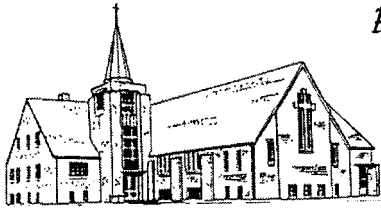


Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA

Calamus Lutheran Parish

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



Faith Lutheran
505 2nd Street



Our Savior's
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 25

DECEMBER 2012

Number 12

Pastor Writes



Thanksgiving was over, even if only just a few short days prior. But already, we were full-steam-ahead for Christmas (how does that happen?). The boys were singing Christmas songs they were practicing for their school program. They were jumping up and down, wondering when we were going to put our tree up. They were tearing around in the Santa hats I had just bought and hadn't had a single second to stash away yet. So, in a desperate effort to buy a little quiet time, I suggested they sit down at the kitchen table and write out their Christmas lists. They looked at me like I was Einstein...they grabbed paper and pencils and scooted their chairs together and leaned in close, so that their whispers were understandable only to each other. They were a three-headed creature, looking quite Suess-like from the back, what with the three Santa hats and all.

As I put groceries away, I heard them laugh and giggle as they made their lists, spelling words out for each other and helping Philip with his alphabet. Finally, their lists were complete. They held them up to the light, inspecting them like da Vinci might have the Mona Lisa. Satisfied, they scurried off to wage war on the neighbor boys, pulling on hats and gloves and coats, forgetting their Santa hats, which gave them a decidedly less fierce appearance. As they scooted out the door, Christian threw this question at me, "Mom, what do you want for Christmas?"

Without thinking, I said, "Just one day when you boys don't fight."

He stopped dead in his tracks, and the two others plowed into him.

"Hey, what's the big idea?" Jacob whined (in his best nasal-y, Little Rascals voice)... "get goin!"

"Boys," Christian declared with the grave authority of a 5-star General, "did you hear what Mom just said? Did you hear what she said she wanted for Christmas?"

"No," the younger two chorused.

This only confirmed my suspicion that I am never, ever listened to. Ever.

"She says for Christmas, she wants us to have one full day without fighting."

The younger two looked at him like he just landed from outer space. And then they swung their faces around to look at me, like I had just landed from outer space.

"We're gonna have to talk about this, Mom," Christian said, "C'mon, boys, let's move out."

I watched them march outside and climb the big evergreen that stands in the middle of the yard, where they proceeded to hold their Great Conference. For the boys in the neighborhood, this great big tree is where all Great Conferences are held. The tree can easily hold 14 or 15 boys, all holding a Great Conference, and you'd never even know it by just looking at the tree.

A half an hour later, the three came back in, looking grim.

Jacob spoke first.

"We can't do it, Mom, but we'll get you anything else you want. *Anything.*"

I laughed out loud—how could you not?—because the boys could not grasp the truth of the situation, the Big Truth, that is to say, that God asks the same of us, to simply love one another, and God christens it with the arrival of the Prince of Peace, his very own Son, and our reaction is the same one as the boys, "We can't do it God, we just can't do it."

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from front page)

But the grace comes not in empty promises...nor does it come in unrealistic expectations...the grace comes into the picture when we say the words, "We'll try" (which is what the boys ended up promising, and I think they meant it in earnest) when God knows we will try, and knows better that we will fail, and loves us all the more...which is grace by definition.

Maybe God knows we will never be able to give him what he fully desires from us—selfless love and compassionate peace...after all, if we were able to give God these things on our own, there would be no need for Jesus. But maybe, while we await the return of the Christ child, maybe we can give God the gift of peace—not forever, or even for a long time—but maybe for a moment or two, however fleeting. And maybe, just maybe, as God watches us march from our Great Conferences to the wars we wage on our neighbors, God might take delight in our naiveté as we try our best for a moment of peace from time to time, and this attempt just might make God smile for that fleeting moment or two, and maybe that fleeting smile is the best that we can do, and maybe, just maybe, in God's eyes, that fleeting smile for those fleeting moments is enough.

Such is Christmas wonder—infinite love and patience from the One who knows our failures and our limitations even better than we ourselves do...and who still manages to laugh at us, because we look so very ridiculous running around in our Santa hats.

