

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 all month.

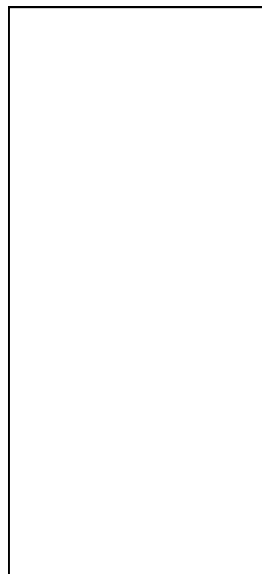
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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Eldridge, IA 52748

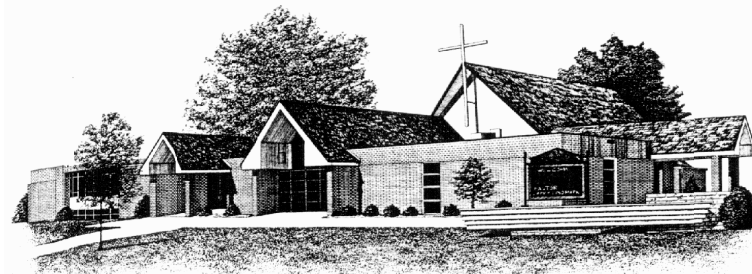
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Sign up to receive The Ambassador
by email by contacting the church
office. Thank you for helping us be
good stewards of our resources!



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

July 2025

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

500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748
(563) 285-4501
www.faithlutheraneldridge.com
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Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted
Called to Share, Seek, and Serve
Christ



Dear Friends in Christ,

It may be summer, but things are still hopping around and through Faith Lutheran Church. When we are baptized, we hear the words that Jesus speaks in Matthew 5:19, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." It is a call to all of the baptized to shine the light of God that is lit within us by Jesus and nurtured by the Holy Spirit, as we talked about with glo-sticks on Pentecost Sunday, into the world so that all may come to know God's love for them in Jesus through all that we do. This is what I see so many of us doing through this summer season even as we are trying to find time to relax and rejuvenate in these summer months.

First, we have the sanctuary update underway! After at least seven years of planning, we have begun the work to create a more accessible and welcoming space not only for our worship and activities, but also for members of the community to use the space for other purposes. We had an amazing crew of people who helped us to empty the space in record time, and the demolition and concrete work to redesign the altar area and choir loft has been done. In the weeks ahead, work will begin to install the new audio/visual equipment, the new flooring and eventually the new furniture. At this moment, we are on track to have everything completed and be back in the new sanctuary on Rally Weekend, September 6 and 7. This is an exciting time!

We are also in the midst of Feed Our Children, serving more than 400 lunches per week. It is great to interact with all of the volunteers who are shining their light into the world through this ministry and to see the joy on kids' faces when they receive the lunches. What a profound way to proclaim God's love to our community!

This week, we have been on a "Road Trip: On the Go with God." We have welcomed children from our congregation and children from the community to learn about God's love and the promise that "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Through the amazing leadership of so many of our junior high youth, high school youth, and adults, the kids have enjoyed storytelling, music, crafts, science and recreation (with snacks) all with the purpose of helping them learn that God's love is for them so that they can shine their light into the world!

From July 6 to 13, thirteen of our high school youth will be headed on a mission trip to Denver with the supervision of three adults. We will have a chance to experience the beauty of the mountains and Red Rocks

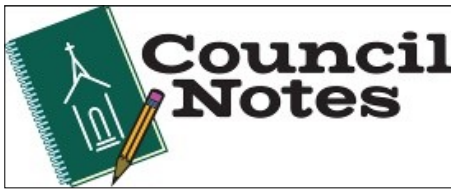
Amphitheater and Garden of the Gods, but we will also have the opportunity to work with many organizations in Denver to learn about the unique challenges of people who live there. We will work with Extreme Community Makeover to take care of some of Denver's ever-changing neighborhoods, with the Poet Garden to help with a garden to support nonprofits, with Max Fund to help with animal rescue, with SAFER, a shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and with Brother's Redevelopment to help pain a home. This will be a great opportunity for us all to learn about these organizations, the people who benefit from their services, and will offer an amazing opportunity for our youth to share the light of Christ with those they meet.

From July 20-25, 32 of our children, youth and adults will travel to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for the "Best Week Ever!" The theme for the week will be "Spark" as we learn to spark welcome, spark curiosity, spark faith, spark kindness, and spark hope all in Christ's name. The adults will be busy working in the office on season-end work and working around the camp to keep things in tip-top shape! The kids will be enjoying Bible study, games, crafts, swimming and boating, and everything else camp brings! My favorite part of each day is Congregation Time after dinner when we all get together to play and build lasting relationships with one another. It is another great opportunity to enhance our ability to shine the light of Jesus into the world.

Finally, From July 28 to August 2, Madelyn La Plante will be serving as a voting member at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, and I will be traveling with her as her guardian and for some continuing education. This is an exciting assembly as they will be electing a new Presiding Bishop for the ELCA, and Madelyn will get to be a part of that. There are also some important decisions being made about the structure of the larger church into the future, so to be able to experience those conversations and spend time with other Lutherans from around the denomination will be amazing. There is always fantastic worship and opportunities to experience the various ministries that we support each and every day with our mission support through our offerings. Madelyn and I will be excited to share all of this with you when we return.

