



Faith
Lutheran Church
505-2nd Street
Calamus, IA 52729

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

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Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
2589-190th Avenue
Calamus, IA 52729

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Number 6

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

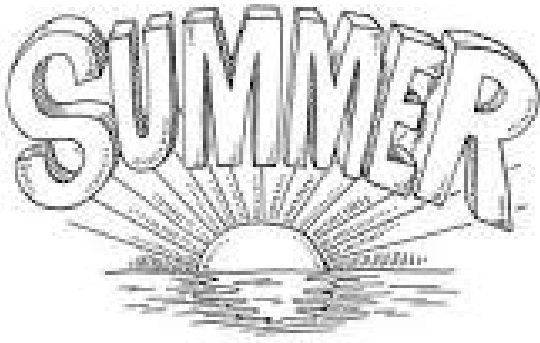
At the time of writing this, I have just come back from synod assembly and would like to share about this. Mark and Marsha Witte attended as Faith delegates, and their reflections can be found within this newsletter.

If you are unfamiliar with what synod assembly is, a good comparison is that it is similar to our annual meetings in January. Rostered (pastors and deacons) and lay people from the congregations around the Southeastern Iowa Synod gather to do the work of the synod, and this year's theme was "*Listen! God is Calling.*" We passed a synod budget, heard reports from the Office of the Bishop, elected lay and rostered representatives to synod councils and committees, and this year we elected lay and rostered representatives for the Churchwide assembly in 2025. We also worshiped together and attended two educational sessions.

As I reflect on synod assembly this year, I am reminded once again that relationships matter. God is always calling us to trust in the new things that God is doing, and those new things happen because of deep and authentic relationships. We see this throughout the Bible: God did a new thing by bringing the Israelites to Egypt, which was made possible by Joseph's relationship to Pharaoh; God did a new thing by being born as Jesus, made possible by the relationship of Mary and Joseph; and God did a new thing by Jesus dying and rising for us, because God desires that much to be in relationship with you and all people.


As we as members of Calamus Lutheran Parish listen for the ways that God is calling us to love and serve this world, I remember that the relationships we have because of Jesus with each other and with our community is the central thing. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, if we do anything, but do it without the love of Christ, we are better off to have never done it in the first place. Our God is a God of relationships, who is always calling us into deeper relationships with Jesus, with each other, and with the world. I hope and pray that I listen for this calling well. I hope and pray that as a parish we listen for this calling well. Trusting that God is with us, will never abandon us, and is always reaching out to us with the promises of Jesus.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Leah



Summer Sunday Worship Schedule
 8:00 am at Faith (outdoors)
 9:30 am at Our Savior's (in the sanctuary)

Naomi Circle Bible Study
 using *Gather* magazine



Wednesdays - June 12 and July 10
 10:00 a.m. at Boussetot's Pond

Noisy Offering
Sunday, June 16, and Sunday, July 21
 The 2024 recipient is Calamus-Wheatland School

Birdies for Charity

The DeWitt Community Hospital Auxiliary annually participates in Birdies for Charity at the John Deere Golf Classic. 100% of donations go to the DeWitt Community Hospital and an additional 5% is also donated to the DeWitt Community Hospital by the John Deere Classic.

This year, the funds will be used to purchase an Isoflex mattress, three temporal thermometers, two wireless medication barcode scanners, and nine stethoscopes.

If you would like to support this project, follow these steps.

- Collect a donation form located on the bulletin board at Faith or Our Savior's.
- Write a check to **Birdies for Charity**.
- Complete the brief donation form.
- Mail the donation and form prior to **June 15** to this address:

Birdies for Charity
15623 Coaltown Rd.
East Moline, IL 61244

Thank you for supporting our local hospital.

Sunday, July 7
ONE Service only!
 Worship with Holy Communion
 9:00 a.m. at Our Savior's

ELCA Youth Gathering

Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen and Heather Grau will be accompanying David Burke, Peyton Grau, Macailah Jacobsen, and Dalton Will on their journey to New Orleans.

The group from Calamus is joining others from eastern Iowa and traveling by train. Please come and "pray them on their way" at the **Send-off on Monday, July 15, at 5:00 pm at Faith**. They will return on Sunday, July 21.

The four God Squad youth are thankful for the support members of the parish have given to them as they prepared for this adventure.

Pastor Leah will be out of the office that week. In case of an emergency, you may call Pastor Stephen Nilsen at 319-540-1172.

MEETING NOTICE

There are no committee meetings in June.
 All committees and councils will meet in July.
 Times and locations are listed on the July calendar.

Congratulations

Daxton Jean Heim was born on April 8 to Brittany and Derrick Heim. Daxton's proud grandparents are Deb and Ray Detlefs.

