



Faith  
Lutheran Church  
505-2<sup>nd</sup> Street

# Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches (ELCA) Calamus Lutheran Parish

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Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
2589-190<sup>th</sup> Avenue

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## Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

First, I promise you that I wrote this before I went on leave! I would also like to take a moment to extend my thanks and deep appreciation once again for all of the care and support all of you have given to Stephen and me as we have transitioned into parenthood. It is a true gift and a true witness to experience the love of God in Christ through all of you in this way. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Speaking of witness, to wrap up the year for the adult education class I have given them a series of questions to discuss that relate to witnessing to our faith in the world. The Easter season is an exceptionally great time to talk about witnessing to our faith in the world! This is the time of year where we read a lot from the book of Acts and hear how the early disciples witnessed to Christ's resurrection and how the early church came to be. Furthermore, how would any of us know about Easter, the resurrection, or Jesus if it wasn't for the women who first shared the good news, if it wasn't for the early disciples who shared the good news with all of the world, and if it wasn't for key people in our lives who shared the good news with us so that we would believe and have life and hope in Jesus Christ? Simply, we wouldn't.

It can be hard or feel awkward to witness to our faith or to share our faith with others. Thankfully, there are so many ways to share our faith with the world. Sharing our faith does not mean we have to walk up to someone and immediately tell them about Jesus. Sharing our faith is just as much about what we do as what we say, but this can still be hard too. As we wrap up our Easter season, I invite you to consider the many ways you already share your faith with others in the world in all that you say and do. Furthermore, I invite you to consider how God might be asking you to witness to your faith in new ways. This need not be something big or grandiose, but can be as small as saying hello to someone we don't know.

Jesus is always meeting us where we are at and meeting us in new ways with the promise of his love for us so that we might be that love in new and familiar ways for others. Thanks be to God for all the witnesses of the resurrection who have shared the story and love of Jesus with us. And thanks be to God for all of you who witness to the love of Christ every day and share the story of Jesus in all that you say and do.

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Leah



## It's a GIRL!

**Leslie Rae Nilsen**

Born: Tuesday, April 18; 11:31 am

Weight: 7 pounds 13 ounces

Length: 19 inches

Parents: Leah and Stephen

### **Congratulations!**

If you would like to provide meals for the Nilsens, go to the Calamus Lutheran Parish website ([www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)) and follow the directions on the cover page.

In case of emergency while Pastor Leah is on leave, please contact

**Pastor Dennis Rodenberg.**

His cell phone number is **(563) 880-5345.**

## Youth Schedule for May Wednesdays - May 3, 10, and 17

### 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

Conversation time for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Faith

## Parish T-Shirts

God Squad is selling Calamus Lutheran Parish t-shirts. Order forms will be at both churches through May 21<sup>st</sup>.

T-shirts are \$17 each  
(\$2 additional for sizes larger than XL)  
This is a great way to support the youth program!

## Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, May 10

10:00 a.m. at Marsha Witte's home



May/June issue of *Gather* magazine  
"Promised Salvation Now – Jesus Brings Wellness"  
by Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

## Confirmation

10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 21, at Faith

Pastor Leah will officiate as the following eighth graders affirm their baptism:  
*Peyton Grau, Ryan Olson, Tysen Steffens, Kellen Whitman, and Alena Wilhelm.*

A reception in the fellowship hall at Faith will follow worship. All are welcome!

## Noisy Offering – Sunday, May 21

The 2023 recipient is St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida. The church was heavily damaged during Hurricane Ian.

## Sunday, May 28 ONE Service only!

Worship with Holy Communion  
9:00 a.m. at Our Savior's

Calamus Lutheran Parish welcomes  
Dr. Mark Mattes from Grandview College.

## What about Bible School?

Calamus Lutheran Parish will be trying something new in 2023. Rather than meeting on the Mondays in May, there will be a one-day event at the end of August.

Date: **Monday, August 28, 2023**

Time: Children will gather after school **3:15pm-5:00pm**

**Dinner and a Family Activity Night will follow!**

Bible School registration forms will be available at the church office and online via Facebook or the church website starting in July.

