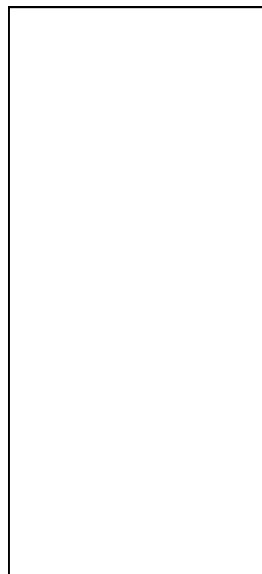


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
 Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
 Outdoor Worship on Sundays at 9 am, every other week, starting May 26 through Labor Day.

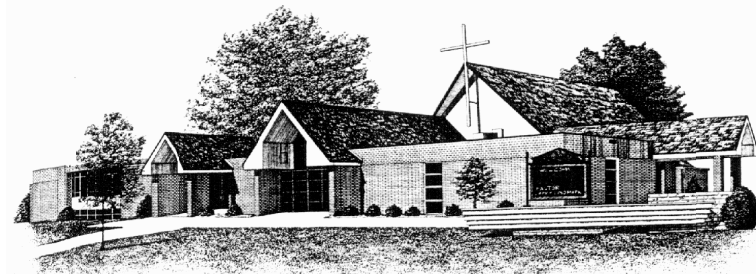
Faith Lutheran Church
 500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748

Non-Profit Organization
 PERMIT NO. 1
 Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR June 2024

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

500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748
 (563) 285-4501
www.faithlutheraneldridge.com
faitheldridge@netins.net



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



I do not know how many of you watch “The Holderness Family” on Facebook, but there are many times when it feels like they are speaking right into my life! While this family does have a podcast on serious topics regarding family and life, they also know how to make fun of all the craziness that family life can be. On May first,

they posted a parody on the song, “September,” called “Welcome to Maycember.” Throughout the song, they go through all of the craziness of our schedules in May as we run from one event to another, our calendars full of final projects and finals, class picnics, school dances, dance recitals, games, graduations, parties, and all the rest. While this is definitely true for parents of school-age children, I have heard plenty of grandparents and others comment in recent weeks about how crazy the month of may is with “all the things!”

I know that I have been feeling this reality in my own life, which is what made this parody stand out to me. I am really getting to the point where I just need some time to stop and rest and rejuvenate. God seems to think that we need this as well.

As we enter into this season of summer, one of the first readings that we will hear during worship comes from the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy in the midst of the giving of the Ten Commandments. God says, “Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God.” This commandment was not only to be true for the people of Israel, but also for the servants, the children, the resident aliens, and even the animals. This was a word of freedom for God’s people because as slaves in Egypt, they had no time to stop and worship God. They had no time to rest and rejuvenate and refresh in the midst of all of the work that they were to do. God reminds them that just as God rested on the seventh day from all of God’s creating work, God’s people need that time to rest.

We hear this again in Psalm 46 as we are reminded that God is always our refuge and strength. In verse 10, the Psalmist writes, “Be still, and know that I am God!” We all need to take time in our lives, perhaps at the beginning or end of the day, perhaps at the end of the week, perhaps in the fleeting quiet moments throughout the day, to stop, to breath, to be still, to listen for God’s voice, and to feel God’s presence, particularly in crazy days like these.

We even hear of Jesus going off to pray by himself several times throughout the Gospels as even Jesus needed time to get away from the demands of ministry to reconnect with God, the Father. We know that Jesus did not always get to have that time away, as crowds often followed him and invaded his space (we know how this often works in our own lives), but we also recognize that Jesus did find times when he could stop and pray and listen and rejuvenate for the mission to which he was called. If the Savior of the world can take the time, perhaps we can as well.

My prayer for each of us in these summer months is that we can find some time away from the craziness of our Maycember calendars, away from the hustle and bustle of work and school and activities to simply stop and be. I pray that we can find time to take Sabbath time to spend with God, whether in worship or in a quiet space at camp. I pray that we can stop and be still and listen for the moving of the Spirit in our daily lives, if only for a few moments. I pray that we can find the time to revive and rejuvenate and collect ourselves out of the busyness into a new sense of calm. Yes, I am aware that there is still plenty to be done this summer, and there are times in our schedules that seem just as busy as during the school year, but I wish you all the blessings of this summer and pray for some blessed rest for us all.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Carrie



SAVE THE DATE!!!

June 2nd 10:30

Join us for our Annual Parking Lot Picnic “Potluck Style Brunch”

Fellowship Team will provide Meat, Drinks and Table service!
Come Enjoy some Great Food, Fun Games and Fellowship!!

