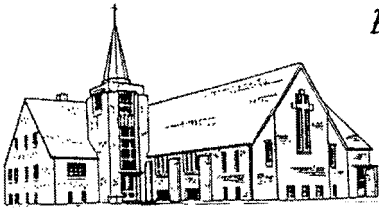


Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA

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

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Number 11

Pastor Writes



I have never—nor will I ever—tell a child that ghosts do not exist.

I try to never speak in absolutes, unless I am absolutely positive, which is absolutely never.

The subject of ghosts comes up often around our house, especially during these days of Halloween and scary stories and so forth. But ghost discussions are not limited by season, and often make summertime reappearances, when scary stories are swapped around campfires and in dark treehouses. But these immediate days are ever-shortening autumn days, with whipping wind and rattling attic noises that often land one or two or three boys in my bed in the wee hours of the night.

“Did you hear that, Mom?” they whisper into my sleeping ear.

“Hear what?” I mumble.

“There’s a ghost in the attic,” they reply.

“I know,” I answer back, “Leave it alone and it’ll leave you alone. Now go back to bed.”

And their eyes grow wide as saucers, even in the dark I can see this.

“Really?!” they plead, “*really?*”

“No, I’m kidding. But go back to bed.”

And then they lock their arms around my neck, and the cost for my toying with them is a good night’s sleep, as they eventually drift off, breathing little-boy-bed-breath into my face and kicking at me when they enter little boy REM sleep, fighting off attic ghosts with swift and hard kicks.

I am kidding when I say a ghost lives in our attic, but I never outright deny the very existence of ghosts. Because I am rather convinced that that do exist. Not as Casper, for those of you old even to remember him, or even those mucousy things in *Ghostbusters*...but more as feelings, perceptions, intuitions.

I do not understand all this very well, save for the fact that the church does claim to believe in the “communion of saints,” and that means we believe in the community of God’s people—past, present and future. We believe that the saints of God (that is, the baptized people of God around the world) exist in whatever time dimension God commands. We believe that saints long dead and saints not yet born still somehow share community with us, saints who live in the here-and-now. In some strange way, time dimensions collapse in on themselves in God’s time, and in some strange way, this means that the dead, the living and the unborn are able to sit down at a table together.

It happens all the time in Holy Communion, when God’s saints from all times form an endless parade, sharing together the very body and blood that make eternal life even possible. And if at the Lord’s Table, then why not at the Thanksgiving table? Or the Christmas table? Or a Tuesday night table?

I am convinced there have been times when I have been at table with family and friends and felt the brush of my long-deceased grandmother at my elbow, whispering in my ear, “Don’t forget to pass the cream, Sarah Beth.” I am convinced when I see a toddler chattering away in my sandbox at her “imaginary” friend that she is engaged in a very real, very un-imaginary social interaction. I am convinced that our elderly in nursing homes carry on crystal-clear conversations with boyfriends from 1943. I am convinced when one of my sons leaps into my bed in a single bound at 2:00 a.m., claiming to have seen a ghost, that he is telling the truth. Whatever that truth might be.

(continued on next page)

(continued from front page)

Point is, I do not think we need to understand something in order for it to exist. I don't understand the technology that makes it possible for me to write this article, and yet it exists. Heck, I don't even understand my own cell phone, but it exists. I don't understand a sunset or sunrise. My sons don't understand the pain of childhood friendships. Nobody really understands the push and pull of the ocean's tides or solar flare-ups or the limits of the universe. And yet, these things exist.

And so does the human soul, in all of its mysterious manifestations. Perhaps we should deny the existence of spiritual things we do not understand less, and consider the reality that God also commands these legions of spirits, just as he commands every other thing he has created. And perhaps when we consider that all things—physical and spiritual—fall under the reign of God, they might scare us less. And then perhaps when our frightened children fly into our beds in the middle of the night, we might not discredit their fear, but rather remind our little ones that every single thing in the universe comes from God in the beginning and returns to God in the end, and, having thus comforted them, brace ourselves for a night of little-child-bed-breath in the face and a dozen swift kicks to the shin.

