

**Worship Hours: Saturday @ 5:00 pm
Sunday @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School @ 9:15 am**

Happy Valentines Day

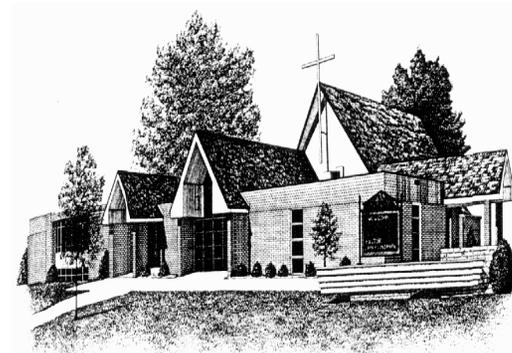
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

February 2020

**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,

January 23 marked 15 years of ordained ministry for me, which is an exciting milestone. As I shared in my sermon on January 26, the lectionary texts appointed for that day were the texts that I chose to use for my ordination service. And these are great texts for ordination. Isaiah 9:1-4 declares that “[t]he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined,” and what else are we to proclaim to the world that God’s light shines into the shadows of our lives, particularly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this portion of his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:10-18), Paul appeals to the church saying, “Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose,” and, to be honest, we all need to be reminded of this, both clergy and laypeople alike, that Jesus and what God has done for us in and through Jesus is what is central to who we are, and the details and leadership ought not divide us. Finally, the Gospel reading from Matthew (Matthew 4:12-23), we hear the call story of Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John away from their lives as fishermen into a new life as disciples of Jesus, and there is, perhaps, no better text to use to reflect on a call to ministry. And while these texts, particularly this story of Jesus calling the disciples, have been meaningful texts for me and have helped to inform my ministry over these last 15 years, it was not until reading through the texts this time around that I caught in something that Jesus says a promise for you and for me and for all people as we each get up and follow Jesus.

What jumped out to me this time is that when Jesus approaches Simon Peter and Andrew who are casting their nets into the sea, going about their daily work, Jesus calls out to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people” (Matthew 4:19b) Now, in this translation, there is a tinge of “Get up, come with me, and I am going to force you to do this thing for me.” However, in the Greek, the words that are translated “fish for” in the New Revised Standard Version actually are a noun and a preposition better translated, “fishers of,” making a better translation of Jesus’ call to Simon Peter and Andrew, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Hearing it that way, instead of hearing a sense of forced submission, what I heard was a promise from Jesus to create out of Simon Peter and Andrew who Jesus needed them to be.

The beauty of this is that Jesus took these fishermen with the dirt under their fingernails, their grimy, wet clothing, their little education and low socio-economic status and saw something in them that he could use. Jesus did not ask them for credentials, or ask them to go shower up, or even ask if they were available to leave their life of fishing to become what Jesus wanted to create them into. Jesus simply invited them to come and follow, and promised



february BIRTHDAYS



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

Lois Braden	February 2	Jill Kuhl	February 16
Fred Janusen	February 2	John Kuhl	February 16
Bill Wittkowski	February 3	Duane Miller	February 19
Walt Dengler	February 5	Janet Bowman	February 20
Louise Petersen	February 8		
Karen Schmitt	February 13		
Jean Keppy	February 14		
Dennis Mohr	February 14		



February Anniversaries

2/15/1958 - Don & Delores Rathjen



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP Thank you to Tom and Pam Carlson for sponsoring our missionaries, the Bencke family in Japan, to Lorenz and Marian Behrens for sponsoring our Compassion Child, John Chima (in memory of their son, Terry) and to Bob and Carol Kuehl for sponsoring Denisse Grefa, for February. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke Family in Japan.



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 26-31.** 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 February 28.

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.

Saturday, February 29th @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Lorenz & Marian Behrens
Ushers:	John & Keri Suiter
Reader:	Keri Suiter
Communion	John & Keri Suiter
Counters:	John & Keri Suiter

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 26. On Ash Wednesday, we will have our annual Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



Lent BEGINS In the next five weeks of Lent, we will have an evening prayer service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, featuring drama presentations.



Holy Week We will begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday, April 4 and 5 with a procession of the palms and a dramatic reading of the Passion according to Matthew. Our Maundy Thursday service at Faith on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 pm, will include the celebration of First Communion for several of our children. We will be having a Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness here at Faith this year at 7:00 pm. There will be an Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 11 at 5:00 pm and we will have Easter Celebration services on Sunday, April 12. Services will be held at 8:00 and 10:30 am with breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt in between. Please join us as we journey these 40 days of Lent together.



