



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,

You'll notice in this newsletter that there is an ask for you all to offer some feedback to our council presidents about how it is going having me as your pastor. In November, our councils will be getting together with Pastor Dan Kuckuck from the Office of the Bishop to conduct a yearly review with me. In this review we will discuss together the things that we have accomplished together, things we hope to grow in, and the things that we are excited about. As a part of this, we need your help!

As you are able, please send to our council presidents any feedback you have about me. I would ask that feedback be a good mix of constructive and positive, but overall and more than anything, I ask for you to be honest. The purpose of this review is neither to be a roast or a toast, but to be honest so that we can continue to be successful and equal partners in the mission of the Gospel. Thank you in advance for the time you will take to share your thoughts as a part of this review. I look forward to hearing them.

While the synod office helps facilitate this first year review, it is my intention that we would continue to have a yearly review. I find that this is an important way for us all to check in together. Furthermore, never feel like that the only time feedback can be shared is within the confines of an official review. I am always open to receiving feedback at any time.

I am grateful to each and every one of you for the ways that we serve our Lord together. I am privileged to be the pastor at Faith and Our Savior's.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



Sunday Schedule

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

Education Opportunities

CONFIRMATION

6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays – Confirmation classes at Faith.

BIBLE JAM

7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays – 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 a.m. every Sunday morning at Our Savior's, there are classes for children age 3 through 12th grade and adults of all ages.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Pastor Leah will lead a Communion Instruction class on **Monday, October 9, at 6:00 p.m.** at Faith. Please contact Pastor Leah if you are interested.

Communion instruction is recommended for children who have not yet received communion.

Children through sixth grade are encouraged to attend. The class is a good refresher for all (even adults!). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*** 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.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, October 11
10:00 a.m. at Diane Christensen's home



September/October issue of *Gather* magazine
"Holy Places" by Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

Calamus Coffee Club

During the months of renovation at Buck's Corner in downtown Calamus, community members met at 9:00 am Monday through Friday for coffee in the basement at Faith church. The coffee drinkers gave a free-will donation every time they came and **WOW!**

In those few months, over \$600 was given away: \$300 to the food pantry at St. Paul's UCC in Wheatland, \$215 to the Feeding the Children project, \$100 to ELCA World Hunger in honor of the three Iowa ELCA bishops riding RAGBRAI, and a big pocketful of change to the Calamus Lutheran Parish Noisy Offering for St. Peter Lutheran Church in Florida.

Thank you for your generosity in support of all these worthy causes!

More Generosity

You may have given to these causes this year:

- ✓ Three Iowa ELCA Bishops on RAGBRAI raised \$92,596 for ELCA World Hunger.
- ✓ The offering at Calamus-Wheatland Days Community Worship in the Park was \$746 for the Calamus Fire Department.
- ✓ The Sunday School offering from January through May was \$147.
- ✓ The DeWitt Community Hospital received \$9,366 from Birdies for Charity following the John Deere Classic Golf Tournament.
- ✓ \$1,050 collected to date in the monthly 2023 Noisy Offering has been sent to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Florida.

Noisy Offering - - Sunday, October 15

The 2023 recipient is St. Peter Lutheran Church on Ft. Myers Beach, Florida. The church was heavily damaged during Hurricane Ian in 2022 and was recently hit with Hurricane Idalia.

August 14, 2023

Thank you so much for your donation of \$1,049.36 to St. Peter Lutheran Church on Fort Myers Beach.

We have learned we need much patience and faith in moving forward. Your donation and prayers are greatly appreciated.

*Arlene Burm
Council Secretary*

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Stockholder Fundraiser

Show your support to the Calamus Lutheran Parish youth planning to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July of 2024.

What is a Youth Gathering Stockholder?

- ✓ Stockholders are members who purchase shares from the youth who will participate in the Gathering.
- ✓ Stockholders will receive mail from the youth while in New Orleans.
- ✓ Stockholders will be invited to an exclusive “Dine & Share” event where the youth will showcase their experiences from the Gathering.

How do I become a Youth Gathering Stockholder?

- ✓ Fill out a “Share Request” form and place it in the selected youth box you are investing in.
- ✓ Shares cost \$50 each.
- ✓ You will be contacted by Heather Grau about payments. Checks remitted to God Squad, memo: *Youth Gathering 2024*.
- ✓ Questions? Contact CLP Youth Leader, Heather Grau at 563-424-0507.

It is time to hear from you!

The Joint Council will meet with Pastor Dan Kuckuck of the Office of the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod on Thursday, November 2, for a one-year evaluation of Pastor Leah.

If you have constructive feedback on Pastor Leah’s first year at Calamus Lutheran Parish, please send your comments by email to:

Mark Witte, Faith council chair
markwitte@iowatelecom.net

OR

Mary Timmerman, Our Savior’s council chair
haynik215@gmail.com

Those messages should be sent by the end of October. Thank you for your interest in the ministry of Pastor Leah and the Calamus Lutheran Parish.

All Saints’ Sunday is November 5th

There is a sheet of paper at the back of each sanctuary for listing the names of loved ones who have died this past year.



Feeding the Children

Faith and Our Savior’s will again be preparing food bags to provide weekend meals for Calamus-Wheatland students selected by the school counselor.

The Outreach Committee is coordinating the project and volunteers are in place for packing bags and delivering food to the school on Friday mornings.

