



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,

For our Advent midweek services this year, the confirmation students chose to do Holden Evening Prayer. As we have been preparing parts and selecting hymns and readings, the Magnificat has been stuck in my head. The Magnificat in Holden Evening Prayer is based on Mary's song of praise from Luke 1:46-55. The angel Gabriel has told Mary that she will bear Jesus, the Christ-Child. Mary then goes and visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with John the Baptist, and John leaps in Elizabeth's womb at the recognition of Mary and the child she carries. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, blesses Mary, and in response Mary sings a song of praise, which becomes known as the Magnificat.

It is my opinion that if we ever wanted a clear description of what the kingdom of God will look like when Jesus returns and brings it about fully, we do not need to look further than the Magnificat. Mary remembers God's faithfulness that is true for each generation; Mary sings of God's promise to do away with power and oppression and that God will lift up the lowly while humbling the powerful; Mary tells of the joy of the Lord, which is so strong and powerful her very soul cannot help but proclaim it. This is the kingdom of God that is made known to us in Jesus Christ. This is our hope, our joy, our peace, our love. The kingdom of God has come close to us in the birth, the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus, and we wait for its fulfillment when Jesus returns.

As we wait in Advent and as we wait on this life-long journey for Jesus to return, may we all be filled as Mary was with the knowledge, the joy, and the song of who our God is, what our God has done for us and the world, and what our God has promised to do in Jesus Christ. May our souls in this season and every season, proclaim the greatness of our Lord.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



Midweek Advent Worship Schedule



In addition to Sunday worship, there will be midweek Advent services on Wednesday evenings.

Wednesday, December 6, at Our Savior's

5:45 p.m. Program Practice
6:15 p.m. Meal served by Our Savior's Council
7:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday, December 13, at Our Savior's

5:45 p.m. Program Practice
6:15 p.m. Meal served by God Squad
7:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday, December 20, at Faith

5:45 p.m. Joint Council Meeting
6:15 p.m. Meal served by Faith Council
7:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday Youth Schedule for December

NO Confirmation classes during December.
The confirmands help lead midweek Advent services.

Bible Jam

Junior high and high school students are welcome to come for faith, food, fellowship, and fun following Advent services on Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, at Our Savior's and Wednesday, December 20, at Faith.

Celebrate Christmas!

The God Squad Christmas party will be at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 13, at Our Savior's Church.
Junior high and high school youth are invited to join in the holiday fun!

Naomi Circle Bible Study



Wednesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. at Diane Christensen's home
"Topsy-turvy" by Rev. Hannah Hawkins
November/December issue of *Gather* magazine

Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School Children present:

"Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree"



10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 17, at Our Savior's

Program practices will be two Wednesdays
(December 6 and 13) at 5:45 p.m.

All rehearsals are at Our Savior's Church.

**Final practice is 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 16,
followed by Christmas Caroling to the homebound.**

Noisy Offering – Sunday, December 17

The 2023 recipient is St Peter Lutheran Church,
Ft. Myers Beach, Florida. The church was heavily
damaged by Hurricane Ian in 2022.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

One service only Sunday, December 24
9:00 a.m. at Faith
No Sunday School

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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



Christmas Day Worship

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

New Year's Eve

One service only Sunday, December 31
9:00 a.m. at Our Savior's
No Sunday School



Special Collection

During the weeks of Advent and Christmas, the parish will be collecting winter wear. Please bring new (or very gently used) winter coats, hats, gloves, and mittens to Faith and Our Savior's. The items will be given to the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland for distribution to those who need something warm to wear this winter.

2024 Worship Ministry

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"
(Joshua 24:15)

Usher, Communion Assistant, Lector, Acolyte, and Altar Ministry schedules are being created for 2024. If you served in 2023, it is likely your month will remain the same.

If you prefer a different month or would like to learn more about serving in one of these roles, please leave a message on the church office phone (246-2622) or contact a member of the Worship Committee: **Faith** (Terri Boussetot, Diane Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Andrea Shelton) and **Our Savior's** (Dan Burke, Jason Boussetot, Linda Whitman).

Instructions are available and assistance will be provided. Your participation in worship is greatly appreciated.

All reports for Faith and Our Savior's Annual Reports are due in the church office by Monday, December 18. These reports include: Pastor, Council Presidents, God Squad, Feeding the Children, Memorials and Gifts, Our Savior's Cemetery, and all Committees (Education, Outreach, Property and Management, and Worship).

Please have financial reports, budgets, and audit reports in the church office by Monday, January 15, 2024.

Please submit January newsletter items to the church office by Friday, December 22.
Thanks for your cooperation.

The church office will be closed December 26-29.

