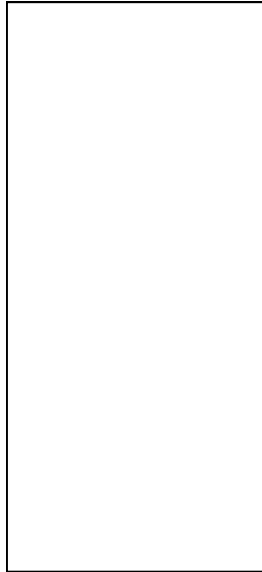


**Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.**

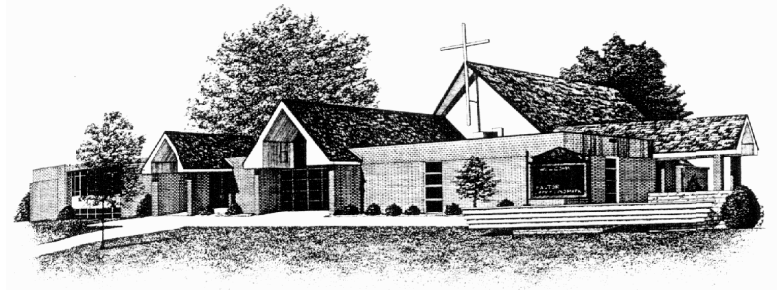
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

June 2026

**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

From Pastor Heather	Pages 2-3
Council Notes	Page 4
Outdoor Worship, Church Picnic.....	Page 5
VBS.....	Page 6
Summer Camp Registration	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Youth Mission Trip Shareholder Fundraiser	Page 10
Feed Our Children Ministry	Page 11
Spring Photos	Pages 12-13
Appreciations, Finance Update, & Outreach	Page-14
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Food Pantry Needs, & Missions ..	Page 15

**Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted
Called to Share, Seek, and Serve
Christ**



Message from
the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Pentecost Sunday, the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. We tell stories about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in dramatic form: there

was a heavenly sound like the rush of wind, a vision of dancing flames and tongues of fire, and a miraculous translation of God's Word preached by Peter (Acts 2:1-21). We celebrate this day as the "birthday of the church." In our gospel story, we heard about that first Easter evening when the disciples had retreated to a locked room. Mary had already rushed to tell them, "I have seen the Lord!" Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved had visited the tomb themselves and found it empty. But now the disciples are all regrouping, talking over all they had heard and seen—behind the locked doors, huddled in fear. Maybe they were wondering if it was really true or just an idle tale? All the things Jesus had said during their three years together, could they dare hope that Jesus had conquered his own death as well? And then, Jesus appears! He doesn't let them wonder or question the truth any longer. Jesus shows up! Steps right into the midst of them—into their fear and anxiety about the future. Jesus appears in the flesh. He shows them his wounds, his hands and side. He shows them a way forward. And more than that, Jesus breathes on them, so they too, receive the Holy Spirit. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," Jesus said (John 20:19-22). Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into his disciples and directs them forward in a renewed way.

Now, there is nothing boring about the work of the Holy Spirit. It may have been quieter and a bit less dramatic on the day of our own baptism, but everyone who is baptized into Christ receives this same Holy Spirit—the one that appeared on the day of Pentecost, and even to the disciples on that first Easter evening. Because there is only one Holy Spirit which God gives through Word and Sacrament, and it remains in relationship with the Father and Son, through the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit, also known as the breath of life within each of us, directly connects us to Jesus life, death, and resurrection; and to the larger work of making God's love known in the world. And so, as a church, during this summer season of Pentecost, which is the longest season of the church year, spanning all the way from the day of Pentecost (May 24th) to the beginning of Advent (November 29th), we focus on sharing the good news of Jesus beyond the walls of the church. We remember that God does not intend for us to stay behind locked doors or even in the church itself. Instead, God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, and God sends us out into the world, to share the good news of Jesus, to show up for friends and neighbors in need, to bear each other's burdens, and to witness to God's resurrection power beyond the church walls and out into the community and beyond. We

2

do this because as people of faith we are witnesses of these things. And we know and trust that God's power brings new life, healing, and a beginning where some may only see an end. We know that God's resurrection power breathes life into the nostrils of death itself, and there is nothing God cannot do. We believe that because God raised Jesus from the dead, so too will God raise us. For God's resurrection power is for all. It is for you and me.

