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First Sunday of Advent  
9:15 am worship service

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

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

November 29, 2020

### **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 MESSAGE SERIES : THANKFUL**

When it comes down to it and we realize that all that we have is a gift from God it changes us. We move from owners to stewards, me-centered to we-centered, and entitled to thankful. Joins us as we train for gratitude and learn the wisdom in giving thanks.

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# *The Gathering*

## **OPENING SONGS** *please stand*

### **Hope Has a Name**

There is a song, I know it well  
A melody that's never failed  
On mountains high, in valleys low  
My soul will rest, my confidence, in You alone

Chorus Hope has a name, His name is Jesus  
My Savior's cross has set this sinner free  
Hope has a name, His name is Jesus  
Oh, Christ be praised, I have victory

There is a light, salvation's flame  
Christ undefeated, trampled the grave  
See now the cross, be lifted high  
The light has come, the light has won, behold the Christ (Chorus)

There'll be a day my hope complete  
Now home in glory, Your face I'll see  
My pain no more, my fear will cease  
I bow my life, I fix my eyes, on Christ my King  
I bow my life, I fix my eyes, on Christ my King (Chorus)

## **Living Hope**

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa!

Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Oh God, You are my living hope

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,  
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
when he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

## **SONG OF RESPONSE**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection  
awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless  
until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## The Word

### FIRST LESSON

### 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 -18

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*please stand*

### We Are Called

Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be the light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God.

## GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## MESSAGE

Thankful | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

P: We pray for the ministry we share in Christ’s name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: (Prayers of the community). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**C: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

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## *The Sending*

### BLESSING

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
    the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
    the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
    † now and forever.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

### Your Grace is Enough

Great is Your faithfulness, oh God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

Pre Chorus    So remember Your people  
                  Remember Your children  
                  Remember Your promise, oh God

Chorus        Your grace is enough  
                  Your grace is enough  
                  Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice, God  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

(Pre Chorus) (Chorus) (Chorus)  
(Pre Chorus) (Chorus)

Chorus 2      Your grace is enough  
                  Heaven reaching down to us  
                  Your grace is enough for me  
                  Your grace is enough  
                  I'm covered in Your love  
                  Your grace is enough for me, for me

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SEASON OF ADVENT

The days of Advent point the people of God toward the three comings of the Lord Jesus. He came among us at Bethlehem. He comes among us now in the scriptures, the waters of baptism, the Eucharistic meal, and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Keep awake, for his coming is certain and his day draws near. With the change of season brings a change in our liturgical setting.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**Thursday 12/24**

Join us online this year for beautiful music and the story of how God's love came to unexpected places and touched each of us with the birth of His son. Come celebrate!

## LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. DO STUFF.

**Tuesdays | 7:00 PM**

### Upcoming Adult Online Study Group

This series is about God's love... and the most amazing thing about that love is that it's not a bunch of rules or stuff we have to agree with. God's love is different. It changes things. It's active. It works. It risks. It's something we discover more about by "doing stuff." Love God. Love People. Do Stuff. Join us for our next adult online group series, "Love Does," based on the New York Times bestseller book by Bob Goff where we'll learn together how God's love for us enables us to love others outrageously through our actions. You'll discover how your faith comes alive when you do the love of God. Don't miss out! Register today at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com).

## VIRTUAL NIGHT OF FAITH

**Sat 12/5 | 6:00 PM**

Join us on Saturday, Dec. 5th at 6:00pm for our second annual Night of Faith. This year's fundraiser gala to celebrate and support our mission at Faith will be held online and will include music, live auctions, and the golden raffle ticket drawing. The event will be live-streamed, and you'll be able to bid in real-time and win some amazing items all the while knowing that you are supporting Faith's mission of changing lives through God's love. Click the link <http://discoveringfaith.com/night-of-faith> to learn more about the event, purchase your golden raffle tickets, and to place your bids!

## **COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

**Sun 12/6**

God has given us an exciting vision here at Faith to be a place where everyone is invited, encouraged, and challenged to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Join us on Sunday, December 6 as we share our gifts of financial commitment for 2021. You are invited to prayerfully consider your contribution as we will lift them up to God in prayer. Please mail your response card to the church office, or go online and pledge today.

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST**

**12/11 – 12/21**

Online registration is up & running for Faith's Holiday Lights Contest! Register you or your friends home by 12/8. A map will be posted by 12/11 for you to begin touring all the homes. Cast your vote before 12/21 and winners will be announced on 12/22!

## **LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Save the date for this year's Live Nativity here at Faith! However, many types of volunteers are needed to help make this event a huge success (actors, hospitality, set up, animal control, "Welcomers", photographers.) Sign up online or contact Pastor Rob if you are interested.

## **LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH!**

**Sat 12/19 | 6:00 PM**

This year, the spirit of Christmas will be alive at Faith, as we host our annual outdoor Live Nativity on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Come and experience the birth of Jesus. Imagine what the first Christmas was like through the Live Nativity. The journey will take you back in time to the birth of our Savior. Shepherds peacefully tend to their flocks, while Mary and Joseph look after the child in the manger. Wise men will come from the East bearing gifts as angels watch over the scene. Faith's Live Nativity features a large cast, choir, live animals and scenery to provide a memorable Christmas event for the entire family.

During the performance as the story is told, visitors will be invited to join with the choir in singing traditional carols. After the performance, stay to have hot chocolate and cookies, enjoy the petting zoo, and get your very own nativity scene picture.

It's an experience that will bring the true meaning of the Christmas season for one and all!!

## **REVOLUTION ONLINE**

**Sundays | 5:00 & 6:00 PM**

God is good, and He is with us in everything! We want our students to know that, trust that, and experience that every moment of their lives. Our fall groups for middle & high school students have begun. These 45 minute gatherings will allow our students to connect with each other and with God, and grow in their faith. This will be a fun, and engaging opportunity for your child to connect with others during this confusing time, where they will find encouragement, support, and growth.

## **KIDWERKS LIVE**

**Sundays | 10:30 AM**

We've changed to a new time and a new engaging format to help our kids connect with God and with each other. Every Sunday morning kids are invited to connect and grow through our Kidwerks Live 2.0. This fun, interactive, event happens at our new time at 10:30am.

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## JOYS & CONCERNS

Betty Wampach

Bethany Boyles

Sarah Hennings prayers of healing

Family of Vicky Halupnick on loss of her sister, Kenna

Family of Jackie Rumbold

Brad and Kathy Gorman- prayers for health

Katie Riley

Nancy Staton

Mitch- son of co-worker of Christy Douglas

Mike Autry

Taylor Scott

Doris Johnson, mother of Karen Banschbach

Kathy, daughter-in-law of Karen Solan

Strength for Sonja Ramsey

Sarah Barr

Scott Perkins, friend of Randy & Bonnie Schumacher

Bob Clark

Jay Bridge, brother of Dale Bridge

Ron Cizek, prayers of healing

Scott Lee

John, Jill O'Neal's godfather

Kathy, health care worker

Jerry, son of Judy Bridge

Dana & Daniel, friends of Judy Bridge

Claudia Marrow, friend of Danita Curry

Nick Falkos

John Larkin, cousin of Pastor Rob

Bella, Karen Solan's granddaughter

VerHagen family, friends of the Jensen family

Dave Belinski

Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk

Muriel Weigel, mother of Gary Weigel

Christy Dunn, Diane Rinehard, Jess Schell- working with Covid patients

## **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).



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