



*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,

Over the past few weeks, I have heard from many of us about how hard it is to watch the news these days. There is a lot going on and watching and hearing about what is occurring in our country and in our world can be painful, confusing, and just downright exhausting. If you are like me, you often have two modes of operation in this scenario: (1) watch and read anything and everything, or (2) feel too overwhelmed and just shut it all off and down, and distract myself so that I don't have to think about it. I would like to suggest that neither of these extremes is helpful or even all that healthy. However, it seems to be the pattern I very often find myself in.

The question often seems to be "what do we do." How do we navigate staying informed without giving into despair? And what is our response as followers of Jesus? While I will never pretend to have all the answers, what I feel very confident in saying is that throughout the Bible we see how Jesus moves towards the pain, but he also takes time away to pray and reset. One of the freedoms we experience in the Gospel is the freedom to imperfectly do the same. As followers of Jesus who are free from the fear and power of sin and death, we do not have to fear moving towards the pain and suffering of others and being the Body of Christ with our time, gifts, and treasures to those who are hurting. However, we have finite abilities. We need to rest and reconnect and pray and be strengthened by Jesus, to let others be the Body of Christ to us as well.

I think it is helpful for us to remember that when Jesus performed miracles or cured and healed people, he did not fix everything in their lives instantaneously. The people who were fed at the feeding of the 5,000 were still food insecure later that week. The people whom Jesus healed still got sick or injured later in life, and they also died one day. Many of the disciples became martyrs. All of the people Jesus encountered and touched still had to live with the realities of Roman occupation. The presence and power of Jesus, the freedom of the Gospel, does not fix everything instantly, but it always creates deeper community and connection, it tangibly reminds that no one is ever alone, and it gives hope that God is here, moving among us, constantly drawing all people and creation closer to God's self.

So, when the news and worldly happenings feel and are overwhelming, we rely on Jesus. We rely on Jesus to help us not shy away from the pain of the world, but to instead show up as the Body of Christ, and we rely on Jesus to renew and restore us in community. Jesus sees and knows the heaviness each of us feels, and Jesus is with you in it. Strengthening you to be the Body of Christ together for the sake of the world that God so loves, and renewing and restoring you together because God so loves you.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah



**August Cover Letter –
Art Work**

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

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, August 13th, 2025

10:00 am at Bousselot Pond, rural Calamus



June/July/August issue of *Gather* magazine

Worship Schedule for August

Our Savior's
8:00 am Worship
Indoor Services

Faith
9:30 am Worship
Outdoor Services – (weather permitting)
Bring lawn chairs.

Confirmation

Confirmation Meeting

Parent & Youth meeting scheduled for
August 27th at 6:00pm at Faith

Community Worship



Calamus Park
Sunday, August 24th
10:00 AM

Bring lawn chairs or blankets
(Rain Site – Faith Church)

There will be NO worship services at
Faith Church or Our Savior's Church
on Sunday, August 24th.

Calamus-Wheatland Community Fun Days

Friday, August 22 – Sunday, August 24

**A three-day festival with events held in
both towns.**

Friday, August 22nd – Calamus

7:00PM to MIDNIGHT Food vendors and
Band/Entertainment – Downtown Calamus

Saturday, August 23rd – Calamus

8:15AM Kid's Run & 8:30AM Lincoln Way 5K and
1-mile race.

Saturday, August 23rd – Wheatland

12:00PM Parade, 12:30 Kid's Games, (pedal pull,
water fights) classic car show, Food trucks,
cornhole tournament, basket raffle and
7:00PM street dance

Sunday, August 24th – Calamus

10:00AM Worship in the park
10:30-1:00PM Calamus Volunteer Fire Department
Beef Dinner, and 1:00 alumni baseball game

Calamus Lutheran Parish
will have
One Worship Service Only
on

Sunday, August 31st
at
9:00 AM

at
Our Savior's



God Squad Can Donation

God Squad would like to Thank everyone who donated cans. The money raised supports sending youth to the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

The Education Committee

The Education Committee plans and coordinates the faith formation of the young people of our parish. The committee organizes Sunday School, the annual Christmas program, Bible School, and works with Pastor Leah and Heather Grau on Confirmation and Bible Jam. Our committee cannot do the faithful work we do without so many volunteers who teach Sunday School classes, lead music, assist with Bible School and the Christmas program, and substitute for Sunday School.

With the Sunday School year beginning on Sunday, September 7th, we are asking that anyone who would like to help teach Sunday School or is willing to be a substitute teacher for music and Sunday School to please reach out to anyone on the Education Committee! Thank you to everyone who makes the important and holy work of faith formation in our youngest members possible.

