



# Practicing the Way

NINE PRACTICES THAT ROOT US AND DEEPEN US  
IN OUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD AS WE SERVE THE WORLD

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Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
8:00 am worship service

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

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

February 23, 2025

### **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: PRACTICING THE WAY**

Join us as we explore nine ancient practices of the way of Jesus that promise to help root us in the faith and deepen our experience of God as we serve our world. When practiced regularly these keystone habits can powerfully guide our journey of spiritual growth, creating a rule of life that helps us become more like Jesus, transformed into the people we were created to be.

# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

*please stand*

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art | ELW #863



Music notation for the first stanza, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth-note chords.

1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!  
2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—  
3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,  
4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,  
5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!



Music notation for the second stanza, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth-note chords.



Music notation for the third stanza, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth-note chords.

How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!  
thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!  
bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.  
for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.  
On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.



Music notation for the fourth stanza, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth-note chords.

## GREETING

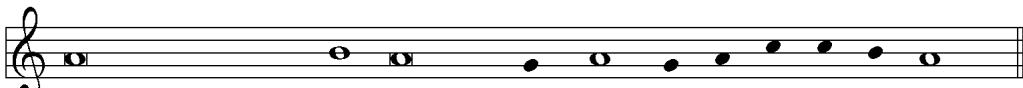
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## KYRIE



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



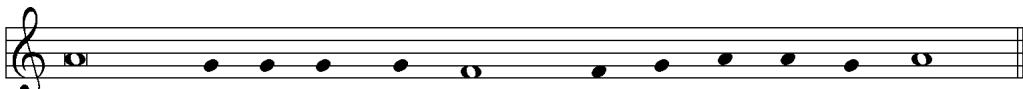
A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



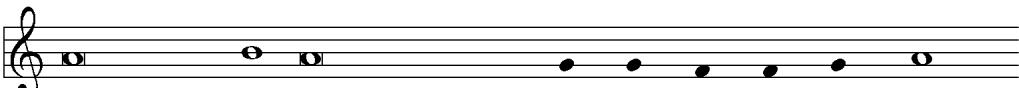
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



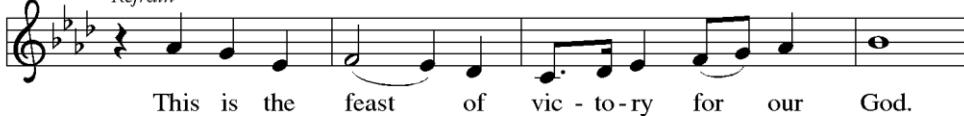
let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of victory 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



*Refrain*  
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.



*Refrain*  
Al - - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## The Word

### FIRST READING

**Exodus 20: 8-11**

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

### SECOND READING

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*

Music notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: "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." The notation includes a bass line and a soprano line.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Music notation for the beginning of the Gospel reading. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." The notation includes a bass line and a soprano line.

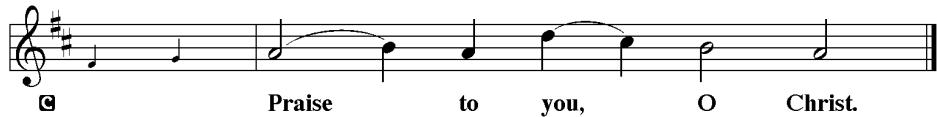
## GOSPEL

**Luke 6:27-38**

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



**MESSAGE**

Stop, Rest, Delight, Worship | Pastor Rob

## HYMN OF THE DAY

please stand

We Praise You, O God | ELW #870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;

2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;

3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring -

through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;

When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for ev - er be praise!



## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- C: Amen.**

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# The Meal

## PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

## OFFERING

### OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*



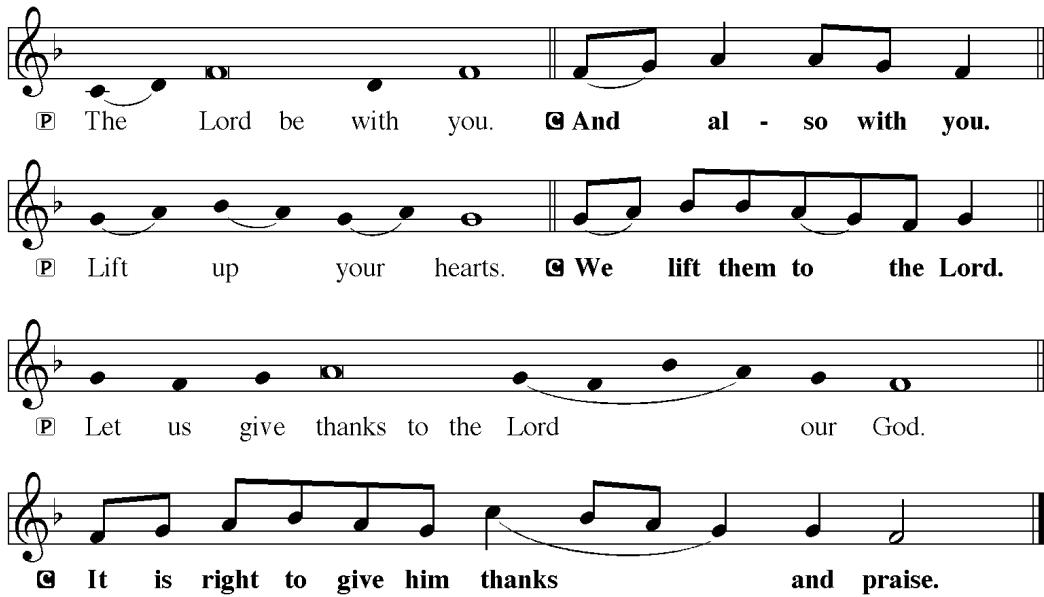
Let the vine - yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres- ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

C: Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

Holy, holy, holy 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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.**

**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 to 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; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. 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 rejoice and proudly 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: Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen**

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## *The Sending*

### **BLESSING**

P: The Spirit of the triune God  
    ☩ bless you with joy,  
    anoint you with compassion,  
    and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

please stand

Abide with Me | ELW #629

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

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!

