

# AMAZING STORIES

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7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

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

July 16, 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: Amazing Stories**

Join us for our series entitled, "Amazing Stories," where over the next few weeks, we're going to be looking at some of the more famous stories in the Bible. We'll journey with Noah, stand with David, consider Joseph's wardrobe, and watch God restore a man named Naaman. Our hope is that you don't just see these stories as cute children's stories, but as amazing stories of our amazing God.

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# *The Gathering*

## **OPENING SONG**

### **Praise to the Lord the Almighty**

Praise to the Lord the Almighty     The King of creation  
O my soul praise Him     For He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near  
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who over all things     So wondrously reigneth  
Shelters thee under His wings     Yea so gently sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper     Thy work and defend thee  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord Who     When tempests their warfare are waging  
Who when the elements madly around thee are raging  
Biddeth them cease turneth their fury to peace  
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging

Praise to the Lord Who     When darkness of sin is abounding  
Who when the godless do triumph     All virtue confounding  
Sheddeth His light chaseth the horrors of night  
Saints with His mercy surrounding

Praise to the Lord     O let all that is in me adore Him  
All that hath life and breath     Come now with praises before Him  
Let the amen sound from His people again  
Gladly for all we adore Him

## **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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### *The Word*

#### READING

**2 Kings 5: 1-14**

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*please stand*

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!” “Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Stellar Music | VBS Kids

## **MESSAGE**

No Explanation Required | Pastor Rob

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.
- A: Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God
- C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. 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: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**



## OFFERING RESPONSE

Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior King of creation  
Son of God and Son of Man  
Truly I'd love Thee truly I'd serve Thee  
Light of my soul my Joy my Crown

## OFFERATORY PRAYER

- A: God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen**

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## *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: All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

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.

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# The Sending

## SENDING PRAYER

A: We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

**Forever**

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever

*Pre-Chorus* Sing praise, sing praise  
Sing praise, sing praise

*Chorus* Forever, God is faithful  
Forever, God is strong  
Forever, God is with us  
Forever

From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God, we will carry on  
His love endures forever (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

## **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**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!

### **NEXT**

**Today! | 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 we call NEXT. This informal gathering lasts only about 20 minutes. It 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 at the church after each service.

### **DOWNTOWN ALIVE!**

**Concerts at RiverEdge in Aurora | 8:00 PM**

**Stayin' Alive Sat 8/5 \$20**

We're gathering inside the park in the grass closer to the river. We'll be flying red balloons to make it easier to find us. Tickets must be purchased at RiverEdge Park website. All general admission. No seating provided. Gates open at 6:00 PM. Come join us!

### **KIDWERKS Summer Schedule**

**Sundays at 9:30am**

July: 30

August 13 & 27

We will continue to meet this summer every other week in the auditorium. Join us for a summer of fun and learning! To register go to [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com)

### **REVOLUTION Game Night**

**Sun 8/6 | 5:00 PM**

Revolution will be having a Game Night on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>- SAVE the DATE! Be sure to drop it in your calendar, and invite your friends!

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

**Sat 8/5 | 9:00AM**

We will be hosting a Blood Drive on Sat, August 5 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the auditorium. There will be snacks and more! Download the flyer from the Faith website [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) for complete details, including how to schedule an appointment. Thank you!

## **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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