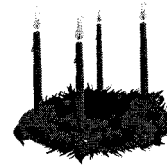
- Pastor Sarah Kretzmann

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Classes December 23 or 30. Classes resume January 6, 2013, 9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's Church

January Newsletter Items Due December 17, please. Thanks for your cooperation!

The Noisy Offering will be received December 16

First Sunday of Advent - December 2



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 5 – Our Savior's Church**
- ◆ **December 12 – Faith Church**
- ◆ **December 19 – Faith**

Christmas Program Rehearsal Times Set



Rehearsals for the Children's Christmas program will be at 9:25 a.m., Sundays December 2, 9 and 16 at Faith; 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5 at Our Savior's; and 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 12, at Faith. Sunday School children from preschool through 8th grade are invited to participate. It is important that every child who is going to participate in the program be at rehearsals. Children are invited to share their musical talents during the prelude! **The program will be presented on Sunday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m. at Faith.**



At the November Council Meetings

Joint Council:

- Worship Committee –Dirk Braet will deliver food to the Carroll Assistance Center after Thanksgiving services; Christ the King and Hanging of the Greens worship services were planned; There will be no Sunday School or Adult Class on December 23 or 30; Advent offerings are designated for the 2012 ELCA Malaria Campaign.

- Stewardship/Christian Outreach Committee – Thanksgiving meal was organized; Dirk Braet will deliver food to the Carroll Assistance Center.

- Education Committee – Christmas Program, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, will be held Sunday, December 16 during the 10:30 a.m. service at Faith; The Luther League served a meal at the Victory Center in Clinton as a community service project; Luther League will make noodles on December 2 and sell at Advent services as a fund raiser for the Angel Tree and skiing activities and will host a Trivia Night in January for a fund raiser;

- The Calamus Lutheran Parish raised \$962 for the CROP Walk in October;

- Annual meetings will be held on January 27, 2013.

Faith Council:

- Financial reports were accepted with a designated balance of \$7,646.67 and a working balance of \$6,483.26;

- Insulated curtains were incorrectly constructed – the company will remake the drapes and ship to Faith Church at no cost;

- Two ductless air conditioning units will be ordered for the sanctuary and the addition of 100 AMP service will be added to the church;

- Triple J Gutters sealed the gutter on the parsonage and will submit a bid for replacement of parsonage gutters;

- The congregation has been informed of the status of the parsonage loan and future projects;

- Joyce Sands will serve as a temporary replacement for Jodie Overkamp, who is unable to clean the church at the present time because of health issues;

- Dirk Braet will inspect the church front doors and arrange for repairs.

Our Savior's Council:

- Financial reports were accepted with a balance of \$49.80;

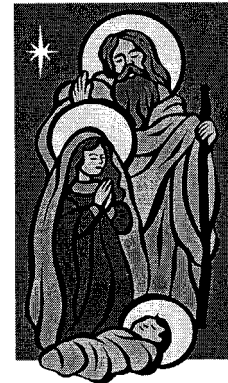
- New parts have been ordered for the front doors of the church;

- Directory needs to be redone – will look at programs on the computer and discuss with Faith at next meeting.

Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report

October 2012

Beginning Balance.....	\$1,175.02
Deposits	\$4,163.15
Disbursements.....	\$5,288.37
Ending Balance	\$ 49.80



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



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

CROP Walk Results

Thank you to all who supported the Calamus Lutheran Parish CROP Walk either by your donation or your walking! We were able to raise \$962 of the total \$3,282.85 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!

Looking for a Special Christmas Gift?

If you are looking for a special gift for someone the newly published Our Savior's 150th Anniversary Cookbook is still available - you may purchase a cookbook by contacting Nancy Olson (246-2767) or Jason Boussetot (246-2539).

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 2013
Following 8:00 a.m. Worship


FAITH CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 2013
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 21, 2012. 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 21, 2013. Thank You!

Women of the
ELCA 

GATHERED BY GOD

"Shake It Up"

"When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness."

- Acts 4:31



Combined Circles

Friday, December 21, 10:00 a.m.

