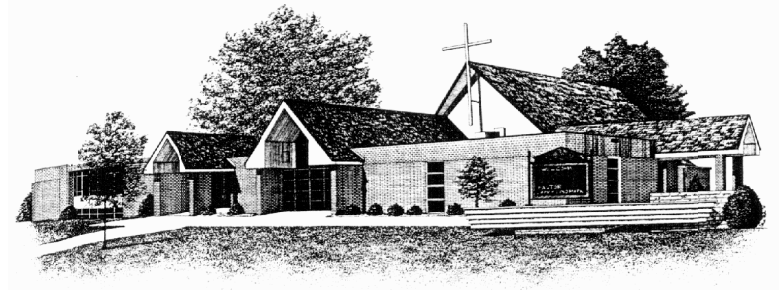


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

May 2023

Rev. Dr. Carrie Lewis La Plante

Rev. Heather Geest

500 W. LeClaire Road

Eldridge, IA 52748

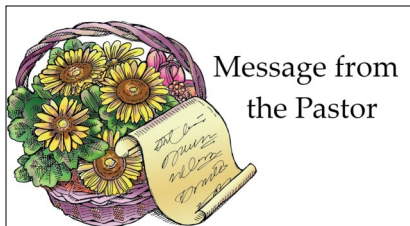
(563) 285-4501

www.faithlutheraneldridge.com

faitheldridge@netins.net

From Pastor Carrie	Pages 2-3
Council Notes	Page 4
Faith Finance Update, Church Picnic.....	Page 5
Confirmation, Graduation, & Summer Camp	Page 6
Final Friday, First Communion	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Women of Faith News, Churches United Meal.....	Page 10
Life & Legacy Series	Page 11
Endowment Committee	Page 12
IMAGINE Synod Revival.....	Page 13
Baptisms, Appreciations & Stewardship	Page 14
Birthdays, Food Pantry & Missions	Page 15

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



Message from
the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,
Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen,
indeed! Alleluia!

This season of Easter is one of my
favorites, not only because everything
that is Easter is central to our faith and
who we are as Christians, but because

this is the time of the year in the northern hemisphere when new life begins to be seen in the natural world around us. In this season, we again center our lives in the promise that God loves us so much that he came to be human and live among us in Jesus Christ, Christ gave everything for us by dying on the cross, and God raised Christ from the dead to show us that God's power for life is greater than the world's power for death and to give us new life. What greater gift is there for us?

What I have found particularly poignant in this season of Easter is that the readings assigned for this season are about journeys and Jesus' presence on the journey of life, not only in the good times, but also in the struggles. On Easter Sunday, we heard Matthew's telling of the story of the resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10). After the Mary Magdalene and the other Mary have seen that the tomb is empty and have been told by the angel that Jesus is alive, as they are running to tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee as the angel had told them to do, Jesus meets them on the road. Jesus confirms all that the angel had told them and again, sends them to tell the disciples. Jesus meets these women on the journey to let them know his is really alive and with them. Jesus still meets us on our journeys to show us he is there.

The following Sunday, we heard the story of Thomas and how Jesus showed up in the midst of the disciples' fears and wondering to show him that he was alive (John 20:19-31). When Thomas could not believe because he was there the first time, Jesus comes again to give Thomas what he needs to believe. Jesus meets him in his doubts and wonderings and grants him the same peace that he gave the others. Jesus still comes among us, breathing his peace into the midst of our fears and doubts so that we can believe even when we cannot see.

Last Sunday, we joined Cleopas and the other disciple on the road to Emmaus as they journeyed home after all that had happened in Jerusalem, still not sure whether they could believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. While on that road, a stranger met up with them and walked along with them in their grief, listening to their dashed hopes and sharing with them how Jesus had fulfilled scripture. However, it was not until they gathered around a meal, and Jesus broke the bread that they knew it was Jesus, and then they realized Jesus had been with them all along. Even today, Jesus joins us on the

journeys where we struggle and makes himself known to us in the most ordinary of ways so that we can know that we are never alone on the journey, even on those days when we cannot recognize that Jesus is there.

All of these stories of journey and Jesus' presence with us seem especially appropriate in this time of year when we celebrate several of the milestones of faith and life for the members of this congregation. This weekend, April 30, we will celebrate the Confirmation of 13 of our youth as they affirm their baptism before God and this community of faith. We will hear about Jesus who is the Good Shepherd and the gate that protects the sheep, even laying down his life for us (John 10:1-18). We will hear the promises of Psalm 23 in which God will protect and keep us not only in the green pastures and still waters, but also in the darkest valley and among our enemies. What greater images are there for these young people as they take on their faith journey as their own?

