



Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

May 7, 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: LIVING WITH MARGIN

Have you ever said, "I'm overloaded. I just can't get it all done. I can't catch up"? Many of us feel like we're chronically rushed, chronically late, and chronically exhausted. We're overwhelmed by activities, choices, work, debt, and more, and we feel a constant strain on ourselves and our relationships. Join us for this four-part series where you'll learn how God designed your body to follow a regular cycle of work and rest, and how building margin into your life will lower your stress and tension and increase your peace of mind. Find out how living with margin will give you a healthier life, as well as make you available to be used and blessed by God.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing | ELW #389

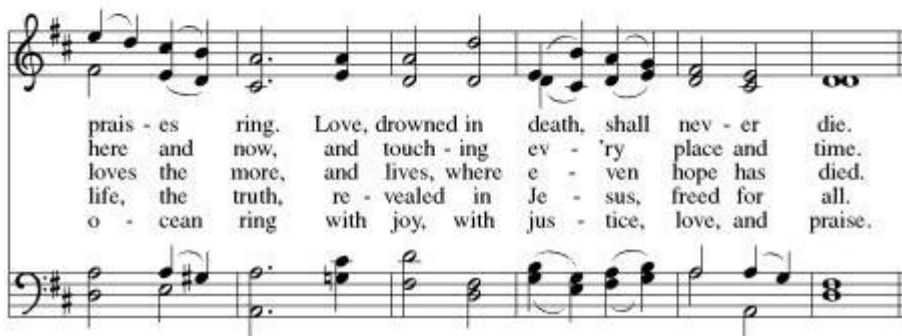
please stand



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

GREETING

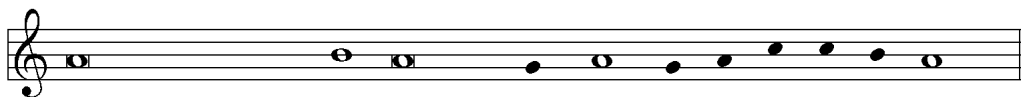
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



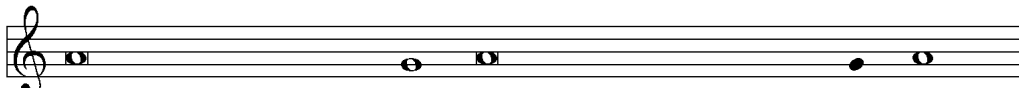
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



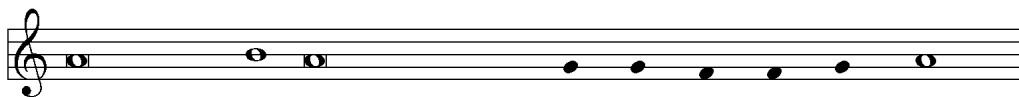
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ☩ A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,
 Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
 Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his
 commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives
 and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 Amen.

The Word

FIRST READING

Acts 7: 55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

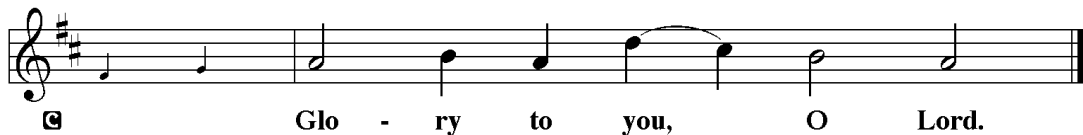
Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6: 25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "Praise to you, O Christ." in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Life is Better with Margin | Pastor Rob

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises | ELW #379

please stand

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Musical notation for the third line of the hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Musical notation for the fourth line of the hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

APOSTLES CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

The Meal

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*



☞ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.


OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A: Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

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 the usher stand, please ask an usher to assist you.

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

C: Amen.

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
 He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

A: Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

The Sending

BLESSING

P: The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Thine Is the Glory | ELW #376

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass clef staff for each system. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The score includes a key signature change to G major (one sharp) in the fourth system. The refrain is marked with a repeat sign and a key signature change to G major. The piece concludes with a final cadence in G major.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

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!

FLOCKING FLAMINGO'S FUNDRAISER

May

April Showers bring May Flamingos

Flamingo season is almost here at Faith. Yes, two flocks of those lovely, tacky, plastic, pink flamingo lawn ornaments are about to descend upon the lawns of various families of Faith. Fortunately, we have a trained team of flamingo handlers who are ready to remove them should they land in your yard. Removal fee is \$20.

