



*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 3

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

One of the things I most enjoy about our adult class on Sunday mornings is the variety of ideas and questions that we explore together. There are no questions unworthy of being asked! Lately we have been studying together the history of the Bible, how we got it, and just what is going on in this living Word of God that we get to study. As a part of our discussion, we noted that we don't spend a lot of time with our Old Testament texts on Sundays. They are typically read, and then we move on without always knowing what is happening in them. I think many of us, if pressed, would admit that our knowledge about the Old Testament is not our strong suit, in terms of our Bible knowledge.

I was asked to preach on these texts a bit more in order to increase familiarity with these stories, and I really appreciated this ask and challenge! Therefore, during Lent, we will be focusing on our Old Testament texts (hint, hint for confirmation students taking sermon notes, the preaching text will be the first reading). As Christians we trust that while Jesus was not present in human form at the time of the Old Testament, he was still indeed the Word through whom all things were created. As Christians, we trust that the entire Bible preaches Christ crucified and risen for the sake of the world.

I hope we will enjoy and learn a lot together taking the time this Lent to explore via preaching and teaching our Old Testament texts further. I hope that we will experience in a new way God's living Word for us and the world. And I hope that we will gain some new or further refined appreciation for our Old Testament texts.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and reaction and insights on this throughout Lent! I am grateful to our adult class that encouraged this! Please know that I always welcome thoughts and feedback on worship and preaching.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



The Sunday School children will sing at the 10:30 worship service at Faith on Sunday, March 2nd.

The four songs will be the *Call to Worship* at the beginning of the service. The children will be free to leave after they sing.

Parents, please make plans for your children to be part of the choir on March 2nd.

Faith Lutheran Church celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2025. **A picture of the entire congregation will be taken at the 10:30 worship service on March 2nd to display at the SE IA Synod Assembly in May.**

Delores Lahann is turning 90!

The Lahann family invites the members of Faith and Our Savior's to celebrate her birthday on March 2nd from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at Lincolnway Villa Assisted Living in Wheatland.

**Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025**



**7:00 PM Worship Service
Our Savior's Church**

Midweek Lenten Services

**7:00 PM on the Wednesdays of March
March 5 (Ash Wednesday), 12, and 19
at Our Savior's**

March 26, April 2 and 9 at Faith

A meal precedes each service at 6:15 PM.

(No meal on Ash Wednesday)

40 Days of Giving

Jars of peanut butter will be collected for the Carroll Assistance Center during the 40 days of Lent [from Ash Wednesday on March 5th through Easter Sunday on April 20th]. The jars of peanut butter can be any brand and any size; smooth or chunky.

Youth Schedule for March

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:25 AM at Faith
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
There are classes for all ages!

Confirmation

NO classes in March
Confirmants will assist Pastor Leah with midweek Lenten services.

Bible Jam

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
March 12 and 19 at Our Savior's
March 26, April 2 and 9 at Faith
Junior high and high school students are welcome to come for food, faith, fellowship, and fun!

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, March 12
10:00 a.m. at Marsha Witte's home



March/April issue of *Gather* magazine

ELCA's *Living Lutheran* magazine is returning as a print publication with four issues per year.

The cost of a one-year subscription will be \$19.95.

Sign up at www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe

Invoices will be sent in the spring.

February 2025

Thank you for your donation. We will use the Noisy Offering money for student needs in our building.

Calamus-Wheatland Elementary

Help Send a Warrior to Europe!

I am going to be a participant in the Iowa Ambassadors of Music 2025 European band tour. The tour will perform in 5 countries over 15 days.

I am asking for financial support to help offset expenses associated with this opportunity.

Donations can be sent to me: Peyton Grau, P.O. Box 33, Calamus, IA 52729 or by Venmo to my mom: Heather Grau @Grau06.

I appreciate your prayers and support!

Sincerely, Peyton Grau

~ ~ Noisy Offering ~ ~

In 2025, the Noisy Offering will be supporting **Lutheran Disaster Response**. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the U.S. and around the world.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster; following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need.

Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care of people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster.
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates. Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community.
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters.
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes.

~ ~ Mission Quilts and Fabric Kits ~ ~

Can you use a scissors, measure fabric, or tie knots? If so, we can work together to make Mission Quilts or Fabric Kits to assist people in need.

1. **Mission Quilts** provide quilts to people needing something to keep them warm or covered after a weather-related disaster or life-changing event.
Skills needed: measure and cut fabric, sew, tie layers together
2. **Fabric Kits** provide fabric and thread to people who may then create items to sell as a way to make a living.
Skills needed: purchase fabric in required measurements, purchase thread

An information sheet which provides specific details for each item is available at both churches.

