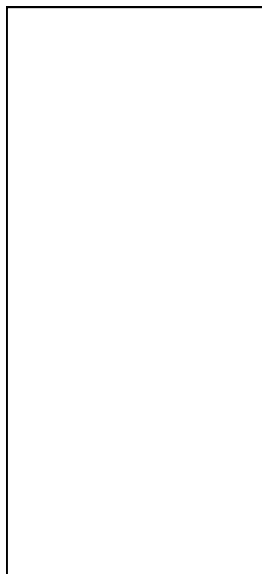


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
Join us for Sunday School at 10:15 am.

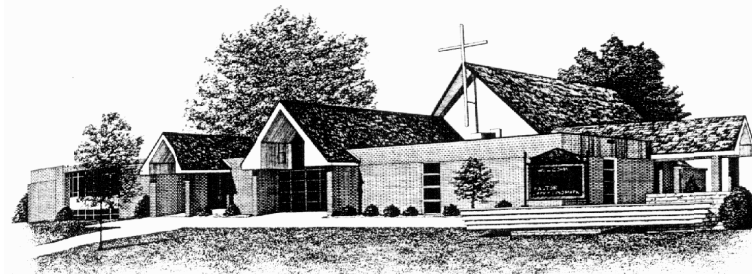
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR November 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



"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5)

Dear friends in Christ,

It is the season of giving thanks, which is what led me to these words from Paul. It is a sentiment that is true of me as I think of all of you. I do hold you in my prayers, and I do give thanks for all of the ways in which we work together to share the love of God in Jesus within this congregation, within this community and throughout the world. Together, we are able to do ministry that really impacts the lives of our siblings in Christ.

Pastor Heather and I also would like to thank you for all of the words of thanks and support, as well as the generous gifts that have been shared with us during Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month. The words mean more than you can ever know. As we use the gifts, we will think of you and give thanks for your kindness. It is a privilege to serve you and this community as your pastors, and we are grateful to be able to discern together where and how God is calling us to love our neighbors now and into the future.

Particularly this year, we give thanks for the ways in which we, as a congregation, seek to support and care for one another and those around us. One way that this has been shown is in the completion of the renovation to the sanctuary. Together, with your financial and prayerful support, we have created a space that is more welcoming and provides the opportunity for more people with varying abilities to join us comfortably for worship and other events. This shows love of neighbor and creates space in a new way for those who are looking for a place where they can come to hear the promises of God spoken for them and for the whole world.

We have also had the opportunity to experience your love and care for us, as your pastors and siblings in Christ, and our families as we have both experienced the loss of significant loved ones in our lives. We give thanks for the ability we have had to be with our families when they

have needed our presence, even when that has meant our absence from Faith. We appreciate the expressions of concern and sympathy, the hugs in the midst of tears, and the offers and gifts of support that have helped us through these times of grief.

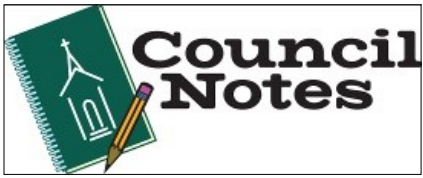
I also give thanks for all of the ways that you support one another in life and faith each and every day. I give thanks for the individual acts of love and support you show to one another when there are struggles and sorrow or joy and celebration in each others' lives. I give thanks for the relationships and trust that grows within Bible study and Sunday school opportunities, among the members of ministry teams, and simply as we live life together in this place. I give thanks for the creativity that each one of you has as we continue to find new ways to reach out and meet the needs of God's children and share the good news of God's love with those around us using the gifts and resources that God has provided us.

I give thanks to God each and every day for this community of faith that the Holy Spirit has called together on the corner of 5th Street and Le Claire Road in Eldridge, Iowa. I do not believe that we are here by accident, but that God has drawn us together to use the unique gifts that God has provided to each of us communally as we share the love of God in Jesus Christ within the congregation, within this community, and around the world. We could never make the differences we make in the world each on our own, but together, the impact that we are able to have on one another and all of our neighbors is so much greater.

