



*Faith
Lutheran Church
505 2nd Street
Calamus, IA 52729*

Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches (ELCA)

Calamus Lutheran Parish

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Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen



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

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Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

For many of us, May is a time of transition. School is (usually) wrapping up, we have finished our education year as a parish, we have several young people being confirmed, the weather will move from spring and settle into summer, graduation parties begin, changes happen in our lives and relationships and in the lives and relationships of those we love, and the pace of life can feel both somehow busier and less busy all at the same time. In all of this transition, I share this blessing for endings and beginnings from theologians and authors Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie from their delightful book *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*. May each of us know that in all that happens in our lives, God in Jesus Christ is ever present, and ever holds us close by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This life is made up of so many beginnings and so many ends.

We start new jobs and leave old ones.

We move to new cities and leave our childhood hobbies in our parents' basement. (Sorry, Mom).

We become new people slowly (hopefully kinder and funnier?).

Friendships and relationships come and go.

Dreams blossom and then they wither.

And we find ourselves here once again at the precipice of change.

Afraid to let go, and afraid of what will happen if we don't.

Might this be a place of blessing too?

Blessed are we standing in the hallway between closed doors and ones still to come, between the old and the new, between the worn-in and the doesn't-quite-yet-fit, between who we were and who we might become.

God, make it remotely possible to grow and change, become open to new adventures, and untethered to routine or to the same-old.

Because the anxiety rising in my shoulders and filling my throat tells me that I am unlikely, unwilling, to step forward.

Blessed are we who take a minute to look over our shoulder at all we learned from what was, the people we became, the people who loved us into becoming.

The peace that came with familiarity.

Blessed are we who trust this timing, and who open our hearts anew to change, to new friends, to hope.

Nervous, maybe heavy-hearted, but brimming with gratitude for a life so beautiful that it hurts to say goodbye.

Blessed are we, turning our eyes ahead toward a new path not yet mapped.

God, give us courage to take this next step,

and enough for the one after that, too.

Remind us that you have gone before, and behind, and around and are with us now.

In our leaving, in our arriving, in our changes, expected or shocking, surprise us with who we might become.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



May Cover Letter - Art Work

Thank you so much for the wonderful artwork for the May Cover Page.

Gathering for Young Adult/Parents of Young-Youngish Children
at Wapsi Oaks Country Club
Friday, May 2nd, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Naomi Circle Bible Study
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



March/April/May issue of *Gather* magazine

Youth Schedule for May

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:25 AM at Faith
May 4, and May 11
There are classes for all ages!

Confirmation

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
May 7th, and May 14th at Faith

Bible Jam

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
May 7th, and May 14th at Faith

Junior high and high school students are welcome to come for food, faith, fellowship, and fun!

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 17th, 2025
Grand View University – Des Moines, Iowa
10:00 am – 6:00 pm.
For more information, check out the SE IA Synod website (www.seiasynod.org)

Looking for snack donations from the Education Committee for Bible School!

Bible School is looking for snack donations.
(No nuts, due to nut allergies)
Please have snacks to the church
before May 14th.

Wednesday Bible School in May

“The Woman at the Well”

Where: Faith Lutheran Church

When: May 21st, 2025

Time: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Registration forms are due to the church office or school by May 13th, 2025.



Confirmation

9:00 am on Sunday, May 18th, at Faith

The following will affirm their baptism:

Caden Will, Eva Burke and Grant Hoffmann

A reception in the fellowship hall at Faith will follow worship. All are welcome!

Sunday, May 18th & May 25th ONE Service only!

May 18th

Worship at 9:00 am
at Faith

and

May 25th

Worship at 9:00 am
at Our Savior's

Pastor Leah will be out of the office

on May 5th and May 6th.
She will be available by phone or e-mail.

Pastor Leah will be on vacation

May 9th, May 10th, May 11th and May 12th.

It is graduation time!

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

Erica Will is graduating from Calamus-Wheatland and

Noelle Steines is graduating from Tipton.

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

Congratulations to the

C-W FFA Members of our congregation!

The following members attended the 97th Iowa FFA Leadership State Convention in Ames on April 13-15.

**Mason Easterday, Kalloway Whitman,
Caden Will, Dalton Will,
Erica Will, and Faith Will.**

Senior Erica Will received **SILVER** in Extemporaneous Speaking - **4th overall!**

Sophomore Kalloway Whitman and team received **9th Place** and **SILVER** in Ag Communication!

Junior Dalton Will, Freshman Mason Easterday, and 7th Grader Caden Will poultry evaluation team received **SILVER** (first time ever)!

Freshman Faith Will received **GOLD** - **1st place** overall on the Greenhand Test!

Congratulations to all the FFA Members!

