



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 36

February 2023

Number 2

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Since I've been here, a number of people have noticed and have wondered about my practices, hopes, and expectations around communion, particularly with giving communion to our youngest members. This is so wonderful that people have noticed and wondered about it! And it has occurred to me that I should have talked about this a long time ago. So first, my apologies for not plainly naming this earlier, and I appreciate your grace as we worship our God together and celebrate what Jesus has done for us in communion.

My theology around communion is that the table, both bread and wine or grape juice, is open to all people, even our youngest members, so long as chewing and swallowing are not hazardous, and in the case of our youngest members, if the parents or guardians are agreeable to them having communion. I believe that this practice is biblical. Jesus explicitly says to "let the little children come to me" (Matthew 19:14), and throughout his ministry Jesus ate with Jewish people and Gentiles (non-Jewish people), righteous people and sinners and tax collectors, men and women and children. I believe practicing this kind of welcome of Jesus is something that we are called to do, especially in communion.

That said, learning about the sacrament of communion is still important, and we will still have communion classes. People between the ages of third through fifth grades will be whom I would target these classes towards, but anyone of any age (including adults!) would be welcome to join. And we would still want to celebrate and honor the work and learning that took place in those classes.

Communion is a beautiful gift and a beautiful mystery from God to us. In it, we experience the grace and love of Jesus Christ and are drawn closer together as a community. I am so grateful for your noticing and wondering, and I am so grateful to be the pastor in a place that cares so much about the inclusion and welcome of all our members, regardless of their age.

I hope that this clarifies a few things about where I come from when it comes to communion! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ponderings. I am so grateful to be able to share about this with you all.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Leah

Youth Schedule for February
Wednesdays - February 1, 8, and 15

Confirmation

6:00 p.m. at Faith

Bible Jam

7:00 p.m. at Faith

Junior high and high school students are welcome to come for food, faith, fellowship, and fun!

High School Bible Study

8:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Faith

Pastor Leah meets with 11th and 12th grade students.

Parent and Youth Bible Jam
Family Card Game Night

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m. at Faith

The youth invite their parents to join them for supper. There will be a Q&A session about 2023 summer camp opportunities and the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Band-Aid Drive

During the month of February, God Squad will be collecting fun and colorful band-aids to donate to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, February 8
10:00 a.m. at Diane Christensen's home



“The Ten Commandments: Reviving the Soul”
by Christa Von Zychlin
January/February issue of *Gather* magazine

Noisy Offering – Sunday, February 19

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023



7:00 p.m. Worship Service
Our Savior's Church

Gods' work - Our hands

2022 by the numbers . . .

80 jars of peanut butter for the Carroll Assistance Center were donated during Lent; Easter cards and Christmas cards were sent to **12** homebound members; **18** bags of groceries were gathered at Thanksgiving for the Carroll Assistance Center; winter wear, including **14** coats, was collected for the Carroll Assistance Center during Advent; God Squad purchased **\$411** worth of basic-needs items for the Victory Center men's shelter, and spent **\$1,000** on Christmas gifts for **10** “angels;” the Feeding the Children program provided weekend meals during the school year for **8** Cal-Wheat students; volunteers from **4** local Lutheran churches packaged emergency meals to feed **10,000** people at Thrivent's Take Away Hunger event; **79** raffle baskets at Calamus-Wheatland Fun Days and the community worship offering yielded **\$1,525** for the CALCO and **\$1,525** for the Calamus Volunteer Fire Department; Naomi Circle distributed **\$500** to ELCA Good Gifts and **\$300** to ELCA World Hunger; children collected **\$1,306** for ELCA World Hunger during monthly Noisy Offerings at worship; and the children's Sunday School offering of **\$351** was also for ELCA World Hunger.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

***** Pastor Leah's Maternity Leave *****

If you would be willing to offer the homily or reflection on a Sunday while Pastor is on leave, please let the office or Pastor Leah know by email or a phone call before Thursday, March 16.

People will be asked to bring communion to the homebound members during this time as well. If you are willing to do this, please let the office or Pastor Leah know before March 16.

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

Please submit items for the March newsletter to the church office by Monday, February 20. Thank you!



January Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

God Squad

- \$3,000 in checking and \$2,300 in savings
- \$215 received at Advent meal; will donate \$100 to a charity to be chosen and host a bowling activity in February with remaining funds.
- 10 youth and 2 adults at Christmas party
- 3 youth and 2 adults at cookie/cocoa party
- Cost for ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024 is \$325 for hotel and registration.
- Will have a parent/youth meeting to answer questions about ELCA Youth Gathering during God Squad time on February 8.
- Will serve Easter breakfast after early service.

Pastor's Report

- Mid-week Advent services were well attended.
- Christmas services went well, weather notwithstanding.
- Visits and confirmation are going well.
- Adult Class on Sundays is going over "Life Together" by Diedrich Bonhoeffer.
- She needs to submit an annual Rostered Ministers report to the Synod. It has questions about personnel policy, child protection policies, and sexual misconduct policies. We may need to consider drafting these documents using model documents from the Synod.

