



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

Volume 31

December 2018

Number 12

Pastor's View

PCC - The following will be presented to the annual meeting of both congregations for a vote. *The PCC recommended to the joint council: First choice is to apply for a Collaborative student from Wartburg Seminary. The second choice is to seek a traditional called pastor.* This motion was adopted by the joint councils.

A Pastor's Pastor - There are events in a pastor's life that need a pastoral response. When grandpa Bob passed away, who is the pastor for the pastor and family? The reality is that there were many "pastors" for the family. The Synod called rather soon and offered their help. This was a very nice gesture on their part. It is wonderful that I can work on Synod committee's and still be supported in a time of need. They are very busy and helpful. The next group of "pastors" was the pastors that know Jane and me. This would be the people who may be part of the text study, those who we have lived near at some point in our lives, and those who were part of college or seminary. Within that group there is one special pastor to the Barnard- Runaas family; Pastor Jealaine Marple at Elvira Lutheran Church. She supported me at the death of both of my parents. She had the funeral of Grandma June. Grandpa Bob asked her if she would do his funeral if anything happened. These actions are a pastor to the pastor's family. The last and most important group are the people we call friends. Friends are those people who came to the funeral. Friends are those people who sent cards or emails to the family. Friends are those who have prayed, listened and sat with us. Friends are those who wanted to do something but didn't know what to do. Who is the "pastor to the pastors?" It is you. You who name yourselves Christian. Jane and I thank you.

Advent-Christmas - We will be celebrating the season by using "Holden Evening Prayer" as our worship service. I like the singing in this service. To me it seems to fit the season that advent/Christmas leads us into faithful acts of kindness for each other.

Baptism of Our Lord - On January 13 we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord with a special worship action of lighting candles and ringing a bell for all the Baptized people we know. There will be signup sheets for you to name your baptized person for the worship service. We are looking for all people (not just members) who have been baptized since last year mid-January. This service is the other bookend to All Saints Sunday.

Jane and I would like to thank you for the joy of being your Pastor and family for this past year. May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Faithful New Year.

In Christ,
Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

December

"Coffee & A Little Jesus"



You are invited to the Women's/Mom's Bible Study, "Coffee & A Little Jesus." We will meet the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Kids are welcome.

December 4 at Heather Grau's 9:00 a.m.

**Heather Grau, 1658 – 257th Street,
Calamus**

If interested, please email me
grau.heather@gmail.com or call me [563-424-0507](tel:563-424-0507)


You can also follow on Facebook at
Coffee & A Little Jesus


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.

 December 5 – Our Savior's
6:00 p.m. Meal
7:00 p.m. Worship

 December 12 – Faith
6:00 p.m. Meal
7:00 p.m. Worship

 December 19 – Faith
6:00 p.m. Meal
7:00 p.m. Worship

Bible Study All are welcome!



Mondays, December 3 and 17
6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church
"Paul: A Biography"
By N.T. Wright

♪ December Choir Rehearsals ♪



Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19
following
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship at
the church where we are
having our worship.



Come join us—we'd love to have you!

Children's Christmas Program

December 16, 2018 at 10:30 at Faith.

The youth will have program rehearsals at 5:45 PM (before the meal/service) on the Wednesdays of Advent services and an additional rehearsal on the Saturday before the program just as we did last year.

Rehearsal Dates:

1. **Wednesday, December 5
at 5:45 PM at Our Saviors**
2. **Wednesday, December 12
at 5:45 PM at Faith**
3. **Saturday, December 15
at 9:00 AM at Faith**
4. **Final Dress Rehearsal during
Sunday School hour, December 16
at 9:30 AM at Faith**

***Please plan on having your child attend all of the rehearsals and Sunday School classes that they possibly can leading up to the program so we can practice the songs and skits and make this program a fun and successful one as always!

Thank you!

The Education Committee and Sunday School Teachers

Gift-in-a-Jar Fundraiser

God Squad is selling cookie mixes and soup mixes in a jar this holiday season for \$5.00 per jar.

Sign up for yours today from any God Squad youth or at the back of the church.

Orders are due December 9.

Jars will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 16, during services.



Fear Not

God is at work beyond our ability to imagine.

By: Katie Hines-Shah



Naomi Circle

**Thursday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.
Crossroads Garden Café in DeWitt**



Lydia Circle

**Wednesday, December 19, noon
Crossroads Garden Café in DeWitt**

"HOPE, JOY, PEACE and LOVE"



Children of Faith and Our Savior's Sunday School present their program about the gifts of Christmas

on

**Sunday, December 16
10:30 a.m. at Faith**

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

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 17, 2018. 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 21, 2019. Thank You!

First Communion



Olivia Hoffmann received her First Communion on Reformation Sunday at Faith.

Welcome to the Lord's Table!
"Let the children come to me"

Matthew 19:14

NOTE: Joint Worship Service
December 23 at 9:00 a.m.
at Faith



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
9:00 p.m.



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



No Sunday School,
God Squad, or Adult Class
on December 23 and 30.
Classes resume January 6, 2019.

Noisy Offering Collected December 9



The 2018 recipient of the Noisy Offering is the "Water Project" of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA



November Council Meetings

Joint Council

Worship Committee:

- Reviewed “Christ the King” and “Hanging of the Greens” services.
- **Christmas Schedule**
 - December 23 9:00 a.m. at Faith.
 - December 24 9:00 p.m. at Our Savior’s
 - December 25 9:00 a.m. at Faith
- Discussed format for December 30 service.
- **Advent Wednesdays**
 - December 5 at Our Savior’s
6:00 Meal and 7:00 Worship.
 - December 12 at Faith
6:00 Meal and 7:00 Worship.
 - December 19 at Faith
6:00 Meal and 7:00 Worship.

