Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 8am & 10:30am In Person Worship Updates will be posted on www. faithlutheraneldridge.com and on our Facebook page. See page 6 for Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR April 2021

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

500 W. LeClaire Road Eldridge, IA 52748 (563) 285-4501 www.faithlutheraneldridge.com faitheldridge@netins.net

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

What a place we stand in these days! Spring has sprung...finally! We are still in the midst of the global pandemic, and yet, there are signs of light at the end of the tunnel. We are still in Lent, but we are rapidly heading toward Holy Week and



Pastor Carrie's Easter Message

through Holy Week to Easter. What a place to sit.

As I think about this place where we find ourselves in these days, I think about Jesus' words that we heard during worship on the Fifth Sunday in Lent. When told by his disciples that there are people who wish to see Jesus, Jesus responds, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 20:23-24). It is spring, and we, who are influenced in various ways by the agricultural life that surrounds us, understand the truth of what Jesus is saying. Each seed must be buried, must die to what it has been, in order to grow and become something new. Only then, can that seed bear the fruit that it was intended to bear.

Jesus, however, is responding to the question of those who wish to see Jesus, and Jesus' response, while strange, is saying that people will really see Jesus, will really understand what Jesus is all about when Jesus is glorified...the time that is coming only days after this conversation. However, for Jesus to be glorified, Jesus is telling his disciples that he must die. Like the seed, Jesus will die. Jesus will be buried. Yet, also like the seed, Jesus will rise again. Jesus will have new life. More than that, through this new life, Jesus will draw all people to himself and give the gift of eternal life.

Now, for those who were listening, this was an audacious claim. If Jesus is the Messiah, if Jesus is God in human form, if Jesus is God's Word made flesh, how can Jesus die? That is not what God does! To be honest, for those of us listening today, while we have heard this story over and over again throughout our lives, it still sounds audacious, crazy, even foolish. And yet, it is the truth of God in Jesus that we hold onto, especially when we find ourselves at crossroads of life as we find ourselves in these days. While our celebration of Holy Week and Easter will be different than it has been in the past, we will be celebrating the fullness of all that Jesus is and all that God has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We hope that you will join us for many of these services, whether you join us online or in person, as we give thanks for the audacious love of God for us and for the whole world

On March 27 and 28, we will celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. On Saturday



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

April 2	
April 5	
April 10	
April 11	
April 14	
April 16	
April 20	
April 21	
April 21	
April 25	
April 26	
	April 10 April 11 April 14 April 16 April 20 April 21 April 21 April 25

Sharie Garner	April 28
Barb Paustian	April 28
Sue Casel	April 30
Linda Szemkus	April 30
\ \.	. wheel



Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of April are tomatoes, fruit and muffin mixes.



Women of Faith Plant Sale

The Women of Faith are looking for donations of perennial plants for our parking lot garage sale in May. If you need pots for splitting plants or if you have any extra 9" pots, please contact Joni Schneider (285-5829).

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 Dan & Karen O'Flahrity for sponsoring John Chima and Denisse Grefa in April. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/ month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. You can sign up online on Faith's web page, or by calling the

church office at 285-4501. Thank you for your support!

Adult Mission Trip to Lutheran Lakeside

All adults attending the Lutheran Lakeside Mission Trip, July 18-23, must complete a Volunteer application. The applications are



utheran Lakeside Camp

located outside the east (Main) entrance to the church in the clear plastic bin. They can returned to the Plastic bin or the Church office. If you choose to leave it in the clear plastic bin, please let Tom Bauer or the

church office know for retrieval. These forms need to be sent to Lutheran Lakeside prior to our arrival. Please don't delay! Any questions or concerns, please ISSION contact: Tom Bauer at tebauer33@gmail.com or 563-505

-5776 Tray Tables UP!!!!

With Appreciation...



Thank you to Steve Puls for keeping the parking lot at Faith cleared during this past *snowy* winter.

Thank you to our faithful Ambassador Folding Crew— Carol Marten, Tom Bauer, Mary Moore,

Donna Benskin, and Carol Strobbe. They braved the cold, snow, and ice to help us bring you the monthly newsletters this winter. They also helped with folding the spring Sunday School materials for our Families to use at home.