Summer Worship Outside



Throughout the summer, we will worship at the Outdoor Chapel every other Sunday morning, at 9:00 am. We will alternate our 9:00am worship between the outdoor chapel and the inside Sanctuary. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship to the sanctuary. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside this summer on June 9, June 23, July 7, July 21, August 4, August 18, and September 1 (weather permitting).



The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of our safety plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. Quarterly training will be held on **Sunday, June 23 @ 10:15 am** in the Sanctuary.



With People of Praise, Jubilation, and Resounding Joy taking a well-deserved break for the summer, there are many opportunities upcoming to provide special music. If you are interested in sharing your time and talent in a musical way during June, July, or August, at either the Saturday evening or Sunday morning worship service, we'd love to hear you! Contact our Music Director, Sue Becker, at susan.becker1995@gmail.com, or (563) 386-2896 to schedule a time. Thank you in advance for enriching our worship!



“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38. A generous person gladly gives of their time, energy, and resources to help and encourage others. Jesus tells us it is more blessed to give than to receive, and we are to give cheerfully and with love. From God’s point of view, generosity is more important for the giver than the recipient. Whatever you give, you are going to get a lot more in return. I definitely get a lot more in return than what I give of my time, energy, or resources. I pray that by giving, your relationship with Jesus and others builds and strengthens. Thank you for giving generously and gladly of your time, talent, and treasure to our ministry.

Join me in thanking:

- Ron Arp, Brad Merrick, Denny Hennigan and helpers mowing the church lawn. It looks gorgeous!
- People of Praise, Jubilation, and Resounding Joy for providing beautiful music for worship throughout the school year.
- The Property Team for providing the renewal and sealant for the parking lot surface. It looks refreshed!
- Women of Faith and friends, especially Joni Schneider, for providing plants and various items for sale at the Parking Lot Plant Sale. It is a nice outreach and service to our community.
- Linda Szemkus for planting flowers in the outside planter by the sign. They add to the beauty of our church.
- The Fellowship Team for preparing and serving the May Churches United Meal. It is an important meal ministry and we are grateful for their work.
- All Final Friday helpers, especially Carrie Keppy for organizing the event. It is an important, fun and visible outreach in our community, while also encouraging relationships among all age groups.

The regular Council Meeting was held on May 16. Appointed Mary Moore to Synod Assembly replacing Tom Bauer. Discussed Sanctuary Update/ Capital Campaign, Sacristy Remodel, possible Lift update. June Church Council Meeting date is moved to June 27 due to VBS. There will be no July Team Night or Church Council meetings. Both will resume in August at their regular meeting times.

Joan Hennigan, Council President (563) 285-6867



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

Feed Our Children Ministry provides a free lunch opportunity to our children in the North Scott community during the summer break. During the summer, more than 830 children in our neighborhoods are underserved through the loss of the weekday free and reduced lunch program. Additionally, there are underserved children not yet school age, as well as those recently graduated. For some families, simply having more mouths to feed during the summer places additional stress on existing resources.

Our goal is to provide a free, nutritious lunch to children in our community through this twice a week ministry, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 11-August 15. Distribution will take place from 11:30-12:30 outside Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge, Eldridge United Methodist Church in Eldridge, American Legion in Dixon, John Glenn Elementary School and/or the fire station in Donahue, and in Park View at Manor Drive and Lincoln, Park View Lutheran Church, Neil Armstrong Elementary, and the Double Diamonds parking lot.

We need your help! We anticipate serving between 300-400 lunches a week! Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve simple sack lunches. Preparations begin at 10:00 am in the kitchen at Faith Lutheran Church at 500 W. LeClaire Rd, Eldridge. Lunches will be ready by 11:15. We also need volunteers to pick up, deliver and distribute the lunches to communities around North Scott, from 11:15-12:30. If you can give a morning or two, please sign up here or at Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you and God Bless!

Interested in donating food and supplies? <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-48998049-donation>

Want to volunteer to help? <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-48998052-volunteer>

Find event locations and times by following our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/North-Scott-Community-Feed-Our-Children-Ministry-630517670478320/>



Faith Lutheran Church VBS invites children of all ages to camp with us at Camp Firelight!

During Vacation Bible School, join first-time Camp Counselor Sam and Lumen, "Lu," the lightning bug puppet, for a summer adventure at Camp Firelight.

Campers accompany Counselor Sam and Lu during each assembly session and learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, Campers see Counselor Sam face new challenges, from as simple as leading Campers on a hike to as intimidating as meeting a new and wise nature expert. With the help of Lu, the Lightning Bug, and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Sam and the Campers explore timeless Bible stories showing how Old and New Testament Bible figures trusted God, faced their fears, and went on to do great things in God's name.

As the Campers experience the stories through music, drama and storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they learn ways to connect with and trust God. And best of all, they understand they can connect with God at VBS, church, home, and every area of their lives. Camp Firelight invites children on an exciting journey where they learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings, know God is always with them, and feel confident in sharing the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

The fun begins Sunday, June 16th, and continues through Thursday, June 20th, from 6-8 p.m. at the church, 500 W. LeClaire Rd., Eldridge.

To be a part of all the excitement at Camp Firelight, please register at the church website, www.faithlutheraneldridge.com.

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



Be a VBS Volunteer!

Bread Bakers are needed for table communion. Please sign up 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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space		 Vacation Bible School is this Month!				1 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
2 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary 10:30 am Fellowship Parking Lot Picnic	3 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	4 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW	5 10:00 am Grand Haven	6 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	7 9:30 am Food Pantry 	8 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
9 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	10 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	11 Office Hours 9-12 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	12 Office Hours 9-12	13 Office Hours 9-12 Team Reports Due 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	14 Office Hours 9-12 9:30 am Food Pantry 	15 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
16 Father's Day 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship 6:00 pm VBS 	17 Office Closed 6:00 pm VBS 	18 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:00 pm VBS 	19 6:00 pm VBS 	20 10:00 am Feed Our Children  6:00 pm VBS 	21 Office Hours 9-12 9:30 am Food Pantry   DEADLine	22 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
23 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Usher Training 30 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship	24 Office Closed	25 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	26	27 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  10:00 am Feed Our Children  6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	28 9:30 am Food Pantry 	29 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 

Sacristy Memorial

The Sacristy (the small room to the side of the altar) at Faith will be renovated soon thanks to memorial funds given in memory of Carolyn Scheibe. The memorial will cover all costs. The Altar Guild uses this room to help prepare and serve communion for worship services. The remodel will make efficient use of the storage space and area of the room. We are very grateful for this generous gift to our church. Thank you to the Scheibe family.

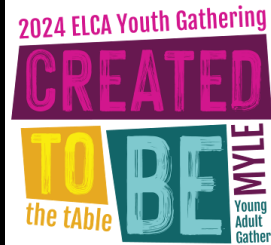
This is just a reminder for those at Faith Lutheran Church that we now have ACH, automatic giving, available for all members. What this means is that your giving to Faith may automatically be deducted from your bank account on a regular basis. No need to use/have weekly envelopes. Your giving is taken care of automatically on a regular basis. This is a benefit to both you and our church. It helps our church to know how much money is available weekly to pay the bills.

For answers to your questions about this program and to enroll, please contact Jerry Neff at 563-340-0264 or jerryandsparkys@aol.com.

Kim Wilkins, Stewardship Chair



At Luther Properties, our mission is to provide safe and affordable quality housing to low-income elderly or disabled persons. To accomplish this, we work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide subsidized, independent residential housing to persons who are eligible to receive such assistance. When our churches also partner with us, we are able to provide more than just a home. Activities can be planned to encourage fellowship and a sense of community when a congregation or an individual makes a financial gift to Luther Properties. Please consider giving to help those who are often forgotten. To learn more, visit our website at www.lutherproperties.org.



We are excited to have eleven youth and four adults traveling to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Those who are going on the trip are Griffin Frank, Christian Keppy, Evan Keppy, Abby La Plante, Madelyn La Plante, Collin Lewis, Jacob Link, Marshall Mess, Keaton Schmelzer, Everett Schroeder, Carson Welvaert, Carrie Keppy, Michele Mess, Denise Westendorf, and Pastor Carrie.

We want to thank you for all of your support throughout the year, both financially and through prayer, as we have been preparing for the trip. We want to thank all of you who supported our Shareholder Fundraiser as we were able to raise an additional \$2,380 toward the trip, which helps with the additional costs that we were not expecting at the beginning and gives us a little cushion in case of emergency. Those who purchased shares will be invited to the Shareholder Dinner which will be held on Sunday, August 18, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. There you will get to hear stories from the trip from the youth and adults who attend.

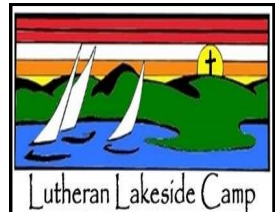
As their final preparations for the trip, the youth will be having a lock-in at church Monday, June 24, to Tuesday, June 25, where they will do the "Getting Ready Materials" for the trip. This will help to prepare them for the projects and experiences that they will have while in New Orleans. It should be a fun night!

Thanks again for all of your support, and please continue to keep these youth and adults, and all those who are preparing for the Youth Gathering in your prayers.

Missed Summer Camp Registration? You can still join us!

