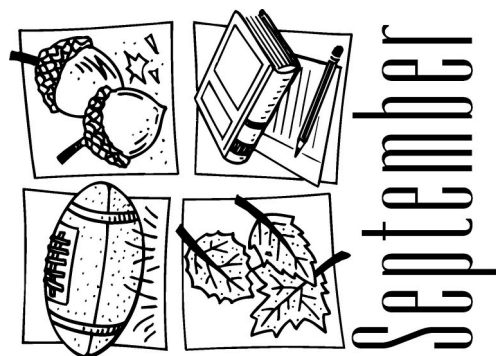


Worship with us every Saturday @ 5:00 pm In Person & Live Stream Online. Join us Sunday 9/5 at 9am in person. Starting 9/12, Sunday Worship will be in person at 8am and 10:30 am. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) & on our Facebook 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

September 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
Council Notes	Pages 4-5
Grandparent's Day.....	Page 6
Congregation Picnic Photos	Page 7
Calendar	Pages 8-9
September Poll & Adult Sunday School	Page 10
Homecoming Tailgate	Page 11
Youth and Christian Ed News	Pages 12-13
Appreciations, New Address Updates	Page 14
Birthdays, Anniversary, Food Pantry & Missions.....	Page 15

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). If you are like me, you might be singing the Sunday School song based on this verse that so many of us learned as children. In recent days, I have been reciting this verse each morning as I start my day. After a year that has been so tough for many, if not all of us, it is a good reminder that every day is a day that God has created for us to live in, and regardless of how that day unfolds, there is something for which I can rejoice. It may not always be easy, but when I begin the day looking for those things in which I can rejoice, I find that I end the day in a more positive place, which has been a good place for me to be.

For me, I have been finding joy in my morning walks and bike rides as I enjoy the sounds of nature that I hear along the bike trail. I am rejoicing in the start of a new school year as my daughters are beginning new adventures in Junior High and High School. I have given thanks for the opportunities to spend time with family, friends and neighbors, laughing and crying and sharing life together. I have celebrated days at the pool with my girls and evenings curled up in the living room watching movies together. I have found such joy in the small moments of life.

So what are those things in which you are rejoicing these days? Where are you finding joy in your life and in the lives of those around you? What are the small moments in your life that mean a little bit more these days?

As we are beginning another program year, I am also rejoicing in the ways in which we are finding to come together again for worship, for learning, for fellowship, and to support one another. I am looking forward to the ways in which we will be gathering in this place: the silliness and learning of Confirmation; the deep questions and intense games of High School Youth Group; the laughter and joy of Sunday School; the joyful noise of the choirs; meeting Jesus in worship and one another; the exploration of faith in adult study opportunities; and more. I am also celebrating the



September BIRTHDAYS

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

Ruth Staudt	September 9	Christine Copley	September 23
Kenny Oetzmann	September 12	Mary Flenker	September 24
Donna Benskin	September 12	Judi Hamann	September 25
Tom Andresen	September 14	Carol Kuehl	September 26
Val Zelinko	September 20	Teri Wittkowski	September 26
Barbara Weltzin	September 22	Arliss Whisler	September 30
Lorenz Behrens	September 23	Diana Doss	September 30



September ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny & Sue Oetzmann
September 10, 1966

Don & Judi Hamann
September 26, 1968



FOOD PANTRY

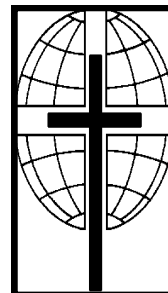
Food Pantry Needs for the month of September are Cereal, Side dishes, Boxed potatoes, and Cleaning supplies.

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.



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP



Thank you to Bob & Carol Kuehl for sponsoring the Bencke family, the La Plante family for sponsoring John Chima, and Denny & Joan Hennigan for sponsoring Denisse Grefa in September. 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 August Ambassador Folding Crew: Mary Moore, Carol Judge, Carol Marten, Carol Strobbe, Donna Benskin, Sue Cassel, and Sue Braack.



New Address Updates

We want to keep in touch with those who have recently graduated. Please send us updated addresses for those in the military, in college or vocational programs, or starting new jobs. Please send the info to the office email: faitheldridge@netins.net, or call 285-4501.

Bible Quiz

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it's a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?

