

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



**9:25 AM Sunday School, Adult Study**

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



**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**

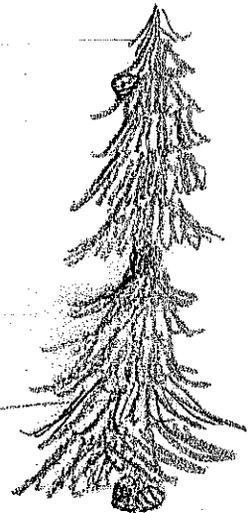
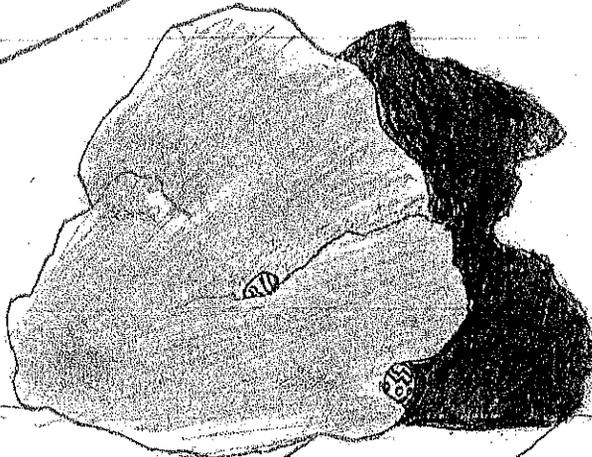
**Church email address.....clparish@fbcom.net**

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

Jesus

is

Risen



**April 2026**



*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)



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

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Volume 39

April 2026

Number 4

**Pastor's View**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This newsletter comes out in the midst of Holy Week. This week is the most significant in our tradition each year where we walk the road Jesus takes to the cross. We begin with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then hear the commandment to love one another as Jesus loves us on Maundy Thursday, witness Jesus's death on the cross on Good Friday, wait in the valley of the shadow of death on Holy Saturday, and then we finally experience the joy of the resurrection Easter Sunday! I am struck, as always, by the gritty humanness of this week. God fully entering into a full range of human emotions and feelings, taking it all upon God's self in Jesus, promising to be with us in all of it and promising us that no matter what happens, God will have the final word of love in all things. This final word of love is our hope and frees us to live lives free from the fear of death or whatever else may happen, because we know this final word. All our hope hangs on this final word.

However, I don't want us to jump to the joy of the resurrection too quickly and to gloss over all that it costs Jesus, to gloss over all that it costs Mary, Jesus's mother, all that it costs Jesus's disciples, and all that it costs us. One of the core tenants of our Christian identity and life is that we are witnesses to the goodness and good news of God in Jesus Christ, but this good news comes to us through the horrors of the cross. This means that we are not only witnesses to the resurrection, but we also must first be witnesses to the cross; to the death and resurrection we see occurring in our time and place. Diana Butler Bass, an American Christian historian and theologian, writes on witnessing

Before there were any witnesses to the risen Christ, there were witnesses to Jesus mocked, tortured, and murdered by the Roman empire. And that's part of the Christian call of faithfulness — to stand in witness to the brutality, inhumanity, domination, sin, and evil of the empires of this age. Because, before good news, the news can be very, very bad. Very bad indeed. Witnesses watch events unfold, even when hearts break. Even when tempted to look away. Witnessing is more than being a bystander, an onlooker. Witnessing is active — it means bearing testimony what one has seen, to provide evidence of the truth of a thing, no matter how shocking, brutal, or inhumane. Witnesses tell a story. But witness. With words. With pictures. With your heart. Do not turn away. Yes, it hurts. It is shocking. It is traumatic. You will cry. You will say that you can't bear any more... witnessing the pain turns us from mere bystanders to actors, to be part of the story on the side of victims...Remember the women at the cross...Remember that witnessing the bad news comes before the Good News. Follow. Bear witness. Testify. Act. Witness.

Come and witness our church's ultimate story this Holy Week and then keep witnessing in this Easter season and in all the seasons of life yet to come. This story is the one that changes the world, changes you and me. It is the final word of love from God on which we hang all our hope. We do not have to fear witnessing both evil and resurrection simultaneously because we know that resurrection hope arrives every time. We are free to dwell deeply in it all, because we know that Easter Sunday is coming. Love wins. Hope wins. We keep witnessing to the fullness of life. Come and see, go and witness.

