



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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Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We are just about to get started with our education programming for the year! I am so grateful to be in a place that has a strong commitment to and identity in having Christian education for all ages. By having a Sunday School hour that is truly for all, we live into the realities that 1) none of us ever stop learning and growing in our faith and 2) that we learn best when we can learn from and with each other. Learning about anything, but I think especially learning about our faith, happens best in community. I pray that God blesses the learning and the community shaping that will happen over the course of this year. I also want to thank all of the Sunday School teachers and leaders for all that they have done to get ready for the year and all that they will do throughout the year.

I also want to remind folks that we will be having a communion instruction class this fall. If you and/or any young people in your life are interested, please let me know as soon as possible! We will pick a date and time based on who is interested and what works for the group. The class is open to anyone, but a suggested age is anyone in 4th grade and up. Older and younger are certainly welcome! I want to strongly encourage parent(s) to do this with their child(ren). Again, we learn best together!

I know this time of year gets very busy, very quickly, and it can be easy to think of church and Sunday School as just one more thing to "do." There's no shame in this! We all face a lot of demands on our time each and every day. I hope and pray that when it feels like church and Sunday School are another thing on our already long to-do lists that we can remember that these aren't to-dos, this is a way of life. A way of life that invites us into community with the Triune God and with our church community, and we need this and we need each other. I look forward to learning and growing together this year.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Leah

September

Sunday, September 3 ONE Service Only!

9:00 am Worship at Our Savior's

Fall Schedule begins Sunday, September 10

8:00 am Worship at Faith
9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's
10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

Education Opportunities

CONFIRMATION

6:00 pm Wednesday, September 6 – Confirmands and parents meet with Pastor Leah at Faith.

6:00 pm Wednesday, September 13 – Confirmation classes begin at Faith.

BIBLE JAM

7:00 pm Wednesday, September 13 – All 7th - 12th graders are invited to Faith for food, fellowship, and fun following confirmation classes. **Meals:** Contact Heather Grau (563-424-0507) if you are willing to prepare and serve a meal to the youth on a Wednesday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At **9:25 am every Sunday morning**, there are classes for children age 3 through 12th grade and adults of all ages. Sunday School is at Our Savior's starting September 10.

Meals for Youth attending Bible Jam

Do you enjoy cooking or have a favorite meal you would like to share with our youth? We are looking for volunteers to help prepare meals on Wednesday nights. Contact Heather Grau at 563-424-0507 for more information or to sign up.

ELCA Youth Gathering - July of 2024

Students in 8th – 12th grade are eligible and encouraged to attend "Created to Be" in New Orleans, LA.

Youth and their parents are invited to an important informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 6; 6:30 pm at Faith.**

Heather Grau and Pastor Leah will share details about the event.

Feeding the Children

Faith and Our Savior's will again be packing food bags to provide weekend meals for Cal-Wheat students selected by the school counselor.

The Outreach Committee is coordinating the project and asking for volunteers to help. There are sign-up sheets and directions in the church office.

- You can donate non-perishable food. A list of needed items will be in the bulletins.
- You can put together the eight bags. Directions for assembly are on the pantry shelves.
- You can deliver the bags to the elementary school on Friday mornings.

Thank you for considering how you can help with this worthwhile Outreach project.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, September 13

10:00 a.m. at Marsha Witte's home in DeWitt



Gather magazine

"Holy Places" by Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

Noisy Offering - - Sunday, September 17

The 2023 recipient is St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida. The church was heavily damaged during Hurricane Ian.

Prairie Fest

Sunday, September 24

1:00 – 5:00

Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, rural Wheatland
FREE admission and fun for the entire family!
Live music outdoors! Tour the grounds.
Bring chairs or blankets and pack a picnic.

Coming in October.....

Communion Instruction Classes and Acolyte Training

Communion instruction is recommended for 4th graders and up, but all ages (adults too!) are welcome. Acolyte instruction is for 5th graders and anyone who would like a refresher. Please contact Pastor Leah if you are interested.

An official date and time for these classes in October will be determined by what works best for those interested.



August Meetings

~~ Joint Council ~~

Date: Thursday, August 10, at Our Savior's

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Bousset, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, Neil Holmquist, Amy Glover, and Mary Timmerman;

Faith: Larry Schau, Hal Shelton, Luke Shelton, Ashley Steffens, and Mark Witte.

Pastor's Report

- Visits are back to normal and going well
- Personnel/Child Protection Policies workshop at the synod office went well; will meet with appropriate parish members to discuss how to move forward.
- Planning Bible School with the Education Committee.
- Planning for the adult Sunday School class.
- Met with two families who want to join the congregations.
- Would like to use vacation day on September 3; will prepare a sermon for a lay leader.
- Will attend SE IA Synod's Fall Theological Conference (September 25-26) with Heather Grau.

