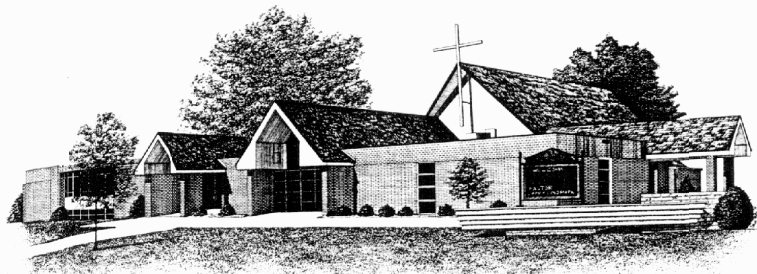


# Faith Lutheran Church



## AMBASSADOR April 2022

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

500 W. LeClaire Road  
Eldridge, IA 52748  
(563) 285-4501  
[www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)  
[faitheldridge@netins.net](mailto:faitheldridge@netins.net)

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





Dear Friends in Christ,

I have to admit that I love this time of year. The weather begins to get warmer – at least I hope that it will do so for more elongated amounts of time soon. The grass turns green again.

The trees begin to bud in anticipation of the new leaves to come. The flowers begin to peek up from the ground. The robins begin to return. Colorful life begins to return from the drab greys and browns of winter.

As I look at my flower beds on the west side of the parsonage, I have begun to see the tulips and daffodils that are planted there beginning to find their way into the sunlight in spite of the cold and winds we are currently experiencing. This new life that is being born gives me hope for the promised future.

Into this season of hope in new life that nature brings, our Christian story also brings hope of new life – of eternal life – in the story of Jesus' passion and resurrection that we will celebrate in these weeks of April. As we watch for the new life to come out of the ground in the flowers and the trees, and we look for the baby animals being born all around us, we also get to experience Jesus' new life after death as we move through the cross to find the empty tomb. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, the simultaneous experiences of new life bring even more power to the story.

Just last weekend, we heard the words that Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" In Christ, God has made all things new, and God continues to make all things new. Yes, we still live in a world where there is pain, suffering, brokenness, struggle, sorrow, guilt and more; yet, into that world Christ breaks in with the promise of new life, of hope, of love, of joy and more that we experience in our own lives and in our interactions with others. God is ever present to make something new and beautiful and hope-filled out of the places of pain and suffering and grief. It is what God did in and through Jesus' violent death on the cross. It is what God continues to do in and through us.

In these last two years, we have experienced strain in our relationships, loss of trust, grief in being apart. We have wondered when this whole pandemic would just end, and we have longed for

things to be “normal” again. But the truth is, things will never be the old normal ever again. The world around us has changed. We have been changed by the events in our lives. The church has changed as she has navigated a way forward. While this change can be scary because things look so familiar and yet so different, God’s promise for us has never changed. God continues to promise to make out of our fears and our losses, our sorrows and our grief, something completely new and joy-filled. And God continues to invite new people into our midst to share their gifts with ours to bring this new creation to life.

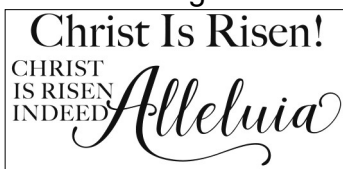
Perhaps we cannot yet see what this new creation looks like for us. Maybe we have not yet figured out where we fit into that new creation – where and how our gifts and talents can best be used. And yet, God has prepared a place for each of us in the new creation and invites us in to share our gifts as we share the good news of God’s promise of new creation with the world. May we show our community and the world around us how amazing God’s new creation can be as we find ways to create and recreate who we are as God’s people together.

Throughout this Ambassador, you will find invitations to join in the new creation that God is bringing to light here. There are all of the celebrations that surround Holy Week and Easter, from worship to celebrations of first communion to Easter egg hunts and Easter Breakfasts. There is the revival of some former traditions like Coffee Hour and Cinnamon Roll Sundays. There are opportunities to dream together through Listening Posts. There will be celebrations of Confirmation and Baptisms in the days ahead.

In all of these ways and so many more, we will begin to experience God’s new creation unfolding in our midst. Come and be a part of all that God is already doing in and through each one of us and in and through all of us together. Invite others to join our celebrations of new life and hope and promise and joy as we look toward and live into God’s future together.

Jesus rose from death to life to bring us new life – not only eternal life in the future, but new life now born out of repentance and forgiveness and living into the joy of God’s promises for us together. May this natural season of new life and this religious season of new life bring us all to new life together in these days and in all the days ahead!