Squiers Manor,

418 W. Pleasant Street, Maquoketa

Leader: Jeannene Boussetot



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 December 14.

♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪



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



Come join us—we'd love to have you!

♪ Diane Christensen

Sunday Morning Child Care for Christian, Jacob & Philip

December 2: Mark and Marsha Witte

December 9: Ruth Braet

December 16: Ray and Deb Detlefs

December 23: Rod and Robin Costello-Smith

December 30: Boys with Nate

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- December 1: Dan Burke
December 4: Alyssa McElmeel
Jackson Wieck
December 5: Michele Bliler
December 8: Dale Gronewold
Cynthia Burke
December 9: Jason Boussetot
Brooklyn Calef
Jeff Griebel
December 10: Dion Olson
Lucas Hayes
December 11: Josh Jacobs
Michael Gronewold
Alex Rickertsen
December 13: Camdon Boussetot
Brandon McMahan
December 14: Andy Bickel
Erin Bickel
Drake Mayerhofer
December 16: Malinda Malmanger
Andrea Carstensen
December 17: Hazel Richards
Brendan Hayes
Andrew Grau
December 18: Meghan Tendall
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 27: Allison Dwyer
December 28: Kristin Henning Schlinkert
Carrie Olson
Karragan Whitman
Patricia King
Ryan Dick
December 29: John Matthews II
Lydia Whitman
December 30: Sheri Siemen
Bobby Thomas
Marilyn Steward
♥
December 1: Dirk & Annette Braet

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

News About Our People



Elsa Rachele, daughter of Jason and Haley Sullivan, through Holy Baptism, was welcomed into the family of God and the membership of Faith Lutheran Church on November 11, 2012.



A memorial service for Stewart Stotesbery was held at Our Savior's Church on November 17. Stewart died October 30 in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Home Delivered Meals to Over-55 Citizens

Generations Area Agency on Aging, as a part of the Federal Older Americans Act Nutrition Program will provide a home-delivered meal to meet the nutritional needs of seniors. Special diets are available upon request, with a prescription from your doctor. Meals are packaged and sent from Sodexo Food Service located at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.

Most of the time, meals will be delivered hot and ready to eat for lunch. However, there may be a time when you need to warm your meal slightly.



At the end of each month you will receive a statement for the number of meals you have received with a request for a suggested donation of \$3.25 per meal – the actual cost of the meal is \$7.71. Individual donations are encouraged by anyone to help with the cost. You may send checks to: Davenport Office Generations, 935 East 53rd Street, Davenport, Iowa 52807.

Meals delivered to the home are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To receive meals or have questions answered, please contact the Scott County Davenport Office Generations, 1-800-892-9085 or 1-563-324-9085. Email address is josborn@genage.org or genage@genage.org.

(See insert on following page for December's menus. There are GenAge Cafes open daily in the towns listed on the menu if you prefer going out to eat.)



GENAGE CAFÉ MENU - DECEMBER 2012
NOON MEAL CLINTON & SCOTT COUNTIES
SUGGESTED DONATION \$ 3.00 CAFÉ DINING, \$ 3.25 HOME DELIVERED

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>3) 3 Oz Baked Steak W/Gravy ½ C Mashed Potatoes ½ C Creamed Corn With Bacon and Leeks 1 Pc Wheat Bread 1 Pc Hot Cherry Crisp</p>	<p>4) Hamburger Patty W/Sliced Cheese Ketchup And Mustard Or 4 Oz Fish Wedge On Wheat Bun W/ Tarter Sauce ½ C Italian Vegetable Pasta Salad ½ C Pineapple 1 Pc Banana Pudding Square </p>	<p>5) Happy Birthday 3 Oz Andy's Meatloaf ½ C Smashed Potatoes W/ White Gravy ½ C Peas With Pearl Onions 1 Wheat Dinner Roll 1 Cupcake W/Icing 4 Oz Ice Cream</p>	<p>6) ¼ Oven Baked Chicken ¼ C Cheese Potato Puffs ½ C Waldorf Salad ½ C Green Beans 1 Pc Lemon Pound Cake W/ Glaze 4 Oz Grape Juice</p>	<p>7) 1 C Crustless Chicken Pot Pie (3 Oz Chicken ½ C Potatoes) ½ C Carrots 1 Biscuit ½ C Hot Sliced Apples 1 Pc Pecan Pie</p>
<p>10) 1 C Beef Stroganoff (½ C Noodles, ½ C Beef) ½ C California Blend 1 Pc Wheat Bread ½ C Peaches 1 Pc Coconut Cream Pie</p>	<p>11) 3 Oz Unbreaded Tilapia W/ Grilled Peppers and Onions ½ C Roasted Red Potatoes ½ C Broccoli 1 Raspberry Muffin ½ C Orange Dreamcicle Fruit Salad</p>	<p>12) 3 Oz Salisbury Steak W/Gravy ½ C Mashed Potatoes ½ C Red Bean Beach Salad 1 Dinner Roll 1 C Orange Sections 1 Sugar Cookie</p>	<p>13) 1 C Spaghetti W/Meat Sauce (1/2 C Meat, ½ C Noodles) 1 C Big Bowl Of Tuscan Greens 1 Breadstick 1 Pc Chocolate Cup Cake W/ Frosting</p>	<p>14) 3 Oz Brat With Sauerkraut On Wheat Bun W/ Ketchup And Mustard ½ C Northern Beans & Leeks ½ C German Fruit Salad 1 Rice Krispy Bar </p>
<p>17) ½ Bq Baked Chicken ½ C Au Gratin Potatoes ½ C Mixed Vegetables 1 Pc Dark Rye Bread 1 Banana</p>	<p>18) Golden Wedding 3 Oz Pork Chop W/Gravy ½ C Mashed Potatoes ½ Beans And Crispy Noodle Salad 1 Pc Wheat Bread 1 Pc Cherry Pie</p>	<p>19) 1 C Tuna Noodle Casserole ½ C Broccoli 1 Dinner Roll ½ C Fruit Cocktail 1 M&M Cookie</p>	<p>20) 3 Oz Andy's Meatloaf ½ C Mashed Potatoes W/Gravy ½ C Amazing Crunchy Pear, Celery & Cheese Salad ½ C Butterscotch Pudding</p>	<p>21) 1 Stuffed Green Pepper (3 Oz Beef, ½ C Rice) ½ C Butter Beans 1 Pc Pumpernickel Bread ½ C Tropical Fruit Basic Taste</p>
<p>24) ALL GENAGE CAFES CLOSED NO HOME DELIVERIES</p>	<p>25) Merry Christmas ALL GENAGE CAFES CLOSED NO HOME DELIVERIES</p>	<p>26) 3 Oz Fish Nuggets ½ C Potato O'Brien ½ C Corn 1 Corn Muffin ½ C Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>27) Soup And Sandwich 3 Oz Shaved Ham W/ Mayo on Wheat Bun 1 C Broccoli Cheese Soup 1 Pkg Crackers 1 Pc Chocolate Cream Pie</p>	<p>28) 1 C Lasagna ½ C Garden Salad W/ Assorted Dressing 1 Breadstick ½ C Apricots ½ C Pistachio Pudding</p>
<p>31) Happy New Year's Eve ALL GENAGE CAFES CLOSED NO HOME DELIVERIES</p>	<p>Bethel AME 322-6622 Buffalo 381-4594 Cumberland 332-9339 Edgewater on Third 324-9085 Eldridge 285-8415 Friendly House 323-1821</p>	<p>Kimberly (CASI) 386-7477 Le Claire 289-4371 Luther Crest 388-8543 Luther Knoll 449-8318 Luther Manor 332-9407 Luther Tower 355-3121 New Hope 391-0236</p>	<p>Roosevelt 888-2056 Spring Village 344-9463 Spruce Hills 324-9085 Temple Baptist 386-0874 Walcott 284-6122</p>	<p>Camanche 259-8011 DeWitt 659-5624 Park Tower 242-4222 Prairie Village 242-2085 Wheatland 374-1011 Chancy - HDM 242-5180 MENUS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p>



MENU HIGH IN SODIUM

CHOICE DAY

MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2012

FAITH

Ushers:

Mark Witte
Gary Braet
Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley

Acolytes:

