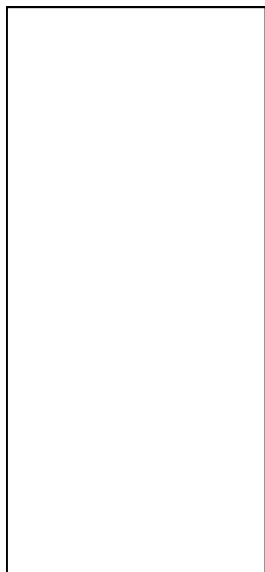


**Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 8am and 10:30am, In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.**

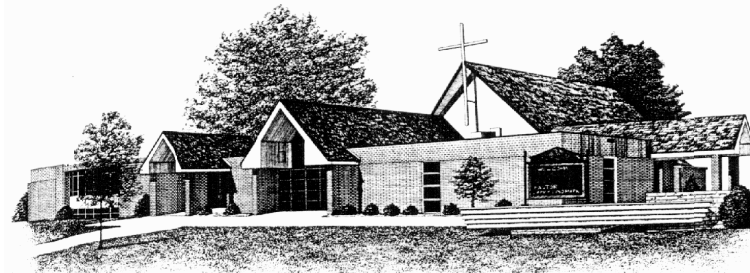
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
500 W. LeClaire Road  
Eldridge, IA 52748

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Faith Lutheran Church



## AMBASSADOR February 2022

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

500 W. LeClaire Road  
Eldridge, IA 52748  
(563) 285-4501

[www.faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com)  
[faitheldridge@netins.net](mailto:faitheldridge@netins.net)

From Pastor Carrie.....	Pages 2-3
Council Notes.....	Pages 4-5
Cheeseburger in Paradise, Special Offering.....	Page 6
Adult Sunday School.....	Page 7
Calendar.....	Pages 8-9
Puzzle.....	Page 10
Youth Ministry News.....	Page 11
Communion and Pre-Confirmation Classes.....	Page 12
Summer Camp Registration.....	Page 13
Appreciations, Snow Shoveling Help, AV Help.....	Page 14
Birthdays, Anniversary, Food Pantry & Missions ...	Page 15

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, we are already heading into February. As Valentine’s Day falls in this month, everywhere you look in the stores these days, there are pink and red hearts, candies of all kinds, flowers and all kinds of cards, from the mushiest romantic ones to the ridiculously comedic, all put out there to remind us that, in this month, we are to show love to those in our lives. And almost as if on cue, in the scripture readings assigned for the last weekend in January, Paul’s words about love to the church in Corinth propel us into this month of love.

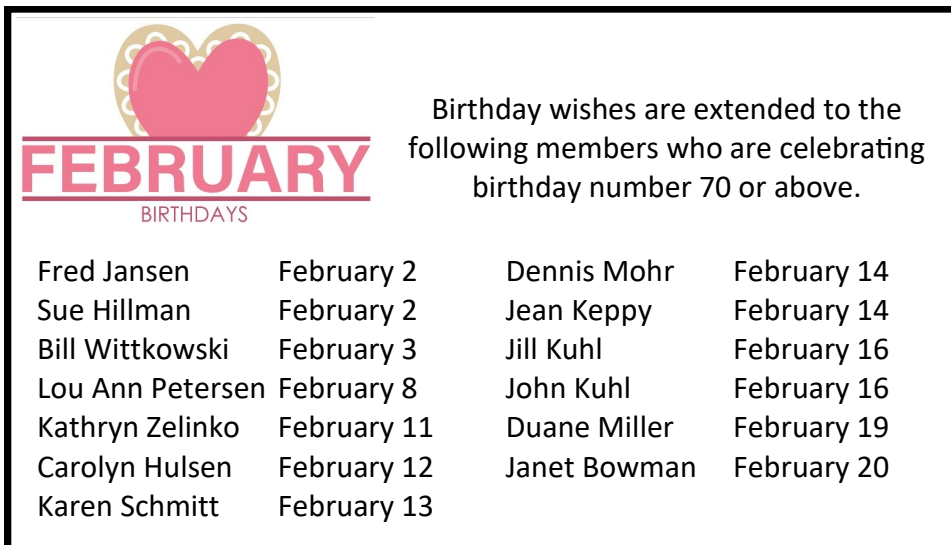
These words of Paul are so familiar to us. They are often chosen as the scripture readings at weddings, and I would guess that many of us have at least portions of this thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians memorized.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