Sadie Lyn Goettsch was born on May 6. She is welcomed by parents Gabby and Landon, brother Wallen, and grandparents Leisha and Lonny Goettsch.

Welcome to the world precious little ones!

Condolences

Sincere sympathy to the families of Lucy Lee Petersen and Diane Christensen. Lucy died on May 6 and Diane died on May 15.

Well done good and faithful servants!

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



May Meetings

Date: Thursday, May 16, at Our Savior's

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Boussetol, Deb Detlefs, Amy Glover; **Faith:** Terri Boussetol, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Ashley Steffens, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte

~~ Joint Council ~~

Pastor's Report

- Conducted acolyte training on Sunday, May 12.
- Volunteer service at C-W Elementary is completed for the year.
- Participates in a weekly text study.
- Attends Naomi Circle each month.
- Attended First Call Theological Gathering
- Officiated at the funeral service for Lucy Lee Petersen on May 13.
- Planning a send-off on July 15 for those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering.
- Leading one worship service per month at Wheatland Manor.

God Squad

- Donation requests for the Clinton County Humane Society are completed.
- Can drive fundraiser is going well.
- Youth enjoyed a party at the last Bible Jam on Wednesday, May 15.

Education

- 14 children attended Bible School on Monday, May 6. The committee evaluated the event.
- September 8 is the first day of Sunday School in the fall at Faith. Plans were made for materials.

Worship

- Acknowledged the service Diane Christensen has provided to our parish for many years.
- Summer worship schedule begins June 2. 8:00 am at Faith (outdoors) and 9:30 am at Our Savior's (in the sanctuary).
- There will be one service only at 9:00 am on Sunday, July 7, at Our Savior's.
- Committee hopes to add special music (choir or individuals) into services in the future. Suggestions are welcomed.

Christian Outreach

- Amy Glover and Deb Tulley will distribute freezer pops to students who participate in the C-W community service day on Friday, May 17.
- Volunteers will be asked to work the C-W lunch stand in Calamus for ballgames on Wednesday, May 29, beginning at 4:15 pm.
- Feeding the Children project is completed for the 2023-2024 school year. The project went smoothly with many volunteers.
- Suggested the 2025 Noisy Offering be sent to ELCA World Hunger. It is the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. Item was tabled until the 2025 councils/committees meeting.

Old Business

- The Parish Directory Committee has not met.
- Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen, Mark Witte, and Marsha Witte will attend the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly as voting delegates on May 17-18 in Coralville.

New Business

- Mark made a motion to approve the five confirmands (David Burke, Mason Easterday, Carter Henning, Kara Olson, and Faith Will). Jason seconded. Motion carried. Affirmation of Baptism will be at Faith on Sunday, May 19.
- Ashley made a motion to give \$50 per congregation from the Christian Outreach line item in the budget to the Basket Raffle Committee for supplies. Brian seconded. Motion carried. The Basket Raffle Committee acknowledged Diane Christensen as a long-time volunteer for this project.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Old Business

- Epic account – The funds available benefit high school graduates pursuing a degree at specific faith-based institutions. It is important that this information be shared with juniors and seniors in the fall of the school year.
- Exterior sign – Tabled until more information is available. Electricity repair will occur when the sign project is performed.
- Parsonage entry – Slab was poured on Saturday, May 4, and a composite 8'x8' entry will be constructed.
- Elevator – Has passed all inspection tests. The service provider recommends lowering the elevator to the basement at the end of the day. The lift will then rise when called.
- Boiler – Crawford Company has inspected the project and made suggestions. Brian will meet with Ryan and Associates to seek another opinion.

New Business

- EWALU Bible Camp – Ashley made a motion to donate \$100 to the camp. Brian seconded. Motion carried.

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

New Business

- Elevator – There will be a congregational meeting following the 9:30 service on Sunday, June 2, to vote on an updated proposal for installing the lift.
- Movie set – Cocoon productions contacted Jason to see if they could rent the Our Savior's church and grounds to possibly use in a movie. The council gave permission to Jason to let the production company know they are welcome to come and look at the site.

Reflections on the 2024 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly from Mark and Marsha Witte.
Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Faith's delegates.

LISTEN! God is Calling
God is about to do a new thing.
Do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)

It was the first synod assembly in person since 2019. The last four assemblies have been via Zoom.

