



Practicing the Way

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

Last Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 2, 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

Come Now Is The Time To Worship

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God
One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

Come come just as you are come come

Forever

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King

His love endures forever

For He is good, He is above all things

His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm

His love endures forever

For the life that's been reborn

His love endures forever

Pre-Chorus Sing praise, sing praise

Sing praise, sing praise

Chorus Forever, God is faithful

Forever, God is strong

Forever, God is with us

Forever

From the rising to the setting sun

His love endures forever

And by the grace of God, we will carry on

His love endures forever (Pre-Chorus) (Chorus) (Chorus)

(Pre-Chorus) (Chorus) (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING**Philippians 4: 4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

RESPONSE**Seek Ye First**

please stand

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness
And all these things will be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia Bought with the precious blood of Christ

GOSPEL**Luke 9:28-36**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

MESSAGE

Prayer: Conversations with God | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- 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 Give Thanks

please stand

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His son.

And now let the weak say I am strong Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us

And now let the weak say I am strong Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks!

OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: God, you are with us.

C: **You are always with us.**

P: May we open our hearts.

C: **May we know your presence.**

P: In thanksgiving,

C: **And in deepest honor.**

P: Holy God, we honor you in whom our lives are founded, and in whom our futures lie. We remember and honor also the human searching over the centuries that has perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life.

Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ, whose life and death reveal to us, as his resurrection, the full nature of your being and the potential nature of ours.

We remember that, on the night before his death, Jesus, as he'd always done, gathered his friends for a common meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave some to each one, saying:

“Take, eat: This is my body given for you and for everyone.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took a cup of wine, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my blood which is shed for you and for everyone. Drink this in remembrance of me.”

In light of this, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ's spirit renews our lives.

P: Holy God, may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred in this bread and wine. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us, for all humankind, and for all life on this earth. This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and trust in Jesus, our Christ.

And now, in the spirit of Christ's teaching, we pray:

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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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: Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in Hope.
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!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wed 3/5 | Noon & 7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 3/8 | 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

CUB SCOUT MUSIC BINGO FUNDRAISER (21+ Event)

Sat 3/8 | 7:00 PM

Bring your friends and family to this fun, musical, fundraising event hosted by Pack 643! Our Faith Lutheran Church Cub Scout Pack 643 is hosting their 1st annual Rockstar Bingo fundraiser. When bingo, and music come together, everyone wins! A silent auction, prizes after each round, your own pizza and snacks, bottled water, and a 50/50 make it a winning night for everyone! This is a perfect date night, parents' night out, or fun night with co-workers! Beyond water, it's BYOB.

Game will be played in pairs. No singles. Event tickets are \$50 per pair. Purchase online soon! Last day of online ticket sales is Sunday, February 23. There will be no ticket sales at the door. Prepurchase required for admittance. Adults only (21+) event.

REVOLUTION

Sun 3/2 & 3/16 | 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

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: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 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”

Begins 3/12/25

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.

EGG STUFFING PARTY

Wed 3/12, 3/19 & 3/26 | 7:30 PM

Come join the fun and help make our egg drop a huge success. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs. We will be having an Egg Stuffing Party in the cafe on Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 PM. Come join the fun! For more information contact the church office.

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Individually wrapped bite size candy donations are needed to fill our 15,000 eggs! If you are able to donate some bags of candy, please drop them off at the welcome center.

SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARTY (21+ Event)

Sat 3/15 | 6:00 PM

Great food, Irish dancers, bag pipes, and so much more! Wear your favorite Irish green! Sign up at welcome center or online. Tickets are \$25/person or \$45/couple if purchased through 3/13. Tickets purchased on or after 3/14 are \$35/person or \$55/couple. This is a 21+ event. Invite your friends and neighbors!

NEXT

Sun 3/16 | 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.

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 9:00 AM

Behold and Believe

The group is exploring Behold and Believe by Courtney Doctor and Joanna Kimbrel. All women of Faith are invited to attend a study of the "I Am" statements of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. Meetings will take place Tuesdays in the café & facilitated by Sue Bozell. The book is \$10 and will be made available at the meetings. Come join us! For additional information, contact Sue Bozell at sue.bozell@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.



FAITH
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