**ALL ARE WELCOME** for the meal and family activities with or without a registration form!

### It is graduation time!

Sincere congratulations to the members of Calamus Lutheran Parish who are graduating from Calamus-Wheatland High School. Best wishes to Ryan Dick, Brady Hayes, Brenna Henning, Brendan Olson, and Sarah Tulley. God goes with you as you begin the next stage of your life!

#### **A note from Rebecca Hurt:**

My son Ryan is graduating from Calamus-Wheatland High School on Sunday, May 14. He has been accepted at Augustana College in Rock Island and will start classes there in the fall. I appreciate the support and prayers from the Calamus Lutheran Parish for Ryan through the years. His graduation party will be very small, but cards of congratulations are welcome. Please send the cards by May 25<sup>th</sup> to Ryan Dick at PO Box 204, Calamus, Iowa 52729. Thank you!



## April Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

**Date:** Thursday, April 13, at Our Savior's

**Present:** Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen; **Our Savior's:** Jason Boussetot, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, Amy Glover;

**Faith:** Brittany Hoffmann, Larry Schau, Luke Shelton, Hal Shelton, Ashley Steffens, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte

#### **Pastor's Report**

- All services of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter went well and were well attended.
- Everything is organized for Sunday worship and homebound visits during maternity leave.
- Officiated at the funeral service of Joan Shelton on Friday, March 24, at Faith.
- Confirmation will be May 21 at Faith. Pastor Leah will conduct both services that Sunday.
- Those who had been meeting for morning coffee at Steffens are getting together Monday through Friday morning at Faith.
- Working with Jason and Marsha on bulletins and the weekly email in the absence of a parish secretary.

#### **God Squad**

- 8 youth and their friends bowled at DeWitt Lanes on March 26.
- Served breakfast and conducted an egg hunt following Easter worship at Our Savior's.
- Youth-led service will be April 23 at Faith. Designated the loose offering for the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City.
- Those wanting to attend July 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans need to commit by the end of April.

#### **Education**

- The final day of Sunday School for this session will be May 21.
- Sunday School will be using new material in the fall titled "Holey Moly." Cost for student materials should fit into the budget at about \$500 per church. Leader materials will be digital.
- Bible School will be a one-day event on Monday, August 28, with children after school and a family meal and activities following.
- No Sunday School preview in the fall.

#### **Worship**

- Will use ELW Setting 10 for worship during Pastor Leah's maternity leave.
- May 21 - Confirmation; 10:30 am at Faith Pastor Leah will conduct services at both churches that Sunday.
- May 28 – one service only; 9:00 am at Our Savior's; guest pastor - Dr. Mark Mattes
- July 2 – one service only; 9:00 am at Faith; guest pastor - Rev. Paul Ostrem
- When an ordained minister is present, extra wafers will be up front for consecration to be used for taking communion to the homebound.
- Discussed feedback on Lenten services.

#### **Outreach**

- Talked about having a garage sale at Faith on Calamus Garage Sale Day.
- The "Feeding the Children" program has enough food for the rest of this school year; will start replenishing the supply in August.
- 80 jars of peanut butter were donated during Lent for the Carroll Assistance Center.
- Amy, Deb, and Sarah will coordinate a meal plan for the Nilsens during Pastor's leave using Meal Train. See the church website for directions and scheduling.

#### **Old Business**

- Personnel/Child Protection Policies – The update work will resume after Pastor Leah's maternity leave.
- Outreach Ideas – Consider a church garage sale in the spring and monthly craft class in the fall.

#### **New Business**

- Secretary Position – PCC interviewed two applicants and recommended Sara Mickelson. She will be available to start on May 1. Motion by Brian to extend an offer of \$12/hour; with a possible raise of \$1/hour at her six-month review. Seconded by Deb. Motion carried by verbal vote; 10 for and 1 against. (Note: Sara declined the position on 4/14/23)
- Nilsen Baby's Baptism – Sunday, June 25, 9:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley. Jason moved to cancel Calamus Lutheran Parish worship services that day. Seconded by Dan. Motion carried unanimously.

~ ~ **Our Savior's Council** ~ ~

**Old Business**

- Old Church – Windows are installed and the siding should be finished within the week.
- Gutters – The quote is now \$765.75.
- Outside Lights – Need to be replaced; will get a quote and purchase them during the summer.
- Parsonage Flooring – Motion by Dan to approve \$3,500 for the flooring, seconded by Deb, motion carried.
- Furnace – It is fixed.
- Elevator – Tabled until next meeting.

