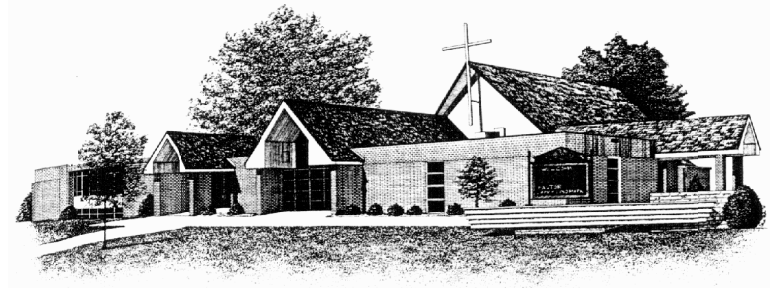


Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

October 2023

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

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

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we head into this month of October, we begin to think about how God might be calling us into mission in the year ahead. We also begin

to consider how we will support that mission with our time and our talents and our finances. Throughout this month, we will hear from the Stewardship Team and other leaders of the congregation as they encourage us to consider the gifts that God has given us to care for and share with others and invite us to make a commitment to the ministry that we share together.

As a way to introduce this idea of stewardship, Pastor Heather and I have been looking at the lectionary readings beginning on September 17 through the lens of stewardship for our preaching. We have been looking particularly about how we imagine a world that is transformed by God's presence in the world through us. So often, we talk about the fact that the Triune God is faithful and steadfast. We say that only by placing our trust in God can we find life. However, that trust is reciprocated by God in each of us and in the church. God trusts us to fulfill the mission that God has for our life. God trusts our congregation to fulfill the mission to which God has called us to be a community of Jesus Christ that activates faith in each disciple so that more people come to know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. We are being invited to imagine God's trust in each of us, specifically as it pertains to stewardship and being the church today.

So far, we have imagined a world forgiven as we have wondered about Jesus' command to be willing to forgive a single person a crazy number of times (Matthew 18:31-35). Knowing that Jesus has given everything, even his life, so that our sins have been forgiven, far beyond what we would ever deserve, we have pondered how we can steward that forgiveness to those around us who have hurt us in order that we might repair the relationships between us. There is nothing that anyone can owe us that is greater than what we owe God, and God trusts us to be stewards of that forgiveness to share that gift of forgiveness with others.

We also have imagined a world turned upside down. God's ways are not ways that are fair in the ways in which the world consider fairness. In the parable of the vineyard workers (Matthew 20:1-16), those who began work latest are paid the same amount, just enough to feed a family for a day, as those who have been laboring throughout the day, leading to all kinds of grumbling by those who worked the longest. However, we considered the fact that, when the landowner went out to gather workers for the final time, he recognized that these workers had gifts that had not been put to good

use, and he invites them to join the others who have been working so that their skills can be put to use. How can we be stewards of the invitation to recognize the gifts in those around us and invite those around us to join us in ministry we are already a part of?

In the weeks ahead, we will imagine a world transformed. After Jesus had been carrying out his ministry, and just after he has ridden into Jerusalem, the elders and chief priests are concerned about all that Jesus is doing (Matthew 21:23-32). They are concerned that he is an imposter of the Messiah – Jesus is not the kind of Messiah for which they have been waiting. If Jesus is the Messiah, he is changing things drastically, and they are concerned about where Jesus' authority comes from. They are worried that too much will have to change with Jesus as the Messiah, but those changes are necessary for everyone to have a chance to experience God's love for them. Thus, we will be challenged to steward the changes that might be necessary for those around us to know God's love in their lives.

Finally, we will imagine a world set free. As we hear the story of the tenets who want to claim that which is not their own themselves (Matthew 21:33-46), we will consider how all that we have is not really ours, but belongs to God. There is freedom in knowing that it is not up to us for God's mission to succeed. We are the stewards that can hold gently the mission to which God has called us, but we trust God to provide the conditions for us to reap the fruits of the harvest. God trusts us to follow him and use all that we have been given to focus our efforts on what God is calling us to do. Then, our imagination is the only limit to what we will be capable of doing and being in God's kingdom here and now. That is true freedom, indeed!

