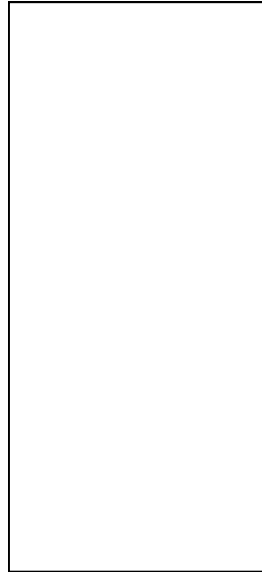


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person. Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.

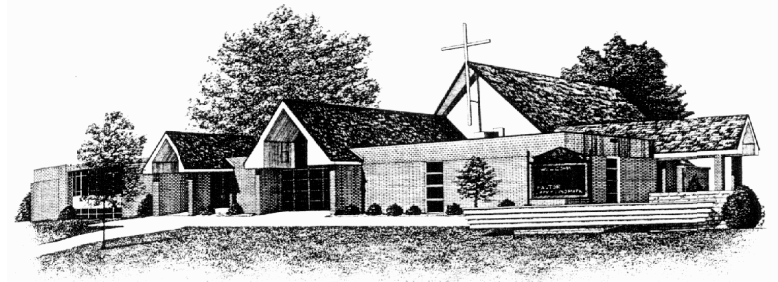
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

August 2026

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

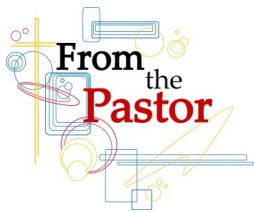
500 W. LeClaire Road
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Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted
Called to Share, Seek, and Serve
Christ



Dear Friends in Christ,

July was a busy month, filled with time with family, traveling with the youth on the high school mission trip, and spending a week at camp. As I reflect on this month, there is one Bible passage that comes to

mind:

[A]n expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:35-40)

When those the religious leaders wanted to trap Jesus, they ask him which commandment is the greatest, hoping he will choose something that will be controversial or will get into trouble. Instead, Jesus sums up what God is all about in two commandments: 1) Love God with everything you have, and 2) Love all people around you as you wish to be loved. Jesus tells those gathered that everything they do needs to be measured to these two commandments as they sum up all that God has proclaimed before.

As I spent time with family that I do not often get to see, I was reminded of the love that God has given us as a family that holds us together even when we live half a country apart in various directions. That love is important in these days when so many find it hard to love the people around them, even those that live in the same home as them. I am grateful for the time we were able to be together.

When we were in the New Haven area of Connecticut on the mission trip, we expanded the consideration of that love beyond our families and even our friends to consider how we show God’s love to those we have never met, especially those whom society tries to push to the side. Throughout the week, we had a chance to experience the whole process of getting food to people who need it, from harvesting garlic on a community farm to handing food items to clients at the Evening Soup Kitchen so that these people could have food for themselves and their families during the week. We had to come face-to-face with the

realities of what leads some people to need this kind of love from others and all that is needed to receive that love that we rarely think about. We experienced people of all ages going through food lines. We experienced regular volunteers who can hardly wait to put a smile on the clients’ faces. We experienced regular volunteers who needed the food themselves, but came to help others get what they needed first.

We also had the opportunity to help a transitional housing organization clean up public spaces in and around their transitional apartment buildings. We were able to see how appreciative those who work for the organization were with all that we were able to do to help them out. We had fun with some children in one of the buildings who were excited to see us build a small playground in the backyard of the building. We came to realize how many things in our lives we simply take for granted until we see all that it takes for others to receive the necessities of life. In everything we did throughout the week, we had a chance to share the love that God has given us, for sure, but the love that we received in return made such an impression on us throughout the week. Many of the youth are already thinking about how we can help similar organizations in our own area in ways we may not have thought about before.

The theme of camp this year was how to be “Holy Disrupters.” This was not about causing destructive disruptions in our lives or the lives of those around us. Instead, we considered the ways in which we can stand up against the ways of the world that hurt our neighbors. We talked about how, when the rules around us seem to be uncaring to people in our lives, we are called by God to be caring. When the ways in which people around us behave lead to exclusion of some people, God calls us to be inclusive and welcome all those around us into our circles of influence. When those around us seem to be taking things from others for themselves, Jesus calls us to give to those in any kind of need around us using whatever gifts we have, from skills to presence to needed items that require financial contribution. When those around us are unloving, we are to show love to those around us and remember to love ourselves because God loves us more than we know. We can disrupt the ways of the world around us by loving God and using the love that God gives us to love the people in our lives.