However, this love that Paul is writing about is a love that is greater than marital love. It is love that is greater than the love between friends. In fact, this love is greater than any love than humans can have for one another. This love of which Paul is writing is agape love, the love that God has for us. It is a love that is higher and deeper and stronger than any love that we can even imagine. And yet, Paul is calling the people in Corinth to love one another with this beautiful, deep, unbelievable love because God has first loved them with this same love.

The catch is that Paul is writing to a community, to a church, that was finding it very hard to love one another. Everyone in this congregation and this community had very different ideas about how things should be done. Did the Gentiles have to follow all of the Jewish laws before they could follow Jesus? Could someone who followed Jesus eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols and still not put themselves at risk of eternal death? Could we all be followers of Jesus even if we do not believe the same things?

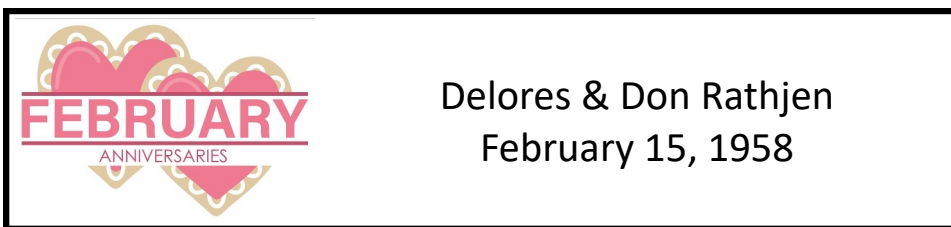
Paul’s answer to these questions and many more throughout this letter is that regardless of our differences, regardless of where we stand on issues,



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

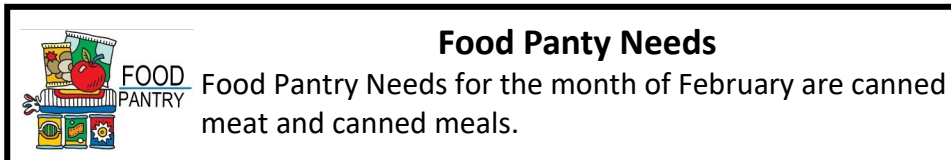
Fred Jansen	February 2	Dennis Mohr	February 14
Sue Hillman	February 2	Jean Keppy	February 14
Bill Wittkowski	February 3	Jill Kuhl	February 16
Lou Ann Petersen	February 8	John Kuhl	February 16
Kathryn Zelinko	February 11	Duane Miller	February 19
Carolyn Hulsen	February 12	Janet Bowman	February 20
Karen Schmitt	February 13		

