



*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*

Volume 38

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Pastor's View

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Many of us have been in a season of planning and preparing and changes. We are planning and preparing for the fall, for Sunday School, for back to school, for harvest, for babies, for weddings, for so many things. Things are changing: new dynamics in relationships, new friends, unexpected (or expected) changes in life, new griefs, new joys, new somewhere-in-betweens, shifting understandings of the world around us.

As we enter into, or continue to live into, this season where the world can feel like it is spinning faster than it already was, I offer us this blessing from theologian Kate Bowler from her book *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day*. I hope each of us can see ourselves somewhere in these words and know that we are held closely by God in Jesus Christ who walks alongside us in all of our planning, preparing, and changes.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Leah

For Whatever is on the Calendar

I will admit, God, that I am hoping
there will be an award ceremony.
Nothing fancy.
But my name will be called from a podium
and I will, hand fluttering to my heart
in feigned surprise,
rise to speak, saying a few words of things
for this great honor:
I did everything on the calendar this week.
I attended meetings bookended
with at least five minutes of small talk.
I went to appointments that
gobbled up my money.
*(Don't forget to schedule a follow up on
your way out.)*
I ran errands to solve problems that loved
ones will probably never realize they had.
I checked on people
who don't check on me.
Lord, love is a chore.
But then, Holy Spirit,
you were there somehow
when I had to shampoo the dog
and someone else couldn't find their medication.
You were decidedly *not there*

when I was in traffic,
but by the time I'd arrived,
I felt that familiar tug
of your insistence on tending to the people
who would need me
when I got out of the car.
Lord, most of the time I am consumed
by my own resentments
at how exhausting, annoying,
and soul-depleting
it feels to be indispensable.
Then the guilt—oh, the guilt—
at not cheering every act of service.
So, Lord, let me hear you say it:
“Well done, good and faithful one.
You did what was on the calendar.”
And now draw me into your arms
with a few extra assurances
that you adore me equally
when I do nothing, nothing, nothing at all.



**September Cover Letter –
Art Work**

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

Confirmation

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

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.

**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



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

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

**Pastor Leah will bless the backpacks/school
year, and Sunday School students/teachers.**

Sunday School

Sunday School will return on September 7th.
Classes will be held 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.

Naomi Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
10:00 am at Marsha Witte's home



September issue of *Gather* magazine



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.**



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.



Congratulations to all 4-H members that participated in the Clinton County Club Show and the Iowa State Fair.

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

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 Pastor Dennis Rodenberg.

Pastor Dennis Rodenberg: Phone: 563-880-5345 or email at pastorzion@netins.net
If he is unavailable by phone please contact Pastor Roberta Pierce.

Pastor Roberta Pierce: Phone: 406-478-9518 or email at prmbp10@gmail.com

Please submit October newsletter items to the church office (clparish@fbcom.net) by Monday, September 22nd.
Thank you for your cooperation!



August Meetings

~ ~ Our Savior's Council ~ ~

Date: August 14, 2025

Present: Jason, Dan and Amy

Old Business

- Donation – received check for \$25,000 from Grace Church; deposited into Edward Jones account. Asked for a summary of the history of the church for the newsletter.

New Business

- Feeding the Children – Requested \$250.00 of seed money for the year. Have applied for a grant again from Theisen's. Motioned by Dan, seconded by Jason. Motion carried unanimously.

~ ~ Joint Council ~ ~

Date: August 14, 2025

Present: Our Saviors: Jason Bousselot, Dan Burke and Amy Glover. **Faith:** John Baur, Terri Bousselot, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley and Mark Witte.

Pastor's Report

- Wedding planning with Karragan Whitman and Scott Anderson.
- Organized the Worship Service in the Park
- Participated in the Small Town Rural Ministry Grant monthly meeting.
- Confirmation and Bible Jam Planning
- Adult Education Planning for Fall
- Parental Leave Planning for Adult Education, Worship, and Confirmation. (Thanks to all who have signed up to assist with worship and confirmation!)
- Funeral of Shane Glover at Our Savior's
- Attended Naomi Circle
- Attended CaSTLE Project in Dubuque
- Continues to visit members in assisted living and homebound.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Motion by Tulley to donate the offering from Worship in the Park to a local food related ministry. Motion by Brian, second by J. Bousselot seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Worship Committee

Date: August, 14, 2025

Present: Jason, Dan, Terri

- Reviewed email from Pastor Leah about parental leave coverage.
- Discussed request from parishioner to offer own prayers during Prayers of Intercession.
 - Discussed how to solicit prayer and if parishioner or Pastor should lead. Thought we should have ideas written down and presented before service and have Pastor lead the petition.
 - Discussed starting after Parental Leave (2026)
 - Considered trialing and then reviewing feedback and success at Lent.
- Starting on September 7th we will move to Setting 10 through end of the year.
- August 31st – There will be one service at 9:00 am at Our Savior's.
- September 7th Worship Services – 8:00 am at Faith, 9:25 am Sunday School and Adult Class at Our Savior's, 10:30 am at Our Savior's.

