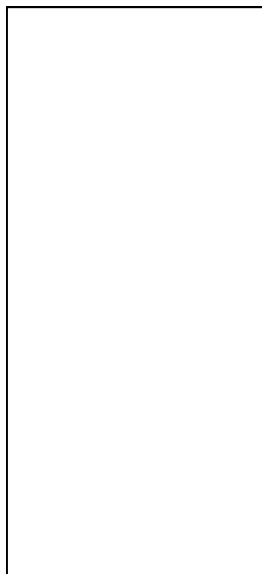


Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 8am and 10:30am, In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.

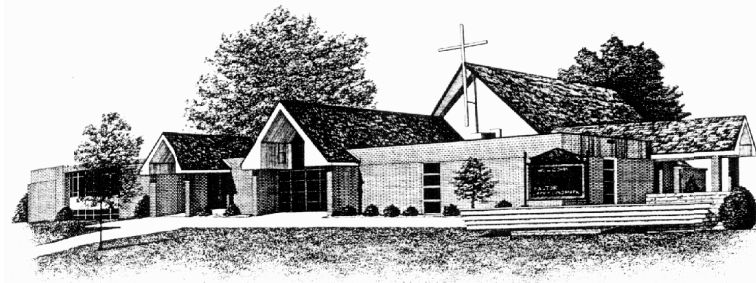
Faith Lutheran Church
500 W. LeClaire Road
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR

January 2022

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

New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have come to the beginning of a new year, and as we enter this new year, I am thinking about what I can do to make the most out of the days that lie ahead. I will be honest, the year that has just past has been really hard. In many ways, 2021 was more difficult than 2020. The longer that the pandemic carries on, the wearier we become of the precautions, the more exhausting the numbers and the facts and the figures become, and the harder it seems to be to find grace for those who think and act differently from us.

However, my hope and prayer for 2022 is that it will be a year of coming together. My prayer is that we can find ways in our families, in the church, and in the community to move forward together in ways that communicate care and compassion for one another, that show the love of Jesus for everyone around us, and where forgiveness for wrongs done can be found.

Last weekend in worship, we heard a portion of Paul's letter to the Colossians. It is one of my favorite pieces from scripture, so much so, that it was one of the readings at Scott and my wedding nearly 16 years ago. Paul is writing this letter to a church that is struggling with finding ways to live together as God's people when the people within the church and those in the society around them have very different understandings of how to live the best life...sound familiar? Into this situation, Paul writes these words:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And



Katie Dittmer	January 1	Joyce Rathjen	January 14
Bud House	January 1	Wyatt Frahm	January 16
Gary Rohwer	January 1	Don Hamann	January 18
David Rose	January 3	Dan Anderson	January 18
Patricia St. John	January 4	Velma Riley	January 29
Shirley Cole	January 5	Fae Harvey	January 29
Shirley Baustian	January 7	Ron Arp	January 31
Sue Braack	January 10		
James Hamann	January 13		



Bob and Ann Bainter on
January 15, 1961

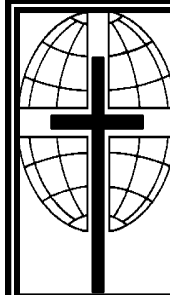


Food Panty Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the month of January are soup, pasta, and hot cereal.

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

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, in person on the bulletin board, or by calling the church office.

Thank you for your support!

With Appreciation...



Thank you to our December Ambassador Folding Crew: Carol Judge, Carol Strobbe, Donna Benskin, Mary Moore, Sue Braack, and Sue Casel.

Thank you to Carolyn Scheibe for scanning, editing, and has importing all the pictures from our last photo directory into ICON for our online directory. (See page 10 for more about the online directory)

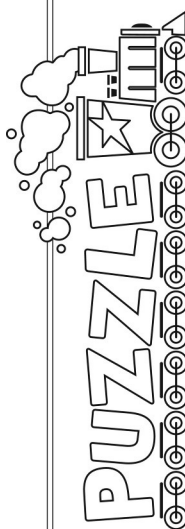
Thank you for the many cards and sweet treats we received during the holidays. You brought us joy with your many surprises! ~ Faith Staff

Thank you to all the families and musicians that helped to make our Advent and Christmas services special. ~ Pastor Carrie

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 check out the sign up on our web site, or at:

