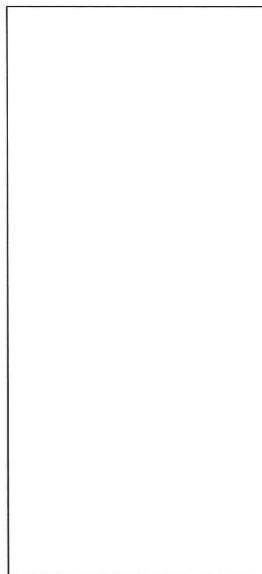


Weekly Worship: Saturday at 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9:00 am, In Person.
Online Worship updates will be posted on www.faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page.
Sunday School and adult faith formation on Sundays at 10:15 am.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

November 2022

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 Siblings in Christ,

This past weekend, we heard these words from Paul to the church in Thessaloniki:

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Paul then goes on to commend God's people in Thessaloniki for the ways in which they serve the people around them even in the face of strife and persecution. Paul mentions how they are imitators of Jesus in all that they do, and he recounts the ways that those around them, the people of Macedonia and Achaia, have been changed by their work and have reported the work that they do in Jesus' name to others as they await Christ's return.

These words from Paul struck home with me as I considered what to say for this month's newsletter. It seems especially appropriate in this month when we stop to give thanks for all that God has provided, all of the joys of the previous year, all of the ways that God has shown up in the midst of the struggles, and all of the gifts that God provides in this life that I stop to give thanks for all of you and the ministry that we share in, through and beyond this place called Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. I want to thank you for all of the ways in which you have taken the word of God in Jesus Christ to heart this year, the ways in which you have been imitators of Christ in this place and in all areas of your lives, and the ways in which you have let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you and your work this year.

I know that I will not be able to touch on all of the ways in which we have made a difference in the world this year, but here are several examples of God's grace living through you. Thank you to the Music and Worship Team and to all who ensure that each worship service is meaningful and uplifting to those who gather for encouragement and to hear God's promises each week, including the Altar Guild, the ushers, communion assistants, readers and videographers. Thank you to our choirs, Jubilation and other musicians who enhance the worship experience with their gifts of music. Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers, Confirmation small group leaders and mentors, High School Youth Group leaders and helpers, and Vacation Bible School staff who help to proclaim the good news of Jesus in age appropriate and faith-building ways. Thank you to the Service in the World Team who helps us to think beyond this place to provide life for those who need that promise in

ways such as organizing and serving at the dinner site at Zion Lutheran Church six times a year, hosting blood drives, guiding our Good Gifts program at Christmas and so much more. Thank you to the Fellowship Team for all of the ways that they help us to gather as community, including weekly Fellowship Time after worship on Sunday, the 50th Anniversary Dinner, Cheeseburger in Paradise, and our annual Parking Lot Picnic (even when it has to come inside for the heat!). Thank you to the Stewardship Team for the ways in which they have helped us to begin thinking about how we can best use our gifts in proclaiming God's love to the world. Thank you to the Property Team for keeping our physical plant up and running and looking beautiful so that this is a welcoming place for all people. Thank you to the North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry for helping us and the whole community to provide over 3,000 lunches to children in North Scott this year. Thank you for your willingness to welcome in the Eldridge Lion's Club, the VFW, Girl Scouts and 4-H Clubs to utilize this space for their meetings. Thank you for being willing to host events for the community, including Final Friday, and allowing the North Scott Clergy to host the Homecoming Tailgate on the patio.

Thank you to each one of you for all of the ways that you share the gifts that God has given you, whether that is your time, your talents or your financial contributions, to proclaim God's love in the world. Thank you for the ways that you have welcomed new people into this community and helped them to find their place here. God has called us all together with our unique gifts in this place for a time such as this. In the midst of the joy and the turmoil in the world around us, together we proclaim the promises of God into the world. The ways in which we carry out God's mission to touch the lives of people in this community is being shared, so we can be confident that God's story is being heard.