As we imagine the possibilities that lie before us as we seek to carry out God's mission in the world in the year ahead, we imagine how we can steward our gifts as God trusts us to do in order to bring that mission to life. It is not always easy, but it is what God has called us to do and be. How might God be calling you to steward your time in the years ahead? How might God be calling you to steward your gifts in the year ahead? How might God be calling you to steward your finances toward God's mission in the year ahead? Imagine all that we could do together as we steward all that we have been given together for the sake of the world. As we consider our own stewardship for the year ahead, may we be ready and willing to steward the changes ahead as we imagine forgiveness, a world turned on its head, and a world set free.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie

Church COUNCIL

Fall is here. As a new program year takes off, it is already time to start the work of preparing for 2024. One thing that the council recognized during the annual review process was the open position of the Evangelism team

lead. Evangelism, or spreading God's word outside our walls, is fundamental to who God wants us to be. However, the term evangelism can have a bit of baggage attached. With this in mind, the council has renamed the team to Faith Connections. This name emphasizes what evangelism is in a way that makes us think anew of the purpose of the work. Next month, the council will finish the work of defining the role and the expectations attached. Once that is done, the nominating team will work to find someone with passion for sharing God's word in the world. If you think you might be that person, reach out to myself, or anyone else on council.

Join me in thanking:

The Sunday School teachers, the confirmation small group leaders, and those who serve by helping high school youth group. With out these adults, these programs can't happen.

The new Meal Ministry team led by Sherri Brundies. This new team helps coordinate our congregation meals. If you would like to help out with food ministry, reach out to Sherri.

The families who donated to purchase new youth room furniture. The high school youth now have somewhere comfortable to sit while they have conversations each Wed evening.

Property team for stepping in to keep the church building clean while Dennis enjoys a vacation. If cleaning is something you are happy to help with, let us know.

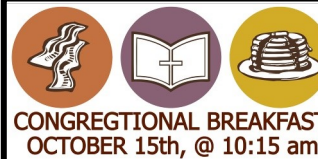
The regular council meeting was held September 21st. A new Parent leave policy was approved. Stewardship shared plans for a fall campaign. The benefit packages for the pastors were approved.

Mike Garner, Council President



CHURCHES UNITED MEAL

The Fellowship Committee lead the Churches United Meal on Tuesday, September 19th at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. More than 54 meals were served. Thank you to all who donated, prepared and served the meal. Thank you for supporting this meaningful food ministry.



CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 15th, @ 10:15 am

Join us on Sunday, October 15, for our monthly congregational breakfast following the 9 am worship service. At each breakfast, the Bible story for the day will be explored through questions that guide your table conversation. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.

New Members Class

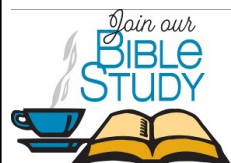
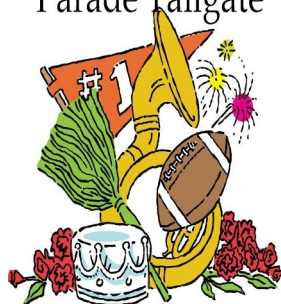


Join us **October 1 at 11:15 am** for a simple meal and conversations to help us get to know each other. If you plan on attending, please email (faitheldridge@netins.net) or call the office at (563) 285-4501. New Member Welcome will be during the worship services on the weekend of **October 14th & 15th**.

North Scott Homecoming Parade Thursday, October 5th @ 5:15 pm

The North Scott Clergy Group will be hosting a Tailgate Party at Faith Lutheran Church beginning at 5:15 pm on Thursday, October 5, before the North Scott Homecoming Parade. Everyone in the community is invited to come and join us for hot dogs, chips, water, and other treats, so please come and invite your friends to come for some food and to enjoy the parade from our lawn. We look forward to celebrating the Lancers together!

Homecoming Parade Tailgate



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Please join us for a weekly study of the scripture together on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you!



