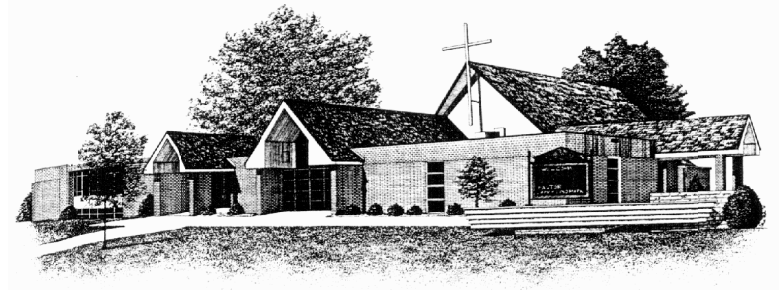


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

July 2022

Rev. Dr. Carrie Lewis La Plante

Rev. Heather Geest

500 W. LeClaire Road

Eldridge, IA 52748

(563) 285-4501

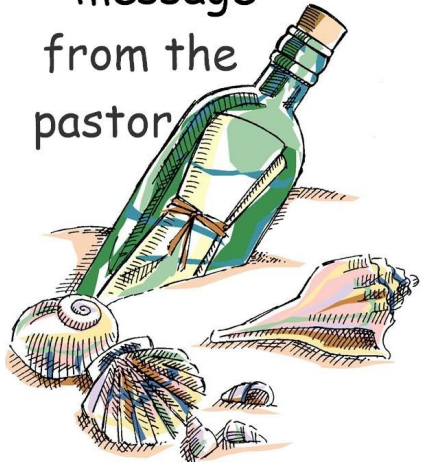
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From Pastor Carrie	Pages 2-4
Council Notes	Page 4
Special Invitation from Pastor Carrie	Page 6
Stewardship.....	Page 6
Fellowship and Worship & Music	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Synod Opportunity, Picnic Photos	Page 10
Anniversary Brunch & Churches United Meal	Page 11
VBS	Page 12
Lutheran Lakeside Camp	Page 13
Appreciation and Youth Mission Trip	Page 14
Birthdays, Anniversaries, & More	Page 15

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

message from the pastor



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have entered the season after Pentecost. This is the time in the church year when we learn what it means to follow Jesus beyond the festivals and pageantry of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The color for this season is green as this is a season for us to grow in our discipleship and our understanding of how it is that we follow Jesus. It is the longest season of the church year, perhaps because following Jesus in our daily lives is where we are called to center our lives.

Following Jesus is not always easy. As we have already learned in the stories that we have heard from Luke in these last weeks, following Jesus sometimes means having to tell Jesus' story to people we are not sure that we can trust as the Gerasene man was instructed to do after Jesus freed him from his demons. Following Jesus always means putting aside excuses and leaving behind some of the things that are important to us in order to move ahead to what Jesus is calling us to do as we learned from those who wished to follow Jesus last week. Following Jesus means going out and inviting others into God's work with our hands as there are many who need to hear the promise of God's love for them and God's mission can always use more people on board as Jesus' disciples learn when Jesus sends them out to do Jesus' work. In the weeks ahead, we will be reminded that following Jesus means loving all of our neighbors, even those we do not like very much, and we will find encouragement in God's wide and welcoming arms, even when we totally break God's heart. In all of these stories and so many more throughout these twenty some weeks, I pray that we will all renew our commitment to following Jesus as we consider new ways to share the good news of God's love with others, even when it is not the easiest thing to do.

As Mike Garner has written in his report of Council on page 4, we are so glad for all of the ways that we have been able to reengage in God's mission and ministry, following Jesus' call to serve our neighbors. As a pastor, it is wonderful to see the hustle

and bustle around the building during Feed Our Children as we share God's love not only with those who receive the meals, but also with those who prepare the meals. It is also heartwarming to see new and different members of the congregation stepping into leadership for this ministry and to continue to see the ways that God provides exactly what we need when we need it through so many members of the community.

It is fun to sit and "solve all of the world's problems" during our Tuesday afternoon Bible study (even though it will be taking a hiatus for several weeks). We are looking forward to the energy of VBS in a couple of weeks as we share the love of Jesus at "Shake It Up Café". I am looking forward to my two favorite weeks of the year, which will be back-to-back this year as I get to spend quality time with our youth and adults at Lutheran Lakeside Camp and with our high school youth on our mission trip to Nashville, which has been a serious challenge to plan this year, but which promises to be a lot of fun. There is also planning going on for the fall and beyond, and I am looking forward to all of the ways your creativity will abound as we follow Jesus into the future God has planned for us.

As Mike also mentions in his article, I will be taking some "respite" time during July and August. I want to take a moment to thank the Congregation Council and all of you for the respite time that has been allotted. While I will be doing church work through most of the time with camp, the mission trip and Churchwide Assembly, for me, these working opportunities are ways to rejuvenate, recharge, and feed my creativity for the future. I am grateful for the two extra weeks that will allow me to focus on my family in the midst of some serious health issues that we are facing. I give thanks for the colleagues who are willing to help cover pastoral care and who will share their gifts of preaching during this time as well. Pastor Heather will be taking her respite time sometime during the fall, and I am grateful that she will have that opportunity as well.

