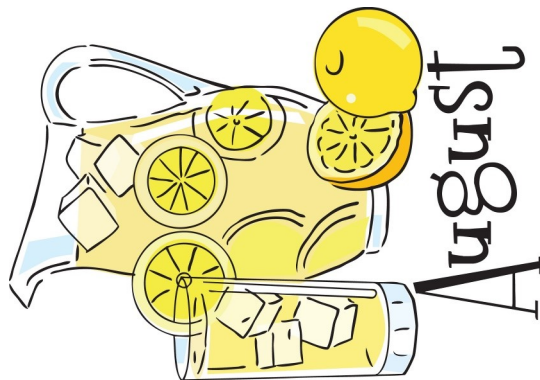


Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 9am In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.

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

August 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

From Pastor Carrie	Pages 2-3
Church Council Report & Monthly Poll.....	Page 4
Letter to the Congregation.....	Page 6
Call to Prayer and Action	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
Eldridge Summer Festival Photos	Page 10
Camp Photos.....	Page 11
Youth and Christian Ed News	Pages 12-13
Back to School Blessings, Appreciations	Page 14
Birthdays, Anniversary, Food Pantry & Missions.....	Page 15

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

After the last 18 months, we all undoubtedly have been feeling the need to gather again. Many of us have been able to begin to see family that we have not seen in more months than we want

to count. We have begun to be able to enjoy sporting events again. Many of us have had the opportunities to get away for a while and enjoy some vacation time. These opportunities to gather and spend time with those we love once again have brought new life to many of us.

The same thing happens when we gather in church. When we gather, we find ourselves with others who live into and believe the promises of God. We see the face of Christ in those around us. We find that we not alone in the joys and the struggles that we face. We are restored and rejuvenated in our live together.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, Paul encourages the people in the church in Ephesus to continue in faith even in the midst of the struggles that they are facing in life and community. Paul is encouraging them to work together, to care for one another, to live into the promises that God provided for them in Jesus Christ. In the midst of this encouragement, Paul writes these words, "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

As a pastor, I believe that is what we hope and pray for all those whose paths we cross in this life, even for ourselves. We pray that all of you would have the power to comprehend the vastness of Christ's love for you and for all people. We pray that we all might be filled with the fullness of God's love to carry us through every day, through the bad and the good. The truth is, I am not sure that we can every fully comprehend just how much God loves us, and sometimes, it is much harder than others.

If I am honest, these past 18 months have been a struggle for me in this area. There have been times of anxiety, impatience, worry, depression, curiosity, frustration, sadness, grief, and all kinds of other emotions that have, at times, blocked my ability to comprehend God's love for me even as I continued to preach that promise for all of you. Maybe you have felt that way too, hearing the promise for you, but wondering about its truth in the midst of all that you have been facing in your life. My friends, the struggle is real and true, and I want you to know that you are not alone in this.



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

David Griffin	August 5	Doug Garner	August 22
Betty Griffin	August 7	Vi Westphal	August 26
Donna Knapper	August 7	Mark Copley	August 29
Deloris Schatz	August 9	George Braden	August 30
Harold Nelson	August 12	Jeanne Willems	August 30
Connie Braet	August 21		



Rob & Pam White
August 3, 1968



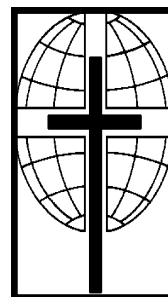
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week. **Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm.** We look forward to studying the scriptures together.



Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of August are canned peas, carrots, and jelly.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to Mary Ann and Dan Anderson for sponsoring the Bencke family, John Chima and Denisse Grefa in July.

Thank you to Amy and John Powell for sponsoring the Bencke family, John Chima and Denisse Grefa in August.

Thank you for your support!



Blessing of Backpacks, Teachers, and School Workers

On the weekend of **August 21 and 22**, we invite all children and youth who are starting back to school to bring their backpacks to worship at 5:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am on Sunday.

During the Children's message, we will do a blessing of backpacks to pray God's blessing on the backpacks and on the children who will wear them this year. We will then offer a blessing over the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, janitors, kitchen staff and others as they prepare to head back to school. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of the new year!



Blessing of the keys

9th Grade Faith Milestone Blessing of the Keys

As our children begin high school, there are many milestones that they will begin to come across. One of those milestones is learning to drive, from getting the permit to driver's ed to getting a license. We would like to help these youth and parents to mark that milestone in worship with a "Blessing of the Keys". On **Sunday, August 22**, during the 9:00 am worship service, we will invite all 9th graders to come forward with their parents as we pray over them and provide them with a small token to mark this time in their lives. We will also be providing each family with a sample "contract" which can help families to have conversation around proper use of the car. We hope that all of our 9th Grade youth and families will be present for this milestone as we begin this new school year.



