

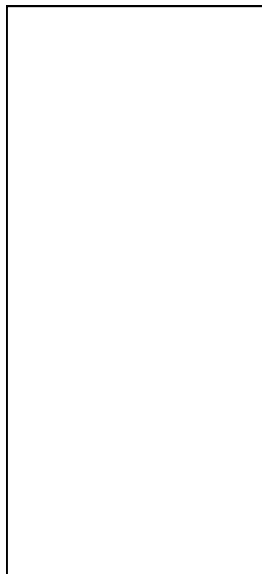
FAITH CONNECTS (Daily Devotion) M&W @ 7:00 pm Online
Weekly Worship, Saturday @ 5:00pm Live Stream
Available Online & on our Facebook Page



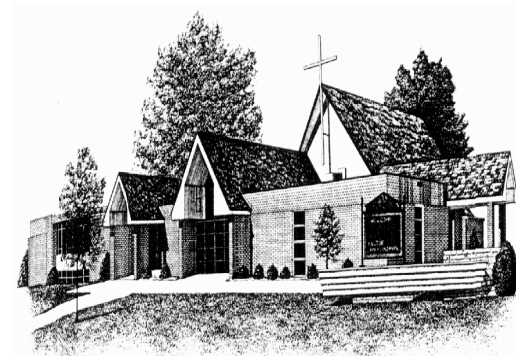
Faith Lutheran Church
 500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

July 2020

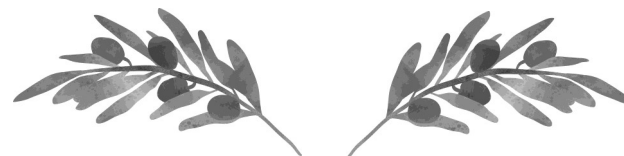
Rev. Dr. Carrie Lewis La Plante
Rev. Heather Geest

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

www.faithlutheraneldridge.com

From Pastor Carrie, COVID 19 Update	Page 2-5
Food Pantry Ramp, Dialogues on Race.....	Page 5
Council Notes, Feed Our Children	Pages 6-7
Calendar of Inspiration	Pages 8 & 9
Council Book Report.....	Page 10
Coloring Page	Pages 11
Shine Your Light for Jesus!	Page 12
Lifetime Memories with Grandma & Grandpa	Page 13
WOMEN OF FAITH	Page 14
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thanks & Mission Support	Page 15

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). You see, Paul had begun this congregation that he loved, and now, having been apart from them, he is writing to them, giving them advice and strength, thanking them for the ministry that they are doing in his absence so that the good news of Jesus would still be proclaimed among the people of Philippi.

As these words are spoken again here, I hope that you hear them as my words spoken to all of you. In these days that we have been apart, I have been constantly praying for each of you, giving thanks for your faithful service in the past and in these days, even as we are physically apart. I give thanks for the ways in which you have continued to support the ministry of this family of faith and have joined us for the ways in which we have sought to gather virtually in these months. I am convinced that the good work that God began in us as God's people in this place continues in the ways in which we are caring for each other and those around us in these days when care of neighbor is of upmost importance. I have also been praying for God's presence and strength to be with you all as we have all had to face different challenges in our lives and in the country.

In the midst of all of this, I know that there is a deep desire to begin to gather again in-person because that is what we do. Believe me, I am looking forward to those days as much as the rest of you. However, the primary goal of the leadership of this congregation has always been the health and wellness of the congregation, and for that reason, as is discussed in more detail in the next article, we have decided that it is not yet time to come back together for in-person worship. We are, however, moving ahead with preparing to return so that, as soon as it is determined that we can return to in-person worship with a relatively low amount of risk, we will be ready to go.

What we want you to be prepared for in this transition back to in-person worship is that things will not be the same as they were before. While the current plan is to have outdoor worship on Saturday evening at 5:00 pm and Sunday morning at 9:00 am each week, in our newly renovated outdoor chapel, weather permitting, those who wish to attend in-person will need to register to attend worship. When you arrive for worship, you will be asked to check in so that we know that you are here. This is both to keep numbers at worship reasonably safe and to provide for contact tracing, should that be a necessity. It is about keeping our neighbors safe.

