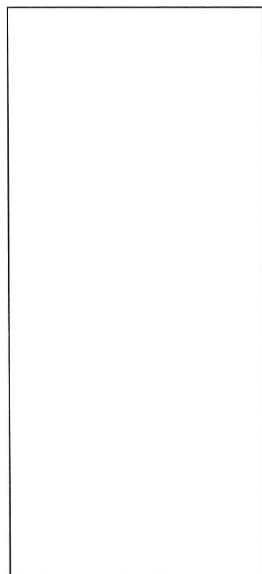
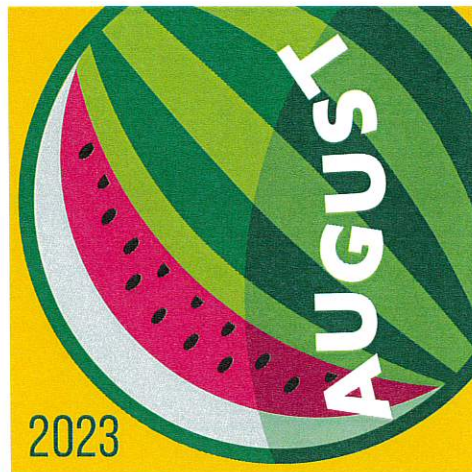


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9am, In Person.  
 Online Worship updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.  
 Outdoor worship every other week from May 28 to September 3.

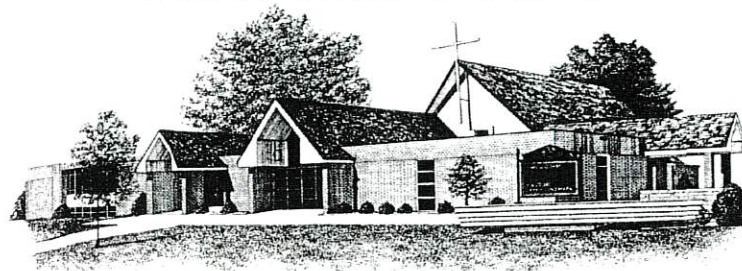
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
 500 W. LeClaire Road  
 Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Faith Lutheran Church



## AMBASSADOR

August 2023

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

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

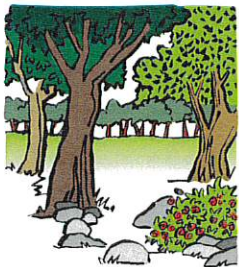
[www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)  
[faitheldridge@netins.net](mailto:faitheldridge@netins.net)



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





## Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

This summer has gone so quickly with all of the fun activities that we have experienced throughout the summer. As you look through the pages of this Ambassador, you will find pictures and stories of some of the excitement, and there will be more to come in the September Ambassador as more pictures of our week at camp and the mission trip to Albuquerque will be available.

I write this while I am at camp at Lutheran Lakeside, and I can tell you for certain that this has been a week of learning and growing, having fun and celebrating life. Our theme at camp this week is "God's Wilderness: Caring for Creation," which seems like a natural choice as we have spent this week out in God's beautiful creation. Each day, we had a different aspect of creation to consider: land, animals, water and people. We have considered why it is that God created all that God created. We have talked about the ways that we have hurt God's creation and ways that we can help God's creation so that it can thrive into the future. We have played in God's creation as we moved around camp to canoe on the lakefront, swim in the pool, zip line up high and find our way through the low ropes course, hike on the paths and do some archery, play games in the barn and create crafts in the craft cabin. Worshiped in God's creation, both along the waterfront and in the pool on Wednesday as we considered water and the gift of baptism, especially that God's promises for us are forever, and Jesus promises to always be with us.

The joy of camp is the joy of all of the people here. Watching all of our campers find new skills within themselves, try new things that might have been scary or uncomfortable, like climbing a really tall pole and zip lining off of the platform at the top, make new friends, lead worship, and dare to share their talents and skills in the work that they do and the fun of the end of camp talent show reminds me of all of the ways that God calls us to be God's people and the talents that God gives us that sometimes need a new place in order for them to be uncovered.