With Appreciation...

Thank you to our July Ambassador Folding Crew: Sue Braack, Sue Casel, Carol Marten, Carol Judge, Donna Benskin and Tom Bauer.

Thank you to Mindy Arp, Rita Smith and Rhonda Weber for filling in the office in June during my vacation! ~ *Beth Ann*

Thank you to Mary Ann Anderson, Carol Kuehl, Rita Smith, and Rhonda Weber for serving as offering counters this summer!

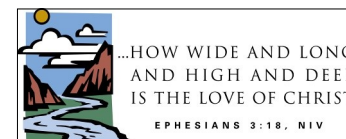
However, as I spent this past week at Lutheran Lakeside Camp with 48 members of this congregation and a number of others siblings in Christ from other congregations, I felt renewed. I was immersed in a community where God's vast love for all of us was at the center of all that we did, from worship and Bible study to zip-lining and sailing and rock climbing and escaping the Escape Room. I began to once again be able to feel that power to comprehend the vastness of God's love for me and for all who were gathered there because I was immersed in God's love through all those with whom I was gathered. They were the face of Jesus for me. I was able to release some of the anxiety and stress and fear and sadness that had built up and give it to God in that place among those people of God.

That is what the church is at its best. The church, wherever we gather, is where we can be immersed in God's love in the presence of those who love God. You can bring your anxiety and your fear and your grief and your frustration and share it with others who know, who understand, who will love you anyway. Together, we are reminded again of God's promises for each of us and experience the truth of those promises in one another. It is where God's vast love for each of us stands at the center of all we do.

Each of you makes this church its best because you are the church. Those of you who have come back to worship and other activities are part of the Body of Christ in this place. You carry with you the light and love of Christ which brings joy and healing in this place. Those of you who are still wondering and waiting for the right time to return in person are part of the Body of Christ in this place shining the light of Christ where you are. When the time is right for you, you will be welcomed with open arms. Those of you who are not ready or cannot join us in person are part of the life and body of Christ in this place. We commit to continue to provide a variety of opportunities for worship and learning and fellowship into the future. Your presence is needed among us

We are better when we are the Body of Christ gathered and sent into this world together, whether in person or online. We are better when we are surrounded by Christ's love and pour that love into the world. We are better when we can creatively find ways to be the presence of Christ to one another and to the world around us. May Paul's prayer be fulfilled in our life together, that we might know the vastness of Christ's love for each of us and for all of us together. May we each be filled with the fullness of God, now and forever.

Blessings,
Pastor Carrie



Thanks!

We welcome Lucas Golinghorst to the worship videography team - thanks for your help!

While the church is open we recognize that not everyone is ready to join us yet. It is especially difficult (and time consuming) to find people who are willing to serve as ushers. We would like to say 'thank you' the congregation members who said 'yes' to the call to serve.

The worship and music team continues to find ways to bring music and song back to our worship experience. We are thankful for the talented vocalists that brought the joy of singing back to our worship services recently: Pastor Carrie, Jim Schneider, Neal Becker, and Kelly Penning.

For the first time ever, our congregation had a float in the Eldridge Summer Festival Parade! Thanks to Pastor Carrie for leading the effort, to Mike Garner for providing the truck and wagon, and the Garner, La Plante, and Zabel families and Beth Raiche-Melheim who served by building and riding on the float.

While Pastor Carrie was on vacation, Mike Garner volunteered to act as a contact for the visiting pastor. We really appreciate your idea and service Mike!

We would like to offer our gratitude and prayers to Sheila Baustian as she resigns from council due to personal reasons.

Council Business

Council approved an updated COVID-19 Policy to further lessen precautions in response to the low community spread. Now, Saturday 5pm indoor worship is face coverings optional for vaccinated people (it was face coverings required for all people), and church sponsored indoor gatherings may include food and drink that is served.

Mike Garner generously shared his faith stories with council this month. We continue to share our faith stories as a way to learn more about one another by hearing how God is present in our lives.

Council approved the use of the Fellowship Hall for monthly VFW meetings, as requested by Duane Miller. We are excited to see this new community-based use of our space.

The Annual Review process is underway. The council (without the pastors) met to discuss the responses collected from the pastors and

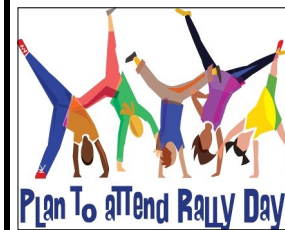


Recap VBS 2021

Knights of the North Castle ~The Quest for the King's Armor

Thank you to all who made for an awesome week of summer Vacation Bible School June 18-24 outside on our beautiful church lawn. What an amazing witness to the power of God and the strength of God's Word as children

from all over our neighborhood experienced God's love in community. As with past years, the majority of student participants were not active members of this congregation. Thank you to all who participated by showing up, serving, teaching, leading and reaching out with God's love into and beyond our church walls to children in our community. The theme for the week is great reminder for all of us, "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power!" Thank you to all who made a difference in the life of our neighborhood children.



