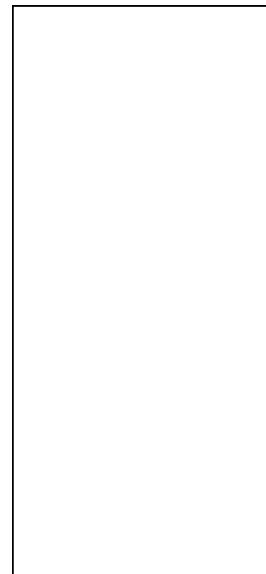


Back to Fall/Winter Worship Hours
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am **Sunday School 9:15 am**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

September 2019

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

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

www.faithlutheraneldridge.com

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my favorite passages of scripture is this text from the letter to the Colossians:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:12-17)

In fact, it is such a favorite passage of mine, that it was one that Scott and I used in our wedding ceremony over 13 years ago because we wanted to start our marriage holding onto this way of behaving toward one another: showing compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience; bearing with one another and forgiving one another; living with love at the center; letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and being thankful; teach and admonish one another; worship together, and do everything in every aspect of our lives conscious that what we do shows people something about Jesus because we claim to follow him.

And as I was considering what I was going to write for the newsletter for September, this was the text that God put onto my heart. As I wondered about why this was the text coming to mind, I came to realize that, as school is starting again, as sports and activities are getting back into full force, as many of us return to worship after something of a break this summer, as all of our routines, from the youngest of our children to the wisest of our elders begin to change with this turn of the season, perhaps we could all do with a reminder of the ways in which God calls us to live—ways that do not generally reflect the ways of the society in which we live, but ways in which we can bring new life into the communities within which we live and move and have our being.

And do not get me wrong, living this way is not always easy (Scott and I can vouch for that on a daily basis) because it is so much easier to look the other way, be mean back to those who are being mean to you, lose your patience with all kinds of things. Some days, love is a commodity that does not come easy, and holding that grudge feels so much better than thinking about forgiving the one who hurt us so that peace and thankfulness are hard to find. Some days we do not feel like singing songs to God because we wonder where God is in the midst of our pain and suffering. And there are days when we just wish Jesus would go away and leave us alone because we just want to do our own thing for once. We have all been there. We have all done that. We will probably do it again. It is the reality in which we live as both sinners and saints in this world.



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

Carol Lineback	September 4
Ruth Staudt	September 9
Ken Oetzmann	September 12
Donna Benskin	September 12
Tom Andresen	September 14
Arlene Glunz	September 22
Barbara Weltzin	September 22
Lorenz Behrens	September 23
Christine Copley	September 23
Mary Flenker	September 24
Judi Hamann	September 25
Carol Kuehl	September 26
Teresa Wittkowski	September 26
Arliss Whisler	September 30
Diana Doss	September 30



Shirley & Don Baustian	9/4/1950
Marian & Lorenz Behrens	9/7/1957
Sue & Ken Oetzmann	9/10/1966
Sally & Dick Puls	9/12/1959
Judi & Don Hamann	9/26/1968



On Saturday, September 28, after the 5:00 pm service, we will be serving dinner to couples that have been married 50+ years or anyone who would have been married over 50 years!

Watch the mail for your invite!



THE NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:

Any sort of Cleaning Supplies

Sunday, September 22nd

	8 amWorship	10:30 am Worship
Greeters:	Carol Strobbe	Peggy Russo
Ushers:	Lynda & Duane Miller	Sandra Knoche & Austin Lee
Reader:	Karen Schmitt	Linda Szemkus
Communion	Amy Murray	Joni Schneider
Counters:	Koralee Patzer & Tim Winter	Kent & Michelle Wiebel
Open/Close		

Saturday, September 28th @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Curt & Carolyn Hulson
Ushers:	Tom Bauer & Brad Merrick
Reader:	Tom Bauer
Communion	Melody Sawvell
Counters:	Craig & Jayne Hirl
Open/Close	Melody Sawvell

