



Pastor Writes



I officiated at a funeral this past spring and saw something I have never before seen in all the funerals I have done in the past 15 years.

The service was over. The guests were lunching. It was time to close and lock the casket. Usually, I am accustomed to the funeral home folks closing the casket, and usually this is done after the family has left. Usually, I attend the closing of the casket and am used to the funeral home folks very respectfully and gently removing those items the family wishes to have saved, like rings, watches, etc.

But in this particular case, the family removed the ring and hat from their loved one who had died. The family tucked in the quilted liner all around him, the family gave him one last hug and kiss. And then the father was asked to close and lock the casket. Never having before seen this done by a relative, much less the *father* of the deceased, I braced myself for...what? *Something*....some outburst from the family, some explosive, uncontrollable bout of wailing or crying or I don't know what.

What I saw was, in fact, beautiful. Paralyzing beautiful. Powerful.

The father approached the casket, caressed his son's face for the last time, and, with tears streaming down his face, closed the casket, locked it, and returned the key to the gentleman from the funeral home. The father gathered his family, and they went downstairs to attend to their lunching guests.

I remained behind, stunned by what I had seen....struck by the gravity of that action, barely able to process the beauty/horror of what that father had just done...with such poise and strength, even with tears running down his face.

Watching that changed me forever, and I

talked about it with my sons a few days later when the subject of dying came up.

I didn't so much share with them the father/son piece of what I had witnessed, but rather the closing of the casket lid, and the locking it—the finality, the heaviness of the sound of it.

I spoke of the casket as a treasure box, the contents of which is not money or gems or jewelry like you might expect to find in a treasure box...but instead, the contents of the treasure box is a *person*. And when that person dies, we put them in this special treasure box, and it is locked up tight for safekeeping. And my mind will forever carry the image of the father closing his son's casket.

But, I said, the lid does not stay closed forever.

We are the ones who close the lid on these treasure boxes, but it is Jesus who opens them again.

And when Jesus does this, he will raise the person back to life and will heal whatever it is that caused them to die. Cancer, diabetes, heart disease, accidents, violence...babies, elderly, and everyone in between....friends, strangers, enemies...rich, poor, and everyone in between....liars, truth-tellers, philosophers, poets, farmers, teachers...the beloved, the despised...whoever it might be that lies in that treasure box is a treasure to the living Lord...

And this is exactly what Easter is all about, is it not? Yes!

Is it not about a universal sob on Good Friday, as the lid slams shut on a dying human race, as we collectively exhale our final death rattle? And then is it not about our Redeemer seeking us out in those remote places under the earth, dusting off the boxes in which we rest, and prying open those lids with his crucified hands? Is it not about Jesus

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(Continued from front page)

pressing his lips to ours..is it not about Jesus, breathing his life-giving breath into our lifeless clay and watching us stir back to life? Is it not about the Father watching his Son give life to the lifeless, so that we who wait in our boxes might receive the gift of his inheritance?

And the Father weeps tears of joy, finally, to see his Son—who himself was once dead—give the gift of life to all of us who wait in death in our boxes.

Did it ever occur to you that you are a treasure? Did it ever occur to you that God loves you so much that he will dig to the deepest depths of this creation to discover you, to uncover you, to open the lid of your treasure box, to pull you from your darkness, to open your sleeping eyes, to breathe you back to life, to call you by name, to gaze into your glorious, resurrected face? You, treasure, you.

A happy Easter, indeed.

- Pastor Sarah Kretzmann

Midweek Lenten Worship Schedule



April 2 and 9

Our Savior's Church – 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Meal – 6:00 p.m.

Easter Morning Activities



The God Squad will be preparing a breakfast that will be served following the 6:30 Easter Worship Service at Faith. There will be a free-will offering.



An Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the God Squad will be held after the 7:30 breakfast at Faith. Bring the little ones and watch them have fun!

Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thursday

April 17, 7:00 p.m.