Sunday School Rally Day is Coming Soon! Spark All Kids!

Get ready for Sunday School this fall at Faith! We are planning on gathering together in person for a fun-filled year of learning more about the story of God's amazing love through Jesus. Each Sunday all children age 3 through 6th grade will be invited to join together in one classroom for our Bible-based Sunday school. The curriculum is called Spark All Kids and covers the big stories of the Bible. A typical Spark All Kids lesson follows a four-part sequence: Gather, Open the Bible, Activate Faith, and Experience the Salvation story arc. We are looking forward to growing together in faith at Faith Lutheran Church. Rally Day begins September 12th. If you would like more information about the upcoming 2021-2022 Sunday school ministry and/or you are interested in teaching and leading our children on Sunday mornings, please contact Theresa White, our Christian Ed Chair, at tswhite777@gmail.com.



High School Youth Group Kick-Off

It is hard to believe that we are heading back into the school year, but as we do, we also head into a new year of Youth Group. In order to get the year kicked off, we invite all high

school youth and their parents to join us for a conversation about plans for the year, including how often we would like to meet, the kinds of activities we would like to do, the 2022 Youth Gathering, and possible mission activities. We will meet on **Wednesday, August 25, at 7pm. A dessert will be provided!**

Please sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-confirmation1>, or call the office at 285-4501 by **Friday, August 20**. We encourage you to invite friends. More information will be coming in a letter soon. See you there!



Confirmation Kick Off A New Year for Confirmation

It is time to begin our Confirmation Conversations again, so it is time to have a **mandatory student/parent meeting and pizza party**. Therefore, all 7th and 8th Graders and their parents and siblings are invited to a pizza party and Confirmation kick-off meeting on **Wednesday, August 25, at 5:45 pm**. At this meeting we will go over expectations and opportunities for the year as well as the calendar of events. There

will be a formal letter coming in the mail with more information, so for now, please just save the date and time for the meeting, and please let us know how many from your family will be coming so that we can be sure to have enough food for everyone at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-confirmation> or call the office at 285-4501 by **Friday, August 20**. We look forward to seeing you there! *P.S. Our first week of the regular class schedule will be the following **Wednesday, September 1**, beginning with a meal at 5:00 pm and our Confirmation Conversations from 5:30-6:45 pm.*

council members. In August, the Executive Committee and the pastors will meet to discuss a summary of the responses. A final report will be provided to the council by the August meeting. The purpose of the review is in support of collectively working towards our goals and ensuring 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).



July Poll Results

As we gradually return to normal over the summer, we asked for input from worshipers who still need to take precautions. In order for you to attend worship, do you need a worship service that has COVID-19 precautions (face covering, distancing, etc)?*

Yes. 20% No. 80%

The comments were varied, including: no precautions are needed, keep a periodic worship service that requires face coverings, less touching during communion keeps us healthy, and unvaccinated people are at their own risk.

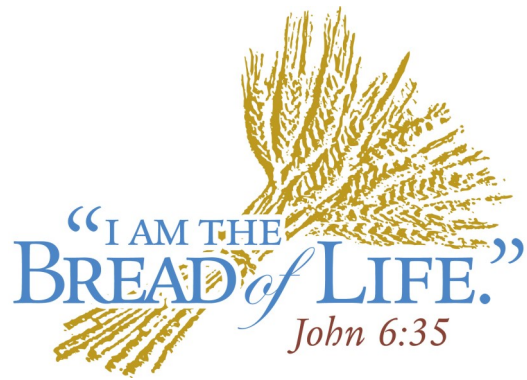


August Poll

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). As a congregation, we seek to be a place where people are fed with Jesus' words of eternal life. With this month's poll, we invite you to think about this bible verse and to share your thoughts about spiritual nourishment.

1. What are the ways you connect with Jesus? Where are the places you are being spiritually nourished?
2. What you think about your family, what do they need to be spiritually nourished?

Join us! You may fill out the poll on our website, Facebook, or by emailing the church office.

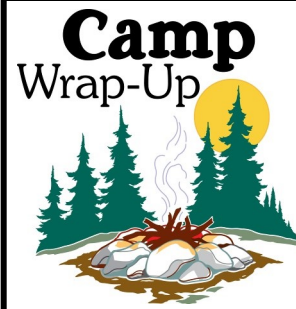


Dear Friends in Christ,
For the next few weeks our gospel readings will focus on Jesus as the bread of life. As a congregation our church seeks to be a place where people are fed with Jesus' words of eternal life. As Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). We are strengthened in Christ as we gather in community.