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



November 2023 Meetings

~ ~ **Joint Council** ~ ~

Date: Thursday, November 2, at Faith
Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen and Pastor Dan Kuckuck (via Zoom from the synod office);
Our Savior's: Jason Boussetot, Dan Burke, Amy Glover, Neil Holmquist, Mary Timmerman;
Faith: Brittany Hoffmann, Larry Schau, Hal Shelton, Luke Shelton, Ashley, Steffens, and Mark Witte.

One-year Review

- Pastor Dan asked each council member about the questionnaire they had filled out concerning Pastor Leah's first year of ministry in Calamus. There were many positive comments and no special concerns.

Pastor's Report

- All usual duties continue.
- Helped the families of Leonard Malmanger, Shirley Ferguson, and Dick Johnson prepare appropriate memorials following the deaths of their loved ones.
- Will not be in the office November 20-25.
- Now volunteering at the elementary school twice a month for a couple of hours.

God Squad

- October 29 soup luncheon raised over \$400. The youth will purchase Christmas gifts for eight children. Carroll Assistance Center and DeWitt Referral Center distribute the gifts as part of the Angel Tree project.
- Advent Meal – God Squad will serve the meal on Wednesday, December 13, at Our Savior's.

Worship

- Confirmed Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 pm on Sunday, November 19, at Faith.
- Finalized midweek Advent services schedule. Confirmation students will be assisting Pastor and use the Holden Evening Prayer service.
- Sunday, December 31, will be one service only at 9:00 am at Our Savior's.
- Reviewed worship settings and will use ELW Setting 4 from Epiphany to Easter.

Outreach

- Received a \$1,000 grant from Theisen's for the "Feeding the Children" program.
- Collecting food and paper products in November for the Carroll Assistance Center.
- Planning for pie and ice cream following Thanksgiving evening service on November 19.
- Conducting a drive for winter coats, gloves, and hats for the Carroll Assistance Center through January 8.

Education

- Chose “Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree” for the Christmas program. The children will start learning the songs during November Sunday School. There will be two Wednesday practices and one rehearsal on the Saturday before the program. The children will go caroling to the homebound on Saturday, December 16, following the final rehearsal.

Old Business

- Church Directory – It will be necessary to establish a committee and set procedures for getting the site up and running.

New Business

- Changed the next joint council meeting to Wednesday, December 20, at 5:45 pm at Faith.
- Saturday, January 13, is the proposed date for a Councils and All-Committees Meeting.

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Old Business

- Elevator – There has been no response from the company that showed interest in the project.

New Business

- Advent meal – Council members will serve the meal on Wednesday, December 6, at Our Savior's.
- Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28, 2024. It will be important to have committee reports in on time.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Old Business

- Property and Management continues to follow up on several projects: parsonage steps, sign out front, electricity to corner light, tree trimming, pipe leak, elevator, and basement window caulking.
- Bats – Dirk has sealed the opening in the boiler room.
- Boiler – Lowden Plumbing came to church. Dirk will check on status of paper work.
- Roof Leak – White Roofing found the problem and will fix flashing and shingles.

New Business

- Advent meal – Council members will serve the meal on Wednesday, December 20, at Faith.
- Time to activate the nominating committee. Three council members will need to be elected at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Next Joint Council Meeting

- 5:45 pm at Faith on Wednesday, December 20, before the midweek Advent meal.

MINSTERS for December 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:

Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley

Acolyte:

Olivia Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Mark Witte

Lectors:

December 3: (Hanging of the Greens)
December 10: Terri Boussetot
December 17: Yale Christensen
December 24: Mark Witte
December 25: (Christmas Day)

Altar Ministry:

Larry and Sharyl Banowetz

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Shane Glover

Acolyte:

Caden Will

Communion Assistant:

Neil Holmquist

Lectors:

December 3: (Hanging of the Greens)
December 10: Joyce McCutcheon
December 17: Cindy Burke
December 24: (Christmas Eve) Marcia Edens
December 31: David Burke

Cleaners:

Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman

December 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	2
3 Advent 1 Hanging of the Greens 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	4	5	6 Advent Worship at Our Savior's 5:45 pm Program Practice 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	7	8	9
10 Advent 2 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	11	12	13 Naomi Circle 10:00 am at Diane Christensen's Advent Worship at Our Savior's 5:45 pm Program Practice 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam Christmas Party 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	14	15	16 Program Practice 10:00 am at Our Savior's Christmas Caroling (leave OS at 10:45)
17 Advent 3 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Children's Christmas Program at Our Savior's	18 Annual Reports of all committees are due in the church office.	19	20 Joint Council 5:45 pm at Faith Advent Worship at Faith 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	21	22 January newsletter items are due.	23
24 Advent 4 9:00 am Worship - F Christmas Eve 9:00 pm Worship at Our Savior's	25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Worship at Faith	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship - OS New Year's Eve		Church office closed	Church office closed	Church office closed	Church office closed	