The Worship & Music Team will be hosting a congregational **Ash Wednesday Soup Supper** at 6 pm, prior to the 7 pm worship service on February 26. A variety of soups and sandwiches will be served for all to enjoy. Confirmation students will be assisting with set-up, serving and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and all are encouraged to attend.

that he would make something new and wonderful from them.

And Jesus does the same for us, Jesus takes us as we are and creates from us what Jesus needs us to be. The most beautiful realization of this comes when we celebrate baptism, particularly the baptism of infants. Infants have done nothing to earn God's love: they have not served on any committees or done any great feats, they have not saved any lives or won any great prizes. And yet, in the waters of baptism God names and claims them as beloved, the Holy Spirit promises to reside within them, and Jesus promises to walk alongside them, always creating them into who God created them to be and who Jesus needs them to be in any given time and space. Jesus takes them as they are and is always creating something new out of them.

This is true for all of us who have been baptized. Jesus takes us as we are and makes us into who Jesus needs us to be where we are. As Mark Betterson once said, "God doesn't call the qualified. God qualifies the called." And this is true for us as individuals and as a community together. Jesus has called us and will qualify us to do the work that God needs us to do in this place at this time together – and that is an exciting thought!

As we continue into this new year, may we hear where Jesus is calling us to follow; may we be molded into the people and the community that God needs us to be in this place at this time so that we can shine the light of God's love into the shadows of the world around us, and may we be a sign of God's love and hope and promise for all to see.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Carrie



Picture at Left: Annual Meeting
Picture Above: Camp fun with Paige McGrath

BAPTISMS IN JANUARY



WE WELCOME to our Faith family, through the waters of Holy Baptism, Jack David Miller, son of Chad and Christina Miller. His sponsors were Victor and Alexandria Rose, Tony Miller and Shannon Holst.

2019 YEAR END STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT

If you find there is an error on your statement, please contact the church office (285-4501).

PHOTO GALLERY

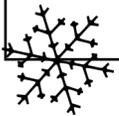


PHOTO GALLERY



Confirmation Lock-In
December 29 & 30



Confirmation Lesson on the Cross



One Room Sunday Schoolhouse thanks to the weather!



Saturday, February 15th @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Barb Paustian
Ushers:	Mike & Rita Smith
Reader:	Donna Knapper
Communion	Rita Smith & Kelly Dircks
Counters:	Gary & Joni King

Sunday, February 16th

8:00 am

10:30 am

Greeters:	Doug & Sharie Garner	Greeters:	Jim & Donna Gruenhagen
Ushers:	Doug & Sharie Garner	Ushers:	Chad & Carrie Keppy
Reader:	Duane Miller	Reader:	Carrie Keppy
Communion	Lynda Miller	Communion	Chad & Carrie Keppy
Counters:	Kelly Hazen & Joan Hennigan	Counters:	Dan & Deanna Nielsen

Saturday, February 22nd @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Sue Sissel
Ushers:	Jared & Kelly Penning
Reader:	Sue Sissel
Communion	Jared & Kelly Penning
Counters:	Melody Sawvell & Sue Sissel

Sunday, February 23rd

8:00 am

10:30 am

Greeters:	Bob & Ann Bainter	Greeters:	Jackie Snyder
Ushers:	Chad & Carrie Keppy	Ushers:	Kent & Michelle Wiebel
Reader:	Carrie Keppy	Reader:	Kelly Penning
Communion:	Chad & Carrie Keppy	Communion:	John & Keri Suiter
Counters:	Carol Roe & Ruth Staudt	Counters:	Sherri Brundies & Cathy Diaz



February FAITH FAMILY: Group 2
Family Head: Kelly Dircks
March Family Group 1-Barb Parmenter

Saturday February 1st @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Gary & Joni King
Ushers:	Mike & Rita Smith
Reader:	Donna Knapper
Communion	Rita Smith
Counters:	Mike & Rita Smith

Sunday, February 2nd

8:00 am

Greeters:	Duane & Lynda Miller
Ushers:	Karl & Sara Nissen
Reader:	Karen Schmitt
Communion:	Linda Szemkus & Kelly Dircks
Counters:	Ken & Sue Oetzmann

10:30 am

Greeters:	Mark & Chris Copley
Ushers:	Chad & Carrie Keppy
Reader:	Carrie Keppy
Communion	Chad & Carrie Keppy
Counters:	Allen & Carolyn Lewis

Saturday, February 8th @ 5:00 pm

Greeters:	Janet Nagle
Ushers:	Diane Cole & David Griesbach
Reader:	Nina Looney
Communion	Dave & Diane Cole
Counters:	Bob & Carol Kuehl

