

# THIS IS US

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Invite | Grow | Serve

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14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:00 am worship service

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

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

September 4, 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: THIS IS US**

Welcome to This Is Us - We will discover and explore our church's mission, vision, and values. Together, we will explore the foundations of our faith, the heart of our community, and the purpose that drives us forward. Whether you're a long-time member of our congregation or someone new to our community, we're excited to have you join us for this engaging series.

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# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds | ELW #656

*please stand*

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final two lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

### GREETING

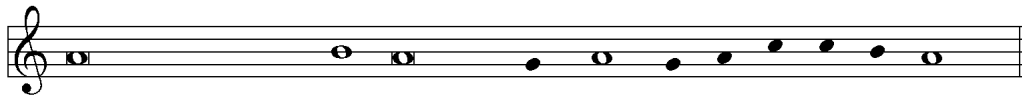
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

# KYRIE



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



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



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



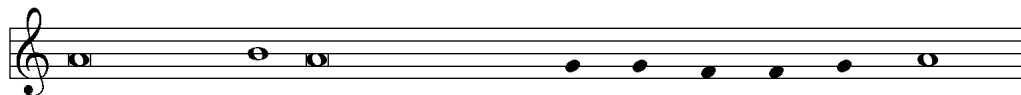
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**G** 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. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** 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,  
O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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## *The Word*

### FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

## SECOND READING

## Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## 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 John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

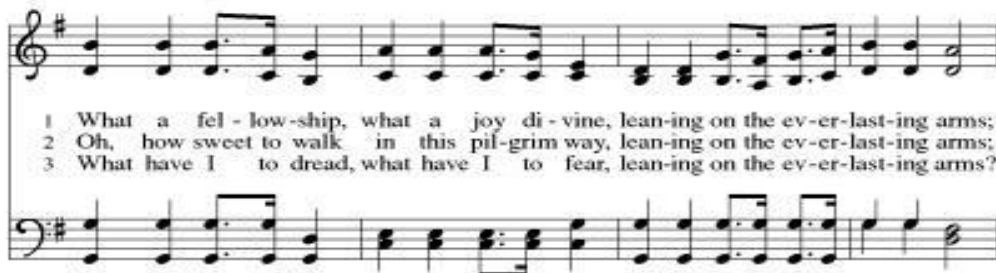




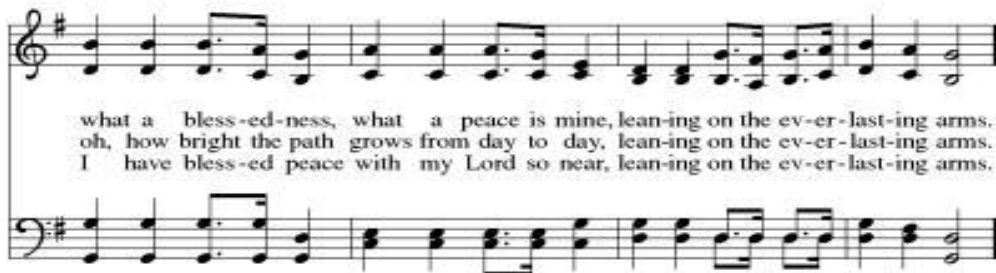
# HYMN OF THE DAY

# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine | ELW #774

please stand



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?



what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

## Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;  
Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

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

**A:** God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the  
seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your  
witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful  
God,

**C:** receive our prayer.

**A:** God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans  
reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably  
as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C:** receive our prayer.

A: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: 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*

### **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 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.


## 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:** 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 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: 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**

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## *The Sending*

### BLESSING

P: The God of glory,  
† Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art | ELW #863

*please stand*



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!



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.



## 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!

### **Faith welcomes Jennifer Richardson who will be serving as our new volunteer coordinator!**

Jennifer is a full time wife, mama, and entrepreneur. She is a recent transplant to the Aurora area after spending the previous 10 years in Atlanta.

“I am so excited that Pastor Rob offered me the position of Volunteer Coordinator. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the members of the congregation I've met so far, and I love helping people find ways to use their unique gifts to serve in ways that make a big impact on our community. If you see me around, please say hello!”

### **FAITH IN ACTION TEAM**

Following Jesus is what Faith is all about. He made it very clear, that if we love him, we'll love those around us. Actions speak louder than words! Our Faith In Action team is all about meeting the needs of those around us. From providing rides, dropping of meals, cutting someone's lawn, to visiting those hospitalized, or home bound, our team is here for you. If you have a need, or know of someone in need, please fill out a need request form online.

If you would like serve on the Faith In Action team, or would like more information, please email [faithinaction@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:faithinaction@discoveringfaith.com). Your simple act of serving can make a huge impact!

### **KIDWERKS KICKOFF**

**Sun 9/10 | 9:30 AM**

Our Sunday morning PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade children's ministry program is back! At 9:30am we will meet weekly in the auditorium. Registration is now open online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## **GRIEFSHARE AT FAITH**

**Tuesdays | 6:30 PM**

Anyone who has experienced the death of a family member or friend is invited to attend our new GriefShare series.

GriefShare is a nondenominational, biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). The workbook also provides a brief daily Bible study. These sessions are open to any adult regardless of whether your experience is recent or not so recent.

The group is led by individuals who have personally experienced grief due to a loved one's death. Each leader is trained in facilitating a GriefShare support group.

The \$15.00 registration fee includes materials.

To register visit [www.discoveringfaith.com/griefshare](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/griefshare)

## **COMPASSION WEEKEND**

**Sept 15-17, 2023**

Compassion Weekend is all about caring for each other. All around us, people are hurting. They are tired, worn down and lonely. God cares deeply about the real-life challenges of real people in our neighborhoods. We serve each other as an extension of that compassion.

There is no hidden agenda or secret motive. For this one weekend, we set aside our regular weekend services and activities simply to serve those around us. We want to invite you to join us! You can make a difference in the lives of others around us.

Sign up today in the café or online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sun 9/17 | 9:30 AM**

Join us on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> for our outdoor church service! There will be just one service that day at 9:30 AM. You are invited to worship from your car or bring a lawn chair and blankets to sit on the lawn. Don't forget to bring the whole family, including the dog!

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY KICK-OFF**

**Sun 9/17 | 5:00 PM**

The middle school years are often the toughest — for students and parents! Crossroads, Faith's confirmation ministry, is here to help you, students, and parents! During the school year, Faith's confirmation ministry, meets weekly Sunday from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Through teaching, games, music, and more, Crossroads helps middle school students understand the role God wants to play in their daily lives. What's at Crossroads? Great friends, awesome leaders, interactive games, delicious food, and high-impact teaching. Registration is \$25.00. Crossroads has great events throughout the year, including summer camp, overnights, and serving events. Register today at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY KICK OFF

Sun 9/17 | 5:00 PM

At Faith, we've created an event that attracts high school students just like you. We call it t.n.l.- the next level. We make this time as fun and relevant as we possibly can. But we go a couple steps further and do two things we believe are vitally important for you: we pay attention to what's going on in your life, and we care about you. This happens in our small group break out. Every night after the large group Revolution, you will get together with your small group to spend time in a more intimate setting, talking, processing, and praying about what's going on in your lives. It's simple: big group to small group. The goal is for you to leave feeling energized to go out there and tackle another week! Register today at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## NEXT

Sun 9/24 | 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

## GROUPLINK

Weds 9/27 | 7:00 PM

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending Grouplink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.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:6308623500) 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:6302485515).





Pastor Rob Douglas  
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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