

JULY 2023

FAITHnews

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

from the PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Eldridge church family & friends,

Summer is already in full swing! What comes to your mind when you think of or hear the word "Summertime"? Longer days, slower and lazy days, including vacations visiting family, taking hikes, going out for camping, or cookouts in the backyard.

This is my 3rd summer since I came as a new pastor. What I remember about my first year is driving to work every day and getting to know about two churches and two different congregations, which was quite a transition for me.

The second summer was a lot special for me. After moving into a condo at Eldridge, it was quite relaxing and restful summer, sitting out on the balcony, enjoying summer lazy days or cool nights. Summer is a favorite season to many of us because we can see God's beautiful creation all around us, and we enjoy rest, refreshment, and renewal for our soul and body. So, how can we experience and share it with others and don't miss out on all that God has in store for us?

Here are some Bible passages I'd like to share with you.

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims God's handiwork." (Psalm 19:1) "We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Leave the electronics alone, grab a folding chair or blanket and sit in the dark to enjoy the stars. Join a group of friends, neighbors, or family members in your backyard or in the Park. It is time to reconnect with people and stay outside, enjoy God's incredible creation. I hope and pray that this month of July will be a wonderful journey of faith and fun.

Many summer blessings to you all, *Pastor JaeHee Lee*

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Annual Mission Ingathering

It is time again to collect items for the Iowa Conference Ingathering Kits. Following lists are for the four kits our church will be collecting. Info will also be available on Missions table in Gathering Area where donations can be placed. Whole kits and/or items for kits will be collected until October 16th.

REQUIREMENTS: All kit items must be NEW. Kits are to contain ONLY the requested items. No handprints, footprints paw prints or camouflage on fabrics, please.

Student Kit

3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8"x10 ½"
1 Ruler 12" long with metric
6 Pencils – Unsharpened
1 Pencil Sharpener
1 Eraser - 2" or larger
1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils
1 Box of 24 Crayons
1 Pair of Student Scissors

Layette Kit (all items for 0-6 months)

6 Cloth Diapers
6 Diaper Pins - must have protective plastic closures
2 Gowns or Sleepers
2 Onesies or Undershirts
2 Infant Washcloths - No adult washcloths
2 Receiving Blankets -28" x 28" to 32" x 32"
(no fleece or thermal blankets)
1 Sweater or Jacket – No ties or buttons
(knitted, crocheted, or sewn with front opening)
Add \$2 Donation for diaper cream



*Extra information available in the
Gathering Area or see Janalee Keppy.*

"COVER WITH LOVE" QUILTS — collected at Midwest Mission

- * Use your own pattern or find one at:
midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/handmade-itemspatterns
- * Finished size needs to be 42"x60"
- * Use NEW cotton, polycotton or flannel fabric
- * Do NOT use batting or ties.

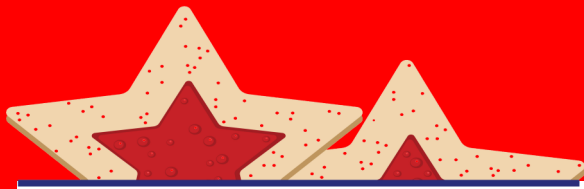
Personal Dignity Kit

1 Bath Hand Towel – No kitchen towels
1 Bath Washcloth – No dishcloths
1 Adult Toothbrush – No multipacks
1 Bar Soap – 3-4 oz.
1 Shampoo – 12-19 oz.
1 Deodorant – 2-3 oz. stick, roll on, or pump
Add \$2 Donation for razor and toothpaste



DATE	HOSTS	ACOLYTE	LITURGIST	PIANIST	TV SCREENS	TREATS
7/2*	Bea & Gary Abbas	Trish Reisener	Trish Reisener	Kathy Dawson	CJ Albertson	Janalee Keppy; Joyce Orcutt
7/9	Stacy Muhs; Dietrich Muhs	Dietrich Muhs	Keith Riewerts	Linda Reickard	CJ Albertson	Sue Cannon; Kathy Kawson
7/16	Rheta Allen; Nancy Bryant	Lynn Reth	Lynn Reth	CJ Albertson	Stacy Muhs	Kate Biekert; Marianne Doonan
7/23	Cindy & Jack Hawker	Jack Hawker	Linda Tubbs	CJ Albertson	Trish Reisener	Apple Family; Fran Wilson
7/30	Don & Marianne Doonan	Don Doonan	Rheta Allen	The Ukuladies	Keith Riewerts	POTLUCK!

