



Faith
Lutheran Church
505-2nd Street
Calamus, IA 52729

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

P.O. Box 116, Calamus, IA 52729

Phone (563) 246-2622

Email: clparish@fbcom.net

www.clparish.org

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
2589-190th Avenue
Calamus, IA 52729

Volume 36

November 2023

Number 11

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I am writing this, the world feels very heavy, perhaps by the time this goes out, things will feel different, but today it all feels heavy. There has been much violence and war and strife all over our news outlets from many places around the world. People whom we know and love have been experiencing some very hard and challenging times. In times like this, it can be very easy to feel despair, and to react rather than respond to the world around us.

In order to break free from some of that, I have found that it is helpful for me to tell myself to always believe people when they say they are hurting. This is not to be an excuse for poor behavior, we can still hold each other accountable for our actions, but it is meant to help me understand why someone does or believes the things that they do. It helps me to remember that all people are made in the image of God and because of that fact alone they are worthy of love, dignity, and respect. This is something that can be done when we are struggling against one person or an entire group of people. Believing the pain of someone or a group of people, even if the behavior is not acceptable, is how we extend the love and grace of Jesus Christ to everyone around us. We are able to do this because Jesus gives us this love and grace first and each and every day. I think our world could use some extra love and grace.

As we wrestle with what is going on around the world and in our own lives and in the lives of those we love, I have found a lot of hope in the words of our absolution in these days: *Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.* Amen, may it be so.

In Christ's Abiding Peace,

Pastor Leah

November



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.

Set Your Clocks Back!



Daylight Saving Time Ends November 5th

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.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, November 8
10:00 a.m. at Diane Christensen's home



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

Education Opportunities

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.

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.



Noisy Offering Sunday, November 19



The 2023 recipient of the Noisy Offerings is St. Peter Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers Beach, Florida.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 19
Faith Church ~ 6:00 p.m.



The offering is paper products and canned goods for the Carroll Assistance Center, Wheatland.

The collection will begin November 5 at both churches.

Pie and ice cream will be served in the fellowship hall following worship.

Stockholder Fundraiser

Show your support to Dalton, David, Macailah, and Peyton who plan 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 (563-424-0507)
-

To contact **Pastor Leah**,
please use her cell phone number;
262-914-9392

First Sunday of Advent - December 3 Hanging of the Greens



Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas.

The focus is on the long-awaited birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, and the second Advent, when Christ will return.

To help prepare for the birth of Christ, in addition to Sunday worship, there will be mid-week Advent services Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6, at Our Savior's
Wednesday, December 13, at Our Savior's
Wednesday, December 20, at Faith

New Baby!

Congratulations to Dylan and Kodi Boussetot on the birth of their son, **Bowen Michael**, on October 12th. Bowen is welcomed by his brothers Brayden and Brantley.

God's Work ~ Our Hands

3rd Sunday of each month – change in the Noisy Offering for St. Peter Lutheran Church

October – food donated for the weekend meals sent home with eight school children

November – canned goods and paper products gathered for the Carroll Assistance Center

December – winter coats, hats, and gloves collected for the Carroll Assistance Center

School News

Calamus-Wheatland Food Drive

Calamus-Wheatland Schools are currently conducting their annual food drive. Take canned goods to the elementary school in Calamus or the junior high/high school in Wheatland.

FALL FEAST

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is an organization in the area high schools: Calamus-Wheatland, Central DeWitt, and Northeast. The FCCLA students are hosting a ***FALL FEAST*** on Thursday, November 2, at the Northeast Cafeteria. Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, and Mousse will be served from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 (\$8 for children under 12). Tickets can be purchased in advance at the offices of all three high schools.





October Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: Thursday, October 12, at Our Savior's

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

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

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

Pastor's Report

- Continuing to visit the homebound and prepare adult education, confirmation, and sermons.
- Attending circle, coffee downtown, and C/W sporting events.
- Has weekly text study with local pastors and monthly internship task force at the seminary.
- Attended fall theological conference with Heather Grau.
- Three parents with seven children attended Communion Instruction Class October 9.
- Eight students are attending Confirmation. Five will be confirmed on Sunday, May 19.

God Squad

- Youth will serve soup following worship at Our Savior's on Sunday, October 29. It will be a fundraiser for Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree project.
- Four youth are planning to attend 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.
- Still seeking volunteers to prepare and serve meals for those attending Confirmation and Bible Jam on Wednesdays.

