

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

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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

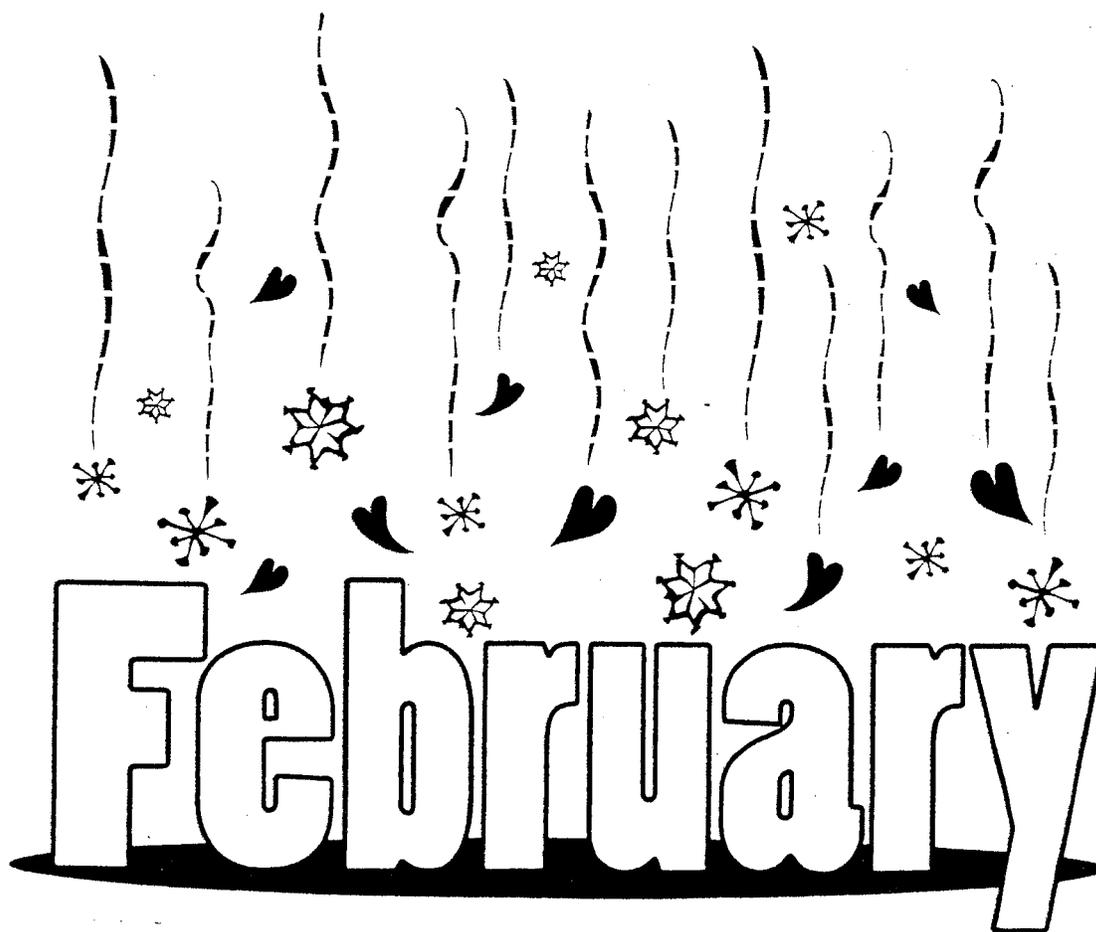


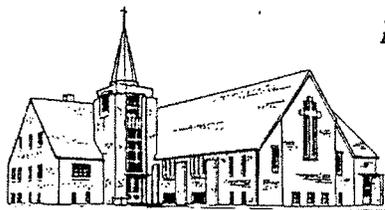
9:25 A.M. Sunday School/Adult Class
Faith Lutheran Church



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





Faith Lutheran
505 2nd Street

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



Our Savior's
2589 190th Avenue

Volume 26

FEBRUARY 2013

Number 2

Pastor Writes



I walked into the bathroom last night and the blood froze in my veins.

I looked into the bathtub and saw Christian's body underwater, facedown... motionless. My heart skipped a beat.

Suddenly, his back arched and he threw his head back, spraying water all over the bathroom. He turned to me, a dripping, jubilant smile on his face. "Mom, I broke my personal record!" he shouted, "I counted to thirty underwater!"

"Hey, congratulations, buddy! Good for you." I replied in a forced-steady voice, not letting on that just a split-second ago I thought he was drowned and gone forever.

