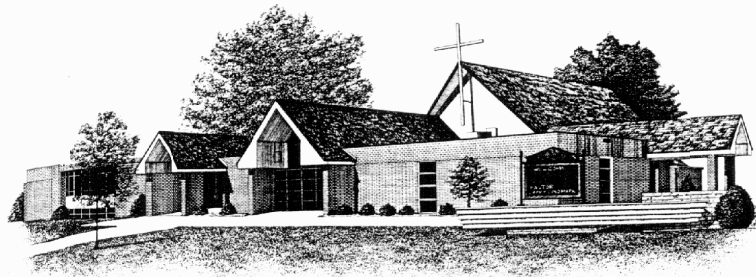


# Faith Lutheran Church



## AMBASSADOR March 2022

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

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

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are about to embark on our annual Lenten journey, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2. To be honest, the Ash Wednesday service is one of my favorite services of the year as it is, perhaps, the time when we stand before God and are most

honest about who we are as God’s creation. My favorite element of this service is the time when we come forward to have ashes imposed upon our foreheads, and we hear these words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

*Remember that you are dust...*We are called back to the story of creation in Genesis 2 when God gets down and dirty and creates from the dust of the earth the very first human, Adam, and then from Adam, a helpmate in Eve. Out of the dust God molded and formed humanity as those with whom God could and would be in relationship. God invested God’s self to create us from the beginning. Throughout time, God has continued to invest God’s self in leading, guiding and redeeming all those whom God has made, even becoming human in Jesus Christ to live among us, to teach us God’s abundant love, to die for us to show us just how far God is willing to go to forgive our sins, and to rise again to give us the promise of eternal life. At our very core, we are the dust from which God has created us.

*And to dust you shall return...*Perhaps in these days more than ever, we are aware that the day will come when we will return to the dust from which God created us. We know that all that we are and all that we do in this life is only temporary, and in the end, we will all die, be returned to the dust, and rise in God’s glory with Christ. In between these times of being created from dust and returning from dust, we seek to live our lives doing the good that God has created us to do, serving God and serving our neighbor out of that deep love that God has poured into us.

However, the other reality of Ash Wednesday is that we know that we do not live this life perfectly. We all do things in our lives that separate us from God and one another, the very definition of sin. Some of these things we do intentionally. Others of these things we do with the best intentions, but we fall short of our goal. Still others of these things we do completely unintentionally, never knowing the hurt that we leave in our wake.

In these last two years, I have become all too aware of the ways in which I fall short. There is no handbook that ever could have prepared me for all of the changes, decisions and struggles that we have all faced throughout this pandemic. Throughout this time, I have made decisions that have hurt others. As I have sought to care for everyone, I know that I have caused pain to some. I am aware that I have hurt people unintentionally along the way. I am painfully aware that I have fallen short in many areas throughout this time, and I ask for your forgiveness and for God's forgiveness so that we can move forward together in proclaiming God's word in this place, in this community, and into the world.

On Ash Wednesday, we take the time to name this reality of falling short in our lives as we confess our sins before God and one another in a deeper way that we do in weekly worship. We join the words and heart of David as we recite together Psalm 51, pleading with God, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). We will confess before God the ways that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We will name before God the ways in which we have not loved, we have shut our ears, we have been unfaithful, we have been self-indulgent, we have neglected prayer and worship, we have neglected human need and suffering, we have had uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and we have failed to care for creation. We will ask God to restore us and forgive us all of our sins; however, we will not hear words of absolution on this night.

Throughout Lent, we will continue to hear the promises of God for us, forgiven sinners that we are, and then, on Maundy Thursday, we will gather again for worship and to hear the words of absolution, of the forgiveness of all of our sins, spoken to each of us individually. May this dance of confession and forgiveness free us to hear God's call to each of us as God seeks to gather us together as God's people to do God's work in the world.

Join us for the fullness of this Lenten journey, as we remember together who we are and to whom we belong as God's beloved children born out of dust and returning to dust through the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

In Christ's love,  
*Pastor Carrie*

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# CHURCH COUNCIL

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Please join in to be the church you want us to be. The names listed below are not here to tell the congregation what Faith Lutheran Evangelical Church in Eldridge, IA, should be. We implement the ways that you, the congregation, want to serve God. Please help us by letting us know the ways we should serve. Imagine ways to strengthen our feeling of shared purpose. Join in the work of God's missions lived out in our world. Invite each other to worship. Every little light that shines makes the world brighter.