After registering, you will be ushered to a space on the lawn where those in your household may sit together on chairs and/or blankets that you bring, but will be physically distanced from other household groups. You will be given a bulletin by the ushers to use during worship. In order to reduce the spread of the virus, everyone who comes to worship will be required to wear a face covering the entire time that you are at worship unless you are exempt by CDC



Patricia Reese	July 2
Mary Bender	July 3
Kathleen Stoltz	July 6
Cathy Henzen	July 7
Carol Marten	July 8
Ann Bainter	July 10
Becky Stutt	July 19
Kay Friederichs	July 21
Sally Puls	July 24
Lynda Miller	July 24
Allan Kluever	July 30
Carol Strobbe	July 30



Fred & Marilyn Jansen **July 17, 1955**

Earl & Dorothy Kuhl **July 21, 1956**

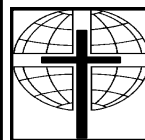


In the last year, many people have worked hard to move and renovate the outdoor sanctuary for worship, which has become a necessary space for us.

Thank you go out to the following people:

**Big
Thank
You!**

- Doug, Mike, Katie, Sammie and Jennie Garner for moving the chapel and repairing the benches.
- Bryan Yanke, Brad Yanke and Bob White for expanding the platform to make it more usable.
- Chad Keppy, Bob White and Dana White for preparing for the laying stone around the chapel.
- Dean Englebrecht for digging the space for the stone and for providing and laying the sod around the stone when it was finished.
- Brad and Janet Merrick for landscaping around the chapel.
- Mike Garner and Joni Schneider for revamping the altar



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP Thank you to Mike and Rita Smith for sponsoring our missionaries, the Bencke family in Japan and also for sponsoring John Chima and Denisse Grefa, our Compassion Children. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. Your sponsorship can be placed in an envelope marked appropriately for the person /persons you are sponsoring. Thank you for your support!

Women of Faith

The Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization is working with other Women of the ELCA groups to donate cancelled stamps to the ministry of Lutheran World Relief. The cancelled stamps are sent to a group that sorts and sells used stamps to collectors around the world. Thus far, 65 million stamps have been collected the this group in Kyle, Texas, and they have donated \$42,000 to the shipping fund of Lutheran World Relief to ship quilts and kits around the world. To help you participate, we provide the following information:

- Not only cancelled stamps but new ones as well. 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 October 16-17, 2020.

Thank you!

Lynda Miller



guidelines (we will provide them for those who do not bring one). Pastor Heather and I will likely remove our masks during worship so that our lips can be read, but we will remain more that 15 feet away from anyone in the congregation.

The worship service itself will be different as well. The services will likely be shorter than we are used to. There will be no singing other than maybe from a soloist that is at least 20 feet from the congregation, although hymns will likely be played by the pianist with words printed in the bulletin for meditation. There will be limited congregational speaking as well. All of this is to prevent the spread of the droplets among those who are gathered together.

We will also have some spaces along Le Claire Road that we hope to have blocked off so that they can be reserved by those who would like to join us in person, but would rather worship from their cars so that they are not so close to other people or for reasons of mobility.

When we are worshipping outdoors, the building will remain closed except to staff and necessary worship personnel. The bathrooms will not be available for use.

Because there are those who are higher risk and should not be worshipping with us in person and those who are not yet ready to gather with others in person, online worship will continue even as we begin to gather in-person again. In the event of inclement weather, notice will be given on the website, on Facebook, in a mass email and on a message on the answering machine at least one-and-a-half hours ahead of worship that in-person outdoor worship will not happen for that service. Online worship will always be available beginning sometime on Saturday evening.