God Squad

- Pastor and Heather Grau met to start planning.
- Youth (and their parents) interested in 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering meet on Wednesday, September 6; 6:30 pm at Faith.
- The first night of Bible Jam is Wednesday, September 13; 7:00 pm following confirmation.
- Will seek volunteers to prepare and serve meals at Bible Jam on Wednesdays.

Worship

- Reviewed the community worship service for Sunday, August 27; 10:00 am in Calamus City Park (Calamus-Wheatland Fun Days weekend). Julie Schocker of St. Paul's UCC in Wheatland will assist Pastor Leah. The loose offering will be designated for the fire department.
- One service only on Sunday, September 3; 9:00 am at Our Savior's (Labor Day weekend).
- Sang through two settings in the new hymnal supplement "All Creation Sings." Music may be difficult for the congregation; will practice and review more before making a final verdict about purchasing.
- Pastor sought feedback on confirmation students preparing and leading Advent services; committee felt it to be a positive experience.

Education

- Bible School
 - Made final preparations for Monday, August 28, and met with staff.
- Confirmation
 - Parents' meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 6:00 pm at Faith.
 - First day of confirmation is Wednesday, September 13.
- Sunday School
 - First day of classes is September 10; 9:25 am at Our Savior's.

Outreach

- Refreshments will be served at 9:30 in the park on August 27 before 10:00 worship.
- Will have the meal for Bible School ready at 5:30 on Monday, August 28; hot dogs, chips, and freezer pops.
- Organizing the "Feeding the Children" program; start delivery after Labor Day; 8 bags from Calamus Lutheran Parish and 7 bags from Wesley Methodist; will seek donations of food and helpers to prepare and deliver the bags to the elementary school.

Old Business

- Parish Secretary – PCC met on August 1 with the five women who filled in as volunteers during Pastor's leave. Their feedback regarding office duties was valuable. Now question a need for even a half-time secretary; will continue with volunteers 8-10 hours/2-3 days per week; Jason, Marsha, and Dan will prepare bulletins, newsletters, and update the website; using other volunteers when needed. Applicants will be informed that the job description has changed and will be reviewed again before hiring.
- Bishops on RAGBRAI (July 22-29). The three Iowa ELCA bishops riding in the 50th Annual RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) raised \$63,000 for ELCA World Hunger. The SE IA Synod is highlighting anti-hunger ministries in the synod; "Feeding the Children" program of providing weekend meals for Cal-Wheat students will be included.

New Business none

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Old Business

- Parsonage Floor – completed
- Elevator – tabled until fall
- Mower – still needs repairs

New Business

- Organ/Piano – The organ will be tuned in the fall and the piano tuned at the beginning of the heating season.
- New Member – Motion by Dan to accept Mindy Bauer as a new member; seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Old Business

- Tables for the Basement – ordered
- Parsonage Steps – Motion by Ashley to accept bid of \$7,008.50 from J & K Construction of Grand Mound for an 8 x 8 deck and stairs made of composite material; seconded by Larry. Motion carried. Luke will contact J & K about preparing a concrete slab before installing.

New Business

- New Members – Motion by Ashley to accept Kyle and Lauren Nerad (son Rowdy) and John Bauer as new members; seconded by Hal. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

- Thursday, September 14; 7:00 pm at Faith

Please submit items for the October newsletter to the church office by Monday, September 18. Thank you!

MINSTERS for September 2023

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:

Yale Christensen
Mitch Christensen

Acolyte:

Kinnick Christensen

Communion Assistant:

Yale Christensen

Lectors:

September 3: Worship at Our Savior's
September 10: Dirk Braet
September 17: Tysen Steffens
September 24: Rachel Boussetot

Altar Ministry:

Brian and Deb Tulley

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Deb Detlefs

Lectors:

September 3: Joyce McCutcheon
September 10: Jason Boussetot
September 17: Cindy Burke
September 24: David Burke

Cleaners:

Shane and Amy Glover

September 2023 Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship at Our Savior's	4 Labor Day	5	6 Meeting for confirmation students and parents 6:00 pm at Faith Meeting with parents of those attending 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering 6:30 pm at Faith	7	8	9
10 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	11	12	13 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	14 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	15	16 Quilt Auction at Camp EWALU
17 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	18 October newsletter items are due in the church office.	19	20 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	21	22	23
24 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS Prairie Fest 1:00 - 5:00 Our Lady of the Prairie Wheatland	25	26	27 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	28	29	30

ONE service only on Sunday, September 3 - 9:00 Worship at Our Savior's.

First day of Sunday School is September 10. There are classes for children age 3 through 12th grade and a class for adults of all ages.