During this Pentecost season, may the Holy Spirit, God's sustaining power and breath of life, send YOU out into the world to make God's loving presence known in all the places you go this summer. And may all the people you encounter come to know the love and light of Jesus through the sharing of God's stories alive in you. Because the Holy Spirit is at work in you, in very real ways, alive and growing, through your sharing and serving Christ wherever the Spirit sends you. So, thank you, thank God for you and for the Spirit's working through you. Wherever this season takes you, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide you, renew you, and send you in love.

Here are a few ways I see the Holy Spirit sending us out into the world:

- Outdoor worship begins this Sunday, May 31st, and continues every other Sunday through Labor Day (weather permitting). Bring a lawn chair and enjoy worshipping together in the beauty of creation.
- Annual Parking Lot Picnic, June 7th. Come join friends for a meal and fellowship.
- Come and be a part of the "Feed Our Children" every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer. Be a part of God's work by making sack lunches for neighborhood kids.
- This year, we are trying something new for Vacation Bible School. We are partnering with camp leadership from Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Together we are hosting daytime VBS from 8:30–11:30 a.m., June 22–25. We are excited for this fresh opportunity for children to grow in faith, friendships, and summer joy. We also hope this small taste of summer camp will get them excited to join our annual trip to Lutheran Lakeside when they get older.
- Our high school youth will head out to the East Coast on a mission trip to New Haven, Connecticut, from July 6–12th. They will serve others, build relationships, and experience how God is at work beyond our own community.
- And finally, we will wrap up summer adventures with "Best Week Ever" at Lutheran Lakeside Camp on East Lake Okoboji, July 19–24th — a week filled with faith, laughter, worship, and unforgettable memories.

Led by His grace and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit ,
Pastor Heather

3



Jesus met with his disciples after the resurrection and told them to go and do and love. As I watch my youngest daughter graduate high school, I am struck by a parallel. I admit that I am a sucker for commencement speeches. I enjoy the concise way the speakers are able to boil down their version of what is important in life. After watching a few online, I was struck by the go and do and love message in them. The message from Jesus and those who repeat it all around us is alive and well. Go and Do and Love.

Join me in thanking:

- Worship and Music team, Linda Szemkus, Neil and Sue Becker, and Nina Looney for hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Sunday.
- Worship and Music team, along with Brian, Kierra, Lori, and Sayla Looney, Paula Bryant, and Donna Benskin for providing food and serving the Churches United Meal on May 19.
- Joni King and Pastor Carrie for hosting the celebration of our high school seniors.
- Dave and Linda Golinghorst, Evan and Carrie Keppy, and Madelyn La Plante for representing Faith at the SE Iowa Synod Assembly.
- Women of Faith and all who donated or purchased plants from the plant sale.
- Everyone who helped with the church clean-up day on May 2.

The regular council meeting was held May 21st. Updates were given on the gathering space refresh and the final preparations for VBS. The financial report showed light giving in April. Outdoor worship will begin on May 31.

Mike Garner, Council President



Summer Worship Outside

Worship at the Outdoor Chapel has returned. Every other Sunday morning, we will alternate our 9:00am worship between the outdoor chapel and the inside Sanctuary, through September 6. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship inside. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside this summer on **June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26, August 9, August 23, and September 6.**



Please join us for our Annual Parking Lot Picnic on **Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 10:30 AM.**

This will be a potluck brunch following the worship service. Hot dogs, lemonade, water and table service will be provided by the Fellowship Team. Please bring a favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.

A variety of yard games for all ages will be available! Of course there will be plenty of time for fellowship!

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can be sure to have enough food and chairs!



The WOF would like to thank everyone that donated plants for another successful plant sale. Also thank you to the members that joined us for the garage sale weekend. Come join us next year for a day of fun.



A BIG thank you to everyone that made and donated prayer shawls, lap quilts and lap blankets for the May 2026 Synod Assembly. We sent 37 prayer shawls, 6 lap quilts, 8 lap blankets and 4 mini lap blankets.