In the abiding hope of the resurrection,

Pastor Leah



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

**Naomi Circle Bible Study**  
Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am at Marsha Witte’s home



**~ Office Closed ~**  
**Church office will be closed on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thank you**  
Thank you to everyone who sent cards and letters to me on my 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I received 100 cards and read them almost every day. I also thank the staff at Fieldstone for their special attention – ice cream machine, flowers, and thoughtful actions and words. I am grateful to have shared my birthday with so many family members, friends and neighbors.  
– Roger Boussetot

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



**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

***You’re invited to CLP  
Easter Breakfast + Easter Egg Hunt  
Hosted by God Squad –  
Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at Faith.***

*Breakfast follows Early Worship  
at 9:00 am.*

*Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 am.*

**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.



### Friday Bible School

Friday Bible School – “Jonah and the Big Fish”  
Will be held on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 from  
1:30 pm to 5:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church.

Friday Bible School is for children in  
Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Registration forms are due to the church office  
by **April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### FREE Texas Roadhouse Kids Meal Vouchers

Nicole has FREE Texas Roadhouse Kids Meal  
Vouchers with a purchase of an entrée for  
Faith and Our Savior’s Church members.

The vouchers are for the Davenport, Iowa location  
only and the vouchers are valid until 10/1/2026.

If you are interested in receiving FREE Texas  
Roadhouse Kids Meal Vouchers for your family,  
please contact Nicole in the church office.

Please submit **May newsletter items**  
to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net)  
by Monday, April 20th.  
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!

### Education Class is looking for Volunteers

**Volunteers needed** to help with  
Friday’s Bible School on  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Please reach out to Pastor Leah or the  
Education Committee members.

#### Education Committee Members:

Cindy Burke, Eric Hoffmann, and John Baur.

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





# March Meetings

## ~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

**Date:** March 11, 2026

**Present:** Jason, Deb, Dan & David

### Treasurer & Financial Secretary's Reports:

- Reports were distributed and reviewed.

### Old Business

- Renter
  - Have new renters.
- Bathroom Update
  - Congregational Meeting scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Brian has let Estes Company know ideas for alternatives to doors and poured floor and they were receptive.
  - Estes offered to have someone come out to talk at the meeting.
- Parsonage Garage Doors
  - Received a quote from North Scott Doors.
  - Windows: \$1100 per door, without windows: \$950 per door, lift is \$480 each and outside keypad is \$65.
  - We would probably need to get electricity wired up for the openers.
  - Motion by Dan to approve door without windows and lift for a total of \$2860, seconded by David.

### New Business

- None

## ~~ Faith Council ~~

**Date:** March 11, 2026

**Present:** John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Mark Witte, and Terri Boussetot

### Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Boussetot to approve the January 2026 report. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried.
- Motion by Tulley to approve the February 2026 report. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

### Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion made by Boussetot to approve February 2026 report as printed. Tulley seconded. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

- Jim Hill finished painting the sanctuary.
- Inspectors did not attend the scheduled annual boiler inspection on February 24<sup>th</sup>. No action needed by Faith Council.
- Money from the two Lenten meals served at Faith will go to the Noisy Offering.

### New Business

- Shelton confirmed White Roofing is scheduled to repair the gutter near the front door.
- Installation of the heating/cooling units in the sanctuary will occur when contractor is available.
- A boiler maintenance plan with Ryan & Associates is in place. No charges for the plan due to ongoing boiler repairs.
- Motion by Tulley to allow Laurie Storjohann to use the basement for a luncheon on Easter Sunday. Shelton seconded. Motion carried.
- Motion by Tulley to donate \$100 to ELCA World Hunger. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.
- Preservation of the Faith Lutheran Church blueprints were discussed. Options will be considered.
- Ryan and Associates
  - Repaired motor and other items which heat the secretary's office. Motion by Boussetot to pay the \$4603.68 bill. Tulley seconded. Motion carried.
  - The heating system will be set to about 55 degrees. This will allow it to cycle about once per hour. Water will not lie stagnant in the pipes. This should reduce build-up within the pipes.
  - Will replace a defective pipe below the elevator at no charge because it was recently installed. This should reduce the humidity in the basement.
  - Measured throughout the church for replacement of registers, traps, connectors, and pipes. Items that can be seen within and below the sanctuary and classrooms will be replaced. Nothing will be replaced that is inside the walls. Ryan & Associates will submit a bid for all repairs and labor.



# March Meetings

## ~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

**Date: March 11, 2026**

**Present: Our Saviors:** Jason Boussetol, Deb Detlefs, Dan Burke and David Burke.

**Faith:** John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte, Terri Boussetol and Pastor Leah.

### Pastor's Report

- Continuing normal visit and activities
- Confirmation students are leading Lenten services. The theme is "Senses" and everyone is enjoying the interactive meditation format.
- Helping with VBS prep
- First Communion classes
  - Five youth attended First Communion class.
- Presided at two graveside services for non-members.

### Old Business:

- None

### New Business:

- None

### Worship Committee

- Did not meet

### Christian Outreach Committee

- Did not meet
  - Peanut butter will be gathered during Lent.

