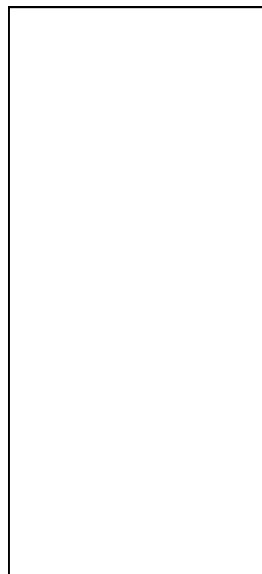
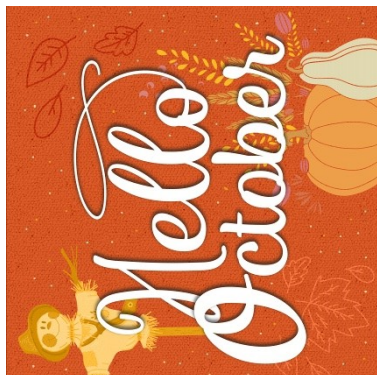


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
Sunday School weekly at 10:15 am.

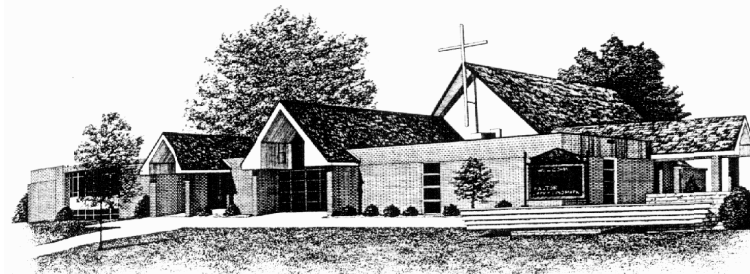
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR October 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



From Pastor Carrie	Pages 2-3
Council Notes	Page 4
Pastor & Staff Appreciation Month, Be Our Guest Event	Page 5
Invitation to Join the Cantata, Reformation Celebration.....	Page 6
New Members, Breakfast, Offering Envelopes & more.....	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Trick or Trunk, Sunday School News, Feed Our Children	Page 10
Final Friday Fun	Page 11
2024-2025 Synod Events.....	Page 12
Tailgate Picnic Photos	Page 13
Appreciations, Finance , Outreach, & Clothing Drive	Page-14
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Food Pantry, & Missions	Page 15

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the month of October. School is in full swing. The temperatures have begun to take their downward turn. The harvest is beginning all around us. The signs that we are reaching the end of yet another year are becoming clear.

October also has been the time in the church when we traditionally consider the spiritual practice of stewardship. As the harvest comes in, and we are giving thanks to God for all of the gifts that God continues to provide for us, it is a good time to consider how it is that God is calling us to use our unique gifts together to continue to proclaim the good news of God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit within our congregation, the wider community, even around the world.

During the month of October, we will consider how we, as the people of Faith Lutheran Church, have been gifted by God to serve this congregation and the community around us. As it is written in First Peter, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received" (1 Peter 4:10). We will give thanks to God for all that we have been given, and we will listen for how God might be calling us to best respond by stewarding the gifts that God has provided for the sake of those around us.

We begin this journey of stewardship at the waters of the font as there we are claimed as children of God to live in covenant with God and community. While the word 'stewardship' never once appears in the baptismal promises, the promises of baptism sum up what it is to be a steward: one who uses wisely the gifts God has given. It takes good stewardship to worship, proclaim, and do good works of service, justice and peacemaking on a daily basis for the duration of a life of faith, for there certainly is so much to be done. Without stewardship, it could be that gifts are squandered, go unused to share God's love with the world, are used and abused, or are spent so that the gift becomes a burden. But, as we are reminded each time we celebrate a baptism or the affirmation of baptism, stewardship is not solely an individual endeavor. It also happens in community as the body of Christ builds one another up in truth and spurs one another toward love and good deeds.