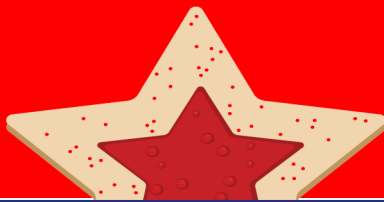
*Prepare & Serve Communion (11th): Ben & Karen Apple



JULY

ANNIVERSARIES

7/10	Bob & Karen Voelkel
7/19	David & Stacie Kintigh
7/21	Joe & Jenny Greenwood
7/24	David & Stacie Muhs
7/25	Frank & Marcia Rowley



JULY

BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Bekah Riewerts Megan Coffman
7/05	Jaclyn Biekert
7/8	Sam Nixon
7/09	Elena Muhs Aiden Prochaska
7/17	Pastor JaeHee Lee
7/18	Janice Mercy
7/21	Christie Nevenhoven
7/25	Rick Hardeman
7/27	Shirley Lucas



PRAYER

list...

...**DONNA EUDALEY's** continuing struggle with major health issues.

...**FLO VELDHUIS-KROEZE** who is working through some heart valve issues.

...**SHIRLEY LUCAS** (& CJ) recovering from hip surgery and now at Davenport Lutheran Home for extended care and rehab.

...the ongoing health concerns of **EUMC PARISHIONERS:** Kathy Dawson, Ken Fordham, Phil Johnston, Leona Lightner, Joyce Orcutt, Tim Reickard, Sally & Keith Riewerts.

Food Pantry emphasis for JULY



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

JULY EVENTS


Sunday 2 nd	9am	Worship with COMMUNION
	6pm	CCT Board Mtg.
Tuesday 4 th	HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!! (office closed)	
	5-10pm	CCT rehearsal in Gathering
Wednesday 5 th	9am	Yoga
	1pm	Worship Committee mtg.
	5-10pm	CCT rehearsal
Thursday 6 th	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
	5-10pm	CCT rehearsal
Saturday 8 th	7am	Men's Breakfast @ <u>GRANARY</u>
	8-ish	Moonlight Chase water station
Sunday 9 th	9am	Worship (Susan Abbas Mission Trip Report)
Monday 10 th	5:30	CYFM / VBS meeting
Tuesday 11 th	10am	Bible Study
	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
Wednesday 12 th	9am	Yoga
	1am	VBS flyer distributionj
	5pm	Eldridge Summer Concert Series
Thursday 13 th	11am	NS Clergy mtg @ Faith Lutheran
	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
	6:30pm	Administrative Council meeting
Sunday 16 th	9am	Worship
Mon17th-Fri22nd	11-1:30	"DISCOVERYLAND" - VBS!
Tuesday 18 th	10am	Bible Study
	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
Wednesday 19 th	9am	Yoga
Thursday 20 th	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
Tuesday 25 th	10am	Bible Study
	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
Wednesday 26 th	9am	Yoga
Thursday 20 th	11am	<i>Feed the Children</i> Sack Lunches
Sunday 30 th	9am	Worship (Taylor Family Mission Report & The Ukuladies)
	11am	Potluck



New To The Family

Some good news from Tom Luther (a new worship visitor). His daughter Allison had some very difficult pregnancy & delivery complications but a beautiful girl was born healthy on June 26; Mom is healthy too! Her name is Phoebe Jo Caron 7lbs, 15 oz. and 19inches. (Many of you might know Allison as Sue McBride's grand-daughter!) Here are her pictures: What a wonderful gift from God!!





EUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes -- June 8, 2023

Members Present: Gary Abbas, Deb Menke, Keith Riewerts, Linda Tubbs, Judy Kilzer, Lori Stackhouse, C.J. Albertson, Bill Tubbs, Pastor Lee, Joyce Orcutt

Glory Sightings: several people shared where they have seen God recently.


Treasurer's Report:

All bills are paid, and we are in good shape financially.
Secretary's May minutes were not addressed.

One Board Concept

- SPPRC joins with Ad Council meetings except when specific decisions need to be made.
 - Pastor and SPPRC chairs jointly set the agenda with input from committee chairs.
 - Chair's position can be rotated among committees or there can be one consistent chairperson.
 - Motion made by Linda Tubbs to rotate Ad Council chair by committee; to be evaluated after 6 months. Seconded by Joyce Orcutt. Motion passed.
 - Suggested rotation:
 - *July: Worship Committee:*
 - *August: Missions*
 - *September: United Women in Faith*
 - *October: Finance committee*
 - *November: Trustees*
 - *December: SPPRC*
 - *January: CYM*
 - *February: Missions*
 - *March: United Women in Faith*
 - *April: Finance*
 - *May: SPPRC*
 - *June: Worship*
 - *July CYM*
- 

Calendar of Events for Upcoming Year

- Gary will chair the Stewardship campaign.
 - This calendar will be the road map for the year.
 - Joyce will provide a copy of 12 boxes, one for each month of the year, to Debbie Menke who will give a copy to each committee chair.
 - Each committee chair will fill in that committee's activities and meetings in appropriate boxes.
 - That sheet will be turned in to Debbie Menke. Debbie, Gary Abbas, and Pastor Lee will put them on a master calendar as our road map for the upcoming year.
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Marriage Policy for Our Church

- Marriage is God's idea and is sacred.
- The ceremony may be performed in our church if one of the couple is a member of our church or a child of a church member, is active in worship, and has undergone marital counseling.
- Pastor Lee will present the complete policy in writing for the July meeting.
- Motion by Bill Tubbs: Eldridge United Methodist Church will allow same sex weddings to be performed in our facility if the above policy is met. According to the One Church Plan our pastor will decide whether he/she will preside over the wedding. Keith seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

- Pastoral housing – SPPRC fills out Form I annually sent from the conference.
 - It is the pastoral privilege as to where to live.
 - In the past, the amount of Housing Exclusion for the pastor has **NOT** been subtracted from the gross income, so pastors have paid too much in taxes. This will be corrected in the future.
- Nancy Herrin is compiling a list in inactive members. Pastor Lee will contact this list with the help of the TLC group (Donna Eudaley, Sue Cannon, Renee` Nestler, and Joyce Orcutt.)
- For the July meeting, each person needs to research how to get names of new residents so the TLC group can greet them and introduce them to our church.
- Explanation of Pastor's Sundays not to preach:
 - 4 weeks of vacation (Pastor plans to take 1 week every 2 months for the remain of this year.)
 - 1 week for retreat
 - 1 week of Annual Conference
 - 1 week of continuing education
 - 1 week of spiritual renewal.

Children and Family Ministry - Vacation Bible School

- VBS is a community outreach.
- It will be held the 3rd week of July from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for grades K-6
- Debbie handed out "Save the Date" flyers at the Strawberry Festival.
- Pastor Lee will determine the theme
- We will have special guests most days such as Medic with their remote-controlled ambulance, Eldridge's new police dog, etc.
- There will be crafts, music, activities, and a Bible lesson.

Gathering Space

- Doug Becknell has offered to pay for an evaluation of the acoustics of our Gathering Space and for the follow-through. Someone is currently evaluating Park View Lutheran Church.
- Noted that Muscatine Wesley Church had similar issues. Greg Wall is the contact there.

Birthday/Anniversary Club

- C.J. Albertson noted that the original need for the Birthday/Anniversary Club was to pay down the mortgage on the church. That is no longer necessary.
- C.J. moved that we end asking for money for this purpose. Lori Stackhouse seconded. Motion passed.
- Kathy Dawson will still send out cards through the month of December 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Orcutt, secretary