### **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

**Wed 3/5 | Noon & 7:00 PM**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### **A MOMENT FOR MOM**

**Sat 3/8 | 10:00 AM**

Our moms group here at Faith, A Moment for Mom, has a delicious breakfast and amazing speakers on topics relating to motherhood. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month through May 2025. We offer affordable childcare while you attend. Our website is up and ready for you to explore our speakers and cost for the 2024-2025 year. Come join other moms of kiddos ages 0-10, to laugh, learn and connect. Register today and/or reach out to us for more information at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

### **CUB SCOUT MUSIC BINGO FUNDRAISER (21+ Event)**

**Sat 3/8 | 7:00 PM**

Bring your friends and family to this fun, musical, fundraising event hosted by Pack 643! Our Faith Lutheran Church Cub Scout Pack 643 is hosting their 1st annual Rockstar Bingo fundraiser. When bingo, and music come together, everyone wins! A silent auction, prizes after each round, your own pizza and snacks, bottled water, and a 50/50 make it a winning night for everyone! This is a perfect date night, parents' night out, or fun night with co-workers! Beyond water, it's BYOB.

Game will be played in pairs. No singles. Event tickets are \$50 per pair. Purchase online soon! Last day of online ticket sales is Sunday, February 23. There will be no ticket sales at the door. Prepurchase required for admittance. Adults only (21+) event.

## REVOLUTION

**Sun 3/2 & 3/16 | 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## LENTEN MIDWEEK MEAL

**Wednesdays | 6:30 PM**

Each Lenten season we provide a fellowship opportunity for people of faith to gather around a table and share a meal at 6:30PM. This meal is intended to be simple and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another. Everyone who attends shares in the responsibility of providing different components for the meal. Volunteers sign up each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread or cookies. Beverages and table service will be provided. The Lenten Meal will be offered at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

## MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

**Wednesdays | 7:15 PM**

### ***“I Am: The 7 I Am Statements of Jesus”***

Begins 3/12/25

In a world that is constantly changing, that is full of questions and uncertainties, can we find something solid to hang on to, something that will give the security we long for? Jesus gives an answer—in His own words. He is the “I Am!” When we are in darkness, He says, “I Am Light.” When we are lost, He declares, “I Am Your Good Shepherd.” When we have no way to get through our crisis, He invites, “I Am the Door.” Join us as we discover who Jesus is, and who we can become.

## EGG STUFFING PARTY

**Wed 3/12, 3/19 & 3/26 | 7:30 PM**

Come join the fun and help make our egg drop a huge success. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs. We will be having an Egg Stuffing Party in the cafe on Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 PM. Come join the fun! For more information contact the church office.

## CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Individually wrapped bite size candy donations are needed to fill our 15,000 eggs! If you are able to donate some bags of candy, please drop them off at the welcome center.

**SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARTY (21+ Event)****Sat 3/15 | 6:00 PM**

Great food, Irish dancers, bag pipes, and so much more! Wear your favorite Irish green! Sign up at welcome center or online. Tickets are \$25/person or \$45/couple if purchased through 3/13. Tickets purchased on or after 3/14 are \$35/person or \$55/couple. This is a 21+ event. Invite your friends and neighbors!

**NEXT****Sun 3/16 | 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

**KIDNEY DONOR SEARCH**

Kari and Jake Rothmeyer, members of Faith, are searching for a kidney donor for their son Asher. The live donor should be 42 years old or younger, have no history of diabetes, and be of a healthy weight. If you are interested in learning more or would like to discuss this opportunity with the family, you can contact Kari at (331) 238-9512.

**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

**ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP****Tuesdays | 7:00 PM*****What Happens Next***

What Happens Next is an optimistic, accessible, and nonsensational guide to what the Bible says about heaven's time line that will empower you to face the future with faith. Max takes you on a well-researched examination of the essential milestones such as the rapture, the seven years of tribulation, and the glory of heaven. You will be encouraged to ponder God's promises for the future. "It's all about hope. It's all about him."

This 6-week video Bible study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. It meets online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings 1/21 – 2/25 at 7:00 PM. Sign up online or at the welcome center so that we can send you Zoom credentials you'll need to participate. We'd love to have you join us!

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

**Tuesdays | 9:00 AM**

### **Behold and Believe**

The group is exploring Behold and Believe by Courtney Doctor and Joanna Kimbrel. All women of Faith are invited to attend a study of the “I Am” statements of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. Meetings will take place Tuesdays in the café & facilitated by Sue Boozell. The book is \$10 and will be made available at the meetings. Come join us! For additional information, contact Sue Boozell at [sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com).

### **Living Generously (As of January 31, 2025)**

Our mission is simple. Invite people to discover the new life that can be found in Jesus Christ. Because of your financial generosity, lives are being changed. Our budgeted resource needs to live out our mission are not currently fully funded. We would like to invite you to prayerfully consider how you can respond so that together we can enhance our mission impact in our community and beyond. Thank you for living generously.

2025 YTD Giving \$27,250

2025 YTD Budget \$36,937

2025 YTD Expenses \$42,650

### **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

3000 LIBERTY ST. AURORA, IL. 60502 | (630) 862-3500 | [OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM](mailto:OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM)