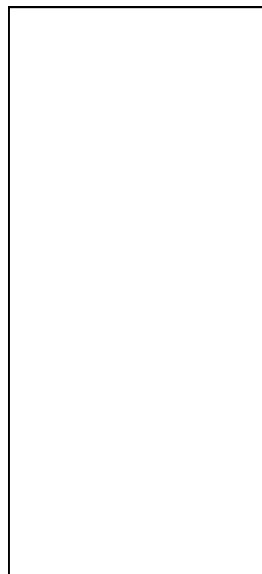


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
Outdoor Worship on Sundays at 9 am, every other week, starting May 26 through Labor Day.

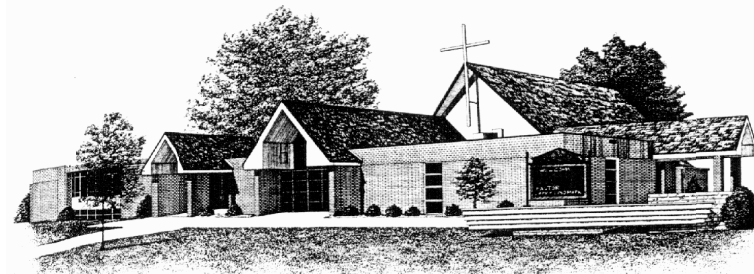
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR July 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

message
from
Pastor
Carrie



Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of you know that summer is one of my favorite times of the year. This is not only because we have opportunities to get out of our regular routine for a while, but also because this variation from routine offers the opportunity to have some fun adventures and do some fun things that we would not ordinarily do. Among those things are going on youth trips which, this year, will be to the 2024 Youth Gathering in

New Orleans, and going to Lutheran Lakeside Camp with our third grade through adults. These trips are always highlights of my year, and I am looking forward to these trips at the end of this month.

However, another favorite week of the church year is the week of VBS! This year, we had an amazing week of Camp Firelight VBS with nearly 50 “campers” from our congregation and the community join our wonderful volunteer staff as we learned together that, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in [God]” (Psalm 56:3). It was a great week of singing and dancing, experiencing our Bible stories acted out by our storytelling friends, doing some crazy science experiments, making beautiful and meaningful crafts, playing fun games with lots and lots of water, and enjoying snacks. Camp Counselor Sam and Lumen or “Lu” the Lightning Bug got us going each evening with some kind of silly antics to help us learn the theme for each day, and they closed each evening reminding us about all that we had learned in our activities.

On Wednesday, our theme for the day was, “Trust God to give you peace,” and the story for the day was the story of Jesus calming the storm from Mark 5:34-41, which also happened to be the Gospel reading the following Sunday. I think the Holy Spirit might be trying to say something to us!

This is a very familiar story of Jesus, after a long day of teaching, telling his disciples to set out across the Sea of Galilee for the other side as there were people there that needed to hear the good news of God’s kingdom. While they are out on the boat during the night, a storm brews and rocks the boat so hard that the disciples are afraid of dying, and when the disciples are afraid of a storm, we ought to pay attention

because they know what they are doing. While the disciples panic, Jesus is asleep in the stern, and the disciples cannot believe it. How can Jesus be sleeping at a time like this? “Do you not care that we are perishing?” they cry. Then, Jesus gets up and rebukes the wind and commands the waves, “Sit down and shut up!” (The Greek is far more forceful than the English translation of “Peace! Be Still!”). The storm listens, and everything becomes a dead calm. The disciples are grateful and fearful all at the same time because they realize that Jesus has the power to calm the storm. They are in new territory that they do not understand.

I would guess that we have all had times in our lives where the storms that are brewing within and around us become overwhelming like the storm on the sea did for the disciples that night. I know that I am going through one of those storms right now as I watch my father’s health decline rapidly. This man, who has always been a stronghold in my life and an example of faith for me, has, in the last eight years, had to deal with so much pain and difficulty after his fall that made him a quadriplegic and a brain tumor that was treated with radiation that has left him prone to seizures which are claiming his memory and his ability to move. There is deep grief and sadness and anger as I experience all of this happening to him. There are days when I feel like Jesus is asleep on the boat, and all I can do is cry out, “Do you not see that we are drowning here? When will enough be enough? Do you not care that this man who has been faithful to you is suffering? Can you not do something? Can you not calm the storm?” And I know that I am not alone in these cries as I know that my mom and my sister and my daughters and many others in my family cry out in similar ways.

And to be honest, sometimes I hear this story, and I wonder why Jesus cannot calm our storm. I get angry that the storm is still brewing in and around me. To be fair, these feelings are real and normal. There are plenty of psalms that ask the same questions: “How long, O Lord? Why have you forgotten me? Why do you hide your face from me? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” God is big enough to hear those cries, to carry our lament, to experience our pain, and those cries reveal a faith and a hope within us that God will show up.

But on my best days, when I hear this story, I remember that Jesus is still in the boat with me. There may be times when he is riding the crests

and the valleys with me, and there are times when Jesus stands up and tells the storm within me to “Sit down and shut up!” While both can be comforting and disconcerting at the same time, remembering that God is always there with me helps me to hold on.