Thank you to the Confirmation Mentors for their leadership throughout the year: Amy Powell, Joni King, Carrie Keppy, Donna Darnell, Brea Harms, Beth Ann Anderson, Diane Krebs, and Sue Kirst.

Easter Brunch in a Box Youth Fund Raiser



Hurry and sign up by Palm Sunday for an Easter Brunch in a Box! Each meal feeds 6, and contains prebaked and refrigerated 9x13 breakfast casserole, 6 frosted cinnamon rolls, 32oz fruit, an Easter Devotion and

an Illustrated Ministry Resurrection Set. Warm up the casserole in the morning and enjoy an easy breakfast and fun activity while you prepare for Easter Worship. Each Easter Brunch Box is \$30, payable to Faith upon pick up. One third of the cost will benefit our youth for their mission trip to Lutheran Lakeside this July. Drive Thru Pick Up is 2-4pm on Saturday, April 3, at Faith. Call the office, use the Signup Genius link on our webpage, or the one on Facebook to reserve your meal today! Meals are catered by Mama's Parlor. Thank you for supporting our youth mission trip to Lutheran Lakeside!

evening at 5:00 pm, we will livestream worship, and on Sunday morning, we will have two in-person worship services, one at 8:00 am and the other at 10:30 am. We will wave our palms and hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will also hear a dramatic reading of Jesus' passion according to the Gospel of Mark. For those who will be worshiping online, palm branches will be available for pick-up outside of the church on Friday, March 26, from 9:00 am to noon, and on Saturday, March 27 from 2:00-4:00 pm. We also invite you to have bread and wine or juice available for the celebration of Holy Communion.

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, and Good Friday, April 2, we will have inperson worship at 7:00 pm. These services will be livestreamed as well. For those who will be worshiping online, on Maundy Thursday, we invite you to have bread and wine or juice available to celebrate Holy Communion, and on Good Friday, we invite you to have 8 candles that you can extinguish with us and a cross upon which to gaze at the end of the service.

On Saturday, April 3, we will have an in-person Easter Vigil and quiet celebration of Easter at 5:00 pm which will be livestreamed. For those who will be worshiping online, we invite you to have bread and wine or juice available for the celebration of Holy Communion.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will premiere a pre-recorded Easter service online at 8:00 am. We will also have two in-person worship services that morning at 8:00 am indoors and at 10:30 am outdoors. For those who will be worshiping online, we invite you to have bread and wine or juice available for the celebration of Holy Communion.

In addition to worship for Holy Week and Easter, we have a couple of other opportunities to aid in your Easter celebrations. We will be offering Easter Brunch In a Box For Your Bunch to support the High School Mission Trip this summer, and we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn on Easter Sunday morning. More information on both of these offerings is found on pages 14 and 13, respectively.

As a reminder, space is limited indoors due to our COVID precautions, so please sign up for worship times for indoor services so that we can accommodate those who wish to worship in-person.



We look forward to gathering together around "the message about the cross [that] is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18) this Holy Week

Blessings in this holy season, Pastor Carrie



Thanks!

The Property Team has done a great job taking care of the church's custodial work during Dennis' brief absence. We really appreciate the extra effort at this time of need!

The Lenten Season and Holy Week are such an important and meaningful time in our lives of Christ. Thanks to our pastors, organists, musicians, vocalists, office crew, videographers, ushers, cleaning crew, worship and music team, and alter guild for serving during this time. A special 'Thanks' goes out to Sue and Neal who performed the 'Dear John' Lenten series and to Matt Peck for leading the videography!

We appreciate the work of the Finance Committee who developed an updated Audit Guide. The Audit Committee will use this new guide to do their audit this year, which will cover: 2018-2020.

Faith Stories

We are sharing our Faith Stories with one another this year. Linda shared her story last month, and Pastor Carrie shared her story this month. Like the online series 'Why Jesus?', this is an inspiring way to hear how Jesus is present in the life of others, and helps us to know one another better spiritually.

COVID-19 Update

The council approved a couple of changes to the COVID-19 policy: 1) to allow a vocal soloist with a face covering or a wind instrument soloist with a face covering and instrument bell cover in the choir loft during indoor worship and 2) to allow pastors to preach without masks outdoors while maintaining 15 ft distance or more (this was approved last fall, but not included in the policy).