Worship Committee

- Youth-led service will be April 23 at Faith.
- Confirmation will be May 21.
- Faith moving to ELW Worship Setting 3 starting January 22.

Education Committee

- Reviewed children's Christmas program and felt it went well. 26 children in preschool through confirmation participated.
- Reviewed Bible School plans. Will make changes this year due to early dismissal of school. Will try a Saturday family event in June with a carnival theme.
- Talked about lessons for remainder of Sunday school year.
- Talked about 2023-2024 Sunday school plans and looking at new material. Have been using the current program for 7 years.
- May 21 is last day of Sunday school for this session. May have a combined celebration with confirmation.

Old Business: None

New Business:

PCC meeting in December

- Pastor's Salary – Remains the same per her contract through December 31, 2023.
- Secretary's Compensation
 - Reviewed secretary's compensation and recommended that secretary's salary remain the same.
 - Discussed that salary is below national average and no cost-of-living increase has been done. Discussion of a raise tabled until after secretary's performance review in June.

Pastor's Maternity Leave

- Pastor discussed her situation with the Synod. We will not have a designated substitute for her.
- Funeral Coverage – Pastor will ask a couple of fellow pastors to help if needed. Has already had one yes from Pastor Dennis Rodenberg.
- Emergency Coverage (Hospital) – Pastor Rodenberg agreed to help.
- Sunday Coverage – Discussed a mixture of lay leaders and pulpit supply for 1-2 times a month.
 - Pastor will ask at Wartburg Seminary, but not expecting availability due to the timing.
 - Discussed having combined services when pulpit supply is used.
 - Requested Worship Committee review proposal to have one lay leader do both services.
- Visitation/Homebound Coverage – Would have lay leaders visit with pre-blessed communion kits. Council presidents and the secretary would organize visits.
- Pastor receives 10 weeks of leave; would like to have 11 weeks and yet would continue to lead confirmation classes through the affirmation of baptism service on May 21. Motion by Dan to approve 11 weeks, seconded by Ashley, motion carried.

Office Computer – Having issues with memory and internet connectivity. F&B said that it may be time to replace. Will table the decision until all diagnostic options are exhausted.

Copier – Having issues and parts are hard to come by. Question raised if we would be better served with a high-end printer. Will request some bids to replace in different product and price points. Discussed getting a dedicated printer for Pastor to alleviate copier needs. Will request Rebecca get bids from current copier company. Dan will research stand-alone printers.

Noisy Offering – Next in rotation would be a national cause. Will decide at committee retreat on January 28.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Old Business:

- Sign out front – Awaiting a quote from Signs Now.
- Electricity – No power to the light out front. Eternal flame is also not working. Eric is going to try to trace the power sources for both. Plan to mount lights out front similar to the ones on the side of church to better light the path.
- Snow Removal – Reed Minor will be removing snow from sidewalks as well as parking lot.
- Epic Savings Account – Mark was able to determine that Wartburg and Luther still have the Epic program available. It is for students of the congregation attending ELCA Lutheran colleges in Iowa. A deposit annually to the savings account will keep it active. Mark will explain the account purpose and guidelines at the annual meeting to bring awareness that such a program exists.
- Plumbing coming into the church – On the wait list at Lowden Plumbing and Heating.

New Business:

- Elevator Door – Drags and is not shutting completely at the parking lot entrance. Dirk and Pat have adjusted it and it is working better, but will need to continue to be monitored.

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Old Business:

- Organ Pipes - Tuned organ in November, found growling in pipes. There were stuck notes Christmas Eve and on the Sundays after. Pipes need to be re-leathered; still waiting on proposal for re-leathering.
- Prayer List - Discussed leaving homebound, military, and new prayer requests on prayer list, but removing names that have been on for many months.

New Business:

- Advent Meal Donations - Did not decide where donations were going at the time, wanted to keep it local. Motion by Dan to use for the Feeding the Children program, seconded by Deb, motion carried.
- Proposed Budget - Reviewed the 2023 budget.

Next Joint Council Meeting:

7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 16, at Our Savior's

MINISTERS for February 2023

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:

Herb and Diane Wilhelm

Acolyte:

Grant Hoffmann

Altar Ministry:

Herb and Diane Wilhelm

Communion Assistants:

Dirk Braet

Mark Witte

Lectors:

February 5: Annette Braet

February 12: Mark Witte

February 19: Alan Lee

February 26: Ruth Braet

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Shane Glover

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Brian Boussetot

Lectors:

February 5: Cindy Burke

February 12: Brian Boussetot

February 19: Neil Holmquist

February 26: Marcia Edens

Cleaners:

Marcia Edens

Mark Olson