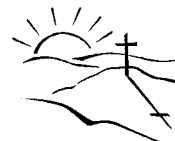
Faith Church



Good Friday

April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Our Savior's Church



Easter Sunday

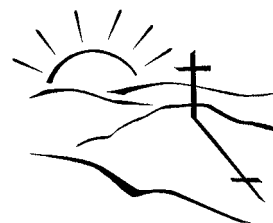
April 20

6:30 a.m. – Worship at Faith Church

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast at Faith Church

followed by Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. – Worship at Our Savior's



**And he departed from our sight that we might
return to our heart, and there find Him.
For He departed, and behold, He is here.**

~ St Augustine



At the March Council Meetings

Joint Council:

➤ Stewardship and Christian Outreach Committee: Approximately 30 people attended the parish bowling event; an application for matching funds for the 2014 Thanksgiving meal will be submitted by Mark Witte.

➤ Education Committee: Vacation Bible School will be held on the four Wednesdays in May from 3:30—5:30PM at Faith Church; focus will be on hunger and food; registrations forms will be dispersed in April and due May 1; volunteers of all generations are welcome to assist with snacks, instruction and supervision; the Lord's Prayer will be the focus of Sunday School instruction; May 18 will be the last of day of Sunday School.

➤ A general discussion was held with Pastor regarding her change in residence occurring in August of 2014; Pastor contacted Council via email on March 6 and informed parish members on March 9 at Worship that her family will be moving to New Liberty.

➤ Four youth are eligible to attend Confirmation Camp – a possible date may be the first week in June.

Faith Council:

➤ Financial reports were accepted with a designated balance of \$3,927.78 and a working balance of \$12,188.99.

➤ Approved payment of boiler repair bill in the amount of \$5,182.00.

➤ Josh and Zach Poell submitted a snow removal bill for dates January 18 – February 17 including six dates of snow removal, one date at 1/2 charge and two dates as "No Charge" – no specific hours for any of these dates were documented – approved by council to pay \$175 for snow removal through February 17.

➤ Spring Clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 5, beginning at 8:00AM – Rain Date will be April 12.

➤ Luther League members requested permission to paint the stage walls and possibly paint quotes on the walls. Council welcomed their initiative and directed the color of paint and location of quotes be pre-approved by Council. The stage curtains must remain in place – door, window and wood trim may not be painted.

➤ Gasper will apply "Wet and Forget It" to the

exterior of church when weather permits.

➤ Suggestions offered to the Property and Management for review included : assess downspout/drainage on north side of the church; improve method of closing curtains on balcony landing and paint exterior walk-in doors on southwest and northeast corners of the church.

Our Savior's Council:

➤ The treasurer's report was reviewed.

➤ Front doors have been roped off due to ice and snow; will check with Brian Boussetot about water situation;

➤ Parsonage renters have requested permission to have a therapy dog in their home for their son. Approval was given to amend contract to allow service/therapy pets with an additional \$25 per month added to rent for pet deposit.

➤ Membership roster was reviewed and edited.

➤ Spring cleaning date will be April 12 with April 19 as a make-up date.

Our Savior's Monthly Financial Report February 2014

Beginning Balance.....	\$(2,357.99)
Deposits	\$ 6,161.07
Disbursements.....	\$ 7,823.09
Ending Balance	\$(4,200.01)

**May 2014 Newsletter Items Due
April 21, please.
Thanks for your cooperation!**

**♫ April Choir Rehearsals ♫
Each Wednesday, following the
Midweek Lenten Service**

Sunday Morning Child Care for Christian, Jacob & Philip

April 6: Hal and Andrea Shelton
April 13: Julie Gronewold
April 20: Marcia/Alison Edens, Mark Olson
April 27: Boys with Nate



**In Good Company –
Stories of Biblical Women**

**"Rizpah,
A Vigilant Mourner"**

"Then Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens; she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day, or the wild animals by night." – 2 Samuel 21:10

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, April 16, 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Sharon Boussetot

Leader: Arlene Green



Naomi Circle

Friday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.

(Meet at Crossroads Garden Cafe

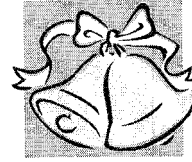
602 – 10th Street, DeWitt

We will order lunch from the menu)

Hostess: Jeannene Boussetot

Leader: Marsha Witte

You Are Invited



All friends and family are invited to attend the marriage ceremony of Pr. Sarah Kretzmann and Doug Goettsch. The wedding will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, Calamus, on Saturday, July 26 at 4:00. The reception follows at the Cal-Co at 6:00. Come celebrate with us!