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our September Ambassador Folding Crew: Sue Casel, Carol Strobbe, Pam Englebrecht, Darlene John, Mary Moore, and Carol Marten.

Thank you to Carol Marten and Sue Sissel for folding and distributing bulletins.

Thank you to Carolyn & Myron Scheibe for locating parts no longer manufactured and for fixing our office folding machine!

music ministry

It's not too late to come and be a part of People of Praise choir or Resounding Joy! chime choir. People of Praise, for singers who are high school age and up, rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Resounding Joy chime choir (for folks high school age and up) also rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:10 p.m., in the sanctuary. (Please note that you must be able to read music to participate in the chime choir.) Come join the fun and fellowship as we make music together!

If you have questions, feel free to contact our Music Director, Sue Becker, susan.becker1995@gmail.com.



How to Get
Involved

WORSHIP!















We need communion assistants, readers and ushers weekly.

Please sign up to assist in worship any way that you are able. **Please consider volunteering and sign up on the bulletin board or on our web site under Worship Assistance** to help our Faith Family heads complete the worship schedule. Thank you!

Everyone loves a treat after church! We need people to provide treats for fellowship time on Sunday mornings. Not a baker? No problem! Store bought items and homemade are all enjoyed! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



Rally Day 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am New Member Class & Lunch	2 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg. (FH)	3 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 6:30 pm Jubilation	4 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	5 5:15 pm HOCO Tailgate Picnic	6 9:30 am Food Pantry 	7 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in person & Online 
8 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	9 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg. (FH)	10 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	11 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	12 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg.	13 9:30 am Food Pantry 	14 <i>New Member Welcome</i> 5:00 pm Worship in person & Online  6:00 pm 50th Anniversary Dinner
15 <i>New Member Welcome</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Congregational Breakfast 10:15 am Sunday School	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg. (FH)	18 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	19 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	20 9:30 am Food Pantry 	21 5:00 pm Worship in pers on & Online 
22 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Youth Hayrack Ride	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 3:00 pm Blood Drive 	24 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry	25 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm People of Praise 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	26 9:00 am Ambassador Folding  6:30 pm Women of Faith Bible Study	27 9:30 am Food Pantry 	28 5:00 pm Worship in person & Online  
29 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Trick or Trunk 5:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Jubilation 			 November 12 – Congregational Breakfast November 21— Churches United Meal	Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (MP) Multipurpose Room (GS) Gathering Space

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

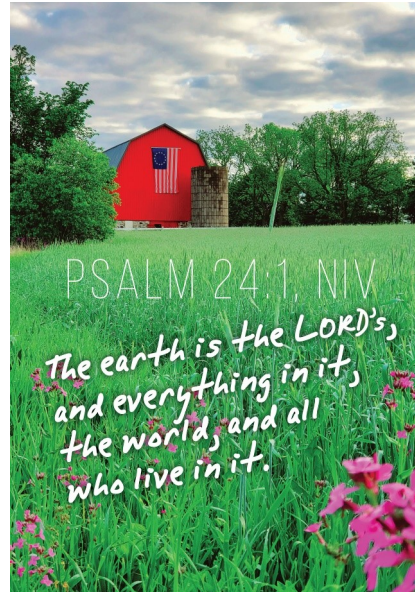
Psalm 24:1: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

The very word "steward" describes someone who watches over that which belongs to someone else. God owns the earth and all that is in it. God made it all and God owns it all. God did not just create the world, it is God who gives us power to get wealth. Since God is the owner of all that is, the source of all the abilities and resources that allow us to live a more than comfortable life, then there is no room for us to imagine that we are the source of our good life. God is. God the creator is still the owner of it all. How are we called to use what God has entrusted to us?

Please fill out your Promise Card this month (one per family) and place in the offering plate on October 28, 29. Thank you for giving generously and gladly.

Duet. 8:17-18: Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.

