

Faith Lutheran
505 2nd Street

Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA

Calamus Lutheran Parish

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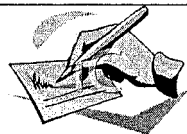


Our Savior's
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 28

JANUARY 2015

Number 1



In a few days we will be celebrating one of the major festivals of the Church, yet few will notice. It is a festival that ranks with Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas as the high feasts of the Church. Yet, again, few will notice. On January 6th we will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. Unfortunately we will join the vast majority of Christian congregations and we will not celebrate Epiphany on that date. We will instead wait until the following Sunday and celebrate Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord together. This is because Christmas has overtaken one of the most ancient festivals of the Church. Of course it was not the Church that lifted Christmas to a more important level than Epiphany; it was the commercialization of Christmas by our culture. Epiphany is more difficult to capture and to commemorate than the birth of a baby. Epiphany is sort of like Easter; there is simply too much mystery to understand and to commercialize.

Epiphany is a word that means "showing forth" or "manifestation." Twelve days after Christmas Jesus is presented to us as someone who is more than just a baby in a manger. On that day and during the season Jesus is presented to humanity as One who is not only fully human, but is also fully divine. During Epiphany Jesus manifests Himself as the One who is God among us. During this season we are overwhelmed by the truth of the Incarnation—Jesus is indeed God in the flesh. There are three significant events that the Church has historically used to proclaim the presence of God among humanity: the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus, and the miracle at Cana when Jesus turned water into wine. Through these three lessons we come to see Jesus as God among us who has come

to save the world. It is a season full of mystery. Three Magi, wise men, Gentiles, come from the east and pay homage to the baby. They follow a star to His location. Surely, this is a sign that this baby is of divine origin. The Venerable Bede writes in the 9th century about the Magi: *The Magi were the ones who gave gifts to the Lord. The first is said to have been Melchior, an old man with white hair and a long beard...who offered gold to the Lord as to a king. The second, named Gaspar, young and ruddy-complexioned...honored Him as God by his gift of incense, an offering worthy of divinity. The third, black-skinned and heavily bearded, called Balthasar...by his gift of Myrrh testified to the Son of Man who was to die.* Surely, this account is not historical, but it does point to the significance of the gifts and is itself a proclamation of the presence of God in the person of Jesus. In the Baptism of Our Lord we read of the descending of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and alighting on Jesus. Jesus is the One in whom the Spirit of God swells. We also hear the Word of God spoken after the Baptism—*This is My Son.* Again, the divinity of Jesus is proclaimed. Finally, we read of Jesus performing the miracle of turning the water into wine. And, again, through this miracle the divinity of Jesus is manifested. As we proceed through the year we now know who Jesus is—Jesus is "very God of very God."

Surely, this celebration does not fit into our world today, a day in which we proclaim that we are all gods, a day of pseudo-mysticism, a day of self-centered relativism. But the Church continues to proclaim that in Jesus we find God, and that only by knowing Jesus can we ever know God. In Epiphany
(Continued on following page)

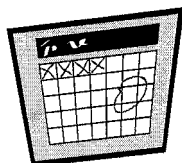
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we are reminded once again that God comes to save us and that salvation is God's work alone and it is not our work at all. *O One with God the Father In majesty and might, This brightness of His glory, Eternal Light of light. To gloomy haunts of darkness your rays are streaming down; The shadows flee before You, The world's true light has come.*

In Christ's Name,
Pastor David A. Aanonson, Interim Pastor

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2015
Following 8:00 a.m. Worship



FAITH CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2015
Following 10:30 a.m. Worship

Annual Meeting Preparations

Committee and organization reports for the congregations' annual reports were due in the church office by December 20, 2014. These reports included: Pastor's report; Council Presidents; all committees (Education, Stewardship, Christian Outreach, Memorial and Gifts, Property and Management); Our Savior's Cemetery; and God Squad. If you have not yet submitted your report, please do so.

Financial reports for Confirmation, God Squad, Women's Circles, Financial Secretary, Treasurers, Proposed Budgets and audit reports for the congregations are due in the church office by January 20, 2015. Thank You!

