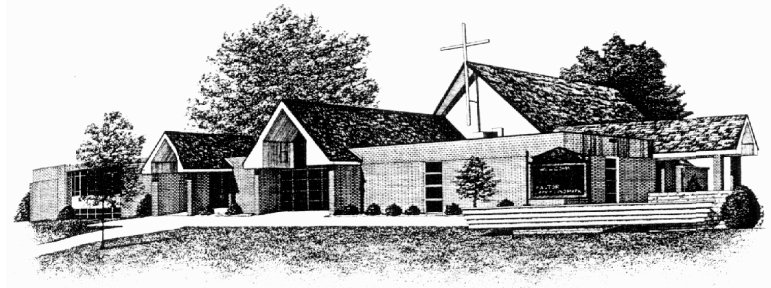


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

June 2023

Rev. Dr. Carrie Lewis La Plante
Rev. Heather Geest

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Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted
Called to Share, Seek, and
Serve Christ



Dear Friends in Christ,

This past week, the Southeastern Iowa Synod gathered virtually over Zoom for the business of the Synod Assembly on May 15 and 16 and then gathered in person for the first ever

Southeastern Iowa Synod Revival at Grand View University in Des Moines on May 20. This entire event centered on the theme, “Imagine” based off of the words of Paul written in Ephesians:

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:18-21)

Throughout the Assembly and Revival we were invited to imagine where it is that God might be calling us to new things to share the amazing love of Christ that surpasses our knowledge with the world around us.

I am confident that we, in our human experience, cannot fully comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ for us, let alone the whole world, at least I know that this is true for me. Because of this, it is often hard for me to imagine all of the possibilities of ways to reach those beyond ourselves and to help them to comprehend the vastness and truth of God’s love for them.

You see, there are so many things that God is likely up to and working in and through us, that we cannot even yet comprehend. I believe that God’s Spirit is active and moving, blowing through this place, blowing through each one of us, blowing through the lives of people all around us, even those who cannot yet understand that it is the Spirit of God they are experiencing.

There also are people around us who could benefit in so many ways from experiencing this love of God in Jesus through us and our ministries together, but for whatever reason, have no desire or have some kind of fear about walking through our doors. Maybe they have been hurt by the church in the past and entering a church brings back that trauma. Maybe they have been told that they are not good enough for God, and they believe we will think that about them as well. Maybe they have been told that they do not belong in the church because of the color of their skin or the people that they love, and they fear we will tell

them the same thing. Maybe there are people we simply have not met with our current ministries who we might be able to reach in new ways with new ministry. There are so many maybes that separate our proclamation of the good news from those who most need to hear it. And yet, God’s desire for all people is that we would be united as God’s beloved children in this world.

So often, however, when we begin to imagine new possibilities, we let our worries and “what ifs” stop us from living into and through our passions when we feel called by God to try something new for the sake of our neighbors and/or the world. We worry about all of the things that might or might not happen if we try something new. We fear that people might think that we are crazy to try whatever it is that we feel called to do or be. We ask all of the “what if” questions that keep us stuck in place without the willingness to put ourselves out there to begin this new thing. We allow the fear, the doubt, the negative possibilities to leave us stuck where we are as we wait for some kind of magic formula to ensure success.

But if we look at Jesus’ own apostles, we know that they struggled in similar ways. When Jesus ascended into heaven after Jesus sent them out to be his witnesses in the world, the apostles just stood there staring up to heaven as if they were waiting for another invitation. It was not until two men dressed in white appeared and reminded them they had work to do that they brought their eyes down, and after the power of the Holy Spirit filled them on Pentecost, began to be Jesus’ witnesses in the world. They had many starts and stops along the way – see the whole book of Acts to see what I mean – and yet, had they not been Jesus’ witnesses in the world, where would we be?

We are Jesus’ witnesses in the world today, and there are plenty of people who could benefit from hearing our witness to God’s love for them and for the whole world, especially for those who this world tells are not worthy of God’s love or the world’s attention. Can we set aside all of the “what ifs” and imagine how we can be witnesses in a new way to reach those we have not yet reached? Because there is one thing that there are no “what ifs” about...God is love. It is for this love that Jesus came and lived among us, died for us, and rose again to bring us to eternal life. And when the world is moving and changing around us as it always will, God’s power remains the same: loving, forgiving and promising to make all things new today, tomorrow, and forever. That is a promise for you and for me and for the whole world! Can we imagine it?

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Carrie

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thank all of you who have filled out a Time and Talents sheet. The fuel for the mission of spreading God's love is the energy of the followers who share themselves with others. The 'secret' is that those offering their time in service to others are actually enriched by more than the effort they offer. I, personally, have received far more from my time serving as a volunteer here at Faith than I have ever given. Learning from each person I work with. Laughing together. Being inspired by the selflessness of others. Renewed faith when everyone pitches in to work together. Confidence in the future when spending time with youth. I encourage each of you to look at the Time and Talent sheet and consider where you might have something to give and look forward to unexpected rewards.

