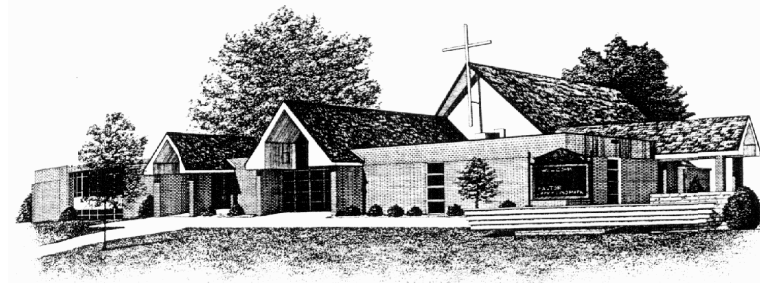


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR May 2022

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

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). For the last two

weekends, the psalmist has declared these words in the midst of our worship. While I continue to pray that God will grant us elongated spans of time with warmer weather, even with the chill, there have been many reasons to rejoice in these days that the Lord made as we enter into the spring and summer seasons and complete another program year.

Throughout the pages of this Ambassador, you will find pictures and stories of the ways in which we have been celebrating in these days. We completed our celebration of Lent with the conclusion of our Lenten drama "The People Versus Jesus of Nazareth." We celebrated Holy Week and Easter with much fanfare and many people participating in our worship services and behind the scenes to make each service meaningful throughout the week. It was a beautiful sight to see so many people worshipping together again, with over three hundred people in the building for Easter Sunday. We were able to celebrate with breakfast together and our children enjoyed running around the yard finding all of the Easter eggs that the high school youth had filled for them. These were surely days that the Lord had made and we rejoiced in each and every one of them.

To prepare for our Easter celebration, an amazing work crew got together on April 9 to make the church sparkle for our time of rejoicing. Despite the wind that made so much of the work more difficult, the sun was bright and shining, and we rejoiced in the beauty of this space we call home. That same day, our high school youth rejoiced (at least most of the day) as they worked together to make the most cinnamon rolls we have ever made, and we rejoiced in all those who purchased the rolls to support our mission trip. Again, this was a day that the Lord had made in which we were able to rejoice.

This last weekend, we rejoiced with our eighth grade Confirmation youth as they prepared for and affirmed their baptism. We were able to celebrate with their families at a dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 20, we celebrated as nine of them



affirmed their faith on Sunday, April 24, and we will rejoice with two more of them on Saturday, May 7, as they affirm their faith. After a crazy two years of Confirmation Conversations, these celebrations were and will be days that the Lord has made in which rejoicing is the natural response.

There is also so much more ahead as we prepare to celebrate baptisms and recognize our graduating seniors, as we move into a summer schedule of worship and prepare to worship outdoors every other Sunday beginning in June. We are looking forward to celebrating Compassion Sunday as we give thanks for the ways that we support our Denisse and John. We look forward to our Final Friday celebration with the children in the North Scott District, and for our "Shake It Up Café" VBS coming in July. All of these and more will be days that the Lord has made in which we will all rejoice together.

We are also inviting you into our dreaming of ways in which we can rejoice in all of the days ahead which the Lord will make for us. In this month of May, the Congregation Council invites you to join them for opportunities for fellowship and for dreaming of ways in which we can bring this joy of God's love into the world. The Council has identified four priorities for this year, which Mike Garner has spelled out for us on page four, and we invite you to come and help us to imagine the concrete ways in which we can live into those priorities in this year and into the years ahead. We will gather on Sundays, May 1, 15, and 22, immediately following the 9:00 am worship service, and on Saturday, May 7, immediately following the 5:00 pm worship service. There will be refreshments, conversation, and an activity for everyone to participate in, including children and youth, as we work together toward the future that God is creating for and with us, and we look forward to seeing you there.

As we give thanks for all of the days past and look to the days ahead, may we join the psalmist each day in proclaiming, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." May we rejoice together in all that God is doing in and through each and all of us, this day and always.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie

CHURCH COUNCIL



At the March 21st council meeting, the COVID policy was updated to address the summer worship schedule. In brief, masks will be welcome, but not required, while in the church building. The full policy can be found on our website <https://faithlutheraneldridge.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/58/2022/04/Faith-COVID-2022-05-01-1.pdf>

We are excited to learn from all of you about ways to live into the new creation that is our future. On Sunday May 1, Saturday May 7, and Sundays May 15 and 22, the Council will host a Listening Post after each service to get feedback on ways to turn our 2022 Priorities into actions. Please join us for coffee/lemonade, a treat, and the energy that comes from working together.

