

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

**Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen.....262.914.9392**

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**8:00 AM Sunday Worship**

Faith Lutheran Church  
505 Second Street, Calamus IA 52729

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**9:30 AM Sunday School, Adult Study**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2589 – 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Calamus, IA 52729

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**10:30 AM Sunday Worship**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2589 – 190<sup>th</sup> 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**





*Faith  
Lutheran Church  
505 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)

Website: [www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



*Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
2589 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Calamus, IA 52729*

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**February 2026**

Number 2

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### **Pastor's View**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Towards the end of this month, we will begin our journey through Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday. In the early church, one of the purposes of Lent was a time of solemn preparation for new followers of Jesus for their baptisms. Baptisms used to be done just once a year on Easter Sunday, and adults who wished to be baptized (infant baptism was not prominent until the 2<sup>nd</sup> century) spent the 40 days of Lent praying and learning more about their newfound faith in Jesus Christ. It was a time of genuine, not shameful, reflection on where a person had been, where they are now, and who God was calling them to be anew in Jesus.

While the practice of Lent as preparation for baptism is not as common in our time, Lent is still a time for us of genuine, not shameful, reflection on where we have been, where we are now, and who God is calling us to be anew in Jesus Christ. I invite each of us to consider these questions throughout Lent, and to consider them in a variety of avenues. How would you answer these questions with regards (1) to yourself, (2) to our church and parish, (3) to our country and world, and (4) within the important relationships in your life? Hopefully, our pondering of these questions points us to the already here, and yet still coming kingdom of God and how God is calling us to participate in what God is already up to. Lent invites us to more deeply ponder “thy kingdom come, thy will be done” from the Lord’s Prayer so that we keep on putting Christ in the center of all that we say and do.

The more somber journey of Lent fills us with expectation for the joy of Easter, but as we make this journey together, we know that we are not alone. We are led by Christ, and Christ has given us the gift of each other and many other relationships in our lives. Let us enter into this season of reflection with honesty and expectation. Honesty about how God is calling us to live more fully as God desires for us, God’s children, to live with each other and all people and all creation. And expectation that God will do as God always does and show up for us and with us in unexpected and delightful ways.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Blessings on the journey ahead of us.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Leah



**February Cover Letter – Art Work**  
*Thank you for the wonderful artwork for  
the February Cover Page!*

**Parish Retreat**  
Christian Outreach Committee will host the Parish Retreat for all the Parish Committee members on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Faith.

**Naomi Circle Bible Study**  
Wednesday, February 11th  
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



**Bishop Amy Current will preside at Faith and Our Savior's Worship Services on February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Ida Jane Nilsen will be baptized at the 10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's  
Cake Reception will follow worship

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026**



7:00 pm Worship Service  
at Faith

No meal will be served on  
Ash Wednesday

**Midweek Lenten Services**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>**  
at Faith  
7:00 pm

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>**  
at Our Savior's  
7:00 pm  
A meal precedes each service at 6:15 pm

**40 Days of Giving**  
Jars of peanut butter will be collected for the Carroll Assistance Center during the 40 days of Lent from Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup> through Easter Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The jars of peanut butter can be any brand and any size; smooth or chunky.

**Gratitude**  
The participation of everyone who assisted in leading services during Pastor Leah's maternity leave was greatly appreciated. It allowed us to worship together and continue our fellowship of faith. Pastor Leah was well-prepared in organizing guest pastors, volunteers, and writing sermons. We look forward to the new year knowing our shared experiences have made our parish stronger in service and support of each other and the community. Thank you!  
- Worship Committee -



# February

## Thank you

Thank you all so very much for donating coats, hats, gloves and scarves. We are always in need of these items. Your generosity will not be forgotten.

