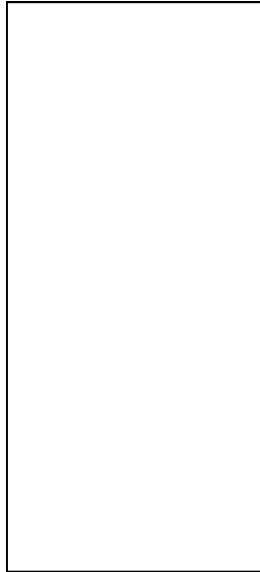


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.

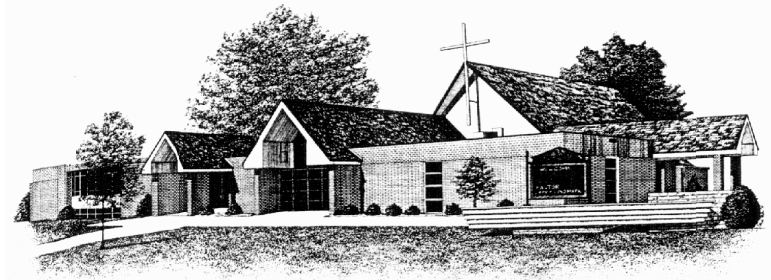
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

July 2026

Rev. Dr. Carrie Lewis La Plante
Rev. Heather Geest

500 W. LeClaire Road
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**Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted
Called to Share, Seek, and Serve
Christ**



Message from
the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I was preparing to preach this past weekend, my first weekend back since my respite, the reading from Romans struck me. It was the first

Father's Day since my dad's death in October, which was weighing heavily on me. I also was considering the details for Joni King's funeral while working through my own grief and helping the youth of this congregation to work through theirs. Then, I read these words that Paul wrote to the people in Rome: "Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). These were words that I needed to hear again in the face of the grief I am carrying.

These are the words that we hold as a central promise of our faith. While we cannot fully comprehend how all that Paul promises happens, we trust that, in our baptism, we have died with Christ and will rise with him by the glory of God. We believe that, through our baptism, we are given new life, both right now as we live our lives on earth as well as for all eternity when we are welcomed into God's presence. It is our hope in this promise that provides comfort in the midst of our grief when loved ones die. That same hope is what helps us to face our own deaths when that time comes.

Even with the grief that I have been carrying, I can have confidence that these promises are true because I experienced the faith of both Dad and Joni. I grew up with Dad sharing his faith with me, whether it was worshiping with him each Sunday morning, experiencing the ways in which he served in leadership in the church, witnessing the ways in which his faith informed his work and his community service, or being surrounded by his love through every situation in life. In the last 9 years of his life, as he struggled with so many medical challenges and faced living in a way that he never could have imagined, he made clear through all the highs and lows that the only way that he made it was his faith in Jesus' presence with him. On the counter in my parents' kitchen near the sink stands a plaque that my mom purchased shortly after Dad's fall in 2016 because it spoke to her in the face of the struggles they were facing. The plaque reads, "You never know how strong you

are until being strong is your only choice." Dad always made clear that the strength that he had to face all his challenges and celebrations came from God.

Joni also carried strong faith with her. From the first time that I met her as she brought us dinner during our first week in Eldridge, I knew that her faith was central to who she was. As we worked together, I came to know just what that meant for her. As I shared in my sermon last weekend, what I learned from Joni was how to be willing to allow Jesus to disrupt my peace. Joni would often tell me stories about how God was speaking to her as she was trying to make sense of things. When she came to me six years ago, as I was trying to figure out who might like to share the High School Youth Group with me, and she told me that God was speaking to her heart, I knew I needed to listen. She told me that God had put it on her heart that she needed to be one of the leaders of the Youth Group. She was not so sure about it because she did not think she knew what she was doing, she could not imagine that high school kids would want to hang out with "this old grandma," and she did not feel that she knew enough about faith and the Bible to teach the youth anything. I assured Joni that we all feel this way, and truth is that the kids would love spending time with anyone who truly cared for them, which is true. Joni allowed Jesus to disrupt her peace and turn her world upside down a bit. In the process, she found deep peace, and she changed the lives and faith of so many young people and a pastor, too.

Both Dad and Joni took seriously living in the newness of life that they received in their baptism as they lived their lives. They shared their faith with the people around them in ways that made a difference in those people's lives. For those who share their faith, while the grief that we carry following their deaths is real, we can live in the confidence that there will come a day when we will all be gathered together again at the feast that never ends.

My prayer is that I, too, am living my life walking in that same newness of life that I experienced in Dad and Joni, at least on most days, in ways that the people around me can experience the peace of God's promises in their lives as well. May God guide all of us in the ways of peace as we walk in this newness of life trusting God's promises in life and through death.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



In June, I had the opportunity to join some jeeping friends on a trip in south central Utah. The trip was retracing the steps taken by some Mormon pioneers across what is, to this day, some of the most remote territory in the lower 48. These 200 or so people answered a call to establish a new community in the Utah territory of the four corners area. They left their homes and businesses to create a route through what I can only describe as a “never ending field of stone,” all to establish a community in a very harsh land. Seriously, I stood there and looked across this land in amazement of their grit. To this day, the place they settled maintains a tenuous hold on existence. I don’t expect any such dramatic call to come my way. Not sure I could say “Yes” to it if it did. However, it does open my mind to what being called may feel like. I can think of a few people in our own congregation that were called to a project or team and didn’t understand why. They resisted, much as I would expect myself to resist a trip across a trackless expanse of stone; however, with the benefit of hindsight, I can see firsthand the amazing results of those who resisted but ultimately answered the call to serve. What call do you hear but struggle to believe it could possibly be true?

