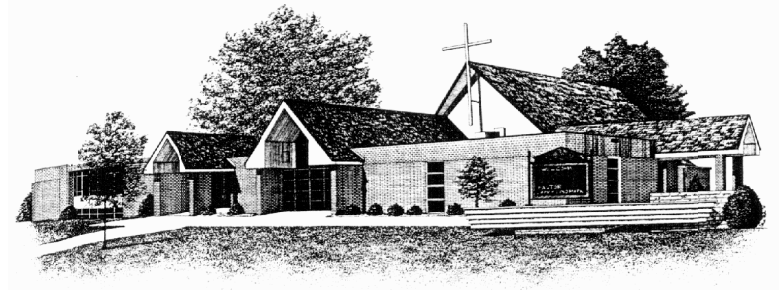


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

June 2022

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

500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748
(563) 285-4501

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to begin by thanking all of you who participated in the Listening Posts with the

Congregation Council in May. Over four weekends, we had the opportunity to sit together around the tables in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy cookies, coffee and lemonade. We were also able have conversations about our fears, struggles, hopes and dreams for our congregation. There were many great ideas that came out of those conversations, which Mike Garner speaks about more in his article on page 5. I hope and pray that you will take Mike up on his invitation to consider where your passions may lie along with others and where you might be willing to take a lead to bring some of these ideas to life for our congregation and community.

Among the conversation at these Listening Posts was also some helpful feedback on changes that have been made in our church operations that have not been as clearly communicated as we had hoped. Of primary concern was a feeling of not being welcome in the church at all times since the doors are now locked during the week. First, I want to assure you that you are *always* welcome at Faith Lutheran Church. This change in practice has nothing to do with wanting to keep the members of this congregation or the community around us out of our building. What this change in practice was meant to address was concerns by staff and members of our leadership surrounding the safety and security of those within the building, particularly at the times when few people are there. Let me share some of the history behind this change.

Even before the pandemic began, the Property Team, in particular, along with the Congregation Council, has been concerned about safety and security concerns surrounding our building and the people within it. Unfortunately, while we exist in a community that is safe by all reasonable standards, we are also aware that not everyone intends good in their actions, and in recent years, places of worship have been particular targets of evil. Over the last four years, members of the Property Team have met with various church safety consultants to look at where our vulnerabilities lie and consider suggestions as to ways in which we can provide the safest and most peaceful environment for our staff and congregation.

In the fall of 2021, the Property Team put together a new safety policy which addresses the ways in which we, as a congregation will respond to

all kinds of possible disaster, including those that we hope we will never have to face. As one of the guiding scriptures for this policy, we are reminded of the words of Jesus spoken to the disciples as Jesus sent them out to share the good news: "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). With this in mind, our safety policy resolves to use experience, training, and common sense to enact wise decisions while maintaining a peaceful atmosphere free of fear and full of trust in God.

Among the concerns that were addressed in the policy was a concern over the safety of the staff and others who use the building during the week when fewer people are there. Since the time that I arrived at Faith in 2016, the doors have been locked whenever the building is empty, but the doors were unlocked the majority of the time when someone was in the building, particularly during the day. However, the way in which our office area is configured, there is no way of knowing who is coming into the building until after that person is already in our offices. While we know that most people who enter our building do so with love and respect, we are also aware that there is the possibility of malice. Therefore, it was decided that the best way to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves was to provide a way for the staff to see who is entering the building and have the opportunity to ask for their purpose for those whom we do not recognize.

Therefore, it was determined that a doorbell system, along with a remote door opener, would be installed. This would allow for the doors to be locked, for the staff to ask the purpose of those whom we did not recognize, and for those in the office to easily open the doors for those who desired to enter. At times when a larger group is gathered in the church, for worship, for Confirmation and Youth group, for fellowship activities and at other times, the doors of the church are unlocked so that all may enter.

What I want to make clear, however, is that you are *always* welcome in the church. We know that some of you like to come and pray in the sanctuary during the week. Others enjoy perusing the library now and then. Still others have work that needs to get done during the week. Most of all, Beth Ann, Pastor Heather and I love having people come and visit and share what is going on in their lives. This is still, and perhaps especially true, after the last couple of years when we have been less able to be together, so please come and use the church whenever you wish.

The doorbell to the left of the doors is there so that you can let us know you are at the door. We will open the door for you and warmly welcome you inside. You are free to share your reason for being there with us, or if you simply want to go and pray or peruse the library or get some work done without interruption, you are welcome to do so. Generally, the office hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, with someone usually in the building until at least 3:00 pm. If there is a time when you need access to the building when no one is there, please contact me, and I will be happy to come over and unlock the doors for you. If I am not available, I am happy to contact someone else with a key to come and unlock it for you. My phone number is on the sign on the door for those times when you do not have it with you. Also, if you need regular access to the church for any reason, and having a key would be helpful for you, please contact me or a member of the Council, and we will be happy to talk with you about that possibility.