In Christ’s love,  
*Pastor Carrie*



# CHURCH COUNCIL



## **Exciting News:**

The council will host a series of Listening Posts in May for the congregation to help envision ways for all of us to live into the priorities that the council has recognized for 2022. Please join us as the council looks forward to hearing the visions you have for this place. More detailed information about times and places will be in the May Ambassador.

## **2022 Priorities**

- 1: Build and strengthen relationships with Jesus and others through worship, prayer and education.
- 2: Heal personal relationships strained by the pandemic
- 3: Engage and empower children, youth and young adults by strengthening intergenerational relationships.
- 4: Enrich the Church through community involvement and outreach while understanding our neighbors' needs and seeking to be instruments of empathy, unity and peace.

## **Council Business**

On March 20th the annual council retreat was held. This is an opportunity for the council to spend some extra time thinking about and discussing the priorities and dreams that we have heard from members and come up with concise, clear ways to communicate them. We are looking forward to hearing from all of you about ways to live into these priorities and write our story in the new creation that God is making out for us as we are coming out of the pandemic.

The March council meeting was held on March 24th. During the meeting, the council approved Carol Kuehl as the treasurer of the Memorial Committee. Thank you to Carol for serving in this position. They also set the date for the installation of the council for the weekend of April 2nd and 3rd. This is an affirmation of the council members' role in God's mission in the world. Finally, the Endowment committee's recommendations were approved. Look for the article from the Endowment committee elsewhere in this Ambassador.

Mike Garner, Council President  
563-349-4459

## Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee



The Endowment Fund at Faith continues to grow and our committee is dedicated to preserving the principal and achieving the safest and highest return on the funds entrusted to us. Our charter provides that we contribute between 20% (minimum) and 40% (maximum) of our earnings annually to each of three categories: Faith Capital Improvement, ELCA Mission and Community Outreach, with the balance undesignated.

This year, having earned \$950 included with our year ending balance of \$73,427.50, the following funds will be donated:

\$237.50 (25%) to Unbudgeted repairs/maintenance fund (Faith Capital Imp)

\$237.50 (25%) to Lutheran Lakeside (community outreach)

\$237.50 (25%) to ELCA Disaster Fund (ELCA mission)

\$237.50 (25%) to SE Iowa Synod General Fund (undesignated)

\$950.00 Total

During my membership at Faith, there has rarely been such a forward-thinking solution to preserve our church in the future, while earning income to address many community needs and offset some repair bills. What a great opportunity! From sending our kids to camp at Lutheran Lakeside, to the satisfaction of knowing our ELCA was there after the derecho, the earnings from these funds touche us all. At present, the fund is not that large, but if we all support the Endowment Fund growth, think of the future benefits as more of our monthly benevolence is available!

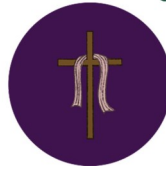
To those who have contributed to the fund, or plan to do so within their estate, thank you from the entire congregation at Faith for your gift to the future of the church we all love.

If you have not yet planned to become a benefactor to Faith Lutheran, prayerfully consider including a gift within your estate plan. Alternately, imagine the joy you might receive from watching a gift you have given bear fruit while you are a live participant in Faith's congregation!

We welcome all suggestions of potential donation recipients. To offer a suggestion or learn more about Faith's Endowment Fund feel free to contact a committee member: Jan Hartwig, Ken Oetzmann, Scott Rochau, Annette Tomlinson, or Kim Wilkins.

Scott Rochau, Reporter 2022

# Worship Schedule for **Holy Week**



**Palm Sunday, Saturday, April 9, 5:00 pm and Sunday, April 10, 8:00 am and 10:30 am**

We will begin Holy Week with a procession of the palms and a hearing of the passion story using Walter Wangerin's *Cry of the Whole Congregation*. Palm Branches will be available for pick-up on Friday, March 26, from 9:00 am to noon and on Saturday, March 27, from 2:00-4:00 pm for those worshipping at home.

Our **Maundy Thursday** service on **Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 pm**, will include the celebration of First Communion for several of our children.

On **Good Friday, April 15**, we will gather for a Service of Light and Darkness at **7:00 pm**.

Join our Easter Vigil Service on **Saturday, April 16 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary**.

