



Third Sunday of Easter
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

May 4, 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: THE JOY PROJECT

Jesus promised that a consistent, constant, and steady joy can be ours. And fortunately, he also tells us how. Join us as embrace the way of life we were meant to live. This series will help us learn to be thankful and excited despite all the negativity we experience in this world. Weekly topics include optimism, gratefulness, encouragement, generosity, enthusiasm, and confidence. There's no limit to joy!

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

House of the Lord

We worship the God who was

We worship the God who is

We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors

He parted the raging sea

My God, He holds the victory

Chorus There's joy in the house of the Lord There's joy in the house of the Lord today

And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord Our God is surely in this place

And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

We shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals

We sing to the God who saves

We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross

Then He rose up from that grave

My God's still rolling stones away (Chorus)

We were the beggars

Now we're royalty

We were the prisoners

Now we're running free

We are forgiven, accepted

Redeemed by His grace

Let the house of the Lord sing praise (Repeat) (Chorus)

We shout out Your praise

We shout out Your praise

We shout out Your praise

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of every blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it Mount of Thy redeeming love

I was lost in utter darkness 'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me And I'll never be alone

Chorus Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing
 (Repeat)

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above
(Chorus)

I was lost in utter darkness 'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me And I'll never be alone

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RESPONSE

Come Let Us Worship & Bow Down

please stand

Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord,
Our God, our Maker Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord, Our God, our Maker

For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand And the sheep of His hand

GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had

gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

MESSAGE

Choosing Joy | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
- A: Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. 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 entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

The Meal

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful

please stand

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life
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: Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

I love You, Lord

Oh Your mercy never fails me

All my days, I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful

And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able

I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice

You have led me through the fire

In the darkest night

You are close like no other

I've known You as a Father

I've known You as a Friend

I have lived in the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after It's running after me

Your goodness is running after It's running after me

With my life laid down

I'm surrendered now

I give You everything

Your goodness is running after It's running after me

Goodness of God

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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!

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLAMINGOS

Flamingo season will soon be underway here at Faith. Yes, two flocks of those lovely, tacky, plastic, pink flamingo lawn ornaments will soon be descending upon the lawns of various families of Faith. Fortunately, we have a trained team of students who are ready to remove them should they land in your yard. Removal fee is \$20.

You can join the fun by requesting these flocks land at a specific address. Special requests will be honored for \$5. Get someone before they get you! So choose wisely, and have fun playing the game all month long!

Want to ensure these pesky birds don't land in your yard? Flamingo Insurance is available for only \$10. Buy early; the cost of removing these from your yard is double.

All proceeds go to support the Student Ministries Summer Dominican Republic mission trip. Details, special requests, and insurance certificates are available at the Pink Flamingo Table. Thanks for playing, and for your support!

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 5/10 | 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. This month Dr Jana Richardson will be speaking on Empowered Motherhood: Understanding Your Pelvic Floor. 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

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

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

God Never Gives Up On You

God's Grace Is Greater Than Your Biggest Setback. God enacts his perfect plan through imperfect people—including you and me!

Join us online and see how God used Jacob—the misbehaving patriarch who was strong on savvy but weak on conscience—simply because God chose to use Jacob. His story invites us to believe in a God who sticks with the unworthy until we are safely at home. God turns brokenness into blessings through his grace, mercy, and relentless love. Not just for Bible characters, but for you. God Never Gives Up on YOU.

This 5-week video Bible study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. The study group meets online via Zoom on Tuesday evenings April 29 through May 27 at 7:00 PM. Sign up online or at the welcome center so that we can send you Zoom credentials you'll need to participate. We'd love to have you 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

Sun 5/4 & 5/18 | 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!

CHICAGO CUBS GAME

Mon 5/26 | 10:30 AM

Grab your family and friends as we join the Faith Community Life team on a tour bus down to Wrigley Field Monday, May 26 to see the Cubs take on the Colorado Rockies. Tickets are \$80/person and include the bus and game ticket (food, drinks, etc. are on your own).

Tickets are in Section 225. ONLY 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Purchase tickets online at www.discoveringfaith.com

Arrive at Faith promptly by 10:30 AM. Bus Leaves Faith and arrives at Wrigley Field between 12:00-12:30 PM. Game starts at 1:20 PM. The bus will leave immediately after the game and we are expected to arrive back at Faith by 6:00 PM, depending on the length of the game.

Tickets will be sent to you once purchased and closer to the game. Everyone must have a ticket and tickets are non-refundable. Dress for the weather. There is a bathroom on the bus.

VBS -True North

7/21 - 7/25/25 | 9:00 AM

Join us this summer at True North VBS, kids will embark on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. For more information contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com or register online at discoveringfaith.com

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.



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