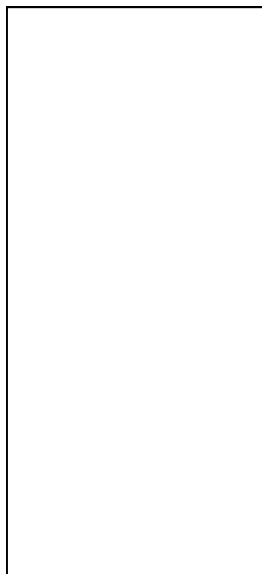


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
 Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
 Outdoor Worship on Sundays at 9 am, every other week, starting May 26 through Labor Day.

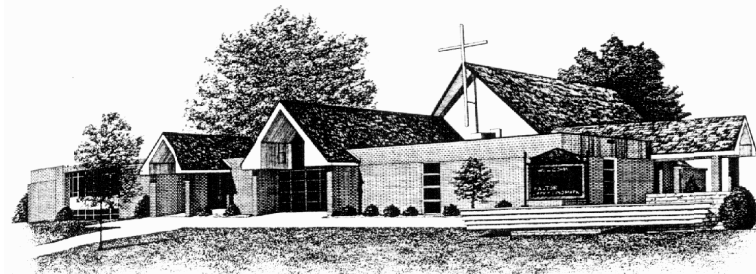
Faith Lutheran Church
 500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

August 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



[A] lawyer, asked [Jesus] a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:35b-40)

Dear Friends in Christ,

My sweatshirt reads, "Love God. Love People. The End." It is a sweatshirt that I bought at the Old Lutheran Store at the ELCA Youth Gathering as that was very much theme that was underlying the official theme of the week, "Created to Be." Everything about the week was about how God created and gifted each of us uniquely, and we are called to live authentically into who we have been created to be. We are also called to live into our freedom in Christ to disrupt systems that bring injustice into the world as we follow Christ's example of loving all people, especially those on the margins. In fact, the Gospel reading for the closing worship of the Gathering on which Bishop Eaton preached was the passage above. Love God. Love People. The End.

Funny enough, I chose to wear that same sweatshirt at camp on Wednesday, when the scripture reading for the day was the one above. Love God. Love People. The End. Throughout the day, we talked about how we disconnect from the distractions of life so that we can care for neighbors who often feel excluded from society and from the church. Love God. Love People. The End. The connection between the two weeks was clear, and it is a message that I think all of our youth and adults alike need to be reminded of, especially these days.

If I could make one edit to my sweatshirt, I would have it say, "Love God. Love **All** People. The End." It is the "all" that seems to be missing from the world in which we live today. We can easily love those people who look like us, who act like us, who think like us, who vote like us, who share the same social media posts that we do, and the like. We find it much harder to love those who look differently, who have different customs, who have different ideas from us, who vote differently, who share different social media posts, who generally are different from us. In fact, so many of us work really hard to justify why we do not need to love those who do not see the world the way that we do. I am definitely not saying that it is easy to love all people – none of us can do it perfectly – yet, that is what we are called to do and be as God's people.

To be honest, we really are no different than the people in Jesus' day. While at first read, this seems like an innocent enough question that this lawyer is asking Jesus, if we read the context around this story, we find that this lawyer was asking Jesus this question in order to trap him and trick him into making a mistake. What this lawyer is really saying to Jesus is, "Okay, there are more than 600 laws in the scriptures. Which is the most important?" He was hoping Jesus would pick one about which they could argue or could charge him with blasphemy. Instead, Jesus chooses the first of the Ten Commandments, "Love God above all else." Jesus then adds to that another, "Love your neighbor (read all people) as yourself." Jesus then punctuates his answer with the comment, "On these two commandments hang all of the law and prophets (read all 600+ commandments can be divided into these two categories)."

Jesus reminds us that we do not get to pick and choose who we love, and we cannot just love those with whom we agree. We are called to listen, to seek to understand, to share our gifts, to show compassion, to truly love in the expansive way that God loves us, to the best of our ability. Easier said than done, yes, yet always important.

As we head into this new program year, especially in light of the tensions that surround us, I pray that all of us can hold onto that which Jesus holds to be the most important way to live our lives: Love God. Love (all) people. The End.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



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



During the Saturday, July 6^h worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Lydia Jane McKinney and Natalie Nicole McKinney, daughters of James and Erin McKinney. Lydia and Natalie's sponsors are Jason and Kayla McKinney.

During the Sunday, July 7^h worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Esmae Ann Crane and Elijah Christopher Crane, children of Dalton and JeriAnna Crane. Esmae and Elijah's sponsor is Brandi Schaeffer.