God Bless you all!  
- The staff at the CAC -

## Mission Quilts and Fabric Kits

Our parish will gather Mission Quilts and Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

1. **Mission Quilts** – provide quilts to people needing something to keep them warm or covered after a weather-related disaster or life-changing event. Skills needed: measure and cut fabric, sew, tie layers together.
2. **Fabric Kits** – provide fabric and thread to people who may then create items to sell as a way to make a living. Skill needed: purchase fabric in required measurements, purchase thread. An information sheet which provides specific details for each item is available at both churches.

If you have questions, please contact:  
Terri Bousselot  
[terribushlow@hotmail.com](mailto:terribushlow@hotmail.com)  
563-210-3269

## Youth Schedule for February & March

### Sunday School

9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's  
Classes for preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

### Confirmation

February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>

NO classes in March.

Confirmands will assist with  
midweek Lenten services.

### Bible Jam

7:30 p.m. following midweek Lenten services  
Junior High and High School students are welcome  
to come for faith, fellowship, and fun!

## 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.



## Prayer Chain

One of the many ways our parish shows up as the Body of Christ for each other is through our Prayer Chain ministry. When members have a more immediate or pressing prayer request that they would like multiple people within our parish to pray about, they reach out to Pastor Leah or Nicole and ask for a Prayer Chain email to be sent on their behalf from the church office. Members of the Prayer Chain, upon receiving and reading the email then pray for or about whatever the request is. Throughout the Bible, we are reminded of how prayer, praying for one another, and being prayed for by others draws us closer together as the Body of Christ.

If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, please reach out to Pastor Leah or Nicole to have your name and email added to the list. If you are ever in need of a Prayer Chain request, please always contact Pastor Leah or Nicole. There is no request that is insignificant or too small!

As always, we give thanks to God for the gift of prayer and the ways we are the Body of Christ to one another and the world.

## Prayers of Intercession

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.

# Looking ahead...



## First Communion Class

First Communion Class will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at Faith.

Class is open to all ages. Especially encouraged for those who have never been. Please RSVP to Pastor, but anyone is welcome without RSVP.

Please submit **March** newsletter items to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by Monday, February 16th. Thank you for your cooperation!

## 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

**Location:** Minneapolis

**Dates of Gathering:** June 28<sup>th</sup>- July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2027

**Who can Attend:** Youth 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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!



## HOLY WEEK

### Palm Sunday – March 29

8:00 am Worship at Faith  
9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's  
10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

### Maundy Thursday – April 2

7:00 pm Worship at Faith

### Good Friday – April 3

7:00 pm Worship at Our Savior's

### Easter Sunday – April 5

8:00 am Worship at Faith  
9:00 am Breakfast at Faith  
9:45 am Easter Egg Hunt at Faith  
10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

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



# January Meetings

## ~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: January 15, 2026

Present: Dan, Amy, Deb and Jason

### Treasurer & Financial Secretary's Reports:

- Will Froeschle recommended at our investment level to have some level of cash, about 5%, in a cash money market account. Motion by Deb to approve to fund the money market at 10K/quarter, seconded by Dan. Motion carried unanimously.

### Old Business

- Renter
  - Have had a couple of people interested, we passed the names on to Brian.
  - Found the application and sent on to Nicole.

### New Business

- Easterday Family Membership transfer to Faith
  - Motion by Dan and seconded by Deb. Motion carried unanimously.
- Annual Meeting Topics
  - Bathroom remodel
  - Parsonage painting
  - Cemetery Gravesite Opening/Closing Fee – Currently \$750 a piece; suggestion is to raise to \$1000
- 2027 Budget
  - Reviewed and motioned to recommend it to the congregation by Dan, seconded by Amy. Motion carried unanimously.

## ~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: January 15, 2026

Present: John Baur, Luke Shelton, Mark Witte, Terri Bousselot

### Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Bousselot to approve the December 2025 report as printed. Bousselot seconded. Motion carried.

### Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion by Baur to approve the December report as printed. Bousselot seconded. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

- No contractor has been found to paint the sanctuary and upper hallways. Bousselot continues to contact O'Donnell Painting in Davenport. They painted Our Savior's sanctuary. O'Donnell Painting have not replied to phone messages or texts.
- Water damage is visible in the newly repaired south sanctuary wall. No damage is seen upstairs. The water may be entering by the gutter/roof corner near the front entrance.
- Boiler
  - Eric Hoffmann installed the boiler switches outside of the boiler room as required. Witte scheduled a February 24<sup>th</sup> inspection to address concerns from the state.

### New Business

- Large quantities of accumulated items in mailboxes may be removed.
- Motion by Shelton to accept transfer to membership to the Easterday family from Our Savior's to Faith. Baur seconded. Motion carried.
- Faith Council will serve the February 25<sup>th</sup> Lenten meal at 6:15 pm. Menu is yet to be determined.
  - A sign-up sheet for hosts of the March 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten meal will be presented. If no one volunteers, a potluck meal may be held.
- Funds for the Feeding the Children program should be sufficient until May of 2026. Mark and Marsha Witte will seek grants from Thrivent and Theisen's for the 2026-2027 school year. It costs approximately \$85.00 per child. Currently, 12 children are being served.



# January Meetings

## ~~ Joint Council ~~

**Date: January 15, 2026**

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

**Faith:** John Baur, Luke Shelton, Mark Witte, Terri Bousselot and Pastor Leah.

### Pastor's Report

- Expressed gratitude to everyone who assisted during her maternity leave.
- Attended Ethical Boundaries training while on leave.
- Has returned to her usual duties.
- Presided at the Whitman/Anderson wedding in December.
- Pastor is assisting with the preparation of Annual Meeting materials.
- Bishop Current will preside at both February 15<sup>th</sup> worship services. Ida will be baptized at the 10:30 am service at Our Savior's.
- Adult Education is going through mission work.

### Old Business:

- Dan Burke presented software securing options for the parish. Motion by Burke to purchase a plan which costs \$35 for the first year and \$70 per year thereafter. This will include three devices. Detlefs seconded. Motion carried.

### New Business:

- A computer which uses Windows 11 was donated to the parish by Dan and Cindy Burke & family. Dan transferred all content and is updating the software.
- Concerns about security regarding the Church Directory were discussed. Members are encouraged to be cautious about opening emails and texts. Any request for information about members is to be directed to Nicole Easterday, the Parish Secretary, or Pastor Leah.
- The Parish Retreat for all Parish Committee members will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Faith.
- All Committee Meeting – Will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Faith.

### Worship Committee

- Reviewed Advent and Christmas Worship services.
  - All seemed to go well.
  - Appreciated all of the pulpit supply and volunteers.
- Ash Wednesday / Lent
  - Ash Wednesday at Faith (2/18) No meal will be served.
  - Lent 2 & 3 at Faith (2/25 and 3/4)
  - Lent 4, 5 and 6 at Our Savior's (3/11, 3/18 and 3/25).
  - Maundy Thursday at Faith (4/2).
  - Good Friday at Our Savior's (4/3).
  - All services will be held at 7:00 pm, meal on Lent 2-6 at 6:15 pm.
  - Confirmation students will lead Lent 2-6 services.
- Worship Settings
  - Setting 10 will be used through January 25<sup>th</sup>. Setting 3 will be used beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- February 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Bishop Current will be here for Ida's baptism.
  - Bishop Current will be preside at both services.
  - Pastor Stephen's church will be cancelling so members can attend baptism at Our Savior's.
  - Cake will follow after worship at Our Savior's.
- Intercessions
  - Have received one set of requests, will start them in February.
- Youth Lead Worship
  - Thinking April 12<sup>th</sup> or April 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Will be at Our Savior's

### Christian Outreach Committee

- Winter Clothing will be collected through the end of January.
- Peanut butter will be gathered during Lent.
- Will host the Parish Retreat for all Parish Committee members on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Faith.



