



Faith  
Lutheran Church  
505-2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Calamus, IA 52729

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

P.O. Box 116, Calamus, IA 52729  
Phone (563) 246-2622  
Email: clparish@fbcom.net  
www.clparish.org  
Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
2589-190<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Calamus, IA 52729

**Volume 37**

**April 2024**

**Number 4**

**Pastor's View**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! At the beginning of Lent I invited us to contemplate together ours and the world's deep need for the cross of Christ, and to lean into and notice the pain of the world around us in a more intentional way. As I contemplated and prayed on this, one of the things God reminded me of was how pain and death always seem to be looking to isolate us from one another, and how through the cross Jesus shows us that that isolation is a real feeling we are experiencing, but it is not the truth. Because the truth is that Christ is with us, and God has given us each other, so we are never alone in the midst of that pain and death, even though it can feel that way. God demonstrates and promises us that we are never alone by Jesus's death on the cross and Jesus's resurrection which destroyed the power of death forever. It can be so easy for me (and I think others as well) to fall into thinking that I am the only person experiencing the things I am going through and that no one else could understand me. However, when I am honest with others about how I am feeling, I find that I am not alone. I am reminded that God has given me, and all of us, wonderful relationships to help along the way. I think we live in a world that needs to hear this promise that through the cross, we are never ever alone.

This is the good news of this Easter season! We need to hear that we are not alone, that God is with us, that God goes with us in life and death, we do not have to believe the lies of the world that tell us we are alone, and death is not the final word! Alleluia! In this Easter season, I invite us to notice hope. As Christians we have a hope that at times can feel foolish and ridiculous. We claim and believe that God is with us always, especially in the suffering of the world. Logically, this doesn't make sense, but for a God who dies for God's people (for you) nothing could be more in line with who our God is. Our hope in Jesus is what gives us strength to live each day, no matter what comes. It is our hope in Jesus that frees us to name reality and to proclaim the promise that in Christ all will be well.

May the joy and promise of the resurrection fill you with hope this Easter season. May the Holy Spirit give us all eyes to see the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ all around us.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



### 40 Days of Giving

Calamus Lutheran Parish members donated over 80 jars of Peanut Butter for the Carroll Assistance Center during the season of Lent. Thank you!

### "Meet and Eat"

"Meet and Eat" is a new opportunity for our faith family and community to come together for fellowship. All are welcome! "Meet and Eat" is on the second Tuesday of each month.

The April lunch is at noon on Tuesday, April 9, at Buck's Corner in Calamus. Invite your friends and neighbors to come have a lunch of pizza or pasta and join in the conversation.

### Youth Schedule for April

**Sundays – April 7, 14, 21, and 28**

#### Sunday School

9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's

There are classes for preschool – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Wednesdays – April 3, 10, 17, and 24**

#### Confirmation

6:00 p.m. at Faith

#### Bible Jam

7:30 p.m. at Faith

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

#### Youth-led Service

**Sunday, April 21**

10:30 a.m. at Our Savior's

Theme: "Are You in God's Flock?"

**HELP is appreciated:** Junior high and high school youth meet every Wednesday evening for Bible Jam. If you would be willing to serve them a meal following confirmation class, please contact Heather Grau. The food needs to be ready to serve at 6:45 p.m.

### Naomi Circle Bible Study

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



"Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith"  
by Sara Olson-Smith  
March/April issue of *Gather* magazine

### Noisy Offering - Sunday, April 21



The 2024 recipient of the Noisy Offering is Calamus-Wheatland Schools.



### Spotlight on Christian Outreach

Members of the Christian Outreach Committee are Amy Glover, Peyton Grau, Deb Tulley, and Mark Witte.

The committee meetings are usually held at 6:00 pm on the Thursday of the regular council meetings.

2023-24 Outreach Projects:

- ✓ Collected jars of peanut butter during the 40 days of Lent.
- ✓ Collected winter coats, hats, and gloves for the Carroll Assistance Center.
- ✓ Collected canned goods and paper products at Thanksgiving time.
- ✓ Hosted a pie and ice cream gathering after the Thanksgiving service.
- ✓ Served hot dogs and chips to Bible School attendees.
- ✓ Organized the Feeding the Children program.
- ✓ Served coffee and donuts during community worship in the park.

The committee is always looking for other ways to reach out to the parish and the community.

Please share any ideas you may have with one of the committee members.

