

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



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

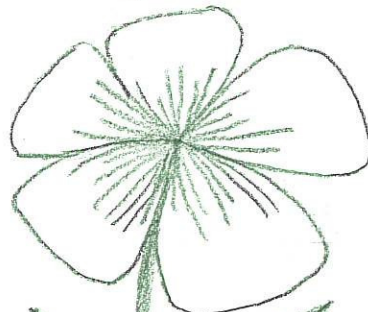
Church email address.....clparish@fbcom.net

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

GOD'S

Caring Showers

Bring



May 2026

MAY FLOWERS



*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 5

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We find ourselves still in our Easter season, but quickly approaching the Day of Pentecost. Which means we are still celebrating the resurrection of Christ and the ways that the world has been forever changed in him (technically every Sunday, even in Lent, is a mini-Easter, but we can save that discussion for another time)!

The fifty-day celebration of Easter has looked different throughout the history of the church. In the earliest days of the church as recorded in Acts, the liturgical calendar as we know it did not exist, and so there was a huge emphasis on each Sunday being a mini-Easter. As the liturgical calendar came to be, different ways of celebrating the Easter season were added or removed or tweaked over time. For example, during the Middle Ages it was illegal to participate in or engage in war during the seasons of Lent and Easter and so any conflicts were paused until after the fifty-day celebration of Easter. In our particular tradition we continue the Easter celebration by beginning our worship with the Easter Greeting (Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!) and the Thanksgiving for Baptism (as opposed to Confession and Forgiveness), we confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed, and our first reading is always from Acts. These particular practices in our worship life together are meant to orient us towards the celebratory nature of Easter, and remind us of our connection to all Christians throughout the world in Baptism and in the shared Nicene Creed.

As Lutheran Christians, we trust and hope that worship forms and patterns our lives outside of the Sunday gathering. Therefore, our celebration of Easter is not meant to be confined just to our Sunday practices, but meant to be something we celebrate each of the fifty days of Easter. So how do we do that? Christmas has kind of got it made with lights and trees and cookies and so forth, but Easter has not garnered the same (sometimes secular) pull for celebratory options. I invite us to consider this together as a parish, but also as individuals. How do we continue the celebration of Easter in these fifty days?

There are certainly a variety of answers to this, and I don't think they need to be very complicated. How do we practice resurrection, how do we practice Easter except for by listening to the call of the Holy Spirit to be the Body of Christ in the world? Perhaps in this Easter season we take the time to ponder how we do this anew, and with more intentionality. God has done a new thing for us once again in Jesus, and God calls us anew to share this story of love and life and freedom and forgiveness with the world. We wrap up this Easter season with the Day of Pentecost, not as a period to the season, but as a promise. The promise that God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit who "calls and enlightens [us] with gifts" for the sake of God's kingdom and sharing the Gospel with the world in all that we say and do (Martin Luther's Small Catechism, explication on the third article of the Apostles' Creed).

Alleluia Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Leah



May Cover Letter – Art Work

*Thank you for the wonderful artwork
for the May Cover Page!*

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, May 13th
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 15th & Sunday, May 16th, 2026

First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids

Saturday 11:30 am – 6:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

For more information, check out the
SE IA Synod website (www.seiasynod.org)



Confirmation

8:00 am on Sunday, May 17th
at Faith Lutheran Church

The following will affirm their baptism:

***Wyatt Easterday, Kinnick Christensen,
Tucker Cline (Bliedorn) & Brayden Klatt***

A light reception will follow for the confirmands
in between services at Faith.

All are welcome!

Sunday, May 24th
ONE Service only!

9:00 am
at Faith

Summer Worship

Summer Worship begins:

on Sunday, May 31st

8:00 am Worship at Faith
outdoors (weather permitting)

9:30 am Worship at Our Savior's
(inside)

It is graduation time!

Sincere Congratulations and best wishes to the
members of Calamus Lutheran Parish who are
graduating from high school in May.

Kalloway Whitman and Macailah Jacobsen
are graduating from Calamus-Wheatland
and

Lawson Perrone is graduating from Dewitt.

God goes with you as you begin the
next stage of your life!

God Squad Can Donation

During the months of May and June,
God Squad will be collecting cans in the bin located
at Faith Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your donations!

Calamus-Wheatland Community

Fun Days Basket Raffle

The Parish needs volunteers, supplies and donations
to make the Basket Raffle a success this year. If
you would like to donate baskets, donations for
baskets or monetary donations it would be greatly
appreciated it.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact
Andrea Shelton or Nicole Easterday in the church
office.



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.

