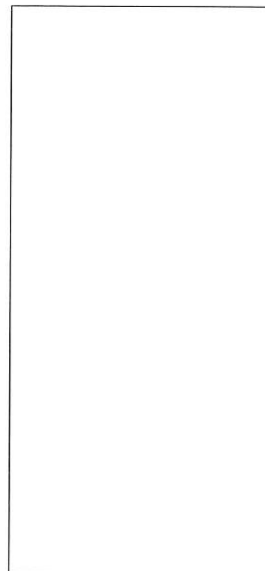
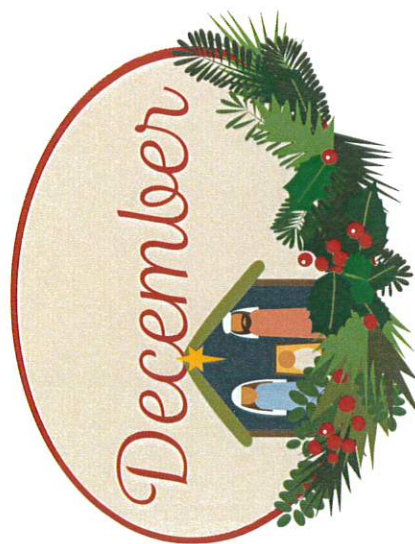


Please Join Us For Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am In Person. Fellowship Hour is at 10am Sunday. Sunday School for children and adults is at 10:15 am. Updates: [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com), and on our Facebook page.

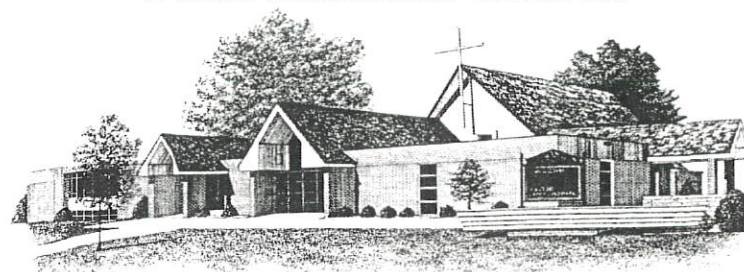
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
500 W. LeClaire Road  
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Faith Lutheran Church



# AMBASSADOR

December 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,

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous*

*man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:18-23)*

There is a deep mystery to the season of Advent. From the time of the very announcement by the angel to a very confused Joseph about this miraculous pregnancy, this meditative season is integrally linked to the waiting and wondering that accompany pregnancy and birth. Just as pregnancy gives the parents-to-be time to adjust to the prospect of a new child, so this season provides opportunity for the church to step back from the surrounding busy-ness and breathe in the wonder, the expectation, the miracle of the coming celebration of the incarnation. But all too often we rush through this season of anticipation, reaching the conclusion of Christmas all too soon.

For children, the season of Advent is just too long. They want to get to Christmas, to the baby Jesus, the shepherds, the wise men, the Christmas tree and the presents. For adults, the season is far too short, as we try to fit in all of the parties, shopping and decorating in four short weeks. But in the midst of the craziness of the world around us during this season, as Christians it is important for us to take time to appreciate the beauty of this season of anticipation. To rush this profound gestation time of Advent to its conclusion will result in an underdeveloped, premature Christmas celebration.

But Advent is more than just preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. Advent is also about looking to the future, anticipating the time when Christ will come again. It is a time to live in the joy of knowing that Jesus has come and to live in the hope of his promised return. It is a time to bring the past, the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, and the future, the promise that Christ will return to bring us to new and eternal life, together in the present, challenging us to

envision God's future and to live that future as a present reality. It is a time to live trusting that the promises of God in Jesus hold us in the midst of the joy and fear we face in the world around us. Advent is about the very real inbreaking of God's future and God's past into the present *here*.

So as we light the candles of the Advent wreath this year and the glow grows brighter, we are called to the brightness of great expectations for this new year. The anticipation that we feel in the season of Advent should be just as exciting and stirring as the celebration of Christmas. It is a time for the living God to reach into our lives, to remind us of all that God has done for us in the past, to show us God's plans for the future, and to call us to live our lives now filled with God's spirit of mercy, justice and love for all people and for the whole world.

