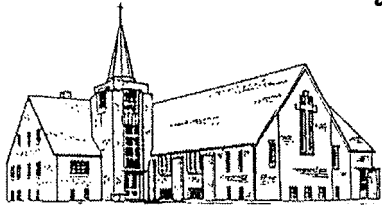


Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA

Calamus Lutheran Parish

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



Faith Lutheran
505 2nd Street

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



Our Savior's
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 30

December 2017

Number 12

Pastor's View

Advent – Thanksgiving is over and Advent is started. Advent is wonderful and challenging for our worshipping season. The month is filled with some good Christmas music and lots of bad xmas music. We have parties and shopping and pageants all more than what our energy levels can bear. And the advent season says wait. Wait for the coming of the Lord. Advent is the story about the coming of Christ Jesus. One little part sets us up for the birth of Christ. The rest of Advent tells the story of the coming of an adult Jesus who is King and will redeem the creation and the world. We are told to slow down and learn to lean on each other. We need the message of the darkness being defeated and the light returning in victory. The advent candles bring a light into the darkness. We need the message that the Son is coming to us. So we wait. It is in waiting that we learn about ourselves and others. Christmas *is* coming; it is just not here yet. Wait!

Andrew Greeley gives us words that ought to shake us awake this Advent season: “Either the absurd message of joy that Jesus brings ought to be rejected out of hand as blithering idiocy or it must be accepted and lived by. The solution most of us Christians arrive at is to accept it and live by it just enough to get by, just enough to be able to say to Jesus, ‘At least we are not against you. We can’t live with you enough to really enjoy the wedding feast, to become fully and richly ourselves at the feast and we probably won’t be gay and joyful enough to attract others in, but here we are anyway.’ In other words, we say to Jesus, ‘Okay, we’ll go up on the mountaintop and light a candle - I hope nobody gets a good look at our light.’” -- THE JESUS MYTH, (Garden City, NY, Doubleday Co., 1971, p. 75).

Christmas – Advent demands that we wait for Christmas to come. It is that waiting that drives many people to push to end Christmas to even Christmas afternoon. Our “X”-mas music and shopping days left adds to end Christmas. I like the wait of Advent. I like to celebrate Christmas starting Christmas afternoon. I like the power of Christmas music that tells the story of Christ starting when Christmas starts. It may look like I believe in “Bah Humbug.” But really I like the focus to be on God and God’s gift to us. Not our gifts to ourselves. So when you see me in a happy mood after Christmas day you now understand my point of view.

As you give Christmas gifts this year please remember that the ELCA has some wonderful programs to support; hunger, refugees, and animals to start a new life. Good stuff to support.

Check the calendar or bulletin for worship times on Sunday School Christmas program, the last Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve and Christmas day Are all in a 24 hour time frame. You may be tempted to skip one or two of the services. God will meet us where we are. Take special time to give a prayer of thanks for the incarnation of God’s son.

Christmas Blessing – Jane and I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas season this year. We would like to see God’s Blessing fall on you like a warm spring rain. We pray that you will have eyes to see what God is doing in your life, right now and in the future. You all have been a blessing to us this past year. God bless our ministry together.



November Council Meetings

Joint Council:

Pastor's report:

- Pastor directed the Nominating Committees to begin securing people to serve on 2018 committees.
- Pastor collected from each council member the names of people in the parish or community who may be interested in serving as a lay pastor.
- Pastor may retire earlier than originally expected with a possible summer 2018 or summer 2019 departure.
- Pastor will be on vacation from November 22-27.
- Pastor Bill and Intern Nate will exchange pulpits for the December 13 Wednesday Advent Service.

Worship Committee:

Finalized plans for the following services:

- Sunday, November 19 - **Thanksgiving Worship** led by Pastor Bill, the pastor of Wesley Methodist and St. Paul Methodist, and the St. John intern will be held at Faith.
 - 5:00 p.m. worship
 - 6:00 p.m. soup/sandwich meal
- Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King
Pastor will be on vacation.
No communion will be offered.
- Sunday, December 3 - Hanging of the Greens
- Wednesday, December 6, at Our Savior's
 - 5:45 p.m. Sunday School Program practice
 - 6:00 p.m. meal
 - 7:00 p.m. worship
- Sunday, December 10 - Noisy Offering
- Wednesday, December 13, at Our Savior's
 - 5:45 p.m. Sunday School Program practice
 - 6:00 p.m. meal
 - 7:00 p.m. worship
- Sunday, December 17
 - 8:00 a.m. worship at Faith
 - 9:25 a.m. Sunday School at Our Savior's
 - 10:30 a.m. **Children's Christmas Program** at Our Savior's
- Wednesday, December 20, at Faith
 - 6:00 p.m. meal
 - 7:00 p.m. worship
- Sunday, December 24
 - 9:00 a.m. worship at Faith
 - 9:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve** worship at Our Savior's
- Monday, December 25 - **Christmas Day**
 - 9:00 a.m. worship at Faith
- Sunday, December 31 (one service)
 - 9:00 a.m. worship at Our Savior's

Christian Outreach Committee:

- Finalized plans for the Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m. at Faith.
- God Squad will sell pies at the meal to raise funds for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston.

