

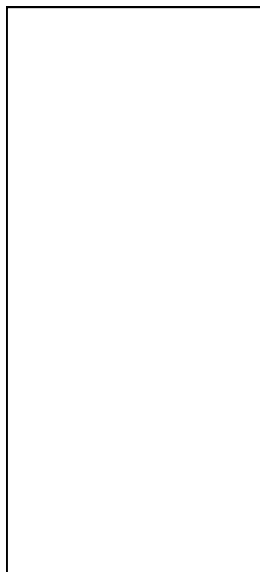
Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
 Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
 Join us for Sunday School at 10:15 am, starting Sunday, September 7th.

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

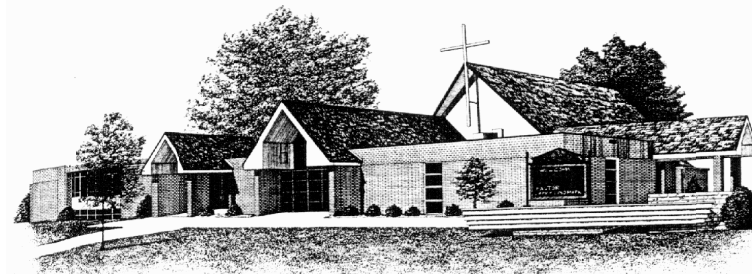
Non-Profit Organization
 PERMIT NO. 1
 Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Come and take a look at our
 newly renovated Sanctuary
 on Sunday, September 14,
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Bring a
 friend! We look forward to
 seeing you!



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR September 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



"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a summer this has been! I hope that all of you have found times of joy and rest and rejuvenation throughout the summer and are ready to start this new school and program year! While we are definitely ready to get started here at Faith, I want to take a moment to look back at all that has been happening in and through the people of this congregation and beyond throughout the summer so that the body of Christ may be built up, as Paul writes to the church in Ephesus.

The biggest project for the summer has definitely been the Sanctuary Update. There have been some hiccups, as we would expect, but overall, things have gone relatively smoothly in this process. I want to give many thanks to Myron Scheibe and Dan O'Flaherty who have served as the project managers for this project and really kept things moving in the month of July when I was away for so many church events, and to the various ministry team leaders who have been thoughtfully preparing for our move back into the space. Our goal in this project was to provide a more welcoming and accessible space in every way possible, and as the pieces are coming together, I believe we are reaching that goal. Thank you for all of your support of this project, both financially and through prayer, for your curiosity throughout the project, for your words of blessing and love that are now permanently part of the altar area under the carpet, and for the joy that I experience from you as we get closer to completion. Our plan remains to have our first weekend of worship in the space on Rally Weekend, September 6 and 7, but we will likely be tweaking things for weeks to come as we live into the new space. We will also hold an open house for the community on September 14 after worship, so please invite your friends to come and check out this space that we have built for the congregation and the community.

While all of that was going on in the worship space, we have been busy proclaiming God's love into the world throughout the summer. We give thanks for the North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry which, through the work of our amazing volunteers, provided 4,741 lunches to North Scott Children throughout the summer. A special thanks to Amy Powell, Sammie Garner and Jennie Garner for all of their work organizing each packing session, and thank you to those who filled out grant paperwork, made the connections with Hy-Vee, and did all of the behind-the-scenes work to make this such a successful and expanded summer. Thank you also to all of the amazing volunteers who shared God's love both in this space and in the community while making and delivering all of those lunches throughout the district.

We also had the opportunity to host Road Trip: On the Go with God VBS in June where kids from our congregation and the community were able to experience the promise that God is always with us no matter where we are. We had fun with

science and music, games, snacks and crafts as well as hearing the stories of God's love for us with Navigator Cindy, Scout the Pup and Story Teller Heather and her storytelling crew. Thank you to all who served on the VBS staff as we received so many compliments and thanks for offering such a great Christ-centered program for the kids in this community.