- A. Adam, Eve and Seth
- B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah
- C. Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab
- D. Deborah, Bathsheba and Huldah
- E. A and B
- F. B and C
- G. C and D



Answer: F

ways in which we are reaching out to the community around us: the joy of celebrating North Scott Homecoming with our tailgate party in the front yard; helping to provide for hungry neighbors through the Churches United meals that are beginning again this fall; and we continue to dream of new ways to reach our community with the love of Jesus. In all of these activities, I rejoice in the ways in which we work together as the body of Christ, using our God-given gifts to connect with God, one another and the community around us. I know that joy will be found in the small and large moments together.

Where will you join us this fall as we seek to find joy in the Lord together? In the pages of this Ambassador, you will find many possibilities for all ages, and we look forward to celebrating that joy together.

Each day is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in the days that are ahead.

Blessings,
Pastor Carrie



CHURCH COUNCIL



Thanks!

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.**

Thank you to the Fellowship Team for hosting our parking lot picnic again this year. It was great to see so many people join.

We would like to thank Henry Storjohann for keeping our landscape pruned!

We appreciate the help that Carolyn Scheibe gave us to produce the post card that was sent to the congregation this month.

Council Business

At a special meeting on August 5, the council made a decision to ask all people who enter our building to voluntarily wear a face covering while our community is in the substantial or high level of Covid-19 risk. This is in accordance with changes that the CDC made to their guidelines due to the rapid spread of the Delta variant.

We met on August 19 for our regular monthly meeting.

Theresa White generously shared her 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.

The council filed a summary of the Annual Review for pastors and council, following a review of the report by the Executive Committee and pastors on 8/10. There were many things to celebrate, and many challenges to learn from. In addition to needing to focus on the three priority actions from our



Sunday School Rally Day is Sunday, September 12! 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 at 9:15am on September 12th with a free pancake breakfast for the whole congregation! Come join us!**

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.



Confirmation

A New Year for Confirmation

Thank you to all who attended the Confirmation meal and informational meeting on Wednesday, August 25th. If you were unable to make it, please join us Wednesday September 1, for our first week of the regular classes. We will begin with a meal at 5:00 pm and our Confirmation Conversations from 5:30-6:45 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

July - August 2021 Youth Report

39 Youth and 11 adults made a joyful noise to the Lord, July 18-24 as they descended upon **Lutheran Lakeside** in Spirit Lake, for a week of mission work and fun! High School youth and the adults spent more than 544 hours doing mission work. This included clearing trails for a new disc golf course, removing old posts to prepare a bed for landscaping, and cleaning propane tanks (which they had painted with fun scenes during Camp a few years earlier!). They were also able to participate with the younger kids worshipping God, singing, zip lining, sailing, swimming in the lake and pool, speed boating, hiking the trails, crafts, sitting around the campfire, and putting on a Variety Show (which many of our youth participated in.) They returned home exhausted, but with memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

Blessing of Backpacks, our Teachers and School Workers took place during worship the weekend of August 21 and 22. During the same services we had a **"Blessing of the Keys"**, for 9th and 10th grade students, who are set to complete a very important milestone this year, as they learn to drive.

Confirmation for 7th and 8th Grade students began the new school year with a Kick-off Pizza Party and Informational meeting on Wednesday, August 25. The actual class begins on Wednesday, September 1, and continues every Wednesday thereafter, with a dinner provided at 5:00 pm, followed by Confirmation Conversations (Confirmation Class) from 5:30-6:45 pm.

Also on Wednesday, August 25, the **High School Youth** and their parents kicked off the new school year. They discussed the kinds of activities they hope to see, as well as receiving information on the 2022 Youth Gathering (July 24-28). Then continuing every Wednesday night thereafter, the High School Youth will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joni King



retreat, we need to work together to address the work overload and painful stress that our pastors have endured in the past year.

The Property Committee presented two quotes to replace a portion of the roof that is leaking. Council instructed them to make a decision between the two, not to exceed \$28,705.

The council approved a recommendation by the Property Committee to allow the NS Food Panty to post a permanent entry sign near the ramp.

The council approved a recommendation by the Personnel Committee to increase the pastors' salaries for 2022 in accordance with the Synod's 2022 Minimum Compensation Guidelines. This amounts to an increase in base salary of 2.4-2.5%.

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).

"God's Work. Our Hands."

