



*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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Number 2

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Since Easter is late this year, we get to spend a little longer than usual in this church season of “the Time After Epiphany.” The day of Epiphany, January 6th, celebrates the day that the three wise men or Magi visited the Christ-child, and we then remain in this “Time After Epiphany” until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The visit of the Magi to the Christ-child is significant because from the earliest days of Jesus’s life we see that Jesus is not just meant to be a savior for the Jewish people. Jesus is going to be a savior for the whole world and God’s kingdom in Jesus shall include all the ends of the earth.

We get to contemplate in the days from Epiphany until Ash Wednesday how Jesus is still showing up in unexpected ways in our world today. In each Sunday’s texts, we get to ask ourselves the question “What does this reveal to us about who Jesus is?” As humans we are prone to placing God in a box. We do this to try and better understand God, but we start to get into trouble when we think that our box and way of understanding God is the only box that exists. The reality is that God is always bigger and more loving and more forgiving towards others (and our own selves) than we imagine.

In this month of February, before we begin Lent, I would invite us to contemplate together where are the unexpected places we see God showing up, and how is God calling us as a community and as individuals to love others and ourselves more deeply. I pray that this noticing would lead us to further awe and wonder at how God is moving in God’s world. I pray that this noticing would lead us to faithful steps to love and serve as God has first loved and served us. I pray that we will always be willing to let God breakdown the boxes we try and fit God into.

Where is God unexpectedly showing up? How are we being called to love more deeply? Happy noticing and discerning dear siblings.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Leah



Youth Schedule for February

Sundays – February 2, 9, 16, 23

Sunday School

9:25 a.m. at Faith

Classes for preschool through twelfth grade

Wednesdays – February 5, 12, 19, 26

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!

Calamus Lutheran Parish Councils and Committees Retreat

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 8, at Our Savior's

All members of Faith's Council and Our Savior's Council and the members of the parish committees (Education, Worship, Christian Outreach) will gather to brainstorm ideas for ministry in 2025.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, February 12

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



January/February issue of *Gather* magazine

Noisy Offering – Sunday, February 16

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

Gods' work - Our hands

2024 activities . . .

The **Carroll Assistance Center** was the recipient of jars of **peanut butter** donated during Lent, **groceries** gathered at Thanksgiving, and **winter wear** collected in December. God Squad gathered supplies for the **Clinton County Humane Society** and purchased **Christmas gifts** for "angels." The children collected Noisy Offerings monthly at worship for **Calamus Wheatland Schools** and the children's weekly Sunday School offering was also for the Cal-Wheat schools. The "Feeding the Children" program provided **weekend meals** during the school year for seven Cal-Wheat students. The Calamus Wheatland Fun Days Basket Raffle proceeds were given to the **City of Calamus** to use for renovations at the park and creating a historical museum. Naomi Circle gave to **ELCA Good Gifts**. The congregations highlighted the 50th anniversary of **ELCA World Hunger** with monetary donations during October.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

ELCA's *Living Lutheran* magazine is returning as a print publication with four issues per year.

The cost of a one-year subscription will be \$19.95.

Sign up at www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe

Invoices will be sent in the spring.

Help Send a Warrior to Europe!

I am 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.

I am asking for financial support to help offset expenses associated with this opportunity.

Donations can be sent to me: Peyton Grau, P.O. Box 33, Calamus, IA 52729 or by Venmo to my mom: Heather Grau @Grau06.

I appreciate your prayers and support!

Sincerely, Peyton Grau



January Meetings

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025

Present: Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen;

Our Savior's: Jason Boussetol, Deb Detlefs, Amy Glover, Joe Morehead; **Faith:** Terri Boussetol, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley, and Mark Witte.

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Pastor's Report

- Presided at Advent and Christmas worship services.
- Attended Naomi Circle.
- Led Sunday Adult Bible Class.
- Assisted in the preparation of the Annual Reports for both congregations.
- Instructed the resumed Confirmation classes.
- Will be absent on Sunday, February 23.

