



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

Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches (ELCA)

Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Volume 38

January 2025

Number 1

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we know, Advent began our new church year, and it also means our Gospel readings are now coming to us from the Gospel according to Luke. We, like most mainline Protestant churches in this country, follow a three-year lectionary cycle for all of our readings. Each year focuses on a particular gospel book from Matthew, Mark, or Luke. John gets mixed in here and there throughout the years (and especially in Mark's year because it is the shortest!). While each of the four gospels tells the story of God's love for us and the whole world in Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, each of them has their own unique bend on the story.

Luke's gospel is where we find particular attention is paid to the voices of women and the sick, and out of all four gospels, it places the most emphasis on salvation in Jesus being for Jews and Gentiles (non-Jewish people) alike. Mary sings her Magnificat, the demon-possessed and sick engage in conversation with Jesus, and the parable of the Good Samaritan shows that God's love can come to us through people who we assume are enemies. In Luke we see how God's love is always reaching for the most unexpected people in the most unexpected places, and it is unexpected people often in unexpected places who will bring us the promises of God in Jesus.

As we journey through Luke this year, I invite you to pay attention to the unexpected places that God shows up in our gospel readings, and I invite you to pay attention to the unexpected places that God is and will be showing up in your life and in the life of our community. We trust that God is speaking to us still, that Jesus is always redeeming, and the Holy Spirit is always stirring up hearts and minds. May we notice it and may we be willing to join in.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Leah



JANUARY

Special Collection

The parish will be collecting winter wear through January. Please bring new (or very gently used) winter coats, hats and gloves 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.

Youth Schedule

Sundays - January 5, 12, 19

*** Sunday School ***

9:25 AM at Faith

Classes for preschool through twelfth grade

NO Sunday School on January 26,
so all can attend Annual Meetings.

Wednesdays - January 8, 15, 22, 29

*** Confirmation Classes ***

6:00 PM at Faith

*** Bible Jam ***

7:00 PM at Faith

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

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8

10:00 AM at Marsha Witte's home in DeWitt



January/February issue of *Gather* magazine

Noisy Offering – Sunday, January 19

The 2025 recipient will be chosen at the Councils/Committees Meeting on February 8.

Annual Reports

Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports for the congregations are due in the church office by Monday, January 13, 2025.

~ Annual Meetings ~

Sunday, January 26, 2025

following 8:00 worship at Our Savior's
and following 10:30 worship at Faith.

All confirmed members are eligible to vote and all members are encouraged to attend the meeting of their respective congregation.

Faith members will be voting on the recommended changes to the constitution.

Faith Constitution Update

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 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.

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.

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

Please submit items for the February newsletter and all financial reports to the church office by Monday, January 20.



Daxton Jean Heim, child of Brittney and Derrick Heim, was baptized on Sunday, December 1, at Our Savior's. Daxton's sponsors are Mikaela and Andrew Rock. Welcome this precious child of God to the Calamus Lutheran Parish.

Help Send a Warrior to Europe!

Peyton Grau is going to be a participant in the Iowa Ambassadors of Music 2025 European band tour. The tour will perform in 5 countries over 15 days. Peyton is looking for support to help offset expenses associated with this opportunity.

Donations can be sent to Peyton Grau, P.O. Box 33, Calamus, IA 52729 or you can Venmo to Heather Grau @Grau06.

Peyton thanks you for your prayers and support!



December Meetings

~ Joint Council ~

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Boussetot, Deb Detlefs, Amy Glover;

Faith: Terri Boussetot, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Mark Witte

Pastor's Report

- Presided at Henning/Barfield wedding at Faith on November 16th.
- Attended the SE IA Synod's "Evening of Gratitude" on November 17th at Trinity Lutheran, Pleasant Valley.
- Baptized Daxton Heim on December 1st at Our Savior's.
- Attended Calamus Wheatland Elementary Christmas concert.
- Will be absent on December 29th, but will prepare a sermon to be delivered by a lay member at the 9:00 AM worship at Our Savior's.

God Squad

- Christmas gifts were purchased for 14 Angel Tree recipients.
- Served the midweek Advent meal on December 11th.
- Bible Jam Christmas party was December 18th.

Education

- 20 Sunday School children presented a Christmas Program "Hope, Peace, Joy, Love" at Faith on December 15th.

Worship

- *Of the Land and Seasons* was the liturgy used at the Thanksgiving service and midweek Advent services.
- Feedback on the revised "Hanging of the Greens" service has been positive.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Canned goods and paper products were delivered to the Carroll Assistance Center following the Thanksgiving service.
- A winter clothing drive for the Carroll Assistance Center runs through January.

Old Business none

New Business

- Pastor's Salary - PCC recommended the 2025 salary for Pastor Leah. Seconded by Detlefs and carried.
- Secretary - Each congregation was reminded to budget for the secretarial position. Nicole Easterday will begin working in the office in February.
- *Living Lutheran* - The publication is returning to a print format with four issues per year. Each congregation will determine how to proceed with subscriptions.
- CLP Domain - T. Boussetot moved to renew with F&B Communications for three years. Seconded and carried.

~ Faith Council ~

Old Business

- Property and Management is tabling several projects until spring: putting up the sign out front, getting electricity to the corner light and sign, enclosing the parsonage steps, repairing the south kitchen sink, and installing a water temperature monitor.
- Ryan & Associates repaired the smaller boiler and the leak near the elevator. Invoice for the entire project will soon be received. An annual inspection of heating units will be scheduled for the fall.
- Plaster in upstairs hall and classroom was repaired at a cost of \$500.
- Basement floors were waxed at a cost of \$985.

New Business

- Parsonage storm door was damaged by strong winds and replaced with a new one.
- Witte will create a schedule for volunteers to paint the basement walls starting in January.

~ **Our Savior's** ~

Old Business none

New Business

- Advent Meal - Will put out a sign-up sheet for a potluck on Wednesday, December 18th.
- *Living Lutheran* - The publication is returning to a print format with four issues per year. Our Savior's will not purchase subscriptions, but provide the information about ordering to members and encourage them to subscribe on their own.

Next Joint Council Meeting

7:00 PM Thursday, January 16, at Faith

Councils/Committees Meeting

A Brainstorming Session to plan for 2025 is at
9:00 AM on Saturday, February 8, at Our Savior's.

MINSTERS for January 2025

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)

Shelley Witt-Gentile

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Daryl and Doreen Henning
Blaine and Kayla Henning

Acolyte:

Emily Grau

Communion Assistant:

Doreen Henning

Lectors:

January 5: Ashley Steffens
January 12: Doreen Henning
January 19: Laurie Storjohann
January 26: Dirk Braet

Altar Ministry:

David and Terri Boussetot

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Brian Boussetot

Acolyte:

Eva Burke

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lectors:

January 5: Dan Burke
January 12: Neil Holmquist
January 19: Cindy Burke
January 26: Marcia Edens

Cleaners:

Dan and Cindy Burke

January 2025 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 Church office closed New Year's Day	2 Church office closed	3 Church office closed	4
5 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	6 Epiphany	7	8 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	9	10	11
12 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	13 Financial reports, budgets and audit reports are due in the church office.	14 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	15 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	16 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	17	18
19 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	20 February newsletter items are due.	21	22 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	23	24	25
26 8:00 Worship – OS Our Savior's Annual Meeting NO Sunday School 10:30 Worship – F Faith Annual Meeting	27	28	29 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	30	31	