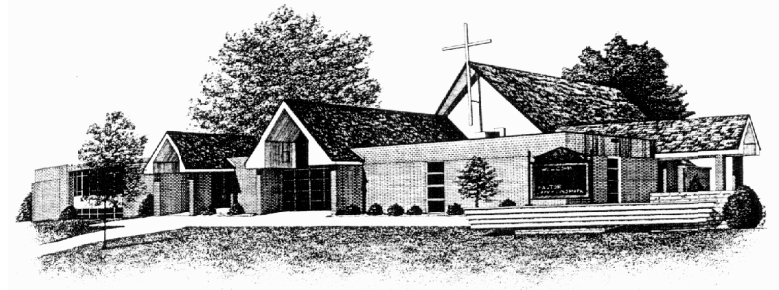


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

February 2023

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

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I mentioned in my 2022 Annual Report, as I was going through pictures of our activities and events, worship and fellowship, community service and celebration, I was filled with excitement and hope as the energy that has been flowing through this place in recent months filled me again. It brought to mind one of my favorite verses from Isaiah:

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert" (43:19)

God has always called us to be God's presence in this place, yet, how we have shared the love of Jesus has changed over the years. I can feel that shift happening again as new ministry ideas are beginning to emerge as we think about how we continue to be and share the love of Christ here at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. God is doing something new here, and we are beginning to perceive the new ways in the wilderness and rivers in the desert that God is creating in our midst.

The season of Lent, which we will enter at the end of the month, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 22, will offer us an opportunity to do a couple of new things that God is opening us to. The first of these opportunities is to have a weekly meal provided on Wednesday evening. We know that we are all busy, and to add Lenten worship on Wednesday after an already busy day can be hard. It can be particularly hard when you need to feed yourself and your family before coming to worship. Thus, the Congregation Council has decided to provide a meal each Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:30 pm during Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we will have our annual soup supper where anyone can sign up to share their favorite soup or try something new, and the Confirmation youth will serve that meal. For the following five weeks, one of the ministry teams will serve the meal. We will share what will be served each week in the March Ambassador as well as on our Facebook page once all of the menus have been determined. A free



will offering will be accepted to help offset the cost of the meals. We hope that you will choose to join us for this meal and opportunity for fellowship, and then, you will join us for worship 7:00 pm.

The second of these new opportunities comes with these Lenten worship services. While we will continue to use *Holden Evening Prayer* as the basis for our worship, the message for these services will be conversational. Our theme for our Wednesday evening worship services will be *Ask*, and throughout Lent, we will ask and converse about questions of faith. After all, we all have questions about God and faith and our relationships with God and one another. Sometimes we are told that our questions are unfaithful and true faith requires certainty in all things. But what if faith requires us to ask questions? What if we need questions to survive and grow as a community of faith? What if relationship with God requires questions?

To be honest, if we read scripture carefully, we discover that questions are everywhere. There are hundreds of questions from the Garden of Eden to the very first words Jesus utters after the resurrection in the Gospel of John. Some of these questions are pesky. Some prefer to hide in the shadows and never be noticed. Some shout loudly, repeatedly, and beg attention. Some go with us to the grave. Once we start noticing the questions, we begin to see them everywhere. Like our biblical ancestors so long ago, we have plenty of questions that we carry, that we wish to share with others, to which we seek to find answers, even when the answers are far beyond us.

So each Wednesday in Lent, we will use one of the readings from the previous Sunday and dig deeper into the questions that surround the reading. We will offer opportunities to be in conversation with those whom you know well and those whom you might just be meeting. Our hope is that through asking our questions together, we will be able to grow in relationship with God and with one another in this Lenten season as we do something new together.

So we invite you to bring your family and friends on Wednesdays this Lent to join us for a meal, fellowship and worship as we ask faithful questions of God and one another as we grow our faith together.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie



With the completion of the annual meeting a few days ago (I am guessing on when you will get this), we are looking forward to a new year, new council members, and new excitement in this place. I look forward to all of the ways that we all work together to share God’s love in and from this place. However, as I look forward, I would also like to look back for just a moment to thank the outgoing council members.

Join me in thanking:

- Melody Sawvell for serving as the Fellowship team leader for 6 years and as vice president for 3 of those years.
- Linda Golingerhorst for serving 3 years as Evangelism team lead, 2 years as council president, and 1 year as Stewardship team lead
- Matt Peck for 3 years as Evangelism team lead and being instrumental in setting up our camera equipment and processes for streaming our services online.

