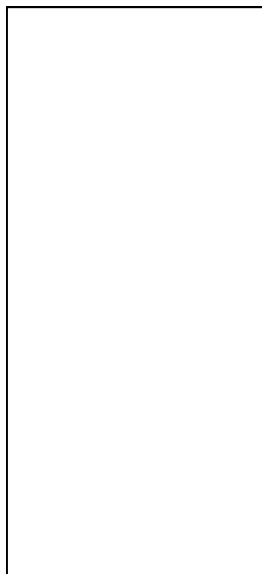


Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9am In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.

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

July 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

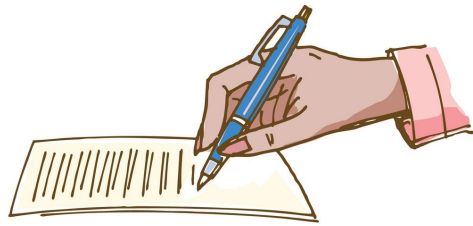
Dear Friends in Christ,

In light of all that has happened in this year, the Congregation Council chose "Serving God. Serving All God's People" as our theme for this year. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells us that even in those things that might seem insignificant to us, we are serving God and God's people, saying "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Jesus encourages us to live our lives in this way. With this theme, we have been considering how we, as a congregation, can continue to serve God and God's people in our community and around the world, especially as we are beginning to gather together again in larger community events.

This summer, we have two very exciting ways in which we can be a part of sharing God's love in this community and serving God's people: the Eldridge Summerfest Sesquicentennial Celebration and the International Softball Congress World Tournament. Our hope is that we can be present as the body of Christ here at Faith in the midst of our community to bring the light of Christ into the celebrations.

There are several opportunities to participate in the events of the Eldridge Summerfest Sesquicentennial Celebration. First, on Friday evening, July 9, at 7:30 pm, there will be a prayer service led by the North Scott Clergy Group at Sheridan Meadows between the two bands that night. We hope that you will join us as we give thanks to God for the 150 years of Eldridge and pray God's blessings upon all those within this community and on the community itself.

The second opportunity during the Sesquicentennial Celebration is to provide a float for the parade on Saturday morning. We will build the float on the evenings of July 7 and 8 in the church parking lot beginning at 6:00 pm. The parade line-up will be on Saturday morning, July 9, at 9:30 am. We have a trailer that we can use, but we need someone creative to design the float, several builders and decorators, and some riders/walkers to go with the float on the parade. If any of these opportunities sound interesting to you, please sign up for what you would like to do on this Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094eaba62caaf85-eldridge>.



From the PASTOR



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

Patricia Reese	July 2	Becky Stutt	July 19
Mary Bender	July 3	Kay Friederichs	July 21
Kathleen Stoltz	July 6	Thomas Bylund	July 22
Cathy Henzen	July 7	Sally Puls	July 24
Carol Marten	July 8	Lynda Miller	July 24
Ann Bainter	July 10	Allan Kluever	July 30
Marcia Donaubaue	July 13	Carol Strobbe	July 30
Sue Sissel	July 18		



Fred & Marilyn Jansen, July 17, 1955

Earl & Dorothy Kuhl, July 21, 1956



Food Panty Needs
Food Panty Needs for the month of July are school supplies.

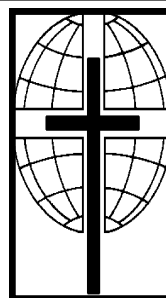


AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week. **Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm.** Masks will be required and spacing will be implemented. We look forward to studying the scriptures together again.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to Mike and Rita Smith for sponsoring the Bencke family, John Chima and Denisse Grefa in July.

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!



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our May Ambassador Folding Crew: Carol Strobbe, Carol Marten, Tom Bauer, Mary Moore, and Donna Benskin.

Thank you to all who served to make VBS a reality this summer! Your hard work and dedication before, during, and after the event made VBS a fun experience for the many children who attended.

Thank you to the property committee yard crew: Henry Storjohann, Ron Arp, and Brad Merrick, for keeping the church lawn and landscape in beautiful condition for all to enjoy, especially during Final Friday, VBS and outdoor worship.



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



NEW: Mary Martha Ministry



The church council has approved a new ministry to help our friends at home. The goal of our new Mary Martha Ministry is to share our love for one another by visiting those in need to do light housekeeping and by sharing in fellowship and the gospel.