We all need this reminder, and there are those around us who need to be reminded of this promise of God’s presence through us as well. When we are afraid, we can put our trust in God, and we can trust God to give us peace even when the storms around and within us feel overwhelming. May you know this presence and peace today and always.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Carrie

July is a busy month of family obligations and fun church work as we get to experience God’s love through time away to rejuvenate and experiences away from home to see God’s love in ways different than the norm. During the month of July, there will be times when both Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather will be away from the office. However, with the help of our amazing colleagues in ministry in the Quad City area, you will always be in good hands should you need pastoral care during those times.

From July 3 to 5, both pastors will be visiting family for the holiday. Bryce Hewlett, Synodically Authorized Minister at St. James Lutheran Church in Bettendorf, will be covering for us. From July 21 through 26, while both pastors are at Lutheran Lakeside Camp, Pastor Clark Olsen-Smith from Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport will be covering for us. On the weekend of July 20 and 21, Pastor Travis Fisher-King will be our supply pastor as Pastor Carrie will be returning from the Youth Gathering as Pastor Heather will be traveling with our Campers to Lutheran Lakeside. Thanks to Mike Garner for helping to coordinate worship that weekend.

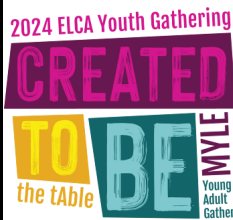
Should you should need pastoral care during these times, please contact the office (563-285-4501) or Pastor Carrie (641-275-1326), and they can help you to get connected.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped or attended VBS this year. Fun was had by all at Camp Firelight!



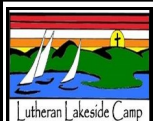


The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans is getting close as Griffin Frank, Christian Keppy, Evan Keppy, Abby La Plante, Madelyn La Plante, Collin Lewis, Jacob Link, Marshall Mess, Keaton Smeltzer, Everett Schroeder, Carson Welvaert, Carrie Keppy, Michele Mess, Denise Westendorf, and Pastor Carrie prepare to leave for Chicago and then New Orleans on July 15!

To prepare for what we will experience and hear and see throughout our time in New Orleans as we gather around the theme, "Created to Be," we gathered for a lock-in on Monday, June 24. We worked through some of the "Getting Ready Materials" as we looked at the daily themes of "Created to be Brave," "Created to be Authentic," "Created to be Free," "Created to be Disruptive," and "Created to be Disciples." We thought about each of these themes in ways that are different from how we normally think about them through activities and videos and Bible study, and we are looking forward to learning and experiencing more when we gather with some 13,000 others in New Orleans.

We are also asking for your help with one more thing for the trip. To help with the speed of getting ready in the morning and to decrease the amount we are spending on meals while there, we are going to take breakfast items to have in our rooms each morning. We are looking for items like granola bars, mini donuts, mini muffins, bagels, mini cereal boxes, juice boxes, etc. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space where you can sign up to bring items, and they can be placed on the pew outside of the Worship Space. **Please have items at church by noon on Sunday, July 14, so that they can get packed to go.**

Thank you for all of your financial and prayer support for this trip. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you in worship and at the Shareholder Dinner on the weekend of August 17 and 18.



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.



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 July 7, July 21, August 4, August 18, and September 1 (weather permitting).



During the Saturday, June 8 worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Penelope Jean Westra, the daughter of Matt and Shelby Westra. Penelope's sponsors are Matt and Tracy Lindaman and Greg and Beth Westra.

During the Sunday, June 9 worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Gary Oerman. Gary's sponsor is his wife, Roxanne Oerman.

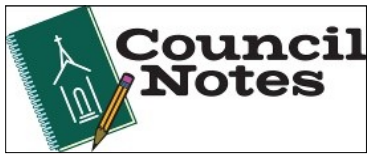


With People of Praise, Jubilation, and Resounding Joy taking a well-deserved break for the summer, there are many opportunities upcoming to provide special music. If you are interested in sharing your time and talent in a musical way during June, July, or August, at either the Saturday evening or Sunday 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!

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	1 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	2 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW 	3	4 Office Closed 	5 Office Hours 9-12 9:30 am Food Pantry 	6 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
7 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	8 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg	9 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	10 10:00 am Grand Haven	11 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	12 9:30 am Food Pantry 	13 11:00 am Eldridge Festival Parade 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
14 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary w/ Communion at the rail 10:15 am Fellowship	15 Office Closed <u>ELCA Youth Gathering</u>	16 <u>ELCA Youth Gathering</u> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	17 <u>ELCA Youth Gathering</u>	18 <u>ELCA Youth Gathering</u> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	19 <u>ELCA Youth Gathering</u> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	20 <u>ELCA Youth Gathering</u> 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
21 7:30 am Depart for Lutheran Lakeside Camp 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	22 Office Closed <u>Lutheran Lakeside Camp</u>	23 Office Hours 9-12 <u>Lutheran Lakeside Camp</u> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	24 Office Hours 9-12 <u>Lutheran Lakeside Camp</u>	25 Office Hours 9-12 <u>Lutheran Lakeside Camp</u> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	26 Office Hours 9-12 <u>Lutheran Lakeside Camp</u> 9:30 am Food Pantry  DEADLine	27 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online w/ Camp Recap 
28 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary w/Camp Recap 10:15 am Fellowship	29 Office Closed	30 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	31 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 			