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.

With Many Thanks

Thank you to the Audit Committee: Neal Becker, Matt Briehl, and Josh Rasmussen for their diligence in getting our annual audit completed, and doing so in a timely manner.

Thank you to our Pastors, Staff, Videographers, Musicians, and Worship and Music team for all of the extra time and energy expended to make all of the worship services during Lent and Holy Week and Easter Service meaningful experiences.

Mike Garner, Council President
563-349-4459



A huge thanks to all of the folks who so willingly gave of their time and talent to participate in, and bring to life, our 2022 Lenten drama series, "The People vs. Jesus". They are: Jim Schneider, Lucas Golvinghorst, Neal Becker, Jared Penning, Linda Golvinghorst, Mike Garner, Jim Gruenhagen,

and Kathryn Zelinko. Please extend your thanks to them when you see them. The "trial" gave us all food for thought as we experienced our own personal Lenten journeys this year. - *Susan Becker*

Thank you to those who participated made our Palm Sunday worship service meaningful this year with the Cry of the Whole Congregation dramatic reading: Brea Harms, Katelyn Peck, Madelyn La Plante, Kaycee Newman, Joni King, Jim Schneider, Neal Becker, Nathan Anderson, Betty Strom, Sue Becker, Teri Wittkowski, and Pastor Carrie. - *Church Council*

Thank you to Joni Kuehl-Schneider for helping the First Communion students with their clay chalice projects. - *Christian Ed Team*

Thank you to Joni King and Diane Krebs for helping with the Confirmation reception. Thank you, also, to Joni and Diane, along with Sue Kirst, Brea Harms, Kelly Wyatt, Scott La Plante, Kevin Zidarich and Beth Ann Anderson for being Confirmation Small Group Leaders this year. - *Christian Ed Team*

Many thanks to the individuals that served as Confirmation Mentors to our students: Brea Harms, Denise Westendorf, Kathryn Zelinko, Matt Kirst, Carol Roe, Jerry Lynn Fenn, Joni King, Kelly Penning, Sue Kirst, Michele Mess, Sam Yanke, Sandra Griffin, Theresa White, HO Nelson, Heather Link and Sam Miller.

Thank you to all the Confirmation families that provided meals throughout the year! This allows fellowship among our youth, as well as a smooth transition from school activities to our Confirmation learning.

Women of the ELCA

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.**

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.



Worship Technicians Needed

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>

Coffee & Cookie Hour is back!

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



Please join us for the
Annual Parking Lot Picnic
Sunday, June 26th, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.



Pulled Pork Sandwiches, chips, side dishes, desserts, lemonade, water and table service will be provided and served by the Fellowship Team!

There will be a variety of yard games for all ages to enjoy and of course time for fellowship!

Feel free to bring a lawn chair and bug spray if you like!

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex so we can plan for the event!

Thank you – The Fellowship Team

Melody Sawvell, Janet Merrick, Carolyn Lewis, Diane Cole

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Compassion Sunday</i> 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Hour & Listening Post 	2 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	3 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 7 pm Jubilation	4 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth	5 1 pm Food Pantry Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Team Night	6 9:30 am Food Pantry	7 5 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 6 pm Refreshments & Listening Post
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9 am Jubilation Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 	9 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	10 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	11 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:15 pm Resounding Joy!	12 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 6:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg. Pantry	13 9:30 am Food Pantry	14 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
15 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Hour & Listening Post	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 9 am Quilting (FH) 1pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6 pm Churches United Meal at Zion, Davenport	18 7 pm High School Youth	19 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	20 <i>Synod Assembly</i> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	21 <i>Synod Assembly</i> 8 am—2 pm Women of Faith Parking Lot Sale 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
22 9 am Worship <i>Senior Recognition</i> 10 am Coffee Hour & Listening Post	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	25 7 pm High School Youth	26 <i>Ascension Day</i> 9 am Ambassador Folding Team 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	27 9:30 am Food Pantry	28 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
29 <i>NS Graduation Day</i> 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Hour NS Graduation Day	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 	31 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry				



Gracie was our donkey, and Ethan was Jesus in our Sunday School reenactment of Palm Sunday.



