

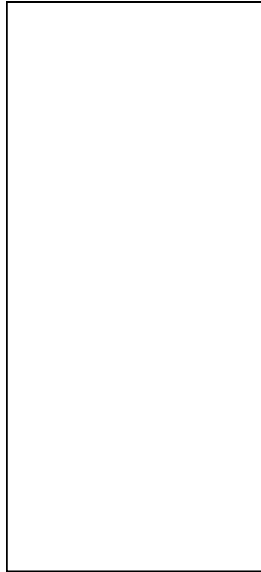
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**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

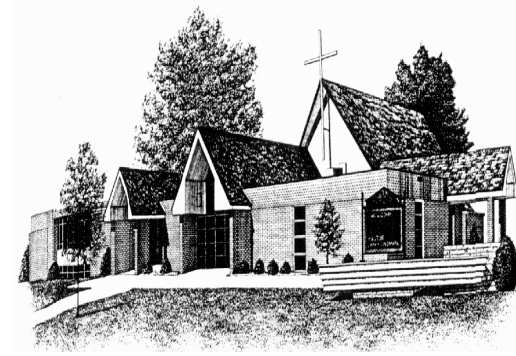
Non-Profit Organization
PERMIT NO. 1
Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday, January 26, 2020 @ 10:30 am

Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

January 2020

**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



• HAPPY NEW YEAR •



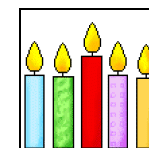
Dear Friends in Christ,

We often hear that hindsight is 20/20, and that often true, both when we look at our daily lives and our lives of faith. When we look back, we can see how things have worked out in ways that we may never have expected them to; how decisions that we have made that may have seemed insignificant at the time have transformed our lives; how times of grief and brokenness have made us stronger. We can look back and see where, at times when we wondered where God was in the midst of our struggles and joys, God was right there, walking with us and guiding our steps, even when we could not recognize God's presence.

And as I look back on this past year, I can see God's hand at work in the midst of the mission that we have been doing. I can see how decisions that we have made with God's guidance have made a difference in the lives of people in our community. I look at the continued expansion of our Feed our Children Ministry, and I know that God is guiding us to bring food and hope to the children in our community. I look at our participation in the Churches United meals at Zion Lutheran Church, and I know that God's promise of abundance comes to life. I look at our Sunday School, Confirmation, Camp and High School Mission Trip and Youth Group ministries, and I can see the fruit that it bears as we see children joyful to be at Sunday School, Confirmation youth having fun in the midst of learning which is attracting non-members to the program, kids ready to go back to camp almost as soon as they get home, and how the relationships that the high school youth have created, particularly as they share God's love on mission trips, has created a safe environment for them to come on a weekly basis, friends in tow, to have fun, to learn, to grow. I look back at worship and see families with children in worship and our new space for little ones in the Gathering Space helping families know that they are welcome in worship, noise and all. I look back at the addition of the 2:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve, and see how that offered both space so everyone could feel a part of worship and an additional option so that more people found their way to worship on Christmas Eve. The things that we are doing in this place are making a difference. Yes, hindsight is often 20/20.

However, as we look ahead to 2020, I think that our vision for what is yet to come is clear and becoming clearer each day. We have made revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws to match the model for the ELCA, which will mean some change of practice should it be approved, but will bring new life to some of the ministry that we do together. We have a new Mission Statement Team that is working to put into words all that we have discerned that God is calling us to do as we join God in the mission that God is already up to in and through this place. We have the Sanctuary Update Team that is working to make changes in the space where we worship more accessible to all people, from seating to communion to hearing to feeling a part of the space, even when we are overflowing. We are sending more youth on the mission trip to West Virginia in the year ahead than we have done in many years, and are looking forward to a number of youth and adults making the trip to Lutheran Lakeside again this year. We are imagining new ministries of which we could be a part, and seeking to use the space that God has given us to continue to be better

2



January Birthdays

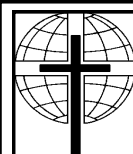
Birthday wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating

Katie Dittmer	January 1	Wyatt Frahm	January 16
Bud House	January 1	Dan Anderson	January 18
Gary Rohwer	January 1	Don Hamann	January 18
David Rose	January 3	Phyllis Hamann	January 18
Patricia St. John	January 4	Fae Harvey	January 29
Shirley Cole	January 5	Velma Riley	January 29
Shirley Baustian	January 7	Ron Arp	January 29
Marian Behrens	January 7		
Sue Braack	January 10		
Joyce Rathjen	January 14		



January Anniversaries

1/15/1961 *Bob & Ann Bainter*
1/29/1955 *George & Lois Braden*



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to Chris Schroeder and Rhonda Webber for sponsoring our Compassion Children Denisse Grefa and John Chima as well as our missionaries, the Bencke family in Japan, during January Service in the World also made an extra Christmas gift of \$20 to each of the Compassion Children. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month for each John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family.