There was not much time for chit-chat, but we enjoyed sitting with Pastor Leah, Pastor Stephen, and Leslie. Assembly was an opportunity to see Pastors with Calamus connections: Roberta, Sarah, Brian, Dennis, and Dianne. We also saw Bishop Haugen and his wife Diane. It was exciting for us to meet former Calamus Lutheran Parish Sunday School "kids:" Jen Shoemaker Pote (a delegate from Palestine, Huxley) and Dennis Rodenberg (the pastor of St. John, Olin and Zion, Wyoming).

Because of advances in technology, there were no printed materials. The prayers and music were projected on a big screen. We used electronic devices for the agenda, biographies, and a QR code for voting and donating. Otherwise, it was business as usual with presentations, elections, approving the budget, and receiving salary guidelines. You can find everything online by searching Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly.

Four resolutions were passed concerning:

- 1) 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger
- 2) Welcoming refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers
- 3) Peace in the Holy Land
- 4) Gun Violence

All four resolutions have actions expected:

- 1) Consider special gifts of \$50 during August.
- 2) Study the plight of those seeking to enter the United States and how to help them.
- 3) Make October 6 a day of remembrance and learning about the conflict in Palestine and Israel.
- 4) Set aside January 4, 2025 as a day for education, remembrance, and prayer.

There are materials available from the synod and churchwide with information on ELCA policies and ways to be involved. There are organizations actively engaged in making a difference. Ammparo is the ELCA strategy for protecting migrants. Sumud is working for justice in Palestine and Israel. Find the links at www.elca.org

The synod has prepared a three-session Bible study for congregations to use in September titled "Listen! God is Calling."

An excellent jazz ensemble provided music throughout the meetings and the lead trumpeter composed the liturgy for worship. He taught the assembly songs in several languages and encouraged congregations to use music to teach about different cultures.

"Shrink-Smart Small Towns" was a presentation by two Iowa State professors researching how communities and churches can still thrive as they lose population. It is important to not focus on the past or worry about the future. Appreciate what you have, acknowledge the gifts of leaders, and work together. Control what you can control to make the quality of life the best it can be for those in your town and your congregation.

Our major take-away was that the ELCA is in good hands. There are people with bright minds and amazing skill sets taking the church into the future, who are not afraid of change.

The 2025 assembly will be a one-day event on May 17 at Grandview College in Des Moines.

MINSTERS for June 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.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Alan Lee
Larry Schau

Acolyte:

Lucas Shorter

Communion Assistant:

Marsha Witte

Lectors:

June 2: Marsha Witte
June 9: Annette Braet
June 16: Sharyl Banowetz
June 23: Alan Lee
June 30: Yale Christensen

Altar Ministry:

Terri Boussetot
Alan Lee
Larry Schau

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Brian Boussetot

Acolyte:

Caden Will

Communion Assistant:

David Burke

Lectors:

June 2: Rachel Burke
June 9: Joyce McCutcheon
June 16: Deb Detlefs
June 23: Dan Burke
June 30: Neil Holmquist

Cleaners:

Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman

June 2024 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clp parish.org for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church (outdoors) OS = Our Savior's Church						1
2 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS 10:30 am Our Savior's Congregational Meeting Courtney Knoche's graduation party 1:00 – 5:00 "The Shed"	3	4	5 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot's Pond	6	7	8 Isabella Gentile's graduation party 11:00 – 2:00 Faith Church
9 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	10	11 "Meet and Eat" Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	12	13	14	15
16 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS						

Worship at Faith will be outdoors. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the sanctuary.

God Squad's fundraiser is collecting cans in the bin located in the yard at Faith Church. Thank you for your donations!

MINSTERS for July 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.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Donna Petersen
Ashley Steffens
Tysen Steffens

Acolyte:

Emily Grau

Communion Assistant:

Andrea Shelton

Lectors:

July 14: Ashley Steffens
July 21: Heather Grau
July 28: Andrea Shelton

Altar Ministry:

Hal and Andrea Shelton

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Shane Glover

Acolyte:

Eva Burke

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lectors:

July 7: Cindy Burke
July 14: Marcia Edens
July 21: David Burke
July 28: Amy Glover

Cleaners:

Dan and Cindy Burke

July 2024 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clp parish.org for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church (outdoors) OS = Our Savior's Church	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship at Our Savior's	8	9 "Meet and Eat" Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	10 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot's Pond Education Committee 7:00 at Faith	11 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	12	13
14 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	15 Send-off for those attending the Youth Gathering 5:00 pm at Faith "Pray them on their way!"	16 ~~~~ 2024	17 ~~~~ ELCA ~~~~	18 Shakespeare in the Park Lincoln Park, DeWitt 6:00 pm Youth Gathering	19 in New Orleans,	20 Louisiana ~~~~
21 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	22 August newsletter items are due.	23	24	25	26	27
28 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	29	30	31			

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