Yes, Advent, the season of waiting, watching, and wondering, is an anomaly in our frantic, fast-paced culture. Yet, God calls us to step out of the madness that tends to afflict us this season and to reflect on the hope and wonder, the joy and love that this season brings. In this season of anticipation, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit now and always.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Carrie

Support the High School Mission Trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico

We have 20 youth who are very excited about their adventure to Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 22-29, 2023. They are looking forward to the people they will meet, the

places they will see, the things they will learn, and the ways in which God will challenge their faith in a new and different place.

In order to make this trip a reality, we will be doing different fundraisers throughout the year. The first one is a webstore with Faith Lutheran swag, including everything from T-shirts to fleeces to hats. The youth like having their trip shirts, and they thought the congregation members might like to have some Faith swag as well. You can find the webstore at <https://adcraftwebstores.com/failthlutheranchurchwinter2022/>.

The webstore will remain open through Monday, December 5, so shop quickly. Thank you for your support of this adventure!



# Church COUNCIL

Advent is here already! The season of waiting seems both, rushing at us, and yet Christmas seems so far away at the same time. The busyness, the joy of giving, the opportunity to share time and purpose with those around us. As we transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who give their time to Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge, Iowa. I am also looking forward to seeing new faces join in the busyness, the joy of giving, and the opportunity to share time and purpose with those around us. The nominating team is working to find the next batch of leaders called to join council and other volunteer roles here at Faith. However, you don't need to have your name on a ballot to be part of Faith. Like social gatherings? Fellowship has a place for you to lend a hand. Enjoy fixing things? Property. Love music? Worship and Music. Love to share the energy of our young people? Youth team or Christian Education. Like spreading God's word in our community? Evangelism or Service in the World. Enjoy encouraging others? Stewardship encourages each of us to see the gifts of time, talent and treasure that each of us have. Each of these teams are made up of people just like you sharing their talents as a member of the team. I promise you, I have spent five years on council, and I have received so much more than I have given. The rewards are uncountable.

Join me in thanking:

-The entire property team for all of their time deciding the hard questions about replacing the roof over Fellowship hall.

The regular council meeting was held on November 17th. Budget proposals for 2023 are being reviewed, the nominating committee is hard at work, where the special Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings will be donated was chosen. The council also approved the replacement of the roof over Fellowship hall after a thorough discussion. Spending that much money is never an easy decision, but as you will read in Dan's article, the need was inescapable.

Mike Garner, Council President  
563-349-4459



## Worship With Us THIS Christmas

## Christmas Worship Opportunities

Please join us for all of our worship celebrations in the Christmas season!

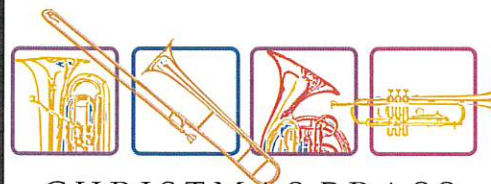
On Christmas Eve, worship services will be held in person at 2:00pm, 4:00pm and 9:00pm. The 2:00pm and 4:00pm candlelight services will be particularly appropriate for children. The 9:00 p.m. service will be a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Christmas Day at 9:00 am,, we will gather for a quieter celebration of Christmas utilizing a service centered on Martin Luther's Christmas hymn, *From Heaven Above*.

Online Options: The 4:00pm and 9:00pm services on Christmas Eve will be streamed online, as well as the 9:00 am Christmas Day service. On Christmas Eve, we invite you to have a candle available to light at the end of the service as we sing Silent Night. For all of the online services, we invite you to have bread and wine or grape juice available to celebrate Holy Communion.

On December 31 at 5:00 pm and January 1 at 9:00 am, we will do the service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. Join us as we hear the story of Jesus from the prophets to the Word made flesh and sing many of our favorite Christmas carols.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with you this Christmas season.



## CHRISTMAS BRASS

## Christmas Brass Is Back

On **Sunday December 4**, the brass quartet will return to play many of your favorite Christmas carols before, during, and after the service. Come and enjoy the sounds of Advent and Christmas!