On Sunday, May 21, we will celebrate our graduating high school seniors during worship. On that day, we will hear Jesus' prayer for his disciples on the night before his death (John 17:1-11). Jesus asks God to hold God's people together as they are one just as God and Jesus are one. Jesus prays for God's protection to be on those who follow Jesus. Jesus is praying that God be on the journey of life and faith with his disciples when Jesus is no longer physically with them. May that prayer and promise go with our seniors as they begin to journey in different directions, entering the next leg of their journey. May they always know that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Then, on May 28, we will once again celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We will be reminded once again that the Spirit is always blowing in and among us, leading us and guiding us in all that we do. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' promise that we will always have an advocate, and we will never be left alone in this life.

We all know that the journey of this life is not easy. There are days when the roads are smooth and the shoulders are wide, but there are also days with twists and turns, roadblocks, hills and valleys, and unbelievable bumps and potholes. However, this season of Easter is filled with the promises that on this journey that is life, we are never alone. The promise of God in Christ Jesus is that Christ will always meet us on the road, in the joys and the struggles, and the Holy Spirit will always lead and guide us throughout life. May we celebrate and hold onto these promises each and every day as we continue the journey that we are on, knowing that God's love for us is greater than we could ever imagine.

In Christ,
Pastor Carrie

CHURCH COUNCIL

Spring is no longer an idea to be hoped for, but a reality of our days. I hope that the resurrection of Jesus is also a reality for you, and no longer just an idea you hope to believe in. However, some things are still just ideas working towards reality, and your 2023 council has helped to identify what they think that the congregational goals should be for 2023. They are listed below, and I hope you will find motivation to help us achieve these goals as we work to share and live in God's world.

Please join me in thanking everyone who helped to make all of the Holy week worship services and activities happen. There are so many people working to change over the worship space, assist during worship, serve meals, set up the music, and many other things that just “happen” to make it all work. Some of these behind the scenes things are often referred to as “the mysteries of the church”. Thank you to all who make these mysteries reality. I would also like to thank all of the confirmation mentors and small group leaders for taking the time to share their faith with our youth who are growing in theirs.

The regular council meeting was held April 20th. The youth who have completed confirmation conversations were approved for confirmation. A new time and talent survey was discussed. Look for that in May, and please consider ways you could share your talents with others here at Faith. I guarantee you that you will receive far more from the experience than you will give. The Endowment committee’s recommendations were also approved, and I direct you to the article elsewhere in this issue for details.

2023 Priorities

1: Build and strengthen relationships with Jesus and others through worship, prayer, education, stewardship, and hospitality.

Metric: Average attendance, new members, baptisms, active visitors, and establishment of a stewardship program.

2: Encourage relationships among all age groups with the goal of engaging and empowering children, youth and young adults through those relationships.

Metric: Growing Young project, VBS participation, worship and other areas of leadership,

3: Enrich the Church through community involvement and outreach while understanding our neighbors’ needs and seeking to be instruments of empathy, unity and peace.

First Communion pic and names

Metric: Food pantry, Feed our Children, Lawn events for

FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	MARCH	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$24,376.06	\$85,428.48
EXPENSES	\$28,040.87	\$84,992.32

*Monthly Income needed to meet annual budget is \$30,000



Please join us for our Annual Parking Lot Picnic on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

This will be a potluck brunch following the worship service. Ham, lemonade, water and table service will be provided by the Fellowship Team. Please bring a favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.

A variety of yard games for all ages will be available! Of course there will be plenty of time for fellowship!

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can be sure to have enough food and chairs!



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 30, at the 9:00 worship service, thirteen of our youth will be celebrating their Confirmation as they affirm their baptism in worship.

Those who will be confirmed are Kendall Behm, Lauren Behm, Kamilah Eller, Maddie Eller, Griffin Frank, Mackenzie Gabrielson, Grady Kirst, Madelyn La Plante, Collin Lewis, Katelyn Peck, Cooper Schoenthaler, Everett Schroeder, and Nick Schryver.

On the day of confirmation, there will be tables set up on the east side of Fellowship Hall with the names of the confirmands where you can leave cards and other well wishes for these youth. There will also be a cupcake reception following worship to honor the confirmands.

Please join us as we celebrate this milestone with these youth!



Congratulations to all of our graduates—High School, Trade School, Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral candidates! Blessings to each of you as you begin this next chapter in your lives. We will celebrate our 2023 High School graduates during worship on Sunday, May 21, at 9:00 am. A cupcake reception will follow worship.

Note: Seniors, please send your plans for next year as well as a picture (between wallet and 5"x7") for the Senior Recognition Board by **Wednesday, May 17**. You can mail them, drop them off in the office between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm Tuesday through Friday, or email them to faitheldridge@netins.net.

