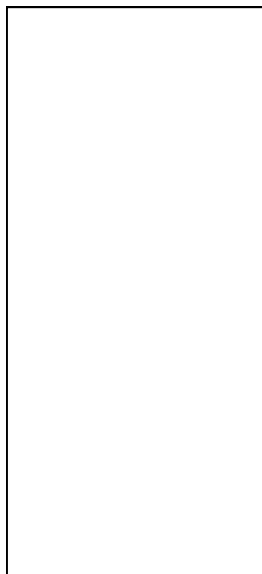


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
 Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
 Join us for Sunday School at 10:15 am.

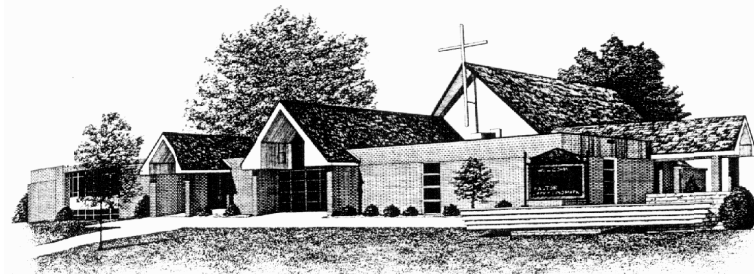
Faith Lutheran Church
 500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR October 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,

If you were in worship on the weekend of September 20 and 21, you experienced my struggle with the parable of the shrewd manager. I had so many questions about what Jesus could have possibly meant by using such unsavory characters as examples for his followers. Together, we worked through some of my thoughts about what Jesus might have been up to. In the end, we came to some understanding of what Jesus might have meant as well as a realization that there is so much meaning in every parable that we could never possibly understand everything that Jesus means in these stories that he tells.

The truth is, many of us struggle more than we like to admit with all that the scriptures might mean. There are so many stories that are hard to comprehend, situations that are so far from our reality that we cannot possibly fully understand what is happening, and teachings that seem to contradict each other. How can we possibly make sense of it all so that God's word can be a guiding light in our lives?

It may seem silly to say, but studying scripture together with others helps us to come to some better understandings of what God might be saying to us through the scriptures. As I said last weekend, God's word is a living word, and the Holy Spirit is still working through the scriptures to reach us in the here and now. One of the ways that we experience the nudging of the Holy Spirit is in the conversations we have with one another as we study the scripture together and hear how God is moving each of us through the scripture.

With that in mind, I want to invite you into two opportunities to study the scripture with others in order to make more sense of the scriptures for your life. The first of these opportunities is the Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study which meets in the Gathering Space at 1:00 pm each Tuesday. Each week, we look at the lectionary texts that are assigned for the following weekend and think about what they are saying to us. The conversation helps inspire Pastor Heather and my sermon writing

for the weekend as we hear where people are struggling or celebrating the scripture that week. Those in the group say that the conversations we have also have them feel more engaged with worship and the preaching because they have heard and considered the scriptures ahead of time. The fact of the matter is that we also tend to get off topic now and then as our thoughts about scripture can sometimes lead us down rabbit holes, but that is also a way that we get to know one another better each week. If you have not yet given this group a try, I would encourage you to do so, but please note that we will not be meeting on Tuesday, September 30, as Pastor Heather and I will be at the Tri-Synodical Rostered Leaders Gathering in Des Moines.

The second opportunity that I would like to invite you to is the Adult Sunday School class on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am. This year we are going to start with a study entitled Making Sense of Scripture. In Making Sense of Scripture, David Lose invites the reader to engage in a conversation, one that he imagines discussing around his kitchen table, about seven major questions of the Bible: What is the Bible? Is the Bible True? How is the Bible the Word of God? Where Did the Bible Come From? How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding? Is there a "Center" to Scripture? What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold? More than a standard biblical reference book, Making Sense of Scripture is a dialogue that encourages readers to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the reader to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind. I invite you to join us for this time of asking big questions and having great conversation with one another.

I promise that even with all of this study of scripture, there will always be more questions that we will have of the Scripture; however, when we study it together, we are reminded that we are not alone in our questions, and we get to learn from each others' experiences of God in our lives. Please join us as we have conversation and learn together this year!

Wishing you blessings as the season is changing to fall!