### Christmas Breakfast

Please join our Sunday School students as they will be sharing "The Christmas Story" with you on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 am service. Also, join us for the Congregational Breakfast afterwards in Fellowship Hall. *Sign Up to bring or make something*

*for the breakfast on the bulletin board, online through our website*

*www.faithlutheraneldridge.com, or using the link: https://*

*www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-congregational. Hope to see everyone there!!!*

*Please note—there is no Children's Sunday School on December 18, December 25, or January 1. Children's Sunday School resumes January 8.*

### CHRISTMAS



### PROGRAM



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion assistants to serve during Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up.

***Thank you for helping with worship!***

### Angel Ornaments

**Thank you** to the Krebs Family for making angel ornaments which will be given to the children at our Christmas Eve Services! This is the sixth year the family has made these special keepsakes for our children, keeping with the tradition that was started by the Jenkins family over 30 years ago. We appreciate their generosity and time to keep this beautiful tradition alive.

### Christmas flowers



If you wish to contribute toward Christmas poinsettias 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. We are asking for a contribution of \$10.00 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 Christmas Eve worship bulletin.



### Stewardship Gifts



Thank you for your generous giving to Faith Lutheran Church throughout 2022. You have helped make all the ministry in and through this place possible. As you consider your end of year gifts, please note that all contributions that you wish to have counted for 2022 must be received in the office by **noon on December 30th**. Thank you!





















Our Christmas Special Offering this year will be split equally between Humble Dwellings and Lutheran Lakeside Camp.

Humble Dwellings is an Eldridge based non-profit with the mission "To restore dignity and hope to those less fortunate by transforming their living space into a warm and inviting home, using gently donated furniture and household items."



Faith has been associated with Lutheran Lakeside Camp since its founding in 1960. Hundreds of our children, youth, and adults have experienced God presence and growth in faith through Lutheran Lakeside.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 9am Ambassador  6:30 pm Team Night	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry  5:30 pm Eldridge Hometown Holiday	<b>3</b> 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 6 pm Private Event (FH) 
<b>4</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>5</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Club Mtg	<b>6</b> 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW (FH) 6:30 pm Jubilation	<b>7</b> 5 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	<b>8</b> <i>Team Reports Due</i> 6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	<b>10</b> 5 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
<b>11</b> 9 am Jubilation Worship w/Children's Program 10 am Congregational Breakfast	<b>12</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	<b>13</b> 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	<b>14</b> 10 am Grand Haven 5 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	<b>16</b> 12:30 pm-3:00 pm Food Pantry Basket Dist.  <b>DEADLine</b>	<b>17</b> 9 am-10 am Food Pantry Basket Dist. 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
<b>18</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Usher Training	<b>19</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>20</b> 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	<b>21</b> 6:15 pm People of Praise 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry 	<b>24</b> 2 pm Worship in Sanctuary 4pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 9pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
<b>25</b> 9 am Worship in Sanctuary & Online 	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>27</b> 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9am Ambassador 	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry  2022 Year End Offerings DUE BY NOON	<b>31</b> 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 



## REPLACE THE ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Faith Lutheran Members and Friends,

I wanted to share with you a major expenditure about to take place here at Faith Lutheran and the reasons behind it, along with a plan to help pay for it.

The roof over the Fellowship Hall and the Education West Wing needs replacing. We have had several ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall with water damage. After replacing them, followed by a rainy weekend, more tiles were damaged, which prompted a call to Giese Roofing Contractors in Park View to come inspect the roof. Some patch work was done, and at the time, Giese said our roof would need replacing in 3-5 years. We requested a bid on the price, and the estimate came back at \$65,000. Fast forward a couple of weeks with more rain, more water damage and a follow-up call to Giese. Again, more patch work was required, and the general manager from Giese suggested we contact our insurance company about possible hail damage. An adjuster came from Des Moines and determined no hail damage but did confirm the roof needed replaced.

In the interim, Giese came back to us with another quote. Having just finished a major job, they had materials left over that they would be willing to donate, and as this is a slow period for them, they could do the replacement for \$50,000, a 23 percent cost reduction. The council considered this proposal and realized we need to act now rather than later as ultimately the roof will have to be replaced and at a substantially higher cost. With the council approval, Giese was contacted, and their plan is to begin work the week of November 27, weather permitting. The job is expected to take about a week.