Our focus on stewardship will not be solely, not even primarily, centered on financial stewardship. Instead, we will consider what it takes to steward a whole life of faith by examining the various ways that we live out our baptismal call to tell the world of God's love in Jesus Christ. We will

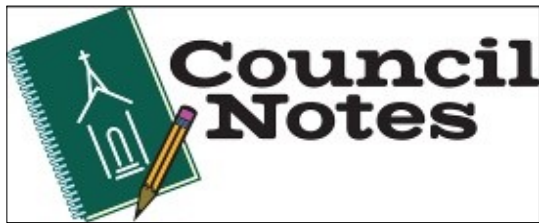
consider how it is that we use our time both here at Faith and beyond the congregation to help others to know that God really loves them. We will consider how we use the talents and gifts that God has provided us with the gifts of others to do God's mission in this world in ways that we could never imagine or do on our own.

However, I also am well aware that when we think of stewardship, our minds turn directly to financial stewardship, and some of us get a little squeamish. We do not like to talk about money in worship. We do not want to be asked to give more. The good news for this year is that, at the end of August, our financial situation was in the positive. As a congregation, we are grateful for the faithfulness of the members and friends of this congregation who have provided from the gifts that God has given them, and for the faithfulness of the Congregation Council and Ministry Team members who have been careful in their spending throughout the year. This has allowed us to do amazing ministry within the congregation, within the community, and even reaching around the world. We even have been given the ability to expand our ministries this year as we share the love of Christ with those around us. This does not mean that we can relax now, but this truth should encourage us to continue to gratefully and cheerfully give to God's mission and ministry so that we can continue to grow and expand the ministries to which God is calling us in these days. As Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Your giving is a blessing to the people gathered here and to all whom we reach around the world.

We will have another exciting opportunity for giving in October as well. By the end of the month, we are hoping to kick off our "Growing in Faith" Capital Pledge Campaign for the new sanctuary update. This project has been a long time in coming, and it will create a worship space that will make worship more accessible to more people. It also will provide needed flexibility so that we can better steward our building as a center for community gatherings and activities. More information will be coming soon, so keep your eyes and ears open for the exciting things ahead.

We have all we need to live into God's mission and to proclaim the good news of God's love to our neighbors and the world. I pray that we steward those gifts with faith, gratitude, persistence and humility so that more people may come to know and be transformed by God's saving love.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1. October is clergy/staff appreciation month. We give thanks for our dedicated pastors and staff here at Faith. Thank you cards for you to write are available on the table in the Narthex. Fall is also harvest time and time to start preparing for 2025. The nominating team will work to find people with passion for open positions on church council. Prayerfully consider if you think you might be that person. Say yes if you get a call from the nominating committee or reach out to me, or anyone on council. Let us follow Jesus’ example by serving. Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35.

Join me in thanking:

- Meal Ministry Team led by Sherri Brundies including Merricks and Carlsons for coordinating and serving the pancake breakfast for Rally Day. The intergenerational conversations provide faith formation and fellowship. If you would like to help with food ministry, reach out to Sherri.
- All of our Sunday School teachers, the confirmation small group leaders, pastors, and those who serve by helping high school youth group. Without these helpers, these programs can’t happen.
- Worship and Music Team for providing and serving the September Churches United meal. This is an important meal ministry outreach. 70 meals were served.
- Linda Szemkus and Joni Schneider for planting the fall mums in our outdoor planter near the sign. They are lovely and beautify our yard.
- Pastors and staff of Faith Lutheran Eldridge. We are fortunate to have these dedicated servants of God here at Faith. They work hard to reflect God’s love in the world by serving others day in and day out. I am amazed at all of the mission and ministry they accomplish.

Please show them our gratitude, love and support. Thank you notes are available in the narthex. October is Clergy/staff appreciation month.

The regular council meeting was held on Thursday Sept 26. Discussed Lift update, Sacristy renovation update, Friday Fun Club-Sept 27, Be Our Guest-Oct 10, Narrative Budget Update, Capital campaign/sanctuary update. Your council is made of dedicated people serving Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our mission, ministry and direction.

Joan Hennigan, Council President (563) 285-6867



Please join us during the month of **October** to show appreciation for our pastors and our staff: Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Dennis Kelly (Custodian), Beth Ann Anderson (Office Manager), Sue Becker (Music Director/Organist), and Teri Wittkowski (Organist).

We have a table with thank you cards and envelopes in the narthex, which you are free to use to write them notes. We appreciate all of the ways each one of them help make Faith a caring and vibrant community where our discipleship can grow.

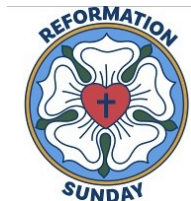
Let’s join together to let them know how much they are loved!



