



Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 17, 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

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus Gloria in Excelsis Deo
 Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song (*Chorus*)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ our Lord, the newborn King (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

We Have a Savior

Joy to the world
The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart
Prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

He rules the world
With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The First Noel

please stand

The First Noel the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

GOSPEL

1 John 4: 7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

MESSAGE

Christmas Is... The Solution to Our Broken World | Pastor Rob

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: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. 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

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

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

There is a song I know it well
A melody that's never failed
On mountains high in valleys low
My soul will rest
My confidence in You alone

Chorus Hope has a name His name is Jesus
My Savior's cross has set this sinner free
Hope has a name His name is Jesus
Oh Christ be praised I have victory

There is a light salvation's flame
Christ undefeated trampled the grave
See now the cross be lifted high
The light has come the light has won
Behold the Christ (*Chorus*)

There'll be a day my hope complete
Now home in glory Your face I'll see
My pain no more my fear will cease
I bow my life I fix my eyes
On Christ my king
I bow my life I fix my eyes
On Christ my king (*Chorus*)

Hope Has a Name

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!

REVOLUTION Christmas Party!

Sun 12/17 | 5:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate Christmas Revolution style, with holiday games, food, and prizes. Invite your friends to our party, and get ready for the festivities. Open to all middle and high school students. Questions: contact Pastor Rob.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Due Today!

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.

SHOP WITH A MISSION FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

December 3 -17

Faith will be hosting our Fair-Trade Marketplace on Sundays 9-9:30am and 10:30-11:00am. 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!

GRAB YOUR FAITH DECAL TODAY!

Searching for the perfect look for the back of your car? Purchase your Faith car decal today at the welcome center. Several sizes to choose from. A great way to share your faith!

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

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.

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

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:(630)862-3500) 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:(630)248-5515).



Pastor Rob Douglas

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