Summer Camp Registration

There is still time to register for summer camp at Lutheran Lakeside, Spirit Lake, Iowa, for grades 3-8 and adults. **We will be going the week of July 16-21**. 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. Please see Pastor Carrie for more details.



Final Friday

WHEN: June 2nd. 1:05-3:30pm

WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church Yard

WHAT: Join in the fun of celebrating the end to the school year and the beginning of a fun filled summer. All kids are welcome to joins us for games, crafts, snacks and fun on the front lawn of the church.

NEEDS: Volunteers are needed for donations of time and a few other items. On the bulletin board will be a sign up sheet. Please consider helping to set up, play, or clean up. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Keppy at ctkeppy@netins.net or 285-4484.



Let the love of Jesus shine!



First Communion April 6, 2023



Back Row: Pastor Heather Geest, Craig Bloomingdale, Sayla Looney, Will Lindaman, Violet Geest, Gwen Rasmussen, Ben Lewis, Ryan Lewis, Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante. Front Row: Harper Strom, Woodrow Leininger, Trenton Leininger, Alec Polson, Charlotte Flenker, Brock Flenker.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg	2 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 7:00 pm Jubilation	3 5:15 pm Resounding Joy 7:00 pm High School	4 6:30 pm Team Night	5	6 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
7 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Adult Book Study	8 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	9 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Jubilation	10 7:00 pm High School	11 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 6:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Women of Faith Board	12 7:00 pm Worship	13 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16 9:00 am Quilting (FH) 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Churches United Meal 5:30 pm Food Pantry	17 7:00 pm High School	18 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	19 9:30 am Food Pantry 	20 8:00 am Private Event (FH) 9:00 am WOF Plant Sale 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online
21 <i>Senior Recognition</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Adult Book Study	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	24 7:00 pm High School	25 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  6:30 pm WOF Bible Study	26 9:30 am Food Pantry 	27 10:00 am Private Event (FH) 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
28 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Adult Book Study	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	31 7:00 pm High School			Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space

Women of Faith Plant Sale



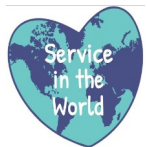
The Women of Faith are looking for donations of perennial plants, especially hostas, for the Eldridge City Wide Garage Sales on May 20 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. If you need pots for splitting plants or have any extra 9" pots, please call Joni Schneider (285-5829). You can also sell your household items in the church parking lot on May 20. Come join the fun.

Women of the ELCA



2023 Convention and Gathering of the Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA

Come join other women from Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA June 9 and 10, 2023 at the Stoney Creek Hotel, Des Moines for their 35th Annual Convention and Gathering. There will be great speakers, workshops, and time to meet other ladies. Some of our speakers are Bishop Amy Current, Kim Crawford from Circle Freedom Women's Center, to name some. The Charitable organization to contribute to will be IMPACT community Action Partnership. Along with the Stewardship Committee's charity for 2023 is Iowa Veterans Home. This is a fun 2 days, plan to attend, bring your mother, sister, friend. For more information, contact Lynda Miller, she has registration forms and hotel reservation information.



CHURCHES UNITED MEAL Churches United is a partnership of Quad City area churches that provides services for needy people, including meals. Our church has volunteered to serve the May 16th meal at 5:30 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. The Service in the World Team has planned the menu and welcomes help from the congregation. There will be a sign up posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for menu items and serving the meal. Please help us feed our neighbors in need.

Grace Lutheran Church
1140 E High St
Davenport, IA

Life & Legacy Series

11:45am - 1:00pm
Thursdays in May

- ✓ How does one choose an independent living community?
- ✓ How can I stay active and social now that I'm retired?
- ✓ What are the legal pieces I need in place?
- ✓ How do I create and leave a legacy?

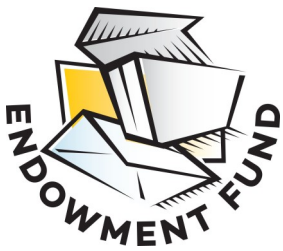
These are questions we are all invited to ponder as we seek to understand what it means to grow older. Join us for a meal and guest speakers who will help answer these questions. There is no cost to attend the classes.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 4 | Downsizing and Relocating |
| May 11 | Staying Social and Active |
| May 18 | Estate Planning: Wills, Living Wills, Trusts, and Powers of Attorney |
| May 25 | Last Steps & Leaving a Legacy |

Please join us and invite a friend!

Go to bit.ly/LifeLegacyReg to register or call 563-322-0769. You may attend any or all classes. Sponsored by the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Committee.