Continued on next page...

As we prepare for a new school and program year to begin, which will lead to new experiences and new friendships, it occurs to me that if everyone found these things to be important, the world could be quite different from the way that it is right now. I am well aware that this is a nearly impossible dream, but I pray that each one of us can, at least most of the time, think about whether what we are doing expresses love of God and love of our neighbor. We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can change the place in the world where we find ourselves. Who knows what kind of ripples our love for those around us could have in the larger world? Truly, only God knows, and I hope that we can find out!

Blessings on the start of this new school year for you and your families!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



Many of us find solace and refuge from the busyness of everyday life in places. A northern lake. The back porch. The routine of animal care.

Exercise. The quiet of dawn or midnight. Myself, I seek the desert. No idea why. Today, I wish for you time in those places. I also wish for you that same solace from the word or the song when the place is elusive.

-join me in thanking the property team for the work getting the air conditioning back up and running.

Council took July off. Regular meetings will resume in August.

Mike Garner, President
 563-349-4459



During the Saturday, July 25^h worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Linnie Bea Hillman, daughter of Koby and Shelby Hillman. Linnie's sponsors are Taylor Barros and Pedro Barros. *A rose was given to Linnie in celebration of her baptism in loving memory of Mary House, Maddie Mess, and Jackie Snyder.*



Worship at the Outdoor Chapel has returned. Join us every other Sunday morning, through September 6 for outdoor worship. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship inside. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside on **August 9, August 23, and September 6.**



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during the last week of August. Please sign up online or on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you for helping our ministry at Faith.



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Even though the medical facilities might ask about notifying your church, they do not actually contact us unless a situation is dire. Please contact us at the church office at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.





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.

****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.

***Supplies:** We are seeking donations of sliced bread, cheese slices, smooth peanut butter, grape jam (not jelly – jam spreads better), Go-Gurts, string cheese, and fruit cups.

***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: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DACAC23A7F85-63444067-2026>

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



North Scott Community Feed Our Children



Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 13th Children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited

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!



Eldridge Days Parade—July 11, 2026

A big thank you to all who drove or rode in the Eldridge Day Parade to help promote our church and the sack lunches for Feed Our Children.

Jennifer & Jacob Bekel, Tammy Neff, Lisa & Sammie Garner, John Hintze, Joan Hennigan, Linda Szemkus, Dan & Karen O'Flaherty. We also thank Joe and Renee Ward for the use of their Baby Shark float. We had music, bubbles, candy, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and fun!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space						1 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
2 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship	3 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	4 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW	5	6 10:00 am Feed Our Children 	7 9:30 am Food Pantry 	8 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
9 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	10 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Meeting	11 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	12 10:00 am Worship at Grand Haven	13 Office 9 am -12 Noon 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	14 Office 9 am -12 Noon 9:30 am Food Pantry 	15 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
16 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship 11:00 am Mission Trip Shareholders Luncheon	17 Office Closed	18 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	19	20 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	21 9:30 am Food Pantry  DEADLine 	22 Blessing of Backpacks 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
23 Blessing of Backpacks 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	24 Office Closed	25 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	26 5:45 pm Confirmation Kick-Off Pizza Party 7:00 pm High School Youth Group Kick-Off Ice Cream Social	27 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	28 9:30 am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Friday Fun Club	29 NOISY OFFERING 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
30 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship	31 Office Closed					

2026 Connecticut Mission Trip



Sharing Of Mission Trip Stories and Shareholder Luncheon

The youth and adults of the 2026 Connecticut Mission Trip invite you to join us for worship on the weekend of **August 15 and 16**, as a few of us will share with you some of our favorite experiences from the trip. We also invite our shareholders to join us on Sunday at 11:00 am for our Shareholder Luncheon where you can hear even more about the trip. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our service, learning and fun experiences with you!



Lutheran Lakeside Camp 2026





Confirmation Kick-Off

Confirmation & High School Youth Group Kick-Off

It is hard to believe that school will be starting soon, and with a new school year comes a new year of Confirmation Conversations and High

School Youth Group! We are looking forward to a fun year of growing in faith and friendship throughout the year ahead. To get us started on the right foot, we will have two kick-off events on Wednesday, August 26!

