



Faith Lutheran  
Church  
505 2nd Street

## Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches ELCA

### Calamus Lutheran Parish

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Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
2589 190th  
Avenue

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## Pastor's View

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

It has been two weeks since the derecho hit Iowa. These two weeks following the disaster have not been easy and there are people who are still without electricity, needed supplies, and the help they need. For others, life is getting back to “normal” and there is hope.

This disaster comes in the midst of another crisis in our lives – COVID 19. This year has not been easy and for some, it seems almost hopeless. There is also much damage in our farm fields from the derecho and the lack of rain is not helping the crops that managed to avoid the wind. People are hurting and worried about the future.

The derecho is gone, but it has left its mark on many of us. After such a disaster PTSD and depression are prevalent. It is important that we look after the people around us and watch for signs of unusual behavior. Do you know someone who suddenly seems withdrawn, does not want to interact with others, or maybe is doing things that are totally out of character for this person? This is not just adults, but watch the children too. They have been affected and may not know how to express their feelings.

Farming is a hard profession even in a good year. What has happened this year makes it even harder and more stressful. The rate of suicide for farmers is 1.5 times higher than the national average. There is so much uncertainty when your livelihood is dependent on things you have no control over such as crop prices and the weather.

Please watch out for those in your community. PTSD, depression and suicide are not things to ignore and hope they will fix themselves. These are also not conditions to be ashamed of and try to hide. If you suspect someone needs help ask the person. If you think someone is suicidal, ask them. Be blunt. Ask them, “Are you thinking about suicide?” It may be the hardest question you ever asked anyone and the most important question.

If you have a concern and need help, I’m here for you. It is better to overreact to a concern than to do nothing at all.

See you in worship!  
Pastor Roberta

# September Newsletter

## Mark Your Calendar!

One Worship Service Only  
**Sunday, September 6**



**9:00 a.m. (outdoors)  
Faith Lutheran Church**

Please bring a lawn chair.  
The service will be cancelled if the weather  
does not permit outdoor seating.

**NOTE:** Sunday School teachers will meet with the Education Committee on Sunday, September 13, at 9:30 a.m. at Faith to finalize classes and discuss cleaning protocol.

**First Day of Sunday School,  
God Squad, and Adult Class**

**Sunday, September 20  
9:30 a.m. at Faith Church**

*If you are 3 years of age or older,  
there is a class for you!*



**Face Masks are required!**  
They are available at Faith.

**Fall Worship Schedule  
Begins September 13**



**8:00 a.m. Worship  
at Our Savior's Church**



**9:30 a.m. Sunday School,  
God Squad, and Adult Class  
at Faith Church  
begins September 20**



**10:30 a.m. Worship (outdoors)  
at Faith Church**

**Noisy Offering will be collected  
Sunday, September 20.**

The noisy offering bucket for loose change  
will be next to the offering plate.



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

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

October newsletter items  
are due Monday, September 14.  
Thanks for your cooperation!

**ALERT: Several parish members have received communications purporting to be Pastor Roberta and asking for Amazon gift cards or other forms of monetary assistance. This is a scam! Please do not send any money. Pastor Roberta and the church would never ask for donations in this manner. Call the church office if you have any questions.**

### **Worship Service Guidelines for Calamus Lutheran Parish**

Joint Council, Worship Committee, Faith Council, and Our Savior's Council met in June to discuss in-person worship services. The group considered SE IA Synod recommendations, the well-being of parish members, and the preparation and implementation of various types of services. In-person worship services began on July 5<sup>th</sup> at both churches after being cancelled and going to online-only worship services in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, each congregation determined its own way of doing so. The same practices remain in place for September.

#### **Our Savior's Church 8:00 AM September 13, 20, 27**

Pastor Roberta will use the Order of Service provided in a bulletin. Lectors will continue to lector on their designated week.

