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/Adult Study
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



November 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 **November 2026** Number 12

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

On Tuesday, November 3rd various elections will take place in our country, including several in our own state and county. As I write this, many of us, myself included, are already tired and bogged down by the onslaught of advertisements we experience during an election cycle. During this season we may particularly feel, what seems to be, the rather deep seated divisions within our country supposedly along political lines. One could make an argument that that is more of a media amplified perception than actual reality, but that is a point of discussion for another day. Regardless of whether deep divisions along political lines in our country are factual or amplified or somewhere in between, the reality is that we feel these deep divisions, sometimes very, very concretely and personally, and therefore they are something we must contend with in our real, everyday lives.

It is seasons like this one where I find particular comfort in our worship, and in particular, our Prayer of the Day. The Prayer of the Day is one of those pieces of worship that is shared among our fellow liturgical churches who follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Different denominations may tweak it a bit here and there, but each Sunday the Prayer of the Day is prayed in similar words among many of our siblings in Christ throughout the world. The Prayer of the Day is also sometimes called The Collect, because it collects all of the readings for the day into one meditative prayer and it collects all of us gathered into one mind before hearing the Word of God in the readings.

This is very powerful. In a world where real time and money are spent dividing us up and pitting groups of people against each other, in our worship we reject that notion of division. Each time we gather for worship we gather with all of our similarities and differences, our varying opinions and politics, our joys and our sorrows and together we pray to God as the diverse, but unified, Body of Christ across denominations, throughout the world. In our Prayer of the Day, in the Collect, we are ultimately praying that communally—Christians throughout the world, our worshipping community here, all worshipping communities everywhere—would be more deeply formed to be the Body of Christ together. In this moment of prayer in our worship we aren't praying for just that person we don't like to

change, we aren't even praying for just our own individual self to change, but we are praying that as a Christian community we would be transformed together to be more deeply formed as the Body of Christ. This is very powerful.

All of our prayers conclude with 'amen,' which simply means 'yes,' or 'may it be so.' Communally we prayer our Prayer of the Day, communally we say 'yes' and 'may it be so.' In a time where we may feel bogged down by ads and divisions, our worship together reminds us that before we are anything else, through our baptisms, we are the Body of Christ and we belong to God through Jesus Christ, we belong to each other, we belong to Christians throughout the world, we belong to the saints' of all times and places, forever united together by the power of the Holy Spirit. May it be so. Amen.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



November Cover Letter – Art Work

Thank you for the wonderful artwork for November Cover Page!

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

Set Your Clocks Back!



Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 1st

All Saints Sunday is on November 1st

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 22nd
at Our Savior's ~ 5:00PM



The offering is paper products and canned goods for the Carroll Assistance Center, Wheatland. The collection will begin November 1st at both churches.

Pie and ice cream will be served in the fellowship hall following worship.

God Squad is hosting their annual Thanksgiving Pie & Treats Fundraiser!

Naomi Circle Bible Study
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home





Confirmation

Confirmation Classes
6:00 pm
at Faith

Bible Jam
7:00 pm
at Faith

No Confirmation and Bible Jam on November 25th

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

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.

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!

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

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering
Stock Holder Fundraiser

Show your support to our youth and be a part of 2027 Youth Gathering by becoming a Youth Gathering Stockholder!

What is a Youth Gathering Stockholder?
* Stockholders are Members who purchase shares to support youth attending the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Stockholders will receive:
* Mail from the Youth about the Youth Gathering.
* Exclusive invitation to the "Dine & Share" event, where the youth will showcase their experiences from the Youth Gathering.

How do I become a Youth Gathering Stockholder?
* Fill out a 'Shares Request' form and place it in the Youth Gathering bag at either church.
* Shares cost $50.00 each.
* You will be contacted by Heather Grau about payments, make checks payable to God Squad, Memo Youth Gathering 2027.

Questions? Contact CLP Youth Leader, Heather Grau at 563-424-0507.

