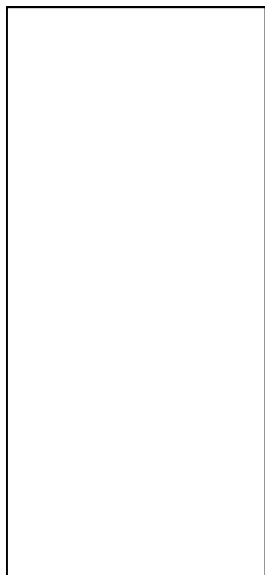
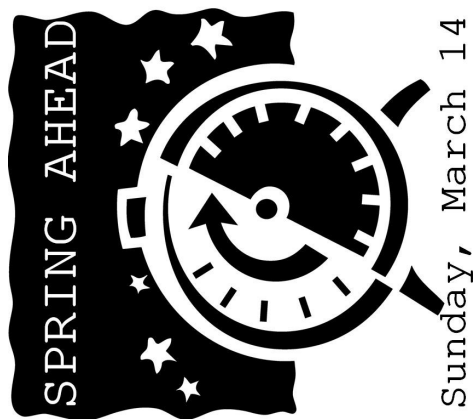


**Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm Live Stream Online & on our Facebook Page & Sunday @ 9am in person. Lenten Worship: Wednesday @ 7:00 pm online and on our Facebook Page. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.**

**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

**March 2021**

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



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



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## LENT

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

# **FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you are anything like me in these days as we enter the Lenten season, you look at the world around us and you wonder about all that is going on. We have been in a pandemic for nearly a year with views on how to get through it varying wildly. In so many ways, our country is divided, and it is hard to know how to pull the pieces together in a new way to move forward. Messaging about how to live life and who is right about whatever and how to find happiness is all over the place. We miss being together. We want to see an end. And all of this can be so overwhelming.

In the midst of all of this, we seek to live an authentic Christian faith. We seek to show the love of God in a world that seems so chaotic and upside down. Sometimes, it feels like a mammoth task to consider what living our faith in today's world could look like when it does not look much like what we have always done.

If there is someone who knew something about trying to live faith in a world that seemed to be set against him, it was the apostle Paul. Being a Roman citizen, Paul had some advantages that others living under Roman occupation did not have; however, because Paul was such an outspoken apostle, always proclaiming the good news of Jesus against the Roman understanding of the emperor as god, Paul often found himself in a lot of trouble...often imprisoned for not bowing to the society around him.

As Paul began teaching others about God's amazing love for all people through the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as Paul began bringing together new communities of faith who wanted to live into this freedom that Christ brought into the world, these communities also began to find themselves in trouble. They began to argue about how best to live in "the Way" as it was called in those days. Often, these communities would write to Paul for advice, and Paul would write back great letters to help guide them in their living.

One of these letters that is attributed to Paul is the letter to the Ephesians. Paul had spent much time teaching and preaching in




## March

BIRTHDAYS

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

David Lee	March 3	Sara Nissen	March 23
Ida Weibel	March 8	Ida Bell	March 25
Karl Nissen	March 16	Sylvia Schryver	March 27
Dorothy House	March 17	Mike Smith	March 28
Garry Mueller	March 20	Lea Farley	March 30
Marsha Andresen	March 21		






### Birthday Card SHOWER

Let's Shower Garry Mueller with cards and well wishes as he celebrates his 80th birthday on March 20. Blessings on this special milestone, Gary!



## BAPTISM

**WE WELCOME** to our Faith family, through the waters of Holy Baptism, Jensen Joshua Spencer, who was baptized on February 20, 2021. Jensen is the son of Joshua and Jillian Spencer. His sponsors are Rebecca Wilder and Mike Tyus.



**Meat  
DELIVERIES**

If you or someone you know needs home-delivered meals, please contact the church office and we will make arrangements.