Below is a list of non-perishable food items church members may contribute to the project.

Feeding the Children

Eight Cal/Wheat Elementary students are each given a bag of food to take home on Fridays.

You can help by donating food.

Requirements:

- Single-serving items
- Individually wrapped items
- Must be shelf-stable

Examples:

- Individual oatmeal packages
- Individual cereal boxes
- Cereal bars
- Mac-n-cheese (or other pasta) cups to microwave
- Individual chicken or tuna packages
- Small jars of peanut butter
- Soups
- Individual crackers and cheese packages
- Individual crackers and peanut butter packages
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes (100% real juice)



September Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: Thursday, September 14, at Faith

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Boussetot, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, Neil Holmquist, Amy Glover, and Mary Timmerman; **Faith:** Brittany Hoffmann, Larry Schau, Hal Shelton, Luke Shelton, Ashley Steffens, Brian Tulley, and Mark Witte.

Pastor's Report

- Visiting the homebound and attending circle.
- Officiated at the marriage ceremony of Abagale Pewe and Austin Bumann on Saturday, August 12, at Our Savior's.
- Rowdy Nerad was baptized at Our Savior's on September 10. Rowdy and his parents, Kyle and Lauren Nerad, are new members of Faith.
- Met with confirmands and their parents. Fall study will be reading the book of Mark, Martin Luther and the Reformation, and Luther's Small Catechism.

God Squad

- Four youth (maybe six) are interested in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024. The major fundraiser will be securing Stock Holders buying "\$50 Shares" to support the youth. Stockholders will receive mail from the youth and be invited to a post-gathering event.
- Still seeking volunteers to prepare and serve meals for those attending Confirmation and Bible Jam on Wednesdays.

Worship

- Evaluated the Calamus-Wheatland community worship in the park on August 27.
- Thanksgiving Service will be at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 19, at Faith.
- Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. There will be a single worship service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 24 (no Sunday School), 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship at Our Savior's, and 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day worship at Faith.
- Decided not to purchase the new hymnal supplement "All Creation Sings."

Education

- Bible School Evaluation – Number attending was low, but those children and adults who came enjoyed the one-day event with families joining for a meal and games. Will try a similar event on a Monday in May.
- Sunday School – Attendance was good on the first day and new material was a nice change.
- Communion Instruction Class scheduled for Monday, October 9, is for those seeking first communion and those wanting a refresher.

Outreach

- Will have sign-up sheets for pies as the refreshments following the Thanksgiving service.
- Food for the Feeding the Children program will last through October. The list of needed food will be in the October newsletter and bulletins. Many volunteers have already agreed to help with bagging and delivery.

Old Business

- The three Iowa ELCA bishops riding RAGBRAI raised \$92,596 for ELCA World Hunger. "Feeding the Children" in Calamus is now on the SE IA Synod website highlighting programs that deal with food insecurity.

New Business

- Portico Insurance – Motion by Ashley to maintain the Gold Plus plan; seconded by Neil. Motion carried.
- Evaluation – Pastor Dan Kuckuck of the Office of the Bishop will meet with Pastor Leah and the Joint Council on Thursday, November 2, for Pastor Leah's one-year review. Motion by Brian to move the regular November council meetings to that night, with the time to be determined; seconded by Neil. Motion carried.
- Church Directory – Neil expressed the value of a directory for new members and presented an information packet. Tabled until next meeting to give council members time to review the product/website.
- Photos – Both councils were photographed for the Calamus Lutheran Parish website.

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Old Business

- Mower – still not working; will not pay for more repairs; will reconsider the need for a mower.

New Business

- Old Appliances – need to be removed from the parsonage garage.
- Parsonage Pest Control – possibly add more traps, remove hostas, fill cracks in foundation, and change pest control companies.
- Property Committee – Brian would like to have additional helpers.

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Old Business

- Tables for the basement have arrived.
- Parsonage Steps – Luke will contact J & K Construction about timing and preparing a concrete slab before installing.

New Business none

Next Meetings

- Thursday, October 12; 7:00 pm at Our Savior's
- Thursday, November 2; TBD at Faith

November newsletter items are due Monday, October 16.

MINSTERS for October 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:

Eric Hoffmann
Grant Hoffmann
Larry Schau

Acolyte:

Carter Henning

Communion Assistant:

Terri Boussetot

Lectors:

October 1: Annette Braet
October 8: Sharyl Banowetz
October 15: Doreen Henning
October 22: Terri Boussetot
October 29: Alan Lee

Altar Ministry:

Diane Christensen
Larry Schau

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Dan Burke

Acolyte:

Faith Will

Communion Assistant:

Cindy Burke

Lectors:

October 1: Marcia Edens
October 8: Melisa Jacobsen
October 15: Amy Glover
October 22: Joe Morehead
October 29: Eva Burke

Cleaners:

Ray and Deb Detlefs

October 2023

Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clp parish.org for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	2	3	4 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	5	6	7
8 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	9 Communion Instruction 6:00 pm at Faith All ages are welcome!	10	11 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Diane Christensen's home Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	12 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at OS Worship Committee 6:30 pm at OS Joint Council 7:00 pm at OS	13	14
15 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	16 November newsletter items are due in the church office.	17	18 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	19	20	21
22 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	23	24	25 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	26	27	28
29 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS Reformation Sunday	30	31 Reformation Day Halloween	November 1 All Saints' Day			

All Saints' Sunday is November 5th