~ The Education Committee,
Cindy Burke, Rebecca Shorter, John Baur,
Eric Hoffmann, and Pastor Leah.

Feeding the Children

The Christian Outreach Committee is now collecting food for the "Feed the Children" project. Items can be placed in the grocery cart at Faith and at the back of the church at Our Savior's. The Calamus/Wheatland school counselor selects the students who receive a bag of food to take home on Fridays during the school year.

Requirements:

- Single-serving items
- Individually wrapped items
- Must be shelf-stable

Examples:

- Individual oatmeal packages
- Individual cereal boxes
- Cereal bars
- Mac-n-cheese (or other pasta) cups to microwave
- Individual chicken or tuna packages
- Small jars of peanut butter
- Soups
- Individual crackers and cheese packages
- Individual crackers and peanut butter packages
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes (100% real juice)

Sign-Up Sheet is located at Faith on the table by the church office. Please email or call Pastor Leah or Nicole to sign up.

We Need Your Help!

While Pastor Leah is on parental leave this fall, there will be some opportunities for members or our parish to assist with worship leadership and confirmation lessons.

If you are able and interested in assisting, please let Pastor Leah and Nicole know!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Leah with any questions. Thank you in advance for your leadership and willingness to serve!

Worship Leadership

We are looking for folks to be willing to lead worship on the following Sundays. If you prepare a sermon, we ask that you would be willing to lead at both services. If a sermon is already prepared or no sermon is need that day (noted below), we would like one person from each congregation to be willing to lead worship that day. Thank you!

Confirmation Classes

We will be learning about the Small Catechism in confirmation this year. Below are the dates and Small Catechism topics for that evening. Pastor Leah asks that one or two people would prepare a story about what your chosen topic means to you and your life of faith (10-15 mins total). There will be an outline of a timeline and discussion questions prepared for the leader and the confirmands for each class. Confirmation is at 6 PM at Faith on Wednesday Evenings. Pastor Leah will assist you in preparing to lead for that evening. Thank you!

If you would like to help with Worship Leadership or Confirmation Classes – the dates available are updated in the bulletins each week and on the Weekly Announcement e-mail.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Leah or Nicole.



Planning for September . . .



Confirmation and Bible Jam begin on
September 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation

6:00 pm

At Faith

Bible Jam

7:00 pm

At Faith

Sunday School

Sunday School will return September 7.

Classes will be at Our Savior's.

Staff is already in place, but the education committee is looking for volunteers to substitute for the teachers and music leader when they are absent. The lessons will be prepared for you!

Please contact Cindy Burke (563-468-8149)
or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392)
if you would be willing to help.

Fall Schedule
Beginning September 7



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

Please submit September newsletter items
to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net)
by Monday, August 18th.
Thank you for your cooperation!

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!



***Blessing of backpacks/school year
and Sunday School students/
teachers***

**1st day of Sunday School begins
on September 7th.**

**Pastor Leah be blessing the
backpacks/school year, and Sunday School
students/teachers.**

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



July Meetings

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Date: July 10, 2025

Present: Dan, Amy, Jason

Old Business

- Insurance – We have been approved and received the policy documents.
- Electrician – The electrician has been out, and some of the exterior lights have been replaced. Still waiting on the old church repairs and light on the south side to be repaired.

New Business

- Donation – Received a donation from Brian and Jason's Aunt and proceeds from her church closing; would like to use funds for bathroom repair.
- Will send a thank you letter for the donation.

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: July 10, 2025

Present: Our Saviors: Dan, Jason, and Amy.

Faith: Brittany, Mark, John, Luke, Brian and Pastor Leah.

Pastor's Report

- Presided at Ron Gasper's funeral the past month.
- Volunteered to be a ticket taker at Baseball games two Mondays in June.
- Helping prepare for wedding in December.
- Has monthly hour long remote meetings for Castle project.
- Pastor will be out of the office on July 16th to July 19th and July 31st to August 4th.
- Week of August 11th to August 16th will be in and out of the office for the Castle project in Dubuque and personal time.
- Attended Naomi Circle.
- Continues to visit members in assisted living and homebound.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Worship Committee

Present: Pastor Leah, Jason, Dan, and Brittany

- Reviewed current state of Parental Leave; found one more pulpit supply leader for October 19th.
- August 3rd: Pastor will be gone. Will prepare a sermon and ask for lay leader.
- September 7th is the service change. Will provide blessings for Teachers, Students and Backpacks.
- A bat was removed.
- Worship in the park has been confirmed; August 24th at 10:00 am.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Laid out the next 6 months.
 - Feed the children, will have a signup sheet and a donation suggestion printout.
 - Thanksgiving Eve Service
 - Coat Drive

God Squad

- Met to get plans ironed out for the year.

