



Faith Lutheran Church

Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA  
Calamus Lutheran Parish  
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Our Savior's Church

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## **Suspension of Worship Services and Sunday School at Calamus Lutheran Parish**

Based on State Guidelines and Synod Recommendations, the Joint Council of the Calamus Lutheran Parish has voted to suspend worship services and Sunday School until further notice. Please inform anyone who may not receive email that all services are cancelled.

The information in this newsletter will apply when you are informed that church services have resumed. Please call the church office 563-246-2622 to confirm that services and activities have resumed.

### **Pastor's View**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change... (Psalm 46:1-2)*

I believe those words from Psalm 46 are words we need to keep close to us during this uncertain time in our lives. We as a faith community are learning to adjust to life apart. Being apart from one another does not mean we are alone. We are now and always will be connected through our faith in Jesus Christ. It is that faith we need to rely on now as we pray for all those affected by Covid-19.

In the short time I have been your pastor, I have grown very fond of all of you. I pray for you daily and I am working on finding ways to be connected with you until we can again be together in worship. I am available for phone conversations anytime and would welcome hearing from you. My number is 406-478-9518.

I pray it won't be long when I can again say, "See you in worship!"

Pastor Roberta



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## Wellness at Worship

The following changes to worship may alleviate some of your concerns about gathering safely for worship while not affecting our time together.

- Greeters will no longer shake hands or give hugs, but give you a verbal greeting.
- When we offer a sign of peace, we will do so without touching each other. You may smile, share a word of peace, nod your head or bow, or use sign language. It is not necessary you leave your pew.
- Offering plates will not be passed but are placed where you can place your offering before or after worship.
- All those involved in distributing communion will use hand sanitizer.
- As we leave church, Pastor will stand in the back as usual, but will not shake your hand or hug you.

If you do not feel well during worship service, please signal an usher for assistance. Items which may offset low blood sugar are stored in the refrigerator in the kitchen. Please contact Pastor or a Council Member if you have any questions or concerns.

And most important, if you do not feel well, please stay home.

May all be well.



## Facemasks for Healthcare Workers

Our parish can assist in the sewing of health masks for healthcare workers. These masks are washable and reusable. Please open this link to view pattern instructions.

<https://buttoncounter.com/2018/01/14/facemask-a-picture-tutorial/>

Diane Wilhelm has revised the pattern in the following ways.

- Insert a pipe cleaner across top edge and stitch along right below it to keep it in place, before stitching up the sides.
- Change the length of the elastic to 7" long, instead of 6 1/2". The elastic seemed too tight around my ears, and would pull too much after having them on for any length of time.
- Make some with elastic of 7 1/2". This may be an appropriate size for men.

You may deliver the masks to Faith Church. Diane will sort and organize them into 1 gallon plastic food storage bags. She will also deliver to locations which use them.

Thank you for using your sewing skills to improve the safety of healthcare workers. Their working environment can be a risk to their personal safety and that of their families.

If one cannot sew, then pray for all those providing care and needing care.

Peace be with you.

## ~ GOD SQUAD NEWS ~

### Keep these people in your prayers!

Brittany Hoffmann, Kim Steffens, Rebecca Hurt, Tim Burke, Jim Goddard, Coral Hesse, Velda Holloman, Nan Waldorf, Ray Johnson, Ruth Braet, Dale Jacobs, Ellen Bauer, Glenda Oldaker, Michele Scheper, Chance Dexter, Darcy Aune, Bruce Aune, Kelly Meyer, Donna Ploog, Joyce McCutcheon, Colleen Clausen Olson, Christian Boussetot, Barb Johnson, June Reimers, George Tulley, Ethan Friedrich, and Vicki Sharp.

The homebound: Bus Seastrand, Rusty Porth, Ed Meadows, Oscar Shelton, Norman Boussetot, Hazel Richards, Ron Gasper, Geri Schutt, and Myrna Kay Petersen.

Also continue to pray for all those around the world who have been affected by Covid-19.

**God Squad Youth Committee Meeting** is at noon on Sunday, April 5, at Our Savior's. All Junior High & High School youth are welcome to come to the meeting for planning, lunch, and games!