All of these items were greatly appreciated and will be given to others in need of comfort.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS LUTHERAN LAKESIDE DAY CAMP

SONGS **CRAFTS** **BIBLE STORIES** **GAMES**

Join Us for VBS Fun and Adventure!
A Holy Guide to Loving Your Neighbor

JUNE 22-25
8:30 am - 11:30 am
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road Eldridge, IA

Register and invite a friend! Kids ages 4 through 6th Grade
\$15 per child max \$45/family, payable by cash or check at check-in
Financial Assistance is Available
To register, use the QR code or visit:
<https://forms.gle/ubwW3i2dnpMw5EE19>

JOIN US FOR VBS DAY CAMP!

The theme is A Holy Guide to Loving Your Neighbor.

Faith is offering a new Day Camp VBS with Lutheran Lakeside Camp Staff bringing their energy and excitement to share God's word with our community youth. The daily program will include worship with music, skits and interactive bible stories geared toward specific age groups, snacks and drinks, games, arts and crafts, community building and environmental education.

Registration is open to children age 4 through those who have completed 6th grade. Cost is \$15.00 per child with a family max of \$45.00. Financial assistance is available. Payment will be collected on June 22nd. To sign up visit our website at faitheldridge@netins.net, scan the qr code below, or pick up a registration form at the church. Some forms will be available in the outdoor box. We encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to join us!

Volunteers and donations of water bottles are needed. The small water bottles are preferred and can be dropped off in the gathering space under the coat rack. To volunteer there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Also, we will be providing 3 meals a day for the four Lakeside staff. Nina and Brian Looney will be hosting and providing lodging for them, which we are so grateful for. If you are interested in donating a meal or gift card for a meal, there is a sign-up and additional information on the bulletin board.

Please call or text Cindy Zabel with any questions at 563-210-4169.

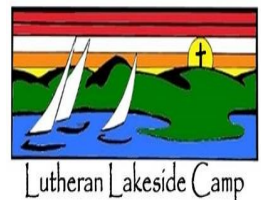


Summer camp

Registration is now open for Lutheran Lakeside Camp this summer. We are planning to attend camp **Week 6, July 19-24**. There is Cultivator Camp for those who have completed grades 3-5 and TrailBlazer Camp for those who have completed grades 6-8. If there are High School youth grades 9-12, Voyage Camp is also available. For more information about camp, please go to www.lutheranlakeside.com and click on the Summer Camp drop down menu for more information and the Camp Registration tab when you are ready to register. The total cost for a week at camp is \$500 for the first child. If you send more than one child from your household, there is a \$25 sibling discount for the second and subsequent children. . As in years past, Faith will cover \$150 of the cost of camp per child (including friends that they might invite). To receive the \$150 from Faith, when you register, use the DISCOUNT CODE: **FLEcamp**, and the \$150 will be deducted from your total. You can then pay the remainder of the camp fees online. Also, please let Pastor Carrie know when you have registered so that she can make sure that the campership is applied and have an accurate count of who is planning to go to help with transportation plans.

Adults are invited to join us for the adult mission trip to do work around the camp that week as well. If you would like to join us, please register online like above. You will register for **Week 6 Mission Trip**. Please use the DISCOUNT CODE: **FLEmission** when you register to cover the total cost of your registration.

If you have any questions about camp, please contact Pastor Carrie at pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or call or text 641-275-1326).



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	2 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW (MP)	3	4 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	5 9:30 am Food Pantry  5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	6 2:30 pm Wedding 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
7 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 am Church Picnic	8 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	9 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	10	11 Team Reports Due 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	12 9:30 am Food Pantry 	13 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
14 9:00 am Worship at Outdoor Chapel 	15 Office Closed	16 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	17	18 10:00 am Feed Our Children  6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	19 9:30 am Food Pantry  	20 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
21 Noisy Offering 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary	22 Office Closed 8:30 am VBS	23 8:30 am VBS 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	24 8:30 am VBS	25 8:30 am VBS 10:00 am Feed Our Children  9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	26 9:30am Food Pantry 	27 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
28 9:00 am Worship at Outdoor Chapel 	29 Office Closed	30 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 				Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space



Thank you for all of your Mission Trip support this year through the purchase of cinnamon rolls and Super Bowl subs and snack mix.

We have one final fundraiser for this year, which is our Shareholder Fundraiser. Everyone is invited to purchase shares of the trip at \$25 per share (you can purchase as many shares as you would like). Each shareholder will receive a postcard from the youth while on the mission trip and will be invited to a Shareholder Luncheon after we return where the youth will share stories from the trip, including what they learned, where they saw God at work, and how they grew in faith.