"Funny...not too long ago, you HATED putting your face under water, no matter how much I encouraged you!" I said.

"I KNOW!" he shouted back, "Now I want to try to keep my head under water as LONG AS I POSSIBLY CAN!"

Well, not too long, I thought to myself, after all, you're not a fish...after all you can't live underwater...after all, you DO know you cannot live underwater, don't you?

I stood there while he dried off and put his pj's on, staring vacantly through him. He squinted into the foggy bathroom mirror and combed his still-dripping hair. Satisfied with his appearance, he looked at me quizzically, who hadn't moved a muscle and shouted, "Hey, what's YOUR problem?" I nearly jumped out of my skin. I pulled him close and hugged him tightly, this boy whose head now rests firmly under my chin.

"Eeeewwww, gross, mom! Let me go," he whispered and wiggled out of my arms and flew down the stairs.

When God created the freedom of the will, did he have any idea how much it would hurt? Did

he? I bet not. Or else there is NO WAY he would have created it.

When God created Adam and Eve, he created them with brains and intellect and the freedom to make choices. "Do not eat this fruit, because the consequences will kill you," he warned them. "Ok," they replied, and then went ahead and chose to eat the fruit anyway. A bad choice. But one they were free to make, free because God gave them the freedom to make that choice. What a conundrum.

This is why the blood froze in my veins to see Christian's body submerged underwater...the thoughts swirled in my head...*why* would I teach you to go underwater in the first place? Why would I encourage you to put your head underwater? Because at any moment, you could choose to inhale, and water would fill your lungs and you would die! Maybe not here, maybe not now, but this summer at the pool you might make that choice (even accidentally! Or in a moment of panic!), or at the lake, or fishing in a stream (you could slip on a rock!) and I won't be there to save you!

We pass on to our children the same free will that God created within us. The freedom to make this choice or that choice...and God gives us the intellect to continually put ourselves in potentially life-threatening situations. I teach my kids to cross the street and now they do it all the time (but what if they forget to look both ways just once?). I teach my kids to use a knife to cut fruit (but what if they make the choice to use a knife to harm others, or themselves?). I teach my boys to think and speak honestly and with integrity, but what if their thoughts and words one day get them in trouble?

(Continued on following page)

(Continued from front page)

Why do we teach skills, knowing that the subsequent choices could be life-threatening? Why does God give us this brain, this intellect, this soul, and the ability to learn, knowing that we will likely make catastrophic choices? It would have been better had we been created like puppets, with no free will, no unique thoughts, no risky decisions. This would have been safer and much easier for the one in charge.

It also would be boring as hell.

God is no boring God and knows what he's getting into when he creates our brains to think and our souls to choose. In right or wrong decisions, in triumphant or catastrophic choices, in moments when God is proud of us and in moments when our very existence brings God nothing but grief and pain, we know that he is there to save us from the death that lurks behind every corner. Nothing is able to separate us from the love that God has for us. Nothing.

This is a God who watches us underwater, willing us, "Please don't inhale, please don't inhale, please don't inhale!" And then when our lungs cry out for air, and our faces finally burst through the surface of the water, God wills us, "Please, breathe! Please, breathe! Please, breathe!"

He teaches, he wills...and then with a stifled sob, he lets go, knowing that our choices will not cost us our lives, but his.

- Pastor Sarah Kretzmann

2013 Council and Committee Retreat Planned

All council members and committee members (including Property Committee), please mark your calendar for Saturday, February 2, 2013. A retreat has been scheduled for you from 9:00 – noon at Faith Church. Please make every effort to attend.

**March 2013 Newsletter Items Due
February 18, please.
Thanks for your cooperation!**

Lenten Worship Schedule



**Ash Wednesday Worship
February 13 – 7:00 p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
*(There is no meal this evening)***



**Mid-week Lenten Worship
February 20 & 27
Our Savior's Church – 7:00 p.m.
Lenten Meal – 6:00 p.m.**



**March 6, 13, and 20
Faith Church – 7:00 p.m.
Lenten Meal – 6:00 p.m.**

**The Noisy Offering Will Be
Received February 24**

"Grant that I may not pray
alone with the mouth;
help me that I may pray from
the depths of my heart."
- Martin Luther



At the January Council Meetings

Joint Council:

- Pastor reported December worship services were shared with Vicar Michelle of St. John Lutheran; she will supervise a new intern at St. John Bliedorn next year;
- Pastor led a Weinachten worship service in Iowa City;
- Council Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 2;
- Preparations are being made so annual reports can be distributed the week prior to the January 27 annual meeting;
- Dan Burke will purchase a HP Model 6600 combo printer/fax online for the church office at a cost of \$120.
- Jason is ordering information for a photo directory.