Please join me in thanking everyone involved with helping clean and organize storage rooms and the garage. Those spaces look amazing, and are so much easier to use now. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

The regular council meeting was held May 18th. 39 time and talent sheets had been returned at that time, and the early results are exciting. We also discussed the fact that the property insurance for the church properties will be going up significantly in the next few years. It appears that most of the reasons for the increases are beyond our control, but we will be looking into ways to save money while retaining all of the protections we need if something were to damage our beautiful church.

Mike Garner, Council President (563-349-4459)

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	APRIL	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$33,611.06	\$119,039.54
EXPENSES	\$25,704.46	\$110,696.78

*Average Monthly Income needed to meet estimated annual expenses is \$31,626



Please join us for our Annual Parking Lot Picnic on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

This will be a potluck brunch following the worship service. Ham, lemonade, water and table service will be provided by the Fellowship Team. Please bring a favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.

A variety of yard games for all ages will be available! Of course there will be plenty of time for fellowship!

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can be sure to have enough food and chairs!



How to Get Involved

WORSHIP!

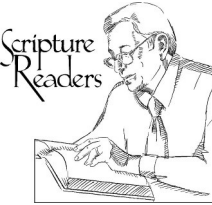


USHERS

As summer approaches please signup to assist in worship any way that you are able. Please consider volunteering to help our Faith Family heads to complete the worship schedule. Thanks so much. *Nina Looney, Worship & Music Team Leader*



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS



Scripture Readers

Bread Bakers are needed for table communion. Please signup on the bulletin board if you are willing to help with this ministry. Recipes are available. Please deliver on Friday before noon or by 8:30 the morning of worship.





Summer Camp Registration

There is still time to register for summer camp at Lutheran Lakeside, Spirit Lake, Iowa, for grades 3-8 and adults. **We will be going the week of July 16-21.** Everyone needs to register on the Lutheran Lakeside website (www.lutheranlakeside.com). Faith will pay \$150 of the registration fee for every youth registered through Faith. Adults are invited to join us for the adult mission trip to do work around the camp that week as well. If you have any questions about camp, please contact Pastor Carrie (pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or call or text 641-275-1326), and she will be happy to answer them.



Faith Lutheran Church invites all children ages 4 – 5th grade to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! Using Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread", children are invited to pray as Jesus teaches. These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God - and our daily needs are met by God.

The fun begins **Sunday, June 25th** and continues through **Thursday, June 29th, from 6-8 p.m.** at the church, 500 W. LeClaire Rd., Eldridge. Registration will begin in May on the church website at www.faithlutheraneldridge.com.

To help please contact Theresa White, (563)370-3767.

Confirmation April 30, 2023



Back Row: Grady Kirst, Madelyn La Plante, Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante, Cooper Schoenthaler, and Collin Lewis. Middle Row: Katelyn Peck, Everett Schroeder, Nick Schryver, and Griffin Frank. Front Row: Kamilah Eller, Mackenzie Gabrielson, Lauren Behm, Kendall Behm, and Maddie Eller.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Team Night	2 9:30 am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Final Friday Chamber Golf Tournament	3 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
4 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Church Picnic	5 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	6 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH)	7	8 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Women of Faith Board	9 9:30 am Food Pantry 	10 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
11 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Usher Training	12 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	13 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry	14 Eldridge Summer Concert Series & Car Cruise	15 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	16 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	17 8:00 am Private Event (FH) 9:00 am WOF Plant Sale 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
18 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Adult Book Study	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry	21 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> North Scott Clergy Block Party in Parkview (more info to come) 	22 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm WOF Bible Study	23 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	24 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
25 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Adult Book Study 6:00 pm VBS	26 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm VBS	27 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:00 pm VBS	28 6:00 pm VBS	29 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:00 pm VBS	30 9:30 am Food Pantry 	Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space



The Service in the World Team led the Churches United Meal on May 16th. More than 56 meals were served. All extra food was given to Humility of Mary. Thank you to all who donated, prepared, transported, and served the meal! Watch the announcements for our next meal service day in July.



Congratulations to our High School Seniors

On Sunday, May 20, we recognized and sent off our high school seniors with a blessing. A few of them even decided to join us for the Children's Message for nostalgia. We give thanks to God for the gifts that these young people bring to the world and the church, and we wish them all of God's blessings on all of their adventures ahead.



The Southeastern Iowa Synod tried something new this year and held the Synod Assembly Business Meeting online on Monday and Tuesday, May 15 and 16 and a Synod Revival on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Grand View University in Des Moines.





Are you using your spiritual gifts? God calls us to be generous in all areas of our lives and invites us to explore the many opportunities to share ourselves through our time and talents. Please fill out a Time and Talent sheet and place in the offering basket during worship in May. There is also a fill-in form available on our website.

1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Joan Hennigan, Stewardship Team Leader



Faith Lutheran Church Eldridge Giving

The chart and graph on the opposite page show the total giving at Faith Lutheran Eldridge during 2022, divided by 52 weeks to achieve an average. The current number of giving units is 221. Prayerfully ask yourself the following:

- How does my giving compare with other ways I use my money?
- How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?
- Where would I be if I double my offering? And, can I consider doing that?