The regular council meeting was held January 19th. The Sanctuary Update Team previewed the presentation that they will make to the congregation during the annual meeting proposing exciting new possibilities for the worship space. The final preparations for the annual meeting of the congregation on Jan 29th were finalized as well as a draft of the annual report was reviewed. Throughout Lent, meals will be offered each Wednesday from 5-6:30 before the service. This is a meal for all. I hope you join us and enjoy some fellowship and not having to plan a meal one night.

Mike Garner, Council President
563-349-4459



THANK YOU to all who contributed to the fund to replace our aging roof over Fellowship Hall and the Education Wing. Our goal of \$50,000 has been met!
Thank you for helping us Replace the Roof!

****Help for Faith Family Heads****

Prior to each month one of the 10 Family Heads calls or emails the members on their family list to find the individuals willing to serve at worship as ushers, lectors, and communion assistants. We need to update the list of members willing to serve anytime when the Family Head cannot find volunteers on their list for the month. Please use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board to indicate your interest and availability. Thank you for your support.

We are looking for two Family Heads to help with scheduling worship assistants. If you feel called to serve let me or church know.

Faith Family 9 – Ushers, Readers or Communion Assistants for March I mistakenly contacted most of you for February. I was incorrect and ask that you look at your schedules for March instead. You can signup for March online using the link on Faith’s website, using the paper signup on the church bulletin board, or giving me a call. I apologize for the confusion. Any member can sign up anytime if interested in helping.

Sincerely, Nina Looney, Worship and Music Team Leader



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTIFICATION

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 22, 2023 | 10:15 am Budget Meeting |
| January 29, 2023 | 9:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting ,
following a brief worship service
(Review of Reports, Election of Congregational
Leaders, 2021 Budget Approval) |
| January 29, 2023 | Immediately following the annual meeting
Special Meeting (Election of Officers) |
- Budgets will be available by January 22nd for pick up at church.



Mark Your Calendars - Cheeseburger In Paradise Returns!

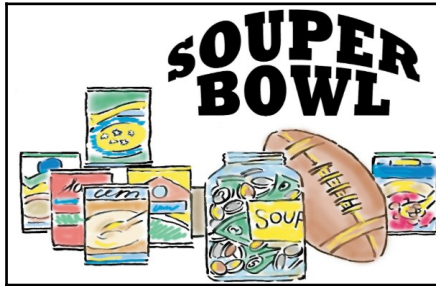


Cheeseburger In Paradise Potluck will return to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 4th, 2023!!!! The Fellowship Team will provide cheeseburgers, condiments, table service and drinks.

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*



Root for Your Favorite Team and
Support the North Scott Food Pantry
By Dropping off Your Canned Soup Donations
at the church
January 28th-February 12th



The current North Scott Food Pantry needs are soup, pasta, and hot cereal. Thank you!

Mission Trip Update

We have 20 youth who are planning to join us for our mission trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico, this summer. They are excited for the opportunities that will come with this trip, and they look forward to sharing our experiences with you.



In order to make this trip a reality, our youth will be doing several fundraisers throughout the year to help pay for the trip. The next fundraiser will be the **Super Bowl Sandwich and Caramel Chex Mix Sale**. The order forms will be available on the Welcome Center, on our Facebook page and on our website.

Pick-up will be
on Super Bowl

Youth
Super Bowl










Weekend, February 11 and 12, around the worship services. Order forms will need to be received by the end of the day on January 29. We look forward to helping to provide your Super Bowl Sunday treats, and **thank you** in advance 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 a link on our web page.

Thank you for your help!

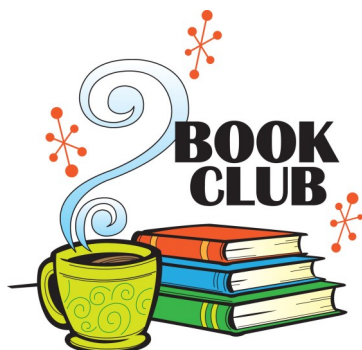


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	2 1:00 pm Food Pantry Board Meeting 6:30 pm Team Night	3 9:30 am Food Pantry 	4 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online  6 pm Cheeseburger in Paradise
5 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	6 <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Club Mtg.	7 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30pm VFW (FH) 7pm Jubilation	8 5 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	9 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 6:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm WOF Board Meeting	10 9:30 am Food Pantry 	11 5 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online  * Youth Sub Sandwich Sale
12 9 am Jubilation Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School * Youth Sub Sandwich Sale	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 6pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	14 9 am Quilting (FH) 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	15 5 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	16 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting Zoom 	17 9:30 am Food Pantry 	18 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
19 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 9 am Quilting (FH) 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 9 am Ambassador Folding 6:30 pm WOF Bible Study 7:15 pm Resounding Joy	24 9:30 am Food Pantry 	25 5 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
26 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 7pm Jubilation				



Just a reminder that the Church Library is stocked with books for all ages - we would like you to check out a book and experience the thrill of reading a good book - or maybe check out some cookbooks. Hopefully, we have something for everyone. We just ask that you follow the simple rules for checking out a book, and returning the book when finished reading it.

