



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 35

December 2022

Number 12

Pastor's View

You may get tired of hearing me say this, but I love Advent. It is my favorite season of the church year, and not just because blue, which is my favorite color, is the color of the season...although that does add to it being my favorite. As we heard on Christ the King Sunday, Advent is the beginning of the church year. We are starting over and going back to the beginning, and to begin to tell the Church's story yet again. You'll notice that our Gospel texts will transition from Luke to Matthew, inviting us to hear this story from another perspective. There are of course similarities, but we get to hear the same stories in different ways and encounter how the Bible, God's Word, continues to be living among us and is constantly speaking to us in new ways.

So back to Advent, it is my favorite season because only God would think to kick off a new year by having us enter into a time of waiting. This is so contrary to our ways of thinking and doing in this world. Whenever something new happens, whether it be at home, work, school, and so forth, "new" means busy! There are last minute details to finalize, perhaps a party to throw, working hard for there to be energy and excitement over this new thing, and a million contingency plans to think of, and a thousand scenarios to prepare for. Instead of all of that, however, God has us begin the new church year by waiting. Why?

I believe that God knows us humans far better than we know and understand ourselves, and I believe God knows all about how we humans often start 'new' things with all that doing. So instead, God has us begin this new thing by waiting, because we regularly need the reminder that God is the one in charge, and that this is ultimately not about us but about who God is and what God does. Who is God? God is the creator, who formed us and all of creation out of nothingness, gave us life, and called us 'good.' God is love, who loved the world so much that God sent Jesus Christ to live with us, die for us, and rise again for us. What does God do? God creates, God loves, and God is reconciling all things to God's self through the cross of Jesus Christ. Nothing about who God is or what God does requires us to do or to be anything other than God's good and beloved creation.

May this Advent time of waiting be a reminder to you that this is about God and Jesus, and not about what we do or don't do. May this Advent time of waiting remind you that God is the one in charge. And may this Advent time of waiting bring you peace, love, joy, and hope.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Leah



Mid-Week Advent Worship Schedule



In addition to Sunday worship, there will be mid-week Advent services on Wednesday evenings.

Wednesday, December 7, at Faith

- 5:45 p.m. Program Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Worship
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 14, at Our Savior's

- 5:45 p.m. Program Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday, December 21, at Our Savior's

- 6:00 p.m. Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Worship

Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School Children present

"The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever"

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 18, at Faith

Program practices will precede mid-week Advent services on two Wednesdays (December 7 and 14). Final rehearsal is 9:30 a.m. Saturday, December 17.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24

9:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

Special Collection

During the weeks of Advent, the parish will be collecting winter wear. Please bring new (or very gently used) winter coats, hats, gloves, and mittens to Faith and Our Savior's. The items will be given to the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland for distribution to those who need something warm to wear this winter.

Wednesday Youth Schedule for December

NO Confirmation classes during December. The confirmands help lead mid-week Advent services.

Bible Jam

Following Advent services on Wednesday, December 7, at Faith and Wednesdays, December 14 and 21, at Our Savior's. Junior high and high school students are welcome to come for faith, food, fellowship, and fun!

High School Bible Study

11th and 12th grade students meet following Bible Jam on Wednesday, December 7, at Faith and Wednesdays, December 14 and 21, at Our Savior's.

Celebrate Christmas!

The God Squad Christmas party will be at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14, at Our Savior's Church. Junior high and high school youth are invited to join in the holiday fun!

Naomi Circle Bible Study



Wednesday, December 7

10:00 a.m. at Diane Christensen's home

"Good Things Come in Small Packages"

by Becca Ehrlich

November/December issue of *Gather* magazine

Noisy Offering – Sunday, December 18

The 2022 recipient is ELCA World Hunger.

To contact **Pastor Leah**, please use her cell phone number: (262) 914-9392

All reports for Faith and Our Savior's Annual Reports are due in the church office by Monday, December 19. These reports include: Pastor, Council Presidents, God Squad, Feeding the Children, Memorials and Gifts, Our Savior's Cemetery, and all Committees (Education, Outreach, Property and Management, and Worship).

Please have financial reports, budgets, and audit reports in the church office by Monday, January 16, 2023.

Please submit January newsletter items to the church office by Monday, December 19.
Thanks for your cooperation.

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26.



November Council Meetings

~ Joint Council ~

God Squad

- 12 youth attend Bible Jam on average.
- Kickball event went well; 6 attended from CLP.
- Bake sale raised \$586 dollars for the angel tree Christmas gifts; spending \$60 per angel.
- Considering Christmas Party at Our Savior's on December 14, archery in Eldridge, cookie, cocoa, and movie night, and a lock-in.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor attended a First Call Conference. Differing political opinions was discussed.
- Participated in Thrivent's "Take Away Hunger" event in DeWitt.
- Still doing visits to homebound.
- Visited in the fields with those harvesting.
- Dean St. John funeral at Faith on November 8.
- Calvin Olson baptism at Faith on December 4.
- Confirmation is still going well. Confirmands are involved in planning the Advent services.
- Adult Ed is reviewing Law and Gospel.