I also know that you are busy shining God's love into the world in all of the activities that are filling your time this summer, and I pray that you experience God's presence with you wherever you are. May you also find rest and joy throughout this gift of summer that God has provided!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. John 3:8

Pentecost got me thinking about the Holy Spirit. We talked about the mystery of the Spirit in Tuesday Bible Study a while ago, too. The Holy Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants. You can hear the wind but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. Change happens when winds blow. When the Holy Spirit moves, change happens sometimes suddenly and from seemingly nowhere as with the wind. Energy is whirled around and produced by wind, and when the Holy Spirit moves, energy is supplied. I pray that you can hear and feel the peace, love, and energy of the Holy Spirit in this place.

Join me in thanking:

- Property Team, Altar Guild, Worship and Music Team, and all helpers for removing pews, moving furniture and worship supplies to ready the sanctuary for renovation. Fellowship Hall will serve many purposes this summer. Thanks for your flexibility and patience while we complete the renovation.
- Fellowship Team for organizing and serving the church parking lot picnic. It provided food, fun and connections between all age groups.
- All VBS teachers, helpers, volunteers and participants of Road Trip. We learned that God is always with us everywhere we go. Scout the puppet showed us fun ways to connect with God and trust God. We collected kid-friendly foods for the North Scott Food Pantry distribution.
- North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry volunteers. This ongoing ministry is serving over 400 lunches each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are always happy to have more help making lunches at 10am and delivering at 11am on Tuesday and Thursday.

Continued on next page...

The regular council meeting was held on Thursday, June 19. Discussed Friday Fun Club for next school year, Ambassador online option to save costs, Eldridge Days float participation, sanctuary renovation updates/timeline. Council will next meet in August for staff and council yearly reviews. Your council is made up of great people getting things done!

Joan Hennigan, Council President (563) 285-6867

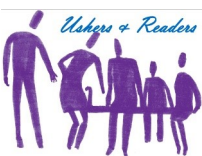


Summer Worship

Due to the construction in the Sanctuary, Saturday night worship at 5:00 pm will be held in Fellowship Hall. This service will be available online as well. Sunday morning 9:00 am worship will be held at outdoor chapel. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship inside to Fellowship Hall. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside this summer on Sunday mornings.



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!



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during July, especially on Sunday mornings. Please sign up using the sheet on the bulletin board, on our website, or contact Nina Looney to sign up. Thank you for serving during our worship services!



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry was established to provide a free lunch opportunity to our children in the North Scott community during the summer break. During the summer, many 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 from June 10-August 21. We will assemble lunches at Faith Lutheran Church, 500 W. LeClaire Rd, Eldridge. Lunches will be distributed throughout the North Scott Community.

****WE NEED YOUR HELP****

***Volunteers:** We need your help! Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve lunches. Preparations begin at 10:00 am in the kitchen at Faith Lutheran Church. Lunches will be ready for distribution at 11:15, in order to reach the children from 11:30 am-12:30 pm. We will distribute at sites in Eldridge, Dixon, Donahue, Princeton, and Park View. We need volunteers to pick up, deliver and distribute the lunches.

***Supplies:** We are seeking donations of sliced bread, cheese slices, smooth peanut butter, grape jam (not jelly – jam spreads better), potato chips, 100% juice boxes, Oreos, Rice Krispie Treats, Go-Gurts, string cheese, and fruit and applesauce cups. We also need sandwich baggies and paper lunch bags.

***Pray,** Spread the word, and Listen: Feed Our Children Ministry is successful when we actually get lunches into the hands (and bellies) of our children. Please pray for this ministry – for those in need, as well as those who prepare and serve. Please share the news of this ministry in and around your neighborhood. Please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to reach children. If you hear of children in a neighborhood that could benefit from this ministry, please let us know!

To volunteer or donate items, please contact Amy Powell (563-940-5880). You may also sign up at Faith or online. To donate:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-56484264-2025>

To volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-56460952-2025>



North Scott Community Feed Our Children

Final FRIDAY!