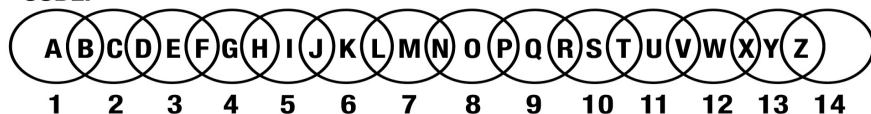
**MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP** Thank you to **Kim Wilkins** for sponsoring the **Bencke family**, and to **Mike & Rita Smith** for sponsoring **John Chima and Denisse Grefa in March**. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. We are looking for sponsors for the remainder of the year. You can sign up online on Faith's web page, or by calling the office at 285-4501.

*Thank you for your support!*

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3  
 2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3  
 10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'  
 3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5  
 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10  
 5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3  
 3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Ephesus, and he had a fondness for the people there. It is clear that they were beginning to ask some big questions about how to live counterculturally in a powerful culture and wondering when Jesus might come back. Many scholars now believe that this letter may have been written by one of Paul's students as an introduction to all of Paul's letters after Paul's death, based on some stylistic differences. Nonetheless, this letter is one of the most important letters among the Pauline writings. It lays out Paul's theology of God's grace and love through Jesus Christ and then provides instruction on how to live a life shaped by God's grace and love. Ephesians reminds us that through faith, we are all part of the body of Christ, and we are called to love one another as Christ is love. How this looks for each of us will be different as we figure out our place, our relationships, our power and our purpose, but the values of inclusion and putting others before yourself endure through it all.

These are still questions that we ask today, and during Wednesday evening Lenten services this year, we will hear people like us asking some of those pressing questions to Paul himself and hearing Paul respond based on his writings from his letter to the Ephesians in our drama series, "Dear Paul." It will be interesting to hear Paul's perspective on our world today.

As has become our tradition, we will also be singing *Holden Evening Prayer* during this Lenten season. Because this is a sung liturgy, the Worship and Music Team has decided to hold our Midweek Lenten Worship online only on Facebook, our website, and our YouTube channel at 7:00 pm each Wednesday evening. The *Holden Evening Prayer* service can be found on our Facebook page and on our website.

We invite you to tune in, sing with us, and hear what Paul has to share with us in these days.

Blessings in this Lenten season,  
*Pastor Carrie*



Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

## Thanks!

We would like to thank the 54 voting members who participated in our first online Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021. We also owe gratitude to the council members who served that day by collecting ballots and counting votes.

Please join us in extending a heartfelt 'Congratulations and Thanks!' to Dennis Kelly who has served our congregation for over 10 years as custodian!

Thank you for your generous donations to our '2021 Souper Bowl' food collection. We provided 127 cans of food to the North Scott Food Pantry. We also appreciate the effort of the Service in the World Team who sponsored this collection.

We appreciate the efforts of the Endowment Committee for providing council with recommendations to distribute the past year's earnings from our endowment fund investments. They did a great job thinking through how to distribute the \$1,115 while meeting the requirements of our bylaws.

## Return to Indoor Gatherings with Precautions

Over the past month, we have been returning gradually to indoor gatherings with Confirmation Conversations, High School Youth, Sunday worship, and Ash Wednesday worship. At our February meeting, council voted to return fully to Phase 2. In-person gatherings outdoors and indoors with precautions.

We are so thankful that the community spread of COVID-19 is down to levels similar to last September/October. However, the spread is still within the 'high risk' category as defined by the CDC and so we will still follow our precautions. We will continue to provide online and at-home options for those people who prefer not to join in-person gatherings.

The decision on whether a gathering will be online, in-person, at home, or a combination of these methods will be made by the teams and/or leaders responsible for the gathering. Their decision will be made based upon their ability to a) find congregation members to serve in required support roles, b) host the gathering within constraints of the precautions to reduce risk, and c) provide the most meaningful ministry experience.