Education Committee:

- Christmas Program Practices will all be held at Our Savior's at the following times:
 - 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 6
 - 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 13
 - 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 16
 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 17
- **Children's Christmas Program**
 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 17, at Our Savior's
- NO Sunday School on December 24 and 31

New Business:

- Motion made by Matt Olson to give the \$146 collected at the Reformation Sunday Brunch to God Squad. Marilyn Schau seconded. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Marcia Edens to give Advent meal donations to God Squad. Donna Petersen seconded. Motion carried.
- Faith and Our Savior's Councils will individually determine their donation to the God Squad for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston.
- God Squad will gather Angel Gifts for 10 youth and the parish will gather Angel Gifts for 10 youth. Contact Heather Grau for details.
- All parish members will be invited to attend regularly scheduled meetings which will focus on determining the type of future pastoral care the parish will pursue. Specific meeting dates will be scheduled in early 2018.
- **Annual Meetings will be held on January 28, 2018 immediately following respective worship services.**

Faith Council:

- Financials reports were approved with a designated balance of \$2,509.92 and a working balance of \$32,109.65.
- Ryan Associates serviced the furnace but will have to return as it is not functioning.
- Braet repaired the tile floor in the basement.
- There are six youth and two adults registered for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Faith Council will determine a donation when the date gets closer.
- The parking lot light will be repaired or replace.
- Council will request the Property and Management Committee assess the windows in the parsonage and determine if there is a need for replacement and if so, the approximate cost. If fiscally prudent, the windows could be replaced during the siding project.


December



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 6 – Our Savior's**
6:00 p.m. Meal
7:00 p.m. Worship

  **December 13 – Our Savior's**
6:00 p.m. Meal
7:00 p.m. Worship

   **December 20 – Faith**
6:00 p.m. Meal
7:00 p.m. Worship

♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪



Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20
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!



"Jesus Comes Home"

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17

10:30 a.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Rehearsal information:

The first rehearsal is at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, at Our Savior's. It is important for all Sunday School students in preschool through 6th grade to be at the first rehearsal to sing the songs and receive assigned readings.

It is also important for everyone, including 7th and 8th grade students, to be at the final rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16, at Our Savior's.

Young musicians are encouraged to select something to play or sing for the prelude.

Noisy Offering Collected December 10



Camp Courageous has been selected by the church councils and committees to be the 2017 recipient of the Noisy Offerings.

God Squad Bake Sales



Sundays, December 10 and 17

Raising money for 2017 Angel Tree Project and
2018 ELCA Youth Gathering.

"Children's Christmas Program"



presented by the children of
Faith and Our Savior's Sunday School
Sunday, December 17 – 10:30 a.m.
at Our Savior's

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 18, 2017. 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 19, 2018. Thank You!



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



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

Angel Tree Time



The God Squad and Calamus Lutheran Parish are sponsoring Angels for Christmas from the Carroll Assistance Center again this year. Contact Heather Grau at 563-424-0507 if you would like to help give Christmas gifts to a local child. Wrapped gifts are due back to church by Friday, December 15.

Annual Meetings at Faith and Our Savior's will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 following the worship services.

"Coffee & A Little Jesus"



You are invited to the Women's/Mom's Bible Study, "Coffee & A Little Jesus." We will meet the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Kids are welcome.

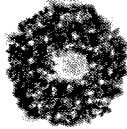
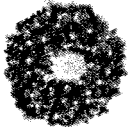
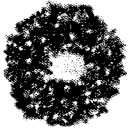
Heather Grau, 1658 – 257th Street, Calamus
December 5 – 9:00 a.m.



If interested, please email me
grau.heather@gmail.com or call me [563-424-0507](tel:563-424-0507)

You can also follow on Facebook at
Coffee & A Little Jesus

Jesus
IS THE
reason
FOR THE
Season



Bible Study

All are welcome!