40 Days of Giving – Collected Peanut Butter

Faith & Our Savior's collected 92 jars of peanut butter during Lent. The peanut butter was delivered to the Carroll Assistance Center. The CAC staff said, "Wow! Peanut butter is greatly appreciated; it is a staple for the food pantry!" Thank you everyone who donated peanut butter for the CAC.

Young Adult/Parents of Young-Youngish

Children Gathering

At the All Council and Committee Gathering in February, the need for space and time to gather as folks in this age/stage of life range was brought up. We are hoping to have an initial get together on **Friday, May 2nd at 5:30 pm at the Wapsi Oaks Country Club**. We will meet for dinner, conversation and time together. We are hoping to be able to gather together to do events like this several times a year. If this type of gathering and time together is something you have a passion or energy to help with coordinating, please reach out to Pastor Leah. We are excited for this opportunity to be together! Please reach out to Pastor Leah with any questions.

Youth, I want your help with the monthly newsletters!

I would like our church youth to enjoy a fun way of participating in the monthly newsletters by showing their creativity. The artist's drawing would be featured on the cover page of the monthly newsletter! The drawings will be due in the office at the same time as the newsletter items are due in the church office. The paper for the drawings will be at the back of each church, marked with the month and the year. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Easterday in the church office.

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

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee of the Calamus Lutheran Parish meets monthly to plan Sunday worship services and festival services held during Advent, Lent, and Holy Week. This process includes collaboration with the Joint, Our Savior's, and Faith Church Councils. Pastor Leah provides guidance to ensure the content of the services aligns with synod guidelines and liturgical settings.

The committee reviews new materials, observes overall participation by members during services, and responds to feedback provided by parishioners. The committee invites and welcomes church members to share ideas and feedback regarding worship services. This input allows each congregation to meet the needs of their members and provides opportunities for new and fresh ideas to be incorporated into worship.

The committee also creates ministry lists for each congregation - Acolyte, Lector, Altar Minister, Communion Assistant, and Usher. Specific instructions for each of these roles are available. If you are willing to serve in any of these roles, please contact a member of the Worship Committee or inform the parish office, 246-2622. Assistance will be given to anyone interested in learning these ministry tasks.

2025 Worship Committee Members

Our Savior's: Jason Bousselot*, Dan Burke*, Deb Detlefs*, and Linda Whitman.

Faith: Brittney Hoffmann*, Andrea Shelton, and Terri Bousselot*.

*Denotes council member



April Meetings

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Date: April 10, 2025

Present: Amy, and Dan.

Old Business

- Spring Clean-Up went well on Saturday, April 5th.
- Insurance was passed with underwriting, waiting policy approval.
- Piano tuning is completed.

New Business

- None

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: April 10, 2025

Present: OS: Dan, Amy

Faith: Mitch, Luke, John, Terri, and Pastor Leah.

Pastor's Report

- Presided at Betty Schau's funeral at Faith.
- Volunteered at C-W Elementary school.
- Attended Naomi Circle.
- Continues to visit members in assisted living and homebound.
- Led Adult Bible Class and Confirmation Class.
- Pastor attended continuing education classes in Dubuque on April 22-24.
- Pastor will be out of the office May 5th and May 6th, and will be available by phone or e-mail. She will be on vacation May 9th-May 12th. She is seeking pulpit supply for Sunday, May 11th.

Old Business:

- None

New Business: None

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: May 15th, 2025

Where: Our Savior's

Education Committee Meeting

Date: May 14th

Where: Faith

Worship Committee

Present: Pastor Leah, Dan, Terri and Linda

- Reviewed feedback from Midweek Lenten Services.
- Confirmation is set for May 18th, service times TBD. May consider having a joint service at 9:00 am.
- Reviewed feedback from preaching on the Old Testament during Lent.
- Discussed final Holy Week preparations.
- Pastor will be out of town May 11th; still looking for pulpit supply.
- Terri ordered palms; Andrea picked the palms up on April 11th.
- Summer Worship: Faith will resume outdoor worship services after Memorial Day. Faith will move to 9:30 am that day as well.
- Memorial Day is on May 25th, one service at Our Savior's at 9:00 am.
- 4th of July weekend, July 6th service will be at Faith at 9:00 am. Subject to time change for Faith's 75th Anniversary.
- Will revisit bulletin formats before fall service begins.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Did not meet

God Squad

- Hosted Easter Breakfast at Our Savior's at 9:00 am, along with an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 am at Our Savior's.
- Bible Jam continues.
- Youth Lead worship will be May 4th at 10:30am at Faith.

Education Committee

Present: Rebecca, Cindy, John, Pastor Leah, and Eric Hoffmann (briefly at start).

