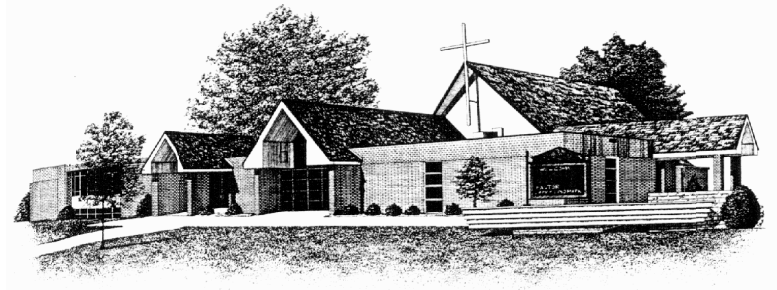


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

August 2022

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

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

www.faithlutheraneldridge.com
faitheldridge@netins.net



From Pastor Carrie	Pages 2-3
Council Notes & Stewardship Update.....	Pages 4 & 5
Anniversary Brunch, Outdoor Worship	Page 6
Summer Festival Parade & Adult Mission Trip	Page 6
VBS Recap & Rally Day	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Anniversary Brunch & Compassion Retreat	Page 10
Blessing of the Keys and Backpacks	Page 11
Youth Mission Trip News	Page 12
Youth Group & Confirmation Kick Off.....	Page 13
Appreciations, Baptisms, & Blood Drive	Page 14
Birthdays, Anniversaries, & More	Page 15

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been a busy month of July here at Faith, particularly with our youth. We started with a float in the Eldridge Summer Festival Parade to promote VBS and Feed Our Children. Thank you to Marla Zabel and Amanda Strom who made that vision come to life with the use of the Garners' truck and trailer.

We then jumped right in with "Shake It Up Cafe" VBS where we all learned about how to live God's recipe for life and love in this world. We enjoyed singing, dancing, doing crafts and amazing science experiments, hearing stories of God's promises for us through our ancestors and through Jesus, playing fun games in the front yard, and experiencing the antics of Chef Basil and Scraps the Racoon. We give thanks for all of the caring adults who came and made this week so special, especially our VBS Coordinators, Theresa White and Amy Powell. We also give thanks for all of the children who joined us and made the week so special. We are looking forward to next year already.

The next week, Pastor Heather and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at Lutheran Lakeside with 14 of our children and youth and our 7 adult mission trip volunteers. We were also overjoyed to have Katie Garner serving as a counselor and a nurse for the week we were there. We learned about God's boundless love, goodness, forgiveness, and promise through worship, Bible study, crafts, adventure experiences including zip-lining and rock climbing, and the Christ Hike. We enjoyed relaxing at the pool and at the lakefront as we enjoyed the beauty of God's creation. Many were also able to share their talents at the annual Variety Show. The adults did an amazing job of putting ladders on all of the bunk beds, putting new knobs on the cabin doors and cleaning and sealing the propane tanks that we decorated a few years ago. The highlight of each day was Congregation Time when we all got to be together to have some fun, whether it was being silly playing speak out, having diving contests at the pool, challenging one another at 9-square-in-the-air, carpetball and ga-ga ball, or enjoying time swimming and paddle boarding on the lake. We were an amazing kind of exhausted by the end of the week.

The following week, I had the pleasure of accompanying 11 youth and two other adult leaders on what we affectionately call Mission Trip 3.0 to

Nashville. We had an amazing experience meeting and serving with the youth from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minnesota. We had various experiences working with Tucker's House to renovate a house for a 4-year-old with Spina Bifida, working with Project Cure to sort medical equipment to be shipped to clinics around the world, working with the Village of Glen Cliff doing some maintenance work for those who are needing shelter as they are homeless following a medical procedure, and working with One Generation Away to prepare food items for their mobile food pantry. We had a good mix of working directly with clients and doing work for projects far more distant. We had a number of God winks where God placed amazing people in our path to share their stories with us and help us better understand the impact of our work. While our trip ended more abruptly than planned, we also had an amazing experience visiting Thistle Farms to hear about their work helping to get women out of prostitution, sex trafficking and domestic abuse situations, and we got to spend an afternoon relaxing at Nashville Shores Water Park. We took advantage of the amazing food in Nashville and got to get the Broadway experience as well. This amazing group of youth really went with the flow all year as things were constantly changing, and when our situation suddenly changed on Wednesday morning, they were "Flexible Faith," went with the flow, and continued to make every moment of the trip count! It was amazing!!