The sub-committee will continue to meet monthly (or more) to provide recommendations to the council. They will continue to monitor community spread, vaccines administered, public health department guidance, and state and local rules. Our hope is that during the course of the year, we will be able to gradually increase in-person gatherings and eventually reduce precautions.

Other Council Business

The council approved the job description for a Mutual Ministry Committee. This committee is called for in our Constitution and By Laws, but was not yet established. Once the pastors and president have appointed 6 congregational committee members, the committee and their responsibilities will be announced in the Ambassador.



Easter Egg Hunt

We invite your family to participate an egg hunt on the church lawn at 9:15am on Easter Sunday. It is eggs-citing to bring this activity back! Bring your basket, or we will provide bags. We will celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection together.

Easter Egg Hunt

We also invite your family to join us for online Sunday School each weekend as we

share God's Word with each other from our own living rooms. If your family would like to sign up for a weekend to host the opening video, please contact Theresa White at tswhite 777@gmail.com or 563-370-3767.



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). Faith will

pay \$150 of the registration fee for every youth registered through Faith.



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.

Confirmation Celebration

Sixteen youth are completing their Confirmation experience: Cash Bowe, Everett Broberg, Ella Budde, Grace Bunn, Hunter Dean, Jesse Eller, Lukas Fenn, Samantha Garner, Cole Johnson, Gehrig Kirst,

Confirmation Samantna Garner, Cole Johnson, Gehrig Kirst, Abigail La Plante, Hayden Matzen, Zachary Powell, Kennedy Tagtmeier, Lainey Wall, and Brody Westendorf. We will

celebrate these youth on Sunday, April 25, at the 10:30 am outdoor worship service as they publicly affirm their faith. Please join us in praying for and giving thanks to God for the gifts that these youth bring to the church.



During Confirmation Conversations this last month, we studied the Gospel of John, the Book of Acts and learned about one of the most important people in the history of the Church, Paul.

Paul was a Pharisee who was

a persecutor of the Church. One day, on the road to Damascus, Jesus appeared to Paul and it changed his life forever. He traveled the world (as they knew it) proclaiming God's Grace and the Good News of Jesus. Since "The Way" was not readily accepted by the Roman government, this found Paul often jailed for his outspokenness, and eventually had him killed. But not before changing countless lives to follow Jesus.

The Gospel of John elaborated on the miracles Jesus performed to convince that he is indeed God's son, the Messiah.

The Book of Acts tells how the Holy Spirit guided the disciples as they shared the Good News, welcoming everyone into this new church - Jews, and even Romans and Gentiles.

This year has really flown by. There are only three more classes and one Mentor Night remaining in this Confirmation year. On Wednesday, April 21 at 6:00, the 8th Grade Confirmands and their families will enjoy an individually boxed chicken dinner from Mama's Parlor on the Church lawn, followed by Confirmation on Sunday, April 25 at 10:30.

The High School Youth continue to meet live in the Youth Room. The High Schoolers are happy to be able to enjoy time with their friends, and after highs and lows, we play games and allow them time to visit.

To date, we have had a record number of students signed up to

attend Lutheran Lakeside Camp. The Early Bird registration (with discounted rate) has passed, but there is still interest in going. The kids are excited for the opportunity to finally attend this year, after Camp was canceled last year due to the Coronavirus.

Respectfully submitted, Joni King, Youth Chair

Youth Highlights



The Executive Committee and Pastor Carrie are working to review and update the employee handbook over the next few months since the current employee handbook is quite old. This month, the council approved four sections: personnel records, visitors, job classifications, and safe driving. These now supersede associated sections of the existing employee handbook.

The council approved a new Audit Guide that was submitted by the Finance Committee. It remains practical but a few audit items were added after reviewing resources from the ELCA.

The council held an annual boarding session that included an overview of our organizational structure, governing documents, policies, roles and responsibilities, how to have healthy communications, and how to speak in terms of the Word.

Some ideas for new ministries was discussed, e.g. in-home service needs and a congregation book study. Watch for more information in the future!

Respectfully,

Linda Golinghorst Faith Lutheran Church Council



March Poll Results

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. •And the results are...

•Now - 33%

•When Community Spread is Less - 0%

•After Being Vaccinated - 50%

•After Most People are Vaccinated - 17%

•When Pandemic is Over - 0% •C

•Other - 0%

We also received helpful comments that have been passed on to our ministry teams. Thanks!



