

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

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus IA 52729



9:25 AM Sunday School

Faith Lutheran Church



10:30 AM Sunday Worship

Faith Lutheran Church

505 Second Street, 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 the



Light of the World
October 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

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Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



*Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
2589 190th Avenue
Calamus, IA 52729*

Volume 39

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Number 10

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As you may know, Pope Leo XIV issued his first encyclical, letters curated by the pope, back in May titled *Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence*. As I have had time, I have been reading it, and I heartily commend it to anyone! As I have read along in it, there has been one sentence from paragraph 118 that I have been thinking about repeatedly...

"Everything that appears as a limit—incapacity, illness, old age, suffering, vulnerability—tends to be seen primarily as a defect to be corrected, rather than as a reality through which our humanity matures and opens itself to relationship."

And while I am pulling this sentence slightly out of context, I'm not going to harken it back to artificial intelligence as the pope does, I have been thinking about how true the sentiment behind it is. There are whole industries that have been created to help cure us of these supposed "limits," because culturally we understand them to make us defective, a burden on others, when really, they remind us that we are interdependent. When really, they should remind us that God has created us for relationship with God and with each other.

When we were born, we all needed people to help us survive. We could not do it on our own, and yet within our deep dependence as infants, most of us were deeply loved by those who raised us. We were deeply loved not despite our dependence, but we were loved just because of who we were. No qualifiers, no need to be productive or self-sufficient, we were loved just because of who we were. Overtime, the world has us forget our interdependent beginnings, or at least asks us to start calling interdependencies deficiencies and burdens. But that's just not true. Our ever-changing physical and mental abilities throughout our lives do not determine the truth that we are loved, that we are not burdens.

From the beginning, God has created humankind to be in relationship with God and with other humans. You have been created to need God and to need each other, regardless of whatever else the world may call it. Our limits are a gift, even if they don't feel like it. They are a gift that remind us that we are loved by God in Jesus Christ and by the many people God has placed into our lives simply because of who we are. Not because of anything we do, just because of who you are. This is one of the promises we received when we were baptized, and one of the promises we make to newly baptized people: that we stay in relationship together because Jesus stays in relationship with all of us, no matter what.

What a gift to be human together, to share in Christ's love together, and to be Christ's love for each other. What a gift to have limitations together. What a gift to be in relationship together. What a gift.

In Awe of Christ's Love for Us All,

Pastor Leah



Briar Florence Boussetot, daughter of
Dylan and Kodi Boussetot of Grand Mound,
was baptized on
Sunday, September 13th at Our Savior's.
Briar's Sponsors are Wade and Sadie Gerlach.
Welcome to the family of God, Briar!

October Cover Letter – Art Work

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

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes

6:00 pm
at Faith

Bible Jam

7:00 pm
at Faith

All 7th-12th graders are invited for food, fellowship
and fun following confirmation classes.

Community Offering

During the Worship in the Park service on
Sunday, August 30th, the community offering
reached a total of \$593.00.

The collection will be given to the
Calamus-Wheatland Elementary School.

Fall Schedule



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

CW Fun Days

Basket Raffle

*thank
you*

We are deeply grateful to everyone who
donated items and volunteered their time
to make our Basket raffle a true success.

We couldn't have done it without
your incredible support!

The Basket Raffle raised \$2461 for the
Feeding the Children program.

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.

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.

Naomi Circle Bible Study
Wednesday, October 7th, 2026
10:00 am at Boussetot's Pond





Halloween Fun Night Hosted by God Squad

God Squad will be hosting a Halloween Fun Night on October 25th, 2026 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

Enjoy a warm soup supper, hot drinks, candy, fun games and activities for the kids.

Come in your costumes and join the fun!

Freewill donation, all proceeds support the 2026 Angel Tree Project!

If you are interested in donating candy or would like to volunteer with the fun, please contact Heather or Peyton.

Decorated trunks with treats are welcome!

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Would you like to help support sending our youth to the NEXT Youth Gathering? Thrivent makes this easy, via your Thrivent Choice Dollars – because it costs you nothing! Please consider contacting your Thrivent Rep or log into your account online, and request your Thrivent Choice Dollars to be sent to either **FAITH LUTHERAN** or **OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**. Then confirm support intent with Heather Grau. Thank you and we appreciate your support!

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

Location: Minneapolis

Dates of Gathering: June 28th - July 2nd, 2027

Who can Attend: Youth 8th to 12th Grade in 2026

We have 6 youth interested in attending the Youth Gathering next summer in Minneapolis!

Please keep an eye out for our upcoming fundraising announcements!

The ELCA Youth Gathering is an amazing opportunity to see and experience our youth faith community.

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

All Saints Sunday is on November 1st

Please list the names of loved ones who passed away this past year on the sheet provided at the back of the sanctuary at Faith and Our Savior's.

Please submit **November newsletter items** to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by Monday, October 19th.
Thank you for your cooperation!

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





September Meetings

~~ Our Savior's Council ~~

Date: September 10, 2026

Present: Dan, Deb and Jason

Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report:

- Reports were distributed and reviewed. We transferred \$35K from the Edward Jones account to make the first payment to Estes.

Old Business

- Bathroom Update
 - Still in progress
- Renters
 - Moved in on September 1st
 - Would like to paint for a nursery; will ask for paint sample first but otherwise approved.
 - The renters are mowing the parsonage lawn on a borrowed mower for the remainder of the year.
 - The renters may want to replace the sidewalk themselves; we would reimburse.

New Business

- Levson's Tuning Agreement
 - Rates are increasing
 - Service agreement is \$450/ service visit, usually twice per year.
 - Special calls is \$350 minimum per call.
 - Motion by Dan to approve agreement, seconded by Jason. Motion carried unanimously.

