



Practicing the Way

NINE PRACTICES THAT ROOT US AND DEEPEN US
IN OUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD AS WE SERVE THE WORLD

Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

April 6, 2025

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: PRACTICING THE WAY

Join us as we explore nine ancient practices of the way of Jesus that promise to help root us in the faith and deepen our experience of God as we serve our world. When practiced regularly these keystone habits can powerfully guide our journey of spiritual growth, creating a rule of life that helps us become more like Jesus, transformed into the people we were created to be.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Praise to the Lord Almighty- Passion

Praise to the Lord the Almighty
The King of creation
O my soul praise Him for He is my health
And my salvation

Chorus 1 All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings
Yea so gently sustaineth

Chorus 2 Hast thou not seen How thy dersires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Hallelujah, hallelujah (Repeat)

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend Thee

Chorus 3 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If in His love He befriend Thee

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

Chorus 4 Let the amen sound from His people again
Gladly for aye we adore Him (Repeat)

Hallelujah, hallelujah (Repeat)

Hope Has a Name

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)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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

Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

RESPONSE

I Love You, Lord

please stand

I love you, Lord and I lift my voice
To worship You, oh my Soul rejoice
Take joy, my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear

GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

MESSAGE

Community: Connecting to God and Others | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

The Meal

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

OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
The trees of the field clap their hands,
the birds of the air sing songs of praise.
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices
And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

C: **This is my body, broken for you.**
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.
Then he passed it among them saying:

C: **This is my blood shed for you.**
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

And now we come to your table again, Jesus,
Mindful of how you laid your life down,
so that we and creation could be born anew;
Mindful of how you took your life up again,
so that we and creation could be filled with your abundant life.
May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth,
so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood.
May your Spirit work in us, so that we may be transformed into Christ's body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.

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 who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.
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 to 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: Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

Trading My Sorrows

I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes yes Lord, Amen

I am pressed but not crushed persecuted
not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I am blessed beyond the curse for His
promise will endure
That his joy's gonna be my strength
Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
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!

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: 4/9. 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

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

“I Am: The 7 I Am Statements of Jesus”

In a world that is constantly changing, that is full of questions and uncertainties, can we find something solid to hang on to, something that will give the security we long for? Jesus gives an answer—in His own words. He is the “I Am!” When we are in darkness, He says, “I Am Light.” When we are lost, He declares, “I Am Your Good Shepherd.” When we have no way to get through our crisis, He invites, “I Am the Door.” Join us as we discover who Jesus is, and who we can become.

EASTER FLOWERS

Due Today!

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

BOWLING @ PARKSIDE LANES

Today! | 11:30 AM

Join Faith Community Life for a family bowling event Sunday, April 6, 11:30 AM at Parkside Lanes. Parkside Lanes is located at 34W185 Montgomery Rd in Aurora (corner of Montgomery Rd and Hill Ave). Shoe rental is \$2/person and bowling is \$3/person. Food and drinks are available for purchase. Soda will be provided. Please sign up at the welcome center or online.

HOLY WEEK 2025

Maundy Thursday

April 17 | 7:00 PM

Lent concludes as we gather around the table and a new commandment that Jesus gives, "Love one another as I have loved you." Join us as we begin the three day journey to the resurrection. Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday

April 18 | 12:00 & 7:00 PM

Join us for our Good Friday service of gathering darkness. We gather together at the foot of the cross to remember the depth of God's love for us. Services will be held in the auditorium.

Easter Celebration Worship

Sunday April 20 | 6:30, 8:00 & 9:30 AM

At Faith, we want to experience the excitement of Easter with you. On March 31, join us at one of our worship services for some awesome music, an inspirational message, and a time for refreshments and fellowship in our café afterwards. Come and celebrate Easter at Faith!

REVOLUTION

Sun 4/6 & 4/27 | 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 1st and 3rd Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- discoveringfaith.com

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 4/12 | 10:00 AM

Our moms group here at Faith, A Moment for Mom, has a delicious breakfast and amazing speakers on topics relating to motherhood. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month through May 2025. We offer affordable childcare while you attend. Our website is up and ready for you to explore our speakers and cost for the 2024-2025 year. Come join other moms of kiddos ages 0-10, to laugh, learn and connect. Register today and/or reach out to us for more information at www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom

THE EASTER JOURNEY

Sat 4/12 | 3:00 PM

Join us as we journey from Palm Sunday to the great celebration of Easter. Your family will travel with Jesus and his disciples through those final days. Through live actors, storytelling, and music, your whole family will have the chance to experience the depth and beauty of God's love in a new and exciting way. The Easter Journey will be held at the church on Saturday, April 12, and starts at 3:00 PM. The journey will conclude with an egg hunt, Easter crafts, and treats. We can't wait to see the whole family! Spaces are limited, so reserve your ticket today.

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sat 4/13 | 3:00 PM

For those parents who feel their elementary school-aged child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, you are encouraged to attend our First Communion workshop. This learning event is intended to be a time for both the parents and the child to discover the gracious gift of God's love and mercy that comes to us through this meal. The children who participate in this workshop will celebrate their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on April 17, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at pastor@discoveringfaith.com. Sign up today at the welcome center.

HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat 4/19 | 11:00 AM

Be a part of the excitement!

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Drop on April 19th, at 11:00am. This event has become an anticipated community event which all of our friends in the Fox Valley look forward to each year. While it is intended to bring focus to Faith and celebrate the renewal of spring time and the blessings of Easter...it is also a magical day in which children revel in the excitement and anticipation of the Easter Bunny and all of his goodies...which is magnified by the special delivery from a helicopter! Reserve your free tickets today! Visit: www.discoveringfaith.com.

This event is only possible by the many gifted volunteers who help prepare the entire experience. Volunteer opportunities include the stuffing thousands of eggs, set up, traffic directors, music, photography, leaders and tear down. There is no doubt YOU have something to offer!

For more volunteer information, please email eggdrop@discoveringfaith.com.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to this incredible event!

NEXT

Sun 5/18 | 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

KIDNEY DONOR SEARCH

Kari and Jake Rothmeyer, members of Faith, are searching for a kidney donor for their son Asher. The live donor should be 42 years old or younger, have no history of diabetes, and be of a healthy weight. If you are interested in learning more or would like to discuss this opportunity with the family, you can contact Kari at (331) 238-9512.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 9:00 AM

The Women of Easter

All women of Faith are invited to attend a study of The Women of Easter by Liz Curtis Higgs. Beginning March 11, the group will journey through Lent watching the ancient scenes unfold that lead to the Savior's resurrection through the eyes of Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene.

The weekly meetings will be held in the auditorium and facilitated by Sue Bozell. The workbook is \$8 and will be available at the meetings. For additional information, contact Sue Bozell at sue.bozell@discoveringfaith.com.

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

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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