

Calamus Lutheran Parish
Faith & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches
P.O. Box 116
Calamus, Iowa 52729-0116

Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen.....262.914.9392



8:00 AM Sunday Worship

Faith Lutheran Church
505 Second Street, Calamus IA 52729



9:30 AM Sunday School, Adult Study

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



10:30 AM Sunday Worship

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

Church Office.....563.246.2622

Pastor's Office.....563.246.2558

Church email address.....clparish@fbcom.net

Church Website.....www.clparish.org



This is the Feast

November 2025



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

Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches (ELCA)

Calamus Lutheran Parish

P.O. Box 116, Calamus, IA 52729

Phone: 563-246-2622

Email: clparish@fbcom.net

Website: www.clparish.org

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



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

Volume 38

November 2025

Number 11

Pastor's View

Dear Sibling in Christ,

The first Sunday of November we celebrate All Saints' Sunday where we remember our connectedness through Christ to all the baptized both living and dead. However, we especially remember our connectedness to those who have died, and in particular those whom we love who have died in the past year. I want to share two reflections by Henri Nouwen from his book, *Bread for the Journey*. Nouwen was a Catholic priest from the Netherlands, who primarily wrote about pastoral care, spirituality, social justice, and community. I pray that these will bring comfort and perspective as we remember what it means that through Christ we are all connected.

Peace,

Pastor Leah

In Memory of Jesus and the Saints

Belonging to the communion of saints means being connected with all people transformed by the Spirit of Jesus. This connection is deep and intimate. Those who have lived as brothers and sisters of Jesus continue to live within us, even though they have died, just as Jesus continues to live within us, even though he has died. We live our lives in memory of Jesus and the saints, and this memory is a real presence. Jesus and his saints are part of our most intimate and spiritual knowledge of God. They inspire us, guide us, encourage us, and give us hope. They are the source of our constant transformation. Yes, we carry them in our hearts and thus keep them alive for all with whom we live and work.

Hearts as Wide as the World

The awareness of being part of the communion of saints makes our hearts as wide as the world. The love with which we love is not just our love; it is the love of Jesus and his saints living in us. When the Spirit of Jesus lives in our hearts, all who have lived their lives in that Spirit live there too. Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents; our teachers and their teachers; our pastors and their pastors; our spiritual guides and theirs—all the holy men and women who form that long line of love through history—are part of our hearts, where the Spirit of Jesus chooses to dwell.

The communion of saints is not just a network of connections between people. It is first and foremost the community of our hearts.



November Cover Letter – Art Work

Thank you for the wonderful artwork for the November Cover Page!

Set Your Clocks Back!



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 2nd**



Ida Jane Nilsen, daughter of Pastor Leah and Pastor Stephen Nilsen, was born on October 7th at 6:34am. Leslie is in love with her little sister. Congratulations on your new bundle of joy!

BIG THANK YOU FROM GOD SQUAD

God Squad would like to give a big Thank You to everyone who made the Halloween Fun Night a success! God Squad raised enough money to sponsor 5 Angel's for Christmas!

Spirit, Open Our Hearts – Afternoon with Bishop Current

Join Bishop Current for an afternoon of fellowship, conversation, and worship on Sunday, November 16th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge. Bishop Current will share stories of the impact of mission support over the last year with words of gratitude. This gathering is for anyone interested in gathering with people from other area congregations and hearing more about the ministry we do together as the Southeastern Iowa Synod and beyond.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, November 19, 2025
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



September/October/November issue of
Gather magazine

Fall Schedule



8:00 AM Worship

Faith Church

505 Second Street, Calamus



9:30 AM Sunday School

Our Savior's Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus



10:30 AM Worship

Our Savior's Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus

Thank you for the military donations!

Thank you for the donations to the military.
The troops are really appreciated of all the goodies!



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 23rd
at Faith ~ 5:00PM



*The offering is paper products and canned goods
for the Carroll Assistance Center, Wheatland.*

*The collection will begin
November 2nd at both churches.*

**Pie and ice cream will be served in the
fellowship hall following worship.**

**God Squad will be hosting a Bake Sale to raise
money for the 2025 Angel Tree Project!**

Meals for Youth attending Bible Jam

Do you enjoy cooking or have a favorite meal you
would like to share with our youth?
We are looking for volunteers to help prepare meals
on Wednesday nights.