Summer Camp Registration is Here!!

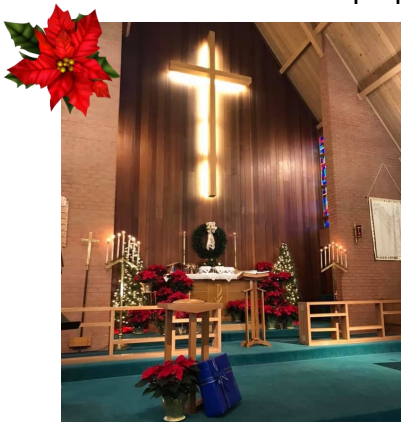
Registration for summer camp at Lutheran Lakeside, Spirit Lake, Iowa, is **now open**. We will be going the week of **July 21-26**. There is Junior Camp for those who have completed grades 3-5 and Confirmation Camp for those who have completed grades 6-8. Everyone needs to register on the Lutheran Lakeside website (www.lutheranlakeside.com). Faith will pay \$150 of the registration fee for every youth registered through Faith, and there is an Early Bird discount of \$50 for those who register by March 1.

We also hope that a number of adults will join us on the Adult Mission Trip to camp that same week. Please see Pastor Carrie for more details.



Christmas Cantata *The Promise of Light*

On Sunday, December 8, the Senior Choir and friends performed the Christmas Cantata, *The Promise of Light*. Thank you to all who sang, to Janice Hartwig for giving the Cantata sheet music, to Carolyn Lewis and Sue Sissel for narrating and to Sue Becker for directing. It was a wonderful addition to our Christmas preparation.



Christmas Eve 2019
2:00, 4:00 & 9:00 pm
Candlelight Services
573 persons Worshipped with Us!



neighbors to the people and the organizations in our community. We have a new sign that will be installed in the weeks ahead that will help us to better communicate all of this with the community and invite others to join us in this mission. Our vision for the year ahead is beginning to become 20/20.

As we head into this new year, may we give thanks for all that God has led us to in the year past, and put our trust in the one who always declares, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). May this new year be one of clear vision, joy-filled hope, and peace, trusting that God walks with us through it all, carrying us when need be, and that when we look back, we can see God's presence with 20/20 vision.

Thank you for all of the ways that you live into God's mission in and through the ministry that we share together!

Blessings to you all in the New Year!

Pastor Carrie



**WINTER RALLY DAY &
CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST**
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH - 9:15 AM

The congregation is invited to a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Christian Education Team on Sunday, January 5th at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating Winter Rally Day and welcoming a new semester of Sunday School. We welcome you to join us for breakfast and fellowship.

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTIFICATION

January 12, 2020

9:15 am Informational Meeting
(review of Revised Constitution & ByLaws)
10:30 am Congregational Meeting
(Approval of Revised Constitution & ByLaws)

January 19, 2020

9:15 am Budget Meeting

January 26, 2020

9:15 am Budget Meeting
10:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting
(Ratification of Revised Constitution & ByLaws, Election of Congregational Leaders & Budget Approval)



THE JOY THAT IS FOUND IN GOD'S PRESENCE DOES NOT FADE AWAY

Angela T. Khabeb This article is excerpted from Nov. 2019 *Gather* Magazine

According to Merriam-Webster, **joy** is “the emotion evoked by well-being, success or good fortune.” Happiness, the dictionary attests, means “to be favored by luck or fortune.” At first glance, it might appear that happiness and joy are synonymous, but our sacred texts teach us otherwise. For example, the prophet Nehemiah proclaims, “the joy of the Lord”—rather than the happiness—“is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). Happiness is directly connected to what is happening around us. Happiness is fleeting, temporal. Have you ever seen a commercial that promises all will be well for \$19.99 plus shipping and handling? Perhaps it was an advertisement for skin cream, diet pills or the perfect umbrella. Act now, and you’ll get an extra order for free! **Joy, however, is everlasting. The joy that is found in God’s presence does not fade away.**