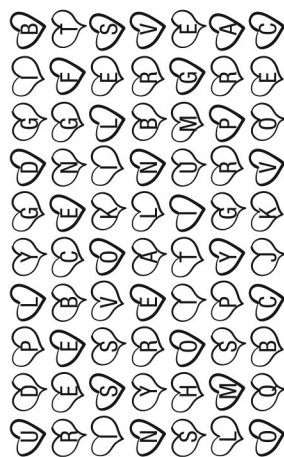
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-video>



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other , because love
over a multitude of . Offer
to one another without
Each of you should use whatever
you have received to others, as faithful
stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, gift, serve, grace

whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:12-17)

While I know that I do this imperfectly to be sure, I have sought to live my life with compassion, kindness, humility meekness, patience (perhaps the hardest for me), and most importantly, love, putting Christ at the center of all things as I seek his peace in the midst of the turmoil of life. I strive to forgive those who hurt me, and I try to seek the forgiveness of those whom I have hurt. And when I fail at any or all of the above, as I do, perhaps more this year than in years past, I turn everything over to Jesus, giving thanks for God's forgiveness in the midst of it all.

So my new year's resolution for this year is to put these words from Colossians in places where I can see them regularly – in my office, on my bathroom mirror, on my dashboard, and who knows where else – so that I can be reminded to whom I belong and what that means for how I live each day, centered in the promises of Christ. I invite you to do the same, to find scripture or a quote or something of meaning to you to help you to live each day in the light of Christ in the year ahead so that we all might shine the light of God's love into the all too often dark days of life.

As we move ahead in this year, I continue to pray that more of us will find ways to gather together to dwell in the word of Christ, to learn from one another, to sing together, and to carry out the mission of God's love for the world in and through this place. You are missed, our congregation gathered is missed, and I believe God is calling us together to move into this new year to share God's love with our community and the world, perhaps in ways we have not imagined before, and doing it all with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and most importantly, love.

Blessed new year to you all,
Pastor Carrie





We are grateful.

The joyful beauty of the Advent and Christmas season was present in our building. Thanks to the following people who decorated: Sue Oetzmann, Sharie Garner, Nadine Schwartz, and Linda Szemkus. Thanks to Dennis Kelly for the shiny, clean floors in our sanctuary. Thanks for so many people who donated money to provide the poinsettias in our sanctuary.

We owe thanks to a couple of other people for giving their time and talent in the past month. Thanks to the work of Tom Bauer, we will have a new and important Safety and Security Policy implemented. Thanks to the work of Myron Scheibe, we now have a door bell and automatic door lock/unlock so that it is easier to greet people who come to our church.

Council Business.

Communications/Sharing: Deanna Nielsen shared in her Faith Story how she found love and care at the churches she belonged to, and how God was with her in very difficult times throughout her life. Pastor Carrie shared the great success of the cinnamon roll sales. Pastor Heather shared the joy of the Children's Christmas program. Mike shared how much his daughter loved caroling at Grand Haven. We shared some feedback from different congregation members centered on the divides we are experiencing and recent changes to Saturday night worship.

Updates: We still need to fill two council positions (Service in the World, Youth) and two Synod Assembly Voting Delegate positions. We are still looking for a new audit team member for 2022 and a new team member for Mutual Ministry. Personnel will be meeting 1/9 to discuss more ideas to address pastors workload to draft updates to their job descriptions. We saw increased attendance at our Saturday worship service after the face covering requirement was lifted.

Actions: We developed our agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan 30. We discussed the need for respite care for the pastors in 2022 and sabbatical plans beyond 2022. Personnel suggested that the office close one day a week, and that the office staff would redefine the office hours, leaving some time during the work day for other work. Pastor Carrie will work with the staff to test these ideas.



School will resume Sunday January 7th at 9:15. Please join us every Sunday for faith filled lessons and lots of fun! We look forward to seeing everyone next year!!

Please bring in all BEST CHOICE LABELS if you have been saving them. They will be turned in and used toward the 2022 Youth Gathering trip. *Thank you!*



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Update

We are so excited to have 16 youth and three adults registered for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota, under the theme "Boundless". Those who are going to the Gathering include Cal Behm, Reese Crain, Rylee Daniels, Lukas Fenn, Carter Harms, Makenzie Housenga, Kalob James-Kroeger, Gehrig Kirst, Abby La Plante, Hayden Lebeck, Austin Lee, Mitchell Mess, Kaycee Newman, Karly Schnorrenberg, Ryan Stickler, Izzy Stonskas, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, and Pastor Carrie La Plante. There is still time to register if you would still like to go. Just see Pastor Carrie for more details.