Christian Outreach Committee

- Getting service in the park refreshments lined up, will start at 9:30.
- Getting ready for Feed the Children, will start on the week of August 25th.

God Squad

- Youth in Confirmation Class and in high school are invited to Bible Jam.
- Heather and Pastor have been preparing for the Fall, and are ready to kick off the year!
- Focus on Dwelling in the Word, to coincide with our Synod's focus on Dwelling in the Word and the Synod's theme from Synod Assembly "Spirit Open our Hearts."

Education Committee

- Did not meet



August Meetings

~ ~ Faith Council ~ ~

Date: August 14, 2025

Present: John Baur, Terri Bousselot, Luke Shelton, Brian Tulley, and Mark Witte.

Old Business

- Use of the west parking lot will remain a verbal agreement – no vehicles parked on weekends or special events or as requested by Faith.
- Witte will contact Dohrmann Plumbing to repair the south kitchen sink and get a bid/information about replacing two air conditioning units in the sanctuary.

New Business

- Shelton will contact Aaron Anderson about repairs of upstairs ceiling and south wall of sanctuary.
- Witte will contact Pam Goldsmith about painting of sanctuary.
- Tulley will get information about replacing the bulbs/lights in the sanctuary. Fixtures will remain the same.
- Tulley and Witte completed one Church Mutual Report. The second Church Mutual Electrical Report will be given to Eric Hoffmann. Both are due May 2026.

~ Faith Council Special Meeting ~

Date: August 17, 2025

Present: John Baur, Terri Bousselot Luke Shelton and Mark Witte.

Meeting

- Motion by Shelton to send Noisy Offering to Texas Flood Victims. Baur seconded. Motion carried. Witte will inform Doreen Henning of the donation and confirm it may be sent.
- Motion by Bousselot to direct \$250 from the Faith budget to Feeding the Children program. Shelton seconded. Motion carried. A monetary grant request will be submitted to Theisen's in the fall.
- Motion by Baur to accept the July Treasurer's Report as printed. Shelton seconded. Motion carried.
- Pam Goldsmith will view the sanctuary the week of August 18th, to determine if she is interested in painting.
- Aaron Anderson (ceiling and wall plaster repair) responded back to Shelton, and Aaron is in the middle of a good-sized job at the moment. He has Faith Church down to look at the repair in a couple of weeks and he should be able to get to the work right away.
- Tom Dohrmann is meeting with Witte and he is interested in the two projects.

****Next Meetings Scheduled****

Joint Council

Date: September 11, 2025

Where: Faith

Education Committee Meeting

Date: September 10, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Faith

MINSTERS for September 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: Mark & Marsha Witte

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

FAITH CHURCH

Ushers:

Andrea Shelton
Terri Boussetot

Acolyte:

Kinnick Christensen

Communion Assistant:

Brian Tulley

Lectors:

September 7: Sarah Tulley
September 14: Andrea Shelton
September 21: Peyton Grau
September 28: Ashley Steffens

Altar Ministry:

Sharyl & Larry Banowetz

OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH

Usher:

Eva Burke

Acolyte:

David Burke

Communion Assistant:

Deb Detlefs

Lectors:

September 7: Dan Burke
September 14: David Burke
September 21: Marcia Edens
September 28: Deb Detlefs

Cleaners:

Deb and Ray Detlefs

September 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 Office Closed Labor Day	2	3 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	4	5 Church office will be closed.	6
7 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	8	9 Meet and Eat” Noon at Buck's Corner in Calamus	10 Naomi Circle 10:00 am Marsha's home Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm Education Committee 7:00 pm at Faith	11 Outreach Committee 6:00 pm at Faith Worship Committee 6:30 pm at Faith Joint Council 7:00 pm at Faith	12	13
14 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	15	16	17 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	18	19	20
21 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	22 October newsletter items are due.	23	24 Confirmation 6:00 pm Bible Jam 7:00 pm	25	26	27
28 8:00 Worship – F 9:30 Sunday School OS 10:30 Worship - OS	29	30				