"Treat the Pantries"

Seven Lutheran congregations recently conducted a special fund drive to benefit the four food pantries serving western Clinton County. This was a Care Abounds in Communities project of the West Clinton County Chapter of Thrivent Financial.

Participating Lutheran congregations were Bethlehem, Lost Nation; Christian Free, Wheatland; Faith and Our Savior's, Calamus; Immanuel, Charlotte; Ascension, Goose Lake; and Grace, DeWitt.

The congregations collected \$1,890 and Thrivent Financial added \$1,600 for a total of \$3,490 to be divided by the food pantries in Lost Nation, Wheatland, Elvira and DeWitt.

Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping nearly 3 million members achieve financial security and give back to their congregations and communities.

New Member Class

Pastor Aanonson will be leading a class for those wishing to join Faith or Our Savior's Lutheran churches. The class will consist of two meetings, Wednesdays, January 7 and 14, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. If you are interested in learning what we in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) believe or would just like to review what you have learned, please feel free to join the discussion.

**Sunday School, God Squad and
Adult Class resume
January 4, 2015, 9:25 a.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church**

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

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



At the December Council Meetings

Joint Council:

- Pastor Aanonson continues to visit people in nursing homes, hospitals and in their homes.
- Worship Committee has finalized the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services; Epiphany worship service will be January 11; Ash Wednesday and midweek Lenten services have been planned; no Seder Meal will be held; Early Easter Service will be at Our Savior's followed by breakfast and late service will be at Faith Church.
- Stewardship and Christian Outreach Committee reported 40 people attended the Thanksgiving Eve Meal with remaining food donated to the Victory Center in Clinton.
- The Education Committee continues to help the children prepare for the Christmas Program at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 21 at Faith Church.
- Megan Will agreed to serve on the Call Committee.
- Three pastoral candidates have submitted their names to receive more information about the parish vacancy – pending their continued interest, initial interviews could begin in January or February.
- Annual meetings will be held on January 25 immediately following worship services at each church. No Adult Bible Class will be held that day.
- The 2015 Budget will be prepared using information compiled for the Pastoral Search. It may require amendment depending on the qualifications of the chosen candidate.

Faith Council:

- Financial reports were approved with a designated balance of \$965.42 and a working balance of \$26,885.51.
- New electrical panel boxes and wiring have been installed and approved by the state inspector. Continued specific wiring tasks will be done a priority basis with expected completion by the end of January.
- Two new stoves have been installed in the kitchen.
- Property and Management Committee is looking of someone to provide snow removal at the church.
- A new motor and pump have been installed for the church's heating system.

➤ The 2015 Thanksgiving Eve Meal may not be held due to low attendance this year – alternative methods of providing food to those in need were discussed.

➤ Faith Council will host the December 17 Advent Meal.

Our Savior's Council:

- Minutes not available.

Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report November 2014

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance..... | \$ 1,472.38 |
| Deposits | \$ 3,397.78 |
| Disbursements..... | \$(5,580.58) |
| Ending Balance..... | \$ (710.42) |

Snow Removal Provider Needed at Faith Church

- ◆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.
- ◆Bills must include the specific number of hours worked on each date.
- ◆Failure to provide accurate bill records may result in non-payment.
- ◆\$25 per hour is the approved rate.
- ◆If interested, contact someone on the Property and Management Committee: Hal Shelton, Keith Gasper, Brian Tulley, Eric Sands, Larry Schau or Daryl Henning.

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!

News About Our People



Kinnick Andrew, son of Lynn and Katie Olson, by means of Holy Baptism, was on December 14 welcomed into the family of God and the membership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Kinnicks's sponsors were Ryan Olson and Melissa Armstrong. Welcome to the Calamus Lutheran Parish, Kinnick!



Evelyn Stueland died on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at Wheatland Manor. A funeral service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. Visitation for family and friends will be from 9:00—10:15 a.m. on Saturday.