Faith Council:

- Financial reports were approved with a designated balance of \$13,408.54 and a working balance of \$11,601.25;
- Two ductless air conditioning units have arrived and are ready for placement and installation;
- A bid of \$1,302 from Triple J Gutters was accepted for the replacement of the parsonage gutters and downspouts;
- Discussion was held on the updating of the sanctuary lighting – 24 LED lights will replace the existing fixtures;
- Faith Council expressed their gratitude to the Property and Management Committee for the major updates that have been recently completed and are currently planned;
- Joyce Sands has accepted the church cleaning position;
- Hal Shelton is eligible for a second term on Church Council – Mark Witte's term has expired and he expressed his thanks to the council for their time and service;
- The youth group is planning a Lock-In from 7PM to 7AM on January 19 at Faith Church;
- The proposed 2013 budget of \$94,005.00 was approved for presentation and voting at the annual meeting.

Our Savior's Council:

- No financial reports were available.
- A family has moved into the parsonage and signed a contract;

- Darin Doerscher is working on the cemetery files;
- There will be a short council meeting following worship on Sunday, January 13.

Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report December 2012

Beginning Balance.....	\$	(3,146.55
Deposits	\$	24,256.02
Disbursements.....	\$	(10,917.74)
Ending Balance	\$	10,191.73

New Custodian at Faith

Due to the resignation of Jodie Overkamp, Joyce Sands has agreed to be the custodian at Faith Church. Please remember that is the responsibility of all us to clean up after ourselves to keep an inviting look at all times to our building.

Thank You

Thank you to all those who remembered us through Mary's illness and at the time of her death. Your many expressions of sympathy has helped us as we work through our loss. - The Bill Morehead Family



We wish to thank you for your generous donations that we have received from you this year. It is greatly appreciated. Without your help it would be hard to help those in need – whether it is emergency food baskets, utilities, Toys for Tots, etc. May God bless you all in 2013. – Carroll Assistance Center

♪ February Choir Rehearsal ♪



Wednesday, February 13, 20 and 27
Our Savior's Church
following Ash Wednesday and
Mid-week Lenten Services

Luther League All Night Ski/Snowboarding



Sundown Mountain Resort
Dubuque



Friday February 22nd

11 pm - 4 am

(Leaving Faith 9:00 pm)

Lift pass only - \$23

Lift pass and rental - \$40

Luther League will cover the cost for Luther League members this year. Friends and family will be asked to cover their own fees. You may ask friends and family to join us, as long as we have enough parent drivers! There is a signup sheet posted at each church. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 11th. Any questions please contact:

Shelley Weiss 563-320-8611
egreyfox@yahoo.com

Luther League Lock-In

Friday, March 1
Faith Church



Mark Your Calendar!

Women of the ELCA

To Follow and To Serve:
The Gospel of Mark
"Koinonia Calling"

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:9



Lydia Circle

February 20, 2:00 a.m.

Hostess: Malinda Malmanger

Leader: Sharon Boussetot



Naomi Circle

Friday, February 15, 9:00 a.m.

Hostess: Lois Wessels

Leader: Diane Christensen

Luther College Scholarships

Luther College is making available three different scholarships to young adults who are planning to be first-year students at Luther College this coming fall:

- ▶ The Roger W. and Colleen F. Peterson Church Relations Scholarship,
- ▶ The Kristi Lee Hermeier Scholarship,
- ▶ The Genevieve E. Stelberg Award.

