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18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 Worship Celebration

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving...**

## **Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

October 1, 2023

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Faith is a growing faith community in the Aurora area. We're people just like you, who are hungry to know God better. We're looking for the answers to life's tough questions. We're struggling to be better parents, spouses, friends, and neighbors. We don't have all the answers but we're growing as we go.

Faith is a great place to find healing for broken hearts and broken lives. In every Sunday message you'll learn new skills and attitudes to help you live life with the kind of joy that God intends for us. You'll also meet people who are also growing in their journey through the joys and challenges of life. You'll find lots of "walking partners" for your journey here. There are no closed doors at Faith, just lots of opportunities to grow in Christ, friendship, and love.

Faith is a church with a great vision; however, accomplishing a great vision requires the participation of many great people like you. There's a place in our vision for you to use your unique gifts and talents.

### **CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES: FOLLOW THE LEADER**

Do you ever feel like the Christian life is a long game of "Jesus Says"? Jesus says pray. Jesus says give. Jesus says to go to church. However, Jesus' invitation to his first-century audience was really an invitation to relationship. And it began with a simple request-follow me. Join us for this transformational journey through the book of Colossians as we traces Paul's teaching on what it means to follow the leader- and prepare to see your faith radically changed.

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# The Gathering

## OPENING SONG

### This is Our God

Remember those walls that we called sin and shame?  
They were like prisons that we couldn't escape  
But He came, and He died, and He rose  
Those walls are rubble now

Remember those giants we called death and grave?  
They were like mountains that stood in our way  
But He came, and He died, and He rose  
Those giants are dead now

Chorus This is our God  
This is who He is, He loves us  
This is our God  
This is what He does, He saves us  
He bore the cross, beat the grave  
Let Heaven and Earth proclaim  
This is our God, King Jesus

Remember that fear that took our breath away?  
Faith so weak that we could barely pray  
But He heard every word, every whisper

Now those altars in the wilderness  
Tell the story of His faithfulness  
Never once did He fail, and He never will (Chorus)

Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did  
Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus  
Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did  
Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus

Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh  
Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Jesus (Repeat) (Chorus)

## **O Come to the Altar**

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

*Chorus* O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling (*Chorus*)

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For He is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen (*Chorus*)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## The Word

### READING

**Colossians 1: 24-2:5**

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

*please stand*

Come let us worship and bow down  
Let us kneel before the Lord,  
Our God, our Maker    Come let us worship and bow down  
Let us kneel before the Lord,    Our God, our Maker

For He is our God  
And we are the people of His pasture  
And the sheep of His hand    And the sheep of His hand

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 21:23-32**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

## MESSAGE

Purposeful Suffering | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A: We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

## OFFERING RESPONSE

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart    Give thanks to the holy one  
Give thanks because he's given    Jesus Christ, His son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart    Give thanks to the holy one  
Give thanks because he's given    Jesus Christ, His son.

And now let the weak say I am strong    Let the poor say I am rich.  
Because of what the Lord has done for us  
And now let the weak say I am strong    Let the poor say I am rich.  
Because of what the Lord has done for us  
Give thanks!

## OFFERATORY PRAYER

A:    God of power, God of plenty,  
      all things belong to you.  
      We bring your gifts to the table,  
      that all might be fed.  
      Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
      Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C:    **Amen**

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## *The Meal*

P: God's love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son, so that anyone who believes in Him should not die but receive eternal life.  
We come to this table in need;  
We are weak and need strength;  
We are broken and need healing;  
We are hardened and need softening;  
We are poor in spirit and need care.

C: **We give thanks for Your compassion, O God;  
We rejoice at Your invitation to share in this meal,  
and we receive again Your abundant grace.**



P: So, let's remember how Jesus gave Himself for us;  
At supper, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks, broke it and shared it with His friends, saying:  
This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember Me.

**C: Amen.**

P: After supper, Jesus took the cup,  
gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying:  
This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me.

**C: Amen.**

P: In this bread and in this wine we receive again  
the generous, and costly gift of life,  
offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.  
This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace  
and a sharing in God's life.

**C: And we will keep celebrating in this way until Jesus returns. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread;  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us;  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

AN INVITATION

*We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed to the table enjoy this gift of God's love and mercy. Apple/Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at usher stand.*

## COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: **Amen.**

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## *The Sending*

### SENDING PRAYER

A: Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## Jesus Messiah

He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross  
Love so amazing love so amazing

*Chorus* Jesus Messiah Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners  
The Ransom from heaven  
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn  
Love so amazing love so amazing (*Chorus*)

All our hope is in You  
All our hope is in You  
All the glory to You God  
The Light of the world (*Chorus*)

Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all  
The Lord of all  
The Lord of all

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Welcome to Faith!**

We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! Have questions about Faith? Wondering how to get connected or get more involved? We'd love to help. No matter where you are in life or how many times you've visited, we're here to guide you towards your next best step. Stop by the welcome center located near the main entrance. If this is your first time at Faith, let us know, we've got a special gift just for you!

