

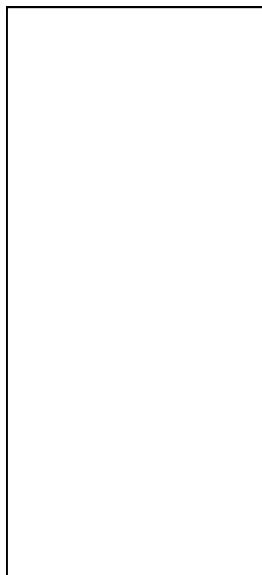
Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
EASTER Worship services at 8:00 am (In Person and Online) and 10:30 am In Person. Online Worship updates will be
posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
Sunday School and adult faith formation on Sundays at 10:15 am.

Faith Lutheran Church

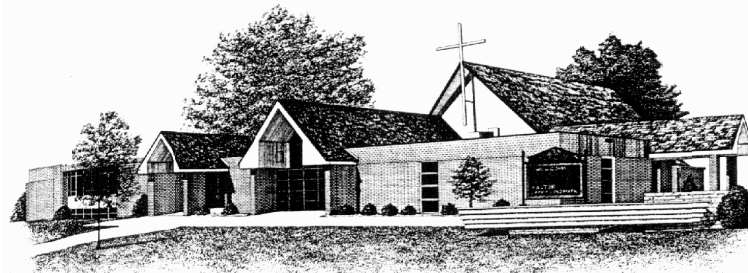
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

April 2025

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Are you enjoying this change of season? This is definitely one of my favorite times of the year. The weather begins to get warmer, even if we do have to endure a few dips in the temperature and a few random

snowflakes now and then. The grass begins to turn green again. The trees begin to bud in anticipation of the new leaves to come. The flowers begin to peek up from the ground. The robins begin to fly back. Colorful life begins to return from the drab greys and browns of winter.

As I look at my flower beds on the west side of the parsonage, the tulips and daffodils are finding their way into the sunlight in spite of the rollercoaster of temperatures we are currently experiencing. This new life that is being born gives me hope for the promised future.

Into this season of hope in new life that nature brings, our Christian story also brings hope of new life – of eternal life – in the story of Jesus' passion and resurrection that we will celebrate in these weeks of April. As we watch for the new life to come out of the ground in the flowers and the trees, and we look for the baby animals being born all around us, we also get to experience Jesus' new life after death as we move through the cross to find the empty tomb. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, the simultaneous experiences of new life bring even more power to the story.

This coming weekend, we will hear the words that Paul written in his second letter to the Corinthians, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" In Christ, God has made all things new, even each one of us, and God continues to make all things new. Yes, we still live in a world where there is pain, suffering, brokenness, struggle, sorrow, guilt and more, as we are all too well aware; yet, into that world Christ breaks in with the promise of new life, of hope, of love, and of joy that we experience in our own lives and in our interactions with others. God is ever present to make something new and beautiful and hope-filled out of the places of pain and suffering and grief. It is what God did in and through Jesus' violent death on the cross and amazing resurrection to new life. It is what God continues to do in and through us.

In these weeks of Lent, we have experienced "Conversations at the Pearly Gates" during our Wednesday evening prayer services. We have experienced a number of people who have found themselves at the pearly gates, but when God is ready to welcome them into heaven, the bad angel always tries to find reasons to keep them out and to send them to "the other place." What we have been reminded of in each of these skits is that, if it were left up to us, it would be impossible to be reconciled to God; however, as we will also hear in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians this weekend, God has reconciled us to himself through Christ. It is not up to us to make our way to heaven. Instead,



God has done that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, thus making us and all things new!