These scholarships range from \$500 - \$700 and are targeted at graduating seniors who have served as leaders in their congregations or the larger church. Applications are available in the parish church office for all three of the funds and must be submitted by March 1, 2013. Applications can also be downloaded from Luther College website under the "Prospective Students" section.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 1: Carla Olson
 February 2: Madison Eschbach
 February 3: Ann Olson
 Connor Gasper
 February 5: Hailey Glover
 February 6: Susie Lahann
 Trent Wilhelm
 February 8: Steve Grau
 Brandon Boussetot
 Christian Boussetot
 Kay Olson
 Aubree Kloostra
 Calvin Steines
 February 9: Rebecca Braet
 Chad Olson
 Audrianna Schroeder
 February 12: Lester Peters Jr.
 February 14: Billy Duke
 February 15: Christopher Henning
 February 16: Kevin Peters
 Hannah Braet
 Pat Grau
 February 17: Blaine Henning
 Sabrina Schutt
 Katrina Harkness
 February 18: Abigail Grau
 February 19: Brianna Williams
 Nate Olson
 Diane Sievers
 February 20: Travis Willet
 February 21: Mike Easterday
 Louise Homrighausen
 February 22: Kinnick Christensen
 February 23: Brad Johnson
 Joel Olson
 Katie Banowetz
 Kaitlyn Dwyer
 Philip Montover
 February 25: Robin Costello-Smith
 Melisa Jacobsen
 Carol Christensen
 February 26: Allison Cunningham
 Brennen Koch
 February 27: Sharyl Banowetz
 Tim Hellyer
 Delores Lahann
 February 28: Samantha Wingate
 Brandon Wingate
 ♥
 February 7: Kendra & Dave Rock
 February 15: Kathy & Jim Willet
 February 17: Sherry & Delores Lahann
 February 20: Heather & Mike Whitman

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

News About Our People



A funeral service was held at Our Savior's for Mary Morehead on January 4. Mary died on December 31, 2012.



Sharon Hayes and Adam Hayes were received into the family of God and the membership of Faith Lutheran Church on January 11.



Pastor Sarah presided at the funeral of Fran Dosland on January 14 at Schultz Funeral Homes in DeWitt, Iowa.



Pastor Sarah presided at the funeral of Ryan McCoy on January 14 at Schultz Funeral Homes in DeWitt, Iowa.



Paul Reimers, member of Faith Lutheran Church, died on Wednesday, January 16.



A funeral service was held at Faith Church for Ed Youngers on January 21. Ed died on January 16.

Can You Help?

Dave Patterson, who has been a long time resident of the Cal-Wheat School District is in need of a Kidney Transplant. The Communities of Wheatland and Calamus are holding a benefit for Dave and his family on March 9th at the Wheatland Community Hall to help the family with the medical expenses. There will be a Bags Tournament, Bingo will be held in the Hall Basement, A Pie Baking Contest with Raffle to follow, Prize Raffle and Auction, and Dinner. The community is looking for individuals to donate desserts for the dinner and baskets for the raffle. If anyone is interested in donating either a dessert, basket or a gift of money, please contact Shelley Weiss @ 563-320-8611 or Holly Dwyer @ 563-374-1605 (MWF). Anyone wanting to volunteer time or sign up for the Bags Tournament or to help with this event in anyway, please let Shelley or Holly know. We so appreciate any and all help that is given! Please Keep Dave and his family in your Thoughts & Prayers!!

Parish Photo Directory

The Calamus Lutheran Parish has been blessed with a growing and active membership. In order to provide all members with a means of identifying and contacting each other, Faith and Our Savior's Churches are preparing to update the Parish Directory.

You may submit a photo you own or have your photo taken after worship services at either church on February 24th or March 3rd. The informal photos will be taken by a volunteer, Shane Glover. You may reserve a time for a photo session by writing your name on the Reserve a Photo Session sheet on the clipboard at the respective church. These photos will only be used for the directory and will not be offered for sale or purchase. The sole purpose is to gather photos of all members and update contact information. Photos and contact information will be printed in the directory and may be posted on the Parish website. By providing a photo and sharing your contact information, you are allowing the Parish to include the photo and contact information in the Parish directory and Parish website. Please only submit photos to which you have the copyright and are allowed to freely reproduce.

The following Contact Information will be collected when your photo is taken. If you are submitting your photo online or giving it to Dan Burke, please also provide the Contact Information. There will be a basket near the ushers' table at each church. Please attach the Contact Information to the photo and place in the basket.

Contact Information

Date Photo Taken	Name of Family	Mailing Address	Main Phone Number	Names of people in photo	Email Address
EXAMPLE Feb. 24	Mary and John Roberts	1234 987 th St. Calamus, IA 56789	563-123-9876	Mary, John, Sue, Bill	jroberts@email.com

Important Dates and Information:

Now:

- **Send** a photo and Contact Information to **Dan Burke at dburke@gmtel.net** **OR** Place a photo and Contact Information in the basket near the Ushers' table at either church.
- **OR**
- **Reserve** a time for a photo session by writing your name on the **Reserve a Photo Session** sheet on the clipboard at the respective church.

February 24:

- **Have your photo taken** after worship services at Our Savior's Church or Faith Church.

March 3:

- **Have your photo taken** after worship services at Our Savior's Church or Faith Church.