This group will gather with other local ELCA congregations to prepare for this trip together. Our first opportunity will be a Getting Ready retreat at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Davenport on January 16 and 17. We thank the congregation for your support of this trip, and we look forward to sharing all that we learn and experience with you.





Baking Cinnamon Rolls



Sunday School Pop Up Christmas Program



Caroling
at Grand
Haven



Approvals: We approved disbursement of the budgeted mission line items for: Iowa City Chaplaincy, Bible Camp, North Scott Clergy, and the Seminary Student Fund. We approved the disbursement of the Additional Mission budget line item to go to the synod. The amount dispersed will be limited to the net of 2021 income vs. expenses and no more than 3% of the income, as budgeted. We approved a change to lift the face covering requirement at the Christmas Eve 9 PM worship service. but are still asking everyone to take personal responsibility for themselves and for others by following the current CDC recommendations. We adopted a request by Pastor Heather to designate \$10,000 for her 2021 housing allowance for tax purposes.

We invite your feedback.

As always, it is beneficial for us to hear directly from our 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).



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTIFICATION

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| January 16, 2022 | 9:15am Budget Meeting |
| January 23, 2022 | 9:15am Budget Meeting |
| January 30, 2022 | 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting ,
following a brief worship service
(Review of Reports, Election of Congregational
Leaders, 2021 Budget Approval) |
| January 30, 2022 | 11:30am Council Special Meeting (Election of
Officers) |

Reports will be available by January 16th for pick up at church.



This year's Nominating Committee has completed their work of finding qualified voting members who have a sense of calling to fill positions that are open in 2022. The congregation will vote on these positions at our Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022. The congregation may nominate other candidates during the Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee is excited and thankful to present the following nominees to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting:

Endowment Committee (1 position): Janice Hartwig

Nominating Committee (5 positions): Linda Golinghorst, Jared Penning, Michelle Rasmussen, Melody Sawvell, Joni Schneider.

Council Member Nominees and Biographies:

Nina Looney lives in rural Davenport with her husband, Brian. She has been a member of Faith for 68 years. She is recently retired from Unity Point Trinity as the Blood Bank Lead where she coordinated the Transfusion Service for Rock Island, Bettendorf and Moline hospitals for 45 years. Nina has been a member of Jubilation for 20+ years. Nina has been a member of the Adult Mission Team for four years for Lutheran Lakeside Camp where she attended camp, was a counselor, and spent a week at family camp with her three children. Nina has been functioning as Worship and Music council member since September when asked to complete the term for this year. She has found members to serve in lead positions in the committee and looks forward to working with these outstanding individuals to enhance the worship experience and bring members together as the body of Christ.

Dan O'Flaherty lives in Eldridge. He has been a member of Faith Lutheran for 26 years and previously was a member of Park View Lutheran for 17 years. Dan is interested in leading the Property Committee to utilize the skills he has as a hands-on, "fix-it" type of guy. He acquired these skills from over 40 years of service working at John Deere, from which he retired. He now serves as a bus driver for the North Scott School District. Dan has been past president of both the Park View Jaycees and the Eldridge Lions, and both positions provided



Cinnamon Roll Sunday UPDATE

Youth who will be attending the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis gathered to make cinnamon rolls the weekend of December 11 and 12 to help raise funds for their trip.

Thanks to your generous support, the youth raised more than \$1,000! Look for our next Cinnamon Roll Sunday in April.

Thank you for supporting our youth!



PROPERTY TEAM UPDATE

Property Team has made a few improvements to increase the security of our church as they work on our new safety plan. The first is that we now have a camera doorbell at the front door, which also allows two-way communication, if needed. There is a small delay in the communication transmission. Please be patient as we work this out.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN - Time for snow removal volunteers! If you could help clear sidewalks after a snowfall, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or online (web page or link below). Additional information can be found on the sign up sheet. The sign up link is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-snow1>

Thank you for your help!