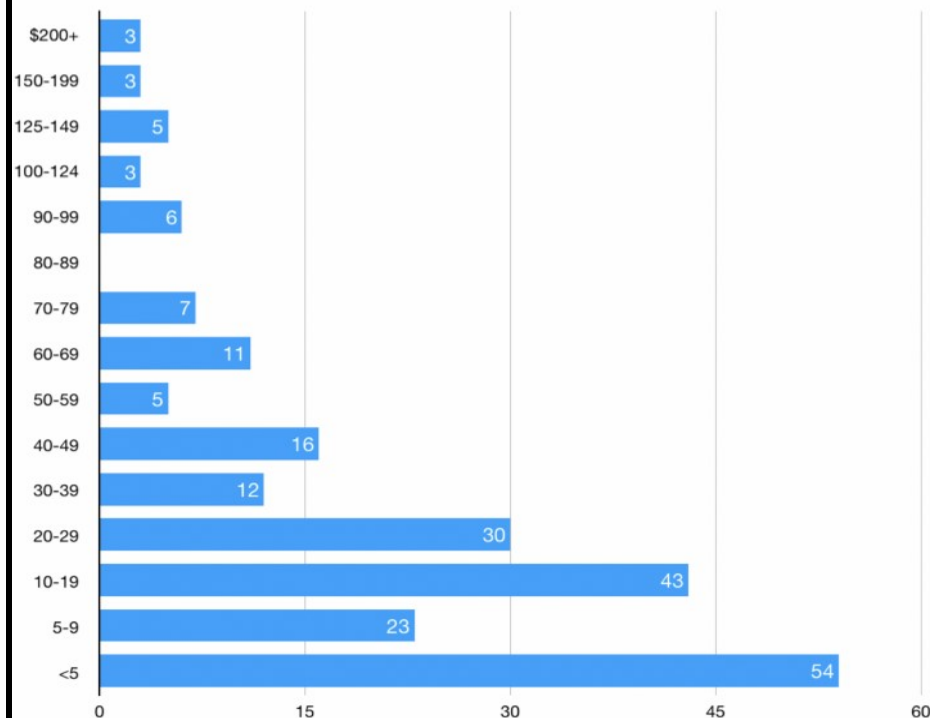
How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

Thank you for prayerfully considering your financial stewardship. Joan Hennigan, Stewardship Team Leader

Range of Gifts Given Weekly

Weekly giving rate	Number of giving units
\$200+	3
150-199	3
125-149	5
100-124	3
90-99	6
80-89	0
70-79	7
60-69	11
50-59	5
40-49	16
30-39	12
20-29	30
10-19	43
5-9	23
<5	54

Bar Chart





With Appreciation... Thank you to our May Ambassador Folding Crew: **Mary Moore, Darlene John, Carol Strobbe, Sue Braack, Donna Benskin, Carol Marten and Tom Bauer.**

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on **Tuesday, May 30th at 1pm** for our final bible study before our summer break. This Bible study looks at the lectionary texts for the week. We are taking a hiatus for the summer, and will return August 29th. We look forward to studying the scriptures together in the fall.



2023 Convention and Gathering of the Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA

Come join other women from Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA June 9 and 10, 2023 at the Stoney Creek Hotel, Des Moines for their 35th Annual Convention and Gathering. There will be great speakers, workshops, and time to meet other ladies. Some of our speakers are Bishop Amy Current, Kim Crawford from Circle Freedom Women's Center, to name some. The Charitable organization to contribute to will be IMPACT community Action Partnership. Along with the Stewardship Committee's charity for 2023 is Iowa Veterans Home. This is a fun 2 days, plan to attend, bring your mother, sister, friend. For more information, contact Lynda Miller, she has registration forms and hotel reservation information.



Birthday wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating birthday number 70 or above.

Jan Hartwig	June 2	Bob Bainter	June 15
Sue Oetzmann	June 2	Darrell Weltzin	June 15
Myron Scheibe	June 2	John McCammant	June 18
Don Rathjen	June 4	Peggy Sleep	June 21
Karen O'Flaherty	June 8	Dennis Schmidt	June 28
Earl Kuhl	June 13	Ron Meyer	June 30
Donna Darnall	June 13		



Lynda & Duane Miller	June 8, 1968
Val & Kathryn Zelinko	June 19, 1971
Mary Ann & Dan Anderson	June 22, 1968



Food Pantry Needs for the month of June are crackers and cereal. *Thank You for your support!*

North Scott Clergy Block Parties

On the third Wednesday of June, July and August, the North Scott Clergy Group will host block parties to bring the North Scott Community together. The first will be on June 21 in Park View. More details to come.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP



THANK YOU to **David & Diane Cole** for sponsoring the Bencke family, to **Tom & Pam Carlson** for sponsoring John Chima, and to **Brian & Nina Looney** for sponsoring Denisse Grefa in June. **We still have 2 sponsorships available!** The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. **You can sign up online on Faith's web page, in person on the bulletin board, or by calling the church office.** *Thank you for your support!*

**Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9am, In Person.
Adult Book Study is at 10:15 am. Online Worship updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)
and on our Facebook page. Outdoor worship every other week from May 28 to September 3.**

Faith Lutheran Church

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Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

