



*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,

In her devotional book **Every Season Sacred**, Kayla Craig writes this in her reflection on *The Word*:

We were thick in the season of Advent. The pink and purple beeswax candles on our kitchen table were melting into stubby versions of their once tall, proud life. We had been thinking about anticipation and expectation, about *the Word* becoming flesh (see John 1:14) and changing the world in confounding and beautiful ways... “The God-with-us is a close God, a God whom we call our refuge, our stronghold, our wisdom, and even, more intimately, our helper, our shepherd, our love,” writes Henri Nouwen. “We will never really know God as a compassionate God if we do not understand with our heart and mind that *‘the Word became flesh and lived among us.’*” We have a God who moved into our neighborhood— not out of obligation but out of deep, abiding love. May we do the same.

In the hustle and bustle that this time of year can bring, I hope that we can take the time to reflect on these words above. That we can pause and remember that the anticipation of Advent is about waiting and expecting God to show up (as God always does) in new and intimate and surprising ways again and again, as God has done throughout all of history. I hope that we can take time to ponder what it means that God the Creator became created in Jesus, and that this intimacy between God and you, God and all people, God and all of creation is a love that takes our breath away. It is a love that grounds us, a love that surprises us, a love that comforts us, a love that can never be taken away from us, and a love that will come again to bring all things to God’s self.

This is our story as The Church: that there is nothing God desires more than to be joined with God’s creation, to be in relationship with you. God does this for us in Jesus, who was born, lived, and died, and promises to return to us again; “not out of obligation, but out of deep abiding love.” Surely, he is coming soon.

In Advent Hope and Expectation,
Pastor Leah



Midweek Advent Worship Schedule



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

Wednesday, December 4, at Faith

5:45 PM Program Practice
6:15 PM Meal
7:00 PM Worship

Wednesday, December 11, at Faith

5:45 PM Program Practice
6:15 PM Meal
7:00 PM Worship

Wednesday, December 18, at Our Savior's

6:15 PM Meal
7:00 PM 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 4 and 11, at Faith and Wednesday, December 18, at Our Savior's.

Celebrate Christmas!

The God Squad Christmas party will be at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 18, 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 11

10:00 AM at Marsha Witte's home
November/December issue of *Gather* magazine

Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School Children present:

"Hope, Peace, Joy, Love"



10:30 AM

Sunday, December 15, at Faith

Program practices will be two Wednesdays
(December 4 and 11) at 5:45 PM
All rehearsals are at Faith Church.

**Final practice is 10:00 AM Saturday, December 14,
followed by caroling and lunch.**

Noisy Offering – Sunday, December 15

The 2024 recipient is Calamus Wheatland Schools.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24

9:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 25

9:00 AM at Faith Lutheran Church

One service only Sunday, December 29

9:00 AM at Our Savior's

No Sunday School



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

Special Collection of Warm Clothing

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.

The **Calamus Lutheran Parish Directory** is available to view on your computer, CLP Website, and mobile device. Log into the online directory by selecting this link: **CLP Membership Directory**. Those who have submitted directory information will have access. If you have not submitted information, information sheets are available at each church. If you have any questions, phone the church office (563-246-2622) or send an email to clparish@fbcom.net.

B*I*N*G*O

Wheatland Manor is in need of volunteers to help with BINGO on the first and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

If you are willing to help, contact the activity director at 563-374-1295.

Wedding

Congratulations and best wishes to Austin Henning and Morgan Barfield who were married on Saturday, November 16, at Faith. May God bless Austin and Morgan as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

All reports for Faith and Our Savior's Annual Reports are due in the church office by Monday, December 16. These reports include: Pastor, Council Presidents, God Squad, Feeding the Children, Memorials and Gifts, Our Savior's Cemetery, Faith Property and Management, and all Parish Committees (Education, Christian Outreach, Worship).

Please have financial reports, budgets and audit reports in the church office by Monday, January 13, 2025.

Please submit January newsletter items to the church office by Friday, December 20.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The church office will be closed DEC 25 - JAN 1.

2025 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 2025. If you served in 2024, 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, Brittany Hoffmann, Andrea Shelton) and **Our Savior's** (Jason Boussetot, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, Linda Whitman).

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



November 2024 Meetings

~ ~ **Joint Council** ~ ~

Date: Thursday, November 14, at Faith

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen and

Our Savior's: Jason Boussetot, Deb Detlefs

Amy Glover, Joe Morehead;

Faith: Terri Boussetot, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Ashley Steffens, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte

Pastor's Report

- Attended the SE IA Synod's Theological Conference and also the Synod's Boundary Training on professional ethics.
- Continues to visit the homebound, lead worship at Wheatland Manor on the first Thursday of each month, volunteer at CW Elementary School twice a month, participate in Naomi Circle and socialize with the community at morning coffee at Buck's Corner.
- God Squad will assist with the three midweek Advent services.

God Squad

- Halloween Fun Night was a success with more than 50 people attending. \$300 was raised for the Angel Tree project.
- A Bake Sale will be held at Our Savior's after the evening Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24.
- God Squad will serve the Advent meal on Wednesday, December 11, at Faith.
- The Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 18, at Our Savior's following the midweek service.
- The current Bible study is Genesis.