God has provided us with a beautiful space to gather for worship, for fellowship, for education, for use by community organization, and more, and we love seeing the church alive and filled with all the people whom God so loves, including all of you. So please, come. Join us in worship. Join us in fellowship. Come and use the church for community meetings and family gatherings. Come by and check in just to say hi. Come to find that place of peace in the midst of the chaos of the world around us. God is here. We are here. We rejoice when you are here as well.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Carrie



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2022 Synod Assembly May 20-21

Thank you to Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante, Pastor Heather Geest, Abby La Plante and Kelly Penning for attending the Synod Assembly as voting members from our congregation.

Congratulations to Abby La Plante on being elected for a 2-year term as the female youth representative on the Synod Council!



Thank you! Thanks to each and every one who took time to tell the council ways you envision doing God's work through this place. The Listening Post sessions were productive, and members shared many ideas we can act on to live into the priorities of 2022. As of right now, we are only limited by the passion for the projects and the people to carry out the missions. Please take a moment to visit Fellowship Hall, and look at some of the ideas presented there. You just might find out that someone else has the same passions as you do. After you look them over, let a council member or pastor know the ways in which you would like to join in. The council and ministry teams will be acting immediately on some of the ideas, and others require a bit more in the way of volunteers and actions from you, the congregation. A few of the ideas looking for people with passion for them include: a women's at home book study group; a parents of teenagers group; a game night for all ages to play together (perhaps Bunco?); a movie group going to the DeWitt Theater; and a community or congregation day of service. Let a council member or the office know if you want to be part of making any of these ideas come to life.

Matt Peck and the whole council would also like to thank the Online Streaming Team who have been helpful in getting services online. Thanks to their efforts, so many people can participate in worship when they are unable to attend in person. Thank you all. Also, please take a look at the usher's stand in the gathering space and thank Nadine Schwarz for her effort in refinishing this much used item. It looks great Nadine.

The Congregation Council meeting was held on May 19th. The results of the Listening Posts thus far were discussed, and a few were set into action. Service in the World reported that four youth helped serve 51 Churches United meals at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport, and another 29 meals were dropped off at Humility Homes and Services. The Service in the World Team, is always looking for people willing to help prepare and serve the meals. We are currently serving sack lunches that are handed to the clients at the door of the church, but we are hopeful that we will begin being able to serve full meals indoors soon. The council also approved submitting the cost of replacing the basement windows on the south side of the building to the Memorial Committee for funding as the windows need replacing.

Mike Garner, Council President
563-349-4459

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!



Fellowship (Coffee) 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 Fellowship 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 9am 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



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. *Thank you for your prayers and support.*








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 2nd Training will be held on **Sunday, June 12^h @10am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!

Contact Tom Bauer for more information.



Worship at the Outdoor Chapel returns starting **Sunday, June 12, at 9am**. Every other Sunday morning we will alternate our 9am worship between the outdoor chapel and the inside Sanctuary. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move worship to the sanctuary. Please bring a lawn chair and join us outside this month on June 12 and 26 (weather permitting).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 1pm NS Food Pantry Board Meeting 6:30 pm Team Night	3 9:30am Food Pantry 1:00-3pm Final Friday	4 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
5 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour	6 <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Club (FH) 7pm Faith Connects Online	7 10am Feed Our Children 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm-Food Pantry 6:30pm VFW (FH)	8 6-9pm Summer Concert Series @ Sheridan Meadows	9 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 10am Feed Our Children 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	10 9:30am Food Pantry	11 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
12 9am Worship  Outdoor Chapel 10am Usher Training 10am Fellowship Hour 11:15am Strawberry Festival Parade, Long Grove	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Exec Mtg.	14 10am Feed Our Children 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 	15	16 10am Feed Our Children 7pm Church Council Meeting	17 9:30am Food Pantry	18 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
19 <i>Father's Day</i> 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour 	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10am Feed Our Children 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 	22 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i>	23 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10am Feed Our Children	24 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 9:30am Food Pantry	25 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
26 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel 11am Church Picnic	27 <i>Office Closed</i> 7pm Faith Connects Online	28 10am Feed Our Children 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 	29 9am Ambassador Folding	30 10am Feed Our Children		



I recently had the privilege of attending the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly in Coralville. This was a terrific two-day experience, sharing

the love of God and fellowship with other Lutherans from across the state. I would encourage all of you to consider attending in the future.

Our own Pastor Carrie presented on the Growing Young curriculum and building a Jesus-centered community, particularly with our youth. One of the biggest takeaways for me when she presented the six Core Commitments of Growing Young Congregations was warm relationships. Specifically, instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships. Of course, this makes sense, right? I grew up at Faith Lutheran, literally! I attended kindergarten in the basement and attended my entire life with generations of family. I was blessed to learn about relationships in this beautiful church surrounded by a loving community. Is this not what we all crave? Yes! So, following her presentation Pastor Heather and I discussed the power of relationships, and curiously the fear and expectations as well.

