



Faith  
Lutheran Church  
505-2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
2589-190<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Calamus, IA 52729

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### Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Last month, I asked us to contemplate together in this Lenten season the world's deep need for the cross of Christ. This month, I would like us to think about the 'so what' of that contemplation. It is one thing to know we need something or need to do something (*I need to drink more water and less coffee*) and another thing to actually do it (*but, sometimes coffee just sounds better, and it's mostly water anyways, right?*). It is very easy to look around the world and notice all the things that we and others need saving from through the power of the cross. However, it is another thing to look at those same situations and ask ourselves, "God, how are you already at work in that situation?"

We pray in the Lord's Prayer, *thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*, and Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism that in praying this, we trust that God is already and always at work bringing about God's kingdom to all times and places without our help, but we pray this so that it may be true in us, so that we would participate in what God is already doing in the world. When we take the time to notice how God is already working against the evils of the world, we move from a place of despair to a place of hope. This is not meant to sugar coat awful things, rather our hope in Christ is a corrective lens that prevents despair and hopelessness. Awful things are awful, and we still have hope in Christ; both things are equally true. As Christians we are a hopeful people who name death and evil for what they are, but we do not stay there, we also notice the resurrection.

Noticing the resurrection is the 'so what' of having a greater awareness of the world's need for the cross of Christ. When we notice the resurrection alongside the deep need for the cross, we cannot help but want to participate with God in what God is already doing there. In this way we run counter-cultural to the ways of the world that pull us to two extremes: utter distraction from reality, or utter despair in reality. We live with a foot in both worlds. We know and see the death and evils around us, and we know what happens Sunday morning. The tomb is empty, and the world is forever changed. Thanks be to God.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



### Midweek Lenten Services

7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays of March  
March 6, 13, and 20 at Our Savior's



A meal precedes each service at 6:15 p.m.

### Youth Schedule for March

#### Sundays – March 3, 10, 17, and 24

##### Sunday School

9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's  
Classes for preschool through twelfth grade

#### Wednesdays – March 6, 13, and 20

##### Confirmation

NO classes in March.  
Confirmands will assist with midweek Lenten services.

##### Bible Jam

7:30 p.m. following midweek Lenten services  
Junior high and high school students are welcome  
to come for faith, fellowship, and fun!

#### Wednesday – March 27

##### Bible Jam/God Squad

6:00 p.m. at Faith  
Prepare for the Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt.

**Noisy Offering – Sunday, March 17**  
The 2024 recipient is Calamus-Wheatland Schools.

### Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, March 27  
10:00 a.m. at Marsha Witte's home in DeWitt



“Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith”  
by Sara Olson-Smith  
March/April issue of *Gather* magazine



### Palm Sunday – March 24

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

### Maundy Thursday – March 28

7:00 p.m. Worship at Faith

### Good Friday – March 29

7:00 p.m. Worship at Our Savior's

### Easter Sunday – March 31

8:00 a.m. Worship at Faith  
9:00 a.m. Breakfast at Faith  
9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at Faith  
10:30 a.m. Worship at Our Savior's

### “Meet and Eat”

“Meet and Eat” is a new opportunity for our faith family and community to come together for fellowship. All are welcome! “Meet and Eat” is on the second Tuesday of each month.

The March lunch is at noon on Tuesday, March 12, at Buck's Corner in Calamus. Invite your friends and neighbors to come have a lunch of pizza or pasta and join in the conversation.

### 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).

Sincere condolences to the family of Leon Boussetot, age 69, who died on January 12 in Mediapolis. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Bowen Michael, son of Dylan and Kodi Boussetot, was baptized on Sunday, February 18, at Our Savior's. Welcome to the Calamus Lutheran Parish, Bowen.

### Here We Stand!

Travel to Germany with a group from the Southeastern Iowa Synod, hosted by Pastor Dennis Rodenberg.

The highlights of the trip will include the steps of Luther, modern Germany, and stories of emigration.

**July 21 – August 2, 2025**

Contact Pastor Dennis (563-880-5345) for more information.



## Education Committee Spotlight

### Who we are:

- Cindy Burke, Eric Hoffmann, Rebecca Shorter, and Ashley Steffens

### When we meet:

- Generally meet at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday evening before the councils meet on Thursday.