You can join the fun by requesting these flocks land at a specific address. Special requests will be honored for \$10. Get someone before they get you! So choose wisely, and have fun playing the game all month long!

Want to insure against the removal cost of these pesky birds? Flamingo Insurance is available for only \$10. Buy early; the cost of removing these from your yard is double.

All proceeds go to support the Uganda Mission Trip team. Details, special requests, and insurance certificates are available at the Pink Flamingo Table, or online.

Thanks for playing, and for your support.

MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH

Sun 5/14 | Various Seating Times

Faith invites you to attend our special Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 14 from 7:30AM - 11:00AM. Our talented team of chefs have prepared the following menu for this white table cloth, fine dining experience:

Omelet Station, Belgian Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bagels & Cream Cheese, Bacon & Sausage, Fresh Fruit Bar, Assorted Danishes, Yogurt.

Proceeds from the brunch will go towards supporting the ministries of Faith
\$12 for Adults \$6 for children (0-12)

You may sign up for a seating and purchase tickets at the welcome center.

BUNCO NIGHT

Sat 5/20 | 5:00 PM

It's Bunco Night at Faith! Event open to all adults. Bring your neighbors and friends. Prizes will be awarded. Doors open at 4:30 PM. Cost is \$5/person, collected at the door. Bring an appetizer to share. We're going to have a great time!

INTERESTED IN SERVING IN MUSIC MINISTRY?

Tues 5/23 | 8:00 PM

Open Jam Session with Danny Singh

Do you play an instrument, or enjoy singing, and have been interested in sharing your gifts at Faith. Danny Singh, Faith's new worship leader, will be hosting an open jam/rehearsal session on Tuesday, May 23 where you'll have the chance to learn about opportunities to serve in our music ministry. This gathering will also include an informal jam/rehearsal session. Come meet Danny, ask questions, and have fun connecting with other musicians at Faith. For more information contact Danny at: Danny@discoveringfaith.com.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Mondays | 7:15 PM

The Power of a Woman's Words

We're excited to announce our new Spring Ladies Bible Study focusing on the book "The Power of a Woman's Words" by Sharon Jaynes. In this 6 week bible study we will learn how our words can be changed to lift up and encourage others. We will meet at Faith the 2nd and 4th Mondays of April and May. The bible study is led by Kris Harvey. The book may be purchased online or Kris can order a copy for you if needed. Just let Kris know. No need to register. Just come join us!

KIDWERKS ANIMAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Sat 5/20 | 3:30 PM

Join us on Saturday, May 20th from 3:30-5:00pm for a day of learning, serving and petting some of God's most precious creatures. We will have an onsite petting zoo and educational program with exotic animals and creatures, and will be collecting donations for ADOPT animal shelter in Naperville. There is no cost for this event but **reservations are required**. Please reserve your spot today! Complete details available on the website, www.discoveringfaith.com/kids.

VBS - Stellar

7/10 - 7/14 | 9:00 AM

Join us at Stellar VBS, where we'll explore rugged moonscapes, colorful constellations, and lunar landers as we dig into God's great love! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. For more information contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com or register online at discoveringfaith.com

MISSION TRIP 2023 – UGANDA

June 1-13 | Donate today!

It's just around the corner! The team is assembled and making preparations to leave for Kampala Uganda on June 1st. What an extraordinary opportunity to serve God alongside our ministry partner Watoto . There are a number of needs that have yet to be met, including travel expenses and ministry supplies.

Show your support by considering a donation today –
discoveringfaith.com/missionuganda2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- The children's ministry team is looking for volunteers to join us for VBS this summer, July 10-14. We are looking for both teen and adult volunteers for the week. Please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com if you're interested in serving this summer!
- The Mens Group is looking for volunteers to help support the Mother's Day Brunch on May 14, 7:30-11:00 AM. You will be rewarded with a great breakfast and fresh coffee! If you would be interested in helping out, even for 30 minutes, please reach out to Kris Harvey, 630-817-8287.

A New Mom's Group coming to Faith

"A Moment for Mom"

We are looking to launch a moms group this fall, that will meet once a month on Saturday mornings and provide a moment for moms to learn, connect, and recharge. There will be a speaker on a mom related topic, a meal and childcare. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to serve on the team, indicate your interest on a connection card, or contact the church office. We will have an informational meeting in May, more info on that to come.

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:6308623500) or send an e-mail 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

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:6302485515).



Pastor Rob Douglas
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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