Education Committee

Date: July 9, 2025

Present: Rebecca Shorter, Cindy Burke, John Baur and Pastor Leah.

- Bible School – Next year - add to registration form Snack suggestion, especially for kids with allergy concerns.
- Sunday School – 1st day of Sunday School is on September 7th at Our Savior's.
- Back to year 1 of Holy Moly
- Liked Holy Moly books for 1-2-3 class. Story books will be ordered.
- Lots of incoming 1st graders, will stick with younger material packets. 4th, 5th, 6th and older will use connect material and use different videos, will continue with Holy Moly for simplicity.
- Supply needs: Younger (PK-3rd): 17 to 18 packets, Older (4th, 5th, 6th): 7 packets. Ordering paper packets is no longer available, only digital download with recommendation to print on 11x17 paper, we already have access with our digital subscription. Look a month at a time, use what we have and print extra as needed.
- Organize supplies to bring to Our Savior's at next meeting.
- Pastor sent in the information for the August newsletter.
- Confirmation – Starting earlier, Parent meeting will be held on August 27th and lessons begin on September 3rd.



July Meetings

~~ Faith Council ~~

Date: July 10, 2025

Present: John Baur, Luke Shelton, Mitch Christensen, Brittany Hoffmann, Brian Tulley, Mark Witte.

Old Business

- Sign project – dirt and grass seed will be put down; construction is almost complete.
- Toilet in women's bathroom is fixed. Kitchen sink is still leaking; call will be placed to Jeff for repair.

New Business

- Anne Tulley bridal shower – needs approval to use the basement at Faith on August 16th. Motion was made and motion carried.
- Noisy Offering balance is currently \$770.22, discussed sending this amount to Texas due to the current flooding situation.
- Air Conditioning – we currently need to replace two units that are not working – both are located in the sanctuary. Estimated cost is \$3,500 per unit. Tulley will have an estimate ready at August meeting.
- Written agreement for parking lot – discussed and tabled until next meeting.
- Purchase computer and Quickbooks for Doreen – Doreen is looking into F & B, and will provide numbers for price. Motion was made and carried.
 - Doreen shared details of computer purchase on July 16th.
 - Cost of computer is \$600, Quicken software is \$6.49 per month - \$725-\$750
- 75th Anniversary wrap up – good turnout at anniversary celebration. Total expenses for food was \$1,290.00 and expenses for ice cream was \$380.00. Committee worked well together – everyone took a job and completed it, everything came together nicely.
- Thank you received from Jane Runaas – very happy to be in attendance at the 75th anniversary celebration, and worshiping with our congregation again.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: August 14, 2025

Where: Our Savior's

Education Committee Meeting

Date: August 6, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for August 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:

Hal Shelton
Dirk Braet

Acolyte:

Olivia Hoffmann

Communion Assistant:

Terri Bousselot

Lectors:

August 3: Heather Whitman
August 10: Alan Lee
August 17: Shelley Witt-Gentile
August 24: Worship in the park - Calamus
August 31: Tysen Steffens

Altar Ministry:

Brenda & Yale Christensen

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Dan Burke

Acolyte:

Wyatt Easterday

Communion Assistant:

Brian Bousselot

Lectors:

August 3: Eva Burke
August 10: Jason Bousselot
August 17: Joe Morehead
August 24: Worship in the park - Calamus
August 31: Brian Bousselot

Cleaner:

Amy Glover

August 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 Pastor Leah on vacation	2 Pastor Leah on vacation
3 Pastor Leah on vacation 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	4 Pastor Leah on vacation	5	6 Education Committee 6:30 at Faith Church office closed Pastor Leah in the office	7 Church office closed Pastor Leah in the office	8 Church office closed Pastor Leah in the office	9
10 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	11 Church office closed Pastor Leah out of the office	12 “Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus Pastor Leah out of the office	13 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Bousselot's Pond Pastor Leah out of the office	14 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 Pastor Leah on vacation	15 Pastor Leah on vacation	16 Pastor Leah on vacation
17 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – OS 9:30 Worship – F	18 September newsletter items are due.	19	20	21	22 Calamus Fun Days	23 Calamus Fun Days
24 10:00 Community Worship at Calamus Park	25	26	27 Confirmation Meeting – Parents and Youth 6:00 pm at Faith	28	29	30
31 9:00 Worship – OS	September 1 Labor Day Church Office Closed					

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