We are inviting you to something new at Faith Lutheran Church. For now, the plan is to meet once in the fall and once in the spring to see how many will gather and show interest in learning from others. These gatherings are open to all community members.

Come on **Thursday, October 10th at 6:30 pm** to hear Karen Vandecasteele and Ann McGlynn share with us about Humble Dwellings and Tapestry Farms. We ask you to share in the togetherness, as a community learning about hobbies, adventures, and helpers who offer programs and services in our area and maybe some musical groups. We welcome your ideas and hearing about talents you would be willing to share with others.

It's that time of year! Rehearsals for this year's Christmas cantata, "Sing With the Angels!", will begin on Wednesday, October 16, from 6:00-6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary, and the cantata will be performed at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 8. The cantata is a delightful telling of the Christmas story from the vantage point of angels. Angels are referenced throughout the scriptures and play a major role in the story of Christ's birth, from Gabriel's appearance to Mary, to the glorious scene of angels filling the heavens singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo". The cantata is about 30 minutes long, is very singable for both experienced and non-experienced singers, and incorporates new music along with a few familiar, classic Christmas carols. Anyone high school age and older is welcome to come join People of Praise for this annual presentation. (We're especially in need of male voices.) This is a perfect short term musical commitment for those of you who love to sing Christmas music, but have limited time. Come join us!!



We invite you to join us for worship on the weekend of **October 26 & 27** as we celebrate Reformation Sunday. We invite you to wear RED, the liturgical color for the day, as we celebrate the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit among us. Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed. We are reminded on this day of the freedom that comes to us through Jesus' life, death and resurrection and the forgiveness of our sins so that we are free to care for our neighbors and share the love of God with the world.

You are invited to worship with us as we celebrate Reformation Sunday, in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church. We look forward to worshipping with you.



Join us **Sunday, October 6, at 11:15 am** for a simple meal and conversations to help us get to know each other. If you plan on attending, please email or call the office to let us know. New Member Welcome will be during the worship services on the weekend of **October 12th & 13th**.



Join us **on Sunday, October 20**, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.



2025 Offering Envelopes will soon be ordered for families who are not signed up for automatic giving. If you currently do not receive personalized envelopes with your name/address printed on them and would like to receive them, please let Rhonda Webber know as soon as possible by calling/texting (319) 230-1228 or emailing tafirehawk309@aol.com. If you currently receive personalized envelopes and no longer wish to receive them, contact Rhonda as well.

Thank you for your generosity toward our mission!



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm, as we read and discuss the scriptures for the week ahead.

Everyone loves a treat after church! We need people to provide treats for fellowship time on Sunday mornings. Not a baker? No problem! Store bought items and homemade are all enjoyed! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



Are you interested in making sure Faith is available for all people looking to connect with Jesus? Join our online streaming team by signing up online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-video>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW Mtg. 	2 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm High School Youth	3 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	4 9:30 am Food Pantry	5 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
	6 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am New Member Class	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	8 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Jubilation 	9 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth 7:00 pm Resounding Joy 	10 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 6:30 pm Be Our Guest Event 	11 9:30 am Food Pantry 
13 <i>New Member Welcome</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm 4H	14 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg	15 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	16 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth 7:00 pm Resounding Joy	17 6:30 pm Council Meeting 	18 9:30 am Food Pantry 	19 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
20 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Congregational Breakfast and Sunday School	21 <i>Office Closed</i>	22 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	23 10:00am Grand Haven 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth 7:00 pm Resounding Joy	24 6:30 pm Women of Faith Bible Study 	25 9:30 am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Friday Fun Club	26 <i>NOISY OFFERING Reformation Weekend</i> 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
27 <i>NOISY OFFERING Reformation Weekend</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	30 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth 7:00 pm Resounding Joy	31 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  5:30 pm Trunk or Treat 		

TRUNK OR TREAT

On Halloween, Thursday, October 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, we will host a Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot. We invite anyone in the congregation to decorate the back of their car and hand out treats (self supplied) to the kids who are trick-or-treating. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space or online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4BAFAA28A3FE3-51727425-faith>.

Thank you in advance for making this night special for the children in our neighborhood.



