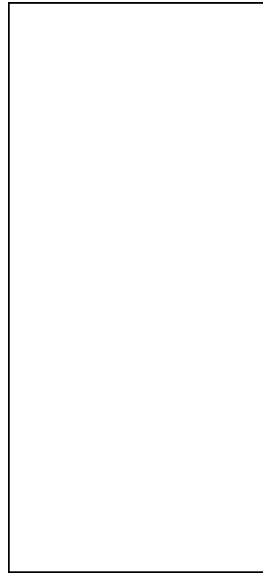
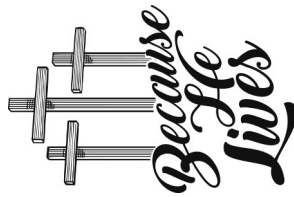


**Worship Hours: Saturday @ 5:00 pm  
Sunday @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am  
Sunday School @ 9:15 am**

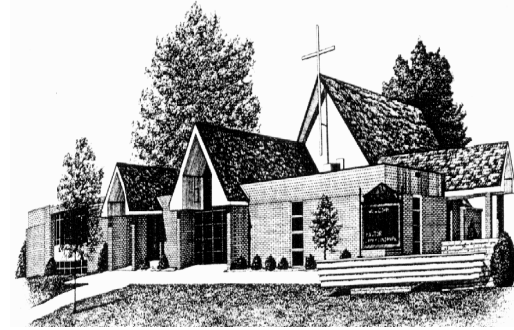
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
500 W. LeClaire Road  
Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

## Faith Lutheran Church



# AMBASSADOR

**April 2020**

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

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

[www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)

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**Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted  
Called to share, seek, and serve Christ**



Dear Friends in Christ,

This Ambassador is going to be very different from what we are used to. Usually, in this month's edition, we would be hearing about all of the wonderful and meaningful worship experiences that we would be having as we lead into Holy Week and Easter. We would be seeing pictures of the things that we have done in the last month. Instead, this edition is filled with more information about how we can stay connected during this time, which is just as important.

Within this edition, you will be reminded of the ways in which you can participate in worship, Confirmation, Youth Group, Sunday School activities, and prayer opportunities through our website and Facebook page. There is also information about ways to stay connected if you do not have internet access. There is an article from Council about the work that they are continuing to do on your behalf during the unprecedented days. Beth Ann Anderson, Stewardship Chair, also provides information about a new online giving option that you may find helpful to utilize in this time, and we have included the authorization form for direct withdrawal through Faith Giving if you would like to use that option. We do have some pictures of our youth from just before Spring Break that we hope will brighten your days, and we still want to remember those who are celebrating birthdays during these days. Please read through this information, and if you have questions and suggestions, please let us know.

As I have been working through these days, sometimes I have felt overwhelmed trying to keep on top of things. On Sunday, I was reminded of this verse from John's Gospel, a verse we often use at funerals, but one that also seems appropriate in these days. [Jesus said to his disciples,] "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 17:27, NRSV).

In these days, many of us are anxious and worried. Many of us are afraid for all kinds of reasons including health, finances, job security, education of our children, physical separation, family frailty and so much more. Many of us are worried about what we ought to be doing next and fearing that we are not doing enough. I know that I have voices in my head telling me that I need to be worrying all of the time about all kinds of things. Maybe it is the same for you.

And into the midst of this, we hear Jesus promising his disciples peace. Now, Jesus is promising this peace to his disciples at the last supper as he prepares for his own death on the cross. Certainly, there would be little sense of peace in the midst of what was to come in the next days for Jesus and the disciples. And yet, even with all that Jesus knew was ahead, Jesus promised peace, not only for that situation, but for all of Jesus' disciples in all circumstances throughout time.

My friend and colleague, Pastor Garrett Andrew, a Presbyterian pastor in California, posted this story this week that I had not thought of for a long time that I thought helped get at this sense of peace, and so I share it with



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

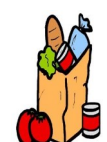
Judy Knoer April 1  
Bob Kuehl April 2  
Dorothy Watson April 5  
Florence Whisler April 10  
Glen Keppy April 11  
Francis West April 14  
Dennis Peterson April 15  
Marilyn Jansen April 16  
James St. John April 20

Dennis Krambeck April 21  
Nadine Schwarz April 21  
Nancy Meyer April 26  
Sharie Garner April 28  
Barb Paustian April 28  
Bill Riley April 28  
Sue Casel April 30

*4/25/1964-Mary & Dean Bender*



**MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP** Thank you to Norm & Fae Harvey for sponsoring our missionaries, the Bencke family in Japan and to Brad & Janet Merrick for sponsoring our Compassion Child, John Chima. and to Jan Hartwig for sponsoring Denisse Grefa, for April. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke Family in Japan.



**NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL:**  
**PASTA, SPAGHETTI SAUCE & SIDE DISHES**  
If you are among the age group of less risk for COVID 19, call 285-8444 if you can help us. We are short of volunteers...

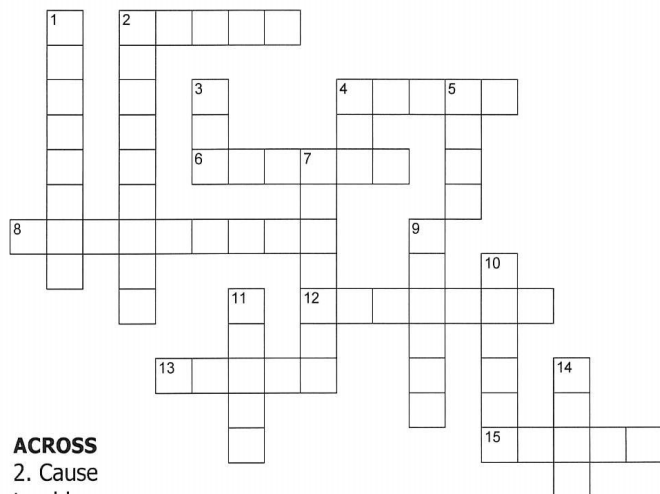
# BIBLICAL CROSSWORD

## Verse to Remember

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

—Isaiah 40:31

**CROSSWORD:** All of the clues and answers are taken from the story of Job, the book in the Bible that comes right before Psalms.

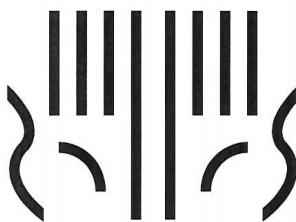


### ACROSS

- 2. Cause trouble
- 4. Twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. The Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. Creature of the deep, (41:1)
- 12. The Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. Sores

### DOWN

- 1. The One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. Affliction
- 3. Had seven sons
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Precipitation
- 9. The Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's 4th friend (32:2)



Nevertheless, the righteous  
will hold to their ways, and  
those with clean hands will  
grow stronger.

J o b 1 7 : 9

### Solution:

#### Across

- 2. Satan
- 4. stars
- 6. Bildad
- 8. Leviathan
- 12. Eliphaz
- 13. boils
- 15. sheep

### Solution:

#### Down

- 1. Redeemer
- 2. suffering
- 3. Job
- 4. sea
- 5. rain
- 7. donkeys
- 9. Zophar
- 10. camels
- 11. Elihu
- 14. oxen



you.

There is a story of an old king who commissioned every artist in his kingdom to create a piece depicting peace. Thousands of artists brought pieces to the capital hoping that they would win the prize the king promised to the artist who best depicted peace.

There were paintings of serene fields, children sleeping in their beds, sculptures of meditating monks, and more. Therefore, the whole kingdom was surprised when the king chose a painting of a storm at sea smashing into a rock cliff shore. People who looked at it could feel the thunder and harsh winds. It was dark and ominous. The king said, "This artist understands peace!" There were whispers the king had gone mad.

"No, look," he said, "right here," pointing to a battered small bush against the rock cliff battered by the storm. Barely noticeable behind the small bush was a mother bird sleeping peacefully on her eggs.

"Peace," he said, "isn't when there is not worry, no stress, no storm. Peace is the calm one lives when the whole world seems mad and doesn't go mad with it."

May that be the peace that fills us in these days - the peace of God in Jesus Christ blown by the Holy Spirit into our lives that promises to hold us and keep us even as everything around us is turning upside down.

Blessings and peace in the midst of the chaos,  
*Pastor Carrie*





### *Thank you! from the Council*

First, we must recognize the hard and urgent work to respond to the contact change due to COVID-19. Thank you to Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather and our church staff who are directly impacted by the changes in many ways - staying on top of the new, connecting with organizations for ideas, adopting the work to match the current needs, supporting those who need it. Their ability to be flexible and adjust is incredible. We also appreciate the many volunteers who are providing assistance and continuing ministry work. And, it is very important to thank everyone who continues to support our ministry with time, talents, and by giving. It is only through this stewardship that we will continue to do the work of Jesus through our ministries!

