



The
ESSENTIALS

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 4, 2024

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 : THE ESSENTIALS

With so many denominations and opinions on what it means to be a Christian, it can be difficult to determine what are the foundations to our faith. We'll look at what's essential, and what's not, when it comes to following Jesus.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus Praise the Father, praise the Son
 Praise the Spirit, three in one
 God of glory, Majesty
 Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died (*Chorus*)

And the morning that You rose All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come To the Father are restored (*Chorus*)

And the church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me (*Chorus*)

What a Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

Chorus 1 What a beautiful Name it is What a beautiful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a beautiful Name it is
 Nothing compares to this What a beautiful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater What could separate us now

Chorus 2 What a wonderful Name it is What a wonderful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a wonderful Name it is
 Nothing compares to this What a wonderful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus What a wonderful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory For You are raised to life again

You have no rival You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory Yours is the Name above all names

Chorus 3 What a powerful Name it is What a powerful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a powerful Name it is
 Nothing can stand against What a powerful Name it is
 The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus
What A Beautiful Name

OPENING PRAYER

A: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be
made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He is Exalted

please stand

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name.
Jesus is Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

GOSPEL

Matthew 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MESSAGE

Go | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

A: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.
God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Praise and Thanksgiving

please stand

Praise and thanksgiving God we would offer
For all things living You have made good
Harvest of sown fields Fruits of the orchard
Hay from the mown fields Blossom and wood

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: God, you are with us.

C: **You are always with us.**

P: May we open our hearts.

C: **May we know your presence.**

P: In thanksgiving,

C: **And in deepest honor.**

P: Holy God, we honor you in whom our lives are founded, and in whom our futures lie. We remember and honor also the human searching over the centuries that has perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life.

Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ, whose life and death reveal to us, as his resurrection, the full nature of your being and the potential nature of ours.

We remember that, on the night before his death, Jesus, as he'd always done, gathered his friends for a common meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave some to each one, saying:

“Take, eat: This is my body given for you and for everyone.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took a cup of wine, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my blood which is shed for you and for everyone. Drink this in remembrance of me.”

In light of this, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ's spirit renews our lives.

P: Holy God, may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred in this bread and wine. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us, for all humankind, and for all life on this earth. This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and trust in Jesus, our Christ.

And now, in the spirit of Christ's teaching, we pray:

THE 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: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

C: Thanks be to God.

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. Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at usher stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

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

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

C: **Amen**

CLOSING SONG

Jesus Messiah

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing (*Chorus*)

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world (*Chorus*)

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

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!

MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom

Sat 2/10 | 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.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

Sat 2/10 | 5:00 PM

Community Life team is hosting Faith's Annual Chili Cook-Off. Do you make the best Chili? Enter your Chili today! Don't Cook? Join us in the tasting and judge your favorite Chili! Sign up at the welcome center. Open to all ages.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sun 2/11

Scout Sunday will be observed on February 11th. Faith Lutheran Church's Cub Scout Pack 643 and Boy Scout Troop 508 will be present at both services to greet Parishioners and assist with the service. This is a great opportunity for our congregation and our Scouts to come together. We would also like to invite members of ANY Scouting organization, past or present to wear your uniform, or paraphernalia to service on the 11th so we can recognize your contributions.

The Boy Scouts of America designates a Sunday that falls in February to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. This coincides with the anniversary of the creation of the Scouts BSA Program.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

MEMBERSHIP @ FAITH

Mon Feb 12, 19 | 6:30 PM

The New Year is a time of new beginnings and renewal. For those of you seeking a new faith journey or looking to strengthen your faith journey, Faith will offer a membership course in February. Membership @ Faith invites participants to explore the vision, mission and values of Faith, as well as a broad overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will also discover their unique gifts and how they can use them in serving others. This course is open to everyone and is required of those who wish to become members at Faith. The course meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. for two weeks (2/12 and 2/19). Sign up on line or at the welcome center.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wed 2/14 | Noon & 7:00 PM

During the Christian church year, there are two major celebrations. One is Christmas where we celebrate Jesus' birth, and the other is Easter, when we celebrate His death and resurrection. There is a time before Easter where we often prepare ourselves for Jesus' death and resurrection. This time is known as Lent. Lent consists of the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays—because they are always celebrations of Jesus' resurrection. Thus, the first day of Lent is always a Wednesday. In ancient times, people marked times of fasting, prayer, and repentance by placing ashes on their foreheads. Today we do it as a reminder of who we are and what we are—forgiven sinners.

NEXT

Sun 2/18 | 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

Tues 2/20 | 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

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: 2/21, 2/8, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP – “Things Jesus Never Said”

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

Begins 2/21/23

These days it's easy to see life the way we want to. We can filter our images, pick the news we want to hear, and listen only to the viewpoints that agree with us. When we do that, we start to distort our view of the world. The same thing can happen to our view of God. We reshape our perception of Him into what we want to believe, or what we want to think about others. Jesus came to bring us the truth about God and His plan for us, and it doesn't always sound like what you may think.

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Becoming a Contagious Christian

Learn how to share the gospel in natural and effective ways, being the person God made you to be. By applying training principles learned in this study to real-life situations and relationships, you'll identify and develop an evangelism style that's effective for you. This 6 week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please sign up at the welcome center so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us 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. For more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com

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!

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
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