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 **December newsletter items** to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by **Monday, November 16th.**
Thank you for your cooperation!

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



Church Office Closed
The church office will be closed
Wednesday, November 25th to Friday, November 27th

Planning for December…

Midweek Advent Worship Schedule



In addition to Sunday worship, there will be midweek Advent services on Wednesday evenings.

Wednesday, December 2, at Faith
5:45 PM Program Practice
6:15 PM Meal
7:00 PM Worship
7:30 PM Bible Jam

Wednesday, December 9, at Faith
5:45 PM Program Practice
6:15 PM Meal
7:00 PM Worship
7:30 PM Bible Jam

Wednesday, December 16, at Our Savior's
6:15 PM Meal
7:00 PM Worship
7:30 PM God Squad Christmas Party



Calamus Lutheran Parish Sunday School Program Presents:

"The Good News Flash"

Sunday, December 13th, 2026

10:30 am at Faith Lutheran Church
(during church service)

Parents of Sunday School age children PK-6th grade, mark your calendar for these rehearsal dates:

Wednesday, December 2nd 5:45-6:30 pm
at Faith before Advent Service
Wednesday, December 9th 5:45-6:30 pm
at Faith before Advent Service
Saturday, December 12th 9:25 am-10:30 am
Dress rehearsal at Faith
Sunday, December 13th during normal Sunday School hours 9:25 am -10:15 am



October Meetings

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

- Did not meet

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Date: October 15, 2026
Present: John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton and Brian Tulley.
Treasurer's Report:

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

Financial Secretary's Report:

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

Old Business

- Black mold was found in the air conditioner units in the two offices. Spray has been applied to kill the mold. During the summer, running the air conditioners at all times at low setting with dehumidifier setting activated may assist in eliminating the problem.

New Business

- Faith has a lockbox – Doreen has a key.
- The scanned blueprints are saved on a flash drive. The flash drive containing the scanned blue prints is now secured in the lockbox. The total cost was $70.
- Ryan & Associates heating project update – They replaced all pipes where water may sit. The project has been completed. Once the boiler is started, it would be best to keep at 55 to 60 degrees temperature every day.
- Moving filing cabinet to the basement – still on list of things to do.

October Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: October 15, 2026
Present: Our Saviors: Jason Bousselot, and Deb Detlefs. **Faith:** John Baur, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Luke Shelton and Brian Tulley.

Pastor's Report

- Continued to perform regular duties: Confirmation, Bible Jam, Meet and Eat at Buck's, Visiting shut ins, and nursing home services.
- Presided over the Funeral Service of Mary Ann and Loren Christensen at Our Savior's, and one baptism at Our Savior's.
- Continues to volunteer at the elementary school.
- Six youth are interested in attending the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Pastor Leah and Heather Grau are determining transportation.
- Attended Synod Fall Gathering.

Old Business:

- Moving files from church office to other filing cabinets/bins – several years' worth of registration forms was recycled. 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 to the basement.

New Business:

- Thank you – Thank you note was received from Joyce Heuer, of the Calamus Methodist Church. Very grateful for the donation of money to be used for their backpack food program.

Worship Committee
Date: October 15, 2026
Present:

- Reviewed service outline for All Saints Sunday – no changes made.
- Reviewed service outline for Christ the King Sunday – no changes made.
- Reviewed Thanksgiving Service – will be using Of Land and Seasons – Service will be on November 22nd at Our Savior's.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Did not meet

God Squad: Pastor Leah

- God Squad will host Halloween Fun Night
  - Halloween Fun Night will be held on October 25th.
- 2027 Youth Gathering Update
  - After meeting, 6 Youth and 2 Adults are interested in attending. Registration packets handed out, due on October 21st.
  - Registration begins Oct. 21st, will try to be registered by November for optimal cost savings.
  - Estimated cost $7,326 (without travel), Currently raised $2812, need $4500 between now and spring.
  - Fundraising: Thrivent Dollars Request in newsletter, Stockholder Fundraiser, Advent/Lent Meals, looking for other ideas outside church.
- November Activities
  - Feed the Children - God Squad will bag food for Feeding the Children. Food will be delivered by Pastor Leah or Nicole.
  - YG Stockholder Fundraiser Kick-Off
  - Thanksgiving Service, Bake Sale following worship (Sunday, November 22nd at 5:00 pm
  - Baking Day will be held on November 21st at Faith at TBD.
- December Activities
  - Advent Supper (December 2nd or 9th), planning for Tator-Tot Casseroles.
  - Xmas Party will be held on December 16th at Our Savior's.