- *Pastor Sarah Kretzmann*

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 4, the Christian Church celebrates "All Saints Sunday." On this day, we remember with thanksgiving those saints who have gone before us. At our baptism, God made us saints, as well, and wrapped us in the pure, white robes of eternal life. **There will be a sign-up sheet in both churches to add the names of those dear to you who have died this past year.** Or you may phone the names in to the church office (246-2622).

"The real issue in life is not how many blessings we have, but what we do with our blessings. Some people have many blessings and hoard them. Some have few and give everything away." — Mr. Rogers

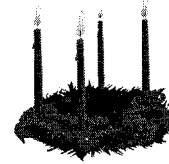
THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

**November 21 - Faith Church
7:00 p.m.**



Prepared Meal Served at 6:00 p.m.

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 Church**

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

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



At the October Council Meeting

Joint Council:

- Apples will be collected during church services on October 21 for use at the Reformation meal;
- Christian Outreach Committee will help prepare the Reformation Meal and will plan the Thanksgiving meal;
- There was a large attendance at the September Luther League meeting; monthly activities will be led by volunteer parents; Leaguers will visit haunted houses on October 13; they will plan to serve a meal at the Victory Center as a community service project;
- The Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 16 during the 10:30AM service at Faith;
- Treat the Pantries will be November 11 and 18.

Faith Council:

- Accepted financial reports with a designated balance of \$4,569.47 and a working balance of \$6,608.18;
- Gasper cleaned the parsonage attic of bat droppings, bleached the entire space and will place mouse poison within the area and check the furnace filter;
- Two cooling units will meet the needs of the church building – bids will be confirmed and installation dates will be discussed;
- Four 10lb. fire extinguishers have been purchased and will be installed;
- Boiler repair has been completed;
- Parishioners will be informed of the status of the parsonage loan and future project ideas; Gutters on the parsonage are in need of repair.

Our Savior's Council:

- Council is still working on ideas for the front doors of the church building;
- Work on cemetery information to be documented has been delayed because of weather;
- The new vacuum has been purchased and the old vacuum will be used in the parsonage;
- Accepted Rebecca Lara's membership to Our Savior's by Affirmation of Faith.

"Treat the Pantries"

"Treat the Pantries" Sundays will be November 11 and 18 at Faith and Our Savior's Churches. Make your check payable to your congregation designated for "Treat the Pantries" and place it in the offering plate at Our Savior's Church or in the container in the narthex at Faith Church.

The West Clinton County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring this Care Abounds in Communities project in the eleven congregations of the chapter. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will add \$1,600 to the amount collected. The money will be split between the four food pantries serving the area.

Thank you for your support of "Treat the Pantries," a project that has provided funds to the area food pantries since 1983.

Update on Faith Congregation Loan

The Faith Council wishes to keep the Faith Congregation informed as to the current loan status with First Trust and Savings Bank. Our outstanding loan is now approximately \$1,500. This is fantastic! The council is also investigating the possibility of air conditioning the sanctuary. One proposal estimated the cost at \$13,000. If you have any thoughts or suggestions concerning that project, please contact one of the council people.

Christian Outreach

The 2012 Vacation Bible School offering was items for Lutheran World Relief Health Kits. Seventeen kits were assembled by the Sunday School children and have been shipped to LWR.

The Education Committee sold wristbands in memory of Elia Homange. The project raised a total of \$92 to support the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Women of the ELCA

GATHERED BY GOD

"Nothing Lost"

"Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing

may be lost.'"

- John 6:11-12



Lydia Circle

Wednesday, November 14, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Arlene Green

Leader: Sharon Boussetot



Naomi Circle

Friday, November 16, 9:00 a.m.

Hostess: Diane Christensen

Leader: Meryne Henning

Christmas Program Rehearsal Times Set



Rehearsals for the Children's Christmas program will be at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, at Our Savior's and Wednesday, December 12, at Faith. An additional practice is scheduled for Saturday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m. at Faith. Sunday School children from preschool through 8th grade are invited to participate. The program will be presented on Sunday, December 16, at 10:30 at Faith.

Can You Help?

Theresa Eschbach is looking for a pan she brought food to church in this past Easter. It is a large rectangle metal pan with cream-colored enamel on the outside with some flowers painted on the side. Perhaps you took some food home in the pan and forgot to bring it back or maybe you have seen it somewhere in the church kitchen. If you know of its whereabouts, please notify the church office (246-2622) or Theresa (246-2734). Thanks for your help.

