



Second Sunday of Advent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 10, 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: CHRISTMAS IS...

The birth of Jesus changed everything. Join us as we discover the significance of Christmas

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Hark the Herald Angels Sing – King of Heaven

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King
Peace on Earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled

Pre-Chorus Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all he brings Risen with healing in his wings

Pre-Chorus Mild he lays His glory by Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn king

Chorus 1 King of Heaven come down King of Heaven come now
Let your glory reign shining like the day King of Heaven come

Chorus 2 King of Heaven rise up Who can stand against us
You are strong to save in Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Christ by highest Heaven adored Christ the ever lasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come Offspring of a virgin's womb (*Pre-Chorus*)

(*Chorus 1*)

(*Chorus 2*)

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come

(*Chorus 1*)

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling (*Chorus*)

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen (*Chorus*)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strengthened beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

please stand

Be Thou My Vision

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

John 14: 7-10

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

MESSAGE

Christmas Is... A God on Display | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.
- A: Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed.
Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**

A: Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. 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: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C: Amen.

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: God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

The Meal

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift our hearts with joy,
we lift them to the Lord.**

P: We give you thanks, our God, for that is right and good.

Yes, it is truly good, our duty and delight,
that we should everywhere and at all times give thanks.

And so we thank you now, our holy Father, Lord,
eternal, mighty God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who came to earth for us in great humility
and by his birth and life has shown your love to us.

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
You fill all of heaven and earth; save us, God on high!**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
and said, Take and eat; this is † my body, which is given for you. Do this
in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, after the supper, and when he had given
thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † my
blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Gracious Father, we therefore remember the sacrifice of our Lord in
celebration, as we receive his body and blood with this bread and wine.
We rejoice to receive all that he has done for us in his life and death, his
resurrection and ascension; and we wait for his coming again to share
with us the heavenly feast.

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: There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, Repeat, the sounding joy

Chorus Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love;
And wonders of His love;
And wonders, wonders of His love. (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

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!

SEASON OF ADVENT

The days of Advent point the people of God toward the three comings of the Lord Jesus. He came among us at Bethlehem. He comes among us now in the scriptures, the waters of baptism, the Eucharistic meal, and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Keep awake, for his coming is certain and his day draws near. With the change of season brings a change in our liturgical setting.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – No AM Services

Sun 12/24

3:00PM, 5:00PM and 11:00PM

Carols, Candlelight, & Communion Glittering ornaments, the fresh smell of pine, and Christmas carols sung with family and friends. It's the most wonderful time of the year, and this year, we'd love to share it with you! Join us at Faith for beautiful music, the opportunity to meet new friends, and the story of how God's love came to unexpected places and touched each of us with the birth of His son. Come celebrate!

SHOP WITH A MISSION FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

December 3 -17

Faith will be hosting our Fair-Trade Marketplace on Sundays 9-9:30am and 10:30-11:00am. Handcrafted products from artisans around the world will be on sale. When you purchase a product, you are helping to enable impoverished artisans to have an ongoing business, allowing them to provide for their families. Visit heavenlytreasures.org to learn more about the impact you can make. Every product represents a changed life!

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Due Sunday 12/17

Faith's sanctuary will once again be adorned with beautiful poinsettias this Christmas Eve!

You may order a poinsettia online or fill out the form located at the welcome center. Return the form with your payment to the church by Sunday, December 17. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Please note Poinsettias on your check.

GRAB YOUR FAITH DECAL TODAY!

Searching for the perfect look for the back of your car? Purchase your Faith car decal today at the welcome center. Several sizes to choose from. A great way to share your faith!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Holiday Party

Mon 12/11 | 7:15 PM

Ladies Bible Study Holiday Party will round out this year's fellowship on Monday Dec. 11.

We will resume study in the new year with a new book to be announced at the end of this year. As in the past, there's no need to register or signup. Just come join us and bring a friend!

LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH!

Sat 12/16 | 6:00 PM

This year, the spirit of Christmas will be alive at Faith, as we host our annual outdoor Live Nativity on Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 PM. The journey will take you back in time to the birth of our Savior. Shepherds peacefully tend to their flocks, while Mary and Joseph look after the child in the manger. Wise men will come from the East bearing gifts as angels watch over the scene. Faith's Live Nativity features a large cast, choir, live animals, and scenery to provide a memorable Christmas event for the entire family. During the performance as the story is told, visitors will be invited to join with the choir in singing traditional carols. After the performance, stay to have hot chocolate and cookies, enjoy the petting zoo, and get your very own nativity scene picture. It's an experience that will bring the true meaning of the Christmas season for one and all!

NEXT

Sun 12/17 | 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

BAKERS WANTED! COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Commonground Café would love to serve your homemade Christmas Cookies on Christmas Eve. Please bring a dozen cookies to serve. Drop them off at church any time before Christmas Eve and be sure to label them Christmas Eve Cookies.

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Waiting Here For You

Waiting is not wasted when waiting on the Lord. A season overflowing with anticipation, Christmas comes the same time each year with great hope and promise of a baby born long ago. But this season meant for joy is often consumed by busyness, pressure, mixed emotions, and is gone as quickly as it came.

Becky Marchiando is the study group facilitator. Register online or at the welcome center so we can send you the information you'll need to attend. Come join us!

MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom

Sat 1/13 | 10:00 AM

We are hosting moms of children infants-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, through May, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. For more information about our guest speaker and topic lineup, and to register for events, please visit www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom.

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: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).



Pastor Rob Douglas

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