(We have had many lovely inquiries as to whether folks can contribute refreshments at the reception; a snack table will be available, should anyone be so kindly inclined as to bring a snack to share during the reception. Contact Carrie Trenkamp 563.847.1232 if you have interest and/or questions. Thanks!)



Thank you all for the kind expressions of sympathy and prayers at the time of Kent's illness and death. It was such a help during those difficult times.

Oscar and Joan Shelton

Hal and Andrea Shelton and Family

**Hope Cluster Women's
Spring Gathering**

**Saturday, April 12 – 9:00AM – Noon
\$12 includes Lunch**

Hosted by:

**St. Marks Lutheran Women
Oxford Junction**

**Speaker: Judy Stevens,
Linn county Master Gardner
"Plants of the Bible"**

**Reservations by April 7
Marlene Flory 563-488-3342**

**Women's Wednesday Night
Bible Study Schedule
Change**

There will be no Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study during Lent. Look for booklets with the spring/summer schedule in the back of the churches by end of March.



God Squad (Luther League) Monthly Meeting



God Squad Welcomes all Junior High and High School Youth!

Where: Our Savior's Church, in the Kitchen

When: Sunday, April 6, during Sunday School Hour – 9:25 a.m.

Wednesday Night God Squad Lounge



Cancelled During Lent

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who has donated money during our bake sales or who has donated items to be sold. The money we are collecting is helping the God Squad (Luther League) do activities that everyone can enjoy. Our overall goal is to raise enough money for the Youth Gathering, July 2015, in Detroit, Michigan.

Also, thank you to anyone who went on the All-Night Ski Trip this year. We had 24 skiers with a total of 35 attending. Once again, the God Squad thanks you for your support.

God Squad Offering Parish T-Shirts for Sale



The God Squad (formerly known as Luther League) is offering everyone in the Calamus Lutheran Parish the opportunity to purchase a parish t-shirt as a part of the God Squad's fund-raising campaign. The proceeds of their fund-raisers will go towards the Youth Gathering in Detroit in 2015.

The shirts will be red with blue writing and sizes will range from YM – Adult XXL. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the churches. Please include your name and size – cost of each shirt is \$15. Shirt order will be taken throughout Lent and Easter Sunday.

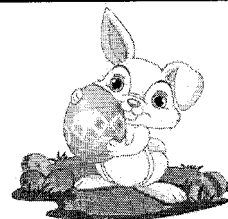
**The God Squad welcomes
and appreciates all donations
of pop and/or pizza for their
get-togethers.
Thank you!**

Luther College Jazz Orchestra

You can hear the Luther College Jazz Orchestra, Juan Tony Guzman, conductor, perform at the Mill Restaurant, 120 E. Burlington Street, Iowa City on Friday, April 11 at 7:30PM. Tickets: \$5 – Adults; Students - \$3.

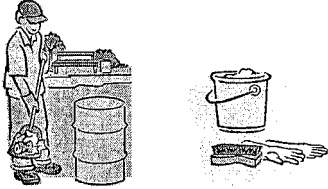
Advance tickets:

<http://midwestix.securemytix.com/event/3792192>



Spring Clean-up Day at Faith Church

Saturday, April 5 ~ 8:00AM
(Rain Date, April 12)



Volunteers are welcome to join
in the following tasks:

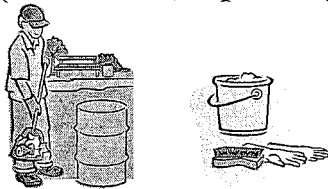
- ▶ Refreshing the lawn and landscaped areas – raking and mulching
- ▶ General cleaning – exterior and interior
- ▶ Painting of entryway walls

Habitat for Humanity Workday Opportunities

Thrivent Financial is funding a new home in Cedar Rapids in conjunction with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity group for a family with six children currently living in an apartment. Building will start in early May with workdays on most Saturdays and some Fridays. Thrivent is also sponsoring six Thrivent Builds/Repair projects on the southeast side of Cedar Rapids. If you have the skills, would like to learn some construction skills or just want to give a family a hand-up and not a hand-out, please join us! If you or a group would be interested in helping, please stop by your local Thrivent office at 908 – 6th Avenue, DeWitt or call 659-2991. – Thrivent Financial