Sunday, September 29th

	8 amWorship	10:30 am Worship
Greeters:	Glen & Jean Keppy	Kelli Golinghorst & Seth VanderHorst
Ushers:	Diane Krebs & Chris Schroeder	The LaPlante Family
Reader:	Kelly Penning	The LaPlante Family
Communion	Joni Schneider	Michelle Rasmussen
Counters:	Dan & Mary Ann Anderson	Mike & Annette Tomlinson
Open/Close	Linda Golinghorst	



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP Thank you to Deb & Dennis Peterson for sponsoring our missionaries Patrick and Jackie Bencke, Japan, and our Compassion Child, John Chima. Thank you to Tom & Pam Carlson for sponsoring our Compassion Child, Denisse Grefa, for September.

The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for John and Denisse and \$45/month for Patrick and Jackie Bencke. Your sponsorship can be placed in the offering plate, in a pew envelope marked appropriately for the person you are sponsoring.

But thanks be to God for the grace that abounds in Christ for those days when we do not feel like we can live up to these expectations. Thanks be to God that Jesus does not leave us or let us go even when we can no longer hold on by ourselves. Thanks be to God that Jesus uses each of us to be the presence of God to one another and to those who do not yet know the love of Christ on those days when we know and trust and believe that we are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. Thanks be to God when our eyes are opened so that we can see the hurt of those around us and can reach out with compassion and love. Thanks be to God for those days when we can forgive one another so that we can relieve that burden to live life. Thanks be to God for those days when the peace of Christ can fill us in the midst of the chaos that we face so that we can move forward and help those around us to move forward as well. Thanks be to God when we can be the reflection of Christ in the world, living with thanksgiving and gratitude and doing everything we do to the glory of God.

My friends, as we head into this new school and program year, I pray that God would once again remind us that we are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, and nothing can ever take that away from us. I pray that God would bless all of us with renewed hope and peace, a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving, and a heart filled with forgiveness and love as we face the joys and challenges of each day. I pray that, as we live our lives each day, we would experience Jesus walking with us, and we would be a reflection of Jesus' light and love to all we meet, so that they might experience God's love for them.

You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved—now and forever!

Blessings,
Pastor Carrie

**RALLY DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, AT 9:15 AM**

Welcome back to Sunday School! We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, September 8, at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall.**



During the breakfast, we will catch up on the summer, talk about how Sunday School will work this year, hand out schedules including the Milestone Ministries, and have numerous opportunities for adults to sign up in supporting roles for this upcoming Sunday school year. If you have not checked out the updated church website, please find us at www.faithlutheraneldridge.com. We will be using this to make it easy for people to sign up to help with various Sunday School activities. If you would like to help teach or lead any portion of Sunday School, please use the link found on our church website to sign up where your gifts can be best used.

Sunday School



Would You Like To Be a Sunday School Teacher?

We hope you had a great summer and beginning of the new school year! At church, we are also beginning a new program year.

Our Sunday School classroom learning begins on September 15th at 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall. We have had several of you already sign up to teach, and we are looking for a few more to fill out our staff of 12 teachers (three for each age group - 2 year old-kindergarten; 1st & 2nd grade; 3rd & 4th grade; 5th & 6th grade). Having three teachers per age group allows for flexibility in scheduling among the teachers. So grab a friend or two and co-teach! To sign up, go to the church webpage (www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and click on "Sunday School Volunteer Sign-Up" under "Registrations and Forms" and in the "Messages" part of the form, please tell us which grade(s) you would prefer teaching.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michelle Rasmussen, Children's Education Director at mlrazzy@yahoo.com.

Sunday School Registration

We are looking forward to a new Sunday School year, and we are excited to see all of the smiling faces of our children once again. Registration forms for Sunday School are now available on our website



(www.faithlutheraneldridge.com). Please click on "Sunday School Registration Form" under "Registrations and Forms", fill out the form, and return it to church at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to another fun year learning and growing in faith together.