Quilts and Fabric Kits

Thank you for the monetary donations and donations of fabric, batting, and thread. Thrivent also donated toward this project. Your generosity will allow 22 Quilts and 11 Fabric Kits to be sent throughout the world to those in need.

Christian Outreach Note

A great big "Thank You" to the Calamus Lutheran Parish from the Christian Outreach Committee and the Carroll Assistance Center. A total of 92 jars of peanut butter were collected during Lent. The Carroll Assistance Center was overwhelmed when they received the donation. Peanut butter is in great demand and this gift will help to keep the shelves stocked. Thank you again!

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!



Thank you all for your more than generous donation of peanut butter! That is a commodity that is hard to keep stocked. We appreciate it very much!
God Bless you all!
– The CAC Staff -

Please submit **June/July newsletter items** to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by Monday, May 18th.
Thank you for your cooperation!

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





April Meetings

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: April 16, 2026

Present: Dan, Deb, Jason, David and Joe

Minutes of the prior meeting were read and approved as presented.

- Garage doors were paid 50%, just waiting for them to be installed.
- Talked to Edward Jones about funds for the bathroom; money has been placed into the Money Market account in early March.
- Grell mowing was paid; the rate went up just a little bit from last year.
- Insurance wanted to renew at cash value, we requested replacement value.

Old Business

- Bathroom Update
 - Estes requested information about tax exemption status but we may not have.
 - No dates yet; last we heard was May to June range.
- Renter
 - Not sure how long the current renters will be there.
 - We can accept new applications but we probably won't act on them until we know when it will be available.

New Business

- Clean-Up Day
 - Clean-Up Day will be held on April 25th, at 8:00 am with a rain date of May 2nd.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: April 16, 2026

Present: Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte, and Terri Boussetol

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Boussetol to approve the March 2026 report. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried.
- Motion by Tulley to approve the March 2026 report. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion made by Tulley to approve March 2026 report. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Shelton confirmed White Roofing has repaired the gutter and roof near the front door.
- Installation of the heating/cooling units in the sanctuary will occur when contractor is available.
- Shelton will take Faith blueprints to an Eldridge company which can scan/print them.
- Special Meeting of Faith Council on March 29:
 - Ryan and Associates submitted a bid for \$28,847.19 to replace 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. Undesignated funds in the Memorial Account will be used for payment. Council approved the bid.

New Business

- Tulley will purchase Wet It & Forget It. It will be sprayed on the dark areas on the exterior of the church.
- Clean-Up Day for grounds and landscaping will be held on May 2nd at 8:00 am. Rain date will be May 9th.
- Light reception for confirmands on May 17th could be held. Worship Committee and/or Council could host. Cupcakes and beverages could be served. Witte will get more information about cupcakes. Estimate 50 people.



April Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: April 16, 2026

Present: Our Saviors: Jason Boussetol, Deb Detlefs, Dan Burke, David Burke, and Joe Morehead. **Faith:** Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte, Terri Boussetol and Pastor Leah.

Pastor's Report

- Continuing normal visit and activities.
- Meet and Eat attendance was good.
- Last day of Sunday School is May 10th.
- Confirmation will be at 8:00 am at Faith on May 17th. Seeking approval from Joint Council of four confirmands. Wyatt Easterday, Kinnick Christensen, Tucker Cline (Blieborn) and Brayden Klatt
- Adult Class has been discussing theological thinking.
- Presided at two funerals. Arlene Green (Our Savior's) and George "Bus" Seastrand (Schultz Funeral Home).

Old Business:

- None

New Business

- Motion by J. Boussetol to approve confirmands: Wyatt Easterday, Kinnick Christensen and Brayden Klatt.
- The Calamus-Wheatland Fun Days Committee has not confirmed dates, request for worship service or Basket Raffle information. Pastor is seeking more information. Item tabled.

Worship Committee – April 16, 2026

Present: Andrea, Terri, Brittany, Deb, Dan, Davis, and Jason

- Mid-week and Holy Week / Easter reflections
 - Positive feedback all around from Mid-Week Services.
 - Youth did a great job.
 - Positive feedback from Maundy Thursday / Laying of hands.
- Upcoming Services
 - May 10th is last day of Sunday School.
 - Confirmation will be held on May 17th. Have 4 youth; two from Faith, one from Blieborn, and one that will be confirmed at Faith. Will have confirmation at the 8:00 am service.
 - May 24th worship will be at 9:00 am at Faith for Memorial Day.
 - Summer Worship schedule begins on May 31st worship times will be at 8:00 am at Faith, and 9:30 am at Our Savior's.
- Summer Worship
 - Pastor suggested trying the Morning Prayer at Our Savior's for the summer.
 - The committee reviewed and agreed to use it at Our Savior's starting May 31st.
 - May also use Morning Prayer at the 9:00 am service at Faith on the 24th.