- Service will be held indoors.
- Seating will be designated by an usher and will be from front to back.
- Bulletins will be pre-arranged in the designated pews. No Hymnals or Bibles will be available.
- Coats should be kept in the pew you are sitting in.
- Families will be seated together if they arrive at the same time.
- Communion will be blessed during the service and completed outside at the conclusion of the service.
- Face masks are encouraged, but not required.
- A donation plate will be present, but not passed.
- Only the West and Southwest entrances will be open. Movement is restricted to entering and leaving church; do not enter the kitchen, Sunday school rooms, etc.
- The bathrooms are available for use in case of emergency; please flip sign to indicate that the bathroom has been used so it may be sanitized.
- Please attend if you feel well and accept responsibility for your own health and well-being.

#### **Faith Church 10:30 AM September 13, 20, 27**

Pastor Roberta will use the Order of Service posted on the parish website. No hymnals or bulletins will be used. This allows limited use of materials and less contact between people and materials.

- Outdoor worship will be held in the church parking lot or a shaded area.
- Bring a lawn chair or sit in your vehicle.
- Communion will be offered. Individual sealed wafer/juice cups will be used.
- Face masks are encouraged, but not required.
- A donation plate will be present, but not passed.
- Please attend if you feel well and accept responsibility for your own health and well-being.
- The outdoor service is automatically cancelled if the weather does not permit outside seating.



# **Southeastern Iowa Synod**

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

### **Summary of the 2020 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly**

The 33rd Assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod was held on August 5th and 7th online. Nearly 400 voting members and visitors gathered virtually around the theme “With a New Song.” Videoconferencing was used for voting members and visitors were able to view a livestream of the event.

The assembly convened on Wednesday, August 5th. Business included the approval of the 2021 synod budget and the report of the nominating committee. This session also included the first (nominating ballot) for the election of bishop. The assembly was then recessed until Friday, August 7th.

The assembly reconvened on the morning of August 7th. Sara Hegg-Dunne was elected as the new synod vice-president. Several synod council positions were elected, and elections were held for synod nominating, discipline, and consultation committees. A full report of those elections can be found on the assembly webpage.

The assembly also cast a second ballot for the election of bishop which included the names of 21 ministers of word and sacrament. After the second ballot, the top eight vote-getters addressed the assembly. These nominees were; Erika Uthe, Ken Sundet Jones, Amy Current, Dan Kuckuck, Timothy Olson, Katie Lowe-Lancaster, Jennifer Thomas, and Jayne Thompson.

A third ballot was cast and with no election, the top three candidates –Erika Uthe, Amy Current, and Timothy Olson—moved on to the fourth ballot. These three candidates had the opportunity to answer questions provided by the Bishop’s Election Committee. No election on the fourth ballot meant the top two vote-getters, Erika Uthe and Amy Current moved on the fifth ballot.

The Rev. Amy Current was elected on the fifth ballot, with 178 votes. The Rev. Erika Uthe received 173 votes. The bishop-elect Amy Current is currently serving as Vice President of Admissions and Student Services at Wartburg Seminary. She graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, and received an M. Div from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA and was ordained on July 13, 1997.

The Synod Assembly offering was designated for the ELCA’s International Women Leaders program, which provides support and empowerment to international women leaders in the life and development of church and society. Additionally, a courtesy resolution of thanksgiving for the assembly and various ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod is available online.

Visit the 2020 Synod Assembly Webpage ([seiasynod.org/assembly](https://seiasynod.org/assembly)) for more information, videos, photos, full results of elections, and more.

## ~ August Council Meetings ~

### Joint Council

#### God Squad:

- God Squad will lead an outdoor service at Calamus Park on October 4; 9:00 a.m. This will be a joint service.
- ELCA Youth Gathering is postponed until 2022.
- God Squad will be doing Bible Jams at 7:00 p.m. a couple times per month on Wednesdays. First Bible Jam is on Wednesday, August 26; 7:00 p.m. at Faith

#### Pastor's report:

- Pastor is visiting with the homebound.
- Pastor will be calling parents of confirmation students to determine method of instruction.
- Pastor will continue to post online worship.