In addition, Paul tells us that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation, a ministry of seeking to make whole again relationships that have been broken. This is not easy, especially in these days when division among people seems to be rampant because everyone seems to want their way to be *the* way no matter the cost. This is hard because everything around us feels very chaotic around us as we cannot be sure that programs and policies we have come to depend upon will exist, we cannot be sure that our jobs are secure, we cannot be confident that we will be able to afford those things we have always enjoyed. Yet, because God has reconciled us to him through Jesus, forgiving us for the ways in which we have broken God's heart and created chaos in this world, God has given us a ministry of reconciliation, of trying to help to put pieces back together when the world around us feels like it is falling apart. When we can work toward that end, as imperfectly as it will happen in this beautiful and broken world, we help to bring about the newness that God promises.

Perhaps we cannot yet see what this new creation looks like for us. Maybe we have not yet figured out where we fit into that new creation and where and how our gifts and talents can best be used. And yet, God has prepared a place for each of us in the new creation and invites us in to share our gifts as we share the good news of God's promise of reconciling love and new creation with the world.

Throughout this Ambassador, you will find invitations to join in the celebration of this promise of reconciliation and new creation that God is bringing to light here. Throughout Holy Week and Easter, we will worship, celebrate First Communion, and enjoy fellowship during the Easter egg hunt and Easter Breakfast as together we remember and give thanks for the promises of reconciliation and new life for which Jesus gave everything. We also will have opportunities to support mission through Cinnamon Roll Sunday, and we will celebrate with two of our youth as they affirm their baptism and claim these promises for themselves on Confirmation Sunday.

In all of these ways and so many more, we will have opportunities to experience God's reconciling love and new creation unfolding in our midst. Come and be a part of all that God is already doing in and through each one of us and all of us together. Invite others to join our celebrations of new life and hope and promise and joy as we look toward and live into God's future together.

Jesus rose from death to life to bring us new life, not only eternal life in the future, but new life now born out of repentance and forgiveness, reconciliation and living into the joy of God's promises for us together. May this natural season of new life and this religious season of new life bring us all to new life together in these days and in all the days ahead! In Christ's love,

Pastor Carrie

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Jesus' Easter resurrection gives us hope of eternal life, just as spring gives us hope of new and renewed life! Spring's arrival signals the end of winter and the return of flowers and the emergence of new life, growth and hope. Spring renews my spirit and gives me hope in God's promise of renewed and eternal life! I pray it does the same for you.

Please join me in thanking:

- All who helped with the Feb 28 Friday Fun Club. It is an important outreach to our community and a fun, safe space for the children on the last early out of the month.
- Meal ministry team for serving the congregational breakfast on March 9. This intergenerational fellowship helps our Faith Formation and creates meaningful connections, conversations, and delicious food.
- Women of Faith for donating \$300 to Service in the World outreach fund. It will help local organizations further their missions.
- Service in the World led a group who served the Churches United Meal in March. It is an important meal ministry outreach.
- John & Amy Powell for hanging the purple drape on the sanctuary cross.
- Cindy Zabel and all who sent get well cards and prayers for Meyer Mixdorf and others at St. Jude's going through cancer treatments. It brought much joy to Meyer, the Mixdorf family and friends. Meyer said that receiving all of the cards was like Christmas!
- Youth confirmation students and adults who served the Ash Wednesday soup supper meal. It was delicious. It is good to meet together and share a meal. It helps build and strengthen relationships in our Faith community.

The regular council meeting was held on Thursday, March 20. The calendar for April including Holy Week and Easter was finalized. The treasurer's report was discussed with continued good news on February giving propelling our mission and ministry. The Sanctuary Update flooring, carpet and sound system selections were approved. Your council is made up of great people getting things done!

Joan Hennigan, Council President 563-285-6867



On **Palm Sunday, Saturday, April 12, 5:00 pm** and **Sunday, April 13, 9:00 am**, we will begin Holy Week with a procession of the palms, and during worship, we will hear Walt Wangerin, Jr.'s *The Cry of the Whole Congregation*, a dramatic reading of the passion story based on the Gospel of Luke. Palm Branches will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 11, from 9:00 am to noon and on Saturday, April 12, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm for those worshipping at home.