The Library Committee would like to know if there is any interest in starting a book club. We would love to start one if there is interest. Please let Lynda Miller, Sue Sissel or Karen Schmitt know your interest. Maybe you have a favorite book you would like to share with others. The rest of us could check the book out of a library or purchase our own copy. We look forward to hearing about your interest in this.



WOMEN OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY



Join us for a four-session study of the 10 Commandments from the Gather magazine. The second session will on February 23 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering area. We will look at "Rhythms and Respect Commandments 3 and 4". Extra copies of this session will be available.



A friend
loves
at all times.

Proverbs 17:17



Midweek Lenten Worship

There are roughly 980 questions in the Greek New Testament along, and most of them occur in the gospels. That is a lot of questions. But why did the original writers of these most holy words write them as questions, when we so often

turn to scripture for answers?

That is one of the questions that we are hoping to explore during the Lenten season. The Sunday readings for this year are designed to invite us into wonder and curiosity, rather than into certainty. Because questions beg for relationship, exploring questions together will help us to build relationships with one another and with God.

Each Wednesday, during our Lenten Evening Prayer Service, we will focus on a question from one of the readings of the previous Sunday to explore together in conversation. The themes for each week and the scripture that will be used are:

Week One (March 1): Questions That Divide, Questions that Bind – Genesis 3:1-4, 6-11

Week Two (March 8): Simple Questions – John 3:1-9

Week Three (March 15): Questions For the Curious – John 4:7-11

Week Four (March 22): Questions That Change, Questions That Change You – John 9:1-3

Week Five (March 29): Questions That Kick – John 11:17-27

There will also be an accompanying daily devotion guide to help you engage various questions throughout the season – questions of scripture and questions of your own. Each day will offer an opportunity to read a couple of verses of scripture to zero in on the question for the day. A couple of additional questions are then added to help you to reflect on the scriptural question. A brief prayer is provided in the form of a question from you to God. There is an opportunity for practice which can include the whole family. And finally, it is encouraged that you create a question jar where, each day, each member of the family places a question or two into the jar. Then, on Sunday, rather than doing a devotion, you spend time as a family exploring the questions in the question jar together. Some questions may have easy and straightforward answers. Others may need some more research or may require conversation with a pastor or doctor or educator or Bible study colleague. Still others may simply be "God questions" that we cannot answer in this life. The hope is that these questions will help us to draw closer to God and one another during this Lenten season.

We hope that you will join us on this Lenten journey as we ask our questions together.



First Communion Milestone

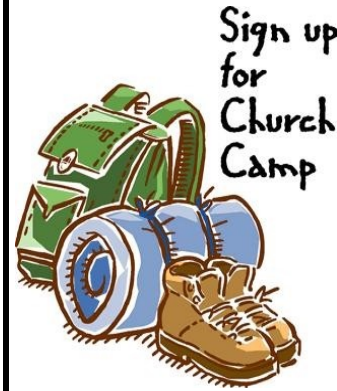
Holy Communion is a gift from God! As with any gift that God gives, it is given with no strings attached. There is nothing we can do that makes us more or less worthy of the gift. Yet—when you or your child receive a gift, it is natural to want to know all about the gift. What is it? How does it work? What do you do with it? These are some of the big questions we'll be learning about during the "First Communion Milestone".

Pastor Heather and Joni Schneider will be leading two important extended learning sessions on March 5th and March 26th from 10:15am-12:15pm. Any students second grade or above who has not received first communion is welcome to attend. During class each student will learn more about the gifts of Holy communion, they will create their own communion chalice (wine cup), participate in a mini-Seder meal, and learn how to make communion bread for worship. After completion of these two class sessions, students will be invited to receive their first communion at worship on Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7 pm.

If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up for this important milestone, please contact Pastor Heather at church 563-285-4501, or text her cell at 563-639-9606. We need to know how many children are planning on attending so that we have supplies ready for your child. Please reply by March 1, 2023. Again, we look forward to growing in faith with your child this Lenten season.