We hope you enjoy the glimpses of these adventures that are included in the pages of this Ambassador, and we invite you to go to our Facebook page (@FaithLutheranEldridge) to see more pictures and read more stories of all of the ways that God has been touching the lives of our people and the communities around us this summer and has been helping us grow in faith. God is boundless. God is amazing. God is love.

We now look forward to all that is ahead in this new program year. There is more information about many of the kick-offs at the end of the month in the following pages, so please read ahead for those. I hope and pray that you have an amazing remainder of the summer and a great start to the school year as we continue to share God's love wherever we go!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



CHURCH COUNCIL



Summer is flying by! I hope you have found a way to enjoy the season. Much has happened around Faith this summer. Adults and youth went to Lutheran Lakeside camp for fun and mission. Another group of adults and HS youth traveled to Nashville, TN to share their time and abilities with our neighbors, as well as grow in faith. Feed our Children has been making over 100 lunches every Tuesday and Thursday to feed kids in our communities who want a lunch. VBS was an energetic week of fun for both the kiddos and the adults who helped make it all happen. Check out the Faith Facebook page for the many updates and pictures to see all the fun that was had. When you recognize a face of two, ask them about their experience the next time you see them. I almost guarantee that you will hear something that builds your faith and leaves you inspired. As we look forward to the resumption of programming, Sunday school for all ages, confirmation class, youth group, adult Bible study and outreach in our community. Giving of your time is a gift to both the recipient and the giver.

Join us in thanking:

-The July ushers: Rhonda Webber, Nadine Schwartz, Carol Marten, Garry Mueller, Linda & Dave Golvinghorst, Betty and Mike Strom, Becky Stutt, Dave and Desiree McCammant, Mindy and Dennis Arp, Brad and Janet Merrick

-Marla Zabel for leading the building of the parade float, as well as all who rode on or helped decorate.

The council meeting was held on July 21st. In light of the fact that offerings have been lower than the expenses in recent months, the council decided to meet in July instead of taking the month off as is typical. The meeting was devoted to the discussion of ways to inspire giving so we can continue to support all the great missions that are currently happening through this place, as well as making sure that every expense is as efficient as possible. Areas that could possibly be cut, without affecting mission, were also discussed. Existing savings is covering the shortfall for now, but hard choices may have to be made in the future. Please consider making an extra gift or increasing your weekly/monthly offering in support of the impactful activities at Faith. The ongoing support of all members is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue the work of Jesus through our ministries.

Mike Garner, council president
563-349-4459



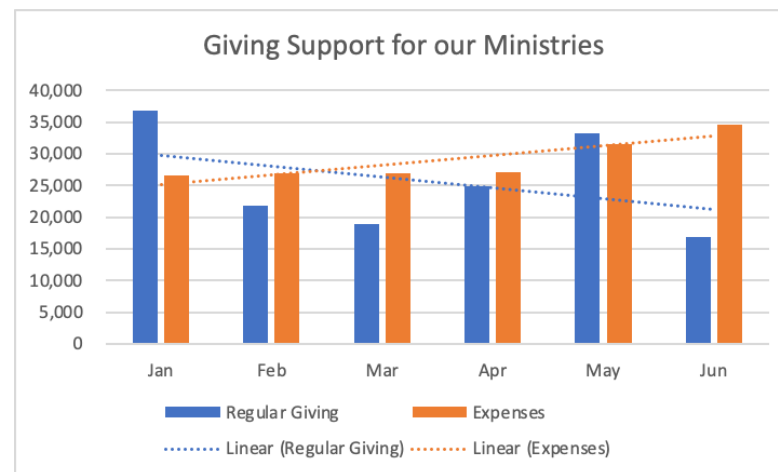
Giving is a response to **God's boundless love** for us. **Giving** is how we show our **gratitude for God's love** by sharing with neighbors in need.