Sunday, September 8th

	8 amWorship	10:30 am Worship
Greeters:	Dave & Linda Golinghorst	Jackie Snyder
Ushers:	Sally & Jim Hamann	Madolyn & Allen Lewis
Reader:	Breanne Harms	Carolyn Lewis
Communion	Ryan Harms	Carolyn Lewis
Counters:	Eric & Stephanie Sacia	Cathy Diaz & Michelle Reimler
Open/Close	Carrie Keppy	Michelle Rasmussen

Saturday, September 14th @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	John Hintze
Ushers:	Jill & John Kuhl
Reader:	Melody Sawvell
Communion	Melody Sawvell
Counters:	Roger & Barb Parmenter
Open/Close	Melody Sawvell

Sunday, September 15th

	8 amWorship	10:30 am Worship
Greeters:	Bob & Ann Bainter	Kelly Dierks
Ushers:	Kevin & Austin Lee	Joni Schneider & Kristy Looney
Reader:	Katie Garner	Joni Schneider
Communion	Michelle Schroeder	Joni Schneider
Counters:	Bob & Ann Bainter	Kristy Looney & Rhonda Webber
Open/Close	Mike Garner	

Saturday, September 21st @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Dave & Desiree McCammt
Ushers:	Denny Hennigan & Magda Brodersen
Reader:	Joan Hennigan
Communion	Joan Hennigan
Counters:	Scott & Laura Wiley
Open/Close	



SEPTEMBER FAITH FAMILY: Group 6

Family Head: Joni Schneider
October Family Group 8 - Carol Judge

Saturday August 31 @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Mary Jo McVey
Ushers:	Pam & Rob White
Reader:	Donna Darnall
Communion	Pam White
Counters:	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen
Open/Close	

Sunday, September 1st @ 9:00 am

Greeters:	Tom & Beth Byland
Ushers:	The La Plante Family
Reader:	Ida Weibel
Communion	Abby La Plante
Counters:	Linda & David Golinghorst
Open/Close	Linda Golinghorst

Saturday, September 7 @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen
Ushers:	Carolyn & Myron Scheibe
Reader:	Sue Sissel
Communion	Sue Sissel
Counters:	Sue Sissel & Kelly Hazen
Open/Close	

Outdoor Worship

On Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25, we celebrated worship outdoors in our newly relocated and renovated outdoor chapel. Thank you to everyone who made the relocation and renovation possible and to all those who helped to make this worship service so meaningful. We look forward to more opportunities to worship outdoors next summer.



September Confirmation Stewardship Event

On Wednesday, September 25, our Confirmation youth will be participating in a Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The small groups will be divided among the Eldridge neighborhoods and competing against each other to collect food and money to be donated to the North Scott Food Pantry. If one of the small groups arrives at your door, please consider helping them out with a donation of food or money.



"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 104:33) Our choirs will resume for the season on Wednesday, September 18. The Children's Choir (children in second grade through sixth grade) will rehearse from 5:15-6:00 and the Senior Choir (high school age and up) will rehearse from 6:30-8:00. All rehearsals will be in the choir room in the lower level (come in the back door of the church). Questions may be addressed to Sue Becker, our Choir Director (susan.becker1995@gmail.com or 386-2896). We hope you'll consider joining us as we share our time and talents to praise God in song!



Mission Trip Shareholders Luncheon

On Sunday, August 18, the youth and adults who went on the mission trip to South Dakota shared their stories during their Shareholder Luncheon. It was fun to hear about their adventures. Thank you to all who



supported this trip and to Tom and Joni Dittmer for providing the pulled pork and to the parents who helped to provide the rest of the food for the luncheon.



High School Youth

Kick Off!

On Sunday, August 25, several of our High School Youth gathered to do some planning for the year ahead and to enjoy a time of fun and fellowship together. Because of this planning, the following fun opportunities are available to our High School Youth this year.