Our **Maundy Thursday** service on **Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 pm**, will include the celebration of First Communion for several of our children.

On **Good Friday, April 18**, we will gather for a special service led by the choirs entitled, *Tennebrae: A Service of Shadows* at **7:00 pm**.

Join our **Easter Vigil** service on **Saturday, April 19 at 5:00 pm**.

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00 am – Easter Worship Service

9:00 am—Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:30 am—Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn

10:30 pm –Easter Worship Service



Join us as we celebrate the truth that "Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"

The youth who are going on the Denver Mission Trip in July and their families will serve breakfast on **Easter morning, April 20, from 9:00-10:15 am**. A free will offering will be collected to help with the costs of the trip.



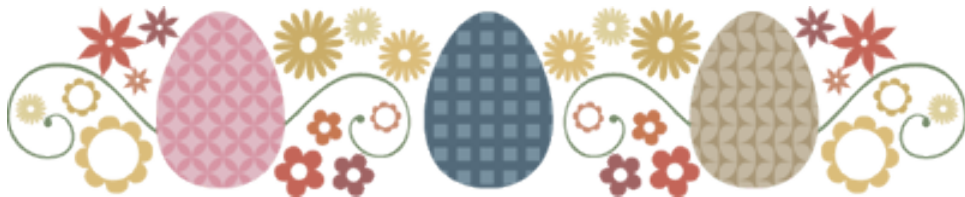
The last two Wednesday evening Lenten dramas from “Conversations at the Pearly Gates” will be presented on April 2 and April 9. April 2 will be “I’m Not a Physicist, But I Know What Matters”, where three new arrivals arrive at the Pearly Gates and have a discussion about their destination. The April 9 presentation will be, “The Pearly Gates: Film at Eleven”. In this skit, the Pearly Gates are scheduled to be the subject of an upcoming National Geographic special. Unfortunately, a certain bad angel makes it difficult for the Film Maker to gather data for the program. The much-loved Holden Evening Prayer service will be our liturgy for these services. Please come join us.

Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Egg Hunt

We invite your family to participate an egg hunt on the church lawn at **9:30am on Easter Sunday**. Bring your basket, or we will provide bags. We will celebrate the good news of Jesus’ resurrection together.



If you wish to contribute toward Easter lilies that will decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area. We are asking for a contribution of \$15.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate ‘flowers’ on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds.** Names received by **April 6** will be published in the Easter worship bulletin.



Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Youth who will be attending the Mission Trip in Denver this July of will be making and selling cinnamon rolls the weekend of April 12 & 13 to help raise funds for their trip. You can purchase these delicious rolls in person around worship April 12 & 13, or pre-order by signing up online (link found on our website and on Facebook) or on the sheet in the gathering space. **Cost is \$3/2 rolls, \$8/6 rolls, and \$15/dozen.** Along with baked rolls, we will have the option to purchase unbaked rolls by the dozen.

Thank you for supporting our youth!



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 27, at the 9:00 worship service, two of our youth will be celebrating their Confirmation as they affirm their baptism in worship. Those who will be confirmed are Ben Lewis and Bristol Schoenthaler.

On the day of confirmation, there will be at able set up on the east side of Fellowship Hall with the names of the confirmands where you can leave cards and other well wishes for these youth.

