



17th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

September 24, 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

Trading My Sorrows

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

King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

You are good good oh You are good good oh
You are good good oh You are good good oh

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

You're never gonna let me down Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let me down Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let me down Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let me down Never gonna let me down

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they

thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

MESSAGE

Following the Real Jesus | 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: God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. 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

Praise and Thanksgiving

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: 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

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*)

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hope Has a Name

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 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

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Weds 9/27 | 7:00 PM

Revelation: Extravagant Hope by Margaret Feinberg

What if God is saving the best for last? Of all the books of the Bible, Revelation is the one that mystifies and unsettles people the most. From numerical signs to monsters, the book of apocalypse in the Bible can be difficult to wrap our minds around, but the message that Revelation really brings is hope. In this six-session video Bible study, Bible teacher and author Margaret Feinberg digs into John's Revelation to show us how the final book of the Bible reminds us of God's power and promises during times of great suffering and persecution. Becky Marchiando is the study group facilitator. We'll be meeting via Zoom. Register online or at the welcome center so we can send you the information you'll need to attend. Come join us!

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.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Fri 10/20 | 6:30 PM

Let's have a Spooktacular Halloween party with your friends at Faith! We'll be pumpkin painting/carving, having a Halloween Costume Contest, playing games/making crafts and having all sorts of ghoulishly delicious treats together!

Please RSVP to Jenn@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

REVOLUTION

Sundays | 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 weekly in the auditorium
Register online- discoveringfaith.com

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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