

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 (Outdoors)

Faith Lutheran Church

505 Second Street, Calamus IA 52729

✝

9:30 AM Sunday Worship (Indoors)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus IA 52729

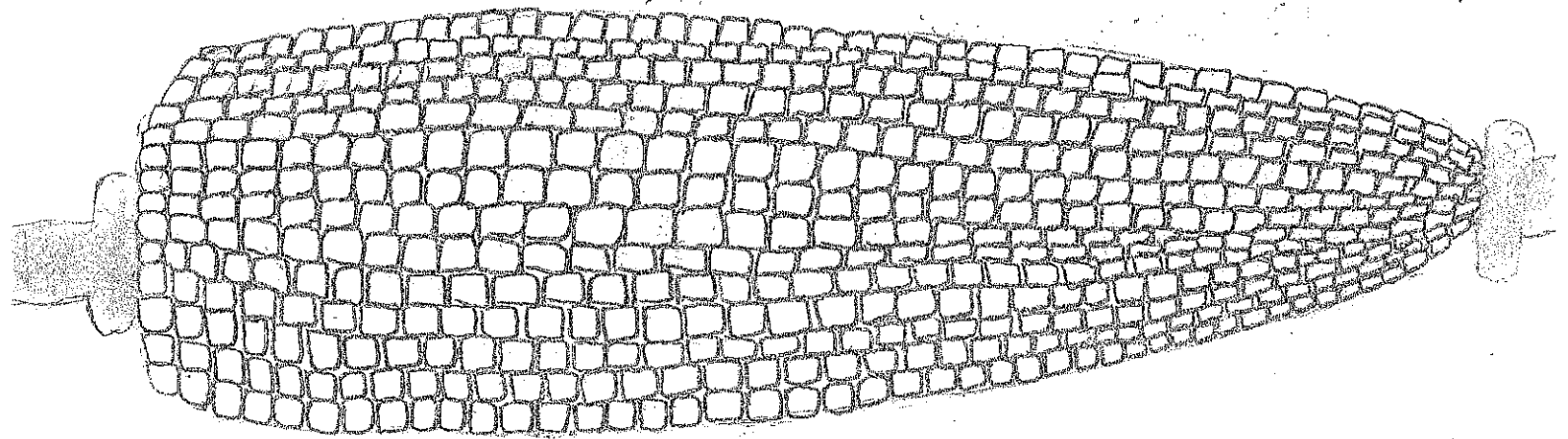
Church Office.....563.246.2622

Pastor's Office.....563.246.2558

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

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

GOD *is like* CORN



He's **A W E S O M E**
August 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

August 2026

Number 8

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I have a sticker on my laptop that says “Daily Life is Holy Ground.” I have this sticker for two reasons, the first is that it highlights The CaSTLE Project, an initiative from Wartburg Seminary about small town and rural ministry which I have been privileged to do some advising work on, and the second reason is that it is a good daily reminder to me (and hopefully to anyone who sees it) that our daily lives are indeed holy ground.

I wonder how often we expect or even think that holiness can be found in our everyday lives? I know that I can lose sight of this, and find myself feeling dismissive or even apathetic of the laundry and the dishes and the paperwork, all of those kinds of things. But holiness is found in those places, perhaps even especially in those everyday places. I find myself thinking about how so many things in the Bible that we think are extraordinary were daily life for the people who lived it. Jesus was not the only traveling teacher, daily life for Jesus’s listeners included people who came and taught about God. Daily life for Jesus’s listeners included hospitality, and meals, and conversations about scripture. I wonder if they too didn’t always realize the holiness of what was happening around them until much later. 2,000 years later, we still have this same holiness in our daily lives; the ordinary places where God’s love for us shows up.

Every time I look at this sticker, it causes me to pause and to notice and to wonder about the holiness present in my life in that moment that I may be dismissing. I invite you to do the same. In those moments where it feels like this is just another day, just another pile of laundry, just another sink-full of dishes, just another lawn to mow, pause, notice, and wonder at the holiness of God that is present with you right then and there. One of the gifts of baptism is the promise that our whole life belongs and matters to God, and therefore, God makes our daily lives holy. What a gift indeed.

Your daily life is holy ground. May you notice it, be strengthened in it, and feel God’s love through it.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Leah



God Squad Can Donation

God Squad would like to send out a big Thank You to everyone who donated cans. The can donations raised over \$500. The can donations will be used for the Youth planning to attend the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Thank you for your donations and support!



Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, August 12th

10:00 am at Bousselot's Pond

Those attending please bring a sack lunch.

