

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

Send God Your
LOVE



February 2026



*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 39

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Number 2

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 2nd 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



**Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026**



7:00 pm Worship Service
at Faith

No meal will be served on
Ash Wednesday

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 7th at 9:00 am at Faith.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, February 11th
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



Midweek Lenten Services

February 25th and March 4th

at Faith
7:00 pm

March 11th, March 18th, March 25th

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 18th through Easter
Sunday on April 5th. The jars of peanut butter can be any
brand and any size; smooth or chunky.

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

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

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** -



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 -

Youth Schedule for February & March

Sunday School

9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's

Classes for preschool through 12th grade

Confirmation

February 4th and February 11th

NO classes in March.

Confirmants 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!

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 Boussetot

terribushlow@hotmail.com

563-210-3269

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 3rd 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 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!



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 Boussetot

Treasurer's Report:

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

Financial Secretary's Report:

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

Old Business:

- No contractor has been found to paint the sanctuary and upper hallways. Boussetot 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 24th 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 25th Lenten meal at 6:15 pm. Menu is yet to be determined.
 - A sign-up sheet for hosts of the March 4th 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 15th 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 7th at 9:00 am at Faith.
- All Committee Meeting – Will be held on February 7th 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 25th. Setting 3 will be used beginning February 1st.
- February 15th
 - 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 12th or April 19th
 - 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 7th at 9:00 am at Faith.

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 12th or April 19th for this annual event.
- Lent Supper 2026
 - Voted for spaghetti casserole and sides.
- 2027 Youth Gathering Intro
 - Save the Dates, June 28th-July 2nd in Minneapolis, MN.
 - Open to anyone currently in 7th-11th 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.



January Meetings

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 3rd, but avoid Spring Break week (16th).
- 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 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 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	5	6	7 Parish Retreat 9:00 am at Faith
8 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS	9	10 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	11 Naomi Circle Marsha Witte's home 10:00 am Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	12 Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Joint Council 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship – OS Bishop Current presides at both congregations for Ida's Baptism.	16 March newsletter items are due. President's Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	19	20	21
22 First Sunday of Lent 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School 10:30 Worship – OS	23	24	25 Meal 6:15 pm at Faith Worship 7:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:30 pm at Faith	26	27	28