### *Council Update*

The council is still doing work together and connecting using email and Zoom web conferencing. We supported Pastor Carrie's important and timely recommendations to adjust to online worship and to suspend in person gatherings to respond to COVID-19. We had a special meeting this week to further respond to COVID-19, where we approved a change to our Easter Special Offering to fund the North Scott School District's food program for kids that is just starting up and to approve the addition of a mobile phone and website giving option call Tithe.ly that the ELCA recommends. Beth Ann Anderson, our Stewardship Team Leader, talks more about these changes in her article in this month's Ambassador.

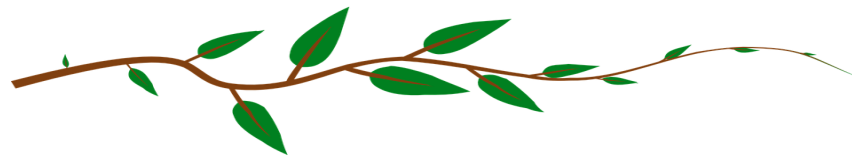
We will be meeting on March 29 for our annual retreat using Zoom web conferencing instead of meeting at the church. Our goals for the meeting include:

- Book Discussion: *Growing Young, 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*, Chapter 1. What Congregations are Doing Right
  - Continue to onboard the 2020 Council
  - Discuss focus and priorities for 2020
- Address old and new business for March

Needless to say, our ideas for 2020 have probably changed in light of COVID-19, but we need to understand what work Jesus is asking of to do this year. We need to consider the challenge Pastor Carrie gave us, to go to the dark shadows and shine our light, or as Pastor Heather says, we must find *the unmet needs first* then form our plans.

We are very interested in your thoughts and feedback. Since we are not able to be together, if you want to reach out to the council for any reason, please send an email to the church and it will get forwarded to the right council member.

new life. We thank you for continuing to do the work of God's kingdom, watching out for one another, loving one another, supporting one another, perhaps in more creative ways, but always pouring out the love of God to your neighbor.



### Easter Offering Update

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, the Church Council voted to redirect the Special Offering portion intended for the North Scott **High School** Food Pantry to the North Scott School District's emergency meal program. The High School Food Pantry is closed and inaccessible during the school closing. By redirecting this portion of the special offering from the school pantry to the District's emergency meal program we are able to help students and their families immediately during this time of need.

Why does the North Scott Community School District need our help feeding kids right now? 25.5% ( 1 in 4) of the students in the North Scott Community School District qualify for Free and Reduced meals. To qualify for funds from the USDA Summer Food Service Program - Open Site (free to all kids 18 and under), a district must have a student population of 50% or higher that qualify for free and reduced meals. Because our school district does not meet the 50% qualification rate for the USDA Summer Food Program, we do not qualify for the funds to provide free meals during this National Emergency. The North Scott Community School District has moved ahead with plans to provide meals to the students that need assistance, even though there will be no Federal financial assistance for this expense. The District has requested help from the community to financially support this historic effort.

The other half of the Easter Offering will be directed to Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach at University of Iowa Hospital as originally intended. Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach provides Spiritual Care to patients and their families from all over the country at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Services include listening, comforting, praying, reading scripture, baptizing, communing, anointing, blessing, commending the dying, leading worship, and conducting weddings and funerals. Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach does not receive support from any synod or hospital – it is entirely funded by donations from congregations, individuals, and other organizations. More information can be found at <https://www.lcoiowa.org/>



periodically run errands for a congregation member in need, please contact the office, and we will match you up.

- Pastor Heather and Pastor Carrie have suspended all visitation during this time in order to prevent the possibility of us carrying disease to any of our members. If there is an emergency need for a visit, please contact the church office, and one of the pastors will find a way to meet that need.
- During this time, we will be unable to celebrate baptism, and those families have been notified. Should the need arise, we will be doing funerals differently as well. We will be available to do small graveside services now, and then will help to schedule visitation and memorial services after it is deemed safe to hold these larger gatherings. While none of this is ideal, we are making our best effort to protect everyone.
- We give thanks for those who have continued to contribute to the needs of the church in these days with time, talents and treasure especially as the ways in which we are doing these things are rapidly changing. As your giving helps to continue our ministry in these chaotic times, we remind you of the various ways in which financial gifts can be made. You can mail your offering to the church through the mail, you may make use of the Faith Giving automatic withdrawal service (a form is included in this Ambassador), and you will find an article from Beth Ann Anderson, Stewardship Chair, about our new online giving option. Thank you in advance for the ways in which you help us to continue our ministry together.
- Everything with this situation is very fluid. We will continue to post information on our Facebook page and website, and when there is significant news to share, we will send a congregational email and a letter through the US Postal Service.
- If there are needs that are not being met that we can help you to meet or help you to find resources to meet them, please let us know. I would also direct you to North Scott Cares, both their Facebook Page and on their website:  
([www.nscommunityenhancement.com/emergency-resources](http://www.nscommunityenhancement.com/emergency-resources)) as they are compiling resources for those in need in these days.

