



Faith  
Lutheran Church  
505-2<sup>nd</sup> Street

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

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Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
2589-190<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue

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## **Pastor's View**

*I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)*

When I was talking to one of our members, she reminded me of this verse. I want to share it with all of you. It is something we can use as we continue to navigate this time in our lives when COVID seems to have taken over all that we do. When we talk, I hear your frustration. I hear your concern and I hear your yearning to get back to a more normal way of life. What we need now more than anything is patience. It will get better.

Advent begins November 29. Advent is our time of waiting for Jesus. I think this year our waiting takes on new meaning. Waiting is hard. These last few months have shown us how hard it is to wait. As we continue to wait for a vaccine and COVID to diminish, let's put our focus on Jesus and what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. As Joshua says, *God is with us wherever we go*. That is the good news we need to cling to.

I am grateful to our Church Councils, Education committee, and Worship committee as we continue to make adjustments to keep us all as safe as possible. Some of the adjustments include no Sunday school until January, no Confirmation until January, no Wednesday Advent services and some minor adjustments to worship.

For those who attend worship, thank you for wearing a mask. If you feel ill or even just slightly not yourself, please stay home. For those who choose not to attend worship, please know we understand. Sunday worship services will continue to be available online. I will also be recording Wednesday Advent services. I pray these services will be helpful to you as we journey together through Advent and wait for the birth of Jesus. Thank you for your faithfulness to the church and know how much we appreciate your offerings as we continue our ministries.

May your journey through Advent give you peace and may the birth of Jesus give you joy and hope. Wishing you all a very blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Pastor Roberta



### **God Squad Bible Jams**

Devotions! Discussion! Food! Fellowship! Games!

Wednesdays, December 2 & 16  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Faith Church

All junior high and high school students are invited.

### **Naomi Circle Bible Study**

Wednesday, December 9  
10:00 a.m. at Diane Christensen's home



“Advent Rituals for Uncertain Times”  
by Jordan Miller- Stubbendick  
December issue of *Gather* magazine  
(pages 20 - 25)

### **Committee and organization reports for the congregations' annual reports are due in the church office by Monday, December 14, 2020.**

These reports include: Pastor, Council Presidents, and all Committees (Education, Christian Outreach, Memorial and Gifts, Property and Management, Our Savior's Cemetery, and God Squad)

**Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports for the congregations are due in the church office by Monday, January 18, 2021.**

~ ~ ~ **Annual Meetings** ~ ~ ~

Faith and Our Savior's  
**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Thursday, December 24  
9:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

### **Christmas Day Worship**

Friday, December 25  
9:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

### **One Worship Service**

Sunday, December 27  
9:00 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

### **Emotional Exhaustion**

By: Pastor Roberta

As I visit with people, I can hear in their voices the toll this pandemic is taking on their emotional well-being. I have been thinking about this for many weeks, trying to think of ways to minister to people when we find ourselves isolated. Isolation comes in many forms. Isolation does not just affect those who are shut-ins. People of all ages are feeling the effects of not being able to do what they took for granted before COVID. We miss our friends and family.

This week, I received word from Montana that one of my former confirmation students died by suicide. This 15-year-old young man tragically decided on a permanent solution to a temporary problem. I don't know all the circumstances that led to his decision, but my heart breaks for his family and friends who will now live with doubts and what-if's that come from the guilt of not being able to help him.

I tell you this story because I want you to be aware of those around you who may be struggling. Do not take anything for granted. Do not assume they will get better on their own. Look for signs that someone may be emotionally exhausted – anxiety, depression, irritability, fatigue, nervousness, tearfulness, etc. Talk to them, be proactive, ask the person if they are considering suicide. It may be the most important question you ever asked someone. If you find this too difficult, let me know, I will be glad to help you.

I have the suicide hotline number as a contact in my phone. It is a number you can pass on to someone or it is a number you can use if you need help. The number is 1-800-273-8255. Put it in your phone and use it if you need it. We are in this together and we will get through it. Let's all find ways to support each other.