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 prepare for 2026. The nominating committee will brainstorm 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, Carlsons, Porters and Sawvells 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 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.
- Fellowship Team for providing and serving the September Churches United meal. This is an important meal ministry outreach. 85 meals were served.
- Linda Szemkus and Joni Schneider for planting the fall mums and ornamental grass in our outdoor planter near the sign. They are lovely and beautify our yard.
- Lisa Garner for weeding the church lawn.
- Fellowship Team for providing refreshments and hosting the Sanctuary Open House on Sept 14. The treats were yummy!
- Mary Moore and the entire Friday Fun Club team for providing safe, fun activities for Ed White students on the last early dismissal Friday of each month. This program would not be possible without our amazing volunteers.

Continued on next page...

- Pastors and staff at 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 18. Discussed sanctuary renovation update, Friday Fun Club-Sept 26, Be Our Guest-Oct 21, Rostered staff reviews, Personnel manual update. Your council is made up of dedicated people serving Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue guiding 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, Teri Wittkowski (Organist). Sue Becker (Music Director/Organist), Dennis Kelly (Custodian), and Beth Ann Anderson (Office Manager).

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!



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.

TRUNK OR TREAT

On Halloween, Friday, 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/70A0D4BAFAA28A3FE3-58953831-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:

#8 size Paper lunch bags (white or brown)

- Ziploc Sandwich Bags



Friday Fun Club & Congregational Breakfast



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space			1 10:15 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	2 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg.	3 9:30 am Food Pantry 	4 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
5 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am New Member Gathering	6 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	7 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation 6:30 pm VFW	8 10:15 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	9	10 9:30 am Food Pantry 	11 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
12 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Congregational Breakfast & Sunday School 6:00 pm 4H	13 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Meeting	14 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	15 10:15 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	16 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	17 9:30 am Food Pantry  DEADLine	18 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
19 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	20 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club District Meeting	21 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Be Our Guest	22 10:00 am Worship at Grand Haven 10:15 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	23 6:30 Women of Faith Bible Study	24 9:30 am Food Pantry 	25 Noisy Offering Reformation Worship 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
26 Noisy Offering Reformation Worship 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	27 Office Closed	28 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	29 10:15 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	30 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	31 Office 9:00 am-Noon 9:30 am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Friday Fun Club 5:30 pm Trunk or Treat 	



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 11 & 12.**



Join us **on Sunday, October 12**, 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.



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

Service in the World Outreach Funds

In September, the Outreach mission of the Service in the World Committee donated \$150 to a Davenport organization called One Eighty. One Eighty's mission is to equip people facing crisis, poverty, and addiction to invest in healthy relationships, overcome barriers to freedom, and encounter a life of hope in Christ. More information on One Eighty can be found at www.oneeighty.org.

Service in the World



Reformation Sunday

*Therefore, since we have
been justified through
faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus
Christ, through whom we
have gained access by faith
into this grace in which we
now stand.*



Romans 5:1-2, 11



We invite you to join us for worship on the weekend of **October 25 & 26** 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.

September Open House, Jubilation, New Worship Space



Confirmation, Youth & Color Run



Thank you to our September Ambassador folders:
Donna Benskin, Sue Casel, Darlene John, Carol Marten,
Mary Jo McVey, and Tammy Neff.

Thank you to Mary Ann Anderson, Carol Marten and
Sue Sissel for folding the September weekly bulletins. The help is very
much appreciated!

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	AUGUST	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$28,0486	\$243,986
EXPENSES	\$31,735	\$251,835

*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.

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 next
Friday Fun Club event of the new school year will be on
October 31. Volunteers are needed in Arts & Crafts,
Storytime, Music, Game Time, Science and Snacks.

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!



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

Ruth Jurgens	October 2	Connie Rohwer	October 16
Dorothy Kuhl	October 2	Steve Mixdorf	October 21
Don Stoltenberg	October 2	Dennis Kelly	October 22
Henry Storjohann	October 3	Lynn Atkins	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	Steve Sawvell	October 31
Rob White	October 15		



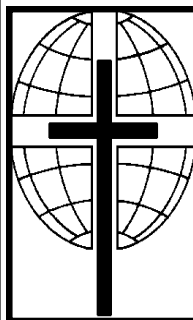
Sharie & Doug Garner
October 3, 1964

Patty & Steve Mixdorf
October 6, 1973



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is requesting donations of frosting,
brownie and cake mixes in October.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Brad & Janet Merrick** for sponsoring **the**
Bencke family and Compassion Children **John Chima**
and Denisse Grefa in October.

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!