Beth Tulley
Katie Banowetz

Altar Ministry:

David & Terri Bousselot

Communion Assistant:

Dirk Braet

Greeter:

Dec 2: Diane Wilhelm
Dec 9: Meryne Henning
Dec 16: Brian Tulley
Dec 23: Dirk Braet
Dec 30: Terri Bousselot

Lector:

Dec 2: Mark Witte
Dec 9: Terri Bousselot
Dec 16: Kevin Henning
Dec 23: Diane Christensen
Dec 30: Shirley Ferguson

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Darin Doerscher
Brian Bousselot
Dylan Bousselot
Mark Olson

Acolyte:

Emma Olson
Alec Olson

Communion Assistant:

Brian Bousselot

Lector:

Dec 2: Hanging of the Greens
Dec 9: Jason Bousselot
Dec 16: Paul Olson
Dec 23: Skye Doerscher
Dec 30: Kay Olson

Cleaners

Brian Bousselot
Dylan Bousselot

Christian, Jacob & Philip Caregivers

Dec 2: Mark & Marsha Witte
Dec 9: Ruth Braet
Dec 16: Ray & Deb Detlefs
Dec 23: Rod & Robin Costello-Smith
Dec 30: 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.

Luther League Angel Tree Shopping



***Meet at Faith Church,
Sunday, December 9, 12:00 Noon
We will return to Faith Church to wrap gifts.
Any questions, call Brenda Christensen 246-2383.***

DECEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<i>(Advent Offerings Will Be Given to the ELCA Malaria Campaign)</i>			1
2 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship – F 1:30 Luther League - F	3	4	5 5:45 Christmas program practice-OS 6:00 Advent Meal OS 7:00 Advent Worship OS Choir follows	6	7	8
9 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F 12:00 Angel Tree - F	10	11 7:00 Committee Night - OS	12 5:45 Christmas program practice-F 6:00 Advent Meal-F 7:00 Advent Worship-F Choir follows	13 6:00 Worship Committee – OS 7:30 Joint Council - OS	14	15
16 3rd Sunday in Advent/Noisy Offerin 8:00 Worship – OS 9:35 SS/AC – F 10:30 Christmas Program - F	17	18	19 5:45 Christmas program practice-F 6:00 Advent Meal-F 7:00 Advent Worship-F Choir follows	20	21 Combined Circles Meet at 9:00 – Faith Parking Lot to go to Squiers Manor, Maquoketa	22
23 4th Sunday in Advent 8:00 Worship – OS NO SS/AC 10:30 Worship - F	24 Christmas Eve 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship - OS	25 Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship - F	26	27	28	29
30 8:00 Worship – OS NO SS/AC 10:30 Worship - F	31					<i>Sunday School & Adult Class Resume January 6, 9:25 a.m. at Faith Church</i>

E-newsletter:

A message from the presiding bishop



Story by
Mark S.
Hanson

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

The ELCA is a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. We are a church rooted in Scripture, tradition, the Lutheran confessions and the rich histories of our congregations.

It is through God's grace that we are made new day by day to proclaim Jesus Christ and boldly participate in God's work. As Martin Luther said, this faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we get to look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church. We celebrate the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous churchwide ministries freed in Christ to love and serve neighbors in our communities, our country and around the world.

What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating. In 25 years, we have:

- Started 435 congregations.
- Ordained nearly 8,000 pastors.
- Sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve around the world.
- Contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

The year of our 25th anniversary begins Jan. 1, 2013, with the theme "Always being made new." I invite you to join me in celebrating these 25 years together in Christ.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. It is through our willingness as a church to boldly participate in God's work in the world that we are made new day by day. I am grateful for your leadership, support and prayers in making the work of this church possible.

Thanks be to God.

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

U.S. Postage Paid
Calamus, Iowa
52729
Permit No.12

**Calamus Lutheran Parish
Worship Schedule**



**8:00 A.M. Sunday Worship
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
2589 – 190th Avenue, rural Calamus**



**9:25 A.M. Sunday School/Adult Class
Faith Lutheran Church**



**10:30 A.M. Sunday Worship
Faith Lutheran Church
505 Second Street, town of 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

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



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