Worship

- Thanksgiving Service will be at 6:00 pm Sunday, November 19, at Faith.
- Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. There will be a single worship service at 9:00 am Sunday, December 24 (no Sunday School), at Faith. 9:00 pm Christmas Eve worship is at Our Savior's. 9:00 am Christmas Day worship is at Faith. There will be one service only at 9:00 am on Sunday, December 31 (no Sunday School), at Our Savior's.

Education

- Discussed Confirmation and Communion Class.
- Sunday School lessons are planned through December.
- Children's Christmas Program will be 10:30 am Sunday, December 17, at Our Savior's.
- Program rehearsals are scheduled for 6:00 pm on Wednesdays December 6 and 13 and 10:00 am Saturday, December 16. All rehearsals are at Our Savior's.
- Bible School will be in May.

Outreach

- Will have sign-up sheets for pies as the refreshments following the Thanksgiving service.
- The list of food needed for the Feeding the Children program will be in October bulletins. Many volunteers have already agreed to help with bagging and delivery.
- Paper products and canned goods will be collected in November for the Carroll Assistance Center and displayed at the Thanksgiving service.
- Winter coats, hats, and gloves will be collected in December and January.

Old Business

- Pastor's one-year review – Council members have received a questionnaire to fill out and bring to the November 2 meeting.
- Church Directory – Ashley moved that the parish go forward with the online church directory set up through Instant Church Directory. Deb seconded. Motion carried. Mark moved that Faith and Our Savior's split the annual cost of \$100. Dan seconded. Motion carried.

New Business none

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Old Business

- Mowing – will need to contact someone else to do the work next summer
- Mower – now working; tire replaced
- Old Appliances – may have a taker for all
- Parsonage Pest Control – traps, steel wool in cracks, removing hostas has helped; waiting for estimate from Meyer Pest Control
- Elevator/Lift – awaiting bid from a second company; discussed how to replace nursery

New Business none

~~ Faith Council ~~

Old Business

Property and Management has several ongoing projects:

- Parsonage Steps – Luke will contact J & K Construction about timing and preparing to add to the concrete slab before installing.
- Old tables – Brian will take to his company building.
- Sign out front – Brian displayed one recently for preview.
- Electricity – Eric has fixed the eternal flame and will work on the outside light.
- Pipe leak – Pat has not had time to check on the problem.
- Elevator – Still waiting for the company to do their annual inspection.
- Trees trimmed – Kueters will trim when trees are dormant at a cost of \$300.
- Bats – The bats continue to find a way in through the boiler room. Dirk will check the seals.
- Boiler Relief Valve – It is fixed. Brian is trying to get documentation from Lowden Plumbing and Heating.
- Roof Leak – Hal contacted White Roofing about leak in upstairs Sunday School room ceiling.
- Windows Caulked – Contractors have not responded. It will need to be done by members.

New Business

- New member – Larry made a motion to accept Shirley Franks as a member of Faith. Seconded by Ashley. Motion carried.

Next Meetings

- **Thursday, November 2; 6:30 pm at Faith** Joint Council will meet with Pastor Dan Kuckuck for Pastor Leah's one-year review.
 - Faith and Our Savior's councils will meet following the review on November 2.
 - Worship Committee will meet at 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 2.
 - Education Committee will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 1.

December newsletter items are due Monday, November 13.

MINSTERS for November 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:

David and Terri Boussetot

Acolyte:

Grant Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Lectors:

November 5: Andrea Shelton

November 12: Brian Tulley

November 19: Shelley Witt-Gentile

November 26: (Christ the King) Marsha Witte

Altar Ministry:

David and Terri Boussetot

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Neil Holmquist

Acolyte:

Mason Easterday

Communion Assistant:

David Burke

Lectors:

November 5: Deb Detlefs

November 12: Neil Holmquist

November 19: Dan Burke

November 26: (Christ the King) Brian Boussetot

Cleaner:

Jason Boussetot

November 2023 Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church			1 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith All Saints' Day	2 Worship Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Joint Council 6:30 pm at Faith Meeting with SE IA Synod staff member for Pastor Leah's one-year evaluation.	3	4
5 All Saints' Sunday 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7 Election Day	8 Naomi Circle 10:00 am at Diane Christensen's Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	13 December newsletter items are due in the church office.	14	15 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	16	17	18
19 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS 6:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at Faith	20	21	22	Church office closed Thanksgiving Day	Church office closed	25
26 Christ the King 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	27	28	29 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	30		