So how do we do build warm relationships? Guess what...no one has the magic answer to what works and how to communicate. Each of us are as unique as snowflakes; therefore, the power in connecting is being open, vulnerable, and compassionate – to others and ourselves. Here are a few things that I have learned:

- Find common ground – it is there, I promise, maybe in the kind of cookie you both like or shoes you are wearing.
- Just show up – sounds simply right, but just being around others sometimes is what is needed to feel as though you belong.
- Engage in conversation – make the first move and say hello. Then listen, really listen. It is awful when someone pretends to listen, but they are really just waiting to ‘one up’ your story. Listen, breathe, and paraphrase back what you heard.
- Assume good intent – we do not always know exactly what to say, so practice grace and stay away from assumptions. They create a vicious cycle of miscommunication.
- Show Respect – to yourself and others when you might not have enough energy to engage. Do not assume others are not interested.

Maybe they are just worn out or protecting themselves from emotion overload.

• Eye contact – put the phone away, do not be looking over their shoulder for something better to draw your attention, relax, and do not make them feel rushed.

Maybe these things came to mind as I question whether I am exercising all these consistently. It also might be because often we can feel let down by others and then worry that we will let others down. That fear of engaging holds us back. However, I believe (and Carl Rogers’ theory proves it, if anyone is interested let me know) that genuine, authentic, and sincere interactions are powerful and build trusting relationships.

So, a challenge for all of us...how will you intentionally create and foster relationships in your life and our church?

Kelly Penning

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.**



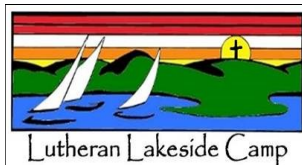
Summer Camp Registration

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.

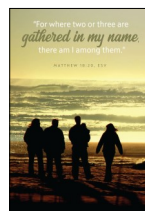


Faith Lutheran Church invites all children ages 4 – 5th grade to “Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God’s Recipe!” VBS. Your children will become chefs-in-training at Shake It Up Café as we discover God’s recipe for living.

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.



Christ is Risen! Alleluia! It has been a wonderful Easter season full of celebrations and gatherings of people. Together we have so much to be grateful for as a community of faith. And while it is difficult to choose just one thing to name as my favorite during this season, being in the “physical” company of others is the best! It is such a gift to connect with one another and to share stories of how God is working in our lives over a cookie and lemonade during our fellowship hour. It has been a joy to meet some of our new friends who have been worshipping with us online and now are beginning to join us in the building. I know this activity does not just happen on Sunday mornings or even just inside this building, it happens everywhere. God is at work all over the world!

So, this is your friendly reminder to invite Pastor Carrie and/or Pastor Heather to meet you where you are at or to have us bring you a cup of coffee. We want to keep the conversations going. The first person to invite each of us over will get Whitey’s ice cream. Just let us know that you read this article. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Peace Be With You,
Pastor Heather



We are excited to have the following youth and adults going on the summer mission trip to Nashville: Cal Behm, Reese Crain, Rylee Daniels, Lukas 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 for your financial and prayer support!



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!!



With Appreciation...

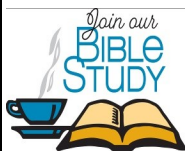
Thank you to our May Ambassador Folding Crew: Carol Marten, Sue Casel, Carol Srobbe, Mary Moore, Sue Braack, Donna Benskin, Velma Riley and Tom Bauer.

Help 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 contact Matt Peck at 285-8447



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.



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

Gloria Hamann	June 1	Donna Darnall	June 13
Jan Hartwig	June 2	Bob Bainter	June 15
Sue Oetzmann	June 2	Darrell Weltzin	June 15
Myron Scheibe	June 2	John McCammant	June 18
Don Rathjen	June 4	Peggy Sleep	June 21
Karen O'Flaherty	June 8	Dennis Schmidt	June 28
Earl Kuhl	June 13	Ron Meyer	June 30



Lynda & Duane Miller	June 8, 1968
Val & Kathryn Zelinko	June 19, 1971
Mary Ann & Dan Anderson	June 22, 1968



We welcome to our Faith family, through the waters of Holy Baptism, Oliver Allan Shipman. Oliver, son of Carlie and Taylor Shipman, was baptized on May 1, 2022. His sponsors are Lauren Van Opdorp and Chris Peters



Food Panty Needs

Pasta and side dishes are needed this month. Thank you!.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

THANK YOU to **Joan & Denny Hennigan** for sponsoring the **Bencke Family**, to **Kelly Wyatt** for sponsoring **John Chima** and to **Tom & Pam Carlson** for sponsoring **Denisse Grefa** in June.

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!*



Following the request at the annual meeting of the congregation, **the first quarter financial report is available at the welcome center.** If you have questions, contact our Treasurer, Deanna Nielsen (home 285-6194 or email deannasnielsen@gmail.com).

Please Join Us For Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on our website at 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