Education Committee

Present: Cindy Burke, John Baur, and Pastor Leah

- Sunday School
  - Gabby Goettsch offered to be a Sunday School substitute if needed.
- Sunday School Christmas Program
  - "The Good News Flash", Chapter 7 from the One Rehearsal Christmas Program book. Play is about Reporters looking for a big news story in Bethlehem on Dec. 26th and finding the Christmas Story.
  - The program has 9 speaking parts but can combine a couple (News Chief, 2-3 Reporters, 2-3 Shepherds, and Innkeeper). Singers and non-speaking Bible Characters (Mary, Joseph, and Angels). Speaking parts will largely be given to 4th-6th class which has had 6 regular attendees so far. Four songs are suggested throughout but may want to add or change to better fit our group. Marsha will be asked her thoughts and about some songs to use.
  - Program date: December 13th, during worship at Faith.
  - Rehearsals: Wednesday, December 2nd & Wednesday, December 9th from 5:45 pm to 6:30 (before Advent Worship), Saturday, December 12th at 9:30 am and Sunday, December 13th during Sunday School hour.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Outreach Committee Meeting
Date: November 12, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm
Where: Our Savior's

Worship Committee Meeting
Date: November 12th, 2026
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: Our Savior's

Joint Council
Date: November 12th, 2026
Where: Our Savior's
Time: 7:00 pm

Education Committee Meeting
Date: November 11th, 2026
Time: 7:00 pm
Where: Faith

MINSTERS for November 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: Bible Jam – Prepare / Nicole Easterday - Deliver

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:
Terri & David Bousselot

Acolyte:
Emily Grau

Communion Assistant:
Mark Witte

Lectors:
November 1: Doreen Henning
November 8: Andrea Shelton
November 15: Dirk Braet
November 22: Marsha Witte
November 29: Terri Bousselot

Altar Ministry:
Terri & David Bousselot &
Sharyl & Larry Banowetz

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:
Neil Holmquist

Acolyte:
Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant:
David Burke

Lectors:
November 1: Dan Burke
November 8: Marcia Edens
November 15: David Burke
November 22: Deb Detlefs
November 29: Neil Holmquist

Cleaner:
Dan & Cindy Burke

November 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 All Saints Sunday 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - F	**2**	**3** **Election Day**	**4** **Confirmation** 6:00 pm **Bible Jam** 7:00 pm	**5** **Pastor Leah out of the office**	**6**	**7**
8 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - F	**9**	**10** **"Meet and Eat"** Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	**11 Naomi Circle** 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home **Confirmation** 6:00 pm **Bible Jam** 7:00 pm **Education Committee** 7:00 pm at Faith **Veterans Day**	**12** **Outreach Committee** 6:00 pm at Our Savior's **Worship Committee** 6:30 pm at Our Savior's **Joint Council** 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	**13**	**14**
15 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - F	**16** **December newsletter items are due.**	**17**	**18** **Confirmation** 6:00 pm **Bible Jam** 7:00 pm	**19**	**20**	**21** **God Squad Pie Baking Day** at Faith TBD
22 Christ the King 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - F **Thanksgiving Service at Our Savior's 5:00 pm** **29 Hanging of the Greens** 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School - F 10:30 Worship - F	**23** **30**	**24**	**25** **Church office closed**	**26** **Thanksgiving** **Church office closed**	**27** **Church office closed**	**28**

Advent begins Sunday, November 29th