Finally, I want to thank you for your care for your staff and pastors, particularly in those times when we are facing struggles in our lives and families. Pastor Heather and I would especially like to thank the Congregation Council for understanding the need for both of us to spend this Thanksgiving holiday with our families and for their willingness to have us be creative around worship that weekend. It is a true gift and blessing to us and our families.

Blessings to you all in this month of Thanksgiving. Know that you are valued and loved by God and by me. I am excited for all that is yet to come as we continue to share the God news of God's love together.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie

Church COUNCIL

When you drive amongst the fields, you will see harvest wrapping up. You may also notice fertilizer being applied or tillage happening. As soon as a field is harvested, you can count on the farmer beginning the work for next year's crop. In many ways, that is what is happening here at Faith. Budgets are being reviewed and proposals made for next year's budget. The Nominating team will be looking for the next group of leaders to serve on council and other teams. And most importantly, your gifts of time, talent, and treasure prepare the way for us to work together sharing with the world God's vision for the way we should all live together as brothers and sisters. A vision that, at times like these, seems impossible to achieve, but is worth sharing. In sharing, the darkness gets smaller, and the light gets brighter.

Join me in thanking:

- Those who gave stewardship temple talks in October. Linda Golinghorst, Joan Hennigan, Myron Scheibe, and Kim Wilkins. Their personal stories bring life to what giving looks like.
- The Meal Ministry team and all who provided food for the congregational breakfast. The sharing of a meal always brings people together.
- The Funeral Lunch team for helping with so many funerals this year. They provide comfort for families in need of comfort.
- The Fellowship team for hosting the 50th Anniversary Dinner. There were great stories shared, and fun games played. It was such a great celebration of love.

The regular council meeting was held October 19th. At this meeting we discussed budget proposals for 2024, we defined the role of the Faith Connections Team (formally Evangelism) and gave guidance for the Nominating Committee concerning that role, and we approved Memorial requests.

Mike Garner, Council President
563-349-4459

GRATEFUL
Thankful
& BLESSED

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

During October, we welcomed the following individuals and families to Faith:

Jake & Liz Bruns, Teagan, Colin, and Emerson
Dallas & Stephanie Cawiezell, and Blair
Larry & Carolyn Dannatt (Associate Members)
Erin Denner
Diane Johnson
Jerry & Tammy Neff
Tyler Wise

october BAPTISMS

During the Sunday, October 22nd worship service, we welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Tyler James Wise. Tyler's sponsors are Dallas and Stephanie Cawiezell.

We also welcomed to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Blair Elizabeth Cawiezell, daughter of Dallas and Stephanie Cawiezell. Blair's sponsors are Tyler Wise and Anmarie Laduca.

Pastors and Staff APPRECIATION MONTH

Please join us during the month of November to show appreciation for our pastors and our staff: Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Dennis Kelly (Custodian), Beth Ann Anderson (Office Manager), Sue Becker (Music Director/Organist), and Teri Wittkowski (Organist).

We have a table with thank you cards and envelopes in the narthex. We appreciate all of the ways each one of them help make Faith a caring and vibrant community where our discipleship can grow.

Let's join together to let them know how much they are loved!

called on the way

ELCA YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT 2023

Madelyn and Abby La Plante were selected to represent the Southeast Iowa Synod at the 2023 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Chicago on November 3-5. We look forward to them sharing their experiences with us later in November.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the Table Young Adult Gathering

We have eleven youth who are signed up for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer. Those youth are Griffin Frank, Christian Keppy, Evan Keppy, Abby La Plante, Madelyn La Plante, Collin Lewis, Jacob Link, Marshall Mess, Everett Schroeder, Keaton Smeltzer, and Carson Welvaert. Carrie Keppy, Michele Mess, Denise Westendorf, and Pastor Carrie will be the adult leaders. We are excited for the adventures ahead.

This is not an inexpensive trip, so we will be doing fundraisers throughout the year to help cover the costs of the trip. The first one will be Cinnamon Roll Sunday on the weekend of December 9 and 10. More information will be coming later in November, so please keep an eye on announcements and on our Facebook page and website to pre-order rolls.