The Confirmation Kick-Off will be a pizza party for all 7th and 8th grade students and their families (siblings are more than welcome) from 5:45 to 6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will talk about our lessons and discuss our expectations for the year. We will also talk about other faith-building opportunities, including our mentor program and Lutheran Lakeside Camp. A letter will be sent soon with more details about our Confirmation Conversations and the Kick-off. Please let us know how many from your family will be coming on our Sign-Up Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-57595394-confirmation>) or call the church office at 563-285-4501 by Friday, August 21.



The High School Youth Group Kick-Off will be an ice cream social for all 9th through 12th grade students and their families (siblings are more than welcome) from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will talk about how we want Youth Group to be this year, and we will make a

decision on when and where we want to go for next summer's mission trip. Come and invite friends. Please let us know how many from your family will be coming on our Sign-Up Genius: (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-64933386-hsyouth>) or call the church office at 563-285-4501 by Friday, August 21.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Carrie (pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or 641-275-1326). We look forward to seeing you at our kick-off celebrations and at our events throughout the year.



Blessing of the Keys

High School Faith Milestone Blessing of the Keys

As our children begin high school, there are many milestones that they will begin to come across. One of those milestones is learning to drive, from getting the permit to driver's ed to getting a license. We would like to help these youth and parents to mark that milestone in worship with a "Blessing of the Keys". On Sunday, August 23, during the 9:00 am worship service, we will invite any High School students who are new drivers to come forward with their parents as we pray over them and provide them with a small token to mark this time in their lives. We will also be providing each family with a sample "contract" which can help families to have conversation around proper use of the car. We hope that all of our new drivers and their families will be present for this milestone as we begin this new school year.



Back- to- School Blessing

Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, & School Workers

On the weekend of August 22 and 23, we invite all children and youth who are starting back to school to bring their backpacks to worship at 5:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am on Sunday. During the Children's message, we will do a blessing of backpacks to pray God's blessing on the backpacks and on the children who will wear them this year. We will then offer a blessing over the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, janitors, kitchen staff and others as they prepare to head back to school. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of the new year!

Service in the World



OUTREACH

For July, the Outreach mission of the Service in the World Committee is donating \$125 to University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. As Iowa's only comprehensive children's hospital, this nonprofit academic medical center is dedicated to advanced pediatric care, research, and education. It delivers highly specialized medical and surgical services to treat complex health conditions in infants, children, and teens.



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

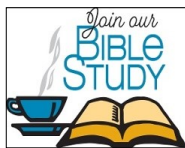
Thank you to our July Ambassador folders: Donna Benskin, Sue Casel, Darlene John, Carol Marten, Tammy Neff, and Kay Watson.

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

Thank you to Sue Sissle for covering the office on July 24 ~ *Beth Ann*

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	JUNE	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$34,158.10	\$179,555.07
EXPENSES	\$50,540.87	\$202,022.44
*Monthly income needed to meet budget is \$34,700.		



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

We will resume the weekly bible study on Tuesday, August 25, at 1:00pm. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the week ahead.



Friday Fun Club will begin its third year on **August 28!**

Volunteers are busy planning puppet shows, crafts, games and science projects!!

If you are interested in volunteering for this once a month activity, sign up on the Friday Fun Club sheet on the bulletin board, checking which months you would like to help, or call Mary Moore at 563-285-7223 or 563-320-8201 for more information.



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

David Griffin	August 5	Connie Braet	August 21
Janet Krambeck	August 6	Doug Garner	August 22
Betty Griffin	August 7	Gayle Staples	August 24
Donna Knapper	August 7	Vi Westphal	August 26
Deloris Schatz	August 9	Mark Copley	August 29
Michelle Reimer	August 13	Jeanne Willems	August 30
Pam Engelbrecht	August 14		



Rob & Pam White August 3, 1968

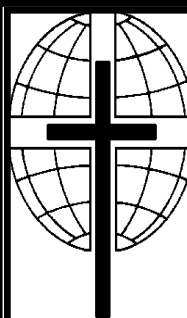
Curt & Carolyn Hulsén August 18, 1974

Sally & James Hamann August 28, 1971



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is requesting donations of Crackers, peanut butter and cereal in August.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Bob & Carol Kuehl** for sponsoring the **Bencke family** in August. Thank you to **Brian & Nina Looney** for sponsoring Compassion Child **John Chima**, and to the **La Plante Family** for sponsoring Compassion Child **Denisse Grefa**, both in August.

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!**