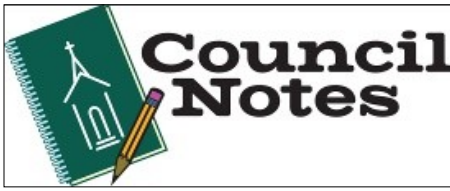
Then there were the trips! We began with the High School Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado, where our youth had the opportunity to share God's love through cleaning up a lovely woman's yard and gutters as well as neighborhood alleys; digging trenches, dropping drip lines, fixing fences, and weeding in a garden that feeds many immigrants, homeless and others in need; mucking pastures for horses who have been rescued and now serve to provide therapy for children; and finishing the paint on a wonderful woman's house. They also got to experience God's beautiful creation during a morning sunrise trip and a visit to Garden of the Gods. One of the greatest lessons that they learned on the trip was that, even when you do not realize it, just through being yourself, you can change someone's life, as they learned on our last day that they had been a sign of God's love and presence to Jen, our site coordinator, during a hard week for her simply by being present and engaged each day.

Then there was "The Best Week Ever" at Lutheran Lakeside. Thirty youth and adults spent the week learning about how we can SPARK welcome, curiosity, faith, kindness, hope and change in our faith life as we live in God's promises as share God's love with those around us. Through games, crafts, Bible study, hikes, zip-lining, rock climbing, swimming, boating and other adventures, we made new friends and experienced God's love in new and different ways. The adults helped with end-of-the-summer office work, shored up the tree houses, built a new, much-needed retaining wall, and took care of some trees. If you have never gone, consider joining us in 2026.

Finally, Madelyn and I had an opportunity to serve as voting members for the Southeastern Iowa Synod at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix. It was a great opportunity to see the church in action, especially as we elected Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to serve as the next Presiding Bishop and Pastor Lucille "CeCee" Mills to serve as Secretary of the ELCA. We had the opportunity to meet new people, get to know members of our own synod better, and see people we had not seen for a long time. We will share more about the experience in the months ahead.

Wow! That is a lot of ministry and growing and sharing of faith throughout this summer, and there is even more that we could talk about! Thanks be to God for the opportunities that we have to share God's love in and through this place with one another, with the community around us, and with the whole world. As we head into the fall, may we continue all of our amazing ministry to proclaim God's love for the sake of the whole world.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



Our lighted church sign reads “Reflect God - Serve Others,” and “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”-Acts 20:35. Through service

and giving, we learn and grow in our faith and discipleship. Whether we go to camp, travel to Denver to meet brothers and sisters in Christ, or walk to Faith here in Eldridge to do ministry, the act of service to others reflects the love of Christ here on earth. Service to others also enriches the one doing the service. It is important work. I believe in the ministry and mission of the Church. I receive more than I give, while serving others. There is more joy to be found in God when we give, rather than when we receive. Thank you for giving your time, talent and treasure to our ministry.

Join me in thanking:

- Mary Moore, Sue Sissel, Carol Marten, Joan Hennigan, Nancy Germain, Rhonda Webber, Pam Engelbrecht, Rita Smith for helping in the office this summer when help was needed.
- Everyone who helped make the outdoor services possible, especially Beckers, Merricks, Wittkowskis, and the Altar Guild. The effort is appreciated so that we can enjoy worship on our beautiful front lawn.
- Ron Arp, Brad Merrick, Denny Hennigan, Tom Carlson and property helpers who helped keep our lawn and landscaping looking so beautiful this summer. The flowers are gorgeous!
- Feed Our Children helpers for providing 4741 free lunches to children in the North Scott community during summer break. Special thanks to administrator Amy Powell, and to leaders Sammie and Jennie Garner. A big thank you to Cheryl Simmons and North Scott HyVee for donating bread and providing food at cost. We also thank all of the lunch makers, packers, drivers, deliverers, recyclers, donators. This program would not be possible without all of our amazing volunteers.
- Service in the World team for serving the July Churches United meal. 80 were served in this important meal ministry.

Continued on next page...

- Dan O’Flaherty and Myron Scheibe for managing the Sanctuary Update Project. We appreciate all of their time and expertise provided.

The regular council meeting was held August 21. We discussed the Sanctuary Update, Budget, Narrative Budget formation, Friday Fun Club, Feed Our Children, Be Our Guest. We listened to a presentation via Googlelinks by Britt Swanson of Lutheran Lakeside Camp detailing their “For Every Season - Lakeside Camp Campaign.” Stay tuned for more information about this venture in the months ahead. It is exciting to see where the Holy Spirit is leading us at Faith as we enter a new fall program year.