During our Congregational Pancake Breakfast on Rally Sunday, September 12, at 9:15am, we will be participating in "God's Work. Our Hands" with our siblings in Christ throughout the ELCA. As part of our celebration, everyone is invited to bring packaged food for our Churches United meals. Some suggestions for non-perishable foods are: bottled water, juice boxes, individually packaged chips, applesauce and fruit cups and brownie mixes. Also needed are Ziploc bags for sandwiches. During the breakfast, we also will decorate lunch bags for these meals. Join us as we share God's love with each other and our neighbors.



Grandparent's Day is Sunday, September 12. We give thanks for the love, care, wisdom and fun grandparents share with us! Take a moment to write, call or visit them, or reflect and share special stories of them on this special day. Below is a picture you can color to give them with a special note.

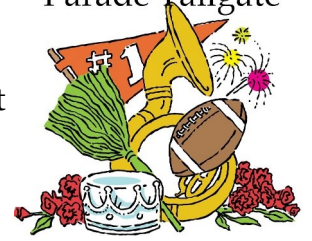


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North Scott Homecoming Parade Thursday, September 23rd

Please join us before the Homecoming parade for a complimentary light meal including hot dogs, chips and drinks in front of the church. Serving starts at 5pm. Bring your chair and stay to watch the parade from our lawn. Everyone is welcome to join the festivities!

Homecoming
Parade Tailgate



Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s
th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV

September Poll

When you think about adult education at Faith Lutheran, what type of study would you be interested in?

Please check all that apply.

- Books of the Bible
- Specific Topics (ex: Grief, Lutheran Faith, Discipleship...)
- Various Book Studies in Small Groups
- Congregational Wide Book Study in Small Groups
- Other

Please provide comments on which Books of the Bible, Topics or Book Studies that you would be interested in:

When you think about adult education at Faith Lutheran, what times would you be interested in?

Please check all that apply.

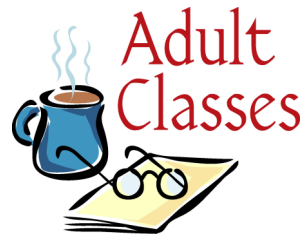
- Sunday 9:15am
- Sunday 5:30pm
- Sunday 7:00pm
- Tuesday 7:00pm

When you think about adult education at Faith Lutheran, what format of study would you be interested in?

Please check all that apply.

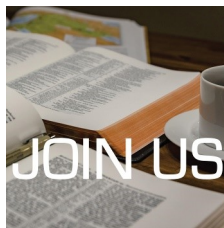
- Online Webinar (Watch, Type Questions)
- Online Zoom (Interactive)
- Self Study
- In Person
- Combination of In Person/Online

You may complete the survey online at our website or on facebook, or by



Adult Sunday School Begins September 19

You are invited to join us on Sunday, September 19, at 9:15 am in the Multipurpose Room as we begin a new year of Adult Sunday School. Pastor Carrie would like to know what you would like to study, so we will spend this first session catching up with one another and talking about books of the Bible and/or topical studies we would like to discuss this year. We will then start our study on September 26. Please bring the yourself, your ideas and a friend.



Parking Lot Picnic Fun

On Sunday, August 1, we enjoyed our time together at our parking lot picnic. We ate delicious food, shared in fellowship, and played a number of fun yard games. Thank you to all who came. Enjoy the pictures of the fun!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Conversations 7pm High School Youth	2 6:30 pm Team Night In person or Zoom	3 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	4 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
5 9am Worship Outdoor Chapel	6  Office Closed	7 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 	8 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Conversations 7pm High School Youth	9 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 7pm Executive Committee Mtg. Zoom	10 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	11 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
12 8am Worship in Sanctuary 9:15am Sunday School Rally Day 10:30am Worship in Sanctuary 6pm 4H (FH)	13 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH) 7pm Faith Connects Online	14 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm  6pm Resounding Joy! (Chime Choir)	15 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Conversations 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth	16 7pm Church Council Meeting Zoom 	17 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	18 5pm Worship Outdoor Chapel
19 8am Worship in Sanctuary & Online 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Outdoor Chapel	20 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH) 	21 9am Quilting (FH) 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm  6pm Resounding Joy!	22 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Conversations 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth	23 5pm Tailgate & Parade 	24 Food Pantry 9:30—11am 	25 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
26 8am Worship in Sanctuary 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in Sanctuary	27 7pm Faith Connects Online	28 1pm Bible Study Food Pantry 5:30-7pm 6pm Resounding Joy! 7pm Jubilation	29 9am Ambassador Folding 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Conversations 6:30pm Senior Choir 7pm High School Youth	30		