These are unprecedented times, and in these days, we hold onto the promise that God goes with us through all of this and will lead us to

(continued next page) 12

### ***Together, while we are apart***

We are working to increase opportunities to be together while we are apart. It is a good time for people who are able to pay attention to our website and our facebook. There are regular updates and links to online services and resources. If you are not able to utilize the internet, please see Pastor Carrie's article in this month's Ambassador for options, and we will continue to communicate by US mail.

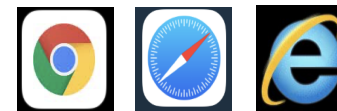
Our greatest hope is that you find comfort and strength in being able to stay connected to the church, and that we will work together in creative ways throughout the year to continue to do the work of Jesus to serve others through our ministries.

Blessings!

Linda Golinghorst, President



Faith is turning more and more to online resources in order to respond to COVID-19. If you are not used to navigating the internet, here are the basic steps you need to access our website and use online resources. These are the same instructions you would use for any computer device (PC, Mac, Tablet or iPad, and even a Smart Phone). Turn on your computer device and login as required. Open your web browser by clicking on the icon, e.g. Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, etc.



The address bar shows at the top of the web browser window. Click on the address bar and type the church's website address ([faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://faithlutheraneldridge.com)) then hit the return key, or go button depending upon your keyboard type.

A note from Stewardship...

During this time of social distancing we are all learning new ways of daily living. One of those new things is online worship. Even though we are not meeting in person, it is important for your financial gifts to continue to Faith so that we can continue to minister to God's people. We have added a new, convenient, and safe option for you to share your offering with Faith online called Tithe.ly. You can find the online purple Give Now button on our web page ([www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)) to use this service.



Once you click the button, you will be able to make one-time or reoccurring donations through this service using your phone or computer. You can select the donation type – operating fund (regular offering), special offering (for Easter), or noisy offering (World Hunger). There is a small fee that Tithe.ly charges for this service, and you will have the option of paying the fee when you process the transaction. If you are paying from an ELCA Credit Union or your bank, you will most likely find the fee is less than the cost of an envelope and stamp (see example \* below).

In addition to Tithe.ly, we continue to offer the Faith Giving program. Faith Giving allows you to set up an automated, reoccurring gift to Faith directly from your bank account. Faith pays a very small fee for this service – only 10 cents a transaction! If you would like to set up Faith Giving, please complete the form found in this newsletter or online under the “Give to Faith” link near the top of the page, and return the form to Faith (preferably by mail). If you need help completing the form, please call Carolyn Scheibe (563-285-4557) for assistance. If you prefer to give by check, you certainly may continue to do so. You may send checks by mail to Faith at 500 W. LeClaire Road, Eldridge, Iowa 52748.

Thank you for your continued gifts and prayers during this trying time. Your gifts allow us to continue the work of Jesus through our ministries.

\*Tithe.ly fees are calculated as a percentage of the donation, plus \$0.25 per transaction. Fees through Tithe.ly are NOT recorded as a donation to Faith. Fees for a \$30.00 donation would be:  
ELCA Credit Union  $\$30 \times 0.0\% = \$0 + \$0.25 = \$0.25$  total transaction fee  
ACH (bank account)  $\$30 \times 0.5\% = \$0.15 + \$0.25 = \$0.40$  total transaction fee  
Visa/MasterCard  $\$30 \times 2.4\% = \$0.72 + \$0.25 = \$0.97$  total transaction fee  
AMEX  $\$30 \times 3.5\% = \$1.05 + \$0.25 = \$1.30$  total transaction fee  
Faith Giving - \$30 (or ANY amount) donation = \$0.10 transaction fee  
(Fee is part of donation to Faith)

in real time and are not shared in video form following the gathering. A written devotion based on the conversation, however, is posted on Facebook immediately following the gathering. At this time we are not meeting on Wednesday due to Holden Evening Prayer at that same time.