Also, please keep these youth and adults in your prayers as we prepare for this trip. Thank you in advance for all of your support!

Lunch
and a
Movie



for
High School
Youth

Our next High School Youth Group activity will be lunch and a movie on Sunday, November 19. We will meet at church at 11:15 am, decide on a place for lunch, and then go to a movie. We will make a final decision on which movie during a Wednesday Youth Group Gathering a little closer to the event. The cost for the event will be \$20.

Invite friends and join us for the fun. Please let Pastor Carrie know if you are going by Wednesday, November 15, so that we can be sure to have enough drivers. If you are a parent who is willing to join us and to drive, please let me know that by Wednesday, November 15, as well. We look forward to a fun day together.

Sunday
School
Program



The Sunday School Christmas program will be on **Sunday, December 17th, at 9:00 am**. We will practice during Sunday School in November and December, with the exception of November 26th, as we will not have Sunday School that day due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

Sunday School will be on Christmas break December 24th and 31st. We will resume on Sunday, January 7th, with our Winter Rally Day and Congregational Breakfast!



Good news! The Christmas cantata is coming back this year! People of Praise will present this year's Christmas cantata, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus", on Saturday, December 9, at the 5:00 worship service. In addition, Resounding Joy will share several Advent chime pieces prior to the service. Anyone high school age and up is welcome to join with People of Praise to sing in the cantata. So, if you love to sing, and prefer a short-term commitment, this is perfect for you! We will practice every Wednesday evening (except for Thanksgiving eve) for five weeks, with the first rehearsal being November 1, at 6:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. Come join us as we start up this musical tradition again, and celebrate our Savior's birth. Contact Sue Becker with any questions you have.

2024 Offering Envelopes





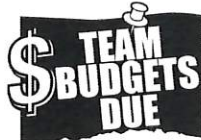
















Our 2024 offering envelopes have been ordered for families who have requested envelopes or who are not signed up for automatic giving. **We will let you know when they are available to pick-up at the church.** If you are unable to pick them up, you may email or call the church office to arrange for someone to drop them off at your home. *Thank you for your generosity towards our mission!*



IT'S Time for snow removal volunteers! If you are able to help clear sidewalks after a snowfall, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or online using the link on our web site: www.faithlutheraneldridge.com.

Thank you for your help!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Confirmation Mentor Night—no meal or conversations 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	2 6:30 pm Team Night 7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	3 9:30am Food Pantry 	4 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
5 All Saints Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hr. 10:15 am Sunday School 	6 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Mtg 	7 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm VFW (FH) 6:30 pm Jubilation	8 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	9 Team Reports Due	10 9:30 am Food Pantry 	11 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
12 9:00 am Jubilation Worship 10:15 am Congregational Breakfast	13 Office Closed 6:00 pm Lions Club Exec Mtg.	14 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	15 10am Grand Haven 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	16 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	17 9:30 am Food Pantry  	18 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
19 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hr. 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am High School Movie Day	20 Office Closed	21 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry 	22 Office Closed <u>No</u> Confirmation, Youth, People of Praise or Resounding Joy activities tonight.	23 Office Closed 	24 Office Closed Food Pantry CLOSED	25 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
26 Christ the King Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hr.	27 Office Closed	28 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Food Pantry  6:30 pm Jubilation	29 5:00 pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm High School Youth 7:10 pm Resounding Joy	30 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 		

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Have you considered ACH

There are several ways for members to make their contribution to the church. This article will focus on one of those – ACH (Automated Clearing House). This is a process whereby your bank or credit union can make a transfer directly from your account to the church's account at First Central State Bank. There is a charge of only \$.10 to process this transfer and that is paid by the church so 100% of your contribution goes to the church.

This transfer can be made weekly, monthly or on the 1st or 15th of the month, whichever you prefer. The transfer can be stopped or changed at any time. And, if you provide your email address, the bank will notify you when the transfer is being made.

