



Second Sunday After Epiphany
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

January 14, 2024

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 MESSAGE SERIES : THE ESSENTIALS

With so many denominations and opinions on what it means to be a Christian, it can be difficult to determine what are the foundations to our faith. We'll look at what's essential, and what's not, when it comes to following Jesus.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

Glorious Day

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb 'til I met You

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Chorus You Called my name and I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name and I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new, Jesus, when I met You (*Chorus*)

I needed rescue, my sin was heavy
But the chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter, I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven

When I was broken, You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future
My eyes are open, cause when (*Chorus*)

10,000 Reasons

Chorus Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sin Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes (Chorus)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (Chorus)

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore (Chorus)

Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

OPENING PRAYER

A: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Word

please stand

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path *(Repeat)*
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

GOSPEL

John 14: 1-10

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

MESSAGE

Jesus = God = Love | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**

A: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

please stand

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver mood with softer gleam
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

All Creatures of Our God and King

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

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:

THE 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: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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. 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: Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

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

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

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!

FAITH'S CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The constitution of Faith Lutheran Church has not been updated since 2005. The synod has made several suggested modifications available over the years. After several months of research and discussion, your Congregational Council has voted to recommend to conform to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, current as of August 2022. A copy of the new constitution was emailed to all members. Additional copies are available at the welcome center. We will conduct an informational session on this constitution and the changes to our current document, along with a question and answer period, before our Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024.

BINGO NIGHT 21+ Event

Sat 1/20 | 5:00 PM

Doors open at 4:30 PM. Bingo starts at 5:00 PM. Cost is \$5 per person at the door. Bring an appetizer to share. Prizes will be awarded throughout the night! So that we know how many to set up for, please sign up online or at the welcome center. Come join in the fun!

NEXT

Sun 1/21 | 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

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Begins Tues 1/23 | 7:00 PM

Becoming a Contagious Christian

Learn how to share the gospel in natural and effective ways, being the person God made you to be. By applying training principles learned in this study to real-life situations and relationships, you'll identify and develop an evangelism style that's effective for you. This 6

week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please sign up at the welcome center so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sun 1/28 | 10:45 AM

All members are invited to attend Faith's annual congregational meeting. Agenda items will include a review and celebration of 2023, approval of the 2024 spending plan, the election of council members and nominating committee members. Council will hold an informational Q&A on Sunday, January 21 at 10:30am in the sanctuary to discuss agenda and content for annual meeting. Bring your coffee and questions.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sat 2/3 | 9:00 AM

Faith is hosting a blood drive in the church auditorium Saturday, February 3. Save the date and make your appointment today www.discoveringfaith.com. Walk-in's welcome too!

MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom

Sat 2/10 | 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.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

Sat 2/10 | 5:00 PM

Community Life team is hosting Faith's Annual Chili Cook-Off. Do you make the best Chili? Enter your Chili today! Don't Cook? Join us in the tasting and judge your favorite Chili! Sign up at the welcome center. Open to all ages.

KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Kidwerks~in person AND online!

Join us 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

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!

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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