

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

U.S. Postage Paid  
Calamus, Iowa  
52729  
Permit No.12

**Calamus Lutheran Parish  
Worship Schedule**



**8:00 A.M. Sunday Worship**  
**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**2589 – 190th Avenue, rural Calamus**

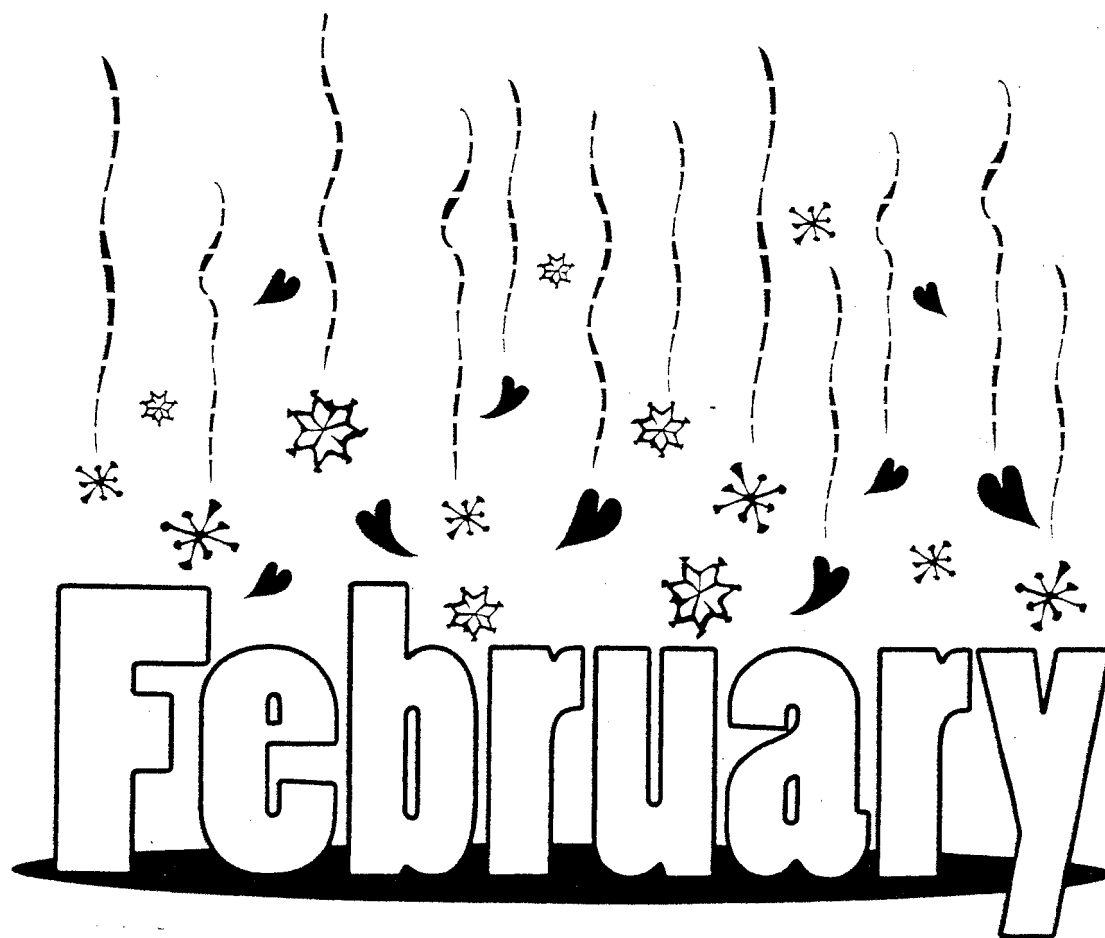


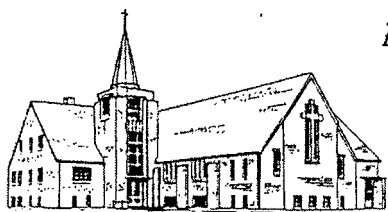
**9:25 A.M. Sunday School/Adult Class**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**



**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](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)**  
**Pastor's email .....[pastorsarahk@fbcom.net](mailto:pastorsarahk@fbcom.net)**  
**Church Website.....[www.clparish.org](http://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**

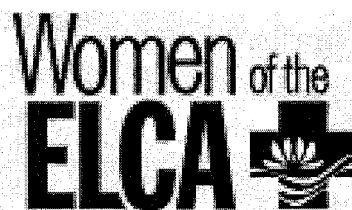
Luther League will cover the cost for Luther League members this year. Friends and family will be asked to cover their own fees. You may ask friends and family to join us, as long as we have enough parent drivers! There is a signup sheet posted at each church. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February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

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

## Luther League Lock-In Friday, March 1 Faith Church



**Mark Your Calendar!**



### 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 Bousset**



**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 24<sup>th</sup> or March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Bousselot  
Dan Burke  
Shane Glover  
Terri Bousselot

## 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

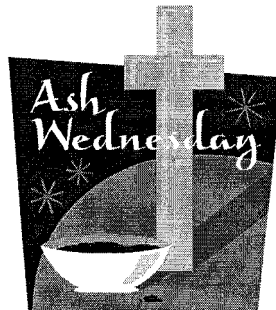
#### Cleaners

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

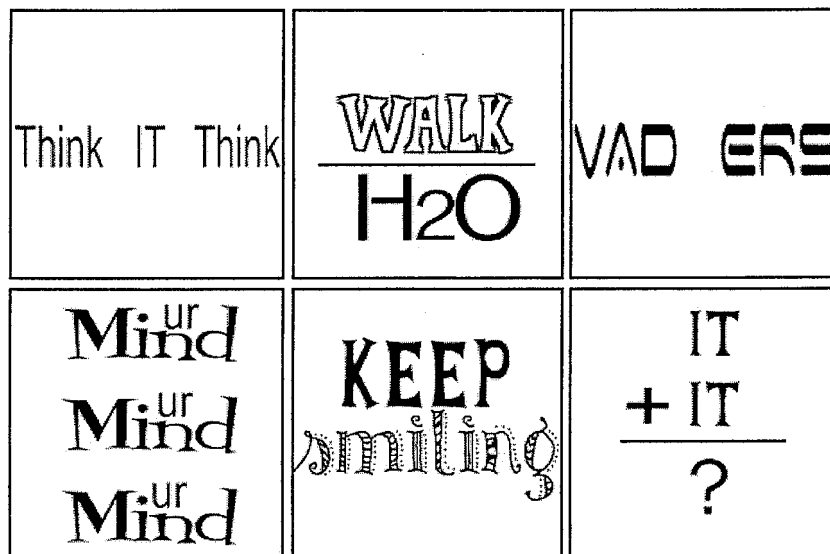
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9-Noon Council/Committee Retreat at Faith Church 1:00 Premarital Counseling - OS
3 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	4	5	6 7:00 Confirmation Class at Faith	7	8	9
10 8:00 Worship - OS 9:25 SS/AC - F 10:30 Worship - F	11	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



**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