



Faith Lutheran Church  
505 2nd Street

## Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA

### Calamus Lutheran Parish

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2589 190th Avenue

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## Pastor's View

**Confirmation 2019** - The following students have finished with their work on December 1. The students are Nora Glover, Courtney Knoche, Isaac Wilhelm, Isabella Gentile. Please continue to pray for them. They will make Affirmation of their Baptism on January 12, 2020. Please continue to pray for these young people.

**Synod Exit Interview** - In the past few weeks I have been asked when I am retiring. I will officially be retired on February 1, 2020. There will be an exit interview with the Synod on December 12, 2019. This is the normal council meeting night. I will answer questions for the synod and the congregation and then will be dismissed from the meeting. Paul Ostrem will continue to meet with the council members informing them of the steps needed for starting a call process and what to expect to happen in the near future. This process will start after January 31, 2020. I have to be gone before the call process can start. It is tempting to want to get a pastor as soon as you can, but trust the process; It works.

**Moving** - I have been asked "How is the packing going." Jane and I are moving stuff one van load at a time. This way both houses can be in a mess. We are sorting and throwing items away. With retirement comes the question, "Will I ever need this \_\_\_\_\_ again. So old sermons, books, devotionals and stuff is being recycled, given away or pitched. Does anyone in the family need or want this item. "No, we have enough." We still find things that hold memories for us. The kids will get to throw that stuff away later. So, packing goes on. (We still can us a few boxes.)

**Merry Christmas** - Merry Christmas to the members of Faith and Our Savior's. Is it Christmas with no decorations up? Is it Christmas with no Christmas tree to decorate and look at? Is it Christmas with no lights or candles shining brightly? YES, it is Christmas! We celebrate the birth of our Savior. Christmas is not decorations, nor lights, nor trees and not even family gathered together. Christmas is God showing us God's love for the world. So Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Pastor Bill



## People to keep in your prayers!

Rebecca Hurt, Tim Burke, Jim Goddard, Coral Hesse, Velda Holloman, Nan Waldorf, Ray Johnson, Ruth Braet, Dale Jacobs, Ellen Bauer, Glenda Oldaker, Michele Scheper, Chance Dexter, Darcy Aune, Bruce Aune, Kelly Meyer, Donna Ploog, Joyce McCutcheon, Colleen Clausen Olson, Christian Boussetot, Barb Johnson, June Reimers, George Tulley, Ethan Friedrich, and Vicki Sharp; the homebound: Bus Seastrand, Rusty Porth, Ed Meadows, Oscar Shelton, Norman Boussetot, Hazel Richards, Ron Gasper, Geri Schutt, and Myrna Kay Petersen.

## "Coffee & A Little Jesus"



You are invited to a Women's/Mom's Bible Study that meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Kids are welcome!

**Topic: Light in a Dark Time**

**Reading: Book of Micah**

**Tuesday, December 3 - 9:00 a.m.**

**at Heather Grau's, 1658 – 257th Street, Calamus**



If interested, please email Heather

[grau.heather@gmail.com](mailto:grau.heather@gmail.com) or call her [563-424-0507](tel:563-424-0507)

**First 2020 Bible Study - February 4**

**Topic: God's Answer to Injustice**

**Reading: Book of Nahum**

You can also follow on Facebook at

Coffee & A Little Jesus



**Circles will meet for  
Christmas devotions.**



**Lydia Circle**

Wednesday, December 18, noon  
Crossroads Garden Café – DeWitt



**Naomi Circle**

Friday, December 20, 9:30 a.m.  
Crossroads Garden Café – DeWitt

## Mid-week 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 4 – Our Savior's

6:00 p.m. Meal

7:00 p.m. Worship



December 11 – Our Savior's

6:00 p.m. Meal

7:00 p.m. Worship



December 18 – Faith

6:00 p.m. Soup served by Faith Council

7:00 p.m. Worship

♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪



Wednesdays in December - 4, 11, 18

following

7:00 p.m. mid-week Advent worship at  
the church hosting the meal and service.



Come join us—we'd love to have you!

**Rehearsal Dates for the  
Children's Christmas Program:**

1. Wednesday, December 4  
5:30 p.m. at Our Savior's
2. Wednesday, December 11  
5:30 p.m. at Our Savior's
3. Saturday, December 14  
9:30 a.m. at Our Savior's
4. Final Dress Rehearsal during  
Sunday School hour on December 15  
9:30 a.m. at Our Savior's

**"His Name is Jesus"**



Faith and Our Savior's  
Sunday School children  
will present a Christmas program  
on

Sunday, December 15  
10:30 a.m. at Our Savior's

God Squad will be hosting a cookie sale  
before and after the program.  
\$5.00 for a baker's dozen

CHRISTMAS EVE



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24



**Christmas Day Worship**

Faith Lutheran Church

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 25

**Noisy Offering to be collected December 22**



The recipient of the 2019 Noisy Offerings is the  
the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

No Sunday School

on December 22 and 29.

