

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.

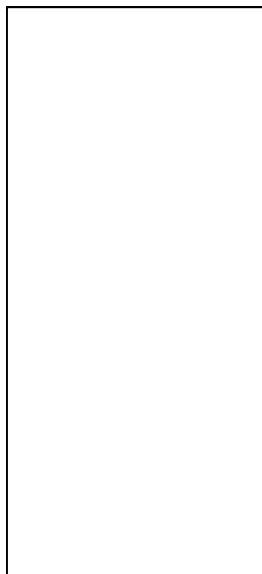
Faith Lutheran Church
 500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748

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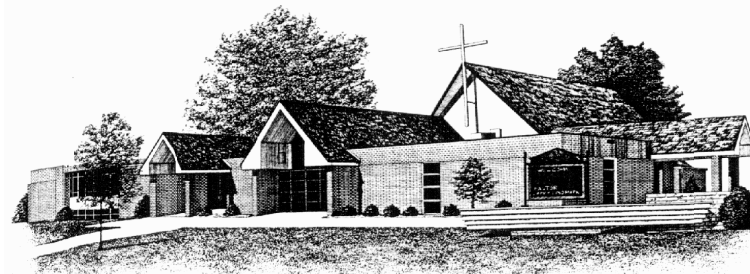
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Sign up to receive The Ambassador
 by email by contacting the church
 office. Thank you for helping us be
 good stewards of our resources!



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

August 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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From Pastor Carrie	Pages 2-3
Council Notes	Page 4
Outdoor Worship, Summer Music, Worship Help	Page 5
Feed Our Children Ministry	Page 6
Eldridge Day Parade Photos, Rally Day Invite	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Youth Mission Trip Recap.....	Page 10
Summer Camp, Shareholder Dinner, Service in the World .	Page 11
Confirmation & Youth Kick Off, School Blessings	Page 12
Blessing of the Keys, Sanctuary Remodeling Update.....	Page 13
Appreciations, Finance Update, Bible Study, Fun Club	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 made it to August! It seems that, just yesterday, we were celebrating Final Friday with all of the children of the neighborhood, and now, we are getting ready to pack

up those new backpacks with all of the new school supplies and send the kids and teachers back to school. For some of us, including me, we are also anticipating quieter homes as we prepare to send our children to college. On top of all, we have the anticipation of the remodeled sanctuary which we should be able to inhabit again at the beginning of September.

As I look back on the summer, I can see all of the amazing things that we have done: *Road Trip: On the Road with God VBS*; having Bishop Current here for worship and our Parking Lot Picnic (in the Gathering Space); the good work and fun of the youth mission trip to Denver; the joy of “the best week ever” with 31 people from this congregation at Lutheran Lakeside; and all of the work that is getting accomplished to complete the renovation to the sanctuary. We have been about some really good work this summer, and, at least for me, everything feels a bit like a whirlwind right now.

When I reflect on all that has been going on this summer, I am reminded of the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42 that we heard on the weekend of July 19 and 20. As you think about the story, you will remember that Martha had welcomed Jesus into her house for a meal and to teach those who were gathered there. Martha’s sister, Mary, seemed to be enthralled with Jesus and his teachings, and so she sat down with those gathered to hear what Jesus had to say. In the meantime, Martha was busy running around the house making sure everyone, especially Jesus, had everything that they needed. She had expected that Mary would help her, but when she tried to find her sister, she found her sitting at Jesus’ feet. Incensed that she was not getting more help, Martha interrupted Jesus and asked him to tell Mary to get up off of the floor and to help her. Did Mary not know that her role was to serve the guests with Martha?

However, Jesus does not tell Mary to get up and help Martha. Instead, he points out the truth of Martha’s situation: she is distracted by many

things when only one thing is needed. Mary had chosen the better part, and Jesus was not about to take that away from her.

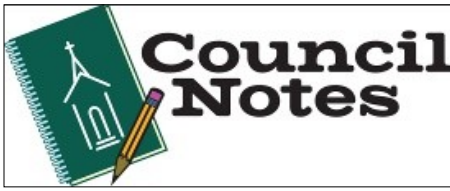
As Pastor Heather reminded us, sometimes this story is hard for us because while we know that we should take time to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to God’s word, we also know that there is much to be done, and surely someone has to do it. Does it have to be one or the other?