### **ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP**

**Wednesdays | 7:00 PM**

#### **Revelation: Extravagant Hope by Margaret Feinberg**

What if God is saving the best for last? Of all the books of the Bible, Revelation is the one that mystifies and unsettles people the most. From numerical signs to monsters, the book of apocalypse in the Bible can be difficult to wrap our minds around, but the message that Revelation really brings is hope. In this six-session video Bible study, Bible teacher and author Margaret Feinberg digs into John's Revelation to show us how the final book of the Bible reminds us of God's power and promises during times of great suffering and persecution. Becky Marchiando is the study group facilitator. We'll be meeting via Zoom.

Register online or at the welcome center so we can send you the information you'll need to attend. Come join us!

### **NEW MOM'S GROUP! A Moment for Mom**

**Sat 10/14 | 10:00 AM**

Join us for this up-and-coming group for moms just like you! We are hosting moms of children ages 0-elementary school to come together for a time of learning, laughter, and treats. Take a moment to connect with other moms, while enjoying a yummy breakfast, hearing from a knowledgeable speaker on topics related to parenting, and building your mom village along the way. Our group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, October-May, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM.

Our first session will be October 14. Chelsea Hicks Webster, Certified Life Coach and Parenting Educator, will be speaking on "Debunking Motherhood Myths: Realistic Expectations and Self-Love". You won't want to miss it!

Sign up online at [discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom](http://discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom)

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - A Moment for Mom**

We are looking for volunteers for our NEW mom's group, A Moment for Mom. Donating your time or resources just one time can help this ministry grow. We are in need of breakfast food, small gift baskets or gift cards (with moms of small children in mind). The needs include greeters, welcome center and breakfast support, setup and cleanup, senior moms (willing to hold a baby for short periods). Our first session is Saturday, October 14.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Amy at [amomentformom@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:amomentformom@discoveringfaith.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP @ FAITH**

**Mon 10/16 & 10/23 | 6:30 PM**

This two-part course invites participants to explore the vision, mission and values of Faith, as well as a broad overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will also discover their unique gifts and how they can use them in serving others. This course is open to everyone, and is an expectation of those who wish to become members at Faith! Register online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or sign up at the welcome center.

## **NEXT**

**Sun 10/15 | 9:00 & 10:30 AM**

If you've ever wondered how to get involved at Faith, or how to take the next step, don't worry. We've created a simple next step for you. It's a small gathering called NEXT. This informal gathering lasts only about 20 minutes after services and will provide you an overview of our mission, strategy, and environments to help you determine your best next step for continuing your faith journey. Meets fireside

## **HESED HOUSE SERVE EVENT**

**Weds 10/18 | 6:15 PM**

We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently signup online or at the welcome center. All that's needed is a serving heart. If you have questions about Faith's Hessed House ministry, please reach out to the ministry team at [hessedhouse@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:hessedhouse@discoveringfaith.com).

## **CHILDRENS MINISTRY HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**Fri 10/20 | 6:30 PM**

Let's have a Spooktacular Halloween party with your friends at Faith! We'll be pumpkin painting/carving, having a Halloween Costume Contest, playing games/making crafts and having all sorts of ghoulishly delicious treats together!

Please RSVP to [Jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:Jenn@discoveringfaith.com)

## FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sat 10/28 | 9:00- 11:00 AM

For those parents who feel their child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, you are encouraged to attend our First Communion workshop. The workshop provides a time for both parents and their children to learn about the gift of God's love that comes to us through this meal. Those who participate in this workshop will celebrate their First Communion on All Saints Sunday, November 5th. The workshop is led by Pastor Rob. Register today online or at the welcome center.

## KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us in the auditorium as we dive into learning about new virtues each month through stories from the bible so that we can grow in our understanding and relationship with God. To register go to [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## REVOLUTION

Sundays | 5:00 PM

On Sunday Nights at Faith, we've created an event that attracts **middle & high school students just like you**. After all, we figure you want to be wherever your friends are. We make this time as fun and relevant as we possibly can. The goal is for you to leave feeling energized to go out there and tackle another week! Meets weekly in the auditorium Register online- [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## Giving at Faith! As Easy as Click & Give



As followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace irrational generosity. We know it changes lives—ours and the people we're reaching. At Faith, taking action on your generosity is simple. Just scan the QR code with your camera and give. Simple, safe, and secure.

## **Prayers**

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list and have the prayer team pray for them, please contact the church office at [\(630\) 862-3500](tel:(630)862-3500) or send an e-mail [prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com)

Prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

## **Care**

If you know of someone who is in need of emotional, physical, or spiritual support, please contact our care team at: [careteam@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:careteam@discoveringfaith.com)

## **Pastoral Emergency**

In the case of an emergency that requires immediate Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Rob directly on his cell phone at [\(630\) 248-5515](tel:(630)248-5515).



Pastor Rob Douglas  
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM