



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 13, 2023 5:00pm Sunday, May 14, 2023 9:00am

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

PRELUDE

"Will the Circle Be Unbroken"

Jubilation

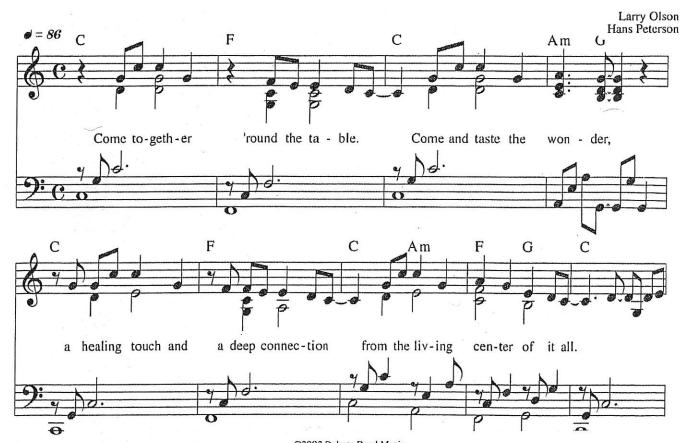
GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

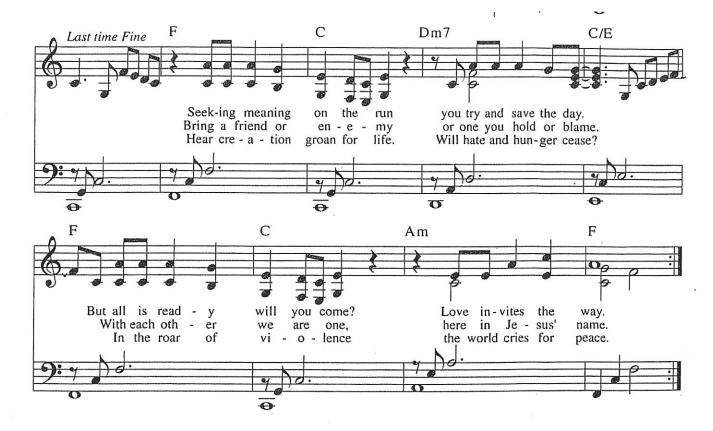
CALL TO WORSHIP

"Round the Table"

vv. 1 & 2



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THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

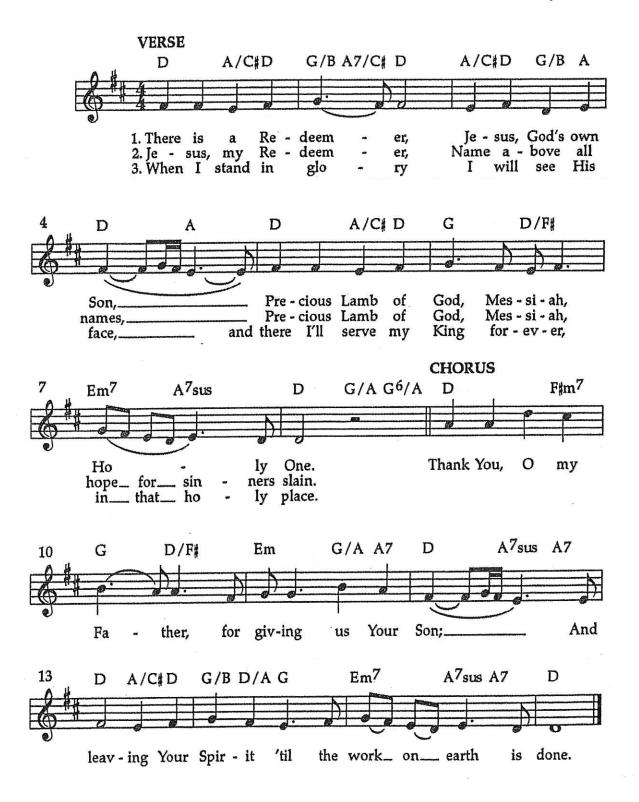
Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.



GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the net;

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

13 I will enter your house with burnt offerings

and will pay you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

19 but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

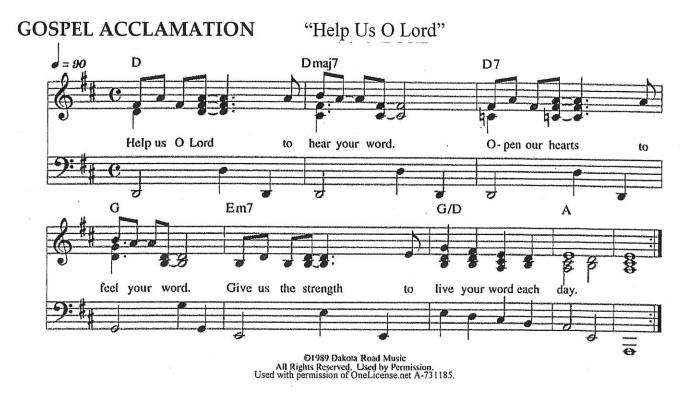
A reading from First Peter.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation

to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They

who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANTHEM

"Altar of Hope (Be Still)"

Jubilation

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Each prayer petition will conclude, "Lord, in your mercy," The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING



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OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your holy name.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

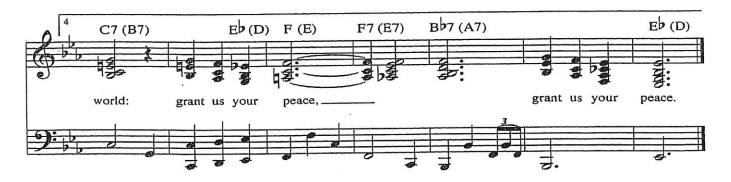
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.





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DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the pastors to receive communion. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS "Wings of a Dove" "Rest"

Jubilation

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.



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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

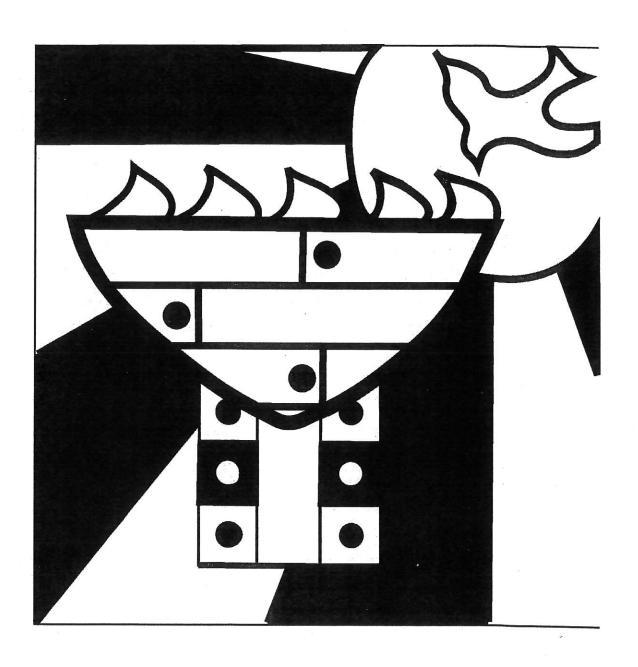
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service	
Ushers	No volunteer as of printing.	
Reader	Nina Looney	
Communion Assistant	No volunteer as of printing.	
Counters	Craig & Jayne Hirl.	

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service	
Ushers	Kuhl Family	
Reader	Barb Kuhl	
Communion Assistant	Barb Kuhl	
Counters	Chelsey Dingbaum & Mary Moore	

Choir Director	Susan Becker	
Organist	Teri Wittkowski and Susan Becker	
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker	

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Life with the Spirit

What do we do when we feel abandoned by people we believed would always be there for us? When relationships end or coworkers betray us? When friends move or someone close to us dies? The impact of those losses can change our whole world. It can make us question our self-worth and make us wonder if we are really of any value. When this happens, it's easy to ask if what we do actually matters.