Join me in thanking Carolyn Scheibe for 21 years serving as the Financial Secretary and 2 years as the Memorial Team Treasurer. Her years of service show great dedication and we thank her for that. Rhonda Weber agreed to become Financial Secretary and we thank her and support her in this new role. Thanks is also given to each and every one who attended the annual meeting of the congregation. The guidance offered there will guide your council and teams into the future.

## **Council business**

The Annual Meeting of the congregation was held on January 30th. This meeting highlighted all of God's work that our hands do in the world. We all participate in God's work with our hands, but the annual meeting is also a time to thank those who are finishing their terms in official capacities, and elect their replacements. We thank Joni Schneider, Joni King, and Ryan Harms in particular for their time on council as well as Linda Golinghorst for her service as Council President. The following people were elected during the meeting:

Council Members: Nina Looney and Dan O'Flaherty (51/51 votes)

Endowment Committee Members: Janice Hartwig, Annette Tomlinson (51/51 votes)

Nominating Committee: Linda Golinghorst, Jared Penning, Michelle Rasmussen, Melody Sawvell, Joni Schneider (50/50 votes)

Synod Assembly: Kelly Penning and Abigail La Plante (51/51 votes)

Following the annual meeting, the council elected these officers:  
 President Mike Garner  
 Vice President Dan O'Flaherty  
 Secretary Theresa White  
 Treasurer Deanna Nielsen


The February council meeting was held on Feb 17th. Myron Scheibe was appointed to council as the Service in the World team lead for 2022. Thank you to Myron for answering the call. The Youth team lead remains open and I invite you to consider giving your time and talents to the youth of this congregation while enjoying the energy that always surrounds the high school kids as they meet weekly to play games, enjoy fellowship, and talk about ways to live God's word in the world.

The council had a lengthy and thoughtful discussion about the current COVID policy, and voted to update our policy effective March 1. More information about these changes can be found on page 7.

Please offer grace as the council makes difficult decisions the best way we know how. Please call the office(563-285-4501), Mike Garner(563-349-4459), any council member, or email [faitheldridge@netins.net](mailto:faitheldridge@netins.net) with any feedback you wish to give.


Mike Garner  
 2022 Council President






**Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 2.** We will gather for our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary and online which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Ashes for those worshipping at homes will be available at the church starting Sunday, February 27.

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In the next five weeks of Lent, we will have an evening prayer service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, featuring drama presentations.

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We will begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday, April 9 and 10 with a procession of the palms and a hearing of the passion story using Walter Wangerin's *Cry of the Whole Congregation*. Our Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 pm, will include the celebration of First Communion for several of our children. On Good Friday, April 15, we will gather for a Service of Light and Darkness at 7:00 pm. There will be an Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 16, at 5:00 pm, and we will have Easter Celebration services on Sunday, April 12. Services will be held in the sanctuary at 8:00 am and at the outdoor chapel at 10:30 am, weather permitting, with an Easter Egg Hunt in between. Please join us as we journey these 40 days of Lent together.

**Faith Family Heads: Opportunity to Serve**

We need volunteers to head 3 Faith Families. Faith Families are members that are divided in lists and asked to serve in certain capacities in worship: Ushers, readers, communion assistants, etc. This is a 3 year commitment to obtain these volunteers 1-2 times a year on a rotating schedule. We will have online signup available too.

Contact the church office or Nina Looney the Worship and Music Committee Leader 563 295-9339 if you are interested in serving in this way.



**Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...**

Our Church Council recently adopted a security plan. The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of the plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. The 1<sup>st</sup> Training will be held on **Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @9:15am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!

**Contact Tom Bauer for more information.**



Have You Heard?

A new COVID policy will take effect on March 1st. The most notable changes include:

- Face coverings are *recommended* but not required at all times in the building except:
- 8am service: masks will be required.
- Choir members will be masked while singing and instrumentalists will take proper precautions.
- Those assisting pastoral acts that are unable to distance shall be masked
- Those ministering to children under five years old shall be masked
- Food received in the building will be served using precautions, not buffet style.
- Please consider wearing a mask if you are in a small group setting and masks are requested by someone in the group.