Sales of the Shares will begin on May 16 and will continue throughout May.

Thank you all for your financial and prayer support for our youth as they prepare for this amazing faith experience.



Thank you to all the volunteers and those who donated items for Final Friday. We had a great hot day to celebrate the beginning of summer and the end of the school year.

?? Bible Quiz ??

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

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 9-August 20. 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, McCausland, Princeton, and Park View. We need volunteers to pick up, deliver and distribute the lunches.

***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:

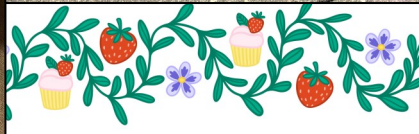
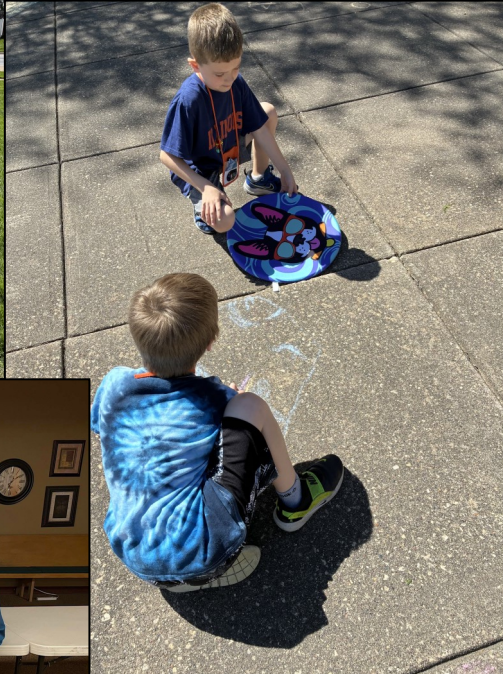
To volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-63443951-2026#/>



North Scott Community Feed Our Children

Spring 2026





With Appreciation...

Thank you to our May Ambassador Folding Crew:
Pam Engelbrecht, Darlene John, Carol Marten, Tammy Neff, Kathy Stoltz, and Kay Watson.

Thank you to Rita Smith for covering the office on May 14, and to Sue Sissel, Rhonda Webber, and Carol Marten for helping out the week before graduation!

Thank you to Nancy Germain, Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding the May bulletins. The help was very much appreciated!

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	APRIL	YEAR-TO-DATE
Giving*	\$20,761.30	\$118,567.67
EXPENSES	\$28,045.86	\$119,928.51
*Monthly giving needed to meet budget is \$34,700		

Service in the World



OUTREACH

In May, the Outreach mission of the Service in the World Committee donated \$150 to One Eighty of Davenport, a residential recovery program for men and women facing crisis, poverty, addiction or incarceration. This is a difficult program designed to help people who really want to change their life. Recoverees earn increasing levels of independence as they build work skills and learn how to build a thriving life filled with positive relationships and purpose. More information can be found at <https://www.oneeighty.org/about>.

COME TO VBS!



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

Jan Hartwig	June 2	Bob Bainter	June 15
Sue Oetzmann	June 2	Darrell Weltzin	June 15
Myron Scheibe	June 2	Carolyn Dannatt	June 16
Don Rathjen	June 4	John McCammant	June 18
Diane Hall	June 7	Peggy Sleep	June 21
Karen O'Flaherty	June 8	Ron Meyer	June 30
Donna Darnall	June 13	David Cole	June 30



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Karl & Marcia Donaubauber	June 16, 1973
Gary & Connie Rohwer	June 16, 1973
Val & Kathryn Zelinko	June 19, 1971
Kevin & Debbie Jenkins	June 28, 1975
Gary & Joni King	June 28, 1975



FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Needs for the month of June are toothbrushes, toothpaste, and kid-friendly foods such as canned fruit, spaghettiOs, ravioli, peanut butter, jelly, cereal bars, juice boxes, etc.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Scott and Pastor Carrie La Plante** for sponsoring the **Bencke family** and Compassion Child **John Chima** in June. Thank you to Dan & Karen O'Flaherty for sponsoring Compassion Child **Denisse Grefa** in June. There are sponsorship opportunities available for 2027. 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.**

Thank you for your support!