**Worship Committee will be in the Spotlight in May.**



## March Meetings

### ~~ Joint Council ~~

Meetings followed the midweek Lenten service at Our Savior's on Wednesday, March 13.

**Present:** Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen; **Our Savior's:** Jason Boussetot, Deb Detlefs, Neil Holmquist, Joe Morehead; **Faith:** Mitch Christensen, Luke Shelton, and Brian Tulley.

### Pastor's Report

- Visiting the homebound.
- Attending morning coffee at Buck's Corner.
- Volunteering at Cal-Wheat Elementary twice a month.
- Conducting a service monthly at Wheatland Manor.
- Confirmation students are helping with midweek Lenten services.
- Went to a synod Lenten renewal event in Clinton for rostered ministers and ministry professionals.
- Attended the Rural Ministry Conference at Wartburg Seminary.
- Officiated at Harry Olson's funeral on March 5 at Our Savior's.

### God Squad

- Served the March 6 Lenten meal at Our Savior's.
- Planning Easter breakfast.
- Working on the April 21 youth-led worship.
- Will collect items for the Clinton County Humane Society in April.
- 4 youth and 2 adults plan to attend the ELCA 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

### Worship Committee

- Midweek Lenten services are going well with Pastor Leah and the confirmands leading worship. Youth gave the reflections at five of the six services.
- Holy Week worship services are being prepared.

### Christian Outreach Committee

- Peanut butter drive for Carroll Assistance Center was successful.
- Feeding the Children is going well with parish members taking turns delivering weekend meals to the school every Friday for eight children.

### Old Business

- Church Directory – John Bauer and Terri Boussetot have volunteered to help Neil Holmquist create a new directory.

### New Business – none

### ~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

**Old Business** – none

### New Business

- **Spring Clean-up Day – Saturday, April 6, at 8:30 a.m. The inside of the church and the cemetery will be cleaned. There will be a list of tasks available if you can't make it on the scheduled day. All efforts are appreciated.**
- Rain date for clean-up at the cemetery is Saturday, April 13.
- Electricity to the old church building – Wires have been cut for safety due to the age of the wiring. Will discuss at next meeting about restoring power.

### ~~ Faith Council ~~

Did not have a quorum to conduct business.

**Next Joint Council Meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, at Faith.**

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

### 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

You can help the four youth planning to attend the Gathering in New Orleans by becoming a stockholder. Shares cost \$50 each. Forms can be found at both churches.

Investors will receive mail from the youth while at the Gathering in July and an invitation to a supper when they return.

Contact Heather Grau (563-424-0507) or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392) if you have questions.

## **MINSTERS for April 2024**

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.

**FEEDING THE CHILDREN:** Eric and Brittany Hoffmann family  
Preparing and delivering eight bags of food to Cal-Wheat Elementary on Friday mornings.

### **FAITH CHURCH**

**Ushers:**

Allen Lee  
Brian Tulley

**Acolyte:**

Lena Perrone

**Communion Assistant:**

Dirk Braet

**Lectors:**

April 7: Shelley Witt-Gentile  
April 14: Heather Grau  
April 21: Annette Braet  
April 28: Mark Witte

**Altar Ministry:**

Hal and Andrea Shelton

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

**Usher:**

Neil Holmquist

**Acolyte:**

Faith Will

**Communion Assistant:**

Cindy Burke

**Lectors:**

April 7: Marcia Edens  
April 14: David Burke  
April 21: Amy Glover  
April 28: Melisa Jacobsen

**Cleaners:**

Ray and Deb Detlefs

# April 2024 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
F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church	1	2	3 <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	4	5	6 <b>Clean-up Day</b> <b>at Our Savior's</b> <b>8:30 am</b> All members can be of help!
7 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	8	9 <b>"Meet and Eat"</b> Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	10 <b>Naomi Circle</b> 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>Education Committee</b> 7:00 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  Rain date for clean-up at Kvindherred Cemetery 8:30 am
14 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	15 May newsletter items are due.  Pastor will be out of the office this week.	16	17 <b>Youth meet to plan</b> <b>April 21 worship</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	18	19	20
21 <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 <b>Youth-led Worship</b> <b>at Our Savior's</b>		23	24 <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	25	26	27
28 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	29	30				

**Bible School** for children in Kindergarten -5<sup>th</sup> grade is Monday, May 6, at Faith from 3:30-5:00.  
The lesson is "The Parable of the Sower." All children of the community are welcome!