### God Squad: Pastor Leah

- Will lead 10:30am Worship Service on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior's. Refreshments will follow the service.
- Still engaging with Dwelling in the Word.

### Education Committee

**Present:** Cindy Burke, John Baur, Eric Hoffmann & Pastor Leah

**Seeking new Committee Members:** Two volunteers are needed to serve on the Education Committee – one from Our Savior's and one from Faith. One does not need to teach Sunday School to participate.

- VBS: Friday, May 1st
  - From Spark Summer – Jonah and the Big Fish. Recurring theme "Everyone can tell God's Story". Video: Prefer Lion King clip. Activity/Craft: Activity page, fish frame, mural option. Game: Capturing Jonah for as kids arrive, gather outside. Skit intro option if can get Jr High/High Volunteers.
  - Follow same format as previous, will have more time since Early Out Day. Kids arrive around 1:45/2:00ish. Snack + Video and/or Skit + Fish Facts, introduce Story. Music, Craft, Story + Closing.
  - Snack Allergy concern: Have separate table for Gluten free.
  - Research Polaroid cost for photos to put in the frames the kids make.
  - Start asking for Volunteers, Snack Donations.
- A Volunteer meeting will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The last day of Sunday School is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Outreach Committee Meeting**

Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Faith

### **Worship Committee Meeting**

Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm at Faith

Where: Faith

### **Joint Council**

Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

### **Education Committee Meeting**

Date: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

## **MINSTERS for April 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:**

Alan Lee  
Brian Tulley

#### **Acolyte:**

Brent Shelton

#### **Communion Assistant:**

Dirk Braet

#### **Lectors:**

April 5: Shelley Witt-Gentile  
April 12: Heather Grau  
April 19: Annette Braet  
April 26: Sharyl Banowetz

#### **Altar Ministry:**

Terri & David Boussetot

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

**Usher:** Eva Burke

#### **Acolyte:**

David Burke

#### **Communion Assistant:**

Cindy Burke

#### **Lector:**

April 5: Amy Glover  
April 12: Eva Burke  
April 19: Joe Morehead  
April 26: Rachel Burke

#### **Cleaner:**

Brian Boussetot & Mary Timmerman

# April 2026 Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|-----------|
| <p>F = Faith Church<br/>OS = Our Savior's Church</p>  |  |   | <p><b>1</b><br/><b>God Squad</b><br/>6:00 pm at Faith<br/>Prep Night for Easter</p>  | <p><b>2</b><br/><b>Maundy Worship</b><br/>7:00 pm at Faith</p>   | <p><b>3</b> <b>Good Friday Worship</b><br/>7:00 pm at Our Savior's<br/><br/><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> | <b>4</b>  |
| <p><b>5</b><br/><b>Easter</b><br/><br/>8:00 Worship - F<br/>9:00 Breakfast - F<br/>9:45 Easter Egg Hunt - F<br/>10:30 Worship - OS</p>                          | <p><b>6</b><br/><br/><b>Church Office Closed</b></p>           | <b>7</b>  | <p><b>8</b> <b>Naomi Circle</b><br/>10:00 am<br/>Marsha Witte's home<br/><br/><b>Confirmation</b><br/>6:00 pm at Faith<br/><b>Bible Jam</b><br/>7:00 pm at Faith</p> | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b> |
| <p><b>12</b><br/>8:00 Worship - F<br/>9:25 Sunday School - OS<br/>10:30 Worship - OS</p>  | <b>13</b>  | <p><b>14</b><br/><b>"Meet and Eat"</b><br/>Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus</p> | <b>15</b>  | <p><b>16</b><br/><b>Outreach Committee</b><br/>6:00 pm at Faith<br/><b>Worship Committee</b><br/>6:30 pm at Faith<br/><br/><b>Joint Council</b><br/>7:00 pm at Faith</p> | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| <p><b>19</b><br/><b>Noisy Offering</b><br/>8:00 Worship - F<br/>9:25 Sunday School - OS<br/>10:30 Worship - OS<br/><b>Youth Led Worship at Our Savior's</b></p> | <p><b>20</b><br/><br/><b>May newsletter items are due.</b></p> | <b>21</b>   | <p><b>22</b><br/><b>Confirmation</b><br/>6:00 pm at Faith<br/><b>Bible Jam</b><br/>7:00 pm at Faith<br/><br/><b>Education Committee</b><br/>7:00 pm at Faith</p>     | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b> |
| <p><b>26</b><br/>8:00 Worship - F<br/>9:25 Sunday School - OS<br/>10:30 Worship - OS</p>  | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>   | <p><b>29</b><br/><b>Confirmation</b><br/>6:00 pm at Faith<br/><b>Bible Jam</b><br/>7:00 pm at Faith</p>  | <b>30</b>  |   |           |