- ♦ **High School Youth Group** will meet every Wednesday evening from 7:00–8:30 pm in the Youth Room. We will gather for games, snacks and Bible study. Our first study will be on the book of Job as we consider the struggles that we face in this life. **We will gather for the first time on Wednesday, September 4.**
- ♦ **High School Monthly Events** will happen immediately after the 10:30 am worship services on the second Sunday of each month. We will go out for lunch together and then do another fun activity. Our first event will be **Sunday, September 8**, and we will go out for lunch and miniature golfing.
- ♦ **The Summer Mission Trip** will be to Atlanta, Georgia, with Serve Boldly. The tentative date is July 12-17, and I would like to have people signed up by October 1 with a deposit of \$150 so that we can take advantage of the Early Bird Discount. We will have another meeting in September to answer any questions you might have.



Remember, friends are always welcome to join us for any of these events, so please invite your friends to come!! 6



Women of Faith News

ALL WOMEN OF FAITH...

ARE INVITED TO JOIN A GROUP OR CALL A LEADER FOR MORE INFORMATION.
CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR DATES

Hannah Group - Thurs., Sept. 26th at 7:00 pm

Contact Lynda Miller 285-8613

Lydia Group – Thurs., Sept. 26th at 7:00 pm

Contact Linda Szemkus 285-9788

Quilts of Many Colors

Quilting Work Days Tues., Sept. 17th at church

Serving Sticks

If you like to crochet or knit, please join us to make prayer shawls. September 8th & 22nd. at 6:30 p.m. at church

SEPTEMBER NURSERY GUILD

Jackie Syner Chairperson
Amy Powell
Sarah Peck
Michele Mess

SEPTEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Lynda Miller, Chairperson
Donna Knapper
Michele Olson
Karen Schmitt
Shirley Stoltenberg
Sue Sissel
Michelle Mess
Joni King



Have Inkjet cartridges you want to recycle?

Next time when you have an empty cartridge, don't throw it away. Just put it in a Ziploc bag or the original cartridge box and bring it to church. We will be paid up to \$4.00 for each cartridge with a print head. Proceeds will be split between the Junior and Senior High Youth. Undamaged original cartridges with a print head are qualified for payment that includes most Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Canon, Dell, Sharp, Epson. You Can Help! Reduce pollution. Raise funds. One cartridge at a time...

Want to be a Reader?

We are looking for people who would be willing to read the scriptures at worship services. If you would like to be added to the list, please call the church office at 285-4501 or email: faitheldridge@netins.net.

Thanks
for Your
Help!

THANK YOU TO THE BULLETIN AND AMBASSADOR CREW for your help getting these publications assembled each month!!!



Financial Update

As we head into another program year, it seems to be an appropriate time to provide a financial update. The table below shows you where we stood as of the end of July in comparison to where we stood at the end of July 2018.

We are thankful for all that you have given to God's mission through this place. At the end of July, our income is a little more than \$16,000 behind our spending. Part of this negative balance comes from the fact that giving tends to go down in the summer because people are away more of the summer. Another part of it is that we had some significant ministry happening over the summer, including sending 21 youth and four adults on a Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and sending 28 youth and 8 adults to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for camp and the adult mission trip. We would ask that, if you are behind where you wanted to be in your giving at this time of year, you would please consider how you might bring your giving up to your desired amount. If you are considering where you might gift some additional income, please consider making an extra gift to Faith.

	Year to-Date July 2019	Year to-Date July 2018
Operating Income	190,736.32	181,886.92
Operating Expense	207,100.97	189,809.64
Income (Loss)	(16,364.65)	(7,922.72)

We are thankful for each of you and for your generosity to this congregation and to the ministry that we share. Blessings to you as you get back into the school year routines.

3RD GRADE BIBLE MILESTONE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

Faith Milestones Our first milestone will be for the third grade students and families on September 15th. It is the Bible Milestone. Third graders will meet with Pastor Heather during the 9:15 am Sunday School time to learn more about the Bible and will receive their own Bibles at the 10:30 am worship service.



BEER, BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, September 12th at 7:30 pm.
Hosted by Bob & Theresa White
704 Green Meadow Ct., Eldridge.
We'd love for you to join us!