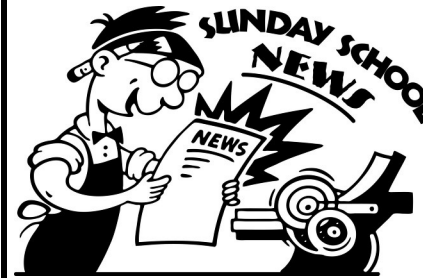
## Summer Camp Registration is Here!!

Registration for summer camp at Lutheran Lakeside, Spirit Lake, Iowa, is **now open**. We will be going the week of July 18-23. There is Junior Camp for those who have completed grades 3-5, Confirmation Camp for those who have completed grades 6-8, and High School Servant Trip for those who have completed grades 8-12. Everyone needs to register on the Lutheran Lakeside website ([www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com)). Faith will pay \$150 of the registration fee for every youth registered through Faith.



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

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.



We invite your family to participate in leading and sharing a video opening for our Sunday School lessons. This will be a way to grow our faith as we share God's Word with each other from our own living rooms. These do not have to be flashy or elaborate videos—simple is better. The first one was led by

Theresa White, the new Christian Education Team Leader. The videos are our Facebook page. If your family would like to sign up for a weekend, please contact Theresa White at [tswhite777@gmail.com](mailto:tswhite777@gmail.com) or 563-370-3767.



## Are You Interested in a Men's Bible Study?

There has been some interest expressed in beginning a men's Bible study here at Faith. It would be a place for men to get together and dig deeper into God's Word. The group, or groups, could meet weekly online and perhaps find opportunities for gathering in person as circumstances allow. Resources based on the interests of those who gather will be provided, no experience is necessary, just a desire to know and grow in the Lord. You do not have to figure this out on your own. God gifts us with community and friends in Christ who are willing to walk alongside us. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Pastor Heather ([pastorheather@netins.net](mailto:pastorheather@netins.net) or text 563-639-9606) to begin the efforts in coordinating the group. *As iron sharpens irons, and one person sharpens the wits of another. Proverbs 27:17 (NRSV)*





Confirmation Conversations students took a break from studies to spend time with their adult Mentors on Wednesday, January 27. The following Wednesday, the students were

thrilled to leave the Zoom Confirmation classes behind and return to live (in-person) learning. This has been taking place in the Church Fellowship Hall, following CDC guidelines. A handful of students still participate on Zoom, due to quarantining or personal reasons.

Regardless of the excitement, we have been centering their thoughts on learning about the Gospels of Mark, and the following week, the Gospel of Luke. We learned that Mark was probably the first Gospel written, and the Gospel of Mark was responsible for much of what we know about Jesus. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke "borrowed" from Mark (sometimes word for word) in their Gospels, adding more details to the information obtained from Mark's Gospel.

February 17, we did not meet, due to the Ash Wednesday Service, and will resume studies on February 24, with the Gospel of John.

The High School Youth have been meeting live in the Youth Room since January 20. As they have gone in-person, the number of attendees is slowly returning.

The kids spend time during our meetings playing games, catching up and just enjoying each other. We may do a Bible Study at some point in the near future.

Mission Trips have been put on hold, due to Covid, so we have been discussing other possibilities for the High School kids to do this summer. This includes High School Youth attending Camp at Lutheran Lakeside for a custom camp/mission experience. This would take place the same week as our younger youth will also be attending Lutheran Lakeside camp.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joni King, Youth Chair

Please grant our leaders and teams grace as they work to respond to the risk that still exists.

### Other Council Business

The council approved the proposed disbursements of Endowment earnings from the past year as follows: \$225 to Lutheran Lakeside, \$225 to SEIA Synod Derecho Disaster Assistance, \$120 to the University of Iowa Hospital Chaplaincy Outreach, \$320 to ELCA Disaster Fund, and \$225 to Faith Lutheran's Capital Improvement Fund.

The council agreed with a recommendation from Deanna Nielsen, that we don't have the need to request a potentially forgivable loan from the Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Plan. We are thankful that our congregation is financially sound compared to many other congregations.