The entire policy is available for viewing on our website, at [faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://faithlutheraneldridge.com).














If you wish to contribute toward Easter lilies that will decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area. We are asking for a contribution of \$14.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate 'flowers' on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds.** Names will be published in the Easter worship bulletin.

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
		1 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 7pm Jubilation	2 <i>Ash Wedn</i> 5pm Confirma 5:30 Confirma 7pm Worship Service
6 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH) 7pm Mutual Ministry	8 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 7pm Jubilation	9 <i>Confirmation M</i> <i>No meal or prog</i> <i>Church</i> 6:00 People o 7pm Worship
13 8am Jubilation Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	14 <i>Office Closed</i> 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	15 9am Quilting (FH) 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry	16 <i>No Confirmatio</i> <i>program or You</i> <i>Church tonight</i> 6:00 People o 7pm Worship 7:45pm Resou
20 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Jubilation Worship 12:30pm Council Retreat	21 <i>Office Closed</i>	22 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry	23 5pm Confirma 5:30 Confirma 6:00 People o 7pm Worship 7:45pm Resou
27 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Usher Training (Sanctuary) 10:30am Worship	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 1pm Bible Study 5:30pm Food Pantry 7pm Jubilation	30 5pm Confirma 5:30 Confirma 6:00 People o 7pm Worship 7:45pm Resou

# MARCH 2022

	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Wednesday</b> Communion Meal Service Resounding Joy!	<b>3</b> 1:pm Food Pantry Board Meeting 5:15pm Resounding Joy 6:30pm Team Night	<b>4</b> 9:30am Food Pantry 	<b>5</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
<b>Thursday</b> Mentor Night— Program at Service Resounding Joy!	<b>10</b> Team Reports Due 5:15pm Resounding Joy 6:30pm Executive Committee Mtg.	<b>11</b> 9:30am Food Pantry 	<b>12</b> 5pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
<b>Friday</b> Communion meal, Youth Meeting at Service Resounding Joy!	<b>17</b> 5:15pm Resounding Joy 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	<b>18</b> 9:30am Food Pantry 	<b>19</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
<b>Saturday</b> Communion Meal Service Resounding Joy!	<b>24</b> 5:15pm Resounding Joy 	<b>25</b> 9:30am Food Pantry 	<b>26</b> 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
<b>Sunday</b> Communion Meal Service Resounding Joy!	<b>31</b> 9am Ambassador Folding 5:15pm Resounding Joy 		

We want to thank everyone that supported our Christmas Service Project by donating to the ELCA Good Gifts Global Barnyard. Your generosity made the project a success. With your help, we raised \$1651.20 and were able to sponsor the purchase of 11 chicks, 1 rooster, 8 honeybee hives, 7 pigs, 8 goats, 7 sets of school supplies, stock 2 backpacks, purchase a bible, provide 3 vaccinations, sponsor school fees and uniforms for 4 girls, feed a refugee family and sponsor a soup kitchen for 50. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Service in the World Team.



## Souper Bowl 2022

During our Souper Bowl drive, we collected 99 cans of soup for the North Scott Food Pantry. 7 cans came from the North Scott Foods collection, and 92 came from Faith. Cans were placed as follows:

- 48 for Bengals
- 23 for Rams
- 21 neutral.



Thank you for your donations and support! SIW Team

## Season of Lent Collection

This coming May, the North Scott Food Pantry plans to provide cleaning supplies to clients. The Service in the World committee would like to contribute to this effort by collecting cleaning supplies during Lent which begins on March 2, 2022. The food pantry provides laundry soap, dish soap and bar soap on a regular basis, but all other cleaning supplies are needed and appreciated.

If you would like to contribute, donations can be dropped off in the marked collection box under the coat rack. The cleaning supply collection will continue up until Easter.





### Cluster 6 Synodical Women of the ELCA Meeting

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 11:30 am to 1 pm at Pizza Ranch in Bettendorf

Program--charitable fundraising opportunities provided by Pizza Ranch  
Dutch treat approx.\$13

Donations welcome for Synod and Cluster 6.

In kind collection for Food Pantry--personal hygiene products.