Monday, December 11


Tuesday, December 12

6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

"Power Thoughts: 12 Strategies to

Win the Battle of the Mind"

By Joyce Meyer

Women of the
ELCA 

Joy to the World



Lydia Circle

Wednesday, December 13, noon

Crossroads Garden Cafe - DeWitt



Naomi Circle

Friday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.

Squiers Manor in Maquoketa

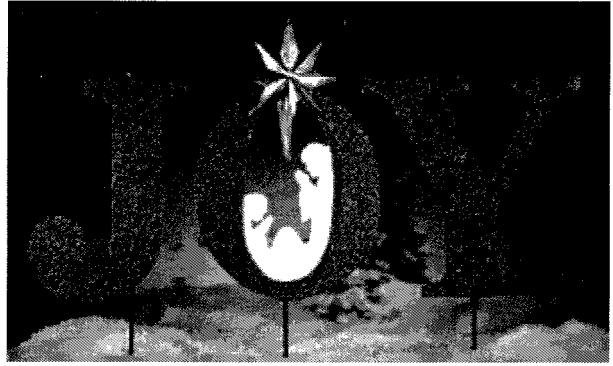
First Communion



The following received their First Communion on Reformation Sunday at Our Savior's - Noelle Steines, Calvin Steines, Ryan Olson, Kara Olson, and William Burke.

Welcome to the Lord's Table!
"Let the children come to me"

Matthew 19:14



Rejoice!

The animals came,

One and all,

To worship the Christ child

Oh! So small!

Who was born in Bethlehem

On that night

In a stable filled

With Holy light.

Then down from the hills

The shepherds came

To see the new king,

And praise His name.

They did not question

His presence there

But gathered around,

In silent prayer,

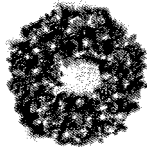
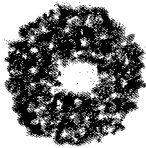
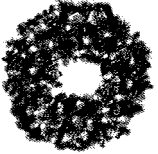
To worship

The baby Jesus small

That God had sent

To save us all.

Jars are needed - God Squad is looking for wide-mouth, quart-size and pint-size canning jars for an upcoming fundraiser. If you have jars to donate, please contact Heather Grau at 563-424-0507.



Love-in-a-Jar Fundraiser

God Squad is selling cookie mixes and soup mixes in a jar this holiday season for \$5.00 per jar.

Sign up for yours today from any God Squad youth or at the back of the church.

Jars will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 17, during services.

**No Sunday School,
God Squad or Adult Class
on December 24 and 31
Classes resume January 7, 2018**

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

Voices of Lutheranism: Chorales to Alabados

Situated within the wider narrative of Christian worship, the story of Lutheran music begins with Martin Luther's own gifts as a lutenist and composer. Unlike Calvin and Zwingli, who appreciated music but distrusted its emotional appeal, Luther did not want to restrict ways in which God's gifts of language and music were used in worship. In a passage that recalls the parade of voices and instruments in Psalm 150, Luther wrote that praise should "sound forth with joy" from "organs, symphonias, virginals, regals, and whatever other beloved instruments there are."



Luther singing with family and friends

Luther also knew that his fellow citizens would not be reading the scholarly documents explaining his disagreements with the Roman church. Along with his German translation of the Bible and catechisms, he wrote chorales that sought to praise and teach, placing the Word directly

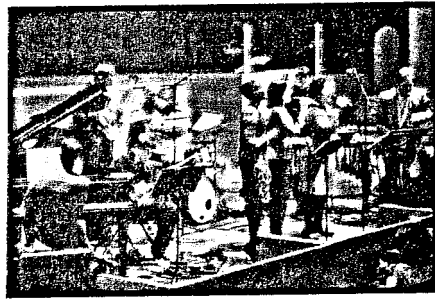
on the lips of the people in their own language and syntax. Aided by the expansion of printing technology, generations of authors and composers followed suit. The rhymed stanzas, catchy tunes, and dance-inspired rhythms of these chorales were not matters of happenstance but artfully combined to achieve maximum "memory" effect. (Think back: how did you learn your ABCs? By singing!) And like earlier plainchants, texts and melodies of these chorales served as building blocks for new compositions.

Luther instinctively understood the value of teamwork and cultivated partnerships with musical colleagues, inaugurating a rich tradition of

collaboration between musically minded theologians (pastors) and theologically minded musicians (cantors). With Philipp Melancthon, he established an educational model in which pastors and cantors were trained together in subjects such as grammar, rhetoric, and music. Many composers upheld as exemplars of Lutheran baroque music were products of this environment: Schütz, Praetorius, and the Bach family, to name a few.