I pray that this summer is a time for relaxation and rejuvenation for all of you. I pray that you find time to celebrate life with family and friends. I pray that you can live into God's love for you as you continue to follow Jesus each and every day. I give thanks for all of you and for all that you do to share the love of Jesus.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie

CHURCH COUNCIL



Faith Lutheran Church has become a busy place again! It is so good to see so much good news being shared by so many. Bible study, parking lot picnic, Feed Our Children ministry, VBS, kids and adults going to Lutheran Lakeside, high school youth mission trip to Nashville, and so much more are in the works. In anticipation of all this happy busyness, and in recognition for the extra work put in by both Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather, the 2021 Congregation Council approved a plan to give each pastor some respite time to recharge and prepare to lead us forward. Pastor Carrie will be taking her planned respite care from July 17 - Aug 21. What this actually looks like is a week of VBS from July 10-14, followed by a week at Lutheran Lakeside with the kids and adult volunteers, followed by a week of mission work in Nashville with the high school youth, followed by a short break before attending Church Wide Assembly. Whew. Respite care sounds like a busy time. Now, imagine writing sermons for each weekend and all of the other activities of a normal work week. During the times when both pastors are away, Pastor Travis Fisher-King will be covering any pastoral needs that arise. Contact the office for any needs you may have. We will also have some wonderful pastors visit us and share their talents with us. Let's all welcome them warmly.

Please join me in thanking

- Ron Arp, Brad Merrick, Dennis Hennigan, Linda Szemkus, and anyone else who keeps our outdoors looking so nice!
- the Property Team for replacing the lights along the sidewalk.
- Women of Faith and all who donated plants to the plant sale.
- All of those helping get Feed Our Children ministry back up and running again.

The council meeting was held on June 16th. We are still hoping more people will join us as we try and implement Listening Post ideas. Parents of teenagers group? Movie trips to DeWitt theater? Book club? Game night? Service day in the community? Join us in making new memories and sharing faith through fellowship, stewardship, and mission. It was also decided to host another float in the Eldridge parade. It will be assembled the morning of

July 9th at Faith. Please join us in building or riding on the float. You get to throw candy! It was also noticed that the 70th anniversary of our founding will occur in 2023. Let's plan a celebration together!

Mike Garner, Council President, 563-349-4459



A Pastoral Invitation from Pastor Carrie

It is clear to me that the recent ruling of the Supreme Court on Dobbs vs. Jackson has deeply affected many people, including people in this very congregation. I do not intend to preach about the ruling itself or its impact on American law. Indeed, there are many who would say that preachers should stay out of politics altogether. However, this is not possible. As Christians we are citizens both of God's kingdom, eternally, and of this nation, temporarily. Our faith affects the way we live, act, and even vote. It is necessary to distinguish, however, that Christian faith, while political, must never be partisan. To put it another way, if you ever find yourself believing that any particular political party has advanced a platform that is in full alignment with the gospel of Jesus Christ, you have created an idol. God does not tolerate divided worship.

Because this has deeply affected many people, we, as followers of Jesus Christ, need to pay attention, and we need to be willing to have conversations around these topics, allowing people to opt in and out of conversations that have such deep personal implications. Therefore, I make this invitation: if you need someone for a one-on-one conversation about this, my door is open. If you are interested in listening, praying, thinking, and talking -in that order- with other members of this congregation, let me know, and we will organize a group for such conversations.



Giving...
 ...is a response to **God's
 boundless love** for us.
 ...is how we show our
gratitude for God's love by
 sharing with neighbors in need.

You can make a difference with your regular giving this summer!

We will send 16 children and 6 adults to Lutheran Lakeside for camp mission work, and 13 youth and 3 adults to Nashville for the High School Mission Trip. Through VBS, we will share God's love with children in our neighborhood. This is also the time of year our annual insurance is due.

If you are able to continue, or even increase, your regular giving during the summer to support these important ministries, it would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for sharing God's love in this place.

Regular Giving	5/31
Envelopes	\$132,783
Loose	\$1,660
Compassion Child	\$360
Mission Support	\$225
Altar Flowers	\$578
	\$ 135,606

Regular Giving Used For:	5/31
Pastors	\$ 66,252
Support Staff	\$ 28,293
Property/Administrative	\$ 22,668
Mission	\$ 16,738
Worship/Music	\$ 2,623
Family Ministries	\$ 1,528
Other Ministries	\$ 812
	\$ 138,914

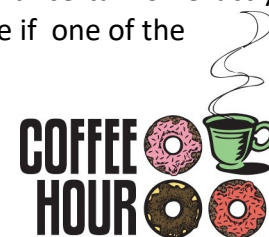
Fellowship (Coffee) Hour is back!

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



A special thank-you to our Faith Family Heads: Linda Golinghorst, Kelly Wyatt, Heather Duncan, Kelly Penning, Bob and Theresa White, Joni Schneider, Donna Gruenhagen, Mary Moore, Sue Braack, and Amy Murray for taking on that role and tirelessly calling and making sure we have ushers and readers (starting now again) for our worship experience. Please say yes when asked by them to help at worship so that we all can support the mission of Faith.