Joan Hennigan, Council President, 563-285-6867



You are invited to an Open House on **Sunday, September 14, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.** Come and see our newly renovated Sanctuary and enjoy some refreshments. The celebration is open to all community members. We look forward to sharing our “new” space with you!



You are invited to come and be a part of the music and worship ministry at Faith! Our choirs start up for the season on **Wednesday, September 3.** People of Praise (POP) rehearsal is **6:00-6:55 pm.**, and Resounding Joy chime choir rehearsal is **7:00-8:15 pm.** Both groups rehearse in the sanctuary. Anyone high school age and up is welcome to sing in POP. No experience playing chimes is necessary to participate in Resounding Joy; however, an ability to read music is a practical requirement. If you have questions, please contact our Music Director, Sue Becker (susan.becker1995@gmail.com). We hope you can join us as we make a joyful noise to the Lord!



Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 7th

Children ages 3 through 6th grade are welcome!

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!



The new school year is approaching, and we would like to reach out for donations for craft supplies again this year! Our Sunday School teachers and Fun Club Volunteers would be so appreciative and grateful for your donations! Following is a list of supplies needed: **Markers (Washable and Regular), which are also used for the FOC lunch bags, Tacky Glue (We have plenty of Elmer's and glue sticks), Popsicle/craft sticks (natural and colored), Wiggly Eyes and Buttons, and Construction paper and plain white paper plates.** There will be a basket under the coat rack to accept any donation you would like to make. Thank you so much for your help and generosity!



Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

Our Church Council recently adopted a security plan. The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of the plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. The 2nd Training will be held on **Sunday,**

September 21 @10:15 am in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!

Contact Tom Bauer at (563) 505-5776 for more information.



Join us on **Sunday, September 7,** 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. (More info on page 10.)

Service in the World Outreach Funds

In August, the monthly outreach mission of the Service in the World committee donated \$150 to the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country. This foundation supports nonprofits and local causes in their region. Specifically, this donation is going to the Kerr County Flood Relief Fund which supports recovery and rebuilding efforts for those affected by the devastating floods of July 4, 2025. More information can be found at www.communityfoundation.net.

Service in the World



CHURCHES UNITED MEAL—Is food your love language?

Help serve those in need. Faith is partnering with Churches United to serve a meal on **Tuesday, September 16th** at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport.

The Fellowship Team will be leading the meal, and will need your help. Sign up on the bulletin board for ingredients and supplies, or to help prepare and serve the food. We hope to see you at this meaningful food ministry. Thanks for your support!



Join us **October 5 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 11th & 12th.**



Be Our Guest: We are inviting you to our next Be Our Guest on **Tuesday, October 21, at 6:30 pm.** Ann Schwickerath from Project Renewal is our Fall guest speaker. We will gather and show interest in learning from others. The gathering is open to all community members. We ask that you 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space	1	2 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation 6:30 pm VFW	3 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	4 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg.	5 9:30 am Food Pantry 	6 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
7 RALLY DAY 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Congregational Breakfast & Sunday School 6:00 pm Scouts	8 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	9 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	10 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm High School Youth	11	12 9:30 am Food Pantry 	13 10:00 am Feed Our Children Meeting 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
14 OPEN HOUSE 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Open House 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm 4H	15 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Meeting	16 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  TBD Churches United Meal	17 10:00 am Worship at Grand Haven 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	18 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	19 9:30 am Food Pantry  	20 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
21 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Usher Training 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Scouts	22 Office Closed	23 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	24 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	25 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  Homecoming Tailgate & Parade 	26 9:30 am Food Pantry 	27 Noisy Offering 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
28 Noisy Offering 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	29	30 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 				



Congregational
BREAKFAST

Congregational Breakfasts

"Serving Up God's Word and Good Food"



Congregational
BREAKFAST

It's the beginning of another great Sunday school learning year at Faith Lutheran. We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming congregational breakfast following the 9 am worship service. At each breakfast, the Bible story for the day will be explored through questions that guide your table conversation. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for you to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.

