



Faith
Lutheran Church
505-2nd Street
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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,

Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year, and with it we find ourselves again in a season that asks us to slow down and ponder and reflect. While Lent can often be a more penitential season, one where we are invited to reflect on our own lives and shortcomings, I would invite us to reimagine Lent a bit this year. To my mind there are plenty of things in the world that remind us all how we are not enough. While inflated egos do exist in the world (sometimes it's even our own), for many of us, it is far easier to come up with a list of the ways we fall short than it is to come up with a list of our gifts. So as we reimagine Lent this year, I invite us to consider this season as one that reminds us of the world's deep need for what Christ has done for creation on the cross.

This season, I invite us to contemplate the evils that exist in this world that can be uncomfortable for us to think about. I invite us to contemplate the nuances of the events going on in the world that the media wants us to view in black and white, but the reality is much more gray. I invite us to consider these things because I find it's important to contemplate the magnitude of the life and death of Jesus Christ. Every once in a while, our minds should be in awe that the Creator became created in Jesus Christ and that in Jesus Christ, the Almighty and ever-living God died. It's a lot to wrap one's mind around. Regardless of that though, the world needed and still needs Christ who was born and Christ who died on the cross. And because Jesus's pain and suffering erased our sin, we are freed and invited to, not shy away from, but to lean into the pain and suffering and sin of the world. We are freed to name reality for what it is, because we trust in the hope and promise of the cross, that through Jesus all things have been reconciled to God.

As we journey through the 40 days of Lent, let us ponder together what it means that Jesus died for the sake of the world, and how this world so desperately needs the love, reconciliation, and redemption Jesus freely gives from the cross. As we lean into the pain of the world, may the Holy Spirit give us the eyes to see how Jesus is already in those painful place, and that God is working through that pain and evil. May we come to know and trust more deeply our God who always shows up, particularly in those unlikely places, bringing new life.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



Noisy Offering – Sunday, February 18
The 2024 recipient will be chosen at the Councils/Committees Meeting on February 3rd.

Youth Schedule for February

Wednesday – February 7

Confirmation

6:00 p.m. at Faith

Bible Jam

7:00 p.m. at Faith

Junior high and high school students are welcome to come for food, faith, fellowship, and fun!

Ash Wednesday – February 14

Wednesdays – February 21 and 28

Lenten Worship

7:00 p.m. at Faith

Confirmands will assist Pastor Leah with the service.

Bible Jam

7:30 p.m. at Faith

Sundays – February 4, 11, 18, and 25

Sunday School

9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's

Classes for preschool through twelfth grade

Gods' work - Our hands

2023 activities . . .

Jars of **peanut butter** for the Carroll Assistance Center were donated during Lent; Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas **cards** were sent to homebound members; **groceries** were gathered at Thanksgiving for the Carroll Assistance Center; **winter wear** was collected for the Carroll Assistance Center during Advent; donations were made to **ELCA World Hunger**, the cause highlighted by the three Iowa bishops riding RAGBRAI: God Squad raised money for the **Ronald McDonald House** in Iowa City and collected **band-aids** for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital; God Squad purchased **Christmas gifts** for "angels;" the Feeding the Children program provided **weekend meals** during the school year for eight Cal-Wheat students; the offering at Fun Days Community Worship was for the **Calamus Volunteer Fire Department**; Naomi Circle gave to **Lutheran World Federation** for medical care in Gaza; the children collected noisy offerings monthly at worship for **St. Peter Lutheran Church** in Ft. Myers Beach, FL; and the children's weekly Sunday School offering was also for the church in Florida. The Sunday School children went **Christmas caroling** at Wheatland Manor.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, February 14

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



"Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith"
by Sara Olson-Smith

January/February issue of *Gather* magazine

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024



7:00 p.m. Worship Service
Faith Church

40 Days of Giving

Calamus Lutheran Parish will be gathering **40** jars of peanut butter (chunky or smooth, any size, any brand) for the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland during the **40** Days of Lent (Ash Wednesday, February 14, through Easter Sunday, March 31).



January Meetings

Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Bousset, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, Amy Glover, Neil Holmquist, Mary Timmerman; **Faith:** Hal Shelton (via phone), Ashley Steffens, Brian Tulley, and Mark Witte.

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

God Squad

- Wrapping up study of Revelation on Sunday mornings; will start a study on an Old Testament book in February.
- Will go bowling soon.
- Plan to support an animal shelter; will have a fundraiser.
- ELCA Youth Gathering - 4 youth and 2 adults are planning to attend; have raised \$3,000 to date; need \$2,200 more; partnering with other area churches to go to New Orleans via Amtrak; Dalton Will's fees will be covered by St. John's Lutheran Church of Bliedorn.

Pastor's Report

- Christmas services were well attended; had good feedback.
- Visits are continuing; other activities are picking up as weather allows.
- Adult class will be discussing resilient faith until Lent starts.
- Still meeting monthly with Wartburg Internship Task Force.

Worship Committee

- Reviewed "Hanging of the Greens" service; may try alternate setting in 2024.
- Evaluated Advent and Christmas services.
- Ash Wednesday is February 14; 7:00 worship at Faith; no meal
- Midweek services during Lent - February 21 and 28 at Faith, March 6, 13, and 20 at Our Savior's; 6:15 meal and 7:00 worship.
- Bishop Amy Current will attend and preach at services on Sunday November 10.

Old Business

- Church Directory - Following Annual Meetings, volunteers will be sought to work on the project.
- Pastor's Salary - PCC clarified health insurance costs and how costs are divided between Faith, Our Savior's, and Trinity (Pastor Stephen's congregation). PCC recommended an increase of \$4,100. Jason moved to approve the base salary recommendation. Seconded by Mark. Motion carried.

New Business

- Reminder to get reports turned in for the Annual Report booklets.
- Councils/Committees meeting was postponed from January 13 to Saturday, February 3.

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Old Business

Mowing - Dan made a motion to hire Thomas Grell and set the line item in the budget at \$7,200 for mowing. Seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

New Business

Pastor's Salary - Will present the recommendation made by Joint Council to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Old Business

Boiler repairs have been certified.

New Business

Pastor's Salary - Will present the recommendation made by Joint Council to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Next Joint Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 15, at Faith

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

Please submit items for the March newsletter to the church office by Monday, February 19. Thank you!

MINSTERS for February 2024

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:

Herb and Diane Wilhelm
Adam and Rebecca Wilhelm

Acolyte:

Grant Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Sharyl Banowetz

Lectors:

February 4: Marsha Witte
February 11: Annette Braet
February 18: Sharyl Banowetz
February 25: Alan Lee

Altar Ministry:

Herb and Diane Wilhelm

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Brian Boussetot

Lectors:

February 4: Eva Burke
February 11: Deb Detlefs
February 18: Neil Holmquist
February 25: Dan Burke

Cleaner:

Marcia Edens

February 2024 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 Councils and Committees Meeting 9:00 – 11:00 am at Faith
4 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	5	6	7 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	8	9	10
11 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	12	13	14 Naomi Circle 10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm at Faith Valentine's Day	15 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	16	17
18 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	19 March newsletter items are due. Presidents' Day	20	21 Meal 6:15 pm at Faith Worship 7:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	22	23	24
25 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	26	27	28 Meal 6:15 pm at Faith Worship 7:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	29		

Councils/Committees Meeting - If you are a member of the Faith or Our Savior's Council or you serve on a committee, please attend the 2024 planning meeting on **Saturday, February 3**, at Faith.