During this season of Thanksgiving, I pray that we all will take time to be still, to consider the gifts that God has placed in each of our lives, and to give thanks to God for all that God has done for us and for the relationships of love and are that God has provided for us in one another. I pray that we will take the time to stop and thank those around us who have touched our lives throughout this year. I also pray that we will continue to seek ways to reach beyond ourselves and to be a welcoming place where God's love is known and experienced in everything that we do, from worship to education to supporting our neighbors and so much more.

Praying God's blessings on and giving thanks for each of you in this Thanksgiving season.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8

Your gifts of time, talent and treasure prepare the way for us at Faith to work together, sharing with the world God's vision for the way we should all live together as siblings in Christ. That vision is worth sharing. The light of Jesus gets brighter while the darkness gets smaller. The nominating team will be looking for the next group of leaders to serve on council and other teams. Budgets are being reviewed and proposals made for next year's budget. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to say, "Here I am, send me!" If not me, then who? If not now, then when? These are questions that God may be planting in our hearts, and maybe we should prayerfully consider them as well.

Join me in thanking:

- Our Pastors and staff. Please show them gratitude, love and support if you have not done so in October during pastor/staff appreciation month. Anytime is the right time to express our thanks for these dedicated, hardworking servants of God. We are fortunate to have them at Faith.
- Homecoming Tailgate helpers/runners and the Lions Club for the use of their grill. 275 hotdogs were served on the church lawn.
- Karen Schmitt, Lynda Miller, Property Committee and all library movers who helped move the library materials to the new location near the west coat rack. All books are ready for your use. Please take one or two, then return using the honor system.
- Ron Arp and helpers for mowing the church lawn all summer long. We are very visible due to our location. It looked lovely all season.
- 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.
- Matt Briehl, Neal Becker and Kristy Looney for completing the financial audit for Faith recently. We appreciate their time, talent and commitment to overseeing our financial statements.

- Jan Hartwig, Pam Engelbrecht, Rita Smith and all who helped plan, advertise, invite, and participate in the "Be Our Guest" event on October 21. It was fun, informative, and uplifting, and the homemade treats were delicious!
- Sherri Brundies and the Meal Ministry team and all who served and provided food for the Congregational Meal on October 12. The sharing of a meal always brings people together.
- Thank you to Jennie Garner and Madelyn La Plante for painting the register pipes in the sanctuary.

The regular council meeting was held on October 16. We discussed Budget proposals, narrative budget for 2026, Personnel Manual update, Friday Fun Club on October 31, Trunk or Treat on October 31, special offerings for Thanksgiving and Christmas, VBS plans. Your council is made up of dedicated servants of Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue guiding our mission and ministry.

Joan Hennigan, Council President, 563-285-6867



During the service on October 12, we welcomed **Lisa Arnold** as a new member of Faith. Welcome, Lisa!



40th + ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Fellowship Team invites those who have or would have) celebrated 40+ years of marriage to a delicious brunch on **Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 11:00 am**. Please sign up on the bulletin board. ****Please bring a wedding photo to share.****

THANKSGIVING Special Offering

Our Thanksgiving special offering will go to the Lutheran Lakeside capital campaign, For Every Season. More information about this campaign can be found on the Lutheran Lakeside Web Site, at <https://www.lutheranlakeside.com/for-every-season-lutheran-lakeside-camp/>



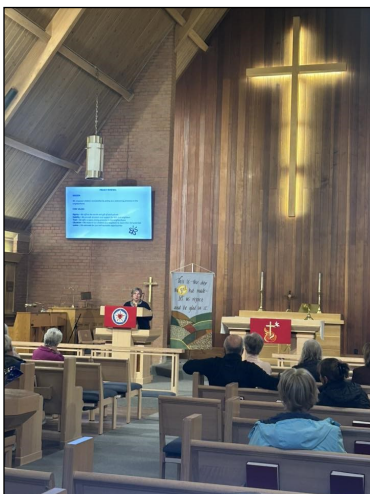
Be Our Guest Event October 21, 2025

We were glad to welcome Ann Schwickerath, Executive Director for Project Renewal in central city Davenport, to share with us the mission and activity of Project Renewal. Project Renewal provides educational, recreational and social activities for children during the school year and summer in a safe, loving environment. Staff and volunteers are positive role models for the children, reinforcing values needed in order to live healthy and productive lives.



