

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

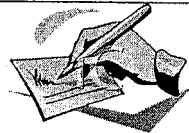
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*Our Savior's*  
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 27

DECEMBER 2014

Number 12



On Sunday, November 30, we began a new church year. We are now in the first season of that new year, **the season of Advent. Advent is a different season.** Advent is word that means "coming." During this season we celebrate the three-fold coming of our Lord. We begin Advent by celebrating the coming of our Lord at the end of all time. Now, that does seem peculiar. We just finished the old year by highlighting the coming of our Lord at the end of all time. We bring in the new year by continuing that theme. In other words we begin the story of our Lord by telling the end of the story. Even before we celebrate His birth, even before we celebrate His resurrection, even before we celebrate His presence among us through the Church we remember His promise to come again at the end of all time. So the first coming that we celebrate in Advent is His future coming. We begin the story by telling the end of the story. Just like many people who begin reading a mystery book by reading the end of the story first so that they know how the story ends, we do the same with the story of our Lord. Before we begin the story we know the end of the story. We know that the story ends in Christ. We know that our story ends in Christ. Thus, the future coming of our Lord is a story of comfort. Christ is coming again; that is the good news.

We then move on from the future coming of Christ to remembering and celebrating the coming Christ in the present. Christ comes to us every day through the Word, the water, the bread and the wine. In the reading and the proclamation of God's Word we meet our Lord. In the Word and water of Holy Baptism we meet our Lord. In the Word and the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper we meet our

Lord as we eat His body and drink His blood. Christ is continually coming to us. Christ is continually with us. As we go about our daily life we are reminded that Christ is not only coming again, but also that through His gifts of Word and Sacraments He is presently with us.

Finally, on the last Sunday of Advent we will be especially cognizant of the past coming of our Lord, which is also the first coming of our Lord, the coming of our Lord as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem. I know that we always want to celebrate Advent as preparing for Christmas. In doing so we impoverish ourselves by missing so much that Advent offers to us. We best celebrate the coming of Christmas by fully celebrating Advent and coming to an understanding of the three-fold coming of Christ. The time to celebrate Christmas is during the twelve days of Christmas (In other words, maybe the Christmas tree should not be tossed out on the curb by Christmas Day afternoon, as I have seen so often). The Christmas season ends on January 6, the Day of Epiphany, which in some ways is a continuation of the season of Christmas.

The theme of Advent is hope. And why do we have hope? Because Christ came to us, is coming to us, and will come to us. God in Jesus Christ is constantly coming to us. Thus, in all circumstances of life, we are people of hope. So, we begin the peculiar season of Advent. We celebrate the past, present, and future comings of our Lord, only in reverse order. We live in the comfort and hope of knowing that the story ends in Christ, that we are in Christ, and that God came to us to live among us in *(continued on following page)*

*(continued from front page)*

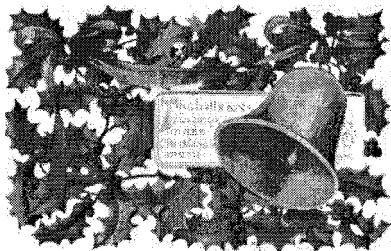
the person of Jesus of Nazareth. What a rich season! Advent is the fullness of the proclamation of the Gospel. Christ is here. Christ is coming! "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!" "Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly!"

May each of you have a Blessed Advent and Christmas.

David A. Aanonson, Interim Pastor

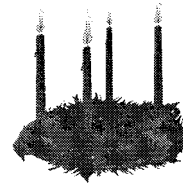


**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
8:00 p.m.



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

## 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. A 6:00 p.m. served meal precedes the 7:00 worship service.

 **December 3 – Our Savior's Church**

  **December 10 – Our Savior's Church**

   **December 17 – Faith Church**

**No Sunday School,  
God Squad or Adult Class  
on December 28 –  
Classes resume January 4, 2015**

## 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, 2014.** 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, 2015. Thank You!**



## At the November Council Meetings

### Joint Council:

- Pastor Aanonson visited Lincolnway and Wheatland Manor residents; visitors have been stopping at the church during office hours on Wednesday afternoons.
- Worship Committee has finalized the services for Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Eve, Hanging of the Greens Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; input was sought from Joint Council regarding the time of the Christmas Eve service which resulted in a Joint Council decision to begin Christmas Eve worship at 8:00 p.m.
- Stewardship and Christian Outreach Committee have ordered the food for the Thanksgiving Eve meal – confirmation students will assist with serving and clean-up duties.
- Education Committee reported children will practice for the Christmas Program during the Sunday School hour with an additional practice scheduled for Saturday, December 20 at Faith.
- The Call Committee reported the parish profile was submitted and the reference has arrived – as of November 11, the parish is now posted on the synod web-site for review by prospective candidates.