Christian Outreach Committee:

- Planned soup and sandwich meal for Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 18.

Education Committee:

- Did not meet.

God Squad:

- Starting Jar Sales
- Would like to usher and greet for Christmas Eve service.
- The pie sale will be on Dec. 18 with cooking and jar packing on Dec. 17.
- There will be a bake sale on Dec. 25.
- Raised \$208 at the Eats B4 Treats on Halloween. Discussed starting earlier, having more games, and costume contest next year.
- Angel Tree shopping on Dec. 16.

Old Business:

- PCC/Future Ministry
 - Reiterate that we cannot start the call process for a full-time pastor until Pastor Bill has retired.
 - The student call process can start right away.
 - If a student has not been found by the time Pastor retires, then we can have both processes going simultaneously.
 - Motion passed to approve the PCC recommendation of starting the student process, then starting the traditional pastor call process.

New Business:

- None

Faith Council

- No Minutes.

Our Savior’s

- The church was broken into and several items were stolen.
- Church Security:
 - Marcia’s son-in-law Steve spoke to the council. He is experienced in security and camera systems. He gave a prior quote for a 5-camera system being about \$2,000.00. That is a wired system and a wireless system would be much more expensive. He talked about Key Fob systems and the advantages associated with them. He mentioned that electronic locks have some disadvantages like batteries that expire. He recommends a mechanical version.
 - Jason picked up an electronic lock for the side door by the kitchen and Sunday school rooms. The batteries are easy to replace and unique codes can be assigned.
 - Jason also picked up lights to replace the ones that were on the side of the church. One will be on the south side of the sanctuary, one on the south side Sunday school rooms, and one on the west side of the Sunday school rooms.
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports were distributed and reviewed

Old Business:

- Siding is done, waiting on the bill.
- Renters are vacating as expected.
- Discussed what recourse there may be for back rent.

New Business:

- Council will serve the Advent meal on Dec 5, casserole and dessert.
- Sound System has been purchased and installed.
- Heartsmart Defibrillator unit we had was \$1,300; with a church discount is just under \$1,000.

Birthdays

December 1: Dan Burke
December 4: Alyssa McElmeel
Jackson Wieck
December 5: Michele Bliler
December 8: Dale Gronewold
Cindy Burke
December 9: Jason Bousselot
Brooklyn Calef
Jeff Griebel
Maddon Hoker
December 10: Dion Olson
Lucas Hayes
Parker Olson
December 11: Josh Jacobi
Michael Gronewold
Alex Rickertsen
December 13: Camdon Bousselot
Brandon McMahon
December 14: Andy Bickel
Erin Bickel
Drake Mayerhofer
December 16: 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 Bousselot
Henry Mueller
December 24: Carter Henning
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

Wedding Anniversaries



December 2: Dirk & Annette Braet
December 16: Pastor Bill & Jane Runaas

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

January Newsletter items
are due Thursday, December 20.
Thanks for your cooperation!

THE STAR

Many, many years ago
In Bethlehem of old,
A Star appeared out of the night
As prophets had foretold

The Star it shone
So wondrous bright,
Its rays a path
Of heavenly light,

Shining softly down
Upon a stable small
To touch with gentle love
The most perfect babe of all.

The shepherds from the hills,
The wise men from afar,
Found their way to Him
By following the Star.

They stood in silent wonder
Offering their gifts of love
And the Star shone brightly down,
God's guardian from above.

Today that Star shines just as bright,
No matter where we are,
If we just let the light of Jesus
Become our shining Star.

— Lois Wessels

MINISTERS for December 2018

FAITH

Ushers:

Mark Witte
Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley
Gary Braet

Acolyte:

Ryan Dick

Altar Ministry:

Larry & Sharyl Banowetz

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Greeters:

December 2: Marilyn Steward
December 9: Brian Tulley
December 16: Children
December 23: Diane Sievers
December 30: Ruth Braet

Lectors:

December 2: Andrea Shelton
December 9: Brian Tulley
December 16: Children
December 23: Mark Witte
December 30: Marsha Witte

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Mark Olson
Art Boussetot

Acolyte:

Macailah Jacobsen

Communion Assistant:

Brain Boussetot

Lectors:

December 2: Jason Boussetot
December 9: Dan Burke
December 16: Mark Olson
December 30: Marcia Edens

Cleaners:

Art and Sharon Boussetot

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 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 SS/GS/AC – F 10:30 Worship – F	3 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm at Faith	4 “Coffee & Little Jesus” 9:00 am at Heather Grau’s	5 Program Practice 5:45 at OS Advent at OS 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship	6	7	8
9 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 SS/GS/AC_F 10:30 Worship – F	10	11 Committee Night 7:00 pm at Faith	12 Program Practice 5:45 pm at Faith Advent at Faith 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship	13 Naomi Circle 10:00 am in DeWitt at Garden Café Worship Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	14	15 Program Practice 9:30 am at Faith
16 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 SS/GS/AC – F 10:30 Children’s Christmas Program at Faith	17 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm at Faith Annual Committee Reports due to office.	18	19 Lydia Circle - Noon Garden Café, DeWitt Advent at Faith 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship	20	21	22
23 Joint Worship Service 9:00 am at Faith	24 Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 pm at OS	25 Christmas Day Worship 9:00 am at Faith	26	27	27	29
30 8:00 Worship – OS TBA Worship – F	31					