



16th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

September 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: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Do you ever feel like the Christian life is a long game of "Jesus Says"? Jesus says pray. Jesus says give. Jesus says to go to church. However, Jesus' invitation to his first-century audience was really an invitation to relationship. And it began with a simple request-follow me. Join us for this transformational journey through the book of Colossians as we traces Paul's teaching on what it means to follow the leader- and prepare to see your faith radically changed.

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

Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone

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

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my share and portion be
As long as life endures (*Chorus*)

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine
You'll be forever mine (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

Colossians 3: 1-13

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Be Thou My Vision

please stand

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 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

MESSAGE

The Grace of God’s Kingdom | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.
- A: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. 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: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Meal

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart

OFFERATORY PRAYER

- A: God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C: **Amen**

The Meal

- P: God's love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son, so that anyone who believes in Him should not die but receive eternal life.
We come to this table in need;
We are weak and need strength;
We are broken and need healing;
We are hardened and need softening;
We are poor in spirit and need care.
- C: **We give thanks for Your compassion, O God;
We rejoice at Your invitation to share in this meal,
and we receive again Your abundant grace.**

P: So, let's remember how Jesus gave Himself for us;
At supper, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and shared it with His friends, saying:
This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember Me.

C: Amen.

P: After supper, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying:
This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me.

C: Amen.

P: In this bread and in this wine we receive again
the generous, and costly gift of life,
offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.
This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace
and a sharing in God's life.

C: And we will keep celebrating in this way until Jesus returns. 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: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

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: Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Praise God From Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him All creatures here below
Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Chorus Praise the Father Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit Now with us
Every moment all our days God be praised
Oh God be praised

Praise God With morning's breaking light
Praise Him Through darkness of the night
Praise Him With every breath of life
Praise Him my soul With all your might (*Chorus*)

Praise God In face to face we see
The One who died To set us free
The One Who rose in victory
Praise now forever Christ our King (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

God be praised Oh God be praised
Praise God From Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him All creatures here below
Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Doxology

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!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Sun 9/17 | 5:00 PM

The middle school years are often the toughest — for students and parents! Crossroads, Faith's confirmation ministry, is here to help you, students, and parents! During the school year, Faith's confirmation ministry, meets weekly Sunday from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Through teaching, games, music, and more, Crossroads helps middle school students understand the role God wants to play in their daily lives. What's at Crossroads? Great friends, awesome leaders, interactive games, delicious food, and high-impact teaching. Registration is \$25.00. Crossroads has great events throughout the year, including summer camp, overnights, and serving events. Register today at discoveringfaith.com

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY KICK OFF

Sun 9/17 | 5:00 PM

At Faith, we've created an event that attracts high school students just like you. We call it t.n.l.- the next level. We make this time as fun and relevant as we possibly can. But we go a couple steps further and do two things we believe are vitally important for you: we pay attention to what's going on in your life, and we care about you. This happens in our small group break out. Every night after the large group Revolution, you will get together with your small group to spend time in a more intimate setting, talking, processing, and praying about what's going on in your lives. It's simple: big group to small group. The goal is for you to leave feeling energized to go out there and tackle another week! Register today at discoveringfaith.com

NEXT

Sun 9/24 | 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

GROUPLINK

Weds 9/27 | 7:00 PM

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending GroupLink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

NEW MOM'S GROUP! A Moment for Mom

Sat 10/14 | 10:00 AM

Join us for this up-and-coming group for moms just like you! We are hosting moms of children ages 0-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.

Our first session will be October 14. Chelsea Hicks Webster, Certified Life Coach and Parenting Educator, will be speaking on "Debunking Motherhood Myths: Realistic Expectations and Self-Love". You won't want to miss it!

Sign up online at discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - A Moment for Mom

We are looking for volunteers for our NEW mom's group, A Moment for Mom. Donating your time or resources just one time can help this ministry grow. We are in need of breakfast food, small gift baskets or gift cards (with moms of small children in mind). The needs include greeters, welcome center and breakfast support, setup and cleanup, senior moms (willing to hold a baby for short periods). Our first session is Saturday, October 14.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Amy at amomentformom@discoveringfaith.com.

MEMBERSHIP @ FAITH

Mon 10/16 & 10/23 | 6:30 PM

This two-part course invites participants to explore the vision, mission and values of Faith, as well as a broad overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will also discover their unique gifts and how they can use them in serving others. This course is open to everyone, and is an expectation of those who wish to become members at Faith! Register online at discoveringfaith.com or sign up at the welcome center.

HESED HOUSE SERVE EVENT

Weds 10/18 | 6:15 PM

We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently sign up online or at the welcome center. All that's needed is a serving heart. If you have questions about Faith's Hessed House ministry, please reach out to the ministry team at hessedhouse@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

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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