What if what Jesus is trying to tell us is that the one thing that is important is to stop and be still and listen to God’s word? AND what if, having heard that word, we can feel the Spirit’s nudging so that we can focus our doing on that which will serve God and our neighbor best without being distracted by all of the possibilities surrounding us?

Pastor Heather suggested the practice of Dwelling in the Word, which Bishop Current has invited us to participate in this year, either as groups or as individuals, and I would like to encourage you to give it a try at least a couple of times a week. Take a scripture passage, perhaps one of the readings from worship that week, and read it three times, either alone or with others. During the first reading, consider what you notice in the text that you might not have noticed before. During the second reading, consider the questions that the text brings up for you, whether or not you can answer those questions (sometimes a question is a question only God can answer). During the third reading, consider how the Holy Spirit might be nudging you or where God might be calling you in this reading. Taking this time away from all of the things that can distract us in our walk with Jesus to listen to God’s word in scripture can help us to focus on how we can best serve God and our neighbor in the world around us.

There are so many exciting things that are lying before us in the remainder of this year and into the next as we seek to share the good news of God in Jesus Christ with the community around us. I pray that as we discern all of the possibilities of how we can use our new space to God’s glory, we will do so by taking time to stop and sit at Jesus’ feet, listen to what God is laying on our hearts, and then getting up and doing the work that God is calling us to do together in a focused and meaningful way!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Carrie



Summer has gone by quickly. Campers and volunteers at Lutheran Lakeside, and high school youth Mission Trip 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 again in the Eldridge Days Parade. It was a big hit with those watching the parade, especially the kids. Thanks also to Dan O'Flaherty for the use of his truck and driving the float in the parade. Thanks to Karen O'Flaherty, Joan Hennigan, Linda Szemkus, Tammy Neff, Jennifer Bekel, and Jacob Bekel for decorating and riding/walking along. It is a fun way to be involved in our community.
- The 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.
- Property, Worship and Music, and Altar Guild for their continued patience, work and flexibility with the sanctuary renovation. Many updates are taking place in our worship space for the next few weeks.
- All those who spent a week at Lutheran Lakeside helping to maintain and improve the camp and keep it running smoothly. Thank you Betty, Lynda, Denise, Michele, Scott, Tom, Joni, Nina, Pastor Heather, and Pastor Carrie and all of the campers who attended.
- The adults and 13 youth who traveled to Denver for the Mission Trip. Thank you to Mike, Kelli, and Pastor Carrie for being role models for the youth, and thank you to the youth for participating in the trip.
- Feed Our Children helpers for providing over 400 lunches every week during the summer to children in the North Scott community.

Continued on next page...

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 the Sanctuary Update schedule and progress. Exciting things are happening at Faith Lutheran, Eldridge.

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 August, especially on Sunday mornings. Please sign up using the sheet on the bulletin board, on our website, or contact Kelly Penning 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



**Eldridge Days Parade
July 12, 2025**



Sunday School Rally Day
Sunday, September 7th
Children ages 3 through 6th grade are
invited

We are looking for a couple more teachers and subs. If interested, please contact Pastor Heather or Cindy Zabel (Christian Ed) at 563-210-4169. We would love to have a few more adults on our team!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space					1 Office Hours 9-Noon 9:30 am Food Pantry 	2 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
3 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	4 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg P	5 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW	6	7 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	8 9:30 am Food Pantry 	9 10:00 am Memorial Service for Morrells 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
10 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 11:00 am Mission Trip Shareholders Luncheon	11 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Meeting	12 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	13 10:00 am Worship at Grand Haven	14 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	15 9:30 am Food Pantry 	16 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
17 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	18 Office Closed	19 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	20	21 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	22 9:30 am Food Pantry  DEADLine 	23 Blessing of Backpacks 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
24 Blessing of Backpacks 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	25	26 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	27 5:45 pm Confirmation Kick-Off Pizza Party 7:00 pm High School Youth Group Kick-Off Ice Cream Social	28 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	29 9:30 am Food Pantry 	30 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall & Online 
31 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship						



Service and Fun on the 2025 Denver Mission Trip

As you can see from the pictures, we had a great time in Denver serving, learning and having some fun. The service projects we participated in included: Extreme Community Makeover to clean up Terry's yard and an alley in a neighborhood; Poets' Garden which provides produce for community organizations doing weeding, putting up fencing, digging a trench for and planting gardenias; Zuma's Rescue Ranch mucking pastures for the rescued horses which help with horse therapy; and Brother's Redevelopment where we finished painting Carolyn's house and fence. For fun we saw the movie, *Legally Blond*, at Red Rocks Amphitheater, and explored Garden of the Gods and Manitou Springs, and most of us got up early to watch a sunrise on the mountains. We learned a lot about the issues facing people in Denver and ways that the community is supporting them, hard as that seems to be at the moment. We give thanks for Rejoice! Lutheran Church in Omaha and First Presbyterian Church in Golden for hosting us on the trip. Thank you to everyone who supported us financially and in prayer. This trip was a blessing!