Spring Clean-up Day at Our Savior's Church

Saturday, April 12 ~ 8:30AM
(Rain Date, April 19)



Peter Rabbit Hollow Bazaar

You are invited to the Peter Rabbit Hollow Bazaar on Saturday, April 5 from 10:00AM – 1:00PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lost Nation. There will be a quilt display, crafts, a bake sale, 2nd-time-around table and a creamed turkey or maid rite lunch. Cost for the lunch is Adults: \$6.00; Children (10 and under): \$3.00 and Preschool: free. Carry outs are available.

You Are Invited To A ♪ Piano Recital ♪

On Saturday, May 10 at 2:30, Mrs. Hudson (music teacher at Cal-Wheat elementary) hosts a spring piano recital at the Butterworth House in Moline. Several students from our parish will be sharing their musical talent. Come support them and enjoy a lovely afternoon.

Spring Breeze Bazaar

On Saturday, April 12, the LWML Mission Guild of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, will be hosting their annual Spring Breeze Bazaar. A luncheon will be served from 10AM – 1PM; tickets are \$6 and will be available at the door. The menu includes hot chicken salad, fruit and vegetable salads, croissants and pies. The Country Store will be open where there will be a variety of baked goods, crafts, cards and napkins to purchase.

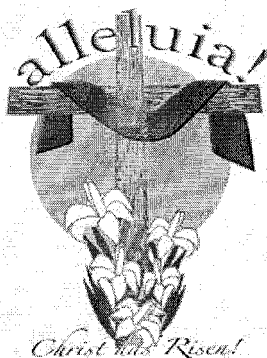


Happy Easter!

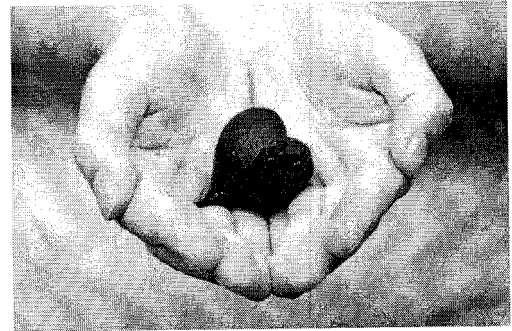
Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time. ~Martin Luther

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 1:	Trina Knoche Karlee Rock
April 2:	Daryl Henning
April 4:	Lindsey Hewer Aleisha Adams
April 6:	Mallory Bousselot Terry Cunningham
April 9:	Rebecca Shorter
April 10:	Norman Bousselot Hans Olson
April 11:	Brittany Hoffmann James Koch
April 12:	Jeremy Koch
April 13:	Nila Mason
April 14:	Geri Schutt
April 15:	Jeff Henning
April 17:	Nancy Olson
April 18:	Matthew Gronewold
April 20:	Hal Shelton Bus Seastrand
April 21:	Michael Hoker
April 22:	Angela Ihns
April 24:	Brandon Knudtsen Mickenzie Allen
April 25:	Larry Schau
April 28:	Marcella Husen Don Coobs
April 29:	Bryce Erickson Rita Seastrand
	♥
April 6:	Oscar & Joan Shelton
April 7:	Paul & Carla Olson
April 8:	Chris & Tara Charles Sersig
April 9:	Pastor Solveig & Michael Zamzow
April 13:	Lonny & Diane Sievers
April 22:	Yale & Brenda Christensen
April 26:	Dennis & Hally Haley
April 30:	Jeremy & Sarah Koch



A Spirit of Generosity



Wednesday Bible School
May 7, 14, 21 and 28
3:30 to 5:30PM

Faith Lutheran Church,
505 2nd Street in Calamus

- ♥ For children age 4 through 6th grade.
- ♥ There will be snacks, music, stories, and activities!
- ♥ Join your friends and neighbors after school on the four Wednesdays of May.