**New Business**

- Summer Mowing – A quote of \$4,000 from Minor Trucking is believed to be for both church and cemetery. Motion by Deb to extend a contract to Minor Trucking, seconded by Dan, motion carried.
- Clean-up Day – 8:30 am on Saturday, April 29; rain date Saturday, May 6.

~ ~ **Faith Council** ~ ~

**Old Business**

- Sign out front – Quote received from Quad City Custom Signs was \$19, 941 for two signs back-to-back turned for more visibility to north/south traffic. Will ask the company for a quote for one sign in the current position.
- Electricity – Awaiting assessment from Eric Hoffmann.
- Elevator Landing – Currently the elevator door and landing are working well. Issues are now cosmetic which can be addressed when heating pipes are fixed. The leaking pipes caused the expansion problem in the flooring.
- Boiler/Pipe Leaks – Lowden Plumbing and Heating will come and assess the boiler now that heating season is winding down. Property and Management Committee is discussing options for fixing leaking pipes without tearing up the basement floor.

**New Business**

- Calamus-Wheatland After Prom – Brian moved to donate \$50, Hal seconded, motion carried.
- Tables – Shelton family is researching options for lighter weight tables for the basement.

**Next Meeting**

- 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 11, at Faith.

During Pastor's leave, there will be someone in the church office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call 563-246-2622. Pastor will return July 5.

Please submit items for the June newsletter to the church office by Monday, May 15. Thank you!

**Synod Revival**

“Imagine”

Saturday, May 20

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Grand View University, Des Moines

Bishop Amy Current - SE IA Synod, ELCA

Bishop Yehiel Curry - Metro Chicago Synod, ELCA

Rachel Kurtz - musician

*Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.... (Ephesians 3:21)*

Worship! Music! Speakers!

Learn about various ministries.

Bring a chair or blanket.

Rain or shine (indoors if rain)

\$5 cash lunch - free snacks

All ages! All are welcome!

Free! No RSVP needed.

For more information, check out the SE IA Synod website ([www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org))

**Summer Worship Schedule  
begins Sunday, June 4**

8:00 Worship at Our Savior's

9:30 Worship at Faith

## **MINISTERS for May 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:**

Paul Olson  
Mark Witte

**Acolyte:**

Peyton Grau

**Communion Assistant:**

Andrea Shelton

**Lectors:**

May 7: Andrea Shelton  
May 14: Tysen Steffens  
May 21: Doreen Henning  
May 28: Worship is at Our Savior's

**Altar Ministry:**

Mark and Marsha Witte

### **OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH**

**Usher:**

Dan Burke

**Acolyte:**

David Burke

**Communion Assistant:**

Neil Holmquist

**Lectors:**

May 7: Dan Burke  
May 14: Rachel Burke  
May 21: Brian Boussetot  
May 28: Joyce McCutcheon

**Cleaners:**

Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman

# May 2023

# Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website [www.clp parish.org](http://www.clp parish.org) for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OS = Our Savior's Church F = Faith Church	1	2	3 <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>HS Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 pm at Faith	4	5	6
7 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	8	9	10 <b>Naomi Circle</b> 10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Education Committee</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>HS Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 pm at Faith	11 <b>Outreach Committee</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Worship Committee</b> 6:30 pm at Faith <b>Joint Council</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	12	13
14 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F  <b>Mother's Day</b>	15 <b>Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly</b> Online 5:30-8:30 pm  June newsletter items are due in the church office.	16 <b>Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly</b> Online 5:30-8:30 pm	17 <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>HS Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 pm at Faith	18  <b>Ascension Day</b>	19	20 <b>Synod Revival "Imagine"</b> 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Grand View University Des Moines Free! No RSVP All ages welcome!
21 <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Confirmation – F <b>Reception to celebrate confirmation and last day of Sunday School</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <b>ONE Service only!</b> 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion at Our Savior's <b>Pentecost</b>	29 <b>Memorial Day</b>	30				

Summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, June 4 – 8:00 am at Our Savior's and 9:30 am at Faith.