Faith Lutheran Endowment Committee

The Endowment Fund at Faith continues to grow and our committee is dedicated to preserving the principal and achieving the safest and highest return on the funds entrusted to us. Our charter provides that we contribute between 20% (minimum) and 40% (maximum) of our earnings annually to each of three categories: Faith Capital Improvement, ELCA Mission and Community Outreach, with the balance undesignated.

This year, having earned \$1692 included with our year ending balance (1/23/23) of \$95,199.75, the following funds will be donated:

\$423.00	(25%) to Unbudgeted repairs/maintenance fund (Faith Capital Imp)
\$423.00	(25%) to Lutheran Lakeside (community outreach)
\$423.00	(25%) to ELCA Disaster Response/USA Tornado Recovery (ELCA mission)
<u>\$423.00</u>	(25%) to Humble Dwellings of Eldridge to aid Ukranian Refugees (undesignated)
<u>\$1,692.00</u>	Total

Next year, in 2024, due to higher interest rates and CD maturation it appears we will have approximately \$3122 available for distribution! We welcome all suggestions of potential donation recipients!

What a great opportunity! From sending our kids to camp at Lutheran Lakeside, to the satisfaction of knowing our ELCA was there after the tornadoes, the earnings from these funds touches us all. At present, the fund is not that large, but growing. If we all support the Endowment Fund growth, think of the future benefits as more of our monthly benevolence is available!

To those who have contributed to the fund, or plan to do so within their estate, thank you from the entire congregation at Faith for your gift to the future of the church we all love.

If you have not yet planned to become a benefactor to Faith Lutheran, prayerfully consider including a gift within your estate plan. Alternately, imagine the joy you might receive from watching a gift you have given bear fruit while you are a live participant in Faith's congregation!

To offer a suggestion or learn more about Faith's Endowment Fund feel free to contact a committee member: Jan Hartwig, Ken Oetzmman, Scott Rochau, Annette Tomlinson, or Kim Wilkins.



The Southeastern Iowa Synod is trying something new this year with a Synod Revival on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Grand View University in Des Moines. It will be a day of fun activities, faith building, great food, sharing of ministry ideas, music, worship and more. The event runs from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and there will be a bus going from the Davenport area, so you do not even have to drive (more information is to come)!! Everyone is invited, so please come and join Pastor Carrie and some others from this congregation as well as our siblings in Christ from around the synod for this time of imagining the future together.

For more information on all that will be happening, go to www.synodrevival.org. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the church office (563-285-4501) or sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.



During the Sunday, April 16th worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Athena Helene Rogers, the daughter of Doug and Brianna Rogers. Athena's sponsors are Jacob and Emily Hintze, Amy Maxwell, and Kelsey Erichsen.

During the Sunday, April 23rd worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Mila Rae Ellis, the daughter of Collin and Chelsea Ellis. Mila's sponsors are Spencer and Renee Ellis.



With Appreciation... Thank you to our April Ambassador Folding Crew: **Sue Casel, Carol Strobbe, Sue Braack, Donna Benskin, Carol Marten and Darlene John.**

Thank you, Joni Schneider, for making Holy Communion classes extra special. You have a gift for teaching art and making the classes so fun for everyone. The pottery chalices that the children made and used on Maundy Thursday will be life-long treasures. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us. You make a difference!



2 Corinthians 9:7-8: "Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to give you more than you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause."

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them. Giving is an act of faith. Remember we are caretakers of God's creation. God has blessed us in so many ways. How is God calling us to respond to those blessings? We can't out give God. Please fill out and place in the offering plate a Time and Talent sheet during the month of May.

Joan Hennigan, Stewardship Team Leader



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

Curtis Hulsen	May 1	Kris Schwein	May 12
Kristy Looney	May 1	Leonard Hanson	May 15
Jim Weibel	May 5	Roger Baustian	May 19
Sandra Knoche	May 5	Ann Kuehl	May 28
Pam White	May 9	Darlene John	May 30



Food Pantry Needs for the month of May are SpaghettiOs, pasta, peanut butter, and jelly.

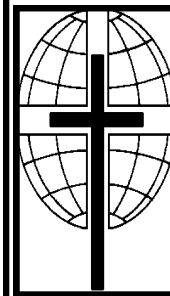
Thank You for your support!

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

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



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP



THANK YOU to *Dan & Karen O'Flaherty* for Sponsoring the Bencke family, John Chima and Denisse Greff in May.

We still have sponsorships available! 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 at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9am, In Person.
Adult Book Study is at 10:15 am. Online Worship updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)
and on our Facebook page. Outdoor worship every other week begins Sunday, May 28.**

Faith Lutheran Church

500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