April:

- **Reminder to Send** a photo and Contact Information to **Dan Burke at dburke@gmtel.net** **OR** Place a photo and Contact Information in the basket near the Ushers' table at either church.

May 1:

- **Final Due Date** for submitted photos

June 1:

- **Completion of Directory**

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact one of these committee members.

Jason Boussetot
Dan Burke
Shane Glover
Terri Boussetot

MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

FAITH

Ushers:

Marilyn Schau
Larry Schau
Diane Wilhelm
Herb Wilhelm

Acolytes:

Noah Gronewold
Ellie Carpenter

Altar Ministry:

Herb & Diane Wilhelm

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Greeter:

February 3: Andrea Shelton
February 10: Doreen Henning
February 17: Gary Braet
February 24: Laurie Storjohann

Lector:

February 3: Ruth Braet
February 10: Annette Braet
February 17: Sharyl Banowetz
February 24: Colette Christensen

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Dan Burke
Sherry Lahann
Leonard Olson
Ray Detlefs

Acolyte:

Riley Bruns

Communion Assistant:

Paul Olson

Lector:

February 3: Marcia Edens
February 10: David Olson
February 17: Dan Burke
February 24: Deb Detlefs

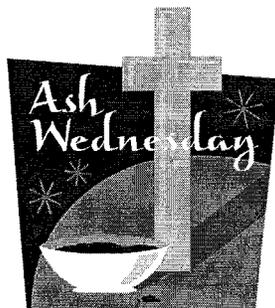
Cleaners

Barb Flynn
Bill Morehead

Christian, Jacob & Philip Caregivers

Feb 3: Dirk & Annette Braet
Feb 10: Mark & Marsha Witte
Feb 17: Ray & Deb Detlefs
Feb 24: Colette Christensen

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.



**February 13 – 7:00 p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

FEBRUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9-Noon Council/Committee Retreat at Faith Church 1:00 Premarital Counseling - OS
3 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	4	5	6 7:00 Confirmation Class at Faith	7	8	9
10 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	11	12 7:00 Committee Night at Our Savior's	13 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Worship - OS Choir follows worship	14 6:00 Worship Committee OS 7:30 Joint Council OS	15 9:00 a.m. Naomi Circle H-Lois Wessels L-Diane Christensen	16
17 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	18 Newsletter Items Due	19	20 2:00 Lydia Circle H-Malinda Malmanger L-Sharon Bousset 6:00 Midweek Lenten Meal - OS 7:00 Midweek Lenten Worship - OS/Choir	21	22 9:00 Carpool from Faith to Dubuque Over night Skiing 11:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m.	23 Dubuque Over-night Skiing until 4:00 a.m.
24 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	25	26	27 6:00 Midweek Lenten Meal - OS 7:00 Midweek Lenten Worship - OS Choir follows	28		

Put Your Brain to Work!

What's a commonym you ask? A commonym is a group of words that have a common trait in the three words listed. For example: the word: A car – a tree- and elephant...they all have trunks. These will make you think!

1. Furniture - Mustaches - Skis _____
2. Golf Course - A Coffee Shop - A Quart _____
3. He - She - They _____
4. Jupiter - Alaska - The Blue Whale _____
5. Wood Tick - Leech - Mosquito _____
6. Yawning - Laughter - Influenza _____
7. Improper - Unit - Mixed _____
8. Marigold - Mustard - Canary _____
9. Snake - Cavity - Bottomless _____
10. Kidney - String - Black _____

What's a wuzzle you ask? A wuzzle is a saying/phrase that is made up of a display of words, in an interesting way. The object is to try to figure out the well-known saying, person, place, or thing that each wuzzle is meant to represent

Think IT Think	$\frac{WALK}{H_2O}$	VAD ERS
$\begin{matrix} \text{Mind}^{\text{ur}} \\ \text{Mind}^{\text{ur}} \\ \text{Mind}^{\text{ur}} \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \text{KEEP} \\ \text{smiling} \end{matrix}$	$\frac{IT}{+ IT}$?

Wuzzle Answers
 1. Think Twice About It
 2. Walk on Water
 3. Space Invaders
 4. You Are Always on my Mind
 5. Keep on Smiling
 6. It Doesn't Add Up

Commonym Answers
 1. They are waxed
 2. They have cups
 3. Pronouns
 4. Largest of their kind
 5. Blood suckers
 6. They are contagious
 7. Fractions
 8. Shades of yellow
 9. They have pits
 10. Beans