Contact Heather Grau at 563-424-0507 for more
information or to sign up.

Outreach Committee Report

The Christian Outreach Committee works to provide an opportunity for the church to connect with the community. Peanut butter was collected during Lent which was given to the Carroll Assistance Center. Freezer pops were handed out to the Cal-Wheat students following their school clean-up day in May. Hot dogs were grilled for everyone following Bible School and volunteers ran the Calamus concession stand one evening during the ball season. Coffee and donuts were served before worship in the park in August.

The committee will be collecting paper products and canned goods during November and hats, coats, and gloves in December to be donated to the Carroll Assistance Center. Pie and ice cream will be provided for the fellowship gathering following the Sunday evening Thanksgiving worship service.

The committee continues to organize the "Feeding the Children" program. Eight Cal-Wheat children receive food for the weekend during the school year. Thanks go to the people who have donated food items and have volunteered to take the food bags to school each week.

Christian Outreach Committee members:
Amy Glover, Deb Tulley and Mark Witte

Parental Leave Information

While Pastor Leah is on Parental Leave please contact the following Pastors.

Pastor Dennis Rodenberg will cover all emergencies and funerals, if he is unavailable
Pastor Roberta can be contacted as a back up to him.

Pastor Dennis Rodenberg at 563-880-5345 or
email at pastorzion@netins.net
If he is unavailable by phone please contact

Pastor Roberta Pierce at 406-478-9518 or email at
prrmbp10@gmail.com



Planning for December...



**Calamus Lutheran Parish
Sunday School Program Presents:**

“Twas the Night Before Christmas”

Sunday, December 14th, 2025

10:30 am at Our Savior’s Church
(during church service)

Parents of Sunday School age children PK-
6th grade, mark your calendar for these
rehearsal dates:

Wednesday, December 3rd 5:45-6:30 pm
at Our Savior’s before Advent Service

Wednesday, December 10th 5:45-6:30 pm
at Our Savior’s before Advent Service

Saturday, December 13th 9:30-10:30 am
Dress rehearsal at Our Savior’s

Sunday, December 14th during normal
Sunday School hours 9:30-10:15am

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

Location: Minneapolis

Dates of Gathering: June 28th- July 2nd, 2027

Who can Attend: Youth 8th to 12th Grade in 2026

The ELCA Youth Gathering is an amazing opportunity to see and experience your youth faith community. Watch for upcoming announcements about informational meetings.

Let Heather or Pastor Leah know if you have any questions or are interested in attending!

Please submit **December newsletter items**
to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net)
by Monday, November 17th.
Thank you for your cooperation!

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



October Meetings

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: October 16, 2025

Present: Jason, Deb, Dan and Joe

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Renter
 - The renter is moving out the first week in November.
 - If Nicole receives a request, she will email all council members to figure out who can help.
 - Will get REC account switched to the church.
 - Declined offer to purchase laundry washer and dryer.
- Lift Inspection
 - Was inspected on October 14th and passed.
- Piano Tuning
 - Jason will contact; this past tune did not hold too well.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: October 16, 2025

Present: John Baur, Terri Bousselot, Mitch Christensen, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley and Mark Witte

Treasurer's Report:

- Cardstock for Sunday School will be purchased with funds from that account.
- The negative balance in the Feed the Children account may change pending a Theisens grant request.
- Motion by Bousselot to approve the September report as printed. Tulley seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion by Tulley to approve the September report as printed. Baur seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Dohrmann Plumbing repaired the south kitchen sink.
- The area near the sign has been seeded twice. The area near the sign will be reseeded in the Spring. Trim will be added to the perimeter of the sign.
- Two bids for replacing air condition units (two interior, two exterior) in the sanctuary were received: Dohrmann - \$15,760; Bernie's Heating & Plumbing - \$5605. Motion by Bousselot to accept the \$5605 bid. Shelton seconded. Motion carried. The units will offer heating and cooling and have great capacity than the existing units.
- Ceiling repair: Tabled
- Pam Goldsmith will submit a bid for painting the sanctuary which will include the high areas.
- The service provider for bats found one exterior entry point on October 2nd. To date, no bats have been seen.