It is very straight forward to start or change ACH. Forms are available on the Welcome Station, just outside Pastor Carrie's office, along with an addressed envelope. These can be mailed in or simply dropped off in the office. Please note that your written permission is required to start or change your contribution.

ACH has been used for around 15 years and there have been no issues we are aware of. There are about 50 members using this process.

It is easy to be complacent on the routine transfer and members are encouraged to consider adjusting their ongoing contribution on a regular basis.

Carolyn Scheibe is the ACH coordinator for the church and can answer your questions via email (mcs1977@mchsi.com) or phone (563-285-4557 or 563-349-6043).



Our endowment committee consist of Kim Wilkins, Chairperson; Kenny Oetzmann, Treasurer; Scott Rochau, Recorder/Secretary; Jan Hartwig, Annette Tomlinson, Mike Garner as current Church President, and Pastor Carrie.

We generally meet only once or twice a year to discuss distributing our interest on our endowment funds. Several years ago, we set up the endowment committee and set up a goal of \$50,000. This money was not to be touched. After we reached our \$50,000 goal, it was decided to invest yearly the interest from the endowment fund in 4 separate categories. To date, we have distributed monies to Lutheran Lakeside, Humble Dwellings in Eldridge, to the Southeast Iowa Synod of Iowa, our own church, and others. For example, we gave a total of around \$1,700 to 4 different organizations last year. This year because of additional endowment funds and higher interest rates, Kenny projects we will have around \$3,100 to distribute. Our fund has grown to \$102, 543.16.

You may ask 'What is an endowment?' By definition, an endowment is an investment account for emergency needs for reserve funds and long-term financial stability.

To do this, we need enough financial stability that we can save for tomorrow instead of just spending for today. We need a mature fund development to include dedicated and passionate supporters and a strong major gifts component.

An endowment is a long-term investment account. It is like a 401K account. Once the money is deposited, you don't touch it but get a distribution from the interest or dividends that accumulate. The endowment provides an annual income stream that should last forever.

To create an endowment, you need 3 things:

1. You need "extra" money (after bills etc.) That doesn't mean you reduce your weekly giving to the church to put in an endowment fund.
2. You need passionate donors. When you give to an endowment, you are betting on the church in the long-term so it will last forever.
3. We need a strong donor program to invest in long-term financial health.

Please feel free to contact any member of the endowment committee with questions. Thank you, Kim Wilkins



NS Clergy Homecoming Tailgate Cookout, Youth Hayrack Event & neighborhood squirrel looking for salvation.



50th Anniversary Dinner & Congregation Breakfast





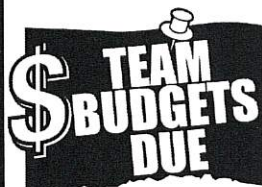
With Appreciation...

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

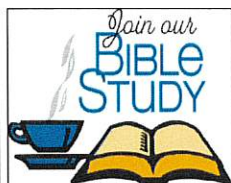
FAITH LUTHERAN FINANCES

	SEPTEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME*	\$33,599.43	\$260,063.83
EXPENSES	\$26,689.05	\$260,141.86

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



Our Church Council is diligently working on the 2024 Budget. Team Leaders should submit their 2024 Budget requests to Myron Scheibe by Monday, November 6th. *Thank you!*



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon in November, at 1:00 pm, for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week.



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

Linda Johnson	November 4	Mike Staples	November 16
Mary Ann Anderson	November 7	Rick Eller	November 18
Sharon Goldsmith	November 8	Deborah Peterson	November 25
Myra Kreiter	November 11	Mary Arp	November 30
Dean Englebrecht	November 11		



Anniversary wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating anniversaries of 50 or more years. Congratulations!

Darrell & Barbara Weltzin
November 7, 1970

Richard & Shirley Cole
November 22, 1958

Ronald & Nancy Meyer
November 16, 1962

Ron & Mary Arp
November 30, 1963



Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of November are cake and brownie mixes, frosting, and hot cocoa



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

THANK YOU to our November mission sponsors. **Brad & Janet Merrick** are sponsoring 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!