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



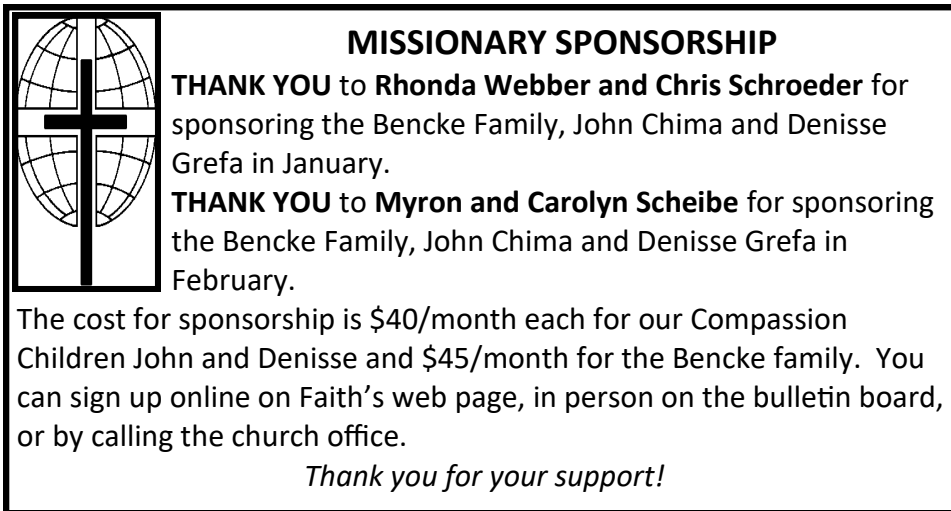
**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**Delores & Don Rathjen**  
February 15, 1958



**Food Pantry Needs**

Food Pantry Needs for the month of February are canned meat and canned meals.



**MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP**

**THANK YOU** to **Rhonda Webber and Chris Schroeder** for sponsoring the Bencke Family, John Chima and Denisse Grefa in January.

**THANK YOU** to **Myron and Carolyn Scheibe** for sponsoring the Bencke Family, John Chima and Denisse Grefa in February.

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 January Ambassador Folding Crew: **Carol Marten, Carol Strobbe, Sue Braack, Sue Casel, and Donna Benskin.**

Thank you to **Magda Brodersen** for watering and tending our indoor plants each week. They would not survive without your care!

Thank you to **Steve Puls** for keeping our parking lot clear this winter!


Thank you to **Lucas Gohlinghorst, Bill Wittkowski** and **Dan O'Flaherty** for volunteering to shovel our sidewalks!

## 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>



 **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!***

## 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.

regardless of what we believe in the details of our faith, what holds us all together is love...this agape love of God for us. Regardless of the things that threaten to divide us, this love is patient and kind. Regardless of how sure we are that our ideas are the right ones, this love is not arrogant or rude, nor does it insist on its own way. Deep down, this love of God for us, centers us in the truth that God's love for each of us is bigger than the differences that divide us, but this love endures and has hope, and this love can bear us through the turmoil that we face.

I know that this is easier said than done, especially in these days when everything feels so divided. Loving one another with this deep love is not easy at any time but is certainly not easy when tensions are high. After all that we have been through, everyone needs more right now than anyone is actually fully capable of giving, which makes this kind of loving hard.

As I preached a couple of weeks ago, so many of us in these days are languishing, carrying with us feelings of stagnation or emptiness after all that we have been through in these last couple of years. We would rather be thriving, but few of us feel that we are fully present in our lives in these days. When it feels like we are looking through a foggy windshield, never quite sure where we are going or how we are going to get there, it can be hard to live into the love that God calls us to and has created us for because that love can be so hard for us to see, to experience, to share with others.

Paul understands these very real feelings. As he writes at the end of this chapter, "For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12). We cannot see clearly how God is at work in the midst of all that we face in this life; however, God is the one who loves us most deeply and knows us most intimately, and we can trust that love to bear us through all things.

My prayer is that, in this season of love, we might be able to find new ways to actively love one another, to give what we can from our stores of that love, and to recognize that everyone is trying to do their best to be loving under less than ideal circumstances. May that love bring us back together into community so that, as the Body of Christ, we can emanate the faith, hope and love that God has put within us to the world around us.

"And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

In Christ's love,  
*Pastor Carrie*

# CHURCH COUNCIL



## We are grateful.

We continue to be grateful for God's blessings and the financial stewardship of our Congregation that enables us to serve His purpose and His people.

Our Christmas season services were made special thanks to Sue and Neal Becker, Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, and our choirs. It is sad to see the Christmas decorations come down, but we appreciate the work that Carol Roe, Sherri Brundies, and Nadine Schwarz did to carefully put them away for use next year.