You can make a difference with your regular giving this summer! We supported some of our most important ministries like VBS, Bible Camp, Adult Mission and High School Mission during the

summer, and now, it is time for our Fall Family Ministries again.

We are very thankful for the involvement of so many people in our church and community this summer. However, we are in need of financial giving right now if you are able to help more with regular offerings.

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



Following the request at the annual meeting of the congregation, **the second 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).



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 August 7 and August 21 (weather permitting).



Eldridge Summer Festival & Parade

Thank you again to those who made this fun activity possible! It was a fun afternoon of



The Adult Mission Volunteers (Tom Bauer, Carrie Keppy, Scott La Plante, Nina Looney, Michelle Mess, Mary Moore, and Denise Westendorf)drove campers to Lutheran Lakeside for their spiritual journey.



Our camp projects included: installing ladders on 65 bunk beds, changing door knobs and lock systems on 12 cabins, installing a net behind the archery range, and washing the LP tanks which we had

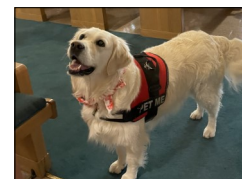
previously painted. Michelle also helped with the tie dye projects for the campers. We spent Congregational time with the campers playing Speak Out, swimming, and playing 9 square. We joined the pastors in the Escape Room, zip lining, and some of us actually got to sail. God is alive at Lakeside.

Come and join us next year!





Recap VBS 2021 Shake it Up Café—Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe

Thank you to all who made for an awesome week of summer Vacation Bible School July 10-14. What an amazing witness to the power of God and the strength of God's Word as children from all over our neighborhood experienced God's love in community.



Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 11th All kids ages 3 through 6th grade!

More info in September's Ambassador!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 6pm Lions Club Mtg.	2 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm-Food Pantry 6:30pm VFW (FH)	3	4 10am Feed Our Children 6:30pm Team Night	5 9:30am Food Pantry 	6 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
7 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel 10am Fellowship Hour	8 Office Closed 6pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	9 Office 9-12 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm-Food Pantry	10 Office 9-12 6-9pm FREE Summer Concert Series @ Sheridan Meadows 	11 Team Reports Due 10am Feed Our Children 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	12 9:30am Food Pantry 	13 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
14 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour & Anniversary Brunch <i>Anniversary Celebration</i>	15 Office Closed	16 10am Feed Our Children 5:30pm Food Pantry	17	18 10am Feed Our Children 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	19 9:30am Food Pantry 	20 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
21 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel— <i>Blessing of Keys and Backpacks</i> 10am Fellowship Hour	22 Office Closed 	23 5:30pm Food Pantry 	24	25	26 9:30am Food Pantry 	27 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
28 9am Worship in Sanctuary 10am Fellowship Hour 31 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel 10am Fellowship Hour	29 Office Closed	30 5:30pm Food Pantry 	31  9am Ambassador Folding 5:45pm Confirmation Mtg w/Pizza & 7pm HS Youth Kick Off!			



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!

How Strong is Your Compassion "Muscle"? Find out at

LIVING COMPASSION for the Sake of the World

Saturday, August 20

8:30 am - Noon

Grace Lutheran Church
1140 E. High St. | Davenport, IA

Cost: FREE

- ✓ What is compassion?
- ✓ What are the principles for developing compassion?
- ✓ How can we grow our compassion?
- ✓ How did Christ model compassion?
- ✓ How can we live with compassionate hearts?

The pandemic, political divisions, climate change, and other world events have increased our feelings of fear, judgment, and distrust. And we don't have to live like this.

Through compassion, we can live in a kinder, gentler way for the sake of ourselves and others.

Learn how to strengthen your compassion muscle and put it into action for the benefit of yourselves and others.

Register Online at bit.ly/Aug20Retreat or call 563-322-0769



Featured Speaker

Pastor Elaine K. Olson
MDiv, LCPC, Certified Spiritual Director



Blessing of the keys

High School Faith Milestone Blessing of the Keys

As our children begin high school, there are many milestones that they will begin to come across. One of those milestones is learning to drive, from getting the permit to driver's ed to getting a license. We would like to help these youth and parents to mark that milestone in worship with a "Blessing of the Keys". On **Sunday, August 21**, during the 9:00 am worship service, we will invite any High School students who are new drivers to come forward with their parents as we pray over them and provide them with a small token to mark this time in their lives. We will also be providing each family with a sample "contract" which can help families to have conversation around proper use of the car. We hope that all of our new drivers and their families will be present for this milestone as we begin this new school year.



Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, & School Workers

On the weekend of **August 20 and 21**, we invite all children and youth who are starting back to school to bring their backpacks to worship at 5:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am on Sunday. During the Children's message, we will do a blessing of backpacks to pray God's blessing on the backpacks and on the children who will wear them this year. We will then offer a blessing over the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, janitors, kitchen staff and others as they prepare to head back to school. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of the new year!



The week of July 24, 11 youth and three chaperones made the trip to Nashville (including 402 long miles through Illinois) for a week filled with learning, building relationships, serving, and growing together in their faith together. Joined by members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN, our mission team stayed at Christ Lutheran Church, and the teams from the churches affected change in

Nashville and the surrounding communities. With two activities per day, our Faith Lutheran team partnered with Tucker's Place, Project CURE, Village at Glencliff, and One Generation Away during their time. The church has been actively posting pictures on our Facebook page in an album, so feel free to go take a look for more!



High School Youth Group Kick-Off

It is hard to believe that we are heading back into the school year, but as we do, we also head into a new year of Youth Group. In order to get the year kicked off, we invite all high school youth and their parents to join us for a conversation about plans for the year, including how often we would like to meet, the kinds of activities we would like to do, the 2023 mission trip, and possible local mission activities. We will meet on **Wednesday, August 31, at 7pm. A dessert will be provided!**

Please sign up online using the link on our website (www.faithlutheraneldridge.org), or call the office at 285-4501 **by Friday, August 26**. We encourage you to invite friends. More information will be coming in a letter soon. See you there!



Confirmation Kick Off A New Year for Confirmation

It is time to begin our Confirmation Conversations again, so it is time to have a **mandatory student/parent meeting and pizza party**. All 7th and 8th Graders and their parents and siblings are invited to a pizza party and Confirmation kick-off meeting on **Wednesday, August 31, at 5:45 pm**. At this meeting we will go over expectations and opportunities for the year as well as the calendar of events. There will be a formal letter coming in the mail with more information, so for now, please just save the date and time for the meeting.

Please let us know how many from your family will be coming so that we can be sure to have enough food for everyone using the link on our website (www.faithlutheraneldridge.org), or call the office at 285-4501 **by Friday, August 26**.

*P.S. Our first week of the regular class schedule will be the following **Wednesday, September 7**, beginning with a meal at 5:00 pm and our Confirmation Conversations from 5:30-6:45 pm.*



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our July Ambassador Folding Crew:
Carol Marten, Sue Casel, Carol Strobbe,
Sue Braack, and Mary Moore.



We welcome to our Faith family, through the waters of Holy Baptism, Lucas James Messerich and Lynlee Monroe Ambrosy.

Lucas, son of Michael and Abby Messerich, was baptized on July 3, 2022. His sponsors are Amy Rose and Garret Moenk.

Lynlee, daughter of Austin and Justine Ambrosy, was baptized on July 31, 2022. Her sponsors are Paige Schlapkohl and Conner Ambrosy.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting a Blood Drive with the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. The need for blood increases during the summer months. Please mark the calendar and consider donation.

Call Tom Carlson @ (319)231-0845 or
E-mail Tom at Carlson.thomas@mchsi.com
Thank You!

Monday, October 24th
Time TBD

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 W. LeClaire Rd, Eldridge, IA 52748
www.faithlutheraneldridge.com



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

David Griffin	August 5	Connie Braet	August 21
Betty Griffin	August 7	Doug Garner	August 22
Donna Knapper	August 7	Vi Westphal	August 26
Deloris Schatz	August 9	Mark Copley	August 29
Harold Nelson	August 12	Jeanne Willems	August 30



Rob & Pam White August 3, 1968
Sally & James Hamann August 28, 1971



Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of August are canned peas, carrots, and jelly.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

THANK YOU to **Mary Moore** for sponsoring the **Bencke Family**, **John Chima** and **Denisse Grefa** in August. 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!*



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.

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



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
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Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