Education Committee

- Decided to send the \$560 remaining in the Sunday School account at Faith (2016-2021) to ELCA Good Gifts (for girls to attend school).
- Sunday School offering of \$247 in 2024 will go to the same place as the 2024 Noisy Offering (C-W Schools).
- Distributed the Sunday School lesson schedule for the remainder of the year.
- May 11 will be the last day of Sunday School.
- Will consider using *Connect* curriculum in the future with older Sunday School students.
- Evaluated the Christmas program.
- Discussed Bible School.
- Seeking additional volunteers to serve on the education committee.

Worship Committee

- Evaluated "Hanging of the Greens" service; *Of the Land & Seasons* liturgy used at midweek Advent services, both Christmas services, and the two "Lessons and Carols" services.
- Setting 10 will be used in worship up to Easter.
- Ash Wednesday is March 5; no meal; 7:00 worship at Our Savior's
- Wednesday midweek services during Lent: March 12 and March 19 at Our Savior's; March 26, April 2, and April 9 at Faith; 6:15 meal and 7:00 worship. Pastor Leah and the confirmands will lead worship.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Totals of winter wear donated to the Carroll Assistance Center through January 15: 30 coats, 20 hats, 19 pairs of glove, 10 pairs of socks, and 10 sweatshirts.
- Possible 2025 activities: collect peanut butter, work the C-W baseball/softball stand, deliver freezer pops on the last day of school, and collect health kit items.

God Squad

- Held their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 18.

Old Business none

New Business

- Received a Thank You note from the Carroll Assistance Center stating gratitude for the donations of winter clothing.
- Financial support for the "Feeding the Children" program will continue to be a donation fund. Marsha Witte will submit a grant request to Theisen's for additional funding.
- Motion by B. Hoffmann to make the Church Directory payment annually instead of monthly to save \$25 annually. Seconded and carried. T. Boussetol will inform Instant Church Directory of the change.

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Old Business

- Several Property and Management projects are tabled until spring: new sign, upstairs ceiling, south kitchen sink repair, parsonage steps surround, and water temperature/leak monitor.
- M. Witte is getting bids from two contractors to paint the basement walls and lower hallway.

New Business

- *Living Lutheran* magazine is returning to a print format. Subscriptions will no longer be paid by Faith. The annual cost is \$19.95 for four issues. There is a subscription form on the Monthly Ministers page of this newsletter. Individuals may also subscribe by using this link: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/>

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Old Business

- Cry room will be located in an upstairs Sunday School rooms during the winter.

New Business

- Investments – J. Boussetol will talk to the Edward Jones investment agent about putting \$5,000 per quarter into a money market for easier access.
- Lenten Meals – Will have sign-up sheets for the meals at Our Savior's on Wednesdays, March 12 and 19.

Next Joint Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 13, at Our Savior's

MINSTERS for February 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: Judy Olson

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Diane and Herb Wilhelm
Rebecca and Adam Wilhelm

Acolyte:

Lucas Shorter

Communion Assistant:

Sharyl Banowetz

Lectors:

February 2: Marsha Witte
February 9: Annette Braet
February 16: Sharyl Banowetz
February 23: Mark Witte

Altar Ministry:

Diane and Herb Wilhelm

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Shane Glover

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Brian Bousselot

Lectors:

February 2: David Burke
February 9: Amy Glover
February 16: Melisa Jacobsen
February 23: Eva Burke

Cleaner:

Marcia Edens

February 2025 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clparish.org for more information.

OS = Our Savior's Church

F = Faith Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	3	4	5 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	6	7	8 9:00 am – 11:00 am Councils and Committees Retreat at Our Savior's
9 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	10	11 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	12 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	13 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Our Savior's Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Joint Council 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	17 March newsletter items are due. Presidents' Day	18	19 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	20	21	22
23 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Worship – F	24	25	26 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	27	28	