During the Sunday, July 14^h worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Marley Sue Franks, daughter of Jon and Kathryn Franks. Marley's sponsors are Jason and Christina Smith.



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 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!



Summer has gone by quickly. Campers and volunteers at Lutheran Lakeside, and high school ELCA Youth Event attendees are now returned home. I hope they are enriched and excited to continue God's work in the future. Confirmation and high school youth group kick off this month, with Sunday School not far behind in September. Look for information in this Ambassador.

Join me in thanking:

- Renee and Joe Ward for allowing us to use the Baby Shark float in the Eldridge Days Parade. It was a huge hit with those watching the parade. Thanks also to Mike Garner for the use of his truck and driving the float in the parade. Thanks to Sammie Garner, Violet Geest, Greta Geest, Pastor Heather, and Pastor Carrie for decorating and riding along. It is a fun way to be involved in our community.
- Service in the World Team for preparing and serving the July Churches United Meal. It is an important meal ministry outreach and we are grateful for their work.
- The Property Team for removing the old Lift to make room for installation of the new Lift. It will be a wonderful addition giving access to Fellowship Hall. We are thankful for the Memorial funds that are making this project possible.
- All those who spent a week at Lutheran Lakeside helping to maintain and improve the camp and keep it running smoothly. Thank you Betty, Brad, Carrie, Chelsey, Denise, Michele, Scott, Pastor Heather, and Pastor Carrie.
- The adults and youth who traveled to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Event. Thank you to Carrie, Michele, Denise, and Pastor Carrie for being role models for the youth, and thank you to the youth for participating in the event.
- Feed Our Children helpers. Providing 400 free lunches each week to children in the North Scott community during summer break. This program would not exist without all of our amazing volunteers. Thank you!

Council will meet again in August to work on annual reviews of both Pastors. This process helps the council to review themselves as well. It is a good way to see where we are, and where the Holy Spirit is leading us. We will also be discussing our Sanctuary Update/Capital Campaign, Sacristy Remodel, and new Lift Installation. Exciting things are happening at Faith Lutheran, Eldridge.

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/>



Join with others as our church welcomes children kindergarten through 6th grade to "Friday Fun Club" the last early dismissal Friday of each month.

Volunteers are needed in Arts & Crafts, Storytime, Music, Game time and Snack time. Donations of supplies and snack items are also needed.

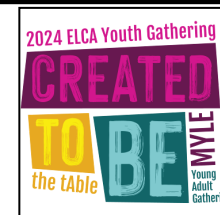
A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at church or call Mary Moore at 285-7223 to volunteer.



Departing for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans 2024

ELCA Youth Gathering Shareholder Dinner August 18, 2024, 11:00 am

We invite all those who purchased shares for the Mission Trip to join us for a meal and to hear stories about the mission trip on Sunday, August 18, at 11:00 am. The mission trip participants will serve you a meal and will share their favorite experiences from the trip to thank you for your support. We will also be sharing stories during worship on Saturday, August 17, and Sunday, August 18, so please join us for these events! We look forward to sharing our learning and growing with you!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am Feed Our Children 1:00 pm NS Food Pantry Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	2 9:30 am Food Pantry 	3 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
4 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	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 	7	8 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	9 9:30 am Food Pantry 	10 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
11 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary w/ Communion at the rail 10:15 am Fellowship	12 <i>Office Closed</i> Soles4Souls Shoe collection begins 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg	13 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	14	15 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm Council Meeting 	16 9:30 am Food Pantry 	17 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online w/ Youth Gathering Recap, Blessings of Backpacks, & School Staff 6:00 pm Anniversary Dinner
18 9:00 am Outdoor Worship w/Youth Gathering Recap, Blessings of Backpacks, School Staff & Keys 10:15 am Fellowship 11:00 am Mission Trip Shareholder Dinner	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	21	22	23 <i>North Scott Schools 1st Day of Classes</i> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	24 <i>NOISY OFFERING</i> 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
25 <i>NOISY OFFERING</i> 9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	28 5:45 pm Confirmation Kick Off w/ Pizza! 7:00 pm High School Kick Off w/ Ice Cream! 	29 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	30 9:30 am Food Pantry 	31 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 

40th + ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The Fellowship Team invites those who have (or would have) celebrated 40+ years of marriage to a delicious Dinner!

Saturday, August 17th, 2024
after the 5:00 pm Church Service

Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Faith is collecting new and gently worn shoes for the Eldridge Lion's Club for the Soles4Souls program. You may donate all styles, types and sizes of shoes, as long as they are gently worn. They even take mismatched singles! The donation collection will run August 12th through September 11th. More information about this program can be found at soles4souls.org.

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.



Thank you to the property team for keeping our yard looking so beautiful this summer!



Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, & School Workers

On the weekend of **August 17 and 18**, we invite all children and youth who are starting back to school to bring their backpacks to worship at 5:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am on Sunday. During the Children's message, we will do a blessing of backpacks to pray God's blessing on the backpacks and on the children who will wear them this year. We will then offer a blessing over the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, janitors, kitchen staff and others as they prepare to head back to school. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of the new year!



High School Faith Milestone Blessing of the Keys

As our children begin high school, there are many milestones that they will begin to come across. One of those milestones is learning to drive, from getting the permit to driver's ed to getting a license. We would like to help these youth and parents to mark that milestone in worship with a "Blessing of the Keys". On **Sunday, August 18**, during the 9:00 am worship service, we will invite any High School students who are new drivers to come forward with their parents as we pray over them and provide them with a small token to mark this time in their lives. We will also be providing each family with a sample "contract" which can help families to have conversation around proper use of the car. We hope that all of our new drivers and their families will be present for this milestone as we begin this new school year.



Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 8th

All kids ages 3 through 6th grade
More info in September's Ambassador



Eldridge Summer Festival Parade - Saturday, July 13, 2024



Thank you to all who helped with the Eldridge Summer Festival Parade float this year!



Confirmation and High School Youth Group Kick-Off Time

It is hard to believe that school will be starting soon, and with a new school year comes a new year of Confirmation Conversations and High School Youth Group! We are looking forward to a fun year of growing in faith and friendship throughout the year ahead. To get us started on the right foot, we will have two kick-off events on Wednesday, August 28!



The Confirmation Kick-Off will be a pizza party for all 7th and 8th grade students and their families (siblings are more than welcome) from 5:45 to 6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will talk through our Bible topic for the year and discuss our expectations for the year. We will also talk about other faith-building opportunities, including our mentor program and Lutheran Lakeside Camp. A letter will be sent soon with more details about our Confirmation Conversations and the Kick-off. Please let us know how many from your family will be coming on our Sign-Up Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-50478976-confirmation>) or call the church office at 563-285-4501 by Friday, August 23.



The High School Youth Group Kick-Off will be an ice cream social for all 9th through 12th grade students and their families (siblings are more than welcome) from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will talk about how we want Youth Group to be this year, and we will make a decision on when and where we want to go for next summer's mission trip. Come and invite friends. Please let us know how many from your family will be coming on our Sign-Up Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-50478977-hsyouth>) or call the church office at 563-285-4501 by Friday, August 23.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Carrie (pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or 641-275-1326). We look forward to seeing you at our kick-off celebrations and at our events throughout the year.



With Appreciation...

July Ambassador folders: **Tom Bauer, Pam Englebrecht, Sue Braack, Sue Casel, Tammy Neff, Carol Marten, Mary Jo McVey, and Darlene John.**

Thank you to those who served in the office in July: **Nancy Germain, Beth Raiche-Melheim, Mary Moore, and Rhonda Webber.**

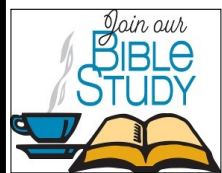
Thank you for all who have volunteered for worship this summer and put in the extra effort preparing for outdoor worship.



FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	JUNE	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$45,494.70	\$189,944.11
EXPENSES	\$40,378.52	\$186,246.10

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



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

We will resume the weekly bible study on Tuesday, August 27th, at 1:00pm. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the week ahead. .

Service in the World



Service in the World Outreach Funds

In the month of July, the Service in the World committee donated \$100 to ELCA World Hunger through Faith's Outreach ministry. ELCA World Hunger addresses the root causes of hunger in 66 countries, and 41 states and territories. More information on ELCA World Hunger can be found at hunger@elca.org



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

David Griffin	August 5	Connie Braet	August 21
Betty Griffin	August 7	Doug Garner	August 22
Donna Knapper	August 7	Vi Westphal	August 26
Deloris Schatz	August 9	Mark Copley	August 29
Michelle Reimer	August 13	Jeanne Willems	August 30
Pam Engelbrecht	August 14		

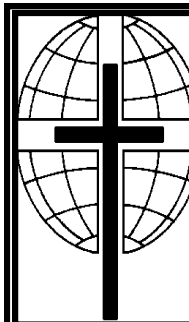


Rob & Pam White August 3, 1968
Jim & Ida Weibel August 11, 1973
Curt & Carolyn Hulsen August 18, 1974
Sally & James Hamann August 28, 1971



Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of August are Crackers, pasta & small bottles of vegetable oil.
Thank you for your continued support!



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Bob & Theresa White** for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chima** and the **Bencke family**, and to **Tammera Long** for sponsoring **Denisse Grefa** in August.

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!**