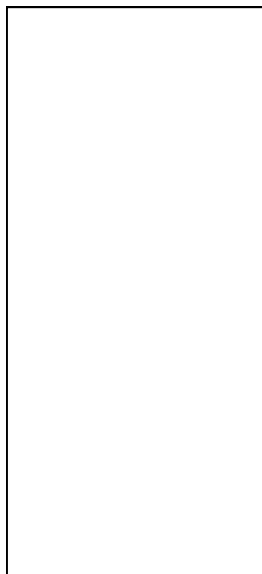


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person. Sunday school resume at 10:15 am children and adults on September 13—Join us that day for Rally Day! Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.

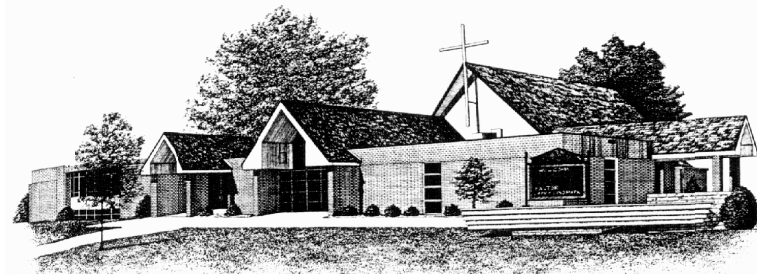
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR September 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



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



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, I have been pondering our reading from Romans for the last weekend of August. Here, Paul is writing to the believers in Rome who are living in the heart of

persecution and oppression. They are asking Paul for advice on how to live faithfully in the face of so many who are against them. This is the advice that Paul gives to them:

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:9-21)

As we talked about this in Bible Study on Tuesday, how different would the world be if we could all live like this. What would it look like if everyone put love at the forefront of all that they did, and we loved one another with mutual affection? How would our lives be different if everyone could rejoice in hope even when things around us looked hopeless, be patient in affliction, and persevere in prayer? What if everyone contributed to the needs of their neighbor and truly welcomed the stranger rather than being suspicious of their motives? What if no one tried to one-up all those around them, but sought to befriend those that others might look away from? What if everyone was honest about what they actually know and did not try to make themselves more important or wiser than they are? What if everyone sought to live peaceably, not the easy kind of peace where we ignore our differences to keep waters calm, but the kind of peace where we

acknowledged our differences, learned from them, and let them help us build one another up rather than tear one another down? What if we really believed that we could overcome evil with good and lived that way? What if we left the consequences and punishment up to God, and offered the basic necessities to those who may not show us love or concern?

That world would look very different from the world in which we live. We all know that. We probably would not know what to do if everyone suddenly lived as though the good of their neighbor, even their enemies, was as important as our own good. Yet, that is a world I would love to experience. That is a world that I would like to be part of bringing to life.

Paul writes, "If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Paul acknowledges that not everyone will choose to live this way; however, Paul also encourages those of us who believe in God, who have hope in the resurrection promises of Jesus, to light the way and to seek to live in peace, even with those who seek to cause us harm. After all, if we help those who are trying to hurt us, it will be like heaping burning coals on their heads. When we show love to those who have no intention to love us, the initial reaction will likely be anger for not getting the retributive response that they were hoping for. In the end, however, it could be that by offering that help and kindness, that seeking of peace, who knows how one's heart might change – not only the heart of the one who opposes us, but also our own heart.

Believe me, I know that none of this is easy. It is not the way that we are generally taught to live in this world. However, while Jesus sends us out to live in the world, we are called to show the world a different way of living: a way of hope and peace, a way of love and promise, a way of harmony and humility. If we could all make a little bit of a difference in the corner of the world in which God has placed us, think of what a difference could be made in the world as a whole.

In the weeks ahead, we might be hard pressed to experience this kind of peace-seeking in the media, among politicians, maybe even within our families or among friends. However, I pray that you might choose to let love be genuine and hold fast to all that is good in the face of whatever might be going on in the world around you. Look for the face of Jesus in every person. Love them and provide for their needs. Seek to live in the hard peace that takes some work, but is always worth it.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



Change. By stereotype, Lutherans hate it. I must say, there seems to be a lot of change around lately, but I suppose, there always is. There is the change we look forward

to: getting a driver's license, getting married, having children, and many more. There is also the change we fear: friends moving away, losing a loved one, sitting on the other side of the sanctuary. Then there are the changes that bring both anticipation and fear: starting a new job, going away to college, buying a house. These are the changes I am faced with today. I write this the day Lisa and I dropped Jennie, our youngest, off at college. Jennie is probably filled with excitement and some fear. Lisa and I are facing this thing called an empty nest with those same feelings. I was all prepared to write how the one unchanging thing we all know is faith. But I can't. My own faith has ebbed and flowed over time. In the end, the one thing I can't see changing is God's love for all humans. I pray you feel his love during any changes you are facing, and you share his love as those around you also face changes.