If you are in need of a little light housekeeping help and fellowship, or if this type of ministry speaks to your heart as something you would enjoy helping with, contact Mary Moore (285-7223) or Carol Marten (285-4424). Once we know what needs and interest exist, this ministry can begin.

A third opportunity during the Sesquicentennial Celebration is to participate in the Apple Pie Bake-Off. The City of Eldridge would like to have more participation in this event this year, and they know that the churches have awesome bakers, so if you would like to enter your most delicious apple pie into the Bake-off, you can pick up a form here at church, print it from our Facebook page or find it on the City of Eldridge page here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oMRceo0bcIWfK7SuSACXRFDd5GQTxwdi/view>.

The second community event that you might enjoy participating in is the International Softball Congress World Tournament, August 14-21, 2021. This men's fast pitch softball tournament will bring thousands of people to the Quad City area. The city is looking for volunteers to help with things like parking, score keeping, garbage pick-up, gate money takers, and more. Those in high school and older can volunteer for these positions. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office.

They are also looking for church groups to do bake sales near the fields as these men and their families enjoy baked goods. I am planning on having the High School Youth Group do one to raise money for next year's ELCA Youth Gathering trip. If there are other groups in the church that would like to do one as a fundraiser for a specific ministry, please let me know, and I will pass the information on to Lisa Kotter.

I am looking forward to these events and the opportunities that they present for being together as part of the larger community this summer. I am looking forward to the ways in which we can show up together as the body of Christ sharing God's love with our neighbors. Please join us for any and all of these opportunities that excite you!

Thank you for all of the ways that you serve God and serve all of God's people in your life, in your work, in your service.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Carrie





Thanks!

It was exciting to see families on our lawn again for 'Final Friday' and Vacation Bible School. We are thankful for the families that were able to participate and for our members who supported these ministries!

We are in a very busy time of the year as we start up the summer. We are grateful for those who join us in worship (online, outdoors, indoors). We are also grateful for our pastors, staff and members who help make our worship services possible!

It is uplifting for the pastors, staff and council to receive so many letters and comments of 'thanks' and 'care'. This is the fuel that keeps our ministries going, especially in these times of trial.

Thanks! To the council for supporting two meetings in June, which allowed us to reduce COVID-19 precautions sooner than our regular monthly meeting.

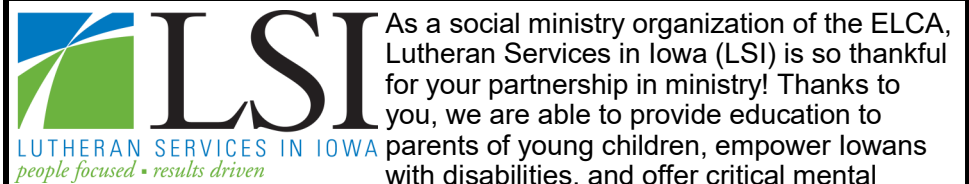
Council Business

Council approved (previously communicated) changes to our COVID-19 Policies to lessen precautions in response to the low community spread. The primary change is that face coverings are optional for people who are fully vaccinated, with the exception of Saturday 5pm worship services which provides an option for those who still need precautions. We look forward to the possibility of more changes toward 'normal' after our July meeting.

Sheila Baustian graciously shared her Faith Stories with council this month. We appreciate getting to know each other better by hearing how God is present in our lives.

We reviewed progress towards the three congregation-wide action items for the year. Ministry team leaders committed to holding team meetings in August so that we are well prepared for our Fall Programming.

Mike Garner shared an overview of the church's insurance which has been renewed and a recommendation to increase the umbrella coverage. The council agreed by consensus to increase the umbrella coverage from \$1



As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! Thanks to you, we are able to provide education to parents of young children, empower Iowans with disabilities, and offer critical mental health care to community members of all ages. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project.

On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it's raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your service! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a "God's work. Our hands." project with LSI, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Hali's New Life

Hali grew up in a home surrounded by addiction. Her own struggle with substance use and trauma continued for more than 20 years but when she learned she was pregnant with her son, Apollo, she knew she needed a change. After giving birth, Hali entered treatment and when she was ready to return home, LSI Early Childhood Services were there to provide support and walk alongside her.

Her LSI worker, Gretchen, provided parenting education and resources, all while empowering Hali and making sure Apollo had a healthy home. Gretchen helped Hali keep track of Apollo's growth to ensure he hit all his important developmental milestones.