Classes resume January 5, 2020.

**Gift-in-a-Jar Fundraiser**

Jars of soup, cookie, and bread mixes  
ordered from God Squad will be ready for pick up  
on Sunday, December 1, during services.

**Christmas Toy Drive**

God Squad is collecting gifts for 10-12 year  
old children. There is a list of suggested ideas on  
the tables at the back of both churches. Unwrapped  
gifts need to be at church by December 8.

**T-Shirt Sale**

God Squad Committee is selling t-shirts  
for \$15 each. Order forms are available at both  
churches. Proceeds raised will help send youth to  
the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.



## November Meetings

**Committee and organization reports for the congregations' annual reports are due in the church office by Monday, December 16, 2019.**

These reports include: Pastor, 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, 2020. Thank You!**

**Annual Meetings for Faith and Our Savior's will be Sunday, January 26, 2020.**

### Faith Conversations on Sunday Mornings

How does faith fit into today's world and my life?

Why should I gather with others and reflect on what I believe? Is it really necessary?

Join the conversation on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. A casual conversation will focus on current events and how they impact us as individuals. A new topic from the Faith Lens website is discussed each week

Are you waiting for a child attending Sunday School? Can you only attend on occasional Sundays? Are you seeking a simple way to reflect on your own faith? Are you curious about how others use faith in their lives?

We look forward to sharing this time with you. Welcome to the Faith Conversation.

The Worship Committee has come to the understanding that there is confusion between the Prayer Chain and the Prayer List. Both are methods to invite prayer for concerns for individuals.

**The Prayer Chain** is a private (unpublished) list. Each day those who wish to be on the prayer chain will receive the name of someone specific to pray for that day. Those who wish to have their name distributed to the prayer chain will not need to request to have their name removed since it is for a single day.

**The Prayer List** is printed in the bulletin each week. Those added to the list will remain on it until they are asked to be removed. Those on the prayer list will be specifically mentioned during the prayers of the church during worship on Sunday mornings.

If you wish to be added to the prayer list or to the prayer chain, please contact the church office or Pastor Bill.

### Joint Council

#### God Squad:

- October Financial Report:
  - beginning balance = \$ 5,206.55
  - ending balance = \$ 5,346.33
- Reformation Sunday – sold baked goods and raised \$30.
- Halloween supper – served 118 people and raised \$160.
- 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering info meeting Nov. 6, 7 pm at Faith.
- Teen Game Night – Nov. 16, 6 pm at Faith.
- 2019 Jar Sale – pre-orders in Nov., delivery Dec. 1.
- Angel Tree Project – voted on number of Angels to sponsor and dollar amount to spend.
- Christmas Cookie Walk – Dec. 15, 10 am to noon at Our Savior's.
- Monthly meeting luncheon – voted to pay for lunches out of general acct, unless donated.
- Next meeting – Sunday, Dec. 1, noon at Our Savior's; lunch - sub sandwiches; activity - card games.

#### Pastor's report:

- Consider lay people to serve communion to shut-ins after his retirement. Travel communion sets would need to be purchased.
- Provided Nov. receipt of \$76.08 for items purchased by Rebecca Hurt for the weekend backpack food program at C/W school.

#### Worship Committee:

- Confirmed Thanksgiving and Hanging of the Greens services.
- The four Sunday Advent services will include an introductory litany entitled "Christ Be Our Light."
- The Prayer Chain phone call list will be revised. Parishioners preferring a phone call to an email will be determined. Emails for prayers will be sent to all parishioners.
- Committee will discuss worship options for Lenten services if parish does not have pastoral leadership.

### **Education Committee:**

- Children's Christmas Program has been created by Marsha Witte.
- Sunday School lessons for the next two months are available to teachers via email.

### **Christian Outreach Committee:**

- Served 56 at Reformation Sunday breakfast
- Planned for Thanksgiving Soup Supper

### **Old Business:**

- Motion by Deb Detlefs to host the 2020 and 2021 CROP Hunger Walks at Faith Church. Heather Grau and Melisa Jacobsen will lead the event.
- Ashley Steffens shared summary of Stephens Ministry Conference attended by Steffens and Heather Grau. The ministry may not be feasible for our parish at this time due to the amount of training and number of individuals required.
- Christian Caregiving books may be purchased and shared with the community. Cost is \$45 for five sets of five books each.