Worship Schedule for August

Faith

8:00 am Worship

Outdoor Services – (weather permitting)

Bring lawn chairs.

Our Savior's

9:30 am Worship

Indoor Services

Using Sung Morning Prayer at Worship

Cardstock for Sunday School

Sunday School will be starting up in a few months! We are looking for donations of white 11x17 cardstock.



Zoey Jane Goettsch, daughter of
Landon and Gabrielle Goettsch of Calamus,
was baptized on Sunday, July 19th.
Welcome to the family of God, Zoey!



Wesley Henry Goettsch, son of
Lance and Rachel Goettsch of Calamus,
was baptized on Sunday, July 19th.
Welcome to the family of God, Wesley!

Calamus-Wheatland Community Fun Days

Basket Raffle

Saturday, August 29th

Baskets are being prepared for this popular fundraiser held in conjunction with Calamus-Wheatland Fun Days. Baskets, containers, and items to go in the baskets are needed. Please put donations on the tables downstairs at Faith church. Check out notes for items needed to complete baskets.

Andrea Shelton is again coordinating the Fun Days Basket Raffle. She would appreciate help! There is a list of tasks and a sign-up sheet for helpers by the church office at Faith. Please contact Andrea at 563-219-0047 with any questions. She will also accept monetary donations for purchasing basket supplies.

The “Feeding the Children” project will be the recipient of the 2026 Basket Raffle proceeds. This outreach program is conducted by the Calamus churches: Faith Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran, and Wesley United Methodist. Volunteers prepare bags of food for weekend meals sent home on Fridays with Calamus-Wheatland students selected by the school counselor.



August Church Office Closure Dates:

The church office will be closed:
August 1st – August 13th

Pastor will be in the office during
church office closure dates.

Community Worship



Calamus Park
Sunday, August 30th
10:00 AM

Bring lawn chairs or blankets
(Rain Site – Faith Church)

There will be NO Worship Services at
Faith or Our Savior's
on Sunday, August 30th.

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 our
youth faith community.

Watch for upcoming announcements
about informational meetings.

If you are interested in attending the
2027 ELCA Youth Gathering,
please contact Heather or Pastor Leah.

Calamus-Wheatland Community Fun Days
Friday, August 28th – Sunday, August 30th

**A three-day festival with events held in
both towns.**

Friday, August 28th - Wheatland

6:00 pm Cornhole tournament

7:00 pm to Midnight Band/Entertainment –
Downtown Wheatland

Saturday, August 29th -Wheatland

8:15 am Kid's Obstacle Course

8:30 am LincolnWay 5K and 1mile race.

Saturday, August 29th – Calamus

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Bake Sale and Pie & Ice
Cream at Calamus Public Library

11:00 am Grilled tenderloins at the park and
Midwest Coffee Co Truck

12:00 pm Parade

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm Calamus City Park: Kid's
games, FFA pedal tractor pull, kid's water fights,
food trucks, food at Buck's, and Basket Raffle
(Calco Building), and much more!!

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Classic Car Cruise-In

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Line Dancing

7:00 pm to 11:00 pm Calamus street dance/band
at Buck's

Sunday, August 30th – Calamus

10:00 am - 11:00 am Worship in the park

10:30 am - 1:00 pm Calamus Firemen's Annual
Deep-Pit Beef Dinner at the CALCO

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm CW Alumni Baseball Game

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.

Please submit **September newsletter items**
to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net)
by Monday, August 24th.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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



Planning for September.....

Joint Worship

September 6th at 9:00 am
Faith Lutheran Church

Confirmation

Confirmation Meeting

Parents & Youth meeting is scheduled for
September 2nd at 6:00 pm at Faith

Confirmation and Bible Jam

Confirmation and Bible Jam will begin on
September 9th at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation

6:00 pm
at Faith

Bible Jam

7:00 pm
at Faith

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering Informational Meeting

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering
Informational Meeting will be held on
September 2nd at 6:30 pm at Faith,
following the Parent/Youth Confirmation Meeting.

Fall Schedule

Beginning September 13th



8:00 AM Worship

Our Savior's

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus



9:25 AM Sunday School

Faith

505 Second Street, Calamus



10:30 AM Worship

Faith

505 Second Street, Calamus

Sunday School

All ages are invited!

The Calamus Lutheran Parish

Sunday School year begins

on September 13th

at 9:25 am

at Faith Lutheran Church

Staff is already in place, but the education committee is looking for volunteers to substitute for the teachers and music leader when they are absent. The lessons will be prepared for you!