More than a year later, Hali is thriving. She is now in college and is also a sponsor to other women who are on the same path to recovery. At home, Hali is busy keeping up with Apollo as he is learning to walk, and she is excited to see him continue to grow.

"Gretchen has given me a lot of hope. She's always had my back," Hali says. "She's my go-to person for any resource and it's nice to have her in my corner."

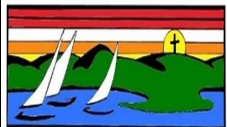
The Junior High kids are not meeting until Confirmation resumes in the fall, but most will be enjoying a fun week at Lutheran Lakeside's Confirmation Camp July 18-23.



We were blessed with many beautiful evenings, which made High School Youth gatherings and games outside on the patio possible. However, at the beginning of June, numbers dropped due to vacations, sports and summer job obligations, therefore we met on June 9 for the last Wednesday night of the summer. Many of these kids will be doing Mission work at Lutheran Lakeside during the same week as the rest of our kids will be at Camp.

To date, there are 38 youth from grades 3-12 attending Camp at Lutheran Lakeside, and 9 adults. We are very pleased to see so much interest in going to Camp. Pastor Carrie will be holding an informational meeting for all attending on Sunday, July 11 th at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Joni King, Youth Chair



Lutheran Lakeside Preparation Gathering

Are you ready for the best week of your life at Lutheran Lakeside?

Lutheran Lakeside Camp

On Sunday, July 11, at 10:30 am, all of the children and youth and families, as well as the adults who are going to Lutheran Lakeside July 18-23 are invited to meet at church to go over any last-minute details and answer any last minute questions about the trip. We will meet out on the front lawn, if the weather is cooperative. You may bring your own chair, or we will have folding chairs available.

Pastor Carrie looks forward to seeing all of you there. If you are unable to be here on that day, please contact Pastor Carrie (641-275-1326 or pastorcarrie@csteldridge.com) so that she can get all of the information to you before we leave on the 18th!

million to \$3 million at a cost of \$800. This was recommended by Seth Porter, our agent, to be more in line with the value of our property.

The annual review of congregation ministries is beginning by collecting feedback on review questions for the pastors and council members. The feedback will be consolidated and discussed in July with a report back to council at the August meeting. The purpose of the review is in support of collectively working towards our goals and effective functioning of our ministries. Official minutes are available upon request by contacting the church office.

We invite your feedback.

As always, it is beneficial for us to have direct feedback from members to support our work. Please feel free to contact any council member directly, or by emailing the church (a council member will then call you back).

Respectfully,
Linda Golinghorst
Council President

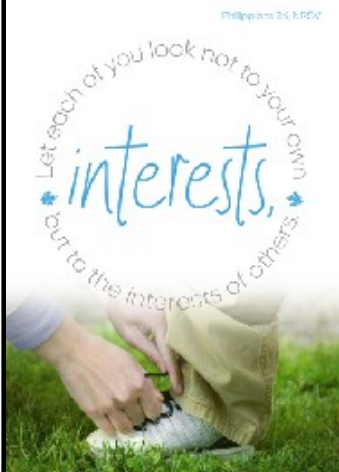


As we gradually return to normal over the summer, we would like input from worshipers who still need to take precautions. If you still need to take precautions for worship, will you please fill out this brief survey at our website, on facebook, or by emailing or calling the church office? Thank you!

Which precautions would you like to see us continue to help you to be comfortable when coming to worship and participation in activities with the church? (Check all that apply.)

- Face coverings for everyone when indoors.
- Face coverings for those who have not been vaccinated when indoors.
- Limited capacity to allow for spacing.
- Easily accessible hand sanitizing.
- Offering drop box at entrance.
- Pre-packaged Communion that we take together in our seats.
- Limited group singing and speaking.
- Other (please specify in the comments below)

Please share comments that will help us to understand your answer above (what other precautions do you need, how long might you need these precautions, what worship time(s) do you prefer).



Unity During This Healing Time

Dear Friends in Christ,

God has united us together in this place to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. While our mission has not changed, the way we are able to accomplish our ministry has changed significantly due to the pandemic. The good news is that we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and are gradually returning to normal over the summer.

As we look forward to our return to normal, we have to acknowledge that the pandemic has been traumatic for most people. As with any trauma, it takes time to heal. People will go through the healing process in different stages (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance) at different times and in different ways.