♪ January Choir Rehearsal ♪ Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church



Come join us—we'd love to have you!

♪ Diane Christensen

Thank You

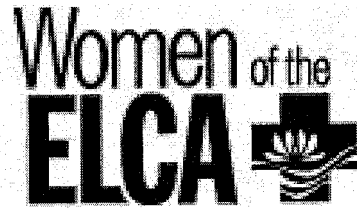
Dear Friends,

Thank you for the food Hal and Andrea delivered to the Carroll Assistance Center. What a blessing to have. Thoughtful and caring friends help us all through the year.

Thank you for being our faithful partners on the Angel Tree project. Your help has eased our work at the CAC for many years.

God's Blessings to you always. Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

- Karen Schneider, President Carroll Assistant Center Board and Volunteers



Transforming Life and Faith

(Theme for 2014-2015)



"Repent and Forgive"

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

- Psalm 51:10



Friday, January 16 – 9:30 a.m.

Hostess: Joan Shelton

Leader: Marsha Witte

Luther College Nordic Choir

Allen Hightower, Conductor



Tuesday, February 3 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2136 Brady Street

Davenport Iowa

\$15 Adults, \$10 Students

Tickets available by calling 800-4-Luther or at tickets.luther.edu - Group discounts available

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 1: Kenneth Eschbach
 January 2: David Olson
 January 3: Isaac Wilhelm
 January 4: Dirk Braet
 Ethan Wilhelm
 January 6: Adam Hayes
 January 8: Joan Shelton
 Alec Olson
 Shelly Mayerhofer
 January 9: Peter Whitman
 January 10: Pastor Sarah Goettsch
 Wyatt Easterday
 January 13: Steve Hansen
 Blake Elias
 Pastor Marvin Robeck
 Noah Mullin
 Junior Homrighausen
 January 15: Gerry Wulf
 January 17: Vicki Garrett
 January 18: Anne Tulley
 January 19: Gary Braet
 January 20: Austin Henning
 January 21: Herb Wilhelm
 Jody Schnede-Henning
 January 22: Arlene Green
 Kevin Henning
 David Bousselot
 January 23: Jessica Schroeder
 Noelle Steines
 January 25: Doug Willet
 January 26: Keegan Allen
 January 27: Rick Olson
 January 28: Chris Morehead
 Brody Koch
 January 30: Michele Calef
 ♥
 January 10: Marlon & Sandy Olson

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



The Littlest King

by Lois Wessels

On a dark cold winter night
 In a stable far away
 A blessed child was born
 In a manger filled with hay.

His mother knows this special child
 Has been given to her to love
 Destined to be the light of the world
 Sent to earth from God above.

She knows that he is not really hers
 And she will not have him for long
 She prays for strength to do God's will
 As she listens to the angels' song.

So Mary holds her little boy close
 But her eyes are sad as she smiles down
 At the baby she cradles against her heart
 This tiny King without a crown.



We are celebrating the feast of the
 Eternal Birth which God the Father
 has borne and never ceases to
 bear in all eternity... But if it takes
 not place in me, what avails it?
 Everything lies in this, that it should
 take place in me.

- Meister Eckhart



Collection Summary: October 18, 2014

Thank you, once again, for quilters, sewers, gatherers, packers, lifters, and drivers. Thank you for prayers, encouragement, donations of cash, and any kind of support to LWR. Thank you for already thinking about the next collection day, April 18, 2015!

Congregations : ELCA, LCMS, LCMC, and 'Other'

| | Ankeny | Cedar Rapids | Total |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Congregations | 41 | 61 | 102 |
| Quilts | 2206 | 2003 | 4209 |
| Sew Kits | 56 | 83 | 139 |
| Personal/Health Kits | 433 | 1162 | 1595 |
| Soap | 45# | 251# | 296# |
| School Kits | 1331 | 2735 | 4066 |
| Fabric/Sew Kits | 56 | 83 | 139 |
| Layettes | 291 | 188 | 379 |
| Donations | \$3,424.55 | \$2865.54 | \$6,290.09 |
| Expenses | -\$721.32 | NOT FINAL * 11/14 | \$5,568.77* |

(Ankeny truck \$671.50 + pizza \$49.82 for youth helpers)

As reported in the current November **Gather Magazine**, p. 8, the 2013 LWR Quilt Campaign "landed upon" the number 485,931—by far the largest number of quilts ever donated in a one year period. SEIA donated 9,367 of that number: 4886 in October '13, 4481 in April '14. 500,000 was the goal. A blessed effort!