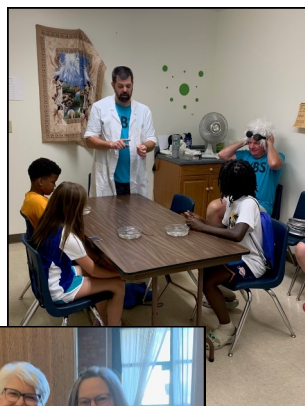
What a great party! The kids had such a great time and none of it would have been possible without you all. So many of you support Final Friday financially, thru donation of craft items, flowers, cookies, water, and most of all your time. I know that the kids feel safe and comfortable knowing that you 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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW 	2	3 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	4 Independence Day Office Closed Food Pantry Closed 	5 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
6 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship  DENVER MISSION TRIP	7 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg  DENVER MISSION TRIP	8 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry   DENVER MISSION TRIP	9  DENVER MISSION TRIP	10 10:00 am Feed Our Children   DENVER MISSION TRIP	11 9:30 am Food Pantry   DENVER MISSION TRIP	12 Eldridge Days & Moonlight Chase 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online   DENVER MISSION TRIP
13 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship  DENVER MISSION TRIP	14 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Meeting	15 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry  Churches United Meal	16 10:00 am Worship at Grand Haven	17 Office 9am—Noon 10:00 am Feed Our Children  11:30 am—Bookmobile	18 Office 9am—Noon 9:30 am Food Pantry   DEADLine	19 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
20 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship Lutheran Lakeside Camp 	21 Office Closed Lutheran Lakeside Camp 	22 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry  Lutheran Lakeside Camp 	23 Lutheran Lakeside Camp 	24 9:00 am Ambassador Folding Treasures  10:00 am Feed Children  	25 9:30 am Food Pantry  Lutheran Lakeside Camp 	26 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
27 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship Churchwide Assembly 	28 Office Closed Churchwide Assembly 	29 Office 9am—Noon 10:00 am Feed Our Children  Churchwide Assembly 	30 Office 9am—Noon Churchwide Assembly 	31 Office 9am—Noon 10:00 am Feed Our Children  Churchwide Assembly 	 Fair Time! Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space	



Thank you to all who made this year's VBS a success!



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 20-25**, "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.



During the May 3 worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Charley Lorraine Costello, daughter of Bryan and Sarah Costello. Charley's sponsors are Ryan & Elizabeth Hardesty, Marc Costello and April Kaiser.

During the May 18 worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Grace JoAnn Franks, daughter of Jon and Kathryn Franks. Grace's sponsors are Matt & Kara Holeman.

During the June 1 worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, McKenna Marie Claeys, daughter of Ryan Claeys and Katelyn Hair. McKenna's sponsors are Haley Brock and Jake Feinman.

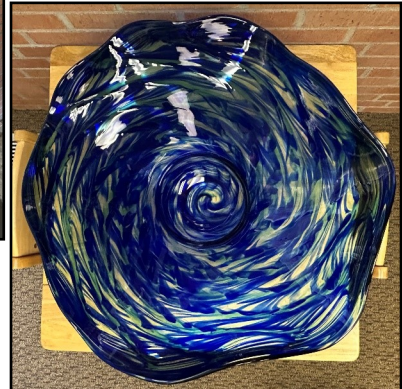
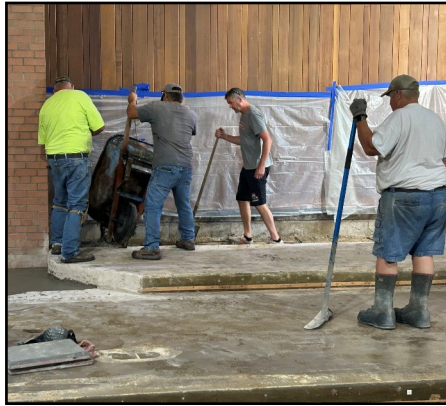


THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, ESV



The Sanctuary Update construction started after the service on Sunday, June 15, 2025. Many exciting changes are in progress!





Thank you to our June Ambassador folders:
Tom Bauer, Donna Benskin, Sue Braack, Sue
Casel, Pam Engelbrecht, Darlene John, Carol
Marten, and Tammy Neff.

Thank you to Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for
folding the June bulletins, and covering the office on June 20. The help
was very much appreciated!

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	May	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$34,240.16	\$163,089.67
EXPENSES	\$29,721.14	\$149,892.25

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



The final total of the 2025 Special Easter Offering was \$2,395.
This was sent to Lutheran Services in Iowa. Thank you for your
generous giving!



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Tuesday afternoon bible study is on break over the
summer. We will resume meeting on **Tuesday, August 26th**.

Service in the World Outreach Funds

The Service in the World committee donated \$250 to Feed our
Children. This donation covers the June and July SIW Outreach
mission. Feed our Children's goal is to provide a free, nutritious lunch
to children in the community through this twice a week ministry on
Tuesdays and Thursdays June 10th to August 21st. More information
can be found at www.faithlutheraneldridge.com.



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

Patricia Reese	July 2	Joann Holston	July 14
Mary Bender	July 3	Sue Sissel	July 18
Kathleen Stoltz	July 6	Becky Stutt	July 19
Ruth Greve	July 7	Kay Friederichs	July 21
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

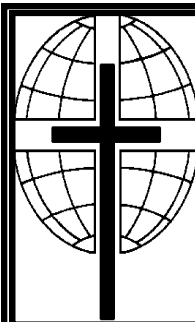


Dean & Pam Englebrecht **July 1, 1973**
Fred & Marilyn Jansen **July 17, 1955**



Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry is requesting donations of school supplies
during the month of July.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Jan Hartwig** for sponsoring the **Bencke family** in July. Thank you to **the La Plante Family** for
sponsoring Compassion **Children Denisse Grefa** and
John Chima in July.

There are sponsorship opportunities available in 2025.
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!**