If you have questions, please contact Terri Boussetot at terribushlow@hotmail.com or 563-210-3269.

The **Christian Outreach Committee** works to provide an opportunity for the church to connect with the community. Our projects for 2025 are similar to the ones completed in 2024. In January, we collected coats, hats, and gloves which were given to the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

The committee will seek donations of peanut butter during the Lenten season. We will provide food for the meal following Bible School and freezer pops for the Cal-Wheat students who work during the annual school clean-up day.

During the summer months, the committee plans to assemble health kits for those in need. We had an enjoyable evening running the concession stand at the school during ball season and will offer our services again this season. Coffee and donuts will be provided before the worship in the park in August.

We will continue to organize "Feeding the Children" during the school year. The program serves seven Cal-Wheat students needing food for the weekend.

In November, we will host a pie and ice cream fellowship gathering following the Sunday evening Thanksgiving celebration. Then in December coats, hats, and gloves will again be collected.

The committee is always looking for new ideas and willing helpers.

Christian Outreach Committee members:

Amy Glover, Deb Tulley, Mark Witte

~ ~ Councils/Committees Retreat ~ ~

In February, fifteen council and committee members from Calamus Lutheran Parish gathered for the yearly retreat. Goals from the year 2024 were reviewed: 1) Connecting with our Lutheran and ecumenical partners around us, 2) Assisting with events in the community, 3) A monthly lunch get-together at Buck's Corner, 4) A monthly committee highlight in the newsletter, 5) Events that invite the community, 6) Focusing on being intentional beyond our walls, 7) The 2024 Noisy Offering going to the Cal-Wheat Elementary School.

The group felt the parish had executed those goals well, but that there was room to further connect with partners in our community. We are grateful to many who have facilitated the goals happening, especially our committees and the God Squad.

Plans for 2025 are to continue support of the community through activities done in 2024. We are also hoping to begin using fabric that has been stored at the churches, by asking people to cut fabric into squares (no sewing required!), looking into other causes we can collect for, and to begin regular gatherings of the young adults and parents of our parish. The 2025 Noisy Offering will go to support Lutheran Disaster Response.

Please reach out to any council or committee member with ideas and suggestions you may have.



February Meetings

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Boussetot, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, Amy Glover, Joe Morehead,

Faith: John Baur, Terri Boussetot, Brittany Hoffmann, Mark Witte

Guest: Nicole Easterday

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Pastor's Report

- C-W Elementary School sent a thank-you note for the monetary donation. It was used to cancel debt in the school lunch program.
- Presided at Elsner funeral at Our Savior's.
- Attended Naomi Circle.
- Continues to visit members in assisted living and homebound.
- Volunteers at C-W Elementary.
- Led Adult Bible Class and Confirmation Class.
- Prepared various annual reports required by the synod.
- Continued instruction of Whitman/Anderson couple for December 2025 wedding at Faith.

Education Committee

- Did not meet

Worship Committee

- The Sunday School children will sing at the 10:30 AM service at Faith on March 2nd.
- Burial of the "Alleluias" will be on March 2nd and returned on Easter Sunday.
- Sermons on Sundays during Lent will be based on the Old Testament lessons.
- Confirmands and Pastor will lead midweek Lenten worship services.
- **Wednesday Lenten Worship Schedule:**
March 5 – Ash Wednesday
7:00 PM Worship at Our Savior's.
March 12 and 19
6:15 PM Meal at Our Savior's
7:00 PM Worship at Our Savior's
March 26, April 2 and 9
6:15 PM Meal at Faith
7:00 PM Worship at Faith
- **Holy Week Worship Schedule:**
April 17 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM Worship at Our Savior's
April 18 – Good Friday
7:00 PM Worship at Faith
April 20 – Easter
8:00 AM Worship at Our Savior's
10:30 AM Worship at Faith

Christian Outreach Committee

- Committee is grateful for the winter clothing items donated to the Carroll Assistance Center.
- Possible 2025 activities: collect peanut butter during Lent, work the C-W baseball/softball stand, deliver freezer pops on Clean-up Day at C-W Elementary, collect health kit items, serve the Bible School meal and Thanksgiving refreshments, and continue with "Feeding the Children" program in 2025-2026 school year.

God Squad

- Youth-led worship will be on Sunday, May 4th at Faith.

Old Business none

New Business

- Update Council Pictures for Website:
Our Savior's Council has taken their photo and Faith Council will take a photo on February 16th.