Please join me in thanking Linda Szemkus and all who helped serve lunches during recent funerals.

The regular council meeting was held August 20th. Items discussed include: Approval of a bid for carpet replacement in the gathering space and fellowship hall, the installation of the new food pantry access door, and the ongoing insurance review of the claim filed as a result of the air conditioner failures. Summer programs have all wrapped up, and fall programs are set to begin.

Mike Garner, President
563-349-4459



Worship at the Outdoor Chapel is coming to a close for the year. Join us for our final outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 6. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship inside. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside on **September 6.**



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



Join us October 4 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 10th & 11th.**



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.





Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 13th

We will be registering Pre K through 6th Grade and will have schedules of the classes and special events planned for the upcoming school year.

Hope to see you there!

Adults or teens interested in volunteering for Sunday School or being on the Education Team (one meeting a month) please contact Pastor Heather or Cindy Zabel (563 210 4169).



For the common things of everyday, God gave man speech in a common way.

For the deeper things men think and feel, He gave the poet words to reveal.

But for the heights and depths that know no reach, God gave man music, the soul's own speech. Anonymous

Our music groups are starting up again soon! Resounding Joy Chime Choir will begin rehearsals at 10:45 am on Wednesday, September 2. This group plays for a Sunday worship service about once a month. Individuals should be able to read music in order to play in this group. People of Praise Choir will begin rehearsals at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 2. There are no auditions required for participation in this group, and anyone high school age on up is welcome to attend. This group sings for the Sunday worship service about twice a month. All rehearsals are held in the sanctuary. Our music ministry is an avenue through which participants can bless the Lord, their church, and each other by offering their musical gifts as a part of our worship services. Much more than a group of enthusiastic singers or instrumentalists, each ensemble is a fellowship of caring friends who support and pray for each other in life's joys and concerns. We would love to have you come join us in this sacred calling. Please contact our Music Director, Susan Becker, if you have questions or would like additional information (susan.becker1995@gmail.com or 563-386-2896).

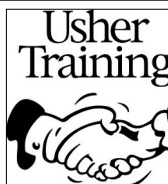


Join us **on Sunday, September 13**, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another



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



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 quarterly training will be held on

Sunday, September 20 @10:15 am in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend! **Contact Tom Bauer at (563) 505-5776 for more information.**

Homecoming
Parade Tailgate



North Scott Homecoming Parade Thursday, October 1 @ 5:00 pm

The North Scott Clergy Group will be hosting a Tailgate Party at Faith Lutheran Church beginning at **5:00 pm on Thursday, October 1**, before the North Scott Homecoming Parade. Everyone in the community is invited to come and join us for hot dogs, chips, water, and other treats, so please come and invite your friends to come for some food and to enjoy the parade from our lawn. We look forward to celebrating the Lancers together!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW 6:30 pm Jubilation	2 10:45 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	3 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Mtg	4 9:30 am Food Pantry 	5 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
6 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	7 Office Closed LABOR DAY	8 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	9 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm High School Youth	10	11 9:30 am Food Pantry 	12 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
13 Rally Day 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Congregation Breakfast 11:00 am God's Work Our Hands Service Project	14 Office Closed 5:00 pm Lions Club Meeting & Exec	15 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry TBD—Churches United Meal.	16 10:00 am Grand Haven 10:45 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	17 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	18 9:30 am Food Pantry   DEADLine	19 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
20 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Usher Training 10:15 am Sunday School	21 Office Closed	22 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  	23 10:45 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	24 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  6:30 pm Be Our Guest	25 9:30 am Food Pantry  1:00 pm Friday Fun Club	26 NOISY OFFERING SEIA Women of Faith Annual Gathering in Iowa City 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
27 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 10:15 am Fellowship 10:15 am Sunday School Synod Fall Gathering @ St. Paul	28 Office Closed Synod Fall Gathering @ St. Paul	29 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation Synod Fall Gathering @ St. Paul	30 10:45 am Resounding Joy 5:15 pm Confirmation Meal 5:45 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm High School Youth	Save the date: Thursday, <u>October 1@ 5:00 pm</u> —North Scott Homecoming Tailgate and Parade 	Save the date: Sunday, <u>October 18, 10:15 am</u> Faith Fall Festival—Food Fellowship and Fun	Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space



Be Our Guest: We are inviting you to our next Be Our Guest on Thursday, Sept 24, at 6:30 pm. Deanna Nielsen from the North Scott Food Pantry is our Fall guest speaker. We will gather and show interest in learning from others. A tour of the Food Pantry area will be given. 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.