April Poll Question Are you interested in attending Vacation Bible School this summer?

•Yes, I would like my child(ren) to attend.

Yes, I would like to serve as an adult VBS Guide.

•No, I am not interested in attending VBS this summer.

Please share what precautions are needed for you to feel safe at VBS. Due to the pandemic, we may still need to take precautions to reduce the risk to children and guides who attend VBS. We would like to know what precautions are needed for you to feel safe at VBS. You may participate in our poll online or by emailing or calling the church office. *Thank you for your input*.

HOLY WEEK







WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 27, 5:00 pm – Online Worship Sunday, March 28, 8:00 am and 10:30 am – In-Person Worship

For those worshiping online, Palm Branches will be available for pick-up on Friday, March 26, from 9:00 am to noon and on Saturday, March 27, from 2:00-4:00 pm.



Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 pm – In-Person Worship which will also be livestreamed.



Good Friday, April 2

7:00 pm – In-Person Worship which will also be livestreamed.



Easter Vigil Saturday, April 3

5:00 pm – In-Person Worship which will also be livestreamed.



Easter Sunday, April 4

8:00 am – Online Worship Premiere (Pre-Recorded)

8:00 am – In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary

9:15am—Easter Egg hunt on the front lawn

10:30 pm – In-Person Worship at the Outdoor Chapel

Because indoor space is limited due to COVID precautions, please sign up for the worship services that you plan to attend in person, either online or by calling the office (563-285-4501) so that we can accommodate those who wish to worship in person.



The Power of 10%

Throughout this ongoing pandemic, the congregational members of Faith Lutheran have continued to be generous with time, talent and treasure. When help was needed with technological assistance to pivot church services from in-person to virtual, our members made it happen. When those less fortunate in our community needed a helping hand, Faith responded. Whenever the call is made for help with services, Sunday school, or for missionary and compassion child sponsorship, our Faith community answers. And when many other churches struggled during these tough financial times, Faith Lutheran members gave generously to support all of our activities. *Thank you*.

As we begin to resume in-person activities and look at how Faith Lutheran returns to a "new normal," imagine what we can do if the church had 10% more. What would happen if we all gave 10% more of our time and unique skills to serve others? What impact could Faith Lutheran have on our community and our mission programs if everyone gave 10% more? Committing to giving 10% more of your time, 10% more of your resources, and 10% more of yourself can have a profound impact. It is in this giving that you will reap the satisfaction and joy of knowing that you have touched the hearts and lives of those around you. This is the Power of 10%.

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

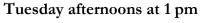
~ Ryan Harms, Stewardship Team Leader

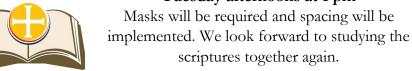
AFTERNOON

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week.





Second Sunday of Easter, April 10th & 11th

The office of the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will provide a Service of the Word for the Second Sunday in Easter (April 11), to encourage pastors, deacons, technology people, musicians to celebrate Easter with some time off. This service will be pre-recorded. Bishop Current will be preaching. Faith will premier this service on Saturday evening,, April 10th, at 5pm.

We will still hold services in person at Faith on Sunday, April 11 at 8 and 10:30. Both service will feature Bishop Current's sermon. Please call the office or sign up online to attend one of these services.

Blessing of the Seeds: Rogation Weekend April 17th and 18th

Planting season is on the horizon and God is good. As a way to celebrate the gift of God's creation and our participation in God's on-going creative work, during worship on the weekend of April 17th and 18th we will celebrate Rogation Sunday. This service will highlight the planting of fields and gardens. A



blessing of the seeds will happen during worship. To further highlight the gifts of creation, we are providing special children's time outdoors at 9:15am between the worship services. We will share stories about planting, offer opportunities to engage with nature and provide opportunities to do some planting of your own.

Also, as a gesture of appreciation to recognize and celebrate the contributions of farmers and those who work in agricultural fields, our congregation would like to provide a meal for working farm families during the planting season. If you are interested in participating in or coordinating this short project, contact Pastor Heather.