#### Worship Committee:

- September 6 - one service at Faith; 9:00 a.m.
- September 13
  - 8:00 a.m. at Our Savior's
  - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Teachers Meeting at Faith
  - 10:30 a.m. at Faith (outdoors)
- September 20 – fall schedule
  - 8:00 a.m. at Our Savior's
  - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at Faith (outdoors)
  - 10:30 a.m. at Faith (outdoors)

#### Christian Outreach Committee: No report

#### Education Committee:

- Face masks will be required of students and teachers.
- Teachers will prepare online lessons or packets if parents request them.
- Classes will follow Cal/Wheat Schools method of instruction. If the district implements online-only learning, then so will Sunday School.
- No music will be offered.
- No snacks will be allowed.
- The committee will meet with teachers on Sunday, September 13, at Faith to finalize class arrangements and discuss cleaning protocol.

#### Old Business:

- Summer Lunch Program cancelled.

#### New Business:

- The Methodist Church will not lead the "Feeding the Children" program for Cal/Wheat school. Rebecca Hurt will assume leadership and provide a monthly report to Joint Council.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, September 10; 7:00 p.m. at Faith.

### Faith Council

#### New Business:

- Council agreed to continue outdoor worship for September, weather permitting.
- Will ask the Methodist church to return the remainder of Faith's money in the "Feeding the Children" fund to Faith's bank account.
- Request from EWALU for funding of summer staff was denied.
- Thank you note from Colleen Meggers was read. She thanked Faith members for sewing and providing masks for Mercy One in Clinton.
- Thank you note from Rachel Boussetot was read. She thanked the council for her salary and informed that a portion of the money will be used to purchase water bottles for students at elementary schools in Muscatine. The water bottle donation will be designated as coming from Faith Church.

### Our Savior's Council

#### Old Business:

- Bid to repair the Old Church at a cost of \$9,800 has been accepted.
- Gutters on the parsonage still need to be done.

#### New Business:

- Worship evaluation
  - Received request to sing one verse of hymns.
  - Discussed adding the responsive Psalm reading.
  - Will discuss changes with Pastor Roberta. Changes would start with service time change on September 13.
- Insurance adjuster was out on August 10. Waiting on roof inspection.

## **MINISTERS for September 2020**

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:**

Diane Sievers  
Lonny Sievers  
Eric Hoffmann  
Ryan Dick

#### **Lectors:**

Sept.6: Heather Whitman  
Sept 13: Terri Boussetot  
Sept 20: Heather Grau  
Sept 27: Ashley Steffens

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

#### **Usher:**

Brian Boussetot

#### **Lectors:**

Sept 13: Joe Morehead  
Sept 20: Deb Detlefs  
Sept 27: Melisa Jacobsen

#### **Cleaners:**

Shane and Amy Glover

# September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Our Savior's</b> worship is in the sanctuary.  <b>Faith</b> worship is outdoors if weather permits.</p>		<p>1  <b>Coffee &amp; a Little Jesus</b>            9:00 am            at Heather Grau's home</p>	2	3	4	5
<p>6            One Worship Service outdoors at Faith            9:00            (weather permitting)</p>	7 <b>Labor Day</b>	<p>8  <b>Outreach &amp; Education Committee Meetings</b>            7:00 pm at Faith</p>	9	<p>10  <b>Worship Committee</b>            6:00 pm at Faith   <b>Joint Council</b>            7:00 pm at Faith</p>	11	12
<p>13            8:00 Worship – OS            9:30 Sunday School            Staff Meeting – F            10:30 Worship – F</p>	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>20 <b>Noisy Offering for U.S. Flood Relief</b>            8:00 Worship – OS            9:30 SS – F            10:30 Worship – F</p>	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>27            8:00 Worship – OS            9:30 SS – F            10:30 Worship – F</p>	28	29	30			