



First Sunday of Advent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 3, 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: CHRISTMAS IS...

The birth of Jesus changed everything. Join us as we discover the significance of Christmas

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

House of the Lord

We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God, He holds the victory

Chorus There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

(Oh-oh, oh) we shout out Your praise
(Oh-oh, oh)

We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away (Chorus)

We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise (Repeat) (Chorus) (Chorus)

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it Mount of Thy redeeming love

I was lost in utter darkness 'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me And I'll never be alone

Chorus Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing
 Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above

(Chorus)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
Rouse us from sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
- 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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

The Word

READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

please stand

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

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

GOSPEL

Luke 1: 26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A: Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

We Are An Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You, We are an offering
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours
We are an offering!

All that we have, all that we are
All that we hope to be,
We give to You, we give to You
We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You,
We are an offering We are an offering

OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

The Meal

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift our hearts with joy,
we lift them to the Lord.**

P: We give you thanks, our God, for that is right and good.

Yes, it is truly good, our duty and delight,
that we should everywhere and at all times give thanks.

And so we thank you now, our holy Father, Lord,
eternal, mighty God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who came to earth for us in great humility
and by his birth and life has shown your love to us.

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
You fill all of heaven and earth; save us, God on high!**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
and said, Take and eat; this is † my body, which is given for you. Do this
in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, after the supper, and when he had given
thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † my
blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Gracious Father, we therefore remember the sacrifice of our Lord in
celebration, as we receive his body and blood with this bread and wine.
We rejoice to receive all that he has done for us in his life and death, his
resurrection and ascension; and we wait for his coming again to share
with us the heavenly feast.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

AN INVITATION

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

COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING

He Shall Reign Forevermore

In the bleak mid-winter, All creation groans
For a world in darkness, Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking, In a stable for a throne

Chorus (And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man, I would travel far
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part
But poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice, Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

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!

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 – No AM Services

Sun 12/24

3:00PM, 5:00PM and 11:00PM

Carols, Candlelight, & Communion Glittering ornaments, the fresh smell of pine, and Christmas carols sung with family and friends. It's the most wonderful time of the year, and this year, we'd love to share it with you! Join us at Faith for beautiful music, the opportunity to meet new friends, 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!

SHOP WITH A MISSION FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

December 3 -17

Faith will be hosting our Fair-Trade Marketplace the first three weekends in December. Handcrafted products from artisans around the world will be on sale. When you purchase a product, you are helping to enable impoverished artisans to have an ongoing business, allowing them to provide for their families. Visit heavenlytreasures.org to learn more about the impact you can make. Every product represents a changed life!

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Due Sunday 12/17

Faith's sanctuary will once again be adorned with beautiful poinsettias this Christmas Eve!

You may order a poinsettia online or fill out the form located at the welcome center. Return the form with your payment to the church by Sunday, December 17. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Please note Poinsettias on your check.

POT LUCK/ORNAMENT EXCHANGE: Adults 21+**Sat 12/9 | 5:00 PM**

Bring a dish to pass and a wrapped ornament under \$15. BYOB

Wear your favorite or ugliest Christmas Sweater! Sign up at the Welcome Center

BAKERS WANTED! COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Commonground Café would love to serve your homemade Christmas Cookies on Christmas Eve. Please bring a dozen cookies to serve. Drop them off at church any time before Christmas Eve and be sure to label them Christmas Eve Cookies.

MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom**Sat 12/9 | 10:00 AM**

We are hosting moms of children infants-elementary school to come together for a time of learning, laughter, and treats. Take a moment to connect with other moms, while enjoying a yummy breakfast, hearing from a knowledgeable speaker on topics related to parenting, and building your mom village along the way. Our group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, through May, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. For more information about our guest speaker and topic lineup, and to register for events, please visit www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY**Mon 12/11 | 7:15 PM**

Ladies Bible Study Holiday Party will round out this year's fellowship on Monday Dec. 11.

We will resume study in the new year with a new book to be announced at the end of this year. As in the past, there's no need to register or signup. Just come join us and bring a friend!

LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH!**Sat 12/16 | 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 16th at 6:00 PM. 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!

LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**Sat 12/16 | 6:00 PM**

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 today at the welcome center or contact Pastor Rob if you are interested.

NEXT

Sun 12/17 | 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

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Waiting Here For You

Waiting is not wasted when waiting on the Lord. A season overflowing with anticipation, Christmas comes the same time each year with great hope and promise of a baby born long ago. But this season meant for joy is often consumed by busyness, pressure, mixed emotions, and is gone as quickly as it came.

Becky Marchiando is the study group facilitator. Register online or at the welcome center so we can send you the information you'll need to attend. Come join us!

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 or for more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com PreK – 5th grade

REVOLUTION

Sundays | 5:00 PM

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

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.



Pastor Rob Douglas

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