**Easter Sunday, April 17**

**8:00 am** – Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**9:15am**—Easter Egg hunt on the front lawn

**9:15-10:00am**—Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

**10:30 pm** –Worship at the Outdoor Chapel (Weather Permitting) - Please bring chairs and join us for Easter Worship





The final installment of this year's Lenten drama series, "The People Versus Jesus", will be presented Wednesday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m., when we'll hear Mary, the Mother of Jesus, give her testimony regarding her son.



Our Special Easter offering will be shared equally between **Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine** and **Growing Hope Globally through Hearts to Harvest**. You can find a video and more information about these organizations on our website, [faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://faithlutheraneldridge.com).

If you wish to contribute toward Easter lilies that will decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area on at the link on our website. We are asking for a contribution of \$14.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate 'flowers' on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds.** Names will be published in the Easter worship bulletin.



## Season of Lent Collection

This coming May, the North Scott Food Pantry plans to provide cleaning supplies to clients. The Service in the World committee would like to contribute to this effort by collecting cleaning supplies during Lent which begins on March 2, 2022. The food pantry provides laundry soap, dish soap and bar soap on a regular basis, but all other cleaning supplies are needed and appreciated.












If you would like to contribute, donations can be dropped off in the marked collection box under the coat rack. The cleaning supply collection will continue up until Easter.



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
<b>3</b> 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Council Installation)	<b>4</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	<b>5</b> 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 7pm Jubilation 7pm Sanctuary Update Mtg.(Gathering Space)	<b>6</b> 5pm Confirmati 5:30pm Confirm Conversations Confirmation 6pm People of f 7pm Worship in Online 7:45pm High Sc
<b>10 Palm Sunday</b> 8am Jubilation Worship 9am Coffee Hour & Cinnamon Roll Sunday 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	<b>11</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	<b>12</b> 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry	<b>13</b> 5pm Confirma 5:30pm Confir Conversations 7pm High Sch
<b>17 Easter Sunday</b> 8am Worship in Sanctuary & Online 9:15am –10am Easter Breakfast 9:15am Easter Egg hunt 10:30am Worship at Outdoor Chapel	<b>18</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>19</b> 9am Quilting (FH) 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Executive Committee Mtg.	<b>20</b> 6pm Confirma 6:15 People o 7pm High Sch 7:15 Resound
<b>24</b> 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Confirmation	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b> 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 7pm Jubilation	<b>27</b> 6:15 People o 7pm High Sch 7:15pm Resou

# APRIL 2022

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p><b>1</b> 9:30am Food Pantry</p> 	<p><b>2</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online (Council Installation)</p> 
<p>on Dinner nation &amp; Pre</p> <p>Praise</p> <p>Sanctuary &amp;</p> <p>School Youth</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Team Reports Due</i> 1pm Food Pantry Board Mtg. 5:15pm Resounding Joy 6:30pm Team Night</p>	<p><b>8</b> 9:30am Food Pantry</p> 	<p><b>9</b> 7am Cinnamon Roll Baking 9am Spring Clean Up Day 5pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online</p> 
<p>ation Dinner rmation S</p> <p>School Youth</p>	<p><b>14 Maunday Thursday</b> 7pm Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online w/Celebration of First Communion</p>	<p><b>15 Good Friday</b> 7pm Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online</p>	<p><b>16 Easter Vigil</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online</p> 
<p>ation Dinner f Praise</p> <p>School Youth</p> <p>ing Joy!</p>	<p><b>21</b> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p> 	<p><b>22</b> 9:30am Food Pantry</p> 	<p><b>23</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online</p> 
<p>f Praise</p> <p>School Youth</p> <p>unding Joy!</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9am Ambassador Folding</p> 	<p><b>29</b> 9:30am Food Pantry</p> 	<p><b>30</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary &amp; Online</p> 



## **Cluster 6 Synodical Women of the ELCA Meeting**

**Saturday, April 30, 2022, 11:30 am to 1 pm** at Pizza Ranch in Bettendorf

Program--charitable fundraising opportunities provided by Pizza Ranch  
Dutch treat approx.\$13

Donations welcome for Synod and Cluster 6.

In kind collection for Food Pantry--personal hygiene products.

Reservations made by April 23 to Linda Kortemeyer,

[korte4m3@gmail.com](mailto:korte4m3@gmail.com) Phone 563-271-3309

Hope you will join us for learning about other churches in Cluster 6 and possible project ideas for our fall meeting in October. All women are welcome.

### **Ambassadors For Christ!**

Our June 10-11 Convention/Gathering Bible Verse, II Corinthians 5:20, asks us to be just this!

