



*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 1

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

A Happy New Year to you all! First, a huge thank you to everyone who made parental leave possible for me and Baby (I'm writing this before going on leave, so by the time you read this, we will all know sex and name, so feel free to insert this information in your mind's eye). It is a blessing to serve in a place where we strive to honor and support the many vocations each of us have, and I am ever so grateful for the support I receive from you all as a parent of young humans. Thank you, truly, thank you.

We are wrapping up our Advent and Christmas season, as we always do in January. The 12 days of Christmas are the 12 days following Christmas culminating on January 6th with Epiphany. I find myself reflecting on these seasons of Advent and Christmas as a whole. They are seasons of deep meaning, deep grief, and deep joy. As we move from these holy seasons refreshed and comforted and awed that God has come to earth in the Baby Jesus, may this blessing from Meta Herrick Carlson for the Twelfth Night of Christmas help hold Emmanuel in your very being until we journey these seasons again.

For Twelfth Night

Build a fire

and stack it up higher

to light the whole night

with feast, song, and pyre.

Tonight is ablaze

with stardust inflamed

creation and cosmos

together reclaimed.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



Congratulations to
Karragan Whitman and Scott Anderson
on their wedding at Faith Lutheran Church on
Saturday, December 13th, 2025.

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Scott Anderson!

***Wishing you both a lifetime
filled with love and happiness!***

Annual Reports

Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports for the congregations are due in the church office by Monday, January 12, 2026.

**** Annual Meetings ****

Sunday, January 25th, 2026

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

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

Special Collection of Warm Clothing

During the month of January, 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.



Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14th
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home

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.

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes on January 4th
at Our Savior's

Confirmation & Bible Jam

Confirmation and Bible Jam resumes on
January 7th at 6:00 pm at Faith



Prayers of Intercession



Please submit **February newsletter items**
to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net)
by Monday, January 19th.
Thank you for your cooperation!

Each Sunday when we gather for worship we have time of intercessory prayer. While this is an important part of our worship, we may not always know why we do it or what it means. Our prayers of intercession are, in short, asking God to be God to act in this world as God has promised us God will move and act in the world. These prayers are meant to be timely to current happenings at local, national, and global levels.

The Worship Committee and Pastor Leah have heard the request for members of our parish to offer up their own intercessions. This certainly fits in line with the meaning behind our prayers of intercession, because while we try to address the many things happening in our lives and world, we certainly cannot perfectly address them all. Here is how Worship Committee and Pastor Leah plan to honor this request...

- 1) Please submit in writing your prayer petition to Pastor Leah by the Wednesday preceding the upcoming Sunday.
- 2) Please be brief. 1-3 sentences will suffice.
- 3) Pastor Leah may edit or reject your petition. We are a parish filled with people of diverse opinions and experiences, and we hope our prayers reflect this reality. Pastor Leah will communicate any suggested edits, and the petition will not be prayed without full agreement from the writer and Pastor Leah.
- 4) We will start asking for petitions from members in January, with plans to include them in the prayers of intercession in February.
- 5) Honoring deaths within and connected to our community will still be prayed in the final petition where we give thanks to God for all those saints who have died.

The Worship Committee and Pastor Leah appreciate hearing from our parish on ways to enhance our communal worship life together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Leah or a member of the Worship Committee.

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



Church Office Closed
The church office will be closed
January 1st – January 5th.

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!



December Meetings

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: December 10, 2025

Present: Dan, Amy, Deb and Jason.

Treasurer's Report:

- Reports were distributed and reviewed.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Reports were distributed and reviewed.

Old Business

- Piano Tuning
 - Piano Tuning has been completed.
- Renter
 - Refunded deposit.
 - No application yet for potential future renters.
 - No solid interest yet.
 - Will ask the congregation if they want to paint or if we should hire out the main floor bathroom.

New Business

- KWQC Postings
 - Jason has the account for KWQC for posting cancellations.
 - Our Savior's has a separate posting for when only Our Savior's is cancelled.
- Annual Meeting
 - Will add bathroom remodel.
 - Will mention parsonage painting.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: December 10, 2025

Present: Terri Boussetot, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton and Mark Witte.

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Boussetot to approve the November report as read. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion by Boussetot to approve the November report as printed. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Ceiling Repair
 - Joe Morrissey and A. Anderson completed the repair.
- Painting of Sanctuary
 - Shelton, Boussetot, and Witte will seek possible contractors.

New Business

- Annual Boiler Inspection
 - The annual boiler inspection went well. One pipe needs to be replaced and the on/off switches must be relocated to the outside of the boiler room. Repairs are to be completed by December 19th. An extension for more time will be requested.
- ELCA Donation to World Hunger
 - ELCA requested a donation to World Hunger – South Sudan. This donation will be matched if submitted by December 31st. Motion by Boussetot to donate \$100. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.
- C-W After Prom
 - Motion by Boussetot to donate \$50 to C-W After Prom. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried.
- Faith Council – Advent Meal
 - Faith Council will serve the Advent Meal on December 17th.
- Annual Meeting
 - Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2026 after worship service.



December Meetings

~~ Joint Council ~~

Date: December 10, 2025

Present: Our Saviors: Jason Bousselot, Dan Burke, Deb Detlefs, and Amy Glover.

Faith: Terri Bousselot, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton and Mark Witte.

Pastor's Report

- No Report

Old Business:

- Security Systems for the parish computer will be researched by Dan Burke.

New Business:

- Annual Meetings
 - Annual Meetings will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 after worship services.
 - No Sunday School will be held.
 - Services at normal times.

Worship Committee

- Did not meet.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Delivered food to the Carroll Assistance Center.
- Will continue collecting cold weather outerwear through January for the Carroll Assistance Center.

God Squad

- No Report

Education Committee

- Program rehearsals are going well.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: January 15th, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

Education Committee Meeting

Date: January 14th, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

Worship Committee Meeting

Date: January 14th, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for January 2026

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: Doreen Henning & Diane Wilhelm

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Doreen & Daryl Henning
Kayla & Blaine Henning

Acolyte:

Lucas Shorter

Communion Assistant:

Tysen Steffens

Lectors:

January 4: Tysen Steffens
January 11: Sarah Tulley
January 18: Petyon Grau
January 25: Ashley Steffens

Altar Ministry:

Annette & Dirk Braet

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lector:

January 4: Cindy Burke
January 11: Amy Glover
January 18: Eva Burke
January 25 Jason Bousselot

Cleaners:

Cindy & Dan Burke

January 2026

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