Sunday, February 9th

8:00 am

Greeters:	Doug & Sharie Garner
Ushers:	Karl & Sara Nissen
Reader:	Carrie Keppy
Communion	Kelly Dircks & Nancy Meyer
Counters:	Carol Judge & Michelle Reimler

10:30 am

Greeters:	Kelly Dircks
Ushers:	Mike & Annette Tomlinson
Reader:	Annette Tomlinson
Communion	Rita Smith & Kelly Dircks
Counters:	Mike & Annette Tomlinson



High School Youth Group
 playing
 Family Feud



CORRECTION FROM JANUARY NEWSLETTER: Music for the Christmas Cantata in December, *THE PROMISE OF LIGHT*, was purchased previously by the Bowman, Brockhouse and Baustian families in honor of Ron Bowman. My apologies for the misprint. Joni Johnson

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 Franklin, West Virginia.

Thank you for your support of the trip, especially those who purchased Super Bowl Subs and Snack Mix. We hope that they helped you party well.

Continuing and upcoming fundraisers include:

- ◆ **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 are very close to receiving another \$30!
- ◆ **Cinnamon Rolls—April 4th & 5th (Palm Sunday Weekend):** We will be selling both baked rolls and take-and-bake rolls. \$1 per single roll; \$5 for a half-dozen baked rolls; \$10 for a dozen take-and-bake rolls.

Thank you in advance for your financial and prayer support!

Children's News



2ND GRADERS & PARENTS 10 COMMANDMENTS MILESTONE:

Jesus says: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." Join Pastor Carrie as she leads conversation and learning with all 2nd graders and their parents. Together children and families explore God's Top Ten List and discover the gift of God's love, which provide guidance for navigating life. **On February 16th at 9:15 am**, 2nd graders and parents are invited to this class. At the 10:30 worship service students will be recognized before the children's sermon. Blessings to our 2nd graders and families as they prepare for this important milestone.

HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

Holy Communion is a gift from God! But what is it? How does it work? All students (2nd grade and older) who have not yet received their first communion are invited to come, learn, and experience the goodness of God.

During the four-session Sunday morning units, each child creates a clay chalice, has a taste of a Seder meal, learns to prepare communion bread and makes a daily bread collage that will adorn the sanctuary walls for Holy Week.

During the Maundy Thursday worship service, all first communicants will celebrate their first communion by providing the whole congregation the bread they made and will share wine from their very own hand created pottery chalices with their families.

There will be 4 Classes at 9:15 am on 3/8, 3/22, 3/29 and 4/5. The **Maundy Thursday Worship Service** will be 4/9 at 7 pm. (Cupcake reception will precede worship at 6:30pm).

Please RSVP to the pastors or the church office by February 28th if your child desires to participate in this class. This way we can prepare supplies to equip your child for this milestone. **The first class on 3/8 requires parent's participation as students form their own chalices.**

5TH GRADE MILESTONE-APOSTLE'S CREED On

Sunday, March 1, during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15 am), 5th graders and their parents are invited to join Pastor Carrie for some fun activities as we learn more about the Apostle's Creed. This creed is our baptismal confession as we declare with the whole church what we believe to be true about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Please join the rest of the Sunday School students for Sunday School Gathering at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall, and then we will move to another room for our conversation. We will recognize participants during the 10:30 am worship service following class. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 2/13

Serving Sticks@ 6:30 pm on 2/9 & 2/23

Quilts of Many Colors@ 9 am on 2/18

Hannah Group @ 7 pm on 2/27

Contact Lynda Miller 285-8613

Lydia Group @ 7 pm on 2/27

Contact Linda Szemkus 285-9788



FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Chairperson: Lynda Miller

Donna Knapper

Michele Olson

Karen Schmitt

Shirley Stoltenberg

Sue Sissel

Michelle Mess

Joni King



Don't Forget!!

The **Women of Faith** are still actively collecting cancelled stamps for the **STAMP PROJECT** with the Women of the **ELCA**. Stamps are to be trimmed from your envelope leaving a 1/4" border. Read more about this project on the Women of Faith section of the kiosk.



SWEET TREATS

Do you have a favorite sweet treat that you make for Valentine's Day? The weekend of February 9 & 10, the Women of Faith will be offering sweet treats (a sale of indulgence) for your valentine.

You are invited to help support our ministries by donating your favorite sweet treat. Bring your treats to the church on Saturday, February 9, after 3:00 p.m. and place them on the table in the narthex. We ask that you package your treats so they are ready for purchase. Following the worship services you will be able to purchase treats for your valentine with a free will offering. There will be a basket on the table for you to place your offering. All proceeds from this event will be given to the nurses of the North Scott School District to purchase items for any child in need.