There will also be a cupcake reception following worship to honor the confirmands. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone with these youth!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space		1 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Resounding Joy 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 6:30 pm Jubilation	2 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation (MP) 5:45 pm Pre Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm Worship Service 7:30 pm High School Youth	3 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	4 9:30am Food Pantry 	5 New Member Welcome 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
6 New Member Welcome 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am—First Communion Class	7 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg.	8 Office Hours 9-12 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Resounding Joy 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	9 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation (MP) 5:45 pm Pre Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm Worship Service 7:30 pm High School Youth	10 Team Reports Due 6:30 pm WOF Board 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	11 9:30 am Food Pantry 	12 Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:00 am Feed Our Children Meeting 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
13 Palm Sunday Cinnamon Roll Sale 9:00 am Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	14 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	15 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	16 5:30 pm Confirmation Mentor Night (Pie Making) 7:00 pm High School Youth	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Worship	18 Good Friday Food Pantry <u>Closed</u> 7:00 pm Worship 	19 Easter Vigil 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
20 Easter 8:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Egg Hunt 10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary	21 Office Closed	22 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Executive Mtg	23 6:00 pm Confirmation Celebration Dinner 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School 7:00 pm Resounding Joy	24 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  6:30 pm WOF Bible Study	25 9:30am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Friday Fun Club	26 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
27 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary w/ Confirmation 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 12:30 pm Girl Scouts (FH) 4:00 pm Scott County Pork Producers (FH)	28 Office Closed	29 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	30 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth			



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

All interested in joining the Feed Our Children program this summer, volunteers or just interested parties, please meet on Saturday, April 12, at 10:00 am at Faith. There are some interesting possible changes and ideas to discuss, and we would like your input. If you have

any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Thank you.

Kim Wilkins, 563-370-1393 or kimwilkins@ruhlhomes.com. Hope to see you there



FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Join friends from Faith to enjoy an evening with Lancer Productions at North Scott High School for the performance of **9 to 5 The Musical**, on **Friday, May 2, at 7:00 pm**. Tickets for the musical are **\$10 each**.

Lancer Productions offers a

Dinner Theater at 5:00 pm for an additional \$22 each. Sign up on the bulletin board by **April 16**, or **Contact Pastor Carrie** for more information and to reserve your spot.



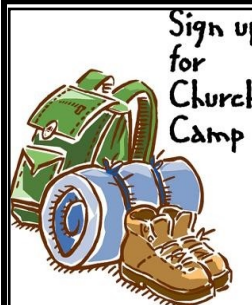
Congratulations to all of our graduates—High School, Trade School, Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral candidates! Blessings to each of you as you begin this next chapter in your lives.

We will celebrate our 2025 High School graduates during worship on **Sunday, May 18, at 9:00 am**. A cupcake reception will follow worship.

Note: Seniors, please send your plans for next year as well as a picture (between wallet and 5"x7") for the Senior Recognition Board by Wednesday, May 7. You can mail them, drop them off in the office between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm Tuesday through Friday, or email them to faitheldridge@netins.net.



This year, all of the Easter Offering will go to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). LSI empowers families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual. It is affiliated with the ELCA and a member of Lutheran Services in America. More information can be found on their website, <https://lsiowa.org/>.



Summer Camp Registration is Here!!

It is time to register for camp for this summer, and I hope that many of you will want to join us for **Week 6 of camp at Lutheran Lakeside, July 21-26**, "the best week ever."

Children in **grades 3-5 will register for Cultivator Camp**. Youth in **grades 6-8 will register for**

TrailBlazer Camp. Youth in **grades 9-12 will register for Voyager Camp**. When you register your child(ren), **please use the discount code FLeldridgecamp24** to reduce the registration fee by the \$150 that Faith will pay for camp. Also, if you have more than one child who will be attending camp, there is a \$15 discount for each child after the first.

If you are an adult who would like to spend a week at camp on the **adult mission trip, you will register for Mission Trip**. **Please use the discount code FLeldridgemission24** to cover the cost of your registration.

If you have a child in **grades 1-2** who would like to go to camp, you can register them for **Adventurer Day Camp**. However, to do this, a parent needs to also register for the adult mission trip so that your child can stay with you in the evening and overnight. If you decide to do this, please talk with me as **the church will cover \$75 of the registration**, and I will help you to get the discount code for that.