Faith Lutheran currently has the funds to pay for the replacement, but this would drain the funds, and we really do not want to do that as those funds may be required for other emergencies. A plan is to have a **REPLACE THE ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** to raise the required funding. We are asking the membership to contribute in any way you can to this campaign. We all realize this is a large amount of money, but we also realize our church is soon to be 70 years old and upkeep and repairs are a necessity. It is all our responsibility to see our beautiful church



maintained for today and future generations to come.

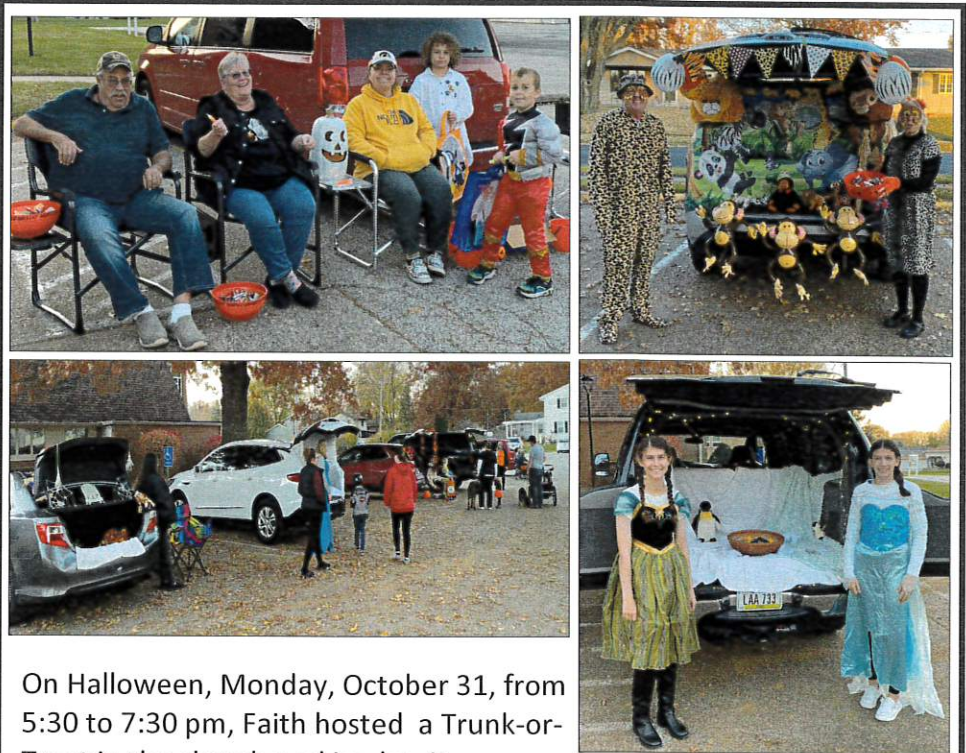
We, the church council are excited about our rebounding from the pandemic and new faces, young and old, participating. As we continue to grow, we look forward to many years of continuing to follow our faith here at Faith Lutheran Church.

In closing, I ask and pray for your support in this project. I am aware some can give more, some less, but hopefully all are able to give something as our church needs all of us.

If you wish to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope, mark it Roof Campaign and get it to the church.

Thank you for your consideration.

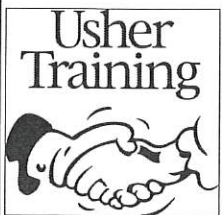
Dan O'Flaherty, Property Team Lead



On Halloween, Monday, October 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Faith hosted a Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot. It was a joy to see our members, neighbors and friends in fellowship. *Thank you for making this night special for the children in our neighborhood.*

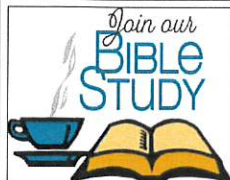
**TRUNK OR TREAT**





**Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...**  
The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of our safety plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. Quarterly training will be held on **Sunday, December 18, @ 10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!

