

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



9:30 AM Sunday School, Adult Study

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
2589 – 190th Avenue, 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



October 2025



*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 38

October 2025

Number 10

Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I write this in late August, I find myself thinking about hope. Perhaps my mind is already a little bit in Advent due to planning for parental leave, so please pardon my jumping liturgical seasons a bit. However, regardless of the liturgical season, hope is just one of those things that we are about as Christians. It is one of our defining characteristics as Christians, and it is incredibly powerful. Hope names the reality of what is, while still looking to the future that is promised for us in Jesus. Hope weeps with us, and still gives us strength to get up face another day, and to trust that “weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5). Hope frees us from worrying if we will see its fruits in our lifetime, and instead we trust that our living into the kingdom of God is never done in vain.

However, in our social media heavy, 24/7 news cycle world, I think we can confuse “hope” and “toxic positivity.” Toxic positivity can go by many names: rose-colored glasses, Pollyanna syndrome, silver-lining, etc. But so often it is a feeling we get when going through something hard and someone(s) feel the need to put a positive spin on it, and it just leaves you feeling like they don’t get what is going on, and that they just aren’t grounded in reality. So, to be clear, this feeling is not hope, nor is it what I am talking about.

We live in a world surrounded by this toxic positivity masquerading as hope. As we head into these months of celebrations and holidays, it often becomes more prevalent. So, I find myself thinking about hope as the antidote to this positivity. I find myself thinking about how to live into hope for myself, how to speak it into lives around me, and how to live my life in a way that reflects this powerful hope we have in Jesus Christ. I do not have all the answers, but I know that hope in Jesus changes my life, changes your lives, and changes the world each and every day. May we live into the hope that we know and claim in Jesus. May it guide us to live in a way that names pain and suffering for what it is, and still point us and others to Jesus in the midst of weeping. May we trust in the grace and strength that God gives us through this hope, so that we continually rely more and more on the strength of God found in hope, and less and less on our own strength and merits.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Leah



Fall Schedule



8:00 AM Worship

Faith Church

505 Second Street, Calamus



9:30 AM Sunday School

Our Savior's Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus



10:30 AM Worship

Our Savior's Church

2589 – 190th Avenue, Calamus

October Cover Letter – Art Work

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

October 5th

***Pastor Leah's last day before
Parental Leave begins.***

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.

DeWitt Community Hospital Auxiliary Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, October 8th

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

United Church of Christ, DeWitt

Menu: Pulled chicken with roll, salads, dessert,
and drink.

Tickets: \$10.00 at the door

Thank you for supporting the local hospital!

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

10:00 am at Shirley Frank's home



September/October/November issue of
Gather magazine



Tate Paul Rock, son of Andrew and Mikaela Rock
of Grand Mound, was baptized on
Sunday, September 14th.
Welcome to the family of God, Tate.

God Squad Can Donation

God Squad would like to thank everyone who
donated cans over the summer. The God Squad
can donation collected \$274.00 to help send the
youth to the Youth Gathering in 2026.
**Thank you to Andrea, Hal, Caleb & Brent with
helping with the can drive.**



Meal Train for Pastor Leah & Family

Meal Train information for Pastor Leah & Family will be sent out after baby Nilsen has made his or her arrival. Meal Train Information will be sent by email. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole in the church office.

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.

Feeding the Children



Faith and Our Savior's members are again preparing food bags to provide weekend meals for Calamus-Wheatland students selected by the school counselor.

The Outreach Committee is coordinating the project. Volunteers are in place for packing bags and delivering food to the school on Friday mornings. Food is also adequate for the rest of the year.

Thank you for the military donations!

Thank you for the donations to the military. The troops are really appreciated of all the goodies!



Halloween Fun Night by God Squad

God Squad will be hosting a Halloween Fun Night on October 26th, 2025 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

There will be a soup supper, warm drinks, candy, Kids games and activities.

Come in your costumes!

Freewill donation, all proceeds support the 2025 Angel Tree Project!

Come join in the fun!

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!



Parental Leave Information

While Pastor Leah is on Parental Leave please contact the following Pastors.

Pastor Dennis Rodenberg will cover all emergencies and funerals, if he is unavailable **Pastor Roberta** can be contacted as a back up to him.

Pastor Dennis Rodenberg at 563-880-5345 or email at pastorzion@netins.net
If he is unavailable by phone please contact **Pastor Roberta Pierce** at 406-478-9518 or email at prmbp10@gmail.com

All Saints Sunday is on November 2nd

There is a sheet of paper at the back of each sanctuary for listing the names of loved ones who have died this past year.

Please submit **November newsletter items** to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by Monday, October 20th.
Thank you for your cooperation!

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



August Meetings

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Date: September 11, 2025

Present: Dan, Amy, Jason, Deb, and Pastor Leah

Old Business

- Grace Church Donation– Thank you card was passed around for Council members to sign and it will be sent to Grace Church.