The God Squad will be preparing an **Easter Breakfast** to be served from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. following the 7:00 Worship Service at Faith. There will be a free-will offering for the breakfast.

An **Easter Egg Hunt** sponsored by the God Squad will be held at 8:45 a.m. following the Easter Breakfast at Faith. Bring the little ones and watch the fun and excitement!

**Youth-led worship** will be rescheduled.

### Holy Week Schedule



#### Maundy Thursday

April 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Faith Church



#### Good Friday

April 10, 6:30 p.m.  
Our Savior's Church



#### Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020  
7:00 a.m. Worship at Faith  
8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Faith  
8:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at Faith  
9:30 a.m. Worship at Our Savior's



#### We are Called!

Session Four: Calling Networks  
By Kathryn A. Kleinhans  
April issue of *Gather* magazine



Lydia Circle

Wednesday, April 15, noon  
Crossroads Garden Café – DeWitt



Naomi Circle

Friday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.  
Crossroads Garden Café – DeWitt

### Noisy Offering to be collected Sunday, April 19



Recipient for 2020 is  
Lutheran Disaster Response for U.S. Flooding

### **Monday Bible School**

Children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the adventures as we "Follow the Jesus-Built Road" and explore wisdom, courage, and love!  
May 4, 11, 18  
3:15 pm - 5:00 pm  
Parents are encouraged to attend the closing from 5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

If you are interested in First Communion classes for yourself or your children, please call the church office at 563-246-2622 and let Rebecca know.

Summer schedules are now posted for **Riverside Bible Camp** in Story City ([riversidelbc.org](http://riversidelbc.org)) and **EWALU Bible Camp** near Strawberry Point ([ewalu.org](http://ewalu.org)). There are great opportunities for youth of all ages to experience these Lutheran camps.

If a week seems too long, consider some short stays at EWALU: Dirty Feet Retreat for grades 6-9 (April 17-19), and Grandparent Camp for kids ages 6-12 accompanied by a grandparent (June 17-19).

**Feeding the Children** - There is a need for single-serve items; pop-open cans of chicken, tuna, pasta, soup, and snacks to put in the bags that go home with seven Cal/Wheat elementary students every Friday. Call Rebecca Hurt at the church office with questions.

**Cancelled Stamps** - The Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization is collecting cancelled stamps to raise funds for Lutheran World Relief. Cut the stamp off the envelope leaving ¼ inch around it. Place the stamps in the containers by the guest registers at both churches.

**Faith and Our Savior's have sponsored Vanessa Madrid since 2007 when she was 6 years old. Vanessa is now an 18-year-old graduate of the Compassion program in Honduras. Below is Vanessa's final letter to the parish.**

August 12, 2019

Dear friends,

I greet you in the name of Jesus. I hope you are in good health and your family is fine. Thanks to God I am in good health. The reason to write you this letter is to thank you for all the help and support you offered throughout my life.

I am grateful for all these years the Lord has let me be in the Compassion program. It has been a blessing to me and to my family. I knew wonderful people and I have learned from the Word of God. I visited beautiful places. I am thankful that God put in your hearts to bless my life through Compassion.

Sadly my time at the project is at its end. I want to thank you in this last letter. Even though you were far away, you were always aware of me. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers. I wish with all my heart for God to bless you and prosper you. I am totally blessed. I ask you to continue your prayers for me and my family.

I will keep you in my prayers always. It has been a great pleasure to have you be part of my life. I thank you so much. God bless you! I send you hugs and kisses from a distance.

Love,  
Vanessa Alejandra Pascua  
Madrid

**Vanessa is the third child sponsored by Faith and Our Savior's through Compassion. The other two were Bethlehem of Ethiopia from 1996-2006 and Yusuph in Tanzania from 2002-2017.**

**The parish education committee has decided the Sunday School offerings in 2020 will support ELCA Good Gifts projects.**

# March Council Meetings

## Joint Council

### God Squad:

- Will lead worship on March 22 at Our Savior's and serve lunch.
- Will serve breakfast on April 12 after the 7:00 am Easter worship service at Faith.

### Pastor's report:

- A book with letters from congregations is being put together for Bishop Burk as he retires. We may also want to make a donation in his honor to World Hunger or Wartburg Seminary.