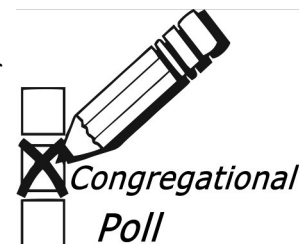
Respectfully,  
Linda Golinghorst  
Faith Lutheran Church Council

### February Poll Results

We are looking forward to spring! As we prepare for the Easter season, we are hoping to gather outdoors, if possible, in order to accommodate more people. For planning purposes, it would help us to know at what minimum temperature you would be willing to participate in outdoor gatherings. Please select one.

- 40 degrees - 0%
- 50 degrees - 50%
- 60 degrees - 33%
- 70 degrees - 17%

A number of comments were provided which we will share with ministry team leaders to take action on where possible. Thanks!



### March Poll Question

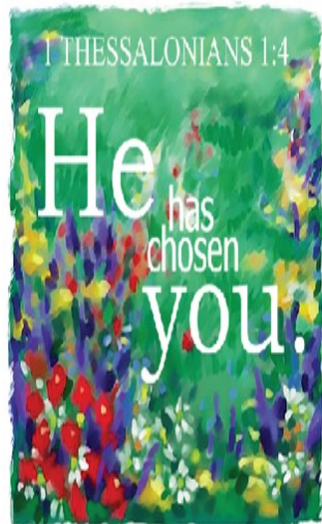
We want to be sure to offer sufficient opportunities to gather indoors, especially given our limited space. For planning purposes, It would help us to know when you and your family will be comfortable joining in-person gatherings indoors. Please select one.



- Now
- When Community Spread is Less
- After Being Vaccinated
- After Most People are Vaccinated
- When Pandemic is Over
- Other

Will you please provide any comments you have to help us better understand your thoughts?

**We would like to offer blessings and congratulations to our new leaders!**



**The following members were elected by the congregation into leadership roles:**

**Church Council:** Sheila Baustian, Ryan Harms, Kaycee Newman, Deanna Nielsen, Theresa White

**Endowment Committee Members:** Kenneth Oetzmann, Kim Wilkins

**2021 Nominating Committee:** Donna Darnall, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, Kelly Wyatt, Brad Yanke

**2021 Synod Voting Members:** Diane Krebs, Kelly Penning

**2021 Synod Voting Member Alternates:** Beth Ann Anderson, Amy Powell



**The following council members were elected by the council into 2021 officer roles:**

**President:** Linda Golinghorst

**Vice President:** Mike Garner

**Secretary:** Joni Schneider

**Treasurer:** Deanna Nielsen



**The following Ministry Team Chair appointments were approved by the council:**

**Christian Ed:** Theresa White

**Evangelism:** Matt Peck

**Finance:** Deanna Nielsen

**Property:** Mike Garner

**Service in the World:** Joni Schneider

**Stewardship:** Ryan Harms

**Worship and Music:** Sheila Baustian

**Youth:** Joni King



“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” – Acts 20:35

The special Christmas offering of \$1,140 was used to evenly support the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund and the Dance Marathon benefitting the UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital.

The upcoming Easter offering will be shared equally with Churches United and with Growing Hope Globally through Hearts to Harvest. Faith Lutheran has been a longtime member of the Churches United of the Quad City Area, a group of over 140 local churches dedicated to serving hundreds of thousands of local residents each year through neighborhood food pantries, free hot meal sites, and emergency shelters for women and children. Members of Faith Lutheran Church collaborate with members from St. Ann’s Catholic Church in our local Hearts to Harvest organization, which works hand in hand with Growing Hope Globally to provide support to smallholder farmers in developing countries to grow lasting solutions to hunger. You can find a video and more information about these organizations on our website, [faithlutheranelldridge.com](http://faithlutheranelldridge.com).



Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting both Faith Lutheran and the many others in need locally and around the world.