New Business

- A Birthday card from the church will be sent to Levson Organ for 90th Birthday.

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Date: September 11, 2025

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

Old Business

- Aaron Anderson is interested in repairing the upstairs ceiling and south wall of sanctuary. He will contact Shelton when he can schedule the work.
- Pam Goldsmith will provide a bid on painting the sanctuary.
- Dohrmann Plumbing will repair the south kitchen sink.
- Dohrmann Plumbing estimated the replacement of two air conditioning units for the sanctuary at \$15,760. Units inside and outside must be replaced. Tulley will request a bid from Bernie's Plumbing in Preston.
- Two Church Mutual Reports have been submitted. The Church Mutual Electrical Report will be given to Eric Hoffmann. Both are due May 2026.

New Business

- Bats have been seen inside the church on a regular basis. In February 2025, a one-year guarantee was provided by the bat service. Witte has contacted the company several times and will request immediate service.



August Meetings

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: September 11, 2025

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

- Reviewed discussion from parishioner prayer requests from prior meeting.
- Reviewed wording for invitation to Holy Communion.
- Adult class will be led by participants. Visiting pastors may attend, if desired.
- Church in the Park went well. Next year, the C-W Fun Days Committee will be asked to provide more up-front information about events.

Pastor's Report

- Continued to perform regular duties.
- Expressed thanks to everyone assisting with various tasks during maternity leave.
- Stated on call pastors are Pastor Dennis. His back-up is Pastor Roberta.
- Prepared and will preside at the Anderson/Whitman wedding in December.
- Presided at the graveside service for Rusty Porth on August 23rd.
- Will be on vacation on Sunday, September 21st.
- Participated in monthly meeting as part of the Small-Town Rural Ministry Grant.
- Continues to visit members in assisted living and homebound.
- All set up for Parental Leave.
- Had Baptism planning for Rock family.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Pie and ice cream will be served after the 5:00 pm Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23rd.
- A Theisen's grant has been submitted. If successful, funding would be received this fall.
- The committee will not meet in October.
- Coat drive will begin in December.
- Food Bag delivery schedule is looking good.

God Squad

- Approximately 10-12 youth have been present at Bible Jam.
- The focus of the Bible lesson is Dwelling in the Word theme.
- Youth are planning a Halloween Fun Night on October 26th.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Back-up for the computer in the church office was discussed. Motion by J. Boussetot to purchase a \$60 hard drive. Detlefs seconded. Motion carried.
- Motion by Burke to distribute Church in the park donations to the Carroll Assistance Center. Detlefs seconded. Motion carried.

Education Committee

- Prepared for Sunday School by learning how to use the printer and the paper cutter. All materials must be printed. 11x17 colored card stock paper is needed. A request for donations will be included in the bulletin.
- The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 14th at Our Savior's at 10:30 am. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays, December 3rd and 10th and on Saturday, December 13th.

Worship Committee

Date: September 11, 2025

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

- Reviewed final parental leave calendar.
 - Will ask kids to do Holden Evening Prayers for Advent.
 - There will be no worship on Sunday, December 14th at Faith due to the Children's Christmas Program.
 - Will put out the All Saint's List on October 5th.
- Pastor will be gone September 21st and members will lead services.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: October 16th, 2025

Where: Our Savior's

Education Committee Meeting

Date: October 15th, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for October 2025

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 seven bags of food to Cal-Wheat Elementary on Friday mornings.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Donna Petersen,
Ashley & Tysen Steffens

Acolyte:

Brent Shelton

Communion Assistant:

Laurie Storjohann

Lectors:

October 5: Doreen Henning
October 12: Laurie Storjohann
October 19: Dirk Braet
October 26: Marsha Witte

Altar Ministry:

Doreen Henning & Ashley Steffens

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Neil Holmquist

Acolyte:

Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant:

Cindy Burke

Lectors:

October 5: Neil Holmquist
October 12: Cindy Burke
October 19: Amy Glover
October 26: Eva Burke

Cleaners:

Jason Bousselot

October 2025 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 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	2	3	4
5 Pastor Leah's last day before Parental Leave 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	6	7	8 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	9	10	11
12 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	13	14 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	15 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Shirley Frank's home Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	16 Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Joint Council 7:00 pm at Our Savior's	17	18
19 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	20 November newsletter items are due.	21	22 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship – OS Halloween Fun Night at Faith 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	27	28	29 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	30	31	

All Saints Sunday is November 2nd



God Squad is hosting a Halloween Fun Night!

Date: October 26th

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church in Calamus

There will be a soup supper, warm drinks,
candy, kid's games and activities.

Come in your costumes!!

Freewill donation. All proceeds support the
2025 Angel Tree Project.

Come join in the fun!