JOY AT MIDNIGHT

When I think about joy in the context of faith, I am immediately drawn to the many-layered narrative of Paul and Silas. In the book of Acts, these two men are attacked by an angry mob. They are taken before the magistrate, stripped, brutally flogged and thrown into prison—in the innermost cell. There in the darkness, at “about midnight,” something bubbles up inside of Paul and Silas. Despite the terror of their circumstances, they begin to praise God. Everyone in the prison hears them—including the prisoners and the jailer. And God answers their midnight joy with an earthquake. The foundation of the prison begins to shake. The shackles fall from their feet, and the prison doors fling open. Paul, Silas, and all of the jail’s prisoners are liberated. **The power of joy cannot be contained.**

When the jailer realizes that the prison doors are open, he is overcome by fear of repercussions from his commanding officers. He grabs a sword with the intention of dying by suicide. But in an act of extreme benevolence, Paul and Silas interrupt his plans. They cry out to the jailer to let him know that the prisoners are still there, that he shouldn’t hurt himself. **This midnight joy is so transformative it leads Paul and Silas to save their enemy. In the jailer’s midnight hour, Paul and Silas became light for him.**

We’re fond of quoting from 1 Kings 19:12, where God speaks to the Prophet Elijah in a still, small voice. But sometimes, God does indeed answer with an earthquake—our lives are reordered, and we are never the same again. Midnight joy has the power to permanently transform us. Midnight joy is something that no one can take from us. You don’t have to pay taxes on it, and there’s no penalty for early withdrawal. It cannot be repossessed.

JOY REMAINS

Happiness is like the morning dew. It’s sweet and refreshing, yet it quickly evaporates under the scorching heat of grief, betrayal and devastation. Joy remains after happiness has left the building. Happiness comes for the party. Joy stays to help you clean up the mess. Happiness resides on the mountain top and rarely forsakes its inviting vista to venture into the valley. Joy, however, will travel with you through the valley of the shadow of death and stay there with you no matter what. Joy is rooted in a “some-way-somehow-we’re-gonna-make-it” spirit.

Saturday, January 18 @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen
Ushers:	Dennis & Joan Hennigan
Reader:	Joan Hennigan
Communion	Joan Hennigan
Counters:	Kelly Hazen & Joan Hennigan

Sunday, January 19

8:00 am

Greeters:	Bob & Ann Bainter
Ushers:	Mark & Chris Copley
Reader:	Chris Copley
Communion	Carol Marten
Counters:	Bob & Ann Bainter

10:30 am

Greeters:	Tom & Beth Bylund
Ushers:	Bill Wittkowski
Reader:	Nina Looney
Communion	
Counters:	Kent & Ann Stickler

Saturday, January 25 @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Gary Mueller
Ushers:	Dennis & Deb Petersen
Reader:	
Communion	Jan Hartwig
Counters:	Dennis & Deb Petersen

Sunday, January 26

8:00 am

Greeters:	Connie Braet
Ushers:	Carol Roe & Karen Schmitt
Reader:	Duane Miller
Communion:	Carol Marten
Counters:	Kristy Looney & Carol Roe

10:30 am

Greeters:	Jared & Kelly Penning
Ushers:	Kent & Michelle Wiebel
Reader:	Kelly Penning
Communion:	Kelly Penning
Counters:	Kent & Michelle Wiebel



Thank you to all who came in to help prepare all the bulletins for the Advent season and then came back to get this Ambassador out! Spending time with all of you is a treasured gift. Joni Johnson

²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20

January FAITH FAMILY: Group 3
Family Head: Carolyn Hulsen
February Family Group 2: Dan & Mary Ann Anderson
Bread Maker-Kim Brodersen

Saturday January 4 @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	John Hintze
Ushers:	Brodersen Family
Reader:	Donna Knapper
Communion	Kim Brodersen
Counters:	Scott & Laura Wiley

Sunday, January 5

8:00 am

Greeters:	Becky Stutt
Ushers:	Glen & Jean Keppy
Reader:	Brea Harms
Communion:	Jean Keppy
Counters:	Koralee Patzer & Tim Winter

10:30 am

Greeters:	Jim & Donna Gruenhagen
Ushers:	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen
Reader:	Carolyn Hulsen
Communion	Carolyn Hulsen
Counters:	David & Betty Griffin

Saturday, January 11 @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Dave & Desiree McCammant
Ushers:	Dennis & Joan Hennigan
Reader:	Nina Looney
Communion	Faye Harvey
Counters:	Roger & Barb Parmenter