Reservations made by April 23 to Linda

Kortemeyer, [korte4m3@gmail.com](mailto:korte4m3@gmail.com) Phone 563-271-3309

Hope you will join us for learning about other churches in Cluster 6 and possible project ideas for our fall meeting in October. All women are welcome.



We will be holding our annual cleanup day on April 9th at 9:00 am. We will be cleaning windows and general yard cleanup. Please come help us keep Faith Lutheran looking beautiful. Your help is much needed and appreciated.

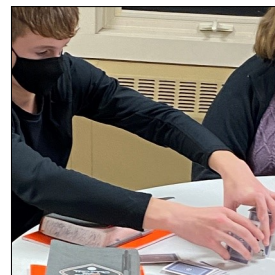
“Create  
in me a  
clean heart,  
O God,  
and put a  
new and right  
spirit  
within me.”  
Psalm 51:10

### High School Mission Trip Update

On February 1, we got the news from the ELCA Youth Gathering Leadership that, after careful prayer and consideration, the decision was made to cancel the 2022 Youth Gathering and direct planning toward the 2024 Youth Gathering. There were many circumstances that led to this choice, and while it saddens us all to not have this opportunity in Minneapolis this summer, we look forward to future opportunities to gather as the youth of the ELCA.

After we received this news, Pastor Carrie worked quickly to secure another opportunity for mission work for the high school youth this summer. We will now be going with an organization called Serve Boldly to Nashville, Tennessee, July 24-29, to do various mission projects there and to get a taste of all that Nashville has to offer. While we do not know exactly what we will be doing at this time, some of the possible opportunities include working with Soles4Souls to bring shoes to people around the world, working at food banks, with refugee ministries and with congregations providing community for children and youth in the summer. We will also have the opportunity to experience some of the live music and conclude our week with an outdoor worship service.

Thank you for your continued support of these youth as we make yet another pivot. Keep your eyes out for future fundraising opportunities, including our spring Cinnamon Roll Sunday, which will be the weekend of April 9 and 10. Hold us in prayer as we prepare for this journey. Your support is much appreciated.



In Confirmation we built card houses when learning about building the church.



### Lutheran Lakeside Early Bird Registration Ends February 28!!

We are heading to Lutheran Lakeside for summer 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.

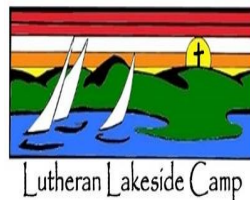
For more information about camp, please go to [www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com) and click on the

Summer Camp tabs for more information about the theme and daily schedule for camp. When you are ready to register, click on the Camp Registration tab. If you have been to camp before, you will have an account already set up. If you are new to camp, please create an account 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 the time of 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. When you check out, use the Sponsorship Code 52748-22, and the \$150 discount will be applied to your account. Also let Pastor Carrie know when you have registered so that she can make sure that the discount is applied and have an accurate count of who is planning to go to help with the organization of transportation.

Also, 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 [pastorcarrie@casteldridge.com](mailto:pastorcarrie@casteldridge.com) or call or text 641-275-1326).



### With Appreciation...

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

Thank you to **Karen Schmeink** for filling in to water and tend our indoor plants.

Thank you to **Jubilation, POP and Resounding Joy!** for leading and enlivening our worship services!

Thank you to all those who have served as Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation and High School leaders. Your service is appreciated!

### 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.



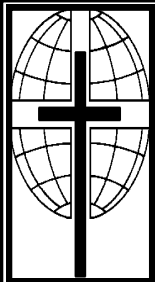
Birthday wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating birthday number 70 or above.

David Lee	March 3	Beverly Schmidt	March 22
Ida Weibel	March 8	Sara Nissen	March 23
Gary King	March 11	Ida Bell	March 25
Karl Nissen	March 16	Sylvia Schryver	March 27
Dorothy House	March 17	Mike Smith	March 28
Garry Mueller	March 20	Lea Farley	March 30
Marsha Andresen	March 21		

### Food Panty Needs



Food Pantry Needs for the month of March are canned vegetables OTHER than green beans.



### MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

**THANK YOU** to **Bob & Carol Kuehl** for sponsoring the Bencke Family in March.

**THANK YOU** to **Tom & Pam Carlson** for sponsoring John Chima in March.

**THANK YOU** to **Tammera Long** for sponsoring Denisse Grefa in March.

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!*



**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