# January Meetings

## God Squad

### Old Business:

- Reviewed Account Balances (no concerns)
- Advent Meal from December 2025
  - Raised \$174 and voted to send to the Lutheran Disaster Relief.
- Angel Tree
  - Raised \$769 (Halloween & Thanksgiving Bake Sale).
  - Enabled us to Sponsor 9 Angels this year.
  - Thank you for the support of this annual tradition.
- 2025 Christmas Party
  - We had 9 Youth and 2 Adults attend, we enjoyed snacks, games, and gifts.
  - Youth voted to continue with tradition in 2026.

### New Business:

- Youth Led Worship Services
  - Discussed 2026 theme, t-shirts (purple) and cause to support (Local Homeless Shelters).
  - Need to contact Worship Committee about Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> or April 19<sup>th</sup> for this annual event.
- Lent Supper 2026
  - Voted for spaghetti casserole and sides.
- 2027 Youth Gathering Intro
  - Save the Dates, June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Minneapolis, MN.
  - Open to anyone currently in 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Grade.
  - Provided youth with information, open discussion about 2024 Gathering and to start thinking about fundraising ideas.

### Other Business:

- Lock-In 2026
  - Discussed dates in March for this event.

### Education Committee

**Present:** Cindy Burke, John Baur, Pastor Leah

- Christmas Program
  - "Twas the Night Before Christmas" - Weather did not cooperate, but went well otherwise.
- Sunday School
  - Cardstock works and lines up well, white works well for coloring. Nicole has all remaining lessons for printing.
- Communion Instruction Class
  - Tuesday or Thursday in early March. Possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup>, but avoid Spring Break week (16<sup>th</sup>).
- VBS
  - Start considering dates, need to check school and ball schedules. Schools have early-outs on Fridays. If still have VBS in May – one day or multiple? Possibly try a Saturday in June? Check with previous volunteers on preferences.

### **\*\*Next Meetings Scheduled\*\***

#### Joint Council

Date: February 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Our Savior's

#### Education Committee Meeting

Date: February 11, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

#### Worship Committee Meeting

Date: February 12, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Our Savior's

## **MINSTERS for February 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: Judy Olson**

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

### **FAITH CHURCH**

#### **Ushers:**

Diane & Herb Wilhelm  
Rebecca & Adam Wilhelm

#### **Acolyte:**

Olivia Hoffmann

#### **Communion Assistant:**

Doreen Henning

#### **Lectors:**

February 1: Doreen Henning  
February 8: Mark Witte  
February 15: Dirk Braet  
February 22: Marsha Witte

#### **Altar Ministry:**

Diane & Herb Wilhelm

### **OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH**

#### **Usher:** Dan Burke

**Acolyte:**  
Rachel Burke

**Communion Assistant:**  
Brian Bousselot

**Lector:**  
February 1: Joe Morehead  
February 8: Rachel Burke  
February 15: Brian Bousselot  
February 22: Dan Burke

**Cleaners:**  
Deb and Ray Detlefs

# February 2026      Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website [www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org) for more information.

OS = Our Savior's Church

F = Faith Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	2	3	4 <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	5	6	7 <b>Parish Retreat</b> 9:00 am at Faith
8 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	9	10 <b>“Meet and Eat”</b> Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	11 <b>Naomi Circle</b> Marsha Witte's home 10:00 am <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>Education Committee</b> 7:00 pm at Faith	12 <b>Worship Committee</b> 6:30 pm at Our Savior's <b>Joint Council</b> 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	13	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>
15 <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS  <b>Bishop Current presides at both congregations for Ida's Baptism.</b>	16 March newsletter items are due.  <b>President's Day</b>	17	18 <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	19	20	21
22 <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School 10:30 Worship – OS	23	24	25 <b>Meal</b> 6:15 pm at Faith <b>Worship</b> 7:00 pm at Faith <b>Bible Jam</b> 7:30 pm at Faith	26	27	28