Sunday, January 12

8:00 am

Greeters:	Dave & Linda Golinghorst
Ushers:	Ken & Sue Oetzmann
Reader:	Gretchen Small
Communion	Gretchen Small
Counters:	Dave & Linda Golinghorst

10:30 am

Greeters:	Allen & Carolyn Lewis
Ushers:	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen
Reader:	Kelly Penning
Communion	Sheila Baustian
Counters:	Ben & Heather Lueder

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES
AT FAITH**

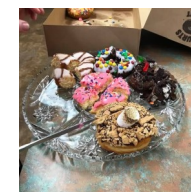
Advent Brunch



**High School Youth
Cookie Decorating**



**Congregational
Breakfast**



Children's News

Sunday School Christmas Program *Just A Little Christmas*



On Sunday, December 15, our Sunday School children told us how Jesus was born in story and song during their Christmas Program, *Just A Little Christmas*. Thank you to everyone who made this program possible. Your dedication to this ministry is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the children who did such a wonderful job of telling us this important story!



Jr. High Youth

November & December Confirmation Stewardship/Fellowship Event

Confirmation students worked together to make holidays brighter for residents at Grand Haven. In November, they made homemade pies and on Wednesday, December 18, the Confirmation Students shared carols with residents. Afterwards, they gathered in Fellowship Hall for a gift exchange.



Women of Faith News

ALL WOMEN OF FAITH...

ARE INVITED TO JOIN A GROUP OR CALL A LEADER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Women of Faith Board @ 6:30 pm on 1/9

Serving Sticks@ 6:30 pm on 1/12 & 1/26

Quilts of Many Colors@ 9 am on 1/21

Hannah Group @ 7 pm on 1/23

Contact Lynda Miller 285-8613

Lydia Group @ 7 pm on 1/30

Contact Linda Szemkus 285-9788



JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Chairperson: Linda Szemkus

Nina Looney

Jaclyn Snyder

Carol Kuehl

Sally Hamann

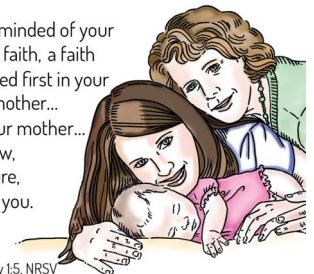
Cindy Staebell

LeAnne Cota

Kris Schwien



I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother... and your mother... and now, I am sure, lives in you.



2 Timothy 1:5, NRSV

Women of Faith

The Women of Southeast Iowa Synod Board's stewardship challenge for this year is to collect cancelled postage stamps. We need you and anyone you know to save your cancelled postage stamps. When trimming off envelopes, leave 1/4" around the stamp so as not to damage it. We will collect them and send to a distribution center who in turn sends the money back to go to Lutheran World Relief to provide fundraising for the shipping of quilts and kits around the world to those in need. It takes 27,000 stamps to make 1 pound of stamps. They have collected 65 million so far and sent \$42,000 to the shipping fund! All stamps are welcome.

- Commemorative and seasonal stamps are most valued.
- Cut the stamps from the envelope leaving 1/4 inch around the stamps so as not to damage the stamps.
- Save the stamps and bring them (or send them) to our Gathering at the Hotel Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids on June 26 and 27, 2020.



**THE NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS FOR JANUARY
Soup, Fruit, Hot & Cold Cereal**

Service in the World

Salvation Army Meals NOW Churches United Meal Site



Start your New Year out by feeding a warm meal to people in need. You can help by providing a meal at the Churches United Meal site, at Zion Lutheran, to the homeless people in Davenport. Faith Lutheran has committed to providing the evening meal six times in 2020.. **Tuesday, January 21st** is the first of those meals. The number of people served varies and could be up to 75 people. There are funds available for reimbursement of the food purchased for serving and the preparation of the food can be done at church. There are 3 roasters at church and various other kitchen tools for use. The Food Pantry also has 10 pounds of hamburger available to use for the meal. Please consider participating in this volunteer opportunity and feel the joy from sharing food and warming the spirit of these individuals. There is a sign up sheet with a more detailed description on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Al Kluever or Carrie Keppy or call the church office, 563-285-4501.

Fellowship



February 8th Cheeseburger In Paradise Saturday, February 8th after the 5 pm service. Burgers, lemonade and table service will be provided. Bring a side dish to share and get those Hawaiian shirts and flip flops out for a night of tropical fun for the whole family .