God has created all things, and God has called it all good. Sometimes it

can be hard to remember that when we are bombarded with news of all of the ways in which God's creation has been harmed and all the ways that people are hurting each other. Having a week to sit in the midst of that creation and be reminded of God's goodness to us and our calling to be stewards of this creation is a good way to reset in these summer days. It is a good place to be reminded that in our baptism, we have been named and claimed by God. We have been given a new identity as "Beloved Child of God." We are told that God is pleased with us. We are promised that our sins are forgiven, we have the gift of eternal life. We are promised that Jesus will always be with us, and that there is nothing, not one thing on this earth, that can ever separate us from God's love. What better news is there in this world than that? And we have the privilege of sharing that good news with all kinds of other people so that they can know these promises for themselves. These are promises that we all need to hear, and I am so glad that our campers and mission trip volunteers heard these promises over and over again throughout this week at camp. I pray that we can all remember those promises in the year ahead, especially on the days when the hurdles feel high and the struggles are real.

I am also looking forward to this next week as twenty of our youth and five adults head to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for our mission and service learning trip. I know that, again, being in a new place among new people, these youth and adults will learn more about themselves, more about God's people, more about God's promises and how we share in God's work to provide for those in need around us. There will be so many experiences that we will have as we help with a VBS for people with special needs, help at the Food Bank and the Rescue Mission, serve at a clothing pantry and on a farm that works with refugee farmers ease their transition and help them to become self-sufficient in their new land, and work with Habitat for Humanity and with Senior Services. There will also be an opportunity for fun as we explore the city of Albuquerque together. We are grateful for Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, which will be our home for one night in each direction, and we look forward to worshiping with them on Sunday morning. I pray that, in the work that we do together, in the fun that we will have along the way, we will see the face of God in one another, in the faces of the people with whom we serve and

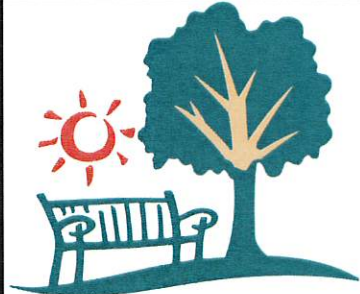


those whom we serve. We cannot wait to share our experiences with you.

I want to thank you for all of the ways that you support these opportunities to learn and grow in God's love, to live out our baptismal promises to learn to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to care for others and the world God made, and to work for justice and peace in all the world, and to experience people and places that are different from the places where we live. Please continue to pray for safe travels and joy-filled homecomings, and we hope that you will find ways to engage those who have been on these trips to learn from them about what they have learned, the fun that they have had, the places where they have experienced God's presence.

Blessings on all that remains of this summer time, and I look forward to all that will come as our fall programming begins later in August and in early September!

In Christ's love,  
*Pastor Carrie*



## PROPERTY

*Team Message*

We are so blessed with a beautiful church and surrounding property. The Property Team has been working diligently on maintaining and improving the church, outdoor worship space, surrounding yard, and landscape gardens. We ask that you help us keep it beautiful. If you see a stick or trash, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. If something needs more attention than a quick pick up, or

if you want to help with a yard project, please let me know. Thank you for your help with keeping the church and yard beautiful for all to enjoy.

Dan O'Flaherty, Property Team Leader  
(563)271-0640



**You care  
for the land  
and water it;  
you enrich it  
abundantly.**

*Psalms 65:9, NIV*

# CHURCH COUNCIL



Can school really be restarting this month? Summer's last few activities have just finished up. Campers and volunteers at Lutheran Lakeside, and high school youth mission trip attendees are freshly returned home. With tired bodies and excited minds, I hope that they all are invigorated for more of God's work in the future. Confirmation and high school youth group all kick off this month, and Sunday School is not far behind in early September. Look for information in this Ambassador.

Join me in thanking:

- All those who spent a week at Lutheran Lakeside helping to keep the camp running smoothly, and looking great. Thank you, Denise, Joni, Brad, Michele, Nina, Annette, Carrie, Tom, Betty, Pastor Heather, and Pastor Carrie.
- The adult and youth who traveled to Albuquerque on the mission trip. I thank the adults for being role models for the youth, and I thank the youth for being willing to spend a week helping others.

The Council met in July to work on the annual reviews of both Pastors. This process helps the council to review themselves as well. In all, it is a very good way to take stock of where we are, and where God might lead us.