We hope that many of you will join us for summer camp at **Lutheran Lakeside, July 21-26**, "the best week ever." There are camp options for Children Grades 3—Adult! Please see last month's

Ambassador for registration instructions, or contact Pastor Carrie at pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or call or text 641-275-1326.



Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee

The Endowment Fund at Faith continues to grow and our committee is dedicated to preserving the principal and achieving the safest and highest return on the funds entrusted to us. Our charter provides that we contribute between 20% (minimum) and 40% (maximum) of our earnings annually to each of three categories: Faith Capital Improvement, ELCA Mission and Community Outreach, with the balance undesignated.

This year, having earned \$2502.57 included with our current balance (4/30/24) of \$106,256.23, the following funds will be donated:

\$500.00 (20%) to Faith's Sanctuary Update Fund (Faith Capital Imp)

\$700.00 (28%) to SE Iowa Synod- Fund for Leaders (Outreach & Ministry)

\$1,300.00 (52%) to Faith Youth Fund for 2024 Gathering (ELCA Mission Undesignated)

\$2,500.00 Total

Next year, in 2025, due to higher interest rates and CD maturation it appears we will have approximately \$4040 available for distribution! We welcome all suggestions of potential donation recipients!

What a great opportunity! From sending our youth to gather in New Orleans, to the hope that our Synod can help congregations find new spiritual leadership, the earnings from these funds touches us all. At present, the fund is not that large, but growing. If we all support the Endowment Fund growth, think of the future benefits as more of our monthly benevolence is available!

To those who have contributed to the fund, or plan to do so within their estate, thank you from the entire congregation at Faith for your gift to the future of the church we all love.

If you have not yet planned to become a benefactor to Faith Lutheran, prayerfully consider including a gift within your estate plan. Alternately, imagine the joy you might receive from watching a gift you have given bear fruit while you are a live participant in Faith's congregation!

To offer a suggestion or learn more about Faith's Endowment Fund feel free to contact a committee member: Jan Hartwig, Allen Lewis, Scott Rochau, Annette Tomlinson, or Kim Wilkins.



Confirmation, April 28, 2024



Senior Sunday, May 19, 2024



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our May Ambassador folders: Mary Jo McVey, Sue Braack, Carol Marten, Tammy Neff, and Darlene John.

Thank you to Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding the May bulletins. The help was very much appreciated!

Thank you to Mary Moore for covering the office on May 10th.

Special thanks to the members of People of Praise, Resounding Joy, and Jubilation for the gift of your music to enhance the worship experience here at Faith. Your time and talent are really appreciated as you "Make a joyful noise to the Lord." (Psalm 100:1).

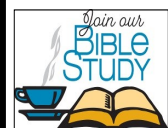
FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	APRIL	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$26,115	\$122,851
EXPENSES	\$30,695	\$116,019

*Monthly income needed to meet budget is \$32,990



Our 2024 Special Easter Offering is \$3,700. This was split evenly between Humble Dwellings and ELCA Disaster Response -where needed most.



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Tuesday afternoon bible study is on break over the summer. We will resume meeting on Tuesday, August 27th.

Service in the World



"Service in the World Outreach Funds"

For the month of May, \$100 was donated to Tapestry Farms, a nonprofit urban farm system that invests in refugees who resettle in the Quad Cities. More information about Tapestry Farms can be found at www.tapestryfarms.org.



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

Jan Hartwig	June 2	Darrell Weltzin	June 15
Sue Oetzmann	June 2	Carolyn Dannatt	June 16
Myron Scheibe	June 2	John McCammant	June 18
Don Rathjen	June 4	Peggy Sleep	June 21
Diane Hall	June 7	Dennis Schmidt	June 28
Karen O'Flaherty	June 8	Ron Meyer	June 30
Donna Darnall	June 13	David Cole	June 30
Bob Bainter	June 15		

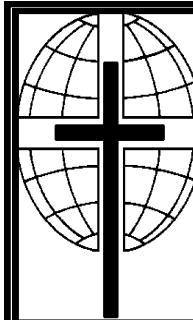


Gary & Connie Rohwer	June 16, 1973
Val & Kathryn Zelinko	June 19, 1971
Mary Ann & Dan Anderson	June 22, 1968



Food Pantry Needs

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



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Mike & Rita Smith** for sponsoring Compassion Child **Denisse Grefa**, and the **Bencke family**, and to **Tom & Pam Carlson** for sponsoring **John Chima** in June.

There are many sponsorship opportunities available in 2024. The cost for sponsorship is **\$45/month** each for our Compassion Children John Chima and Denisse Grefa 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 at (563)285-4501.** *Thank you for your support!*