Project Renewal's mission is to empower children in grades K-12 and families by acting as a loving presence in the neighborhood. Its core values are dignity, stability, trust, education, justice. The goal is educating, building self-esteem, and affirming each child for his or her individual worth. They operate out of a house in the neighborhood, where staff and volunteers also live. There is no charge for the services they provide families.

Thank you to Janice Hartwig, Rita Smith and Pam Engelbrecht for organizing this event.



Do you knit, crochet, or quilt? The May 2026 Synod Assembly will be collecting donations of prayer shawls and lap quilts. We would like to send several of these items with our pastors and voting members to the assembly. If you have any questions or need a prayer shawl pattern, contact Linda Szemkus at 563-940-4512.

Feed Our Children



During the month of November we are asking for donations of napkins and plastic spoons.



The Service in the World Committee will be hosting a blood drive with the ImpactLife Blood Center on Monday, November 10, from 3 to 6 pm in the gathering space of the church. ImpactLife provides blood products to more than 120 hospitals and emergency medical service providers in a four-state region. To donate, please make an appointment by calling Tom Carlson @ (319)231-0845 or email Tom at carlson.thomas@mchsi.com. Mark this blood drive on your calendar and consider donating, your donation will save a life!



WINTER



OUTERWEAR DRIVE

Warm Clothing Drive for Humility Homes

The cooler weather is rapidly approaching. Humility Homes provides winter coats, hats and gloves for individuals who are in need of winter outerwear for the colder weather that will soon be upon us. A box will be located in the gathering area for donations of new or gently used coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, snow pants, socks and hand warmers. The greatest need they have is for adult men coats, but they will gladly accept women and children's outerwear also. Humility Homes distributes the outer wear to their clients all winter long. The collection box will be in place here at church until Sunday, December 7th. Any donation will be warmly accepted. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Betty Strom.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space						1 All Saints 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
2 All Saints 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:00 am Anniversary Brunch	3 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	4 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation 6:30 pm VFW	5 **Confirmation Mentor Night** No Dinner, No Class 10:15 am Resounding Joy 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	6 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg.	7 9:30 am Food Pantry 	8 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
9 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School	10 Office Closed 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Blood Drive (GS) 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Meeting (FH)	11 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	12 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	13	14 9:30 am Food Pantry  DEADLine 	15 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
16 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Congregational Breakfast & Sunday School 2:00 pm Spirit Gathering with Bishop Current	17 Office Closed	18 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study TBD Churches United Meal 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Jubilation	19 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	20 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	21 9:30 am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Friday Fun Club	22 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
23 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm 4H 30 Noisy Offering 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Usher Training, Sunday School & Fellowship	24	25 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	26 Office Closed *No evening activities* 	27 Office Closed 10:00 am Private Event (FH) 	28 Office Closed 	29 Noisy Offering 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online

Join us at Faith on **Sunday, November 16, from 2:00-4:00 pm** as Bishop Current invites others from this area of the Synod for an in-person gathering centered on our Synod Assembly theme, ***"Spirit, Open Our Hearts."*** This event will include a time of worship, a presentation of the synod's annual report, guided conversation, and time for fellowship over coffee and dessert. Come, worship, connect, and join the conversation about where the Spirit is leading us.

Join us **on Sunday, November 16**, 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.

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

The Outreach mission of the Service in the World Committee donated \$175 to the Wartburg Theological Seminary in the month of October 2025. Wartburg Theological Seminary is a seminary of the ELCA in Dubuque, Iowa which offers three graduate-level degrees, educating women and men for ordained ministry. More information on the seminary can be found at www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Service in the World
OUTREACH

Thank you for all of the kindness shown to the entire Faith Lutheran staff during our Pastor and Staff appreciation month in October. All of the notes and gifts are so appreciated and warm our hearts. It is a pleasure and privilege to serve this congregation and community.