6th graders: Pre-Confirmation Milestone

All sixth graders are welcome to join Pastor Heather for a pre-confirmation experience for three Wednesday evening during Lent. We will look at the 5 promises made when we affirm our baptism at Confirmation. These sessions will be interactive opportunities to explore how these promises impact our lives. Mark your calendar for these Wednesdays: February 22, March 1, and March 8th. Class will be from 5:45-6:45pm. A meal will be served for the whole congregation each evening beginning at 5pm. The whole family is welcome to join us. Lenten evening worship will begin at 7pm. Please let Pastor Heather know by Sunday, February 19th, if your child will be attending. Contact her at church 563-285-4501, or text her cell 563-639-9606 (please be sure to put your name in the text.) If you have any friends that would like to join you, please invite them to join the fun!



Summer Camp Registration is Here!!

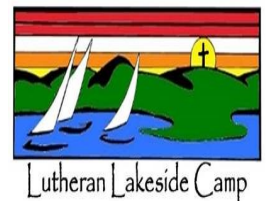
Registration is now open for Lutheran Lakeside Camp this summer. We are planning to attend camp **July 16-21**. There is Junior Camp for those who have completed grades 3-5 and Confirmation Camp for those who have completed grades 6-8. How we will get to camp will be determined at a later date.

For more information about camp, please go to www.lutheranlakeside.com and click on the

Summer Camp drop down menu for more information and the Camp Registration tab when you are ready to register. The total cost for a week at camp is \$475 for the first child. If you send more than one child from your household, there is a \$15 sibling discount for the second and subsequent children. A \$100 deposit is due at registration. **There is an Early Bird Discount of \$50 for all those who register by February 28.** As in years past, Faith will cover \$150 of the cost of camp per child (including friends that they might invite). Therefore, the out-of-pocket cost, if you register by February 28, would be \$275 for your first child and \$260 for any additional children from your household. Please only pay \$100 at the time of registration and be sure to let them know that you are going with Faith Lutheran Church so that they apply the \$150 campership appropriately. You can pay the remainder of the camp fees after the campership is applied. Also, please let Pastor Carrie know when you have registered so that she can make sure that the campership is applied and have an accurate count of who is planning to go to help with transportation plans.

Adults are invited to join us for the adult mission trip to do work around the camp that week as well, so if that is something that would interest you, please let Pastor Carrie know.

If you have any questions about camp, please contact Pastor Carrie at pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com or call or text 641-275-1326).





During the Saturday, December 3rd worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Callan Jean Murray, the daughter of Ryan and Amy Murray. Callan's sponsors are Brad and Paige Soma and Jamie and Leesha Murray.

During the Saturday, December 31st worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Isaac Joshua Scherer, the son of Joshua Scherer and Alexa Coobs. Isaac's sponsors are Austin Coobs and Savanna Bachus.

During the Saturday, January 7th worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Hattie Mae Hillmann, the daughter of Koby and Shelby Hillmann. Hattie's sponsors are Hannah Fehr, Kari Oetzel and Kylie Gray.

During the Sunday, January 15th worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Toni Marianne Trizzino, the daughter of Joseph and Roni Trizzino. Toni's sponsors are Ali Cronkleton and Nicholas (Nick) Trizzino.



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our January Ambassador Folding Crew: **Carol Marten, Darlene John, Sue Braack, Carol Strobbe, Mary Moore, and Donna Benskin.**

Thank you to **Carol Marten** for folding bulletins with us during December!



New Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are now available on the Welcome Center in the Gathering Space. Please pick them up around worship services. If you need to have them delivered to you, please let us know, and we will be happy to get them to you.



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

Fred Jansen	February 2	Jean Keppy	February 14
Sue Hillman	February 2	Dennis Mohr	February 14
Bill Wittkowski	February 3	Jill Kuhl	February 16
Kathryn Zelinko	February 11	Duane Miller	February 19
Carolyn Hulsen	February 12	Janet Bowman	February 20
Karen Schmitt	February 13	David Golinghorst	February 24
Dale Dammann	February 13		



Delores and Don Rathjen on
February 15, 1958

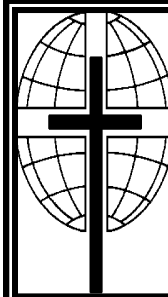


Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of February are soup, pasta, and granola bars.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week. **Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm.** We look forward to studying the scriptures together.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

~ WE NEED MISSIONARY SPONSORS ~

The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. **You can sign up online on Faith's web page, in person on the bulletin board, or by calling the church office.**

Thank you for your support!

**Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and
Sunday at 9am, In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on
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