Join me in thanking:

- All of the volunteers who helped make Final Friday a success.
- Those who helped all the kiddos during VBS.
- Everyone helping make Feed Our Children a success again this summer.

The regular council meeting was held on June 18th. Items discussed include: The bids for gathering space and fellowship hall carpet replacement, VBS preparations, and the possibility of a float in the Eldridge parade. There will be no council meeting or team night held in July.

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 **July 12, July 26, August 9, August 23, and September 6.**



Bettendorf Boy Scout #89 installed a project for our church on Saturday, May 30, around our front altar. The Eagle Scout project was headed by our own member Charles Dingbaum, an incoming freshman at North Scott High School. His family and 32 scout members

and family members from ages 4-80's participated. The Eagle Scout project installed a variety of shrubs for screening behind the altar and mulch, installed a flagstone area for the organ to the right of the altar, installed 4 removable benches in front of the altar, and sanded and treated water repellent to the altar deck, 2 benches, and the new 4 wooden benches. It looks beautiful! The weather was nearly perfect.

What a joy it was to see all the people working on this project. A special thanks to Charles and his family for putting this project together.





VBS WAS A HIT!

Thank you to all who generously donated to this year's VBS Day Camp! We had a GREAT turnout of nearly 40 children. Kudos to Lutheran Lakeside for providing a high energy fun camp like experience for the kids! The kids had a blast learning fun songs, playing games, crafting, worshipping and hearing bible stories. Special thanks to the families that allowed memorial funds to be allocated to this program.

In addition we recognize:

- * All the volunteers that gave freely of their time and talents to make the mornings go smoothly.
- * Nina and Brian Looney for graciously providing accommodations and breakfast each day for the staff.
- * All of the families that provided lunches and dinners for the staff. It takes a village!
- * Anyone who donated bottled water to keep everyone hydrated.

We hope the kids had a fun and memorable experience learning how Jesus loves each of us and how we can make the world a better place by loving and caring for our neighbors. Stay tuned for VBS plans for next summer. Please reach out if you want to learn more about Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake, IA.



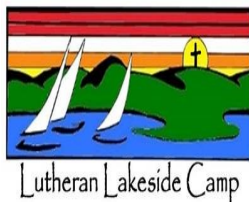
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	3 9:30 am Food Pantry 	4  5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
5 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary	6 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg. Youth Mission Trip	7 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW Youth Mission Trip	8 Youth Mission Trip	9 10:00 am Feed Our Children  Youth Mission Trip	10 9:30 am Food Pantry  Youth Mission Trip	11 <i>Eldridge Summer Festival</i> 11:00 am Parade 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online  Youth Mission Trip
12 9:00 am Worship at Outdoor Chapel  Youth Mission Trip	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	14 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	15 1:00 pm Friday Fun Club Meeting	16 10:00 am Feed Our Children  Youth Mission Trip	17 9:30 am Food Pantry  	18 <i>NOISY OFFERING</i> 10:00 am Private Event (FH) 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
19 <i>Noisy Offering</i> 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary Lutheran Lakeside Camp	20 <i>Office Closed</i> Lutheran Lakeside Camp	21 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry TBD Churches United Meal Lutheran Lakeside	22 Lutheran Lakeside Camp	23 10:00 am Feed Our Children  Lutheran Lakeside	24 9:30am Food Pantry  Lutheran Lakeside Camp	25 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
26 9:00 am Worship at Outdoor Chapel 	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 10:00 am Feed Our Children  5:30 pm Food Pantry 	29	30 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	31 9:30am Food Pantry 	Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space

Summer camp

Do not miss out on *The Best Week Ever*—register for Lutheran Lakeside Camp today! 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).



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 until August 20. We will assemble lunches at Faith Lutheran Church, 500 W. LeClaire Rd, Eldridge. Lunches will be distributed throughout the North Scott Community.

All funds used to support Feed Our Children come from grants and donations specifically designated to this ministry.

****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 are working to add a site in Long Grove, too!* 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 volunteer:

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





With Appreciation...

Thank you to our June Ambassador Folding Crew:
Pam Engelbrecht, Darlene John, Carol Marten, Mary Jo McVey, Tammy Neff, and Kathy Stoltz.

Thank you to Carol Marten for covering the office on June 25, and to Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding the June bulletins. The help was very much appreciated!

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	MAY	YEAR-TO-DATE
Giving*	\$26,829.30	\$145,396.97
EXPENSES	\$31,553.06	\$151,481.57
*Monthly giving needed to meet budget is \$34,700		

Service in the World



In June, the Outreach mission of the Service in the World Committee is donating \$125 to The Center of Davenport. The Center – Love in Action serves Davenport's Hilltop neighborhood through ministries that support poor and marginalized residents. Their work includes practical assistance, relationship-based outreach, and youth empowerment programs such as Skate Church. More information can be found using this link:
<https://www.thecenterdavenport.com/>



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

Patricia Reese	July 2	Joann Holston	July 14
Mary Bender	July 3	Sue Sissel	July 18
Kathleen Stoltz	July 6	Becky Stutt	July 19
Ruth Greve	July 7	Kay Friederichs	July 21
Cathy Henzen	July 7	Lynda Miller	July 24
Carol Marten	July 8	Craig Hirl	July 24
Ann Bainter	July 10	Allan Kluever	July 30
Marcia Donaubauer	July 13	Carol Strobbe	July 30



Dean & Pam Engelbrecht July 1, 1973



The North Scott Food Pantry is requesting donations of school supplies during the month of July. These will be made available to families in August.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Tammera Long** for sponsoring the **Bencke family** in June. Thank you to Dan & Karen O'Flaherty for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chima** and 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!