 27: Dirk Braet

Lectors:

December 6: Mark Witte
December 13: Brian Tulley
December 20: Annette Braet
December 27: Dirk Braet

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Dan Burke
Art Boussetot

Acolyte:

Riley Bruns

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lector:

December 6: Dan Burke
December 13: Amy Glover
December 20: Cindy Burke
December 27: Deb Detlefs

Cleaners:

Art and Sharon Boussetot

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



Our Savior's Church 9:00 p.m.



Christmas Day Service

Faith Church 9:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 6:00 Program Practice - F 6:00 Advent Meal - F 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Advent Worship -F Choir Follows	3	4	5
6 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 SS/AC - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	7	8 NO COMMITTEE MEETINGS	9 6:00 Program Practice - F 6:00 Advent Meal - F 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Advent Worship -F Choir Follows	10 6:00 Worship Committee - OS 7:00 Joint Council - OS	11	12
13 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 SS/AC - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	14	15	16 6:00 Program Practice - OS 6:00 Advent Meal - OS 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Advent Worship - OS Choir Follows	17	18 10:00 Women's Bible Study at Squiers Manor, Maquoketa (Car pool at 9:30 from Faith parking lot)	19 9:00 Final dress rehearsal for Christmas Program - OS
20 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 SS/AC - OS 10:30 Christmas Sunday School Program - OS	21	22	23	24  9:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - OS	25  9:00 Christmas Day Worship - F	26
27 8:00 Worship - F NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 Worship - OS	28	29	30	31		

"The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way. Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem! The inn ought to have been burned with brimstone, for even though Mary had been a beggar maid or unwed, anybody at such a time would have been glad to give her a hand. There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!" Yes you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself." - Martin Luther



Calamus Lutheran Parish
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches
P.O. Box 116
Calamus, Iowa 52729-0116
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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's Office 563.246.2558
Church email addressclparish@fbcom.net
Church Website.....www.clparish.org



*"Let's approach Christmas
with an expectant hush,
rather than a last-minute rush."*