The conditions that allowed Lutheran music to develop as it first did changed in the eighteenth century as Enlightenment ideals confronted the once-unchallenged authority of churches. As monarchies gave way to republics and democracies, composers moved from churches and courts toward concert halls. The nineteenth century saw the establishment of many civic choirs and orchestras, groups for which Mendelssohn and Brahms composed music that incorporated Lutheran chorales.

In the United States, voices of Lutheran immigrants blended with musical strands from other European denominations that had established colonial roots. The nineteenth century witnessed a constant process of intersection, recovery, and revision, allowing



Anglican hymns, American shape note songs, African American spirituals, Roman plainchant, and chorales to mix freely across the frontier. Increasing ecumenical and global outlooks in the twentieth century only deepened the well of assembly song, adding familiar names like Taizé, Iona, and Hillsong to genres such as the Japanese *gagaku* and Mexican *alabados*—an abundance that Luther could hardly have imagined. Though physical materials have changed, Lutherans continue to mark days and seasons of the church year with songs from sisters and brothers of many times and places that praise, teach, pray, and bear us along our baptismal journey. Like Paul, we acclaim: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

Chad Fothergill

December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/GS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship - OS	4	5 Coffee & Little Jesus 9:00 am at Heather Grau's	6 Advent Service – OS 5:45 pm Rehearsal 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir	7	8	9
10 Bake Sale Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/GS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship - OS	11 Bible Study "Power Thoughts" 6:30 pm at F	12 Bible Study "Power Thoughts" 6:30 pm at F Committee Night 7:00 pm at OS	13 Lydia Circle noon Garden Cafe in DeWitt Advent Service – OS 5:45 pm Rehearsal 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir	14 Worship Committee 6:00 p.m. at OS Joint Council 7:00 pm at OS	15 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Squires Manor in Maquoketa Angel Tree Gifts due.	16 Program Rehearsal 9:00 am at OS
17 Bake Sale 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/GS/AC – OS 10:30 Children's Program – OS	18 Newsletter items due in office. Annual reports are due.	19	20 Advent Service – F 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship – F 9:00 pm Worship – OS	25 9 am Worship – F	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship – OS						

MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2017

FAITH

Ushers:

Mark Witte
Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley
Gary Braet

Acolytes:

Ryan Dick

Altar Ministry:

Larry & Sharyl Banowetz Family

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Greeter:

December 3: Gary Braet
December 10: Mark Witte
December 17: Brian Tulley
December 24: Dirk Braet
December 31: Annette Braet

Lectors:

December 3: Brian Tulley
December 10: Mark Witte
December 17: Christmas program
December 31: Annette Braet

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Mark Olson
Art Bousselot

Acolyte:

Courtney Knoche

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lector:

December 3: Amy Glover
December 11: Joe Morehead
December 17: Mark Olson
December 24: Cindy Burke
December 31: Dan Burke

Cleaners:

Brian Bousselot and Dylan Bousselot

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.

One Service Only

**Monday, December 25, Christmas Day
Faith Lutheran Church – 9:00 am**

**Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve
Our Savior's Church – 9:00 am**

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 Boussetot
Brooklyn Calef
Jeff Griebel
Maddon Hoker
December 10: Dion Olson
Lucas Hayes
Parker Olson
December 11: Josh Jacobi
Michael Gronewold
Alex Rickertsen
December 13: Camdon Boussetot
Brandon McMahon
December 14: Andy Bickel
Erin Bickel
Drake Mayerhofer
December 16: 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 Boussetot
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.

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

THE STAR

Many, many years ago
In Bethlehem of old,
A star appeared out of the night
As prophets had foretold

The star it shone
So wondrous bright,
Its rays a path
Of heavenly light,

Shining softly down
Upon a stable small
To touch with gentle love
The most perfect babe of all.

The shepherds from the hills,
The wise men from afar,
Found their way to Him
By following the star.

They stood in silent wonder
Offering their gifts of love
And the Star shone brightly down
God's guardian from above.

Today that Star shines just as bright,
No matter where we are,
If we just let the light of Jesus
Become our shining Star.

— Lois Wessels

Calamus Lutheran Parish
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches
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Calamus, Iowa 52729-0116
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Calamus Lutheran Parish

Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

319-231-5262

Sunday Worship Schedule



8:00 am Worship

Faith Church

505 – 2nd Street, Calamus



9:25 am Sunday School/Adult Class

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



10:30 am Worship

Our Savior's Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Rural Calamus

Church Office 563.246.2622

Pastor's Office 563.246.2558

Church email address clparish@fbcom.net

Church Website..... www.clparish.org


Jesus
IS THE
reason
FOR THE
Season