**Contact Tom Bauer for more information.**



### 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.



### Sunday Morning Adult Education in December

You are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am for Adult Education. We are continuing our study of **Honoring our Neighbors Faith**. The goal of the study is to learn more about other Christian traditions and other religions to help us to better understand our neighbors and how they understand God. This is a high level introduction to this topic, but it is sure to bring lively conversation and help us to find ways in which we can work together with our brothers and sisters from other faith traditions. We hope that you will join us for these conversations.



### THANK YOU!

Our church served the meal for Churches United on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. We served 58 meals! **Thank you** to all who donated food, and helped prepare, load, transport, and serve the meal.



## Mark Your Calendars - Cheeseburger In Paradise Returns!



Cheeseburger In Paradise Potluck will return to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 4th, 2023!!!! The Fellowship Team will provide cheeseburgers, condiments, table service and drinks. Please sign up by January 25th, 2023, either on the bulletin board or online and include what side dish you plan to bring, so we can plan accordingly for the cheeseburgers!

There will be games for the kids to play (Bags, Hula Hoop, Limbo, Flamingo Ring Toss to name a few). Sign up for Door Prizes: Child and Adult. Other prizes to be awarded: Best Hawaiian/Tropical attire. Who has the Whitest Legs at Faith? – We shall soon find out!

Hope to see you all there – *The Fellowship Team*



### Give something unexpected this Christmas!

Thank you for your support of the ELCA Good Gifts program. It is a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with gifts that make a difference in the world. Choose from more than 50 gift-giving options, each with the ability to make real, lasting change in the life of someone in need. You may give on-line using this link [goodgifts.elca.org](https://goodgifts.elca.org) or in-person at Faith Lutheran Church.

In-person giving is easy:

1. Select an ornament with a symbol of the item you wish to purchase, write your names on it and place it on the tree.
2. Place your donation in the drop box, please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church.
3. Select a card to let friends and loved ones know about the ELCA Good Gifts that have been given in their honor.

*Thank you for your generosity during  
the holidays to help abate world  
hunger!*

ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS  
CATALOG







On Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed the following individuals and families to Faith:

Chelsey, Charlie, and Maria Dingbaum  
Joann Holston



During the Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Roland William Flenker, the son of Nathan & Angela Flenker. Roland' sponsors are Grant & Hailey Flenker.

### 2023 Offering Envelopes



Our 2023 offering envelopes have been ordered for families that are not signed up for automatic giving. **We will let you know when they are available to pick-up at the church.** If you are unable to pick them up, you may email or call the church office to arrange for someone to drop them off at your home.

Thank you for your generosity towards our mission!

### With Appreciation...

**Thank you** for all of the kindness shown to the entire Faith Lutheran staff during our Pastor and Staff appreciation month in November. All of the notes and gifts are so appreciated and warm our hearts. It is a pleasure and privilege to serve this congregation and community.

**Thank you** to our November Ambassador Folding Crew: Carol Marten, Sue Casel, Carol Strobbe, Donna Benskin, and Tom Bauer.

**Thank you** to Nancy Meyer, Sue Oetzmann, Sharie Gardner and Nadine Schwarz for decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. It looks so festive!



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

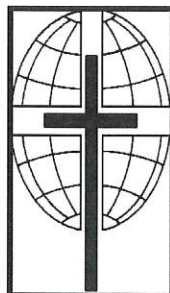
Doug Olson	December 1	Richard Cole	December 16
Carol Judge	December 7	Dennis Hennigan	December 16
Mary Moore	December 8	Susan Whitney	December 29



The North Scott Food Pantry thanks the Faith Lutheran Church congregation for food collections and monetary donations. Also, thank you for your time volunteering at the Food Pantry, picking up items from various locations, answering the phone calls and allowing for the Pantry to be located on the premises. This past year has been challenging for all, but we continue with our motto "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Hoping everyone has a Blessed Holiday!



### MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP



**THANK YOU** to **Jim & Ida Weibel** for sponsoring the **Bencke Family** and **John Chima**, and to the **La Plante Family** for sponsoring **Denisse Grefa** in December. 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!**



**IT'S Time** for snow removal volunteers! If you could help clear sidewalks after a snowfall, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or online using the link on our web site: [www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com).

**Thank you for your help!**