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 next Training will be held on **Sunday, November 30 @10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!
Contact Tom Bauer at (563) 505-5776 for more information.

The Sunday School Christmas program will be on **Sunday, December 14th, at 9:00 am**. We will practice during Sunday School on November 30 and December 7.

Sunday School will be on Christmas break December 21 and 2⁸. We will resume on Sunday, January 4, with our Winter Rally Day and Congregational Breakfast!

As we come to the end of the year, we give thanks to God for all that God provides for us, and we give thanks for all of the ways that you have shared your time, talents and financial gifts so that we can continue to carry out God's mission and ministry here at Faith. As you can see on page 14, our giving is currently behind our expenses by a little less than \$17,000. Much of this has to do with increases in costs this year. We would like to make this up by the end of the year, so we invite you to catch up on your giving if you are behind or give an extra gift if you are able. Thank you for your generosity. It matters in the lives of those around us.

Your **GIVING** matters



North Scott Clergy Group hosted a tailgate party at Faith for the North Scott Homecoming Parade. They served 275 hotdogs plus other food items for the community, and many enjoyed the parade on the lawn, including our friends from Grand Haven.

We have enjoyed worshipping in the renovated sanctuary, and we welcomed Lisa Arnold as a new member.



Pastor Carrie, Madelyn and Abby La Plante attended the installation of the new Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry, at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on Saturday, October 4.



High School Youth Group dressing like their Bibles.



High School Youth Group Photo Scavenger Hunt.



Confirmation's North Scott Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt. They raised **252 pounds of food and \$41.**



September Friday Fun Club.





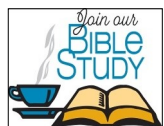
Thank you to our October Ambassador folders: Donna Benskin, Sue Casel, Pam Englebrecht, Darlene John, Carol Marten, Mary Jo McVey, and Tammy Neff.

Thank you to Mary Ann Anderson, Nancy Germain, Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for lending a helping hand in the office in October. Your time is very much appreciated!

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	SEPTEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$24,550	\$268,536
EXPENSES	\$33,534	\$285,369

*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 pm.**

Friday



Fun Club

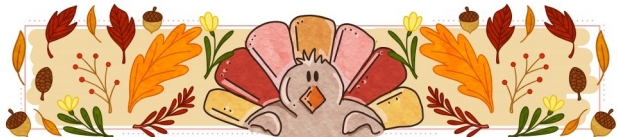
Join with others as our church welcomes children kindergarten through 6th grade to "Friday Fun Club" the ***last early dismissal Friday*** of each month. The next Friday Fun Club event of the new school year will be on **November 21.** Volunteers are needed in Arts & Crafts, Storytime, Music, Game Time, 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.

Food Pantry Needs



The Food Pantry is requesting donations of 28 oz cans of baked beans, hot chocolate, and pasta (egg noodles, macaroni.)



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

Linda Johnson	November 4	Rick Eller	November 18
Mary Ann Anderson	November 7	Diane Papke-Cole	November 20
Sharon Goldsmith	November 8	Kay Watson	November 23
Myra Kreiter	November 11	Deborah Peterson	November 25
Dean Engelbrecht	November 11	Joni King	November 28
Susan Becker	November 15	Mary Arp	November 30
Mike Staples	November 16	Larry Dannatt	November 30



Anniversary wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating anniversaries of 50 or more years. Congratulations!

Darrell & Barbara Weltzin
November 7, 1970

Richard & Shirley Cole
November 22, 1958

Vince & Sandra Knoche
November 9, 1974

Ron & Mary Arp
November 30, 1963

Ronald & Nancy Meyer
November 16, 1962



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Steve & Melody Sawvell** for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chiman** in November. *We have sponsorships available for both the **Bencke family** and Compassion Child **Denisse Grefa** in November.*

There are a few sponsorship opportunities available in 2025. 2026 is open now as well. 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!**