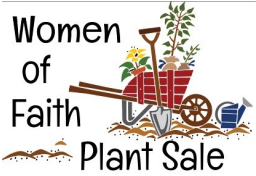
If you have any questions about camp, please contact Pastor Carrie at pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or call or text 641-275-1326.

Service in the World



In March, the Service in the World committee donated \$100 to Humble Dwellings through the committee's Outreach mission. Humble Dwellings, located in Eldridge, has a mission to serve those in need by providing gently used furniture and household items. They have transformed countless living spaces into warm and inviting homes. More information can be found at www.humbledwellingsac.org.

During the month of April we are collecting donations of Mini Donuts and Mini Muffins for Feed Our Children. Please make sure the expiration date is June 2025 or later. Thank you for your contributions!



The Women of Faith are looking for donations of perennial plants, such as hostas, lilies, irises and more. We can also use 6" pots or larger. You may contact Joni Schneider (285-5829) with any questions. These plants will be for sale during the Eldridge City Wide Garage Sales on May 17 between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm in the church parking lot. Everyone is also welcome to join us with any items you would like to sell.



Share and Care Christian Preschool is the only Christian preschool in the North Scott Community. The love of Jesus is proclaimed as part of our curriculum, along with daily Jesus time, and open to all denominations. We are located at Park View Lutheran Church in Park View and offer a high-quality program to gain the skills necessary for beginning kindergarten. We offer three-year old preschool on T-Th and four-year old preschool on M-W-F from 8:30 to 11:30. For more information to schedule a tour, please call 285-7111 or email shareandcarepreschool1977@gmail.com.



Photos from Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, Youth snow tubing event, Lent Worship Skits, First Communion Class, February Friday Fun Club, and March Congregation Breakfast with guests from Growing Hope Globally.



Psalm 24:1: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

God owns it all. We are called to share our time, talent and treasure because God owns it all. We are caretakers of what God has given us by grace. Are we good stewards of God's creation? The very word "steward" describes someone who watches over that which belongs to someone else. A disciple prays, reads scripture, worships, serves, gives, shares. Thank you for giving and sharing generously and gladly. ~*Stewardship Team*

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	FEBRUARY	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$26,564	\$75,731
EXPENSES	\$27,692	\$59,036

*Monthly income needed to meet budget is \$33,818

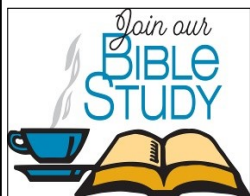


With Appreciation...

Thank you to our March Ambassador Folding Crew: Tom Bauer, Sue Braack, Sue Casel, Pam Englebrecht, Darlene John, Carol Marten, and Tammy Neff.

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

Thank you to Sue Sissel and Rhonda Webber for subbing in the office during Spring Break, and to Rita Smith for subbing on April 8 so I can attend the Iowa Jazz Championships with NS Jazz 1! *Beth Ann*



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon, at 1:00 pm, for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week.



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

Bob Kuehl	April 2	Denny Arp	April 25
Dorothy Watson	April 5	Nancy Meyer	April 26
Rex McVey	April 10	Sharie Garner	April 28
Marilyn Jansen	April 16	Barb Paustian	April 28
Jim St. John	April 20	Sue Casel	April 30
Dennis Krambeck	April 21	Linda Szemkus	April 30
Nadine Schwarz	April 21	Chris Porter	April 30

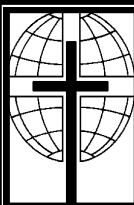


Mike & Rita Smith
April 6, 1974



FOOD
PANTRY

Food Pantry Needs for the month of April are spring cleaning supplies - all purpose cleaners, sponges, antibacterial wipes, carpet fresh, etc.
Thank you for your continued support!



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Jim and Ida Weibel** for sponsoring both Compassion Child **Denisse Grefa** and our Missionaries, the **Bencke family**, in April. Thank you to **Dan and Karen O'Flaherty** for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chima** in April. 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.**