On Rally Day, September 7, we will kick off the beginning of the Sunday school year with a congregational pancake meal that will be provided by our meal ministry team. Again, to kick off the winter session, we will have another pancake breakfast as we welcome our friends from Lutheran Lakeside to get us excited for summer camp. On Easter Sunday, the high school youth will provide an Easter Breakfast to raise funds for the 2026 Mission Trip. The remaining congregational breakfasts will be coordinated potlucks. We ask members to consider contributing designated meal items as well as time. For each meal, a sign-up will be posted on the bulletin board near the sanctuary entrance, and a sign-up genius will be available for online convenience. Thank you in advance for making these meals a success.



Pancake Breakfast

Remember that breakfast begins at 10:15 am on the following Sundays:

September 7: Rally Day and Sunday school registration

October 12

November 16

December 14: Children's Christmas program

January 4: Winter Rally Day with special guests from Lutheran Lakeside

February 8

March 8

April 5: Easter breakfast hosted by High School Youth Group

North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

Thank you to the dozens of volunteers that helped us serve 4,741 lunches to children in the North Scott community this summer. A special thank you to all those who helped organizing and manage our daily operations and inventory this summer! "A big thanks to administrator Amy Powell and leaders Sammie Garner and Jennie Garner. Thanks also to Cheryl Simmons and North Scott HyVee for donating bread and providing food at cost."



Faith Families Worship Leaders

We are looking for members to serve as Faith Family Heads. We have been unable to fill these positions as members retire from our team. Responsibilities for the position are locating ushers, lectors (readers), and communion assistants for 1 or 2 months a year. We have had members serving in these roles for several years. Adding 1 or 2 members to the team could make it only a yearly commitment. Please prayerfully consider joining the Faith Family Head Team. Contact Nina Looney, Worship and Music Team leader if interested – 563 570-0711, 563 285-9339, nklbpl@msn.com

Homecoming Parade Tailgate



North Scott Homecoming Parade Thursday, September 25 @ 5:15 pm

The North Scott Clergy Group will be hosting a Tailgate Party at Faith Lutheran Church beginning at **5:15 pm on Thursday, September 25**, before the North Scott Homecoming Parade. Everyone in the community is invited to come and join us for hot dogs, chips, water, and other treats, so please come and invite your friends to come for some food and to enjoy the parade from our lawn. We look forward to celebrating the Lancers together!



Summer Activities 2025



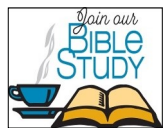
Thank you to our August Ambassador folders: Donna Benskin, Sue Braack, Darlene John, Carol Marten, and Mary Jo McVey.

Thank you to Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding the August bulletins, and for covering the office on August 22. The help was very much appreciated!

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	JULY	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$25,606	\$215,938
EXPENSES	\$24,704	\$220,099

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



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the week ahead. The weekly bible study meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.**



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 next Friday Fun Club event of the new school year will be on **September 26**. 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.



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



SEPTEMBER birthdays

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

Mindy Arp	September 8	Val Zelinko	September 20
Sally Hamann	September 9	Barbara Weltzin	September 22
Kenny Oetzmman	September 12	Chris Copley	September 23
Donna Benskin	September 12	Judi Hamann	September 25
Kim Wilkins	September 13	Carol Kuehl	September 26
Gary Oerman	September 13	Teri Wittkowski	September 26
Merle Anderson	September 14	Doug Paulsen	September 29
Rhonda Porter	September 16		



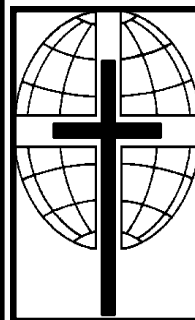
SEPTEMBER anniversaries

Kenny & Sue Oetzmman
September 10, 1966



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is requesting donations of side dishes (instant potatoes, boxed potatoes, pasta or rice side packages) jello, and pudding in September.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Tom & Pam Carlson** for sponsoring the **Bencke family**, and to **Kay Watson** for sponsoring Compassion Children **John Chima and Denisse Grefa** in September.

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!**