Special Offerings

Special Offerings collected for Thanksgiving amounted to \$326. \$163 of that went to the upcoming North Scott High School Dance Marathon event to benefit Iowa Stead Children's Hospital in Iowa City. The other \$163 went to Lutheran Lakeside in support of the camp.

The **Special Offerings collected for Christmas totaled \$1,806.** \$903 of that amount was given to the North Scott Food Pantry and the remaining \$903 was given to Lutheran Lakeside. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these important organizations.

Fellowship

Please join us on **February 8, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** for our **Annual Cheeseburger in Paradise Party.** Table service, lemonade and Burgers provided! Side dish welcome to share, but not required. Dress in your Hawaiian shirts and come have some fun! Sign up on the Bulletin Board and come have some fun!!!!



Service in the World



The Service in the World committee would like to thank the volunteers who donated, prepared and served 106 meals to those in need January 21st at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. We have 2 more dates reserved to provide the evening meal at Zion this year: July 21st and November 17th. The Service in the World committee is planning some changes to make it easier to participate. The meal will be planned out 1-2 months ahead of time and a detailed sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board with slots for food donations, food preparation and serving. Please consider participating in this volunteer opportunity and feel the joy of sharing food and warming the spirit of these individuals. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Joni Schneider, Carrie Keppy, Tom Carlson or call the church office.

NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:



**CANNED MEAT, CANNED MEALS,
GRANOLA BARS
THANK YOU!**

6TH GRADERS: PRE-CONFIRMATION MILESTONE

Dive into God's 5 baptismal promises. Pastor Heather will lead an adventurous hour of fun times, togetherness and learning. Grow deep in faith. Keep God at the center. Recognition of this important milestone is **Sunday, April 19th, 2020 at the 8am worship service.** Please mark your calendars for these **Five Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:45 pm.**

5 Wednesday evening classes: 3/4, 3/11, 3/25, 4/1 and 4/8.

Completing the pre-confirmation milestone launches all students into an exciting two-year Confirmation experience beginning fall of 2020.

Jr. High Youth & High School Youth

There are two exciting joint events coming up for our junior high and high school youth, and we hope that you will attend.



Sunday, February 9 – Tubing at Snowstar – We will gather after the 10:30 am worship service (about 11:45 am) and find a place to eat lunch. We will then travel to Snowstar for two hours of tubing. The anticipated return time would be between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. The cost for the event is \$20, and friends are welcome, please let Pastor Carrie know if you will be going no later than Wednesday,



Friday, March 20, to Saturday, March 21 – IGNITE Quad Cities Lock-in – This will be a lock-in with a number of the other Lutheran congregations in the Quad City area. Details are still being worked out and more information is coming, but please mark your calendars for this fun event.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH High School Youth Group will continue to meet every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Youth Room. We will gather for games, snacks and Bible study as we continue to look at the Bible and consider the struggles that we face in this life and where God fits into that.

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

FEBRUARY 2020

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Super Bowl Subs 5:00 pm Worship
2 Super Bowl Subs 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	3	4 5:30 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Jubilation Rehearsal	5 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	6 6:30 pm Team Night 7:00 pm Food Pantry Board Meeting	7 9:30 am Food Pantry	8 Sweet Treats-WOF 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship 6:00 pm Cheeseburger in Paradise
9 Sweet Treats-WOF 8:00 am Jubilation Worship 9:15 am Congregational Breakfast 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm Sheridan Sluggers 6:30 pm Serving Sticks	10 6:30 pm Lincoln Sheridan	11 5:30 pm Food Pantry	12 10:00 am Worship at Grand Haven 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	13 6:30 pm WOF Board Meeting	14 9:30 am Food Pantry	15 5:00 pm Worship
16 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School Milestone Ministries—2nd Grade 10:30 am Jubilation Worship & Baptism	17	18 9:00 am Quilting Group 5:30 pm Food Pantry	19 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	20 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	21 9:30 am Food Pantry Ambassador Deadline	22 5:00 pm Worship & Baptism
23 Transfiguration Sunday 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Serving Sticks	24	25 5:30 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Jubilation Rehearsal	26 Ash Wednesday 1:30 pm Bible Study 5:15-6 pm Child. Choir 6:00-6:45 pm Soup Supper (served by Confirmation Youth) 7:00 Worship After Worship HS Youth	27 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 7:00 pm Hannah Group 7:00 pm Lydia Group	28 9:30 am Food Pantry	29 5:00 pm Worship