**Cancelled Stamps** - The Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization asks that you continue to save 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. Stamps will be turned in September 10-11 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> SE IA SWO Gathering at The Hotel Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids.



# November Meetings

## ~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

### Pastor's report:

- Bishop Amy Current encouraged congregations to continue precautions.
- Pastor has suspended home visits, but she will keep up with calling members.
- Pastor will continue to provide online worship on Sundays and will add a recorded service on Wednesdays during Advent.

God Squad did not meet.

Worship Committee did not meet.

Christian Outreach Committee did not meet.

Education Committee met via text.

- Sunday School classes are cancelled until January 2021.
- Confirmation classes are cancelled until January 2021.

### Old Business:

- ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread Matching Grant
  - If \$500 is raised online for a congregation's feeding ministry by November 22, the ELCA will match it with \$500.
  - Calamus Lutheran Parish will receive a \$500 match because \$675 was raised for the "Feeding the Children" program which provides food to a number of Cal-Wheat students on the weekends.
- "Feeding the Children" expenses were \$184 for the month. The number of students served will go from 7 to 15 in 2021.
- Mid-week Advent services will not be held on Wednesdays.
- Texting Service contact information is being sought. Sign-up sheets are posted in each church. Please sign this sheet or call the church office to confirm your contact information is correct.
- Annual meetings will be held on Sunday, January 31.

## ~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

### New Business:

- Worship Review
  - Discussed continuing in-person services. Right now worshipers are spread out enough to be safe.
  - Concerned about people drinking over the tray for communion.
  - Discussed taking disposable cups outside after service.
  - Communion on November 22, December 6, and Christmas Eve. No communion on the other Sundays.

## ~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

### Old Business:

- Shelton reported the shingles have been repaired on church roof.
- Brian Tulley is leading the bell tower masonry project.

### New Business:

- Hall Shelton, Larry Schau, and Keith Gasper will complete their first three-year term in December 2020. Shelton and Schau have agreed to stay on the council and serve a second three-year term. Boussetot will contact Gasper and will inform the nominating committee of results.
- Will continue with communion as currently being practiced.

Please submit items for the January newsletter and all committee reports to the church office by Monday, December 14.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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



## MINISTERS for December 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:**

Mark Witte

Dirk Braet

Brian Tulley

Ruth Braet

**Acolyte:**

Tysen Steffens

**Altar Ministry:**

Larry and Sharyl Banowetz

**Communion Assistant:**

Brian Tulley

**Lectors:**

December 6: Dirk Braet

December 13: Heather Grau

December 20: Brian Tulley

### OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

**Usher:**

Dan Burke

**Acolyte:**

Machaela Jacobsen

**Communion Assistant:**

Brian Boussetot

**Lectors:**

December 6: Jason Boussetot

December 13: Deb Detlefs

December 20: Melisa Jacobsen

December 27: Mark Olson

**Cleaners:**

Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman

# December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith  * <b>NO Confirmation</b>	3	4	5
6 <b>Advent 2</b>  8:00 Worship – OS * <b>NO Sunday School</b> 10:30 Worship – F	7	8 <b>Education Committee</b> 7:00 pm at OS	9 <b>Naomi Circle</b> 10:00 am at Diane Christensen’s	10 <b>Worship Committee</b> 6:00 pm at OS  <b>Joint Council</b> 7:00 pm at OS	11	12
13 <b>Advent 3</b>  8:00 Worship – OS 10:30 Worship – F	14 <b>Annual Reports and January newsletter items are due in the church office</b>	15	16 <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	17	18	19
20 <b>Advent 4</b>  ** <b>Noisy Offering</b>  8:00 Worship – OS 10:30 Worship – F	21	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 9:00 pm Worship at Our Savior’s	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 9:00 am Worship at Faith	26
27 <b>One Service</b> 9:00 am Worship at Our Savior’s	28	29	30	31		

\* Sunday School and Confirmation classes are cancelled in December.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at Our Savior’s on December 6 and Christmas Eve.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at Faith on December 6, 13, 20, and Christmas Day.

\* \* The recipient of the **2020 Noisy Offerings** is Lutheran Disaster Response for U.S. flood relief.