Worship Technicians

The Evangelism and Worship and Music Team have a joint need for audio and video help. If you are gifted in these areas, please contact Matt Peck at 285-8447



Nitty Gritty Ministries: Bearing One Another's Burdens

Can you imagine the amount of risk Jesus was willing take by entering Jerusalem? Jesus was willing to head directly to the cross. It is here where he suffered ultimate shame, humiliation and death. Why was he willing to risk so much? Wasn't he paying attention to what this was going to cost him? A simple cost benefit analysis may have been helpful for him. Surely, someone could have talked Jesus out of heading straight into Jerusalem and into his own death. When Jesus was in the garden praying to God he asked for the suffering to be taken away but "not my will, but thine, be done."

Sometimes I wonder what we are willing to risk and even suffer because of Jesus death on the cross. We say it makes a difference and trust that the Holy Spirit still changes hearts and lives today. But does it really make a difference in your life to know that God sent his only Son to be **YOUR** Savior and Lord? As a church, we confess and believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead three days later. Jesus is exactly who He said He is. He is our Savior and Lord; God's truth and assurance of all God promises.

On the cross Jesus died for you. New and abundant life in Christ are yours for the taking. What risks are you willing to take to bring Jesus life to others? There will always be people in this world who are willing to see people and their struggles but only as a dollar sign. Sick people see monetary profit in the struggle of others. This is a problem. As a community of faith we are oriented to be about God's Word of life and work in the world for the good of all. Are there any ministries that you'd like to see happening in our community? As leaders, we have been listening to the concerns of the community. Here are some ministry possibilities that seek to address some of the real needs and concerns of our neighbors:

- ▼A light housekeeping ministry for anyone who is not physically able to care for their home.
- ♥A meal ministry to show appreciation and care for members of the community, as well as for individuals and families facing hardship.
- ♥A ministry to address homelessness in the larger Quad City Area.
- ▼A ministry that advocates for fair funding of local school districts.
- **♥**A ministry that serves the incarcerated.
- ♥A ministry that gives voice to the importance of mental health care needs and advocates for adequate and increased funding within the mental health care system.
- ♥A ministry that addresses the needs of the homebound and their caregivers.

Do any of these ministries meet your passion and the risks you are willing to take for Jesus? What other ministry areas has God placed upon your heart? We want to hear from you. Relationships and real people with names and faces matter to God and they matter to us.

Our call as Christians is heart work. We are willing to risk loving our neighbor because God loves us and calls us to joyfully bear one another's burdens.

Contact Pastor Heather or Linda Golinghorst with your ideas.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2021

					2021	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Reminder: Sunday School is available ONLINE every weekend				1 Maunday Thursday 1pm Food Pantry Board 7pm Worship Online & In Person	2 Good Friday 7pm Worship Online & In Person	3 Easter Vigil 2-4pm Easter Breakfast Box Pick Up in parking lot 5pm Worship Online & In Person
4 Easter 8am Online Worship 8am Worship In Person Inside 9:15am Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am Worship In Person Outside	5 Easter Monday Office Closed Today OFFICE CLOSED	6 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm	7 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 High School Youth	8 6:30 pm Team Night In person or Zoom Team Reports Due	Food Pantry Panery Open 9:30—11:00 al	5pm Worship Online WATCH ONLINE
11 2nd Sunday after Easter 8am Worship In Person Inside 10:30 am Worship in Person Inside 4pm 4H Mtg. 7pm COVID Sub- Committee	12 7pm Faith Connects Online	13 1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm 7:00 pm Executive Mtg. & Personnel Committee	14 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 High School Youth	7:00 pm Church Council Meeting Zoom	Food Pantry Pantry 9:30—11:00 al	5pm Worship Online WATCH ONLINE
18 Rogation Sunday 8am Worship In Person Inside 10:30 am Worship in Person Inside 7pm Council Retreat Pt. 2	19 7pm Faith Connects Online	1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm	21 10:30 am Chime Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation Dinner—Outside 7:00 High School Youth	22	Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am Ambassador DEADLine	5pm Worship Online WATCH ONLINE
25 4th Sunday after Easter 8am Worship In Person Inside 10:30 am Worship In Person Outside— Confirmation	26 7pm Faith Connects Online	1:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30—7:00 pm	28 10:30 am Chime Choir 7:00 High School Youth	9:00 am Ambassador Folding	Food Pantry 9:30—11:00 am	