The Faith Lutheran family generously provided \$560 for this year's special Thanksgiving offering. These gifts have been split evenly between ELCA World Hunger and Humble Dwellings. ELCA World Hunger partners with congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help support the more than 820 million people worldwide who are hungry and in poverty. Humble Dwellings is a local organization dedicated to restoring dignity and hope to those less fortunate by transforming their living space into a warm and inviting home using gently donated furniture and household items. Thank you all for helping Faith Lutheran support these impactful organizations.



New Offering Envelopes

The 2022 Offering Envelopes will be mailed directly to you each quarter. Please contact the office if you have not yet received envelopes and wish to do so.

Online Member portal & Directory

Using our existing church management system (called ICON), church members can set up a portal to view and edit their family's information, see and print reports of their donations, and use the online directory. We will be sending invites by email on Tuesday, January 11. If you do not receive an invite by January 12, and wish to set up access, please contact the church office to update your email address. *If you receive an invite and do not wish to use this feature, simply ignore it.*

Once members have had time to update their contact information, we will print new directories for those that prefer a paper copy. Our goal is to print these by the end of February.

Giving Statements will continue to be mailed semi annually.



leadership and managing skills which will be effective in leading the Property Team. He looks forward to becoming more involved in Faith Lutheran and addressing the challenges ahead. Dan's critical success factors include many years of leading others with common sense and general knowledge.

The council is still seeking nominees to serve in the following open roles in 2022:

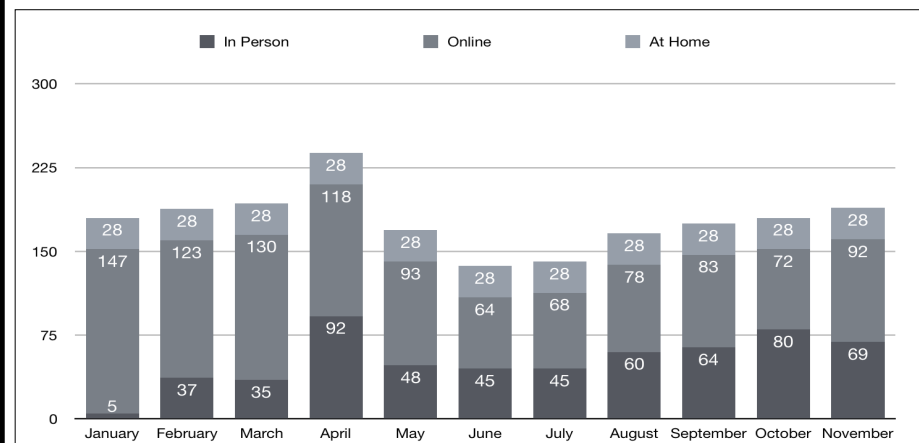
Synod Assembly Voting Delegate (2 positions).












Council (2 positions) : Service In the World Ministry Team Leader, Youth Ministry Team Leader.

Please contact the nominating committee, a Council Member, or the office know if you are interested in these open roles, and the we will contact you to discuss opportunities to serve.

2021 Weekend Worship Attendance

We wanted to give you a quick update on weekend worship attendance through November this year. The numbers below are the monthly average attendance. The 'in-person' is based upon sign-in sheets, the 'online' is based upon a calculation from the synod using online views, and the 'at home' is based upon the number of 'at home' bulletins we mail. Our highest attendance was on Easter in April. We recognize that it will take time for many people to be comfortable worshipping in person, and we believe the online worship and at home worship will continue to be needed for various reasons. We are thankful for all the ways we are able to worship and to share the good news of Jesus!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
2 9am Worship	3 <i>Office Closed to recognize New Year's Day Holiday</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	4 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 7pm Sanctuary Update (Gather Sp.). 7pm Jubilation	5 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	6 6:30pm Team Night	7 9:30am Food Pantry 	8 5pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
9 8am Jubilation Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	10 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	11 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry	12 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	13 <i>Team Reports Due</i> 6:30pm Executive Committee Mtg.	14 9:30am Food Pantry 	15 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
16 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Budget Meetings 10:30am Jubilation Worship	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 9am Quilting (FH) 5:30pm Food Pantry	19 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	20 6:30pm Church Council Meeting Zoom 	21 9:30am Food Pantry 	22 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
23 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Budget Meetings 10:30am Worship	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25 5:30pm Food Pantry 	26 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	27 9am Ambassador Folding 	28 9:30am Food Pantry	29 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
30 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Annual Meeting	31 <i>Office Closed</i>					