### Faith Council:

- Financial reports were approved with a designated balance of \$191.13 and a working balance of \$24,721.88.
- The air conditioning, water heater and electrical service work will be completed as volunteers' time permits.
- Ryan and Associates have been paid for the boiler repair services – council will research the cost and feasibility of installing a poly tank and motor for the heating system.
- Braet will deliver a 4-drawer file cabinet to Jeannene's office.
- Council designated \$500 to pay for a new stove. Naomi Circle has donated \$500 toward the purchase of a new stove – the combined funds allow two stoves to be purchased as replacement for the one aged appliance in the kitchen.
- The request by Rebecca Hurt and her son, Ryan Dick to transfer her membership to Faith Church from Our Savior's was approved.
- Snow removal will be sought with the

following stipulations: bills for monthly snow removal must be submitted for payment by the 5th of the following month, bills must include the specific date for each snow removal, specific number of hours for each date – failure to provide accurate bill records may result in non-payment.

### Our Savior's Council:

- Financial reports were accepted with a balance of \$1,472.38.
- A new pressure tank has been installed – Culligan has been contacted to clean the iron filter.
- Megan Will will replace Tom Olson on the Parish Coordinating Committee.
- Sign-up sheets for pies for the Thanksgiving meal and for the Advent meals on December 3 and 10.

### Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report

#### October 2014

Beginning Balance .....	\$2,980.26
Deposits .....	\$4,179.35
Disbursements.....	\$(5,687.23)
Ending Balance .....	\$1,472.38

## 2015 Ministry Lists to be Compiled

The 2015 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 and Terri Boussetot. Thank you to all those who continue to assist in these ministries!

## The Noisy Offering Will Be Received December 14

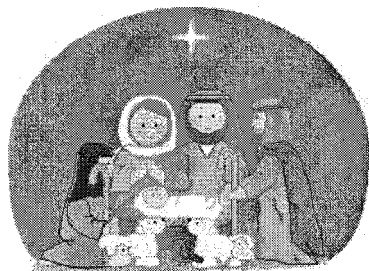
**January Newsletter Items  
Due December 20, please.  
Thanks for your cooperation!**

**“Christmas is...  
Hope, Joy, Peace,  
and Love”**

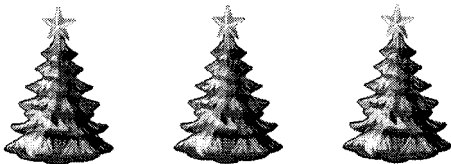


presented by the children of  
Faith and Our Savior's Sunday School  
Sunday, December 21  
10:30 A.M.  
Faith Lutheran Church

**Christmas Program  
Rehearsal**



**Saturday, December 20,  
9:00 a.m.  
ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CHILDREN  
PLEASE ATTEND!**



**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.

**♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪**



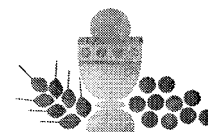
**Wednesdays, following  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship at  
the church where we having our  
worship.**



**Come join us—we'd love to have you!**

♪ Diane Christensen

**First Communion**



On November 2 these young people received their First Communion: Hailey Glover, daughter of Shane and Amy Glover at Our Savior's Church and Colin Grau, son of Pat and Heather Grau and Kane and Laura Grau, and Brayden Williams, son of Jeff and Charity Griebel and Christopher Williams at Faith Church.

