



**don't worry.
be happy.**

CONFIDENTLY LIVING THROUGH TROUBLED TIMES

Time After Pentecost
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

November 19, 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: DON'T WORRY. BE HAPPY.

Worry—it's universal. It's as much a part of life as breathing. Yet Jesus said, Don't. Don't worry! Easier said than done. Join us as we explore all that Jesus had to say about worry. You'll discover where worry comes from, why it's so difficult to overcome, and what you can do to conquer it. We'll discover a story about a man who was challenged with a single question—a question that brought a new perspective to his worries. That question may be the key to overcoming worry in your life as well.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

The Lion and the Lamb

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Chorus Our God is the lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the lamb, the lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the lion and the lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

So, open up the gates
Make way before the King of Kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty (*Chorus*)

Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord

Good, Good Father

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

Chorus You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are

And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide

But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide

'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word (*Chorus*)

You are perfect in all of Your ways

You are perfect in all of Your ways

You are perfect in all of Your ways to us (*Repeat*)

Oh, this love so undeniable

I, I can hardly speak

Peace so unexplainable

I, I can hardly think

As You call me deeper still

As You call me deeper still

As You call me deeper still into love, love, love (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

1 Kings 19: 1-13

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

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 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

MESSAGE

Journey Back Home | Pastor Rob

LITANY OF DEDICATION

A We are grateful, O God, for the many blessings we receive each day. Bless these gifts, which we commit to you for the ministry and mission of this church.

C God, we commit to you today not only our financial resources but our very lives. We know that all that we have been given are gifts from you. We promise to give freely of our time, talent, and treasure to the work of your church in this community and in the world.

A God, bless the givers as well as the gifts of love that we offer. In Jesus our lives are made whole and our offerings pure. God gives us our present and our future and calls us to seek after him and serve the world.

C Amen

(You are invited at this time to bring your Living Generously Response Cards forward and place them in the offering basket)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Meal

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

OFFERATORY PRAYER

- A: God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
- 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:

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

C: Amen.

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Who You Say I Am

CLOSING

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh, His love for me
Oh, His love for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes, He died for me

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am

DISMISSAL

A: Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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!

NEXT

Sun 11/19 | 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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sun 11/19 | 7:00 AM

Get ready for some hot buttery pancakes, crispy bacon, sausage & eggs, fruit and delicious coffee! Faith is hosting an "all you can eat" pancake celebration breakfast on our commitment Sunday, November 19 from 7:00 – 11:00am! Tickets are \$5.00 per person, or \$20 per family. All proceeds go to support the ministries of Faith.

BUTTERBRAID FUNDRAISER

November 10 -24

Back by popular demand! Butter Braid pastries are now on sale through Friday November 24. Butter Braid® Pastries are light and flaky, containing mouthwatering fillings like cinnamon, blueberry cream cheese and various fruit flavors. Unlike a dense bread, Butter Braid® Pastries are hand-braided with a sweet dough base containing over 40 layers of light, airy dough and 100% real butter. You'll want to stock the freezer for the holidays! All proceeds will be supporting Faith's Student Ministry.

Orders will be delivered to the church Friday, December 8 at 1:30 PM and can be picked up that day from 2:00-3:00 PM or any Sunday thereafter.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Mon 11/27 | 7:15 PM

Ladies Bible Study has started up again onsite at Faith. We'll be following Pastor Rob's message series "Follow the Leader". Here are our other meeting dates for your calendar. All dates begin 7:15 PM.

Monday | December 11 | Holiday Party

Monday | January 8

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

NEW MISSION SHOEBOX DRIVE

November 11-26

During the month of November, we are collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in Haiti who are a part of our mission partner New Missions. School supplies, hygiene items, toys and other small gifts make a big difference in the lives of Haitian children and their families. You can share God's love this Christmas by packing a shoebox. Stop by the shoebox drive display and pick up your box and gift list today. Fill up your box and return it by 12/3. Thank you for sharing God's love!

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Begins 11/28 | 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. We'll be meeting via Zoom for 4 sessions. Register online or at the welcome center so we can send you the information you'll need to attend. Come join us!

HOLIDAY TROLLEY: All Ages

Sat 11/25 | 6:15PM

Only 20 tickets available! We will meet at Gemato's in Naperville at 6:15pm, Cost is \$17/person (all ages need a ticket), Trolley ride is approximately 1 hr & no food/candy is allowed on the trolley. Must pay by 11/20- address questions to Kris Harvey krisearvey@aol.com
Dress Warm! Tickets are purchased online www.discoveringfaith.com

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!

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, October-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.

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

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.

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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