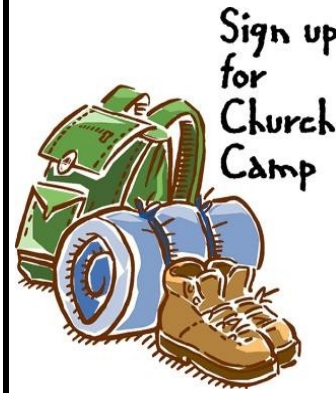
We give thanks to the people volunteering for snow removal, especially given the winter weather we are experiencing.

With so many other priorities in life, we are grateful for those who give their time and talents as leaders of our church. We want to recognize and thank the outgoing council and committee members who are elected or appointed: Joni Schneider (Service in the World/Secretary), Joni King (Youth), Ryan Harms (Stewardship), Myron Scheibe (Endowment), Scott Rochau (Audit).

## Council Business.

Communications/Sharing: Joni Schneider shared in her Faith Story of how she grew up at Faith, left as a young adult, and then returned when her kids were young and to become engaged in many ways. Pastor Carrie shared that Faith was recognized by Lutheran Lakeside as a Top Ministry Partner in 2021, due to our financial support and our in-person involvement at the camp. We offer our thoughts and prayers for families facing illness and other sadness.

Updates: Annette Tomlinson will accept nomination to the Endowment Committee (2nd term). We are looking for two leaders who feel called to lead on council positions (Service in the World, Youth) and two Synod Assembly Voting Delegates. Personnel met on 1/11 to develop ideas to address pastors' workload and to draft updates to their job



## Summer Camp Registration is Here!!

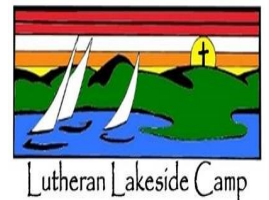
Registration is now open for Lutheran Lakeside Camp this summer. We are planning to attend camp **July 17-22**. There is Junior Camp for those who have completed grades 3-5 and Confirmation Camp for those who have completed grades 6-8. How we will get to camp will be determined at a later date.

For more information about camp, please go to [www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com) and click on the

Summer Camp drop down menu for more information and the Camp Registration tab when you are ready to register. The total cost for a week at camp is \$470 for the first child. If you send more than one child from your household, there is a \$15 sibling discount for the second and subsequent children. A \$100 deposit is due at registration. **There is an Early Bird Discount of \$50 for all those who register by February 28.** As in years past, Faith will cover \$150 of the cost of camp per child (including friends that they might invite). Therefore, the out-of-pocket cost, if you register by February 28, would be \$270 for your first child and \$255 for any additional children from your household. Please only pay \$100 at the time of registration and be sure to let them know that you are going with Faith Lutheran Church so that they apply the \$150 campership appropriately. You can pay the remainder of the camp fees after the campership is applied. Also, please let Pastor Carrie know when you have registered so that she can make sure that the campership is applied and have an accurate count of who is planning to go to help with transportation plans.

Adults are invited to join us for the adult mission trip to do work around the camp that week as well, so if that is something that would interest you, please let Pastor Carrie know.

If you have any questions about camp, please contact Pastor Carrie at [pastorcarrie@custeldridge.com](mailto:pastorcarrie@custeldridge.com) or call or text 641-275-1326).





### Holy Communion Milestone

These two Sunday afternoon sessions are for all students who are asking questions and exhibit a readiness to receive the gifts of Holy Communion at the Lord’s Table. It is also for the students who still need to finish class projects from last season. Attendance of both afternoon classes will be necessary. Experiences include: bread-making, creating pottery chalices and tasting foods from a Seder Meal, as well as deepening our spiritual roots.