Limbo, hula hoop and flamingo ring toss! Come have a great night of fun and fellowship.

2020 Offering Envelopes



Your 2020 Offering Envelopes are HERE!!!! They are located on the counter in the gathering space in alphabetical order.

If you don't find your name and would like to have a box of Offering Envelopes, please sign your name on the sheet on each table, and we will get them to you.



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH IGNITE EVENT -

The Junior High Youth will be headed to St. Mark church on **Wednesday, January 29th** for an **IGNITE** event. This is an event with several other Lutheran Churches in the Quad Cities where we will play some games and do activities around the theme, "We Belong." We will meet at the church at 5 pm for supper then head down to Davenport. We will be returning to the church around 8:15 pm. Parent drivers will be needed for this event.

High School Youth

Cinnamon Rolls & Christmas Cookies!

On December 7, the youth who are going on the Mission Trip to West Virginia this summer and their parents spent a good portion of the day making 100 dozen cinnamon rolls, most of which sold that evening and the next morning to support the trip. Joni King also sold some of her Christmas cookies for the trip. We are very appreciative of all of you who purchased our rolls and cookies! We were able to net about \$820 toward the trip.






Mission Trip Update



We are so glad to have Cal Behm, Aundrea Crain, Reese Crain, Rylee Daniels, Danielle Dircks, Jill Dircks, Nate Fenn, Katie Garner, Grace Gephart, Grace Hamann, Mackenzie Housenga,

Abby Kayser, Maddy Kayser, Grace Kirst, Kalob Kroeger, Hayden Lebeck, Austin Lee, Davis Lee, Madolyn Lewis, Mitchell Mess, Kaycee Newman, Connor Peck, Erin Peck, Drew Sacia, Megan Sacia, McKenna Santee, Ryan Stickler, Sydney Westendorf, Madison Wiebel, Matthew Zidarich, Sarah Costello, Mike Housenga, Scott La Plante, Carolyn Lewis, Kevin Zidarich and Pastor Carrie going on the summer mission trip to the Serve Boldly Mission in West Virginia. As we lead up to this trip, we will be doing some fundraising to help finance the trip. Happening now:

- ♦ **Best Choice Save-A-Label-**We continue to collect UPC symbols from Best Choice products. There is a box in the Gathering Space where these will be collected. We just received a check for \$60 for labels turned in.
- ♦ **Super Bowl Subs and Snack Mix:** We will have order forms available in January to order submarine sandwiches and caramel snack mix for Super Bowl weekend, February 1 & 2. It is a great way to avoid making some of the party staples while helping out the youth!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 9:30 am Food Pantry	4 5:00 pm Worship
5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Congregational Breakfast-WINTER RALLY DAY 10:30 am Worship	6	7 5:30 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Jubilation Rehearsal	8 1:30 pm Bible Study 5-6:45 pm Conf. Meal followed by Conversations 5:15-6:00 pm Child. Choir 6:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30 pm Team Night 6:30 pm WOF Board Meeting	10 9:30 am Food Pantry	11 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship
12 8:00 am Jubilation Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Review of Const. & ByLaws 10:30 am Worship & Special Congregational Mtg. on Revised Constitution & ByLaws 5:00 pm Sheridan Sluggers 6:30 pm Serving Sticks	13 6:30 pm Lincoln Sheridan	14 5:30 pm Food Pantry	15 1:30 pm Bible Study 5-6:45 Confirmation Meal followed by Conversations 5:15-6 pm Child. Choir 6:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 pm Church Council 	17 9:30 am Food Pantry	18 5:00 pm Worship
19 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School - The Lord's Prayer 9:15 am Budget Meeting 10:30 am Jubilation Worship	20	21 9:00 am Quilting Group 5:30 pm Food Pantry	22 1:30 pm Bible Study 5-6:45 Confirmation Meal followed by Conversations 5:15-6 pm Child. Choir 6:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 pm Hannah Group	24 9:30 am Food Pantry Ambassador Deadline	25 5:00 pm Worship & Baptism of Jack Miller
26 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Budget Meeting 10:30 am Worship Annual Meeting 6:30 pm Serving Sticks	27	28 5:30 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Jubilation Rehearsal	29 1:30 pm Bible Study 5-6:45 Confirmation Meal followed by Conversations 5:15-6 pm Child. Choir 6:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 7:00 pm Lydia Group	31 9:30 am Food Pantry	1 February 5:00 pm Worship Mission Trip Super Bowl Subs