Christian Outreach Committee

- May
 - Will serve hot dogs and chips for VBS on May 1st. Deb Tulley and Amy Glover will serve freezer pops to C-W students on May 22nd Clean-Up day. Luke Shelton will share the schedule for ballgames at Calamus. Parish will work the ball stand one evening.
- June, July, August
 - Personal kit items will be gathered during June, July and August. These will be given to the Carroll Assistance Center and the Dewitt Referral Center.
- August
 - Will serve coffee and donuts at Church in the Park service if/when scheduled.
- September
 - Will provide refreshments for first day of Sunday School.
- October
 - Will assist Worship Committee with Reformation.
- November
 - Will provide pie and beverages for Thanksgiving Service.

God Squad: Pastor Leah

- Finalizing the youth-led worship at 10:30 am on April 19th at Our Savior's. Refreshments will follow the service.
- Reading Job in Sunday School class.

Education Committee: Did not meet

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.

Volunteer Meeting (for VBS)

Date: April 22, 2026

Volunteer Meeting Present: Cindy Burke, Eric Hoffmann, Pastor Leah, Ruth Braet, Andrea Shelton, and Diane Wilhelm.

Volunteer Meeting for VBS:

- VBS: Friday, May 1st
 - 23 Registered – 3 groups: K-1 (8), 2-3 (6), 4-5 (9).
 - From Spark Summer – Jonah and the Big Fish. Recurring theme “Everyone can tell God's Story”. Video: Use Lion King clip, Game/Activity ideas: Scavenger hunt, red light/green light, relay race with ball on plate, link tag.
 - Arrive, backpacks to back pews in sanctuary and gather outside with game easy to add as more gather (possibly duck duck goose).
 - 1:45-2:15 Whole Group Bible Story and Fish Facts (Pastor Leah).
 - Break into 3 groups for rotating sessions: 2:14, 3:00, 3:45.
 - Snack + Video and Music (Marsha music) Children's Chapel.
 - Craft: Fish frame, have activity sheets if finish early (Cindy) basement.
 - Activity (Eric) outside weather permitting.
 - K-1: Music, Craft, Activity
 - 2-3: Activity, Music, Craft
 - 4-5: Whole Group Story Repeat and Questions + Closing, possible group activity if time allows.
 - Snack Allergy Concern: Two Gluten (Celiac), one nuts/shellfish. Will have separate table for Gluten Free to avoid cross contamination, no nuts.
- Last Day of Sunday School
 - Last Day of Sunday School will be on May 10th.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Outreach Committee Meeting

Date: May 14th, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Our Savior's

Worship Committee Meeting

Date: May 14th, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Our Savior's

Joint Council

Date: May 14th, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Our Savior's

Education Committee Meeting

Date: May 13th, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for May 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: Andrea Shelton

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Paul Olson
Mark Witte

Acolyte:

Oliver Barnes

Communion Assistant:

Ashley Steffens

Lectors:

May 3: Mark Witte
May 10: Andrea Shelton
May 17: Ashley Steffens
May 24: Tysen Steffens
May 31: Sarah Tulley

Altar Ministry:

Alan Lee & Terri Boussetot

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher: Brian Boussetot

Acolyte:

Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant:

Neil Holmquist

Lector:

May 3: Jason Boussetot
May 10: Brian Boussetot
May 17: Dan Burke
May 31: David Burke

Cleaner:

Amy Glover

May 2026 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clp parish.org for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church					1 Bible School 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm at Faith	2 Faith Clean-Up Day at 8:00 am
3 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS 10:30 Worship– OS	4	5	6 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	7	8 Church office closed	9 Rain date Faith Clean-Up Day
10 8:00 Worship – F 9:25 Sunday School – OS Last Day of Sunday School 10:30 Worship – OS Mother's Day	11	12 "Meet and Eat" Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	13 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Confirmation & Bible Jam End of year Fun Night 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	14 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at OS Worship Committee 6:30 pm at OS Joint Council 7:00 pm at OS	15 Synod Assembly at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids	16 Synod Assembly at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids
17 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F Confirmation at Faith 10:30 Worship - OS	18 June/July newsletter items are due.	19	20	21	22	23
24 Joint Worship 9:00 Worship at Faith	25 Church office closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 Worship – F (outside) 9:30 Worship – OS (inside)	Memorial Day					

Summer Worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 31st. 8:00 am worship (outdoors-weather permitting) at Faith and 9:30 am worship at Our Savior's. (inside)