The school needs parental permission to have the school buses drop off children at the church for Bible School.

Registration by May 1st is required.

Registration forms are available at the church

We Need Your HELP!

HELP is needed for Bible School 2014. Can you carve out some time to **HELP** this year? You do not need to be a parent. You do not need to be young. You do not need to be female. You do not need to be an expert. You just have to be willing to share some time on a Wednesday afternoon with the children of this community. Please consider how you can **HELP**!

Bible School is going to be after school for two hours on the four Wednesdays of May.

HELP is needed with a nutritious snack. You can **HELP** provide food, prepare the snack, serve the treat, or sit with the children while they eat.

HELP is needed with activities. You can **HELP** plan the activities, provide the materials, or work with the children during the activity.

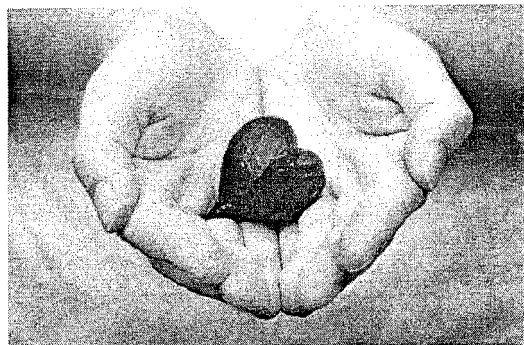
HELP is needed with story time. You can **HELP** tell the Bible story, listen with the children, or discuss the theme with the children.

HELP is needed with music. You can **HELP** choose the songs, lead the music time, or sing with the children.

HELP is needed with crowd control. You can **HELP** greet the children when they arrive, join them as they go to activities, or bid them farewell at the end of the session.

The theme for the four sessions of Bible School is "A Spirit of Generosity." You can **HELP** by being generous with your time to make this a rewarding experience for the children of the parish and the children of the community. Think about how you can **HELP**! Watch for sign-up sheets soon.

Give Marsha Witte a call at 659-5520 to ask questions or volunteer.



Wednesday Bible School

Faith Lutheran Church, 505 2nd Street in Calamus

3:30 to 5:30 on May 7, 14, 21, and 28

For children age 4 through 6th grade

You may make arrangements with the school to have children ride the bus to the church.

The registration must be turned in to the church office or school office by May 1, 2014.

You may use one form for a family.

The registration form must be on file for all the children attending Bible School.

CUT _____

Registration Form

Child's Name _____

Birth date _____ School grade just completing _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Child's Name _____

Birth date _____ School grade just completing _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Child's Name _____

Birth date _____ School grade just completing _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Parental Permission

Parent(s) name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Work phone _____ E-mail _____

Signature of a Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Emergency Information

In case of emergency, there should be someone to contact from 3:30 to 5:30 who can respond immediately.

Contact _____

Relationship to child _____

Phone _____



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we share a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This faith gives us the courage to proclaim the good news to a world that is longing to hear it. It sets us free to love and serve our neighbors.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the first-ever, five-year comprehensive campaign for our church. In our first 25 years together as the ELCA, there is much to celebrate. And yet, God is calling us to do more.

Through this campaign we can:

- Share the gospel
- Start new congregations
- Serve globally
- End hunger
- Overcome malaria
- Train leaders
- Send missionaries

Please pray for members of the ELCA and our church's life-changing, life-sustaining ministries and consider making an initial gift to the campaign to support ministries that mean the most to you. Also consider how you and your congregation can take part in the next five years.

Together — in the name of Jesus Christ — we can achieve things that we could never otherwise imagine or do alone.

Learn more at:

www.ELCA.org/campaign

Phone: 800-638-3522

Email: campaignforELCA@elca.org

**Always
New.**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

MINISTERS FOR APRIL 2014

FAITH

Ushers:

Mark Witte
Gary Braet
Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley

Acolytes:

Alyssa McElmeel
Magnus Sands

Altar Ministry:

Mark & Marsha Witte

Communion Assistant:

Dirk Braet

Greeter:

April 6: Dirk Braet
April 13: Mark Witte
April 20: Marilyn Steward
April 27: Keith Steward

Lectors:

April 6: Brian Tulley
April 13: Palm Sunday - Pastor
April 20: Gary Braet
April 27: Mark Witte

OUR SAVIOR'S

Ushers:

Dan Burke
Mark Olson

Acolyte:

Riley Bruns

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lector:

April 6: Grant Harkness
April 13: Palm Sunday - Pastor
April 20: David Olson
April 27: Mark Olson

Cleaners:

Barb Flynn
David Olson

Christian, Jacob & Philip Caregivers

April 6: Hal & Andrea Shelton
April 13: Julie Gronewold
April 20: Marcia/Alison Edens, Mark Olson
April 27: Boys with Nate

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.