### Worship Committee:

- Scheduled single 9:00 a.m. Sunday services: May 24, July 5, Sept 6, Dec 27
- Reviewed worship services for Palm Sunday and Easter.
- Discussed verbiage for bulletin for those with health issues.

### Christian Outreach Committee:

No report

### Education Committee:

- Finalizing plans for Bible School on three Mondays in May. Theme is "Follow the Jesus-Built Road."

### Old Business:

- Rebecca reviewed prices for paper. The cheapest is Walmart. Motion to use Walmart was approved.

### New Business:

- Council met with leaders of the DeWitt Lunch Box Program to see about going in with their program or starting our own. Discussion was tabled until we get an estimated total on how many families we will serve.

## Faith Council

### Old Business:

- Property and Management Committee will schedule a meeting to walk through the parsonage to determine repairs, cleaning, and updates needed.

### New Business:

- C/W After-Prom Committee requested a donation. Motion to donate \$50 was approved.
- Council will consider indoor and outdoor spring cleaning. No date scheduled.

## Our Savior's Council

### Old Business:

- David O. and Deb D. will serve on Audit Committee. Still have to check with Linda W.
- Received an estimate of \$9,800 for siding the Old Church. Excludes the curved window. Would be same siding as the main church. Will wait and see if we can get a grant or wait before committing due to current financial market.

### New Business:

- C/W After-Prom Committee asked for a donation. Motion to donate \$25 was approved.
- Mark O. stepped down from Christian Outreach so there is an opening. Marcia E. and Mary T. are the two OS reps right now.
- Will complete census due March 9, but not received until end of February.

To contact Pastor Roberta please use her cell phone number: **406-478-9518**

May newsletter items are due Monday, April 20.  
Thanks for your cooperation!

**NOTE:** Calamus Lutheran Parish office hours are 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Faith Church. You may call me at 246-2622.

Faith Church is open during office hours for those who are wish to stop by and pray. There are reserve signs on the pews that have been cleaned. Everything including the kneeling rail has been cleaned. I will go in after each person leaves and wipe it all down. We want you to feel safe coming in.

Those of you sewing masks are also welcome to drop them off during office hours. I will get them to the people or places that need them.

Rebecca Hurt  
Parish Secretary

**MINISTERS for April 2020**

**FAITH**

**Ushers:**

Donna Petersen  
Ashley Steffens  
Andrea Shelton

**Acolyte:**

Lawson Perrone

**Altar Ministry:**

Ruth Braet and Annette Braet

**Communion Assistant:**

Ruth Braet

**Greeters:**

April 5: Keith Steward  
April 12: Marilyn Steward  
April 19: Ruth Braet  
April 26: Diane Christensen

**Lectors:**

April 5: Marsha Witte  
April 12: Heather Whitman  
April 19: Ruth Braet  
April 26: Dirk Braet

**OUR SAVIOR'S**

**Head Usher:**

Dan Burke

**Acolytes:**

Megan Will and Faith Will

**Communion Assistant:**

Brian Boussetot

**Lectors:**

April 5: Deb Detlefs  
April 12: Melisa Jacobsen  
April 19: Mark Olson  
April 26: Amy Glover

**Cleaners:**

Deb and Ray Detlefs

**If You Cannot Do Your Assigned Task On That Particular Day, It Is Your Responsibility To Trade With Someone Or To Find Your Own Substitute And Notify The Church Office Of The Change.**

# April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship – OS <b>Youth Meeting</b> noon at Our Savior's	6	7	8	9 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:30 pm Worship at Faith	10 <b>Good Friday</b> 6:30 pm Worship at Our Savior's	11
12 <b>EASTER</b> 7:00 Worship – F 8:00 Breakfast – F 8:45 Easter Egg Hunt-F 9:30 Worship – OS	13	14 <b>Committee Meetings</b> 7:00 pm at OS	15 <b>Lydia Circle</b> noon in DeWitt at Garden Café	16 <b>Worship Committee</b> 6:00 pm at OS  <b>Joint Council</b> 7:00 pm at OS	17 <b>Naomi Circle</b> 9:30 am in DeWitt at Garden Café	18
19 <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	20	21	22 <b>Bible School Meeting</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	23	24	25
26 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 SS/AC – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	27	28	29	30		