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

- Richard Cranshaw

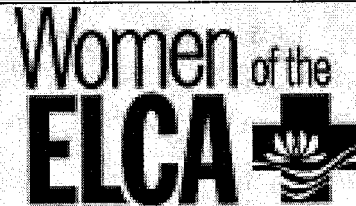
## Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 1: Dan Burke  
 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  
 December 11: Josh Jacobi  
                 Michael Gronewold  
                 Alex Rickertsen  
 December 13: Camdon Boussetot  
                 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 Boussetot  
                 Henry Mueller  
 December 24: Carter Henning  
 December 27: Allison Dwyer  
 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

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



### Transforming Life and Faith

*(Theme for 2014-2015)*



#### Combined Circles

**Friday, December 12 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Squiers Manor**

**418 W. Pleasant Street, Maquoketa**

**Leader: Lois Wessels**



#### “Faith in the Family”

**"When she and her household were baptized, she urges us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.'**

**And she prevailed upon us."**

*- Acts 16:15*

***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***





~ DECEMBER 2014 ~

Thank you to everyone who helped out with Trick-or-Trunk this year; despite the cold weather, we received almost \$100 more in donation than 2013 and we saw lots of new faces from our community. Donations received from this event each year go to support the local Angel Tree Project - which provide gifts to local youth for Christmas!

**HOLIDAY BREAK:** Please note we will not be having Sunday School Class December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, but we look forward to seeing you next year, starting January 4<sup>th</sup>!!!

**COMING UP IN 2015!!!**

**2015 Spare Change Program:** 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School has selected a spare change program to raise money for the purchasing of livestock for communities in need. Please plan on to bring spare change to Sunday School starting January 4, 2015.

**2015 Overnight Ski Trip!** Parents and Youth; our annual overnight ski trip is coming up in February... more details coming in January Letter

**December Happenings!**

- † Dec 3rd - :Hosting Advent Meal (taco bar)
- † Dec 7th - Bake Sale at both Services
- † Dec 7th - God Squad Monthly Planning Meeting
- † Dec 10th - Angel Tree Shopping, 5:30pm
- † Dec 14th - Angel Tree Wrapping Session
- † Dec 21st - Christmas Program, at Faith

***CONFIRMATION CORNER:***

"Free to Be" Confirmation students;  
Please remember to attend:  
**Class Time - Wednesdays at 6pm, Faith**  
**Sunday School - Sundays at 9:25am, Faith**  
**Worship Time - Sundays at 8:30am, Our Saviors**  
**or 10:30am, Faith.**

**December Fund Raising**

**Advent Meal:** 12/3/2014  
Our Saviors, meet at 5:30pm  
We are planning a taco bar again this year. Meal to be served starting at 6pm, service to follow. Watch your email/main for more information!

**Bake Sale:** 12/7/2014  
Our Saviors, meet at 8:45am  
Faith, meet at 9:15am and 10:15am  
Food donation can be left at either church in kitchen prior to service or night before.

**December Service**

**Angel Tree:**  
Every year the Calamus Lutheran Parish Youth work to raise money. Portions of these funds raised go to support the Angel Tree Project; which enables us to purchase gifts for local youth, so they may have a Christmas. In 2013 Our Church sponsored 23 area youths, between our youth group and member of our church - this year we hope to support more. Please join us! We plan to go shopping December 10<sup>th</sup> meet at Faith at 5:30pm and wrapping gifts December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Helping Hands Crew:**  
Contact Heather Grau to be added to the list of CPL Youth, interested in volunteering to help church members or community.

**December Fellowship**

We are planning a pizza party in association with Angel Tree Activities, to be voted on during our December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2014 Youth Leaders:**  
President, Makenna Christensen  
VP, Noah Gronewald  
Secretarty, Katie Banowetz  
Treasurer, Beth Tulley

**MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2014**

**FAITH**

**Ushers:**

Mark Witte  
Gary Braet  
Dirk Braet  
Brian Tulley

**Acolytes:**

Beth Tulley  
Anne Tulley

**Altar Ministry:**

Larry & Sharyl Banowetz Family

**Communion Assistant:**

Brian Tulley

**Greeter:**

December 7: Gary Braet  
December 14: Ruth Braet  
December 21: Annette Braet  
December 28: Sharyl Banowetz

**Lectors:**

December 7: Mark Witte  
December 14: Brian Tulley  
December 21: Annette Braet  
December 28: Sharyl Banowetz

**OUR SAVIOR'S**

**Ushers:**

Dan Burke  
Mark Olson

**Acolyte:**

Chase Knoche

**Communion Assistant:**

Cindy Burke

**Lector:**

December 7: Marcia Edens  
December 14: Dan Burke  
December 21: Grant Harkness  
December 28: David Olson