Thank you the Spring Cleanup Crew: Steve and Melody Sawvell, Karen and Don O'Flaherty, Matt Briebl, Bill Wittkowski, Myron Scheibe, Deanna Nielson, and John & Amy Powell, It was nice to see so many worker bees sprucing up the church on the morning of April 9th. - Dan O'Flaherty



YOUTH MISSION



TRIP

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.

ONGOING EVENTS:

- ♦ **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 up to \$2 per cartridge!

Thank you in advance for your financial and prayer support!

Final FRIDAY!



7th Annual "FINAL FRIDAY"
Friday, June 3, 1:00 p.m.

The seventh annual "Final Friday" will take place on Friday, June 3 and we will celebrate with a yard party for the school kids. We will have snacks, games and crafts for the kids to take home. The event will kickoff after school, just after 1:00 p.m. and will end at 2:30 p.m.. There are sign up sheets for volunteers and donations on the bulletin board in the narthex area.

Items are needed: Packages of cookies, bottled water, potting soil and flats of flowers. Monetary donations are also welcome. We want this to be a joyous event for everyone and all should feel welcome. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Keppy at ctkeppy@netins.net or 285-4484.



Faith Lutheran Church invites all children ages 4 – 5th 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.

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). 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.



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our April Ambassador Folding Crew:
Carol Marten, Carol Strobbe, Mary Moore, Donna Benskin, and Sue Casel. - *Beth Ann*

Thank you so much to the following Sunday School Teachers this school year: **Pastor Heather, Tracy Lindaman, Amanda Strom, Marla Zabel, Lexi Yanke, Kathryn Zelinko and Theresa White.** We look forward to this fall and hope all teachers and more return! - *Christian Ed Team*

Thank you to those who made the Easter Egg Hunt possible for our children! Specifically, thank you to the Youth Group for filling eggs: **(Abby, Lucas, Carter, Gary, Mackenzie, Karley, Kaycee, Kalob, Reese, Joni and Sue)** and to the youth who hid them on Easter morning **(Ethan, Maddy, Addie, and Matt).** - *Christian Ed Team*



Adult Mission Trip to Lutheran Lakeside

All adults interested in attending the Lutheran Lakeside Mission Trip, **July 17-22**, must **contact Pam at 712-336-2109** in order for her to set up an individual account. Once your account is set up, you can complete the required forms online. We are no longer able to submit the required paperwork for volunteers by mail. **These forms need to be completed prior to July 1st. Please don't delay!** Any questions or concerns, please contact: **Tom Bauer at tebauer33@gmail.com or 563-505-5776**



Tray Tables UP!!!!

VBS HELP NEEDED!

Vacation Bible School will be **July 10-14** this summer!! We have a lot of fun lessons planned around the theme "Shake em Up!" Volunteers can sign up to help on the Bulletin Board. We look forward to a fun and exciting VBS!!



May
BIRTHDAYS

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

Curtis Hulsen	May 1	Leonard Hanson	May 15
Jim Weibel	May 5	Roger Baustian	May 19
Sandra Knoche	May 5	Janice Sanders	May 26
Pam White	May 9	Ann Kuehl	May 28
Kris Schwein	May 12		



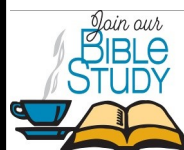
Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of May are Granola bars, cereal bars and Pop Tarts.



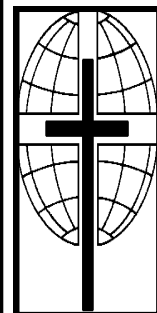
Women of Faith Plant Sale

The Women of Faith are looking for donations of perennial plants for the Eldridge City Wide Garage Sales on May 21 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you need pots for splitting plants or have any extra 9" pots, please call Joni Schneider (285-5829). You can also sell your household items in the church parking lot on May 21. Come join the fun!



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 Bob & Theresa White for sponsoring the Bencke Family, John Chima and Denisse Grefa in May. 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 9 am In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on
[www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.**

Faith Lutheran Church
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Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