- Bible School is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st from 3:30 to 5:00 with a theme of "Woman at the Well."
- Registration forms were sent to the elementary school and attached to the April newsletter.
- Volunteers for bible school: Marsha Witte will help with music, Rebecca, Pastor will lead the story, Eric will lead activity, John can help, possibly Cindy, and Ashley.
- Schedule for Bible School – Gather outside with activity, Snack, Video, Story, Music, Craft, Activity and Closing Prayer.
- Ask congregation for snack donations. Have snacks at church before our May 14th meeting in order to see if there will be enough snacks.



April Meetings

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: April 10th, 2025

Present: John B, Mitch C, Luke S, Terri B.

Old Business

- New Sign project – Power has been run to the sign. Installation will occur after Easter.
- Bousselot will contact J. Greibel about repair of south sink and toilet in women's restroom.
- Enclosure of parsonage steps was discussed. Leaves did not accumulate. Leaving the area open may be easier to maintain. Pastor is satisfied with the current appearance. No action will be taken.
- The Faith Lutheran Church 75th year anniversary celebration will be on July 6th, at 9:00am worship service. Pastor will send information to the SE Iowa Synod. The synod would send a representative to be present on July 6th.
- John Baur – Found 2 DVD's which contain narration of movies. The video quality is poor. The cost to digitize is \$100 per DVD. This was considered too costly. A binder of previous anniversary celebrations is located in the file cabinet in the preschool room. Photos taken of all members at the March 2nd worship service were not good. A photo could be taken at Easter and/or July 6th service. There may be more people present.
- Council will seek volunteers to serve on an anniversary committee. This group would determine how to celebrate the anniversary. Photos, videos, and items could be gathered. Refreshments/meal could be organized.

New Business

- All fire extinguishers have passed inspection. Paperwork will be filed in the office.
- Summer worship services at Faith begin at 9:30am on June 1st. Services will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Bring lawn chairs.

MINSTERS for May 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: Hal and Andrea Shelton

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Paul Olson
Brian Tulley

Acolyte:

Kinnick Christensen

Communion Assistant:

Ashley Steffens

Lectors:

May 4: Andrea Shelton
May 11: Peyton Grau
May 18: Ashley Steffens

Altar Ministry:

Marsha & Mark Witte

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Rachel Burke

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Neil Holmquist

Lectors:

May 4: Jason Bousselot
May 11: Eva Burke
May 25: Joe Morehead

Cleaners:

Jason Bousselot

May 2025 Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>F = Faith Church OS = Our Savior's Church</p>				1	2 Gathering at Wapsi Oaks Country Club at 5:30 pm	3
4 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F 10:30 Youth Lead Worship – F	5 Pastor Leah out of the office.	6 Pastor Leah out of the office.	7 Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith	8	9 Pastor Leah on vacation.	10 Pastor Leah on vacation.
11 8:00 Worship – OS 9:25 Sunday School – F Last Day of Sunday School 10:30 Worship – F Pastor Leah on vacation. Mother's Day	12 Pastor Leah on vacation.	13 "Meet and Eat" Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	14 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha Witte's home Confirmation 6:00 pm at Faith Bible Jam 7:00 pm at Faith Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	15 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at OS Worship Committee 6:30 pm at OS Joint Council 7:00 pm at OS	16	17 Synod Assembly at Grandview University
18 Noisy Offering 9:00 Worship - F Confirmation at Faith	19 June/July newsletter items are due.	20	21 Bible School 3:30 – 5:00 pm at Faith	22	23	24
25 Joint Worship 9:00 Worship – OS	26 Church office closed. Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

The summer schedule begins on Sunday, June 1st; 8:00 worship at Faith and 9:30 worship at Our Savior's.

Wednesday Bible School – “The Woman at the Well”
Faith Lutheran Church, 505 2nd Street in Calamus (563) 246-2622
3:30 to 5:00 on May 21, 2025
For children in Kindergarten through Grade 5

You may make arrangements with the school to have children ride the bus to the church.

In order to make plans for snacks and supplies, this registration must be turned in to the church office or school office by **May 13, 2025**. You may use one form for a family.

* It is important to have permission and emergency contact information.

The registration form must be on file for all the children attending Bible School.

CUT _____

2025 Bible School Registration Form

Child's Name _____

Birth date _____ School grade just completing _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Child's Name _____

Birth date _____ School grade just completing _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Child's Name _____

Birth date _____ School grade just completing _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

Parental Permission

Parent(s) name(s) _____

Address _____ Town _____

Work phone _____ E-mail _____

Phone _____ for _____ Phone _____ for _____

*Signature of a Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Emergency Information

In case of emergency, there should be someone to contact from 3:30 to 5:00 who can respond immediately.

*Contact _____ *Phone _____

Relationship to child _____