Please contact Cindy Burke (563-468-8149)
or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392)
if you would be willing to help



Blessing of backpacks/school year and Sunday School students/ teachers

Pastor Leah will bless the
backpacks/school year, and
Sunday School students/teachers.
On September 13th at both Worship Services.



June Meetings

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: June 11, 2026

Present: Dan, David, Jason and Deb

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

Treasurer's report was distributed, reviewed and approved.

Old Business

- Bathroom Update
 - Had to provide legal documents to Estes for them to research tax exemption status.
 - Brian talked to the Project Manager at Estes and they will charge us tax but we can apply for refund after the work.
 - Still waiting to hear when the work will begin.
- Parsonage
 - Received an application from potential renters.
 - Current renter has vacated.
 - No issues with the application; will try to shoot for July 1st for move in date.
 - Need to remind the new renters that they will need to purchase appliances and switch utilities.

New Business

- Clean Up Day
 - Storm damaged an evergreen tree, uprooted it, and caused some damage, but full extent is still unknown.
 - Will be removing the tree on Saturday, June 13th.
 - Would like to power wash the North side of the parsonage and church; possibly July 11th for Clean-Up Day.
 - Sidewalk needs to be replaced.
 - Will give renters option of waiting until August to move in or deal with construction.
 - Inside of parsonage, does not need a lot of cleaning.
 - Will ask to have announcement for July 11th added to bulletin.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: June 11, 2026

Present: John Baur, Brittany Hoffmann, Mark Witte and Terri Bousselot

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Bousselot to approve the May 2026 report. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion made by Hoffmann to approve May 2026 report. Baur seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Cooling units have been installed in the sanctuary and are working well.
- Shelton will take Faith blueprints to an Eldridge company. Item tabled.
- The exterior of the church has been sprayed with Wet It and Forget it.
- Thank you to Tracy Gasper who selected and installed the new plants on the southeast corner of the church.

New Business

- None



June Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: June 11, 2026

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

Faith: John Baur, Brittany Hoffmann, Mark Witte, and Terri Bousselot.

Pastor's Report

- Continuing normal visits and activities.
- Attended Synod Assembly. Amy Current was reelected as Bishop for a 6-year term.
- Planning for Fall.
- Out of the office from June 18th-June 23rd. Pastor Wayne Reddy will be the substitute on June 21st.
- Thank you to the Choir for singing at Confirmation.

Old Business:

- Church office will be closed from July 24th – August 12th.
- Volunteers are needed to work the food stand at the CW Elementary school on June 23rd.

New Business

- None

Worship Committee

- Did not meet

Christian Outreach Committee

- Did not meet
- Collecting personal items collection for June.

God Squad:

- God Squad is thankful for all the can donations.
 - Still collecting cans until the end of June.Donations already over \$200.00

Education Committee:

Date: June 10, 2026

Present: Cindy Burke, and 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.

- Reviewed multiple Sunday School offerings through Sparkhouse Digital, decided to stick with Holy Moly for all PK through 6th grade classes. Planned tentative 2026-2027 schedule of lessons using for Holy Moly Year 2.
- Will continue to look for additional activity ideas, particularly the older kids who sometimes want something beyond the leaflets. There are some ideas within the other curriculums.



July Meetings

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: July 16, 2026

Present: Dan, Deb, Jason, David & Joe

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

- Missing 2 months behind on shared bills with Faith.

Old Business

- Bathroom Update
 - They've started!
 - Will be out here on Tuesday at 3:00 pm to pick flooring color.

New Business

- Parsonage
 - Was suggested that we put a rental sign in front of the parsonage.
 - Suggested also that we make a generic flyer with photos and outline the requirements.
 - Discussed possibly getting appliances, but may be issues of liability and expectations.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: July 16, 2026

Present: John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Luke Shelton and Mark Witte

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Christensen approve the June 2026 report. Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion made by Baur to approve June 2026 report. Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Preserving Faith blueprints
 - Shelton will bring the blueprints to his contact who can scan them.
- Reminder Closure dates
 - Church office: July 24th to August 13th. Pastor Leah out of the office July 27th to July 31st. Pastor Leah will have limited access to phone or email.

New Business

- Bats
 - Bats have returned. NE Iowa Bat Control will stop by next time they are in the area. In the meantime, a hole in a Sunday School room closet will be temporarily patched.
- A/C & Heater Units
 - The two new A/C and heater units installed had a total cost of \$11,210.
- Roof
 - The roof continues to have some issues and is 30 years old. Will consult with White Roofing about continuing repairs or possibly replacement.
- Discoloration ceiling
 - There is discoloration due to water damage on the ceiling upstairs. Witte plans to paint two Sunday School rooms before the start of the Sunday School year.