Worship Committee

- Confirmed Community Thanksgiving Service with Methodist churches at 6:00 pm on Sunday, November 20,
- Discussed mid-week Advent services. Confirmation students will be assisting Pastor.
- New Year's Day will be one service at 9:00 am at Faith on Sunday, January 1.

Outreach Committee

- Planning for pie and ice cream following Thanksgiving evening service on November 20.
- Sarah Tulley suggested a winter coat drive for the Carroll Assistance Center through January 8.

- Saturday, January 28, is the proposed date for a Councils and All-Committees Meeting; 9:00 -11:00 am at Our Savior's
- Sarah suggested a kid's snow creation contest; take kids out, build something, and take a photo.

Education Committee

- Finalized plans for Christmas program and assigned parts.
- Will not meet in December.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Discussed introducing a remote option for those who travel south or cannot attend meetings. Will start in December by calling Hal and Larry and doing a 3-way call.
- Next meetings are on Thursday, December 8, due to Cal-Wheat Christmas Program.

~ Faith Council ~

Old Business

- Elevator Entrance Floor - Pat is going to lay the tile. The rest of the floor repair is complete.
- Pin Oak Trees - Tim Bartels Tree Service will come and look at the trees and trim, but not until the trees are dormant.

New Business

- Church Windows - Basement windows need caulking.
- Electricity - Motion light on the front of the church is not working. Replaced the sensor last year. Will check that again, but it may be more of an electrical issue.
- Sign - If work is needed on the electricity for the front light, it would be time to discuss updating the sign out front.
- Boiler Update - Boiler is working but still having some trouble getting water back to the boiler. There are options other than having to tear up the floor to get to the pipes. One option is using a sump pump delivery system, which may be more cost effective. Property and Management will get more details and present the options at the Annual Meeting.
- Basement Floor - Mark will contact Sara to have her mop the floors in the basement in preparation for Advent meals.



~ Our Savior's Council ~

Old Business

- Carpet - Receiving estimate to use the remaining carpet for the stairs and cry room.
- Old Church - Still waiting on Esbaum to fix.

New Business

- Christ the King Sunday - Jason proposed Our Savior's try a new service that is closer to the style of Hanging of the Greens. It has more readings and hymns, but hymns are only one verse. Council agreed to try.
- Piano Tuning - Tate's Piano Tuning is coming on November 18.
- Pastor asked for clarifications on funeral procedures.
 - Family is responsible for meal
 - Anyone present can help serve meal
 - Tablecloths, if used, must be cleaned by family
 - Music is normally Linda or Jason
Jason can usually get off, except for Fridays
 - Brian is in charge of plots in the cemetery

Next Meetings:

❖ **Thursday, December 8, at Our Savior's**

It is a new church year!

Members are receiving a printed copy of the Calamus Lutheran Parish December newsletter because it is time to update records. Fill out and return the form to church or call the office with the information.

Name _____

Address _____

Please distribute the parish newsletter:

_____ by mail

_____ in church mailbox

_____ by email

Email address _____

The best way to contact _____ is:

_____ Landline _____

_____ Cell Phone _____

_____ Email _____

The best way to contact _____ is:

_____ Landline _____

_____ Cell Phone _____

_____ Email _____

You may call the church office at 563-246-2622 with this information or cut off this half page and return it by Monday, December 19, to the church office by hand or by mail:

Calamus Lutheran Parish
PO Box 116
Calamus, IA

MINISTERS for December 2022

If you cannot do your task on the day assigned, it is your responsibility to trade with someone or to find your own substitute and notify the church office of the change.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley

Acolyte:

Tysen Steffens

Altar Ministry:

Larry and Sharyl Banowetz

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Lectors:

December 4: Mark Witte
December 11: Shelley Gentile
December 18: Rachel Boussetot

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Dan Burke

Acolyte:

Macailah Jacobsen

Communion Assistant:

Neil Holmquist

Lectors:

December 4: Melisa Jacobsen
December 11: Mark Olson
December 18: David Burke

Cleaner:

Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman

December 2022 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Sunday worship is also online at www.clparish.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OS = Our Savior's Church F = Faith Church				1	2	3
4 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	5	6	7 Naomi Circle 10:00 am at Diane Christensen's Advent at Faith 5:45 pm Program Practice 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith Choir Practice 7:30 pm at Faith HS Bible Study 8:30 pm at Faith	8 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	9	10
11 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	12	13	14 Advent at Our Savior's 5:45 pm Program Practice 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Our Savior's HS Bible Study 8:30 pm at Our Savior's	15	16	17 Children's Christmas Program Practice 9:30 am at Faith
18 Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Children's Christmas Program at Faith	19 January newsletter items and year-end committee reports are due in the church office.	20	21 Advent at Our Savior's 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Our Savior's HS Bible Study 8:30 pm at Our Savior's	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 9:00 pm Worship at Our Savior's
25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Worship at Faith	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday, January 1 - One Worship Service only; 9:00 a.m. at Faith Church - No Sunday School on January 1