~ Ryan Harms

**AFTERNOON  
BIBLE  
STUDY**



**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study**

We have decided it is now time to bring back our afternoon Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week. Because of changes in Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather’s schedules, we have moved our study from Wednesday afternoon to **Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 pm beginning on Tuesday, March 2.**

There is a rhythm to the seasons and a cycle to nature that is hard to miss when you live in Scott County, surrounded by the beauty of fields, streams and even the Mississippi River, which takes its only complete turn from east to west. We are in an area of the country unlike other places in the world. There is value in understanding our surroundings and honoring creation a gift from God.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> is National Ag Day, a time to celebrate the wholesome contributions of our country's farms and farm families. It is a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

A few generations ago most Americans were directly involved in – or had relatives or friends involved in – agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case in many parts of our country. That is why it is so important to join together honoring and celebrating the gifts that God provides through those who tend the fruits of the earth and continue to share that abundance with the world around us.

As you will see in our Stewardship News, half of our Easter offering this year will be used to support Growing Hope Globally through Hearts to Harvest. This is a way for us to honor and support farmers and families in our community and around the world. So, please join us as you consider your Easter offering this year. Also, stay tuned for more information regarding the Blessing of the Seeds, which will happen during the worship services on the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Abundant God, we give you thanks for the fruitful earth, which produces what is needed for life. Bless those who work in the fields; grant favorable weather to all engaged in agriculture; and help us to ensure that all people share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## Lenten Worship

This year's Lenten drama series will begin on Wednesday, February 24, with an introduction and overview of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The following four Wednesdays, we will hear some words of wisdom from Paul himself, as he continues writing (and answering!) letters in the 21st century. He's sure to have a unique perspective on today's world. Join us as we experience together this year's drama series entitled, "Dear Paul" as part of our Lenten journey.

During Holy Week, we will have a series of worship services that will guide us from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm/Passion Sunday through the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the crucifixion on Good Friday, the time of waiting on Holy Saturday, and the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

While all of the details on where and when these Holy Week services are not fully determined at this time, we will find a way to celebrate the fullness of Holy Week and Easter together.























On Palm/Passion Sunday, Saturday and Sunday, March 27, and 28, we will begin worship with a form of a congregational procession with palms, and then make the journey through the passion with Jesus as Mark tells the story. On Thursday, April 1, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday, with worship at 7:00 pm. Friday, April 2, we will hear the story of Jesus' passion from the Gospel of John as we journey with Jesus to the cross during the Good Friday service at 7:00 pm. On Holy Saturday, April 3, we will worship at 5:00 pm to experience together the Easter Vigil and a quiet celebration of the resurrection.

Finally, we will reach the climax of the season, the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, on Sunday, April 4. The times and plans for these services are still being made. We also plan to have an Easter Egg Hunt in the front yard for the children sometime that morning.

We invite you to join us on this Lenten journey as we grow our faith together.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm 	3 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Online Worship 7:00 High School Youth	4 6:30 pm Team Night	5 Food Pantry 9:30-11:00am 	6 5:00 PM Online Worship 
7 9am Worship in Person <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 10:30am Dialogs on Race - Online 	8	9 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm 	10 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Online Worship 7:00 High School Youth	11 Team Reports Due	12 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 ar 	13 5:00 PM Online Worship 
14 9am Worship in Person <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 10:30am Dialogs on Race - Online 4pm 4H Mtg. 7pm COVID Sub-Committee 	15	16 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm  7:00 pm Executive Mtg. & Personnel Committee	17 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Online Worship 7:00 High School Youth 	18 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting 	19 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 ar   <b>DEADLINE</b>	20 5:00 PM Online Worship & Baptism 
21 9am Worship in Person <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 10:30am Dialogs on Race - Online 1:00-3:00 pm Council Retreat Pt. 1 	22	23 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm  National Ag Day	24 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Online Worship 7:00 High School Youth	25 9:00 am Ambassador Folding 	26 Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am 	27 5:00 PM Online Worship 
28 9am Worship In-Person <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:30am Dialogs on Race - Online 	29 	30 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm 	31 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Online Worship 7:00 High School Youth			