### What we do:

- Plan Bible School, select Sunday School curriculum, arrange for teachers, and direct the Children's Christmas Program.
- Review the adult class material, confirmation program, and first communion curriculum with Pastor Leah.

### What we need:

- Ideas and volunteers for Bible School  
What works best for your family? What time of year? What time of day? How many days? How can you help?

- Feedback on Sunday School  
Do you like the current curriculum? Do your kids like the video? Do they like the pamphlet and class activities? Does the content make sense? Is it too easy or too hard? What do the children tell you about Sunday School?

- There is always a need for teachers, substitutes, new committee members and ideas! Contact any education committee member to get involved.

**Outreach Committee will be in the Spotlight in April.**

February 12, 2024

Thank you so much for your "Noisy Offering" donations to St. Peter Lutheran for the rebuild of our sanctuary. Our fellowship hall was torn down last week and we are close to beginning work on our sanctuary. We had 99 worshippers in our tent yesterday.

In Christ,

Arlene Burm, Council Secretary



## February Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

**Date:** Thursday, February 15, at Faith

**Present:** Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

**Our Savior's:** Jason Boussetot, Amy Glover, and Joe Morehead;

**Faith:** Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley, and Mark Witte.

### Pastor's Report

- Councils/Committees meeting on Saturday, February 3, went well. "Noisy Offering" recipient was chosen (Cal-Wheat Schools). "Meet and Eat" will be an opportunity to get together for lunch once a month at noon. "Committee Spotlight" in the newsletter will highlight the work of the committees.
- Confirmation students will lead midweek Lenten services with the theme "Beneath the Cross of Jesus." Four students will offer reflections.
- Adult education is using a Lenten series prepared by Pastor Erika Uthe of the SE IA Synod office.
- Will conduct a monthly service at Wheatland Manor.
- Continuing homebound visits, circle, and volunteering at the elementary school.

### God Squad

- Serving Easter breakfast following early service at Faith on March 31, and also conducting an egg hunt that morning. Set up at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 27, at Faith.
- Bowling, serving a Lenten meal, youth-led worship service, and support for an animal shelter are things under discussion.

### Education

- Bible School on Monday, May 6; 3:30-5:00 pm; followed by a meal served by the Outreach Committee. Lesson: "Parable of the Sower"

### Worship

- Maundy Thursday foot washing at Faith
- Good Friday at Our Savior's
- Youth-led worship in April

## Outreach

- The “Feeding the Children” program is going well with volunteers preparing eight bags of food each week for weekend meals and delivering them to C-W Elementary on Fridays.
- During the 40 days of Lent, the parish will collect jars of peanut butter for the Carroll Assistance Center.
- Committees will be highlighted in the monthly newsletter: March - Education, April - Outreach, May - Worship, and June - Prayer Chain.
- Will serve the meal for Bible School on May 6.

## Old Business

- Directory – The Joint Council wants to form a committee to develop an online parish directory. Two or three people from each congregation are needed to serve on the committee. You can contact Pastor Leah, Amy Glover, or Mark Witte to volunteer or for more information.

## New Business

- Noisy Offering – Calamus-Wheatland Schools was chosen as the 2024 recipient.

## ~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

**President:** Amy Glover

**Vice President:** Joe Morehead

**Secretary:** Deb Detlefs

Jason Boussetot

Neil Holmquist

**Financial Secretary:** Cindy Burke

**Treasurer:** Jason Boussetot

**Property and Management Committee:**

Brian Boussetot, Bill Morehead, and Matt Olson

**Cemetery Committee:**

Brian Boussetot and Dion Olson

## Old Business

- Elevator – Bids were received from a contractor and elevator/lift company and the project was presented to members at the Annual Meeting. Motion by Jason Boussetot to approve the bid of \$36,950 for the lift and the contractor’s bid of \$32,500 for installation. Seconded by Bill Morehead. Motion carried unanimously. The \$69,450 total is included in the 2024 budget. The lift will go in the nursery and have an exterior entrance. Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman will serve as project managers.
- Mowing – Insurance is on file. The yearly contract for cemetery mowing is in the budget.