Thank You!

We wanted to say thank you to everyone who brought meals to us. We appreciated you thinking of us and sharing time with us as we welcomed our new baby girl. Thank You!!!
Pat, Heather, Andrew, Colin, Peyton and Emily Grau



My family and I give thanks to all who visited us, brought food and offered up prayers during Phil's illness. Those were the things that sustained us during those difficult days. A special thanks goes to Pastor Sarah and Intern Michelle Kanzaki for the wonderful funeral service, to Jason for his beautiful music, the ushers, the pall bearers, all who participated in the military rites, the memorials given in Phil's name, the food and kitchen help for the luncheon, Schultz Funeral Home and all others who helped in any way. We do so appreciate your thoughtfulness.

God Bless You All,
Barb Johnson and Family

Daylight Savings Time Begins



November 4

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 1:	John Ihns
November 5:	Magnus Sands Benjamin Harkness
November 6:	Angela Knudtsen
November 7:	Brodi Boussetol
November 8:	Joe Bruckman Lance Seastrand Jason Wilhelm Scott Peters Matt Olson
November 9:	Braeden Hayes
November 10:	Terri Boussetol
November 12:	Wendi Seastrand Nathaniel Cunningham Jacob Montover
November 13:	David Lahann
November 15:	Brandon Septer
November 18:	Adam Wilhelm
November 20:	Chayse Griebel
November 21:	Florence Petersen Colette Christensen
November 23:	Sherri Brady Debra Dillon
November 24:	Linda Lindaman Conrad Dosland Makenzie Garrett
November 25:	David Burke
November 26:	Vera St.John Shelley Weiss
November 27:	Eldon Pewe
November 28:	Evelyn Stueland Macailah Jacobsen
November 29:	Tina Braet-Thoms
	♥
November 11:	Terry & Julie Steines
November 12:	Leonard & Linda Elsner Dave & Hilda Hellyer
November 17:	Tom & Judy Olson
November 18:	Tony & Janice Berger
November 22:	Pr. Rick & Marlene Miller
November 28:	Dave & Linda Lindaman

"Gratitude consists of being more aware of what you have, than what you don't have." – Unknown



"God has two dwellings; one in heaven and the other in a meek and thankful heart." – Izaak Walton

News About Our People



Violet Ann, daughter of Josh and Kristi Jacobs was born on October 5.



Rebecca Lara, by Affirmation of Faith, was welcomed into the membership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church on October 14.



Ryan Eugene Dick, son of Rebecca Lara, was received into the family of God and the membership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church through Holy Baptism on October 14. Ryan's sponsors were Donald Crossley and Brandy Elliott-Crossley



Benjamin Derald, son of Darin and Skye Doerscher, was received into the family of God and the membership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church through Holy Baptism on October 21. Benjamin's sponsors were Peter and Lydia Whitman



On Reformation Sunday, October 28, Caleb Banowetz, Ryley Bruns, Ellie Carpenter, Maia Glover, Drake Olson and Karragan Whitman received their First Holy Communion



A funeral service was held at Faith Church on October 22 for Phil Johnson. Phil died on October 18.

Planning for Advent

Yes, it's time to be planning for Advent – December 5 worship service will be at Our Savior's Church and December 12 and 19 at Faith Church.

Our Advent worship services are always preceded by an Advent meal. This year we are asking that ten different people for each meal volunteer to coordinate the meal, set up and cleanup. **Sign-up sheets are posted** and will be distributed at worship services so that by November the list should be complete. Please be thinking how you might be a part of these special Advent activities.

Thanksgiving

(Edgar Albert Guest, 1881-1959)

Gettin' together to smile an' rejoice,
An' eatin' an' laughin' with folks of your choice;
An' kissin' the girls an' declarin' that they
Are growin more beautiful day after day;
Chattin' an' braggin' a bit with the men,
Buildin' the old family circle again;
Livin' the wholesome an' old-fashioned cheer,
Just for awhile at the end of the year.

Greetings fly fast as we crowd through the door
And under the old roof we gather once more
Just as we did when the youngsters were small;
Mother's a little bit grayer, that's all.
Father's a little bit older, but still
Ready to romp an' to laugh with a will.
Here we are back at the table again
Tellin' our stories as women an men.

