



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

Faith and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches (ELCA)

Calamus Lutheran Parish

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

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Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I write this to you on the Monday after the annual Synod Assembly that happens each May. I'd like to take the space this month to share a bit more about what Synod Assembly is, the importance of it for me, and what our synod does for us and for all the congregations that make up the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

First, a thank you to Mark, Amy, and Shelley who represented our parish at Synod Assembly this year. Synod Assembly is our synod's annual meeting. All synods throughout the ELCA gather in assembly once a year between May and June. The happenings in assembly are much like what we do in our own annual meetings each January. We hear reports from the Bishop and the Synod Council, we elect new officers, delegates or a bishop as needed, we pass a budget for the synod for the upcoming calendar year (e.g. we passed the 2026 budget for the synod in our 2025 Assembly), we update the synod's constitution as necessary, vote on memorials and resolutions for the synod, as well as any other business of the synod that needs to be conducted in a particular year. Just like we need a quorum for our annual congregation meetings, we need a quorum for our synod assembly to make sure that all voices throughout our synod can be heard! Even though it can feel like "one more thing to do" being a voting member at synod assembly is a very important role people in our parish have undertaken throughout the years.

One of the most important pieces of Synod Assembly for me each year is the reminder that we are not alone. There are over 130 other congregations in our synod who are engaging with so many of the same joys and struggles that we encounter here together. It is an experience of the Body of Christ where we can share together in worship and in doing the business of the synod the promises and the hope of Jesus Christ. We get to see the movement of the Holy Spirit in all the gifts we share throughout our synod that make a real difference in the lives of congregations here in Southeastern Iowa, and make a difference in the lives of many people around the world. It is a gift to be a part of this ELCA body, this Southeastern Iowa Synod, and this Calamus Lutheran Parish.

Our Synod Assembly theme this year was “Spirit Open Our Hearts.” You may hear me talk about this throughout the next year! The synod will be providing resources for congregations to use and engage with as we pray together as a synod for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to where God is calling us. I hope and pray that our parish will faithfully lean into this theme, and that we would be bold to ask and pray and trust that the Holy Spirit has, is, and will be opening our hearts to the ways that God is calling us to be God’s people in this time and place for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you want to know more about anything written here, please do not hesitate to ask! Grateful to be church with all of you.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Leah



**June/July Cover Letter –
Art Work**

*Thank you for the wonderful artwork for
the June/July Cover Page!*

God Squad Can Donation

Starting in June, God Squad's fundraiser will be
collecting cans in the bin located at Faith Church.
Thank you for your donation!

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, June 11th, and July 9th, 2025
10:00 am at Bousset Pond



June/July/August issue of *Gather* magazine

Worship Schedule for June/July

Our Savior's

8:00 am Worship

Indoor Services

Faith

9:30 am Worship

Outdoor Services – (weather permitting)

Bring lawn chairs.

75th Faith's Anniversary Celebration

***Sunday, July 6th
ONE Service only!***

***Worship at 10:00 am
at Faith***

A catered meal will follow worship.
Memorabilia and a slide show presentation will
be on display during the meal. Everyone is
welcome to attend. Please share this information
with family, neighbors, friends, and
community members.

**Thank you Letter from
Cal-Wheat Schools**

"Thank you for your donation to the schools. It was
unexpected but very much appreciated. After
consideration with administration & our leadership
team, we have decided to use the money to help
cultivate a positive & cohesive student body. Some
money will go towards warrior shirts to ensure ALL
students are able to represent our warrior pride.
Additional money is going towards items for our
Warrior Stores, where students are able to purchase
items with their earned Warrior bucks. Thanks
again for your donation & continued support!

Much Appreciation!

-Andrea Howard, Ashley Kelting & Shane Knoche-



God Squad

God Squad is the name for our parish youth group and is for all young adults in Junior High and High School. Together we explore what it means to be a young Christian in today's world through Food, Faith, and Fun. During the school year, God Squad meets during the Sunday School hour. Over the past several years we have been reading various books of the Bible together. Starting next fall, we will be reading the book of Job. On Wednesday nights during the school year, we gather for Bible Jam where we share in a meal, explore our faith together guided by a theme the youth want to learn more about, and then have fun together by playing a game. God Squad also hosts several events such as midweek Advent and Lent meals, the Easter breakfast and egg hunt, an annual youth led worship, and raise donations for various causes the youth care deeply about. Most recently, God Squad raised \$300.00 to go towards Calamus-Wheatland lunch accounts. None of this is possible without the support of our congregation. Thanks to everyone, our youth get to experience that they are the church right now. God Squad is led by Heather Grau and co-lead by Pastor Leah. Please reach out to them at any time with questions!