From the Sanctuary Update Committee...

The Sanctuary Update Committee has been busy this year working on plans to renovate and refresh our worship space to better serve the needs of our congregation. Early in the year, surveys were distributed and cottage meetings were held to gain feedback from the congregation on our needs for the space. Based on this feedback, we identified key areas to focus on for improvements. These focuses include reconfiguring the altar area for more space and flexibility, utilizing technology, updating seating, and making the sanctuary space more accessible for wheelchairs and less mobile people. We then met with a Church Building Consultant from the Mission Investment Fund to gain a fresh perspective and new ideas for our space.

After compiling all this information, our team has identified a go forward plan for improvements. For the altar area, our focus is flexibility. Our goal is to have moveable components that can adjust to our needs throughout the year. This includes a removable communion rail at the lowest step and platforms to create fewer levels/steps. We plan to move the altar forward in the space, create one space for the Word instead of having both a pulpit and lectern, and utilizing a moveable baptismal font. There will also likely be some cosmetic updates including new carpet.

To better utilize technology, we plan to place two large TV screens on the front wall of the sanctuary. The screens will be a supplement to the worship bulletins as another way to follow along with the service, as well as provide opportunities for more interactive worship through the use of videos and other media.

To make the worship space more accessible for all people, we plan to use a combination of pews and chairs for seating. There will be a few open rows in the middle of the sanctuary for chairs that can then be adjusted to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and children. We also plan to make space at the back of the sanctuary to allow for easier movement and an usher stand.

We would also like to make the back wall of the sanctuary more adaptable. We will be looking into options for moveable glass that would allow for the wall to be opened up when necessary.

Our next step will be to hold discussions with the congregation regarding the above plans. We will then seek out a liturgical designer or architect to help create a design and give us an estimated cost for the project. We will present these designs to the congregation once we have them.

We invite you to attend an informational meeting regarding all of the above plans as well as our next steps forward. Members of the Sanctuary Update Committee will be present to discuss on Sundays at 9:15 am on September 8th, 15th, and 22nd. There will also be a meeting Saturday, September 14th after worship.

SEPTEMBER 2019

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Worship	2	3	4 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm Conf. Meal 5:30-6:45 Confirmation Conversations 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	5 6:30 pm Team Night	6 9:30 am Food Pantry	7 12 Noon Bridal Shower (FH) 5:00 pm Worship
8 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Rally Day Pancake Breakfast 9:15 am Sanctuary Update 10:30 Worship 11:45 am High School Event 5:00 pm, Sheridan Sluggers 6:30 pm Serving Sticks	9	10 5:30 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Churches United Meal Site	11 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm Conf. Meal 5:30-6:45 Confirmation Conversations 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	12 6:30 pm WOF Board Mtg.	13 9:30 am Food Pantry	14 5:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Sanctuary Update
15 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Sanctuary Update 10:30 am Worship	16	17 9:00 am Quilts of Many Colors 5:30 pm Food Pantry	18 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm Conf. Meal 5:30-6:45 Confirmation Conversations 5:15-6:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm HS Youth Group 7:30 pm Beer, Bible Study	19 7:00 pm Council Meeting	20 9:00 am Ambassador Deadline 9:30 am Food Pantry	21 1:00 pm Women of Faith Board 5:00 pm Worship
22 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Sanctuary Update 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Serving Sticks	23	24 5:30 pm Food Pantry	25 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm Conf. Meal 5:30-6:45 Confirmation Conversations—Stewardship Event 5:15-6:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	26 9:00 am Ambassador Folding	27 9:30 am Food Pantry	28 5:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm 50th Anniversary Dinner
29 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	30	1 5:30 pm Food Pantry	2 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm Conf. Meal 5:30-6:45 Confirmation Conversations 5:15-6:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	3	4 9:30 am Food Pantry	5 5:00 pm Worship (J) JUBILATION (FH) FELLOWSHIP HALL (YR) YOUTH ROOM (MP) MULTI PURPOSE