**Classes:** Noon- 2PM on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Noon-2PM on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

During the Maundy Thursday worship service students will celebrate their first communion with wine from their very own hand created pottery chalices. **The Maundy Thursday Worship Service is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>**



Please RSVP by calling the church office (563-285-4501) or texting Pastor Heather (563-639-9606) by February 15<sup>th</sup>, so that we can have adequate supplies for participants.



### 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Pre-Confirmation Milestone

Pastor Heather will lead an adventurous hour of fun times, togetherness and learning. Grow your faith. Keep God at the center. Mark your calendars for **three Wednesday evenings - March 23, March 30 and April 6 - from 5:45-6:45pm**. Classes help launch students into our two-year Confirmation program.

**Pre-Confirmation Class**

descriptions. These ideas will be discussed with the pastors to get their feedback before taking them to council. Faith was gifted appreciated stock in memory of Phyllis Hamann. The stock was sold and the money was deposited into the memorial account, earmarked for Sanctuary updates. Offerings in 2021 were less than 2021 expenses, therefore, we did not disperse the additional mission to the Synod.

**Actions:** We reviewed final plans for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan 30 at 10:30am, and pray that we will have a quorum of 35 at the meeting so we may conduct business. We appointed Mike Briehl to a 3-year term on the Audit Committee. We approved the new Safety and Security Policy developed by Tom Bauer on the Property Committee.

**Approvals:** We approved a motion by Service In the World to give the remaining balance in the special fund for Operation Christmas Child to the ELCA Good Gifts/God’s Global Barnyard.

### **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).



### **SOUPER BOWL**



### **Souper Bowl 2022**

The Big Game is the weekend of February 12-13. We will be holding an event to collect canned goods. More info will be forthcoming in the weekly announcements once we know the teams and plans are finalized.





## Cheeseburger In Paradise "Quarantine Style!"



This year would have been our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cheeseburger in Paradise event – and will once again be "Quarantine Style! We will be posting the Slideshow compiled of previous years pictures on the website for your viewing enjoyment! I know it isn't the same as actually getting together in the Fellowship Hall, but it is the safest way to have some fun at this time. The link for the slideshow will be posted around February 5<sup>th</sup> for about a week – so sit back and enjoy the show! Until we can be together again in person – Stay safe and God Bless!!!

**"Aloha!"** - *The Fellowship Team*



At this point, the Faith Lutheran family has generously provided \$980 for this year's special Christmas offering. These gifts will be split evenly between Lutheran Services in Iowa and the Lutheran Disaster Response (designation: where needed).

Lutheran Services in Iowa "responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. Each year, we strengthen Iowa families through a variety of programs, ranging from early childhood education to behavioral and mental health services."

Lutheran Disaster Response "brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need." Thank you all for helping Faith Lutheran support these impactful organizations.



The new year has begun a little less smoothly than we had hoped, but it has started strong. After taking our two-week break for Christmas and New Year's, our planned return day on January 5 was postponed due to very icy and cold conditions. Therefore, Confirmation and High School Youth Group returned on January 12.

Confirmation Youth learned that a person does not need to do anything to earn God's love. God loves us regardless of what we do. This prompted a lot of various questions regarding God's love in the midst of murder and things we may do that we would not think would earn God's love.













On January 12, eight kids showed up at High School Youth Group. After highs and lows of the week, conversation about the holiday break and a short Bible study about the Wedding at Cana, they played some hide and seek, which is a favorite game considering all of the Sunday School rooms that are available in which to hide.

Throughout the rest of January and this semester as a whole, the Confirmation youth will continue to learn about how it is that we live our faith in this world. All of our conversations have been lively as they question how their faith can respond to the problems and the joys of life. We are looking forward to more of these questions and ponderings in the weeks ahead.

The High School Youth Group continues to find a place to relax and destress on Wednesday evenings. They enjoy considering how the scriptures assigned for worship each week speak into the current events going on around them, and ending the evening with crazy games and prayer covers every energy level. They also continue to prepare and look forward to the Youth Gathering this summer.

It is such a joy to watch our youth continue to grow and develop their faith!



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