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God." (NIV)

**Come and share** in the joy of being a community of women, working together as a powerful mission for sharing the love of Christ. St. Paul Lutheran in Davenport will be the host church for this event which promises to be an important opportunity for learning, worship, fellowship and glorious music.

Those from farther away will stay at the historic Blackhawk Hotel, a great experience in itself. There will be wonderful speakers and meaningful worship.

You will **learn** of the ministry of Tapestry Farms, which resettles refugees in our area, including 5 new Afghan families. Hear Ann McGlynn speak of the founding of this ministry that uses the gifts of these new people in our community, while helping them to adjust to a new life.

**Hear** about the Madison Marketplace, a food pantry organized and run by St. Paul in response to Jesus telling us to love our neighbors.

**Enjoy** beautiful music by Chris Nelson, St. Paul organist, as he demonstrates the workings of the Bigelow organ and leads us in hymn singing. We will make a joyful noise!

**Share** in meaningful worship experiences including the Holden Evening Prayer for Vespers and a communion service led by our own Bishop Amy Current as we close our time together.

**Most importantly, meet the women of our Southeast Iowa Synod**, who are a graceful force for the mission of the Church. **Speak and listen** to others as they share ways in which they **love and serve** the Lord. **Be a part of this Gathering** by registering before May 10 for \$75.00 and \$80.00 after that date. We hope to see you there! **For more info contact Lynda Miller.**

## Coffee & Cookie Hour is coming back!

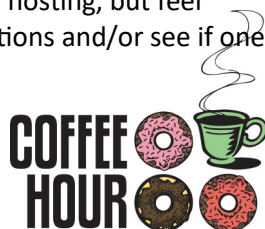
Beginning in April, the Fellowship Team is bringing back Coffee Hour!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for those that would like to help out by hosting and/or donating cookies/bars to Coffee Hour!

It is super easy to participate: set up a table in the gathering space, make a pot of coffee, mix up a jug of lemonade and put cookies/bars on trays! The lemonade, cups and napkins are in the kitchen cupboard under the counter ledge. Trays are in the cupboard of the island. Coffee cups and coffee supplies are in the gathering space already! There are sneeze guards on the ledge in the gathering space to set up in front of the cookie trays. When the 8am church service is complete, serve the cookies on napkins to our members and offer them coffee and lemonade. If you are interested in hosting, but feel uncertain on exactly what to do, I can answer your questions and/or see if one of the Fellowship team members can host with you!

We are looking forward to some great fellowship again on Sunday mornings!

Melody Sawvell, Fellowship Chair 563-940-3309



## Faith Family Heads: Opportunity to Serve

We need volunteers to head 2 Faith Families. Faith Families are members that are divided in lists and asked to serve in certain capacities in worship: Ushers, readers, communion assistants, etc. This is a 3 year commitment to obtain these volunteers 1-2 times a year on a rotating schedule. We will have online signup available too.

Contact Nina Looney, Worship and Music Committee Leader at 563 295-9339 if you are able to serve in this way.



## Calling All Hands -BIG or small

We will be holding our annual cleanup day on **April 9th at 9am**. We will be cleaning windows and general yard cleanup. Please come help us keep Faith Lutheran looking beautiful. Your help is much needed and appreciated.



## Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Youth who will be attending the High School Mission Trip to Nashville will be making and selling cinnamon rolls the weekend of **April 9 and 10** to help raise funds for their trip. You can purchase these delicious rolls in person around worship April 9 and 10, or pre-order by signing up online (link found on our website and on Facebook) or on the sheet in the gathering space. Cost is \$1/roll, \$5/6 rolls, and \$10/dozen. Along with baked rolls, we will have the option to purchase unbaked rolls by the dozen. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Join us as we celebrate the truth that “Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!”

The youth who are going to Tennessee for the mission trip in July and their families will serve breakfast on **Easter morning, April 17, from 9:00-10:15 am**. A free will offering will be collected to help with the costs of the trip.

### YOUTH MISSION



We are excited to have the following youth and adults going on the summer mission trip to Nashville: Cal Behm, Reese Crain, Rylee Daniels Lucas Fenn, Sammie Garner, Carter Harms, Mackenzie Housenga, Kalob-James-Kroeger, Gehrig Kirst, Abby La Plante, Kaycee Newman, Karly Schnorrenberg, Ryan Stickler, Izzy Stonskas, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, and Pr. Carrie La Plante. As we lead up to this trip, we will be doing some fundraising to help finance the trip.

### UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS:

- ◆ **Cinnamon Roll Sunday**-see article above.
- ◆ **Easter Breakfast**-see article above.
- ◆ **Best Choice Save-A-Label**-We continue to collect UPC symbols from Best Choice products. There is a box in the Gathering Space where these will be collected.
- ◆ **Printer Ink Cartridges**—Please place used printer ink cartridges (no toner) in the collection box in the Gathering Space. We earn ~\$2 per cartridge!

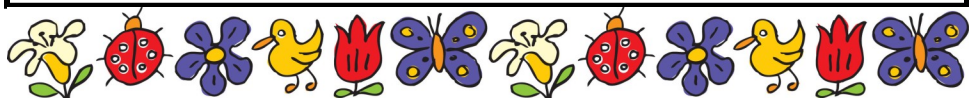
Thank you in advance for your financial and prayer support!



## Easter Egg Hunt

## Easter Egg Hunt

We invite your family to participate an egg hunt on the church lawn at **9:15am** on **Easter Sunday**. Bring your basket, or we will provide bags. We will celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection together.



## Confirmation Celebration

Eleven youth are completing their Confirmation experience: Nathan Anderson, Brooklyn Flenker, Jennie Garner, Lauren Griffin, Addison Harms, Evan Keppy, Isabella Mohr, Derek Nimke, Lucas Perrson, Audree

Yanke and Ryan Zidarich. We will celebrate these youth on Sunday, **April 24, at the 10:30 am worship service** as they publicly affirm their faith. Please join us in praying for and giving thanks to God for the gifts that these youth bring to the church.



## Summer Camp Registration

There is still time to register for summer camp at Lutheran Lakeside, Spirit Lake, Iowa. **We will be going the week of July 17-22.** There is Junior Camp for those who have completed grades 3-5, and Confirmation Camp for those who have completed grades 6-8. Everyone needs to register on the Lutheran Lakeside website ([www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com)). Faith will pay \$150 of the registration fee for every youth registered through Faith.



We also hope that a number of adults will join us on the Adult Mission Trip to camp that same week. Please see Pastor Carrie for more details.



Faith Lutheran Church invites all children ages 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade to “Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God’s Recipe!” VBS. Your children will become chefs-in-training at Shake It Up Café as we discover God’s recipe for living.

After a high energy opening at the Café, the chefs make their way to Kitchen a la King where interactive Bible lessons reveal five secret ingredients for living as a follower of God. The children will expand on what they’ve learned by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at Tangy & Tart Arts, singing new music at Wok & Roll Hits, exploring science activities at Foodology Factory, and participating in recreational activities at Spork Sports.

The fun begins **Sunday, July 10th and ends Thursday, July 14th, from 6-8 p.m.** at the church, 500 W. LeClaire Rd., Eldridge.

To be a part of all the excitement at Shake It Up Cafe, contact the church office at 563-285-4501 or visit the church website at [www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com).



### With Appreciation...

Thank you to our March Ambassador Folding Crew:  
**Carol Marten, Mary Moore, Sue Casel, and Donna Benskin**

### Worship Technicians

The Evangelism and Worship and Music Team have a joint need for audio and video help. If you are gifted in these areas, please check out the sign up on our web site, or at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-video>



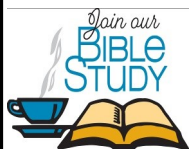


Birthday wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating birthday number 70 or above.

Bob Kuehl	April 2	Nadine Schwarz	April 21
Dorothy Watson	April 5	Denny Arp	April 25
Florence Whisler	April 10	Nancy Meyer	April 26
Glen Keppy	April 11	Sharie Garner	April 28
Rex West	April 14	Barb Paustian	April 28
Marilyn Jansen	April 16	Sue Casel	April 30
Jim St. John	April 20	Linda Szemkus	April 30
Dennis Krambeck	April 21		

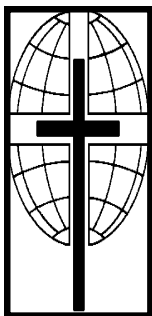


Food Pantry Needs for the month of April are cleaning products - toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, sponges, bath/shower cleaner, etc. *Thank You for your support!*



### Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week. **Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm.** We look forward to studying the scriptures together.



### MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

**THANK YOU** to **Karl & Marcia Donaubauer** for sponsoring the Bencke Family in April

**THANK YOU** to **Dan & Karen O'Flaherty** for sponsoring John Chima and Denisse Grefa in April.

The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse 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!*

**Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and  
Sunday at 8am and 10:30am, In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on  
[www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://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