We know that this transition will be difficult for all of us because it is not what we are used to. We are hopeful that as we gather from wherever we are, that we trust God's presence is with us holding us together as the body of Christ for the sake of the world. Thank you for your patience and your care for one another as we seek to make the best decisions for the health of all. We look forward to the day when we can be back together in person, and we pray it is not too far into the future.

Blessings

Pastor Carrie

Our Response to COVID-19



In June, the COVID-19 sub-committee met to provide an update for the June Council Meeting and also to outline actions needed to prepare for eventual outdoor worship.

In order for us to move into Phase 1 (outdoor worship with restrictions) we want to see that COVID-19 trend is stabilizing and not going upwards. So we set the guideline criteria to state that we need to see a rolling average of no 3

?? Bible Quiz ??

Complete the first of Jesus' "beatitudes" correctly: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for ..."

- A. they shall be comforted.
- B. theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- C. they shall inherit the earth.
- D. they shall see God.



Answer: B (See Matthew 5:3.)

more than 2 new cases per day over a 14 day period in Scott County and Clinton County, and we need to see that the hospitals are able to treat patients without crisis care.

It is important to note that there was no CDC guidance or science leading us to settle on an average of 2 cases per day, other than it meant stability compared to where we were at in May. We recognize this target may be unrealistically low. Therefore, we are focusing more at seeing the 14 days trend stabilizing and not going upwards.

In looking at the June trends on Iowa's coronavirus website: (<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>), we see that the hospitals have adequate ICU beds and ventilators, so this criteria is met. However, the new cases trend is moving from a period of stabilizing in the first half of the month to an upward trend for the last half of the month.

On June 15, the 14 day average new cases for Scott County was 2.6 and for Clinton County was 0.6.

On June 28, the 14 day average new cases for Scott County was 11.1 and for Clinton County was 0.9

The total number of active cases went down to 40 mid June, but on June 28 was at 168.

We also see that 84% of the positive cases are people under the age of 61, and about 87% of the deaths are people over the age of 60. Scott County has had 10 deaths (the latest was 5/27), and Clinton County has had 1 death.

Because of the sizable upward trend in Scott County, we cannot set a start date for outdoor gatherings (worship and small groups) until we see the trend stabilizing again.

In the meantime, we are moving ahead on actions needed to prepare for eventual outdoor worship. For the 1st month of outdoor worship, we will have council members fill the volunteer roles needed (setup, check-in and ushering). This will help us to learn while we refine the new procedures to follow necessary restrictions to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We do need to start lining up volunteers for outdoor worship in the 2nd month. We are hoping to identify volunteers that are not in the high risk population as defined by the CDC and who have been practicing precautions outlined by the CDC. If you are interested and able to volunteer, please let us know by calling or emailing the church office.

Lifetime memories made together...



SHINE YOUR LIGHT FOR JESUS!!

We got a call from church asking if we would tell our story of how we helped our family out during this Pandemic.

It started out that we would have our grandson, Craig, who is 7 years old and in First Grade, during his spring break in the middle of March. Then, it was announced that the schools would not reopen. Our daughter and her husband were able to continue working, so we became school teachers and counselors, in addition to being grandparents. He had his school work on line, but he also learned so much more. He got a lot of practical learning from Papa and Grammie.



Craig enjoys cooking so he and Grammie baked cookies and bread and they did some sewing. He made a small quilt. He and Papa headed for the basement workshop, where they built various items and he learned to work a wood lathe and many other wood working tools. They also went to the pole barn, where they worked on Papa's 1949 Studebaker

Truck, where he learned many practical automotive skills. Every morning he told his Mom he was going to the "farm" - yes, we have over an acre of land. He and Papa planted the gardens, and Craig had to ride his Gator around the farm to see what needed to be done. He checked the asparagus every morning, among other duties. He did this along with his online school work with our help.

Duane and I are so blessed to be able to help our family out in this way. Yes, we have Craig for the summer as well. That was planned....and he is now able to go to the Pioneer Village Day Camp; which is great, as this is his first time being able to play with other kids since March.