And thanks to the continued low levels of COVID-19 community spread in Scott County, we will be able to gather with fewer precautions. Face coverings are now optional for people who are fully vaccinated during all indoor worship services and gatherings and for everyone during all outdoor worship services and gatherings. Unvaccinated people age 2 and above should wear a face covering when indoors. For church sponsored indoor gatherings, food and drinks may now be served. There are a few other changes, so please see our website for the full COVID-19 Policy.

There are many ways we are nourished and sustained by God, but one of the most important ways is by gathering together to worship God. When we worship God, we become vessels of the holy who are now open to the call of service, and we multiply the way of God's love and mercy for the good of our neighbors. We invite you to join us for worship, and we welcome your feedback anytime by emailing or calling the church office.

Blessings,
Linda Golinghorst, President
Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante, Senior Pastor





Eldridge Sesquicentennial Celebration

Thank you again to those who made this fun activity possible! Faith brought home the trophy for the best "Faith Based Float!"



"Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away...so now faith, hope and love abide, these three: but the greatest of these is love."
-1 Corinthians 13:8 & 13

Love looks like something. In a cultural climate that is wrought with spiritual oppression, broken spirits, politically charged tensions and socially immoral messages, the love of Christ to transcend trouble and transform hearts is of greatest need. Love looks like Jesus.

While the natural response to these unignorable issues we encounter everyday would be to escape, God is calling his church to engage. With a heart of compassion, God is seeking a church that will carry his gospel in our mouths and his love in our hands and feet. Love isn't telling someone what you know, it's giving someone what they need; thereby introducing them to 'who' we know...Jesus.

We, as God's people, are called to pray, and then in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, act. Not to be resounding gongs, or clanging cymbals. Not to be all talk without genuine, authentic demonstration. We are called to holy boldness and to 'be' Jesus' love in human expression

How are we empowered to fulfill love in action? How do we move from a posture of prayer to a life that cares?

We can ask ourselves:

- Do I speak with the law of kindness? (Ephesians 4:29)
- Do I listen more than I speak? (James 1:19)
- Do I regularly engage others who look, act, and think differently than I do? (1 Corinthians 9:22)
- Do I see the hurting in society, in my family or my church and extend my hand to respond to their need? (Matthew 25:35-40)
- Do I use every opportunity given to share my faith? (1 Peter 3:15)
- How quickly do I forgive when offended? (Eph. 4:32)
- Am I willing to go wherever God sends me to serve the least of these, to advance his kingdom? (Isaiah 6:8)

We embody love by fully joining God in his biblical mission in the world which forsook comfort in pursuit of the coming kingdom of God.

Let us pray: Loving God, you have claimed us as your people. You have called us to be people of prayer, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to serve the least among us, and to make disciples. Fill us with boldness. Increase our heart capacity to beat with an unflinching commitment to loving all as you love us; and to proclaim your gospel so that all might hear your truth. Pour out your love on us, and from us, pour out your love on all people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Article based on message from Kanita Benson, M.A. Director of Intercultural Prayer and Missions National Day of Prayer Task Force



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Worship in Sanctuary 11am Parking Lot Picnic 	2 5:30-8:30pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH) 7pm Faith Connects Online	3 NO Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 	4 7pm High School Youth	5 1pm Pantry Board 6:30 pm Team Night In person	6 Food Pantry 9:30—11am (Faith's Turn) 	7 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
8 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel	9 5:30-8:30pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH) 7pm Faith Connects Online	10 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 7pm Executive Cmte. 	11 10:30 am Chime Choir 7pm High School Youth	12 Team Reports Due 7pm Women of Faith (FH)	13 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	14 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online  Eldridge Hosts FP Softball Tournament thru 8/21
15 9am Worship in Sanctuary 7pm COVID-19 Sub-Committee on Zoom	16 7pm Faith Connects Online	17 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 7pm Executive Cmte. 	18 6-9pm Summer Concert Series @ Sheridan Meadows 7pm High School Youth	19 7pm Church Council Meeting Zoom 	20 Food Pantry 9:30—11am  	21 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online  
22 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel  	23 7pm Faith Connects Online 1st Day of School for Bettendorf, Davenport, & PV 	24 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 1st Day of School for NS  	25 10:30 am Chime Choir 5:45 pm Confirmation Kick Off 7pm High School Youth Kick Off	26 9am Ambassador Folding 	27 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	28 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
29 9am Worship in Sanctuary	30 7pm Faith Connects Online	31 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 				