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: September 10, 2026

Present: John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte and Terri Boussetot

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by Tulley to approve the August 2026 report. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- Motion made by Boussetot to approve August 2026 report. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

- The ceilings and walls in three classrooms have been painted.
- Carpet in the stairways, offices, classrooms, and entrance have been cleaned. Cost of cleaning carpets was \$422.65.
- Council reviewed the church blueprints. Important items will be scanned and then saved. Witte will give the blueprints to Luke Shelton who will deliver to the provider.
- White Roofing has not yet repaired the bell tower roof area.

New Business

- Both boilers passed inspection. The inspection documents are located on the wall in the boiler room and in the file cabinet in the office. Next inspection will be in October 2027.
- Black mold was found in the air conditioner units in the Church office and Pastor Leah's office. Dirk Braet and Tulley are using a spray cleaner to mitigate. During the summer, running the air conditioners at all times at a low setting with the dehumidifier setting activated may assist in eliminating the mold.



September Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: September 10, 2026

Present: Our Saviors: Jason Boussetot, Dan Burke, and Deb Detlefs. **Faith:** John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte and Terri Boussetot.

Pastor's Report

- Continued to perform regular duties.
- Worship in the park went well. Will try to improve the sound system so all can hear.
- Mary Ann and Loren Christensen funeral service will be held at Our Savior's on September 19th. The luncheon will be served at Faith due to remodeling at Our Savior's.
- Four youth and one guest attended the first Confirmation meeting.
- Six youth are interested in attending the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Pastor Leah and Heather Grau are determining transportation.
- Shane Knoche, Superintendent at Calamus-Wheatland School District, met with local pastors to discuss possible opportunities for CW students to interact within a ministerial group.
- Presided at a graveside service.

Old Business:

- A paper shredder for the office was purchased for \$40.
- \$250 has been received from a Thrivent grant request.
- A grant request has been sent to Theisen's.
- The Basket Raffle raised \$2461 for the Feed the Children program. This ministry is supported by the Methodist Church and the Calamus Lutheran Parish. 22 children will be served in the 2026-2027 school year. Feeding the children costs around \$200 per month to fill food bags. Motion by Witte to give \$500 of the Basket Raffle funds to the Methodist Church since this is a shared ministry. Boussetot seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Motion by Burke to donate the unused printer/fax machine. Tulley seconded. Motion carried.
- Nicole Easterday and Pastor Leah are reviewing old office records and items. Committee reports must be kept for 10 years. Council minutes must be kept indefinitely. Items that must be retained long-term will be placed in a file cabinet and moved out of the office.
- Heather Grau and Pastor Leah will attend the Synod Fall Theological meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Motion by Tulley to pay the \$175 registration fee for Grau. Jason Boussetot seconded. Motion carried.

Worship Committee

Date: September 10, 2026

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

- Worship in the Park recap
 - Overall positive
 - May need to review sound system as it was hard to hear in the back.
 - Outreach serving coffee and donuts before was nice.
 - Consider moving the speakers with an extension cord
- Reformation Sunday
 - Will be on October 25th
 - Not sure if we will do the same order of services or something unique
 - All Saints Sunday is November 1st. Members may begin adding names of deceased to the All Saints List on September 27th.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Food will be gathered for the Carroll Assistance Center in November.
- Coats, hats, and winter outerwear will be gathered in December to January.

God Squad: Pastor Leah

- Had first gathering on Sept. 9th; kids were excited.
- God Squad will host a Halloween party at Faith on October 25th.
- Had confirmation and youth gathering planning meeting Sept. 2nd, have 6 youth interested.

Education Committee

Present: Cindy Burke and John Baur

- Sunday School is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 13th at 9:25 am at Faith. Lessons have been planned out and classroom prepared.
- Sunday School Christmas Program
 - Reviewed several options, preference for “The Good News Flash” Ch 7 from the One Rehearsal Christmas Program book. The play is about Reporters looking for big news story in Bethlehem on Dec. 26 and finding the Christmas story. It has 8 speaking parts (some can be adjusted up or down if needed), singers, and a few other non-speaking Bible characters.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: October 15th, 2026

Where: Faith

Worship Committee Meeting

Date: October 15th, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Faith

Education Committee Meeting

Date: October 14th, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for October 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: Terri Bousselot

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Donna Petersen
Ashley & Tysen Steffens

Acolyte:

Oliver Barnes

Communion Assistant:

Terri Bousselot

Lectors:

October 4: Tysen Steffens
October 11 Sarah Tulley
October 18: Peyton Grau
October 25: Ashley Steffens

Altar Ministry:

Doreen Henning & Ashley Steffens

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Eva Burke

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Cindy Burke

Lectors:

October 4: Joe Morehead
October 11 Jason Bousselot
October 18: Rachel Burke
October 25: Brian Bousselot

Cleaner:

Amy Glover

October 2026 Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church				1	2	3
4 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - OS	5 Church office closed Pastor will be in the office	6 Church office closed Pastor will be in the office	7 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot's Pond Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	8	9	10
11 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - Faith	12	13 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	14 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	15 Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	16	17
18 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - Faith	19 November newsletter items are due.	20	21 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	22	23	24
25 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship – F Halloween Fun Night at Faith 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	26	27	28 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	29	30	31

All Saints Sunday is November 1st



Halloween Fun Night

Hosted by God Squad

Date: October 25th

Time: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church in Calamus

Enjoy a warm soup supper, hot drinks, candy,
fun games and activities for the kids.

**Come in your costumes and
join in the fun!**

Freewill donation, all the proceeds support the 2026 Angel Tree Project.