We understand that some people are ready to be back to normal. We also understand that some people still need to take precautions, and that some people are somewhere in-between. We need to respect these different needs that people have within our congregation. "In humility, regard the value of others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

For the sake of unity in our congregation, we ask that you please do not question precautions being taken by others, and please do not complain about our policies to congregation members who may contact you to participate in our ministry. That said, we invite you to share any concerns with the church council members directly or email the church office.

Thank you for being a part of this community of believers and for sharing the love of Jesus with one another. We look forward to seeing you in worship as soon as you are able!

Blessings,

Linda Golinghorst, President
Pastor Carrie Lewis-LaPlante, Senior Pastor

The Knights of the North Castle VBS 2021

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his power." *Ephesians 6:10*





Please join us for the Annual Parking Lot Picnic On Sunday, August 1st, 2021. Fellowship begins after the 9:00 am service and food will be served at 11:00 am.

Hot dogs, chips, side dishes, lemonade & water and table service will be provided and served by the Fellowship Team.

We'll have a variety of yard games for all ages to take part in, and of course, time to visit with one another.

Feel free to bring a lawn chair and bug spray - if you like.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or on-line at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094eaba62caaf85-parking> so we can plan for the event.



Synod Assembly Summary

I had the opportunity to virtually attend the Synod Assembly. This was an opportunity I was really looking forward to after many years of hearing previous attendees share their stories with such enthusiasm. I was very disappointed that it was virtual, but grateful for the opportunity to participate with 138 other congregations across the region.



The theme was, **Baptized and Set Free**, which was a beautiful reminder of the grace of God in our lives. Activities and discussions provided opportunities for self-reflection to develop deeper understanding and encourage action. Specifically, discussions pushed us to consider how we think, see, and experience the world through our own lens and how that may restrict or limit our view. Considering this limited view, it is important to have *compassionate curiosity* and *appreciative inquiry*. This was a key takeaway as we all strive to understand how emotions shape our perceptions and our brain makes decisions about things automatically. We were encouraged to look at the world from the perspective of the cross. To see the world from those who have been pushed to the margins and from God who sacrificed his son for our lives. Additionally, to reflect and pay attention to what God is trying to say to us through scripture.

Here are some questions you might find helpful for your own self-reflection. I found these very difficult, yet interesting to work through.

What ways have you found helpful to see things from perspectives different than your own?

What do you see when you look at the world from the perspective of the cross of Jesus?

What can you do to see things from a "cross" perspective, that is, from the perspective of those who are "crucified" in (or by) our society?

What voices does your community have a hard time hearing?

What can you do, and your community do to hear those voices?

What might change if those voices are heard?

Who taught you what faith is about?

What did they teach you? How did they teach you?

Who would you like to teach?

How would you teach them? Will you?

Every day, each of us has a unique opportunity to genuinely model the love the God. The assembly was closed with inspiring words, including, God's love is for ALL in the entire world!

Thank you for the joyous opportunity to represent Faith Lutheran at this important event. Congratulations to Pastor Carrie and Katie Garner for being elected and for their future service.

Gratefully,
Kelly Kreiter Penning

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			2	1 6:30 pm Team Night In person or Zoom	2 Food Pantry 9:30—11am (Faith's Turn) 	3 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
4 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel 	5  Independence Day Observed	6 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 	7 7pm High School Youth	8 6:30 pm Team Night In person or Zoom Team Reports Due	9 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	10 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 150th Anniversary! Eldridge Sesquicentennial & Moonlight Chase
11 9am Worship in Sanctuary 4pm 4H Mtg. (FH) 7pm COVID-19 Sub-Committee on Zoom	12	13 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm  7pm Executive Committee Mtg.	14 10:30 am Chime Choir 6-9pm Summer Concert Series @ Sheridan Meadows 7pm High School Youth	15 7pm Church Council Meeting Zoom 	16 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	17 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
18 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel Depart for Lutheran Lakeside 	19 Lutheran Lakeside	20 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 	21 7pm High School Youth Lutheran Lakeside	22 Lutheran Lakeside	23 Food Pantry 9:30—11am   DEADLine Lutheran Lakeside Return	24 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
25 9am Worship Outdoor Sanctuary 	26 7pm Faith Connects Online	27 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 	28 10:30 am Chime Choir 7pm High School Youth	29 9am Ambassador Folding 	30 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	31