2024-2025 Sunday School

Faith and Our Savior's are blessed with an amazing Sunday School staff:

Shelley Witt-Gentile (P/K), Dan Burke and Rebecca Shorter (1st/2nd/3rd),
Cindy Burke and Eric Hoffmann (4th, 5th, 6th),
Heather & Pat Grau (7th thru 12th),
and Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen (Adult Study).

THANK YOU for your dedicated service! Marsha Witte led music time. Rachel Bousselot, Isabella Gentile, Peyton Grau, Ashley Steffens, Sarah Tulley, and Kalloway Whitman occasionally filled in as helpers or substitute teachers. Sunday School is over until fall when classes will resume at Our Savior's.

"Feeding the Children" Program

The Christian Outreach Committee gives a **BIG** shout out of **THANKS** to the "Feeding the Children" volunteers. These people took a turn during the school year packing weekend meals for seven Calamus Wheatland students:
Terri Bousselot, Yale Christensen, Doreen Henning, Isabella Gentile, Judy Olson, Hal & Andrea Shelton, Diane Wilhelm, Mark & Marsha Witte, and Shelley Witt-Gentile.

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



May Meetings

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Date: May 15, 2025

Present: Jason, Joe, Amy, Dan and Deb

Old Business

- Insurance – Jason e-mailed the insurance agent, and is waiting for a response. We have been approved but we are still waiting for the final policy.

New Business

- Organ – The pipes have been removed and replaced. They were re-leathered and cleaned up.
- Roofing – White Roofing came out on May 14th and 15th because we had several spots that needed to be fixed due to wind damage.
- Old Church – Electrician will be back to fix wiring to the old church in the near future as well as replace some exterior lights. Electrician will also check on the organ breaker as it keeps tripping.

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: May 15, 2025

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

Pastor's Report

- Presided at Diane Sievers funeral at Faith.
- Volunteered at C-W Elementary School.
- Attended Naomi Circle.
- Continues to visit members in assisted living and homebound.
- Wartburg Seminary received a \$7.5 million – Small Town Rural Ministry Grant. Pastor will participate in monthly meetings as part of a grant committee.
- Holy Week and Easter went well.
- Discussed with confirmation students how many people it takes to make a worship service happen; the answer was 15.
- Pastor had her final first call theological event last month.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- God Squad will provide the featured committee/group articles for the June newsletter.

- Motion by Jason Boussetot to approve the affirmation of the confirmands. Tulley seconded. Motion carried. Affirmation of confirmands: Eva Burke and Caden Will from Our Savior's, Grant Hoffmann from Faith.

Worship Committee

Present: Andrea, Dan, Deb, Pastor Leah, Linda, Jason and Terri

- Reviewed Holy Week and Easter
 - All positive feedback
 - Ordered 75 palms; should do 90 next year and order earlier (around Ash Wednesday)
 - No comments about lack of foot washing.
- Reviewed feedback from Youth Lead Service – All positive feedback.
- May 18th – Confirmation. There will be one service at 9:00 am. Refreshments will be served after the service.
- May 21st - Bible School at Faith.
- May 25th – One 9:00 am service at Our Savior's
- June 1st – Summer worship begins. Our Savior's will have 8:00 am indoor services. Faith will have 9:30 am outdoor services.
- July 6th – One service at Faith. TBD. The service and activities will focus on the 75th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church.
- Reviewed bulletin format. A consensus was reached on the items included in the fall bulletin. One bulletin format will be used for both churches. This will make preparing and printing bulletins more time efficient.
- Discussed options for music at outdoor worship at Faith.
- Reviewed Our Savior's bulletin.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Amy and Deb will distribute Freezer pops to C-W kids at the end of the year.
- Hot dogs, popsicles, and chips will be served at Bible School on May 21st.
- On May 27th, parish members will work the C-W concession stand for high school softball and baseball games.