- For those who do not have access to the internet, we are also putting together a print in-home worship service including the readings for the week, a short meditation, and some prayers. We will have copies of that available on Fridays in a box on a bench in front of the church each Friday morning. We are also more than happy to send them directly to you in the mail as well. If you would like that, please contact the office ([faitheldridge@netins.net](mailto:faitheldridge@netins.net) or 563-285-4501).
- We will celebrate all of the Holy Week worship services and Easter Sunday online. If we receive the palms that we ordered for Palm Sunday, we will find a way to safely distribute those so that you can have them with you in your home, should you wish, as we celebrate the procession of the Palms together. We will plan to have a full celebration of Easter on the first Sunday that we are together again as it will feel like resurrection.
- Sunday School materials from Illustrated Ministries are being emailed in our weekly blast to our Sunday School families each week for devotions in the home, and they are being posted on our Facebook page for those who would like to download them (they are good for all ages). If you would like paper copies sent to you, please let the office know
- Confirmation and High School Youth Group will meet via Zoom for the remainder of the program year. Links to those meetings are being emailed to those families. If you are not receiving the email, please text Pastor Carrie (641-275-1326). The Confirmation Service will be rescheduled once we are able to gather again.
- The North Scott Food Pantry currently is open its regular hours but all service is drive-thru. If you have questions about the Food Pantry, please contact them directly at 563-285-8444.
- If you are in a risk category that makes it unsafe for you to run your errands or pick up medication, and you would like help with doing this, please contact the church office and we will find you a partner who would be able to run those errands for you. If you are someone who is not in a risk category who would be willing to



## CONNECTING THROUGH COVID-19

As the information surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to change, we continue to seek to fulfill God's call to care for our neighbors. In these days, that means making decisions that will keep all of us safe and healthy and to help flatten the curve as this virus continues to spread while still seeking to remain connected as a community of faith until we are able to meet again. At this point, we continue to plan on a total of eight weeks in which we would suspend all in-person worship services and gatherings of the congregation and outside groups (with the exception of the North Scott Food Pantry); however, that date may move based on the recommendations of the CDC and the Iowa Department of Public Health. We will be sure to let you know of any changes that come.

In the meantime, here are the ways in which you can connect Faith and help us to connect with you.

- At this time, the office is not open regular hours as we are trying to do as much of our work as possible from home to practice social distancing. If there is something you need to drop off or pick up from the church, please call ahead to be sure someone is here or contact Pastor Carrie, and she will set up a time. When we are in the office, we are keeping the doors locked in order to control the number of people in the building. Please knock when you arrive, and one of us will come to let you in.
- We are live-streaming Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and weekend worship on Saturday evenings at 5:00 pm on Facebook Live. These services are then available on Facebook and on our website following worship for you to watch at your convenience. These services probably look a little different than we are used to, but we are trying to keep them as familiar as possible. Bulletins to use for the worship will also be posted to aid you in your worship.
- On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, we are gathering for prayer on Zoom at 7:00 pm. You can access these meetings on our website ([www.faithlutheranelldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheranelldridge.com)) Each evening, we share something of the blessings that we have experienced as we go through these days, we share a devotion on a Bible passage, and we pray together, with each evening focusing on a different segment of the population. These are gatherings held

## Faith Children and Youth

**Sunday School Children sing and dance and 5th graders work on the Apostle's Creed during their Faith Milestone.**



**Confirmation Youth learning about who is our neighbor with a crazy game.**



**High School Youth having fun before Spring Break!**

**FAITH GIVING**  
**Authorization Agreement for Automatic Payment (Debits)**

**Mail this form to: Faith Lutheran Church**    500 W. LeClaire Road    Eldridge, IA 52748  
**OR** call Carolyn Scheibe (563.285.4557), Faith's Financial Secretary, to set this up via phone.

I (we-if joint account) hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ **Faith Lutheran Church**  
Hereinafter called Company, to initiate debit entries from my account as follows: **(complete only one of the options listed below)**

\$ _____	Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Offering Type:</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td>Noisy Offering</td></tr><tr><td>Regular Offering</td></tr><tr><td>Special Offering (specify)</td></tr></table>	Noisy Offering	Regular Offering	Special Offering (specify)
Noisy Offering					
Regular Offering					
Special Offering (specify)					
\$ _____	Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>				
\$ _____	Weekly on Monday				
\$ _____	One Time Donation				

and to initiate, if necessary, credit entries and adjustments for any credit entries in error to my (our) account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called Depository, to credit the same to such account.

8

Bank/Financial Institution Name/Number                      Branch                      City, State Zip

Routing Number/ABA    Account Number

Type of Account (*Select One*):    ☐ Checking    ☐ Savings

**This authority is to remain in full force until \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)** or Company has received written notification from me (or either of us of) its terminations in such time and in such manner as to afford Company and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it (minimum 10 days).

Name (*Please Print*)    E-mail Address (*if needed for notification*)

Signature ( or Verbal Authorization)                      Date

Name (*if joint account using the term "and"*)

Signature    Date

9