As it is said in 1 Timothy, "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Duane and Lynda Miller



NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY

A handicap accessible ramp is being constructed to replace the undesirable stairs to the entry of the Food Pantry on the lower level of the church. Not only is this the access to the Pantry, but this ramp allows for handicap access to the entire lower level, which has never been there. This ramp will allow clients of the Food Pantry to wheel groceries directly to their vehicle instead of loading into a cart, unloading and carrying up the stairs, then reload into another cart to take to their vehicle.



This \$25,000 project is being 100% funded with grants (the largest being from the Scott County Regional Authority for \$10,000) and donations, with no money coming from the church's general budget. -Myron & Carolyn Scheibe

Adult Study—Dialogues on Race

DIA
LOG
UES
— IN —
RACE

In light of recent events in this country, including the unnecessary deaths of a number of black men and women, which has led to uprising, unrest and conversation around race in this country, we would like to invite those who would like to have a conversation about this difficult topic in a safe environment to join us for a study called "Dialogues on Race."

Pastor Carrie will lead these studies on Zoom on Tuesday evenings beginning on Tuesday, July 14. We will begin at 6:30 pm and seek to stick to one hour of conversation each week. The plan is that the study will last seven weeks.

To participate in this study, you are asked to purchase the learner book for the study, "Dialogues on Race." I request that you read chapter one before our first gathering.

Pastor Carrie will have a limited supply available for pick-up at the church at \$11 per book or you can feel free to order them from Spark House for delivery to your house at the link below.

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/product/9781506454023/Dialogues-On-Race-Learner-Book>

This conversation is open to anyone, so please invite friends who might be interested in having this conversations around race from the perspective of faith.

In order to best try to keep the Zoom environment safe, we are asking you to please register for the class using the link below. We will then send you to Zoom link for the first gathering.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49ADA62FAAFF2-dialogues>

We look forward to these conversations.

Thank you!

We give thanks to everyone who supports our ministry in so many ways, which allows us to continue to do the work of Jesus through our ministries!



We are blessed to be in a good financial position due to generous congregational giving and by keeping expenses well managed.

The outdoor worship space continues to be enhanced to prepare for eventual outdoor worship. In the past month volunteers did some landscaping and painting. When we decided to move the outdoor worship space to the front yard last year to get more use, we had no idea how important this would become!

Our pastors continue to respond to the needs of our congregation and our neighborhood. It has been a tireless effort this year with constant unknowns and new challenges. We appreciate the work they are doing to understand the needs of young people through one-on-one discussions, and to provide spiritual and relational guidance in light of the racial injustice and violence in our country.

Council Update

The council met using Zoom web conferencing for our June meeting.

We continued our monthly discussion of the book *Growing Young, 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* with Chapter 4. *Take Jesus' Message Seriously, What's Young about the Good News*. This is the third core commitment of churches who are growing young. See the separate article in this Ambassador where we share take-aways from this chapter.

We spent much of the time reviewing the current status of COVID-19 in our area, and discussing what it means for in-person gatherings at Faith. The council approved two recommendations from the COVID-19 sub-committee. The first recommendation is that we have met the intention of criteria to move into Phase 1: Outdoor Worship with Restrictions (the average daily number of new cases in Scott County was 2.6 and in Clinton County was 0.3). The second recommendation is that we change the guidelines to allow outdoor small group gatherings in Phase 1, rather than waiting until Phase 2. The COVID-19 sub-committee has met to prepare a list of actions required before we can worship outdoors, and these are in process so that we can begin to worship outdoors when it is deemed safe enough to do so. It is important to note, that the average number of cases is now trending upwards (since the council meeting). If this continues, we may no longer meet the intention of criteria for Phase 1, and we will have to delay the start date of outdoor worship and small group gatherings. **Since our council meeting on 6/18, the COVID-19 positive cases have steeply increased. The 6/28 14 day average new cases is 11.1. As a result, we are not able to set a start date yet for outdoor gatherings, but will monitor the status**





Council Book Study:
Growing Young, 6
Essential Strategies to
Help Young People
Discover and Love
Your Church

In June, Matt Peck did a great job leading the book discussion for *Chapter 4. Take Jesus' Message Seriously, What's Young about the Good News*, which is the third of six core commitments needed for a church to grow young.