Worship at the Outdoor Chapel has returned for the summer. 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 July 10 and July 24 (weather permitting).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30am Food Pantry	2 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
3 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour	4 <i>Office Closed</i> 	5 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm-Food Pantry 6:30pm VFW (FH)	6 5:30pm High School Mission Trip Meeting	7 10am Feed Our Children 6:30pm Team Night	8 9:30am Food Pantry 	9 <i>Eldridge Summer Festival & Moonlight Chase</i> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
10 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel 10am Fellowship Hour& Camp Meeting 6pm-8pm VBS 	11 <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Exec Mtg. 6pm-8pmVBS 	12 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm Food Pantry 6pm-8pm VBS 	13 6-8pm VBS 6-9pm Summer Concert Series @ Sheridan Meadows 	14 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 10am Feed Our Children 6pm-8pm VBS 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 	15 9:30am Food Pantry 	16 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
17 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour Lutheran Lakeside Camp 	18 <i>Office Closed</i> 	19 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm Food Pantry 	20 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 	21 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 10am Feed Our Children 6:30pm Church Council Meeting  	22 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 9:30am Food Pantry    DEADLine	23 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
24 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel 10am Fellowship Hour 31 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour 	25 <i>Office Closed</i> 	26 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm Food Pantry  	27 	28 9am Ambassador Folding  	29 	30 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online  

Synod Opportunity to Engage with Others

Are you a person who may be interested in engaging with other people from our Synod on the topic of anti-racism?

If so, there is an opportunity that you may be interested in. The Southeast Iowa Synod has established a Facebook group with the following mission:

“The anti-racism network seeks to be an online space to share resources, ideas, and have discussions to enhance racial justice efforts throughout the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Whether you are full-time, part-time, a pastor, or volunteer, we welcome everyone who seeks to overcome racism in the communities in our synod.”

If you would like to see what the network is about, search Facebook for “Anti-Racism Network-SEIA”, or use this browser link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ARSEIA/>. From there, you can make a request to join the group. As with other Facebook groups, you can leave the group at anytime.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Linda Golinghorst, SEIA Anti-Racism Network Leadership Team member.



Church Picnic 2022



50th + ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH

On Sunday, August 14th after the 9:00 am church service, the Fellowship Team will be honoring those who have (or would have) celebrated 50+ years of marriage with a delicious Brunch.

Invitations will not be sent out this year, so please make sure to RSVP by either signing up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or by calling the church office (285-4501) by August 7th.

If you have questions regarding the Brunch, please call Melody Sawvell, Fellowship Chair at 563-940-3309.

Looking forward to celebrating with you!



ANNIVERSARIES

to Celebrate

CHURCHES UNITED MEAL - Service Opportunity

Churches United is a partnership of Quad City area churches that help to feed the hungry. Our church has volunteered to serve the July 18th meal at 5:45 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. The Service in the World committee has planned the menu and welcomes help from the congregation. There is a signup posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for Menu Items, Food Preparation and Serving The Meal. Please consider signing up if you would like to help feed the homeless.



Churches United Meal



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.



Congratulations Class of 2022!



Summer Camp

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.

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, July 10, after the worship service (approximately 10am). Please join us as we cover all last minute information for the week.



Adult Mission Trip to Lutheran Lakeside

All adults 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 June Ambassador Folding Crew:
Tom Bauer, Carol Marten, Carol Strobbe, Sue
Braack, Donna Benskin and Mary Moore.



We are excited to have the following youth and adults going on the summer mission trip to Nashville **July 24-30**: 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 many of you know, we are on our third iteration of this mission trip. We are now in need of making our own breakfasts and lunches. We will be traveling with Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minnesota. They will be providing the breakfast items, and we will be providing the lunch items. If you would like to support our mission trip by helping to provide some of the lunch items, please use the Sign-Up Genius link on our Facebook page or use this URL: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4BAFAA28A3FE3-mission>. All items will need to be at church by Friday, July 22. Thank you so much for your help as we seek to carry out God's mission together.



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

Patricia Reese	July 2	Becky Stutt	July 19
Mary Bender	July 3	Kay Friederichs	July 21
Kathleen Stoltz	July 6	Sally Puls	July 24
Cathy Henzen	July 7	Lynda Miller	July 24
Carol Marten	July 8	Craig Hirl	July 24
Ann Bainter	July 10	Allan Kluever	July 30
Marcia Donaubauer	July 13	Carol Strobbe	July 30
Sue Sissel	July 18		



Fred & Marilyn Jansen, July 17, 1955

Earl & Dorothy Kuhl, July 21, 1956



Food Panty Needs
Food Pantry Needs for the month of July are school supplies.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

THANK YOU to **Mike & Rita Smith** for sponsoring the **Bencke Family, John Chima** and **Denisse Grefa** in July.

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!

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

The Tuesday afternoon bible study is taking a break for the summer. We look forward to studying the scriptures together again beginning August 23.

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