Mike Garner, Council President (563-349-4459)

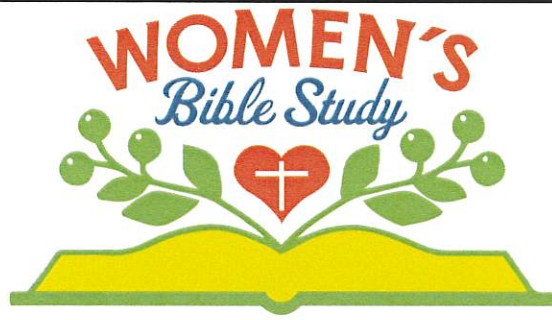


## Shareholder Fundraiser

### Mission Trip Shareholder Dinner August 20, 2023, 11:00 am

We invite all those who purchased shares for the Mission Trip to join us for a meal and to hear stories about the mission trip on Sunday, August 20, at 11:00 am. The mission trip participants will serve you a meal and will share their favorite experiences from the trip to thank you for your support. We will also be sharing stories during worship on Saturday, August 19, and Sunday, August 20, so please join us for these events! We look forward to sharing our learning and growing with you!





Join the Women of Faith for a Summer Bible Study on **Saturday, August 5, from 9 am to 2 pm**. The three session Bible Study is from the Gather magazine titled "Salvation Now." We will look at "Promised Salvation Now - Jesus Brings Wellness," "Tangible Salvation Now - Christians Bringing Wellness," and "Needed Salvation Now - A World Wanting Wellness." Morning refreshments will be served at 9am. Lunch will be a salad buffet, dessert, iced tea and coffee. For planning purposes, a sign-up is on the bulletin board.

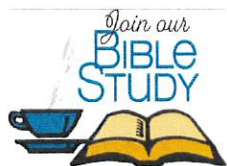


#### With Appreciation...

Thank you to our June Ambassador Folding Crew: **Carol Marten, Sue Casel, Donna Benskin, Mary Moore, and Pam Englebrecht.**

Thank you to those who served in the office in July: **Rhonda Webber, Mary Moore, Carol Marten, and Dylan Bergmann.**

Thank you for all who have volunteered for worship this summer and put in the extra effort preparing for outdoor worship.



#### Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Tuesday afternoon bible study is taking a break for the summer. We look forward to studying the scriptures together again beginning August 29<sup>th</sup>.



Pictures of the work in process on the flower garden on the south side of the pastor's office. Thank you again to Bill Wittkowski, Brad Merrick, Dean and Pam Englebrecht, Denny Mohr, Steve Sawvell, Nadine Schwarz, Joni Schneider, Mike Garner, and Karen O'Flaherty. for the work to update and maintain the garden to keep it looking so nice.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Key:</b> (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space		1 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH)	2	3 10:00 am Feed Our Children 1:00 pm Food Pantry Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Team Night	4 9:30 am Food Pantry 	5 9:00 am—WOF Bible Study (FH) 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
6 9:00 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club	8 10:00 am Feed Our Children 5:30 pm Food Pantry	9	10 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 10:00 am Feed Our Children 6:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg.	11 9:30 am Food Pantry 	12 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
13 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour	14 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	15 5:30 pm Food Pantry	16 <i>Office 9am-12pm</i> 5:30 pm NS Clergy Block Party in Park View 6:00 pm Eldridge Concert Series & Car Cruise Sheridan Meadows	17 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	18 9:30 am Food Pantry 	19 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online <i>Blessing of the Backpacks &amp; Workers</i> 
20 9:00 am Outdoor Worship <i>Blessing of the Keys, Backpacks &amp; Workers</i> 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Mission Trip Shareholder Dinner	21 <i>Office Closed</i>	22 5:30 pm Food Pantry	23 	24 	25 9:30 am Food Pantry 	26 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
27 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	30 5:45 pm Confirmation Kick Off w/ Pizza! 7:00 pm High School Kick Off w/ Ice Cream 	31 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 		



# YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

*Luke 6:38: Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands - all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.*

Giving is an important part of being and growing in relationship with Jesus. Giving is an act of faith. How we steward the time, talent and particularly the finances God has entrusted to us will have a huge impact on our discipleship. Stewardship can be a catalyst to a growing discipleship.

When we focus on our need to give, we will find in God's word an invaluable wealth of resources to enrich our understanding. Coming this Fall, look for a Faith Promise card for financial giving at Faith.

Thank you for giving generously and gladly.

Joan Hennigan  
Stewardship Team Leader



**GIVE,  
AND  
IT  
WILL  
BE  
GIVEN  
TO  
YOU**

Luke 6:38



"Parking Lot Picnic"  
June 4, 2023







## Blessing of the keys High School Faith Milestone Blessing of the Keys

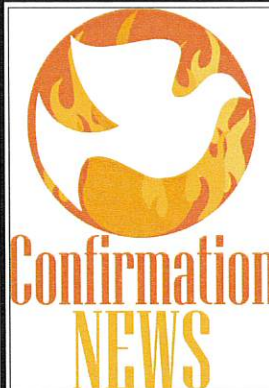
As our children begin high school, there are many milestones that they

will begin to come across. One of those milestones is learning to drive, from getting the permit to driver's ed to getting a license. We would like to help these youth and parents to mark that milestone in worship with a "Blessing of the Keys". On **Sunday, August 20**, during the 9:00 am worship service, we will invite any High School students who are new drivers to come forward with their parents as we pray over them and provide them with a small token to mark this time in their lives. We will also be providing each family with a sample "contract" which can help families to have conversation around proper use of the car. We hope that all of our new drivers and their families will be present for this milestone as we begin this new school year.



## Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, & School Workers

On the weekend of **August 19 and 20**, we invite all children and youth who are starting back to school to bring their backpacks to worship at 5:00 pm on **Saturday** or 9:00 am on **Sunday**. During the Children's message, we will do a blessing of backpacks to pray God's blessing on the backpacks and on the children who will wear them this year. We will then offer a blessing over the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, janitors, kitchen staff and others as they prepare to head back to school. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of the new year!



## Confirmation Kick Off

### A New Year for Confirmation

It is time to begin our Confirmation Conversations again, so it is time to have a **mandatory student/parent meeting and pizza party**. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and their parents and siblings are invited to a pizza party and Confirmation kick-off meeting on **Wednesday, August 30, at 5:45 pm**. At this meeting we will go over expectations and

opportunities for the year as well as the calendar of events. There will be a formal letter coming in the mail with more information, so for now, please just save the date and time for the meeting.

Please let us know how many from your family will be coming so that we can be sure to have enough food for everyone using the link on our website ([www.faithlutheraneldridge.org](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.org)), or call the office at 285-4501 **by Friday, August 25**.

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



## High School Youth Group Kick-Off

It is hard to believe that we are heading back into the school year, but as we do, we also head into a new year of Youth Group. In order to get the year kicked off, we invite all high school youth and their parents to join us for a conversation about plans for the year, including how often we would like to meet, the kinds of activities we would like to do, the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, and possible local mission activities. We will meet on **Wednesday, August 30, at 7pm**. An **ice cream sundae bar will be provided!!**

Please sign up online using the link on our website ([www.faithlutheraneldridge.org](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.org)), or call the office at 285-4501 **by Friday, August 25**. We encourage you to invite friends. More information will be coming in a letter soon. See you there!





We welcome to our Faith family, through the waters of Holy Baptism, Tyler Alan Stanton, Brynley Sue Gray, and Walker Robert Madden.

Tyler, the son of Bradley and Darcy Stanton, was baptized June 11<sup>th</sup>. Tyler's sponsors are Sue Stanton and Brooke Carson.

Brynley, daughter of Bryce and Kylie Gray, was baptized July 15th. Brynley's sponsors are Koby Hillmann and Katie Madden.

Walker, son of Jake & Katie Madden, was baptized July 15th. Walker's sponsors are Alyssa Roman and Alexis Ashby.

### North Scott Clergy Block Parties

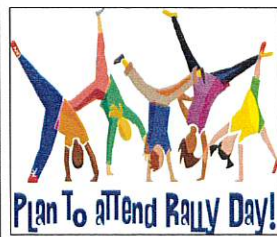
The North Scott Clergy group will be hosting a block party in Park View on Wednesday, July 26th at the Double Diamonds. They will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. There will be music and games and other fun. Please join the fun as you are able.



### FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	JUNE	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$33,827.31	\$175,679.28
EXPENSES	\$26,780.16	\$163,781.68

\* Average Monthly Income needed to meet estimated annual expenses is \$31,626



### Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

All kids ages 3 through 6th grade!  
More info in September's Ambassador!



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

David Griffin	August 5	Doug Garner	August 22
Betty Griffin	August 7	Vi Westphal	August 26
Deloris Schatz	August 9	Mark Copley	August 29
Pam Engelbrecht	August 14	Jeanne Willems	August 30
Connie Braet	August 21		



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



**FOOD  
PANTRY**

Food Pantry Needs for the month of August are granola bars, can fruit, side dishes .

*Thank You for your support!*

### MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP



**THANK YOU** to our July mission sponsors. John Hintze sponsored the Bencke family and Denisse Grefa, and the La Plante family sponsored John Chima.

**THANK YOU** to Mike & Rita Smith for sponsoring the Bencke family, John Chima, and Denisse Grefa in August. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. **You can sign up online on Faith's web page, in person on the bulletin board, or by calling the church office.** *Thank you for your support!*