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Fourth Sunday of Advent  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 21, 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: CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES**

Christmas movies all have stories that we love and can relate too. Looking back at the first Christmas and seeing some of our favorite movies this time of year, gives us a different perspective on the greatest story ever told. Let's discover what this season is really all about in a unique and different way.

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# *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*)

## **He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)**

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray

O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy  
O, tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us this Jesus  
He's the hope for all mankind  
He has come for us the Messiah  
Born to give us life (He is born to give us life)

From God, our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name

All the angels sing hallelujah  
Jesus Christ is born  
All the children sing Hallelujah  
He is Christ the Lord

Angels sing Hallelujah  
Jesus Christ is Lord  
All the children sing Hallelujah  
He is Christ the Lord

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

- A:** We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
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

**Oh come, O branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry over the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- L:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and  
might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive  
your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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# The Word

## READING

**Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## RESPONSE

The First Noel

*please stand*

The First Noel the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

## GOSPEL

**Luke 2: 1-10**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the

glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people

## MESSAGE

Christmas Vacation | Pastor Rob

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.
- A: In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah’s coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. 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: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
- C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

### OFFERING RESPONSE

Praise and Thanksgiving

*please stand*

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: Nourishing God,  
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.

C: **Amen.**

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## *The Meal*

P: You are indeed holy, O God,  
the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness,  
life from death,  
speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives  
and for the world you give us.

We thank you  
for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace  
shown to Israel, your chosen,



the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the ancestors,  
the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words  
that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you  
for you only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom,  
And teach us to 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: Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

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.**

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## *The Sending*

### **SENDING PRAYER**

A: God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## Doxology

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*)(*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 (*Repeat*)

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

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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## 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!

### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**Weds 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!

### **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.

### **FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE – Heavenly Treasures**

**Sundays: Nov 30 – Dec 21**

Faith will once again be hosting a Fair Trade Marketplace on Sunday mornings in the café. 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 [www.heavenlytreasures.org](http://www.heavenlytreasures.org) to learn more about the impact you can make. Every product represents a changed life!

### **REVOLUTION**

**Sun 12/21 | 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## KIDWERKS

**Sundays | 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](https://discoveringfaith.com) or for more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:jenn@discoveringfaith.com) PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## NEXT

**Sun 1/4 | 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 approximately 20 minutes and will provide you with an overview of our mission, strategy, and environment to help you determine your best next step in continuing your faith journey. Pastor Rob and Jenn Richardson, Faith's volunteer coordinator, will be on hand for conversation and to welcome you to Faith. Meets fireside.

## A MOMENT FOR MOM

**Sat 1/10 | 10:00 AM**

Our next session, Samatha McGann, MCT, LCSW will talk about "Riding the Storm: Helping Your Littles Regulate Without Losing Your Cool!" You won't want to miss it!

A Moment for Mom is a group for moms of kiddos ages 0-10 that meets the 2nd Saturday each month through May 2026. Sessions provide a delicious breakfast and amazing speakers on topics relating to motherhood. We offer affordable childcare while you attend. Our website is ready for you to explore our speakers and costs for the 2025-2026 year. Come join us and other moms to laugh, learn, and connect. Register today and/or reach out to us for more information at [www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom](https://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom).

## 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.

## **A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR FAITH!**

Christmas is all about sharing.

On that quiet, silent night, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His Son Jesus Christ. At Faith, we want to share that gift with our family, friends, and our community.

This Christmas, you're invited to give a special gift to Faith so that we can share God's love with the world.

**Choose your gift today and let the sharing begin!**

### **GIFTS FOR FAITH**

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Seasonal flowers for outdoor pots  
Coffee for a Quarter  
Banners on Eola  
Kidwerks Scholarship  
Worship Banner  
Mission Trip Scholarship  
New toys for nursery  
Kidwerks. T-shirts & hats for 2 volunteers  
Communion for a Year  
Electricity for a Month  
A Church Cleaning  
Microphone for Music Team  
Live plants for Sanctuary  
Candles for Christmas Eve  
Lawn Maintenance Supplies for a Year  
Ladies Christmas Tea Entertainment  
Christmas String Quartet  
Insurance for a month  
Paper for a Season  
Kidwerks Ministry  
Student Ministry  
Heat for a Month  
Monthly pest service  
Water for a Season  
Lightbulbs

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### **Directions**

1. Select your gift in the cafe
2. Write your name on the gift tag (or write anonymous if you choose.)
3. Return the other gift tag with your "payment" to the welcome center, offering plate, or go online to make your contribution.
4. Place your present under the tree in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Pastor Rob Douglas  
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