### **New Business:**

- The use of lay people to provide communion to shut-ins while there is no pastoral leader was discussed. A sub-committee could be organized under the Christian Outreach Committee to provide this service. Volunteers would be sought. Travel communion sets would need to be purchased. Wine and bread would be blessed at Sunday worship services. Ashley Steffens and Heather Grau are willing to attend shut-in visits with Pastor Bill and learn the process.

### **Our Savior's Council**

#### **Special meeting of congregation on Sun. Nov. 3 regarding painting the ceiling in the sanctuary.**

- Bid of \$18,250 if painter removes pews; \$16,845 if we remove pews. Bid includes all old paint removal, application of new paint, and cleanup. This was the only bid received.
- Question asked about last time the ceiling was painted; nobody knew a definitive date, but it was before 2000. While ceiling is being done, services will be held in the basement. Expecting this to happen in Jan.
- Motion was made to approve the lower bid. Seconded. Motion carried.

### **Faith Council**

#### **New Business:**

- Motion made by Terri Boussetot to repair sound board on the organ for a total of \$1,500. Seconded. Motion carried.
- A company provided an unrequested audit of church lighting. The cost was prohibitive. Lights bulbs will be replaced with more efficient models as they burn out.
- Faith Council will serve soup for the Dec. 18 Advent meal.
- Exterior entrance lighting that is on a timer would increase visibility and improve safety. The area is currently dark until motion is detected. It appears the church is closed until people are on the sidewalk. Pat Grau will discuss options with Eric Hoffmann.
- Health insurance for Pastor Bill will be paid through the end of January. No premium will be paid after that date until an interim pastor is acquired.
- Automatic withdrawal for monetary donations was discussed. Council will discuss the process with Doreen Henning and the bank. Item tabled.
- Pat Grau will contact Property and Management Committee, Dirk Braet, and Eric Sands about repair of the boiler leak.

Please submit items for the January newsletter to the church office by Tuesday, December 17.

Thanks for your cooperation!

If you want to contact Pastor Bill for any reason, please use his cell phone number:  
**319-231-5262.**

### **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

There are not enough thank yous to express my appreciation for all who have prayed for me in grief and through health issues. Thank you for your emotional support, thank you for the love expressed, thank you for the hugs. I am grateful God has put you in my life through all this. You know, we have an amazing God. Wishing you God's amazing blessings.

In Christ's love, Ruth Braet

## MINISTERS for December 2019

### FAITH

#### Ushers:

Mark Witte  
Dirk Braet  
Brian Tulley  
Ruth Braet

#### Acolyte:

Isabella Gentile

#### Altar Ministry:

Larry and Sharyl Banowetz

#### Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

#### Greeters:

December 1: Marilyn Steward  
December 8: Mark Witte  
December 15: Lonny Sievers  
December 22: Diane Sievers  
December 29: Dirk Braet

#### Lectors:

December 1: Mark Witte  
December 8: Ruth Braet  
December 15: Shelley Gentile  
December 22: Dirk Braet  
December 29: Sharyl Banowetz

### OUR SAVIOR'S

#### Usher:

Dan Burke

#### Acolyte:

Nora Glover

#### Communion Assistant:

Brian Boussetot

#### Lectors:

December 1: Jason Boussetot  
December 8: Dan Burke  
December 15: children's program  
December 22: Joe Morehead  
December 29: Cindy Burke

#### Cleaners:

Dan and Cindy Burke

**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.**

# December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Hanging of the Greens</b>  8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	<b>2</b>	<b>3 Coffee &amp; Little Jesus</b> 9:00 am at Heather Grau's	<b>4 Advent - OS</b> 5:30 Program Practice 6:00 Meal 7:00 pm Worship 7:45 Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 CALCO breakfast</b>  8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	<b>9</b>	<b>10 Committee Meetings</b> 7:00 pm at OS	<b>11 Advent - OS</b> 5:30 Program Practice 6:00 Meal 7:00 pm Worship 7:45 Choir	<b>12 Worship Committee</b> 6:00 pm at OS  <b>Joint Council</b> 7:00 pm at OS	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Children's Program Practice</b> 9:30 am at OS
<b>15</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC – OS 10:30 <b>Children's Program</b> – OS  <b>Cookie Walk</b> – OS	<b>16 Annual Reports due in the church office</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Lydia Circle</b> at noon Garden Café - DeWitt  <b>Advent - F</b> 6:00 Meal 7:00 pm Worship 7:45 Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20 Naomi Circle</b> 9:30 am Garden Café - DeWitt	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Noisy Offering</b>  8:00 Worship – F 10:30 Worship – OS	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 9:00 pm Worship at Our Savior's	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 9:00 am Worship at Faith	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Festival of Lights</b>  8:00 Worship – F 10:30 Worship – OS	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				