July Meetings

~~ Joint Council ~~

Date: July 16, 2026

Present: Our Saviors: Dan, Deb, Jason, David and Joe

Faith: John, Luke, Mitch

Pastor

Pastor's Report

- Continuing normal visits and activities.
- Did not make the visits to Wheatland Manor due to bedbug issues.
- Working on confirmation and Sunday School prep.
- Confirmand emails/letters are going out now.
- Preparing for gravesite service for Carol Christensen.
- Will have two Baptisms on July 19th at Faith, and one at Our Savior's in August.
- Last week of July will be gone, afternoon of the 26th and will be back on the 31st or 1st, but will not miss worship.

Old Business:

- None

New Business

- Paper Shredder
 - Church office is in need of a paper shredder.
 - The one that we had died in smoky fashion.
 - Dan will research and recommend one at the next meeting.

Worship Committee – July 16, 2026

Present: Jason, Linda, Deb, David, Dan, Pastor

- OS Baptism
 - August 16th, will keep current Worship format and insert baptism into it.
- Labor Day
 - Joint Worship will be at Faith September 6th at 9:00 am.
- Advent Services
 - Will have confirmation students help lead again
 - First Sunday of Advent is last Sunday of November
 - Will only do Advent Services on Dec. 2nd, 9th, and 16th.
- Worship in the Park
 - Reviewed worship bulletin format
 - Still working to coordinate with other leaders
 - Dirk will bring sound system equipment
 - Worship will be on August 30th at 10:00 with coffee/snacks before.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Did not meet
 - Picked up personal items; almost 200 items between the two congregations; divided evenly between Referral Center and Carol Assistance Center.
 - Will collect food items in July and divide evenly as well.
 - In August, will take care of refreshments before Worship in the Park.

God Squad:

- Pastor and Heather are planning out the year.
- Students would like to explore “hot topics that are in the media and the bible”.

Education Committee:

Date: July 15, 2026

Present: Cindy Burke, Pastor Leah, John Baur

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.

- Request for 2-3 generic crafts for any Sunday School class to use if the planned activity runs short. One for a time filler could be to use popsicle sticks and write the Ten Commandments or Books of Bible on them, then have kids sort by order or Old/New Testament.
- Story books ordered for the next year. Sparkhouse subscription to auto renew. Marsha has agreed to continue with Music and Teachers have agreed to continue teaching. Shelley will need coverage for some Sundays, but will let the Education Committee know when.
- Still seeking cardstock donations. Need 11x17 white cardstock. 4-6 grade class will be trying out other activities, leaflets shouldn't need to be printed.

Next Meetings Scheduled:

Outreach Committee Meeting:

Date: August 13th

Where: Faith

Joint Council Meeting:

Date: August 13th

Where: Faith

Worship Committee Meeting:

Date: August 13th

Where: Faith

Education Committee Meeting:

Date: August 12th – Sunday School Supply Transfer

MINSTERS for August 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.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Hal Shelton
Dirk Braet

Acolyte:

Olivia Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Sharyl Banowetz

Lectors:

August 2: Heather Whitman
August 9: Brian Tulley
August 16: Alan Lee
August 23: Shelley Witt-Gentile
August 30: Worship in the park

Altar Ministry:

Brenda & Yale Christensen

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant:

Brian Bousselot

Lectors:

August 2: Jason Bousselot
August 9: Marcia Edens
August 16: Dan Burke
August 23: David Burke
August 30: Worship in the park

Cleaner:

Jason Bousselot

August 2026 Calamus Lutheran Parish

NOTE: Check the website www.clparish.org for more information.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church (outdoors) OS = Our Savior's Church						1
2 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	3 Church office closed	4 Church office closed	5 Church office closed	6 Church office closed	7 Church office closed	8
9 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	10 Church office closed	11 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck’s Corner in Calamus Church office closed	12 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot’s Pond Education Committee 6:30 pm Sunday School Supply Transfer Church office closed	13 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	14	15
16 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship – OS	17 September newsletter items are due.	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Worship - OS	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship Community Worship at Calamus Park	31				C-W Fun Days in Calamus	C-W Fun Days in Calamus

Worship at Faith will be outdoors. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the sanctuary.
September 6th – Joint Worship at Faith at 9:00 am

Welcome to Sunday School!



All ages are invited

The Calamus Lutheran Parish
Sunday School year begins
on **September 13th** at
9:25AM at **Faith Lutheran
Church.**

Ages 3 and older are invited
for class, and all ages are
welcome to accompany
their adult in adult class!