Off to Camp—This group left early on Sunday, July 27, for Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Please pray for a great week of growing in Faith!



Sharing Of Mission Trip Stories and Shareholder Luncheon

The youth and adults of the 2025 Denver Mission Trip invite you to join us for worship on the weekend of August 9 and 10, as a few of us will share with you some of our favorite experiences from the trip. We also invite our shareholders to join us on Sunday at 11:00 am for our Shareholder Luncheon where you can hear even more about the trip. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our service, learning and fun experiences with you!



Service in the World serving the Churches United Meal July 15, 2025



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 27!

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 about our lessons 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/805094EABA62CAAF85-57595394-confirmation>) or call the church office at 563-285-4501 by Friday, August 22.

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/805094EABA62CAAF85-57595393-hsyouth>) or call the church office at 563-285-4501 by Friday, August 22.

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.



Back
-to-
School
Blessing



Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, & School Workers

On the weekend of August 23 and 24, 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!



Blessing of the Keys

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 24, 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.



Remodeling Project

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

The top two stairs in the altar area have been removed and the second step has been reshaped for the new configuration. We have also extended the bottom step by two feet to give us a little more space for the altar rails that will now be at that level.

The former altar has been remade and refinished so that it can be put back into the space and used for candles and flowers. A bowl for the new baptismal font has been made and is in our possession.

The wiring for the audio/visual components has begun, and the sound booth should be completed in the next week. The remainder of the audio/visual components will be installed in mid-August. Following this, the carpet and luxury vinyl plank flooring will be laid, and then, either the last week of August or the first week of September, all of the furniture (pews, chairs, ambo, altar, baptismal font) will be installed. Our goal is to be complete and back into the space on Rally Weekend on September 6 and 7.

We have also installed a new door system to make it easier to unlock the doors for those who might need to get in when no one is in the office and to help us better know who is coming in and out of the building. While it may take some time to adjust, this will provide better security and better access for all who use this place.



Thank you to our July Ambassador folders:
Donna Benskin, Sue Braack, Darlene John, Carol Marten, and Tammy Neff.

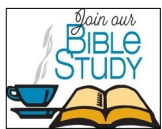
Thank you to Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding the July bulletins. The help was very

much appreciated!

Thank you to Joan Hennigan, Rita Smith, Rhonda Webber, Pam Englebrecht, Mary Moore and Nancy Germain for covering the office on vacation days in July! ~ *Beth Ann*

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	JUNE	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$ 27,242	\$190,332
EXPENSES	\$45,503	\$195,395
*Monthly income needed to meet budget is \$33,818		



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

We will resume the weekly bible study on Tuesday, August 26, at 1:00pm. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the week ahead.

Friday



Fun Club

Join with others as our church welcomes children kindergarten through 6th grade to "Friday Fun Club" the ***last early dismissal Friday*** of each month. The First Friday Fun Club event of the new school year will be on **AUGUST 29**. 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 More at 285-7223 to volunteer.



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

David Griffin	August 5	Connie Braet	August 21
Janet Krambeck	August 6	Doug Garner	August 22
Betty Griffin	August 7	Gayle Staples	August 24
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		

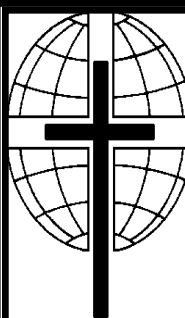


Rob & Pam White August 3, 1968
Jim & Ida Weibel August 11, 1973
Curt & Carolyn Hulsen August 18, 1974
Sally & James Hamann August 28, 1971



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is requesting donations of canned peas, carrots, mixed vegetables and granola bars in August.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Tammera Long** for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chima**, and to **Mary Ann Anderson** for sponsoring Compassion Child **Denisse Grefa**, both in August. *We need a sponsor for the Bencke family in August.*

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!**