As Jesus prepares his disciples for what life will be like for them after he dies, he tells them to keep his commandments and assures them they will not be left orphaned. It's an important message for them to hear. They are about to experience the trauma of witnessing Jesus' betrayal and death, the fear of being wanted men hiding from the authorities, and the grief of feeling like they have lost their purpose in life. Their world is about to be thrown into chaos because the person who had led them, taught them, and taken care of them would now be gone.

Jesus' words are a promise that God's love is too great to leave them abandoned. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever" (John 14:15-16). His words are also a promise that what they continue to do matters. Keeping his commandments isn't necessary for God to love them, but doing so will serve as a reminder of their love for Jesus and will open them up to experiencing the Advocate in their lives. Jesus' command to love God and our neighbor isn't a fee we have to pay for the Spirit to spend time with us. It is our response to the powerful good news that the Spirit is with us forever.

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante

Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-450l Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

Grace - Gifted

FAITH - LIFTED

CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.



The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 13 & 14, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at **faithlutheraneldridge.com**.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



The flowers on the altar this weekend are given in loving memory of Dr. William and Kleo Gecsey by Neal and Susan Becker.

Altar Flowers

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheraneldridge.com

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Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate		
Sally Puls		
Jensen Spencer		
Ann Kuehl		
Carol Judge		
Carolyn Scheibe		
Madison Russo		
Janet Bowman		

Kathy Stoltz Steve Mixdorf Duane Miller Roger Lewis

Roger Lewis Ed Stoltz Jerry Schwien Judy Knoer

Jan Kluever

Sue Vogel Andrew Arp Kim Pierce Jeanette Mye

Hugh Lickiss

Melissa Alden

Jeanette Myers Bill Lind Ed Precht Vaughn Mary Lou

Glen

Kelly

Sharon Baker

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 signup posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for <u>menu items</u> and <u>serving the meal</u>. Please help us feed our neighbors in need.



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.



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.

Final FRIDAY!

WHEN: June 2nd, 1:05-2:30pm 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!



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

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. This event is open to all women of the congregation. You do not have to belong to a women's group or circle to attend. There will be great speakers, workshops, and time to meet other ladies. Speakers include Bishop Amy Current and Kim Crawford form Circle Freedom Women's Center. The Charitable organization to contribute to will be IMPACT community Action Partnership, along with the Stewardship Committee's charity for 2023, the Iowa Veterans Home. This is a fun 2 days - plan to attend! Bring your mother, sister, friend. For more information, and to register and reserve a hotel room, contact Lynda Miller at (563)285-8613 or Imchurchlady56@gmail.com.



Faith Lutheran Church invites all children ages 4 – 5th grade to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! Using Matthew 6:11; "Give

us this day our daily bread", children are invited to pray as Jesus teaches. These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God - and our daily needs are met by God.

The fun begins **Sunday**, **June 25**th and continues through **Thursday**, **June 29**th, **from 6-8 p.m.** at the church, 500 W. LeClaire Rd., Eldridge. Registration will begin in May on the church website at www.faithlutheraneldridge.com.



5pm: 38, 9am: 78 Online: 38, Total: 154

THIS WEEK AT FAITH					
Saturday, May 13	12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Funeral Lunch Worship			
Sunday, May 14	9:00 am 10:00 am	Worship Fellowship Hour			
Monday, May 15	Office Closed				
Tuesday, May 16	9:00 am 1:00 pm 5:30 pm 5:30 pm	Quilting Bible Study Food Pantry Churches United Meal			
Wednesday, May 17	7:00 pm	High School Youth			
Thursday, May 18	6:30 pm	Council Meeting			
Friday, May 19	9:30 am	Food Pantry			
Saturday, May 20	8:00 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm	Private Event in Fellowship Hall Women of Faith Plant Sale Worship			
Sunday, May 21	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:15 am	Worship with Senior Recognition Fellowship Hour Adult Book Study			



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.