God Squad

- Youth enjoyed leading worship on May 4th and final meeting with games was held on May 14th.
- Loose offering went to the Cal-Wheat school lunch debt.
- God Squad had an end of the year fun night on May 14th, was well attended.

Education Committee

- Bible School will be held on Wednesday, May 21st. Currently 10 students are registered.



May Meetings

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: May 15, 2025

Present: John Baur, Terri Bousselot, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte.

Old Business

- Sign will be demolished on May 30th. Construction of concrete pad may possibly be poured on May 31st.
- Dirk Braet is managing repair of south sink and toilet in women's restroom.
- Summer worship services at Faith begin at 9:30 am on June 1st. Services will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Bring lawn chairs.
- The Faith Lutheran Church 75th year anniversary celebration will be on July 6th. Time of service is yet to be determined. There will be no service at Our Savior's on July 6th.
- A committee will determine how to celebrate the anniversary. Photos, videos, and items could be gathered. Refreshments/meal could be organized. Yale Christensen, John Baur, and Terri Bousselot will serve on the committee. Additional volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: June 12th, 2025

Where: Faith

Education Committee Meeting

Date: June 12, 2025

Where: Faith

New Business

- Work Day will be Friday, May 30th and Saturday, May 31st. Projects may include: painting of exterior doors, laying flooring in elevator entrance, hanging of sound boards on basement walls, and some exterior yard work. Please bring tools.
- A generous monetary donation was received from David Kloostra to be directed to HVAC or similar repairs at Faith. Witte sent a Thank You note to David.
- Jeff Griebel has serviced the air conditioning units.
- Tulley will contact Lowden Plumbing & Heating about replacement of the dishwasher in the parsonage.
- Tasks to complete before July 6th anniversary service. Leaders noted.
 - Paint three exterior doors – garage entry, southwest entry, northeast entry
 - Install new sign – Tulley and Shelton
 - Install floor tile in elevator entrance
 - Install soundboards in basement – Bousselot
 - Install baseboard in basement – Witte
 - Install cabinets around pipe units in basement.
- Painting of the sanctuary was discussed. Item tabled.

MINSTERS for June 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.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Alan Lee
Hal Shelton

Acolyte:

Emily Grau

Communion Assistant:

Marsha Witte

Lectors:

June 1: Laurie Storjohann
June 8: Dirk Braet
June 15: Marsha Witte
June 22: Annette Braet
June 29: Sharyl Banowetz

Altar Ministry:

Alan Lee & Laurie Storjohann

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Joe Morehead

Acolyte:

Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant:

David Burke

Lectors:

June 1: Rachel Burke
June 8: Brian Bousselot
June 15: Dan Burke
June 22: David Burke
June 29: Marica Edens

Cleaners:

Brian Bousselot & Mary Timmerman

June 2025 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 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	9	10 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	11 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot's Pond	12 Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	13	14
15 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	23	24	25	26	27	28
<hr/> 29 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	<hr/> 30					

Worship at Faith will be outdoors. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the sanctuary.

God Squad's fundraiser is collecting cans in the bin located in the yard at Faith Church. Thank you for your donations!

MINSTERS for July 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.

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Eric Hoffmann
Grant Hoffmann

Acolyte:

Lucas Shorter

Communion Assistant:

Andrea Shelton

Lectors:

July 6: Mark Witte
July 13: Terri Bousselot
July 20: Yale Christensen
July 27: Brian Tulley

Altar Ministry:

Andrea & Hal Shelton

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Shane Glover

Acolyte:

William Burke

Communion Assistant:

Dan Burke

Lectors:

July 13: Neil Holmquist
July 20: Cindy Burke
July 27: Amy Glover

Cleaners:

Cindy & Dan Burke

July 2025 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	3	4 Office Closed Independence Day	5
6 75th Faith Anniversary 10:00 am Worship at Faith	7	8 "Meet and Eat" Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	9 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot's Pond Education Committee 7:00 at Faith	10 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	11	12
13 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	21 August newsletter items are due.	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	28	29	30			

Worship at Faith will be outdoors. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the sanctuary.



***Faith Lutheran Church
Anniversary Celebration***

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Worship begins at 10:00AM.

A catered meal will follow worship.

*Memorabilia and a slide show presentation will be on
display during the meal.*

Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Please share this information with family, neighbors,
friends, and community members.*

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”