Bowed are our heads for a moment in prayer;
Oh, but we're grateful an' glad to be there.
Home from the east land an' home from the west,
Home with the folks that are dearest an' best.
Out of the sham of the cities afar
We've come for a time to be just what we are.
Here we can talk of ourselves an' be frank,
Forgettin' position an' station an' rank.

Give me the end of the year an' its fun
When most of the plannin' an' toilin' is done;
Bring all the wanderers home to the nest,
Let me sit down with the ones I love best,
Hear the old voices still ringin' with song,
See the old faces unblemished by wrong,
See the old table with all of its chairs
An I'll put soul in my Thanksgivin' prayers.

MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER 2012

FAITH

Ushers:

Marilyn Schau
Larry Schau
Diane Wilhelm
Herb Wilhelm

Acolytes:

Brianna Williams
Ki Sosa

Altar Ministry:

Larry and Marilyn Schau

Communion Assistant:

Marsha Witte

Greeter:

Nov 4: Rusty Porth
Nov 11: Mark Witte
Nov 18: Judy McMahon
Nov 25: Jim Gronewold

Lector:

Nov. 4: Andrea Shelton
Nov 11: Dirk Braet
Nov 18: Judy McMahon
Nov 25: Christ the King – Pastor Sarah

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Ole Olson
Paul Olson
Shane Glover
Peter Whitman

Acolyte:

Emma Olson
Alec Olson

Communion Assistant:

Paul Olson

Lector:

Nov 4: Deb Detlefs
Nov 11: Mary Morehead
Nov. 18: Cindy Burke
Nov 25: Christ the King – Pastor Sarah

Cleaners

Darin & Skye Doerscher

Christian, Jacob & Philip Caregivers

Nov 4: Julie Gronewold
Nov 11: Hal & Andrea Shelton
Nov 18: Dirk & Annette Braet
Nov 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.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP
November 21- Faith Church – 7:00 p.m.



Prepared Meal Served at 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F	5	6	7 7:00 Confirmation Class at Faith	8	9	10
11 Treat the Pantries 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F	12	13 7:00 Committee Night at Faith	14 2:00 Lydia Circle H-Arlene Green L-Sharon Bousset 7:00 Confirmation Class at Faith 7:30 Choir at Faith	15 6:00 Worship Committee at Faith 7:30 Joint Council at Faith	16 9:00 Naomi Circle H-Diane Christensen L-Meryne Henning	17
18 Treat the Pantries Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F	19	20	21 6:00 Thanksgiving Eye Meal at Our Savior's 7:00 Thanksgiving Eye Worship at Our Savior's	22	23	24
25 Christ the King 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F	26	27	28 7:00 Confirmation Class at Faith	29	30	



THANKSGIVING TRIVIA

1. How many pilgrims came over on the Mayflower?
A. 89
B. 102
C. 185
D. 217
2. In what year did the first American Thanksgiving celebration take place?
A. 1900
B. 1492
C. 1621
D. 1776
3. How long did the first Thanksgiving Feast last?
A. One Day
B. One Week
C. Three Days
D. Four Days
4. What does the term "cornucopia" mean?
A. Corn husks
B. Horn of Plenty
C. A greek
D. A traditional corn dish
5. Approximately how many feathers does a mature turkey have?
A. 750
B. 1,500
C. 3,500
D. 4,000
6. Which US State produces the most turkeys annually?
A. Alabama
B. North Carolina
C. Missouri
D. Arkansas
7. How fast can wild turkeys run?
A. 15 mph
B. 55 mph
C. 5 mph
D. 25 mph
8. Which country consumes the most turkey per year - per capita?
A. Israel
B. United States
C. Mexico
D. Germany
9. How high must a cranberry bounce before it is harvested?
A. 6 inches
B. 8 inches
C. 3 inches
D. 4 inches
10. Who was the first President to make Thanksgiving a national holiday?
A. Washington
B. Lincoln
C. Jefferson
D. Roosevelt

ANSWERS: 1-B (102), 2-C (1621), 3-C (3 days), 4-B (Horn of Plenty), 5-C (3,500), 6-B (North Carolina), 7-D (25mph), 8-A (Israel), 9-D (4 inches), 10-B (Lincoln)

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
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



November