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Old Business

- New Sign – removal of the existing sign will be done carefully due to possible member interest in acquiring it or stone being used in parsonage landscape project.
- Upstairs Ceiling Repair – D. Henning contacted White Roofing to check roof for leak.
- Monitor – Witte will contact Tulley about installation of the water temperature/leak monitor.
- Bats – Witte will contact NE Iowa Bat control.
- Basement Painting – Pam Goldsmith will begin painting the basement on Monday, February 17th. Will seek advice from Goldsmith about which paint and finish to use. Witte and D. Boussetot removed baseboards in the basement.

New Business

- Anniversary – Faith Lutheran Church celebrates its 75-year Anniversary in 2025.
A photo will be taken of all members present at the March 2nd worship service. Congregations with anniversaries in 25-year increments will be acknowledged at the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly in May 2025. Council will seek input from members on how to celebrate the anniversary. Photos, videos, and historical items could be gathered. A celebration could be held on Sunday, July 6th. There would be only one parish service that day. Pastor will send information to the SE Iowa Synod.
- Lenten Meal – Faith Council will serve the Wednesday, March 26th, meal at Faith.

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

Old Business

- Electrician has completed the work on light switches for all lights.
- Pictures have been sent to Church Mutual for insurance purposes.

New Business

- Spring Clean-Up – Scheduled for Saturday, April 5th, with a rain date of April 12th; starting at 9:00 AM.
- Lenten Meals – Will have sign-up sheets for the meals at Our Savior's on Wednesdays, March 12th and 19th.

Next Joint Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, at Our Savior's following the 7:00 PM Lenten Worship Service

Parish secretary, Nicole Easterday, plans to be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. If you have additions to the prayer list, notices for the bulletin, or items for the newsletter, please send them to clparish@fbcom.net or call the office at 563-246-2622.

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

MINSTERS for March 2025

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: Yale Christensen

Preparing and delivering seven bags of food to Cal-Wheat Elementary on Friday mornings.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Yale Christensen
Mitch Christensen

Acolyte:

Grant Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Yale Christensen

Lectors:

March 2: Terri Boussetot
March 9: Yale Christensen
March 16: Brian Tulley
March 23: Heather Whitman
March 30: Alan Lee

Altar Ministry:

Annette and Dirk Braet

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant:

Deb Detlefs

Lectors:

March 2: Jason Boussetot
March 9: Joe Morehead
March 16: Brian Boussetot
March 23: Rachel Burke
March 30: Joyce McCutcheon

Cleaners:

Amy and Shane Glover

2025 Councils and Committees of Calamus Lutheran Parish

Faith Council Members

President: Mark Witte
Vice President: Brian Tulley
Secretary: Terri Boussetot
Member: Mitch Christensen
Member: Brittany Hoffmann
Member: Jon Baur
Member: Luke Shelton
Financial Secretary: Yale Christensen
Treasurer: Doreen Henning

Property & Management Committee: Dirk Braet, Mitch Christensen, Daryl Henning,
Larry Schau, Hal Shelton, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley

Our Savior's Council Members

President: Amy Glover
Vice President: Deb Detlefs
Secretary: Dan Burke
Member: Joe Morehead
Member: Jason Boussetot
Financial Secretary: Cindy Burke
Treasurer: Jason Boussetot

Property & Management Committee: Art Boussetot, Brian Boussetot, Bill Morehead, Matt Olson
Cemetery Committee: Art Boussetot, Brian Boussetot, Dion Olson

Joint CLP Committees (*denotes council member)

Education: Jon Baur*, Cindy Burke, Eric Hoffmann, Rebecca Shorter,
Christian Outreach: Amy Glover*, Deb Tulley, Mark Witte*
Worship: Jason Boussetot*, Terri Boussetot*, Dan Burke*, Deb Detlefs*, Brittany Hoffmann*,
Andrea Shelton, Linda Whitman
Parish Coordinating Committee (PCC): Dan Burke*, Deb Detlefs*, Amy Glover*, Pat Grau,
Brittany Hoffmann*, Joe Morehead*, Deb Tulley, Mark Witte*

March 2025 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clparish.org for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OS = Our Savior's Church F = Faith Church						1
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	6	7	8
9 First Sunday of Lent 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11 "Meet and Eat" Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	12 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Meal 6:15 pm at Our Savior's Worship 7:00 pm at Our Savior's Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Our Savior's Joint Council 7:30 pm at OS	13	14	15
16 Second Sunday of Lent Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	17 April newsletter items are due. St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Meal 6:15 pm at Our Savior's Worship 7:00 pm at Our Savior's Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	20	21	22
23 Third Sunday of Lent 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	24	25	26 Meal 6:15 pm at Faith Worship 7:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	27	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday of Lent 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	31					