"Sunshine is sweet; it is good to see the light of day." Ecclesiastes 11:7

Summer is officially here now. It sure feels like summer, too! We sometimes think the life of the church slows down during summer, but that is not necessarily the case. We have VBS, campers and adult volunteers going to Lutheran Lakeside, youth and adult helpers heading to the ELCA Youth Event in New Orleans, and North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry. These are all ways that we can grow in faith while having fun.

Please join me in thanking:

- Fellowship Team for organizing and serving the church parking lot picnic. It provided fun, food and connections between all age groups.
- Property team for filling in and sodding the low area west of the parking lot for better drainage. Our lawn definitely has curb appeal!
- All VBS teachers, helpers, volunteers and participants of Camp Firelight. We learned fun ways to connect with God and trust God. Campers donated fun camp items for Lutheran Lakeside Camp as well as collecting \$155 for campers' purchases at the Lutheran Lakeside Canteen store.
- North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry volunteers. This ongoing ministry is currently serving about 200 lunches each Tuesday and Thursday. They are always happy to have more help from 10-11:30am each Tuesday and Thursday.

The regular council meeting was held on Thursday, June 27. Highlights include approving \$29,500 in Memorial Funds to purchase and install a new lift. Review of church property insurance cost increase. Sacristy remodel update. Sanctuary Update/Capital campaign update. Council will next meet in August for staff and council yearly reviews. We are also looking at developing a Narrative Budget for 2025. Your council is made up of great people getting things done!

Joan Hennigan, Council President (563) 285-6867

**Final
FRIDAY!**



What a great party! The kids had such a great time and none of it would have been possible without you all. So many of you support Final Friday financially, thru donation of craft items, flowers, cookies, water, and most of all your time. I know that the kids feel safe and comfortable knowing that you all are there to support them and provide activities for them to grow. The fellowship that occurs during those short two hours is all worth the effort. So, thank you again to you all! - *Carrie Keppy*



Parking Lot Picnic—June 2, 2024



**Thank you to the Fellowship Team
for putting together a fun picnic!**



Do you have a passion for parades? We are looking for a fun-loving person to serve as our Parade Float Coordinator for this year's entry in the Eldridge Summer Festival Parade on July 13th. We have a truck and trailer, but need someone to help organize the decorating and group. Please contact Mike Garner (563-349-4459) if interested.

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 (except July 4th). 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/>



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our June Ambassador folders: Tom Bauer, Pam Englebrecht, Sue Braack, Sue Casel, Tammy Neff, Carol Marten, Mary Jo McVey, and Darlene John.

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

Thank you to Joan Hennigan, Mary Moore, Rhonda Webber and Sue Sissel for helping in the office in June.

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	MAY	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$21,598	\$144,449
EXPENSES	\$29,848	\$145,868

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



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

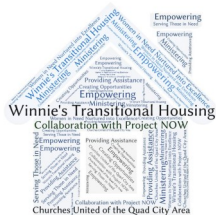
The Tuesday afternoon bible study is on break over the summer. We will resume meeting on Tuesday, August 27th.

Service in the World



Service in the World Outreach Funds

In the month of June, the Service in the World Outreach ministry donated \$100 to Winnie's Transitional Housing. Winnie's is a collaboration with Churches United and Project NOW serving women and children who are escaping from domestic violence and human trafficking. More information on Winnie's can be found at info@cuqca.org



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

Patricia Reese	July 2	Sue Sissel	July 18
Mary Bender	July 3	Becky Stutt	July 19
Kathleen Stoltz	July 6	Kay Friederichs	July 21
Ruth Greve	July 7	Sally Puls	July 24
Cathy Henzen	July 7	Lynda Miller	July 24
Carol Marten	July 8	Craig Hirl	July 24
Ann Bainter	July 10	Allan Kluever	July 30
Marcia Donaubauer	July 13	Carol Strobbe	July 30
Joann Holston	July 14		

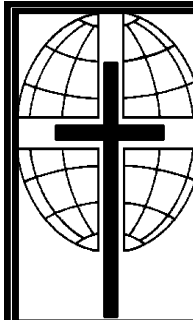


Dean & Pam Englebrecht	July 1, 1973
Fred & Marilyn Jansen	July 17, 1955



Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of July are canned meals, fruit, peanut butter, jelly, soup, cookies, and school supplies. *Thank you for your continued support!*



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Ida Weibel** for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chima** and the **Bencke family**, and to **Bob & Theresa White** for sponsoring **Denisse Grefa** 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!*