



Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

April 30, 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: NEW BEGINNINGS

While Christianity draws many roots from the Old Testament, the early days of the New Testament church were marked by radical decisions that would set it on a new trajectory. These decisions continue to shape and challenge the church today.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Open Up the Heavens

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name

Calling out to you

Your glory like a fire, awakening desire

Will burn our hearts with truth

Pre-Chorus You're the reason we're here

You're the reason we're singing

Chorus Open up the heavens, we want to see you

Open up the floodgates, a mighty river

Flowing from your heart

Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face

We're looking to the sky

Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now

Lord, unveil our eyes (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Show us, show us Your glory

Show us, show us Your power

Show us, show us Your glory, Lord

Show us, show us Your glory

Show us, show us Your power

Show us, show us Your glory, Lord (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Build My Life

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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

Acts 15: 1-11

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

please stand

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

MESSAGE

Open Invitation | Pastor Rob

Service of Holy Baptism

P: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Madison Brie Loke to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: I do.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of His own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to His command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that this child who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away her sin and cleanse her by this water and bring her forth as an inheritor of Your glorious kingdom.

To You be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

S: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: Madison, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Madison: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

Madison, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Rob & Paige. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for Madison. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member in the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same Heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

The Meal

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior King of creation
Son of God and Son of Man
Truly I'd love Thee truly I'd serve Thee
Light of my soul my Joy my Crown

OFFERATORY PRAYER

- A: Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
- 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: Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

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: Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

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. Serve the Risen One.

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!

BAPTISM TODAY

Today we celebrated the baptism of Madison Brie Loke, daughter of Rob & Paige Loke. Please welcome her into God's family!

FLOCKING FLAMINGO'S FUNDRAISER

May

April Showers bring May Flamingos

Flamingo season is almost here at Faith. Yes, two flocks of those lovely, tacky, plastic, pink flamingo lawn ornaments are about to descend upon the lawns of various families of Faith. Fortunately, we have a trained team of flamingo handlers 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 \$10. Get someone before they get you! So choose wisely, and have fun playing the game all month long!

Want to insure against the removal cost of these pesky birds? 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 Uganda Mission Trip team. Details, special requests, and insurance certificates are available at the Pink Flamingo Table, or online.

Thanks for playing, and for your support.

MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH

Sun 5/14 | Various Seating Times

Faith invites you to attend our special Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 14 from 7:30AM - 11:00AM. Our talented team of chefs have prepared the following menu for this white table cloth, fine dining experience:

Omelet Station, Belgian Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Bagels & Cream Cheese, Bacon & Sausage, Fresh Fruit Bar, Assorted Danishes, Yogurt.

Proceeds from the brunch will go towards supporting the ministries of Faith
\$12 for Adults \$6 for children (0-12)

You may sign up for a seating and purchase tickets at the welcome center.

BUNCO NIGHT

Sat 5/20 | 5:00 PM

It's Bunco Night at Faith! Event open to all adults. Bring your neighbors and friends. Prizes will be awarded. Doors open at 4:30 PM. Cost is \$5/person, collected at the door. Bring an appetizer to share. We're going to have a great time!

INTERESTED IN SERVING IN MUSIC MINISTRY?

Tues 5/23 | 8:00 PM

Open Jam Session with Danny Singh

Do you play an instrument, or enjoy singing, and have been interested in sharing your gifts at Faith. Danny Singh, Faith's new worship leader, will be hosting an open jam/rehearsal session on Tuesday, May 23 where you'll have the chance to learn about opportunities to serve in our music ministry. This gathering will also include an informal jam/rehearsal session. Come meet Danny, ask questions, and have fun connecting with other musicians at Faith. For more information contact Danny at: Danny@discoveringfaith.com.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Mondays | 7:15 PM

The Power of a Woman's Words

We're excited to announce our new Spring Ladies Bible Study focusing on the book "The Power of a Woman's Words" by Sharon Jaynes. In this 6 week bible study we will learn how our words can be changed to lift up and encourage others. We will meet at Faith the 2nd and 4th Mondays of April and May. The bible study is led by Kris Harvey. The book may be purchased online or Kris can order a copy for you if needed. Just let Kris know. No need to register. Just come join us!

Save the Day: May 20th! Kidwerks Animal Extravaganza

Join us on Saturday afternoon (time TBA) for a day of learning, serving and petting some of God's most precious creatures. We will have an onsite petting zoo and educational program with exotic animals and creatures, and will be collecting donations for ADOPT animal shelter in Naperville. For additional information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com

VBS -Stellar

7/10 - 7/14 | 9:00 AM

Join us at Stellar VBS, where we'll explore rugged moonscapes, colorful constellations, and lunar landers as we dig into God's great love! 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- The children's ministry team is looking for volunteers to join us for VBS this summer, July 10-14. We are looking for both teen and adult volunteers for the week. Please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com if you're interested in serving this summer!
- The Mens Group is looking for volunteers to help support the Mother's Day Brunch on May 14, 7:30-11:00 AM. You will be rewarded with a great breakfast and fresh coffee! If you would be interested in helping out, even for 30 minutes, please reach out to Kris Harvey, 630-817-8287.

A New Mom's Group coming to Faith

"A Moment for Mom"

We are looking to launch a moms group this fall, that will meet once a month on Saturday mornings and provide a moment for moms to learn, connect, and recharge. There will be a speaker on a mom related topic, a meal and childcare. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to serve on the team, indicate your interest on a connection card, or contact the church office. We will have an informational meeting in May, more info on that to come.

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:6308623500) 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:6302485515).



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