Joan Hennigan,
Stewardship Team Leader



FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	AUGUST	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$24,227.06	\$226,463.40
EXPENSES	\$26,289.09	\$233,452.81

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



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

RSVP now for the 50th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, October 14th after the 5 pm church service. All members who have (or would have) celebrated 50 years or more of marriage are encouraged to join us. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office by October 7th, so the fellowship team knows how much food to prepare.

If you have questions, please contact Deanna Nielsen at deannasnielsen@gmail.com.



On Halloween, Tuesday, October 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, we will host a Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot. We invite anyone in the congregation to decorate the back of their car and hand out treats (self supplied) to the kids who are trick-or-treating. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space or online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4BAFAA28A3FE3-44484228-faith>



Thank you in advance for making this night special for the children in our neighborhood.



CLUSTER 6 SEIA EVENT PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 7, 2023

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

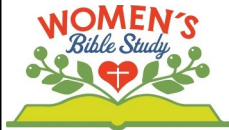
Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church on Brady Street, Davenport, IA

Event: Firefighters Appreciation Goodie Bags (Help us fill the bags.)

We are extending a welcome to people to join us for this morning meeting and activity. We will all help fill up the appreciation goodie bags the morning of October 7th at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Please **RSVP** with the number of women who plan on attending the event. We would love to have all the churches in our cluster represented and sign our appreciation cards. We will have some pastries and beverages available during the business meeting and project assembly.

If you have further questions, **please contact:** Linda Kortemeyer at Korte4m3@gmail.com.



All women are invited to join other Women of Faith for a bible study on Thursday, October 26 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering area. We hope to see you there!

Worship Technicians



If you are technically gifted, please consider joining the Online Streaming team. The team has been working tirelessly to provide online worship and could use additional volunteers. Many hands make light work. Contact Nina Looney.



The Mutual Ministry Committee is a group of people of different ages and backgrounds who meet approximately 4 times a year to discuss the ideas, thoughts and concerns of the church and its members. If you would be interested in being a part of the Mutual Ministry Committee contact Mary Moore.



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm** at (563) 285-4501.

For after-hour emergencies, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at (641) 275-1326 or **Pastor Heather** at (563) 639-9606.



Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting a Blood Drive with the ImpactLife Blood Center. The need for blood increases during the summer months.

Please mark the calendar and consider donation.

Call Tom Carlson @ Carlson.thomas@mchsi.com to set up an appointment
Thank You!

Monday, October 23rd
Time 3:00 pm—6:00 pm

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 W. LeClaire Rd, Eldridge, IA 52748
www.faithlutheraneldridge.com



During the Sunday, September 3rd worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Maverick Theodore Claeyes, the son of Ryan and Katelyn Claeyes. Maverick's sponsors are Jacob Feinman and Brittany Flood.



Confirmation
and
Youth
activities
Fall 2023



OCTOBER Birthdays

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

Ruth Jurgens	October 2	Connie Rohwer	October 16
Dorothy Kuhl	October 2	Steve Mixdorf	October 21
Don Stoltenberg	October 2	Dennis Kelly	October 22
Henry Storjohann	October 3	Ruth Heuer	October 23
Magda Brodersen	October 10	LouAnn Mohr	October 24
Judy Koehler	October 11	Delores Rathjen	October 26
Brad Merrick	October 11	Jean Hanson	October 28
Rob White	October 15		

OCTOBER Anniversaries

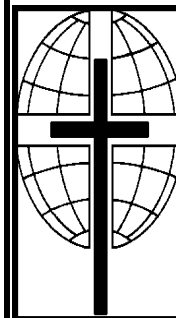
Sharie & Doug Garner
October 3, 1964

Dottie & Bud House
October 8, 1950



Food Pantry Needs for the month of October are instant (boxed) potatoes, stuffing mix and gravy.

Thank You for your support!



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

THANK YOU to our October mission sponsors. **Bob & Theresa White** sponsored the Bencke family, John Chima, and Denisse Grefa. 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 at (563) 285-4501.**

Thank you for your support!

Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
Sunday School and adult faith formation on Sundays at 10:15 am.

Faith Lutheran Church

500 W. LeClaire Road
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Non-Profit Organization
PERMIT NO. 1
Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