Submitted by Carolyn Ahlstrom, SWO Board Member for Discipleship.

The Lutheran World Relief report as printed in the
Winter 2014 edition of *Directions*,
a publication of the Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization

MINISTERS FOR JANUARY 2015

FAITH

Ushers:

Daryl Henning
Doreen Henning
Blaine Henning
Kala Henning
Ashley Steffens

Acolytes:

Caleb Banowetz
Noah Mullin

Altar Ministry:

Lois Wessels, Laurie Storjohann,
Diane Christensen

Communion Assistant:

Laurie Storjohann

Greeter:

January 4: Joan Shelton
January 11: Jeannene Bousset
January 18: Diane Christensen
January 25: Jim Gronewold

Lectors:

January 4: Doreen Henning
January 11: Diane Christensen
January 18: Ashley Steffens
January 25: Colette Christensen

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

David Olson
Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

Drake Olson

Communion Assistant:

Deb Detlefs

Lector:

January 5: Mark Olson
January 11: Joe Morehead
January 18: Deb Detlefs
January 25: Amy Glover

Cleaners:

Marcia Edens
Mark 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.

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

- A prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

JANUARY 2015

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 9:25 God Squad – F 10:30 Worship - F | 5 | 6 | 7 6:00 Confirmation – F 7:00 New Members Class - F | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/GS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F | 12 | 13 No Committee Meetings | 14 6:00 Confirmation – F 7:00 New Members Class – F 7:00 Choir Rehearsal - F | 15 7:30 Joint Council - F | 16 9:30 Naomi Circle H-Joan Shelton L-Marsha Witte | 17 |
| 18 NOISY OFFERING 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 SS/GS/AC – F 10:30 Worship - F | 19 Annual Financial Reports Due February Newsletter Items Due | 20 | 21 6:00 Confirmation – F | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:00 Worship – OS 9:00 Annual Meeting- OS 9:25 SS/AC – F 10:30 Worship – F 11:30 Annual Meeting - F | 26 | 27 | 28 6:00 Confirmation – F | 29 | 30 | 31 |

E-newsletter:

Christmas and the Christian life

Each year in Wittenberg, Germany, Martin Luther preached on the Christmas story and focused his remarks especially on the good news that "to you this day is born a savior." He also noticed how this familiar story could help Christians view their daily lives as a response to God's grace. Here are two examples.



Timothy
J.
Wengert

The first compares the town of Bethlehem's lack of care for the holy family with our care for the neighbor.

"There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: 'If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his diapers. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!' Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem.

"Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do the Lord Christ himself" (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*; Augsburg Fortress, page 38).

In the second example Luther, a former Augustinian friar, contrasts the shepherds' return to their God-given vocation (as shepherds) in the world to the human quest for religiously "God-pleasing" works to earn salvation.

"This is wrong. We should correct this passage to read, 'They went and shaved their heads, fasted, told their rosaries and put on cowls.' Instead we read, 'The shepherds returned.' Where to? To their sheep! Oh, that can't be right! Did they not leave everything and follow Christ? Must not one forsake father and mother, wife and child, to be saved?"

"But the Scripture says plainly that they returned and did exactly the same work as before. They did not despise their service, but took it up again where they left off with all fidelity, and I tell you that no bishop on earth ever had so fine a crook as those shepherds" (page 50).

For more of Luther's sermons at Christmas, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers still has in print *Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, edited and translated by Roland Bainton (a Luther scholar who taught for years at Yale University, New Haven, Conn.), from which these excerpts were taken.

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