## New Business

- Election – officers and committee assignments are listed above.
- Lenten Meals – served at 6:15 before the 7:00 services on Wednesdays March 6, 13, and 20 at Our Savior’s. Sign-up sheets for food will be at the back of the sanctuary.

## ~~ Faith Council ~~

**President:** Mark Witte

**Vice President:** Brian Tulley

**Secretary:** Terri Boussetot

Mitchel Christensen

Brittany Hoffmann

Luke Shelton

Ashley Steffens

**Financial Secretary:** Yale Christensen

**Treasurer:** Doreen Henning

**Property and Management Committee:** Dirk Braet,

Mitch Christensen, Keith Gasper, Daryl Henning,

Larry Schau, Hal Shelton, Luke Shelton, and

Brian Tulley

**Auditing Committee:** Sharyl Banowetz, Annette Braet,

And Herb Wilhelm

**Nominating Committee:** Doreen Henning,

Eric Hoffmann, Larry Schau, and Hal Shelton

## Old Business

- Property and Management Committee still waiting for quote on new outdoor sign, elevator inspection, and parsonage steps construction timeline.

## New Business

- Election – officers and committee assignments are listed above.
- Lenten Meals – served by council members at 6:15 before the 7:00 services on Wednesdays February 21 and 28 at Faith.

## ~~ 2024 Joint CLP Committees ~~

(\*denotes council member)

**Education Committee:** Cindy Burke, Eric Hoffmann,

Rebecca Shorter, and \*Ashley Steffens

**Outreach Committee:** \*Amy Glover, Peyton Grau,

Deb Tulley, and \*Mark Witte

**Worship Committee:** \*Jason Boussetot,

\*Terri Boussetot, Dan Burke, Diane Christensen,

\*Deb Detlefs, \*Brittany Hoffmann, Andrea Shelton,

and Linda Whitman

**PCC (Parish Coordinating Committee):** Dan Burke,

\*Deb Detlefs, Pat Grau, \*Brittany Hoffmann,

\*Joe Morehead, Mary Timmerman, Deb Tulley, and

\*Mark Witte

**Phone numbers for council and committee members are posted at each church.**

## Next Joint Council Meeting

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, following the midweek Lenten service at Our Savior’s.

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

## **MINSTERS for March 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.

### **FEEDING THE CHILDREN:** Judy Olson

Preparing and delivering eight bags of food to Cal-Wheat Elementary on Friday mornings.

### **FAITH CHURCH**

#### **Ushers:**

Yale Christensen and Mitch Christensen

#### **Acolyte:**

Kinnick Christensen

#### **Communion Assistant:**

Yale Christensen

#### **Lectors:**

March 3: Terri Bousselot  
March 10: Yale Christensen  
March 17: Brian Tulley  
March 24: Heather Grau  
March 31: Mark Witte

#### **Altar Ministry:**

Dirk and Annette Braet

### **OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH**

#### **Usher:**

Dan Burke

#### **Acolyte:**

David Burke

#### **Communion Assistant:**

Deb Detlefs

#### **Lectors:**

March 3: Rachel Burke  
March 10: Jason Bousselot  
March 17: Joyce McCutcheon  
March 24: Cindy Burke  
March 31: Brian Bousselot

#### **Cleaners:**

Shane and Amy Glover

# March 2024 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website [www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org) for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at OS <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at OS <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at OS	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Daylight Saving Time Begins</b> 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>"Meet and Eat"</b> Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	<b>13</b> <b>Worship Committee</b> 6:00 pm at OS <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at OS <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at OS <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at OS <b>Joint Council</b> 7:30 pm at OS	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS	<b>18</b> April newsletter items are due.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at OS <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at OS <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at OS	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00 Worship - F 9:25 Sunday School - OS 10:30 Worship - OS <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Naomi Circle</b> 10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home  <b>God Squad/Bible Jam</b> 6:00 pm at Faith Prepare for Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt	<b>28</b>  <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	<b>29</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> 2:00 pm Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat Center  <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00 Worship - F 9:00 Breakfast - F 9:45 Easter Egg Hunt - F 10:30 Worship - OS <b>Easter Sunday</b>				<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	