New Business

- The urinal in the basement bathroom does not turn off. Tulley will look at it.
- Ryan & Associates completed their annual inspection of the boiler. A relief valve was installed, pressure gauge checked, and steam boiler cleaned. Cost was \$1,718.61. The boiler should pass inspection.
- EWALU invited two people to attend a meeting to raise 1 million dollars for camp improvements. See information posted on the bulletin board at Faith.
- A donor has offered to replace the pine trees on the north side of the church. Their appearance has improved a little since they were trimmed. The consensus was to wait and see if the trees continue to improve and then address replacement.



October Meetings

~~ Joint Council ~~

Date: October 16, 2025

Present: Our Saviors: Dan, Jason, Deb, and Joe; **Faith:** Terri, Luke, Mark, Mitch, Brian and John

Pastor's Report

- No Report

Old Business:

- A PC backup drive for the office computer was purchased and installed by Dan Burke. Cost was \$60.00

New Business:

- The PCC will meet prior to the November Joint Council Meeting.

Worship Committee

Date: October 16, 2025

Present: Andrea, Deb, Terri, Jason, Dan and Linda

- All Saint's Sunday
 - Will pull the name list on October 26th.
 - Had a request for a congregation member to come up and read names.
- Reformation Sunday
 - Reviewed questions from Nicole about format.
 - No communion will be held.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service
 - Service will be held at Faith at 5:00 pm on November 23rd.
 - Worship Committee Lead, no sermon.
 - Doing of the Land and Seasons
 - Faith Worship Committee will appoint a leader for the service.
- Advent
 - Dan will lead at Our Savior's, Faith leader TBD.
 - Holden Evening Prayer will be used for Advent Services.
 - Respective Worship Committee Members will assist the youth in leading the services – Dec. 3rd, 10th at Our Savior's and Dec. 17th at Faith.
- Bulletin Format (Revision to general bulletins)
 - Will table review of format until January when Pastor returns. Discussed a revision to add: Gathering, Word, Communion, and Sending.
- Andrea Shelton volunteered to make calls for food donations for funerals at Faith.

Christian Outreach Committee

- No report

God Squad

- No report

Education Committee

Date: October 15, 2025

Present: Rebecca Shorter, Cindy Burke, Eric Hoffmann, and John Baur

- Christmas Program – “Twas the Night Before Christmas”. Discussed parts and who could fit with each role – can practice some lines in Sunday School Rehearsals:
 - Dec. 3rd – before Advent Service 5:45 pm
 - Dec. 10th – before Advent Service 5:45 pm
 - Dec. 13th – Dress Rehearsal at 9:30 am
 - Dec. 14th – Sunday School hour final rehearsal/dressing/prep for program, perform for worship.
- Rebecca will reach out to Nicole for announcing dates for newsletter.
- Probably no caroling this year after the Saturday rehearsals.
- Sunday School – Cardstock paper – possibly lean towards white for future to allow kids to color, but still use up what we have in the church office.
- Worked out printing totals of lesson plans – K-2: 8 for pre-k class + 7 for 1-3 class; 3-4 8 for class 4-6.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: November 13th, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

Education Committee Meeting

Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for November 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: Sharyl & Larry Banowetz

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Terri & David Boussetot

Acolyte:

Oliver Barnes

Communion Assistant:

Mark Witte

Lectors:

November 2: Annette Braet

November 9: Sharyl Banowetz

November 16: Mark Witte

November 23: Terri Boussetot

November 30: Yale Christensen

Altar Ministry:

Terri & David Boussetot

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Brian Boussetot

Acolyte:

William Burke

Communion Assistant:

Neil Holmquist

Lectors:

November 2: Jason Boussetot

November 9: Joe Morehead

November 16: Rachel Burke

November 23: Dan Burke

November 30: Brian Boussetot

Cleaners:

Brian Boussetot & Mary Timmerman

November 2025 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 All Saints Sunday 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	3	4 Election Day	5 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	10	11 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus Veterans Day	12 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm Education Committee 6:00 pm at Faith	13 Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	14	15
16 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	17 December newsletter items are due.	18	19 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	20	21	22
23 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship – OS Thanksgiving Service at Faith 5:00 pm 30 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship – OS	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29

Advent begins Sunday, November 30th