Education

- “Hope, Peace, Joy, Love” is the title of the Children’s Christmas program. There will be two Wednesday practices and one rehearsal on the Saturday before the program. The children will sing carols at Wheatland Manor following the final rehearsal on Saturday, December 14, and then have lunch.

Worship

- Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24
5:30 PM at Our Savior’s
- “Of Land and Seasons” liturgy will be used at the Thanksgiving service and the midweek Advent services.
- Midweek Advent Schedule:
6:15 PM meal and 7:00 PM worship
 - Wednesday, December 4, at Faith
 - Wednesday, December 11, at Faith
 - Wednesday, December 18, at Our Savior’s
- Finalized the worship schedule and times for the special services in December:
 - Sunday, December 1 – “Hanging of the Greens” 8:00 AM at Our Savior’s
10:30 AM at Faith
 - Sunday, December 15 - Children’s Program
10:30 AM at Faith
 - Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
9:00 PM at Our Savior’s
 - Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day
9:00 AM at Faith
 - Sunday, December 29 - One Service Only
9:00 AM at Our Savior’s.

Outreach

- Collecting food and paper products in November for the Carroll Assistance Center.
- Planning to serve pie following Thanksgiving evening service on November 24.
- Gathering winter coats, gloves and hats in December and January for the Carroll Assistance Center.

Old Business

- Parish Secretary – The PCC interviewed Nicole Easterday and recommended her for the position. Easterday agreed to the wages, schedule, job responsibilities and a start date of February 1, 2025. Steffens made a motion to hire Easterday. The motion was seconded and carried.

New Business

- Parish Directory – 47 families have submitted information. How to access the information will be included in monthly newsletters.
- Annual Meetings – Sunday, January 26, 2025
The Faith Congregation and the Our Savior’s Congregation will meet following their respective worship services.

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Old Business

- Exterior Sign – A 9x6 base will be framed and concrete poured for the signs and electricity added.
- Boilers – Ryan and Associates is nearly finished with repairs on pipes and the main boiler. The small boiler also needs to be repaired. Annual inspections might reduce the number of future repairs.
- Ongoing Property Concerns – Shelton will follow up with White Roofing on a small leak in the ceiling upstairs. Witte will seek bids on waxing the basement floor. Braet will contact a plumber to repair the south sink faucet. Tulley is in contact with the service provider for the lift.

New Business

- Advent Meal – Council members will serve the meal on Wednesday, December 4, at Faith.
- Constitution – The 2024 draft of the Faith Constitution that was approved by the council in October is available for members to review. Pastor Leah has written an introduction and summary of the revisions. Binders are available in the office and may be checked out or a PDF copy can be sent by email. The congregation will vote on approval of the constitution at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Old Business none

New Business

- Lift – Detlefs made a motion to have the lift inspected each October at a cost of \$595. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Advent Meal – Will put out a sign-up sheet for a potluck meal on Wednesday, December 18, at Our Savior’s.
- Annual Meeting of the Congregation is Sunday, January 26, 2025. It will be important to have committee reports in on time.

Next Joint Council Meeting

- **Thursday, December 12
7:00 PM at Our Savior’s**

MINSTERS for December 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 (weekend meals for seven Cal-Wheat students)

Doreen Henning
Diane Wilhelm

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Dirk Braet
Brian Tulley

Acolyte:

Olivia Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Mark Witte

Lectors:

December 1: Hanging of the Greens
December 8: Terri Boussetot
December 15: Children's Christmas Program
December 22: Alan Lee
December 25: Marsha Witte
December 29: One Service at Our Savior's

Altar Ministry:

Larry and Sharyl Banowetz

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Ushers:

Eva Burke
Rachel Burke

Acolyte:

Caden Will

Communion Assistant:

Neil Holmquist

Lectors:

December 1: Hanging of the Greens
December 8: Brian Boussetot
December 15: Rachel Burke
December 22: Joyce McCutcheon
December 29: Deb Detlefs

Cleaners:

Brian Boussetot and Mary Timmerman

December 2024 Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

OS = Our Savior's Church

F = Faith Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent 1 Hanging of the Greens 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	2	3	4 Advent Worship at Faith 5:45 pm Program Practice 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	5	6	7
8 Advent 2 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	9	10 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	11 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Advent Worship at Faith 5:45 pm Program Practice 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	12 Joint Council 7:00 pm at OS	13	14 Program Practice 10:00 am at Faith Christmas Caroling (leave Faith at 10:45) Lunch
15 Advent 3 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Children's Program at Faith	16 Annual Reports of all committees are due in the church office.	17	18 Advent Worship at Our Savior's 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship God Squad Christmas Party 7:30 pm at Our Savior's	19	20 January newsletter items are due.	21
22 Advent 4 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	23	24 9:00 pm Worship at Our Savior's Christmas Eve	25 9:00 am Worship at Faith Christmas Day	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28
29 9:00 am Worship at Our Savior's	30 Church office closed	31 Church office closed New Year's Eve				

The regular schedule resumes on Sunday, January 5: 8:00 worship at Our Savior's, 9:25 Sunday School at Faith, 10:30 worship at Faith