This chapter focused on how young people are attracted to churches that have a clear goal of serving and following Jesus.

We learned that Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) is a pervasive framework of the US church coupled with Golden Rule Christianity. Simply put, these ideals focus on following rules and being good.

But, taking Jesus' message seriously means we should pay attention to the life and words of Christ. Young people can then articulate a gospel that is less talk about beliefs and more talk about Jesus, less tied to formulas and more focused on redemptive narrative, and less about heaven later and more about life here and now.

Young people want to know what they are saved for, not just what they are saved from. They want to take action, not just hear what they cannot do. Vital to helping young people share their faith are authentic relationships, listening well, and being honest about questions and doubts.

We talked about how important intergenerational relationships are in sharing faith with young people. Matt helped us to see this through a relationship he had that was impactful. We know of other examples within our congregation that can be found during mission trips.

It is important to consider how we talk about Jesus in our congregation, at home, and in our neighborhoods because we are making an impact on the future!

Linda Golinghorst



weekly in order to make a decision to startup quickly once the Phase 1 criteria is met again.

Myron Scheibe is continuing to work on funding for the Food Pantry Handicap Accessible entrance. He and Carolyn have worked to fund all but \$5,000 of the \$25,200 cost with grants and donations. The council gave approval for Myron to ask the Memorial Committee for the remaining \$5,000. We are very thankful for Myron's work on this project, and excited for the work to begin soon!

Pastor Carrie shared her plans to start Zoom conversations in July, with a goal of helping people engage in the topic of race while showing respect for different opinions with the hope of building community. She will be using the Spark House program 'Dialogues On: Race'.

We ended our meeting by reviewing our top priorities and discussing actions we could move forward with in spite of COVID-19. There continues to be strong interest in enhancing our outdoor space! Be looking for future volunteer opportunities!

Together, while we are apart

We are finding ways to shine our light for Jesus!

Virtual Beer Bible Study was held on June 11th. It was a very timely conversation in light of racial injustice and violence occurring. Sharing scripture and good conversation in challenging times is witness that God is with us.

People of all ages participated in coloring flames that were put up in the Sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday!

Online worship and Faith Connects continue while we await the opportunity to gather in-person again.


























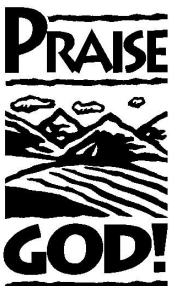








Pastor Carrie recognized our high school seniors in worship with a video and blessing and many members attended the graduation parade to cheer them on! They will receive gifts from the congregation in the near future as we wish them well in their next steps in life!

Blessings!
Linda Golinghorst, President

North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

Thank you for the donations thus far. We are postponing further collection at this time. Federal funding for the school meal program was extended, and the North Scott Community School District plans to continue their program through August 5. Look for more information in the August Ambassador.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
LIVE ONLINE WORSHIP EACH SATURDAY @ 5:00 pm 	FAITH CONNECTS MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 pm	<i>"For I KNOW the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "... plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE."</i> <i>Jeremiah 29:11, NIV</i>	1 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	2 	3 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am 	4  
5 	6 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	7 Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm 	8 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	9 	10 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am 	11  
12 	13 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	14 Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm  7:00 pm DIALOGUE on RACE	15 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 7:30 Beer Bible Study 	16 7:30 pm Church Council Mtg. on Zoom 	17 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am 	18  
19 <i>We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.</i> <i>ROMANS 5:1</i>	20 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	21 Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm  7:00 pm DIALOGUE on RACE	22 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	23 	24 Ambassador Deadline Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am 	25  
26 	27 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	28 Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm  7:00 pm DIALOGUE on RACE	29 7:00 pm FAITH CONNECTS 	30  <i>LAMENTATIONS 3:24, NRSV</i>	31 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am 