Holy Week Schedule

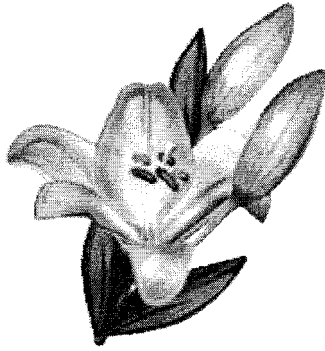
Maundy Thursday – Faith Church, 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday – Our Savior's Church, 7:00 p.m.



Easter Sunrise Worship Service – Faith Church. 6:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast – Faith Church, 7:30 a.m.
Easter Worship Service – Our Savior's Church, 9:30 a.m.

APRIL 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00 Lenten Supper – OS 7:00 Lenten Worship – OS 7:30 – Choir - OS	2 6:00 Lenten Supper – OS 7:00 Lenten Worship – OS 7:30 – Choir - OS	3	4	5 8:00 Clean-up Day at Faith (Rain day – April 12)
6 Noisy Offering God Squad Bake Sale 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC-OS 9:25 God Squad - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	7	8 7:00 Committee Night - OS	9 6:00 Lenten Supper – OS 7:00 Lenten Worship – OS 7:30 – Choir - OS	10 6:00 Worship Committee – OS 7:30 Joint Council - OS	11	12 8:30 Clean-up Day at Our Savior's (Rain Date – April 19) LCW Spring Gathering – Oxford Junction
13 Palm Sunday 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC- OS 10:30 Worship - OS	14	15	16 2:00 Lydia Circle H- Sharon Bousset L- Arlene Green	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship at Faith	18 Good Friday 7:00 Worship at Our Savior's	19
20 Easter 6:30 Worship – F 7:30 Breakfast – F Easter Egg Hunt follows Breakfast 9:30 Worship - OS	21	22	23	24	25 9:30 Naomi Circle Meet at Crossroads Garden Cafe, DeWitt – lunch at 11:00 H-Jeannene B L-Marsha Witte	26
27 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC- OS 10:30 Worship - OS	28	29	30 6:30 Confirmation – F Final Exam/Closing Worship			



There is quiet at the dawning of the day,
a quiet that awaits the awakening of our souls,
as all that God intends is given birth,
and Jesus is the Lord of all the garden of the earth.

There is healing in the fullness of the light,
a healing that begins in the terror of the night.
While splinters of the peace we shattered fly,
You, O wounded one, are gently putting things to right.

Did we believe the earth could be so new,
the knots untied, the torture through,
judgment exchanged for beauteous grace?
Stand tall all prisoners of the human race!

There is victory in the coming of the Lord,
a wider, fuller peace than any soul has ever known.
What daring love is this which grants us stand
redeemed and whole and holding the triumphant Prince's hand!
We praise our Lord's dear name with all our power!
His is the reign, this is the hour!

- *Christine Kallman*

Calamus Lutheran Parish
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches
P.O. Box 116
Calamus, Iowa 52729-0116
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**Calamus Lutheran Parish
Worship Schedule**



8:00 A.M. Sunday Worship
Faith Lutheran Church
505 Second Street, town of Calamus



9:25 A.M. Sunday School/Adult Class
Our Savior's Lutheran Church



10:30 A.M. Sunday Worship
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
2589 – 190th Avenue, rural Calamus

Church Office 563.246.2622
Pastor Sarah's Office 563.246.2558
Church email address clparish@fbcom.net
Pastor's email pastorsarahk@fbcom.net
Church Website www.clparish.org