North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

Thank you to the dozens of volunteers that helped us serve **4,741** lunches to children in the North Scott community this summer. A special thank you to all those who helped organizing and manage our daily operations and inventory this summer! A big thanks to ALL who donated funds and supplies, made lunches, served, drove and delivered lunches. This program could not exist without all of your support.



JOIN US

Sunday, October 18
10:15 AM - 12:30 PM

for Music,
FOOD, Games,
crafts, and
so Much more!

at

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 W LE CLAIRE RD - ELDRIDGE, IA
faithlutheraneldridge.com



Please join us at our Faith Fall Festival for food, fellowship and fun on **Sunday, October 18th** after the worship service, organized by the Fellowship team. We are looking for volunteers to make chili or soup for a cook-off, or sides and desserts. Planned activities include pumpkin decorating, sugar cookie decorating, crafts, games and activities, soup sampling, as well as a pie giveaway. There will be sign up sheets available soon. Please join us for some fall fun! Thanks!

~ Fellowship Team

PASTOR & STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

Pastor Appreciation Card Shower and Reception October 11

Please join us from **September 11 until October 11** to show appreciation for our pastors and staff. Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Sue Becker (Music Director/Organist), Beth Ann Anderson (Office Manager), and Dennis Kelly (Custodian).

We have a table in the narthex with thank you cards and envelopes for you to pick up, write, and return in the box on the table. You can also mail a card to the church or drop it off the next time you are at worship or visiting the church. **We will present a Card Shower to our Pastors at 9 am Worship on October 11, Pastor Appreciation Day, with a reception to follow.** We appreciate all of the ways each of them help make Faith a caring and vibrant community where our discipleship can grow.

Let us join together and let them know how much they are loved!




Please join us on Rally Day **(Sept 13th)** after breakfast for our service project for God's Work Our Hands Day. We are planning a litter walk along the bike path south of Eldridge. All ages are welcome, with parent supervision for smaller children. Contact Joni Kuehl-Schneider to sign up (jlkstudios1965@gmail.com). Thanks! ~ *Service in the World Team*



Service in the World For August, the Outreach mission of the Service in the World Committee is donating \$125 to Lutheran Disaster Response, directed toward Japan earthquake relief. A magnitude 7+ earthquake struck Kumamoto Prefecture on Japan's Kyushu island on July 28, 2026. Our sponsored missionaries, the Bencke family, live and work in this region. The Bencke family is safe, but significant recovery work lies ahead for the region. Lutheran networks, including ELCA Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response and local congregations, have mobilized relief coordination and fundraising support alongside partner groups like the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and regional mission teams. More information about LDR can be found at www.elca.org/disaster.



The Eldridge Lions Club is collecting new and gently used shoes **August 10 through September 11, 2026**. The Soles4Souls program turns unwanted shoes into opportunity, in the United States and around the world, by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use - providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. Here's an opportunity to clean out that closet and drop your gently used shoes in the Soles4Souls orange box. And just like that, you've made someone's life better.



Thank you to our August Ambassador folders: Donna Benskin, Pam Engelbrecht, Nancy Germain, Darlene John, Carol Marten, and Tammy Neff.

Thank you to Nancy Germain, Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding the August

bulletins. The help was very much appreciated!

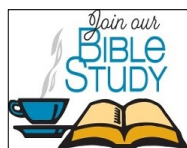
Thank you to Sue Sissle for covering the office on August 13 and 14

~ Beth Ann

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	JULY	YEAR-TO-DATE
GIVING*	\$37,777.55	\$217,332.62
EXPENSES	\$33,758.67	\$235,781.11

*Monthly giving needed to meet budget is \$34,700.



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us for a weekly bible study on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00pm. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the week ahead.



Friday Fun Club kicked off the school year with their first event on August 28. Our next Friday Fun Club is **September 25**. 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.

Mindy Arp	September 8	Rhonda Porter	September 16
Sally Hamann	September 9	Val Zelinko	September 20
Kenny Oetzmann	September 12	Barbara Weltzin	September 22
Donna Benskin	September 12	Chris Copley	September 23
Kim Wilkins	September 13	Judi Hamann	September 25
Gary Oerman	September 13	Carol Kuehl	September 26
Merle Anderson	September 14	Doug Paulsen	September 29

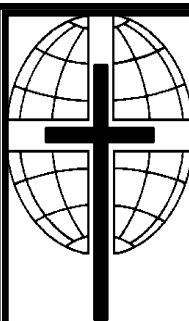


Kenny & Sue Oetzmann - September 10, 1966



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is requesting donations of hot or cold cereal and side dishes (such as Knorr Noodle or Rice packets, Rice a Roni, instant mashed potatoes, or stuffing mix) in September



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to **Kay Watson** for sponsoring the **Bencke family** and Compassion Children **John Chima**, and to **Denisse Grefa** 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!**