The Sunday School teachers would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of crafting supplies for the upcoming school year. Everyone's generous support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you so very much!

Feed Our Children

During the month of October we are looking for donations of:

Poptarts
Packaged Cookies
(Oreos, Chips Ahoy, Etc)



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.



Pictures from the August Friday Fun Club



The Office of the Bishop and Southeastern Iowa Synod Council are listening and perceiving that God is calling us to proclaim, accompany, equip, and celebrate all that God is doing in the Southeastern Iowa Synod through our congregations and ministries, and rostered ministers by:

Engaging the larger church

- Synod assemblies and ELCA churchwide assemblies
- Engaging with ELCA social statements
- Civic engagement, interfaith and ecumenical groups

Encouraging future leaders

- Sharing call stories, encouraging new leaders
- Lay leadership
- Synod authorized ministers (SAMs)

Offering gratitude

- Worship, fellowship, and gratitude around the synod
- Mission support and special giving
- Retired servants luncheons

Loving our neighbors

- Advocacy
- Anti-hunger efforts
- Disaster response
- Anti-racism training and events

Supporting pastors, deacons, and SAMs

- Fall Gathering
- First Call Theological Education
- Lent gatherings and retired servant gatherings

Partnering with congregations

- Area ministry strategy meetings
- Administrative workshops
- Pulpit supply and interim networks
- Synod-wide worship
- Congregational visits

2024 - 2025

Highlighted Synod Events

All are welcome!

Visit the synod website for a full listing of synod events.

New events are added all the time. You can also get the news and learn more about synod ministries.

www.seiasynod.org

Evenings of Gratitude

Join Bishop Current for a light dinner and an evening of fellowship, conversation, and gratitude for the ministry we share in our synod.

- Nov. 3 - Peace, Pella
- Nov. 10 - Christ the King, Iowa City
- Nov. 17- Trinity, Pleasant Valley
- Nov. 24 - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Des Moines

Synod-wide Worship

These are pre-recorded opportunities for congregations to worship together and reflect on a shared theme across the territory of the synod.

- Sept. 29 - sermon only
- Oct. 6 - Israel-Gaza Service of Remembrance
- December 29
- April 27, 2025
- May 18, 2025 - sermon only



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



North Scott Clergy Homecoming Tailgate Cookout, September



With Appreciation...

September Ambassador folders: **Sue Braack, Tom Bauer, Darlene John, Carol Marten, and Tammy Neff.**

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

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	AUGUST	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$37,862	\$248,597
EXPENSES	\$25,708	\$243,667

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

Service in the World Outreach Funds

This September, the Service in the World committee donated \$110 of personal care supplies to the North Scott High School Nurse, for student use.

Service in the World



WINTER



OUTERWEAR DRIVE

Warm Clothing Drive for Humility Homes

The weather is going to be getting cold before we know it. Humility Homes will again be collecting winter outer wear to provide to the people they provide services to. Their greatest need is men's coats (new or gently used). Women and children's coats will also be accepted. They can also use hats, gloves and scarves. The single use hand and feet warmers have also been requested. Additional items they provide are warm socks for men and women. There is a need for all sizes of men's underwear. There will be a box in the gathering area for you to place your donations. Donations will be accepted through the first of December. Please contact Betty Strom if you have any questions.



Birthdays

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

Ruth Jurgens	October 2	Rob White	October 15
Dorothy Kuhl	October 2	Connie Rohwer	October 16
Don Stoltenberg	October 2	Steve Mixdorf	October 21
Henry Storjohann	October 3	Dennis Kelly	October 22
Delbert Rayburn	October 9	Ruth Heuer	October 23
Magda Brodersen	October 10	LouAnn Mohr	October 24
Judy Koehler	October 11	Delores Rathjen	October 26
Brad Merrick	October 11	Jean Hanson	October 28
Doris Rayburn	October 14		



Sharie & Doug Garner
October 3, 1964

Patty & Steve Mixdorf
October 6, 1973



Food Pantry Needs for the month of October are granola bars, instant (boxed) potatoes & gravy.
Thank you for your continued support!



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Janice Hartwig** for sponsoring the **Bencke family**, to **Nina Looney** for sponsoring **John Chima**, and to **John Hintze** for sponsoring **Denisse Grefa** in October.

There are sponsorship opportunities available in November and December 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.** *Thank you for your support!*