**Cleaners:**

Barb Flynn  
David Olson

**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***



**December 24 ~ 8:00 p.m. ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church**



***Christmas Day Worship Service***

**December 25 ~ 9:00 a.m. ~ Faith Lutheran Church**

# DECEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 6:00 Advent Meal-OS 7:00 Advent Worship - OS 7:45 Choir - OS	4 6:00 Worship Committee - OS 7:00 Joint Council - OS	5	6
7 God Squad Bake Sale 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/GS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	8	9	10 6:00 Advent Meal-OS 7:00 Advent Worship - OS 7:45 Choir - OS	11 6:00 Worship Committee - OS 7:00 Joint Council - OS	12 10:00 Naomi Circle at Squiers Manor, Maquoketa L-Lois Wessels	13
14 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/GS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	15	16	17 6:00 Advent Meal - F 7:00 Advent Worship - F 7:45 Choir - F	18	19	20 9:00 Christmas Program Rehearsal - F All SS children attend
21 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/GS/AC - F 10:30 Children's Program - F	22	23	24  8:00 Candlelight Service - OS	25  9:00 Christmas Day Worship - F	26	27
28 8:00 Worship - OS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/ADULT CLASS 10:30 Worship - F	29	30	31			



## CALCO Basket Raffle

The Calco is holding a basket raffle at their December 14th breakfast. If you would like to donate a basket, please contact Joyce Boedeker (246-2460) or Lori Johannsen (246-2377).

## American Cancer Society Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society needs your help! The Relay For Life of Clinton County is currently seeking volunteers to assist with the planning of this year's event. Volunteers are currently needed to organize and recruit teams, garner community support, coordinate logistics, plan entertainment, and lend a hand to ensure the success of the 2015 event. If you have a few hours a month to help with the planning of this event, please contact Body Rursch, Event Lead, [jeanrursch@mchsi.com](mailto:jeanrursch@mchsi.com), or Jodi Federspiel, Relay For Life Specialist, 888.266.2071/[jodi.federspiel@cancer.org](mailto:jodi.federspiel@cancer.org), to learn more. Visit [222.RelayForLife.org](http://222.RelayForLife.org).  
With Sincere Thanks, Jodi Federspiel

**Christmas Cantata**  
**Wednesday, December 17**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**415 – 10th Street, DeWitt**

Performed by the combined choirs of  
Grace Lutheran Church – DeWitt  
Immanuel Lutheran Church – Grand Mound

**"The First Noel -  
Celebrating the birthday of  
a KING"**  
arranged by Russell Mauldin

## Christmas Trivia

1. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics '...to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray...'?
2. What color are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
3. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
4. How many points does a snow flake have?
5. What is the title of the biggest selling Christmas single, globally?
6. In which country is it a tradition to hide all brooms in the house on Christmas Eve?
7. What is the most popular item to put on top of a Christmas tree?
8. Why did Joseph and Mary go from Nazareth to Bethlehem?
9. After Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Bethlehem, they went to what country?
10. What carol contains the line, "Star with royal beauty bright?"
11. "Greensleeves" is another name for what Christmas song?
12. Alvin the Chipmunk wants what for Christmas?
13. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, what does Lucy want for Christmas?
14. What is the chemical formula of snow?
15. What river did General Washington cross on December 25, 1776?

*(Answers at bottom of page)*

## Grace Lutheran Church 2014 Christmas Luminary

December 12 and 14  
5:30—8:00 p.m.  
at Grace Camp  
(west of DeWitt on Highway 30)

*Complimentary cookies and cider to enjoy in the Andrew Retreat Center. There will be a free-will donation to support the luminary at the exit gate*

Trivia Answers:  
1. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen  
2. White  
3. Mexico  
4. Six  
5. White Christmas  
6. Norway  
7. Angel

8. To be taxed  
9. Egypt  
10. We Three Kings  
11. What Child is This?  
12. Hoolla Hoop  
13. Real Estate  
14. H<sub>2</sub>O  
15. Delaware



Calamus Lutheran Parish  
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches  
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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's Office..... 563.246.2558  
Church email address.....[clparish@fbcom.net](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)  
Church Website.....[www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)



HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED  
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR   
**MIGHTY**  
 **GOD,**  
EVERLASTING FATHER   
*PRINCE OF* PEACE



ISAIAH 9:6