



The
ESSENTIALS

Third Sunday After Epiphany
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

January 21, 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*

House of the Lord

We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God, He holds the victory

Chorus There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

(Oh-oh, oh) we shout out Your praise (Oh-oh, oh)

We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away (*Chorus*)

We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

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*)

OPENING PRAYER

A: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I Love You Lord

please stand

I love you, Lord and I lift my voice
To worship You, oh my Soul rejoice
Take joy, my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

MESSAGE

Understanding that three letter word: Sin | 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: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. 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

Holy, Holy, Holy

please stand

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy merciful and mighty
God in three Persons blessed Trinity

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

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing	Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing	Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet	Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it	Mount of Thy redeeming love

I was lost in utter darkness	'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when	Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song	Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me	And I'll never be alone

Chorus Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing
 Come Thou Fount come Thou King
 Come Thou precious Prince of Peace
 Hear Your bride to You we sing
 Come Thou Fount of our blessing

O to grace how great a debtor	Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter	Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it	Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it	Seal it for Thy courts above

(Chorus)

DISMISSAL

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

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!

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.

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.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sun 2/11

Scout Sunday will be observed on February 11th. Faith Lutheran Church's Cub Scout Pack 643 and Boy Scout Troop 508 will be present at both services to greet Parishioners and assist with the service. This is a great opportunity for our congregation and our Scouts to come together. We would also like to invite members of ANY Scouting organization, past or present to wear your uniform, or paraphernalia to service on the 11th so we can recognize your contributions.

The Boy Scouts of America designates a Sunday that falls in February to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. This coincides with the anniversary of the creation of the Scouts BSA Program.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

MEMBERSHIP @ FAITH

Mon Feb 12, 19 | 6:30 PM

The New Year is a time of new beginnings and renewal. For those of you seeking a new faith journey or looking to strengthen your faith journey, Faith will offer a membership course in February. Membership @ Faith invites participants to explore the vision, mission and values of Faith, as well as a broad overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will also discover their unique gifts and how they can use them in serving others. This course is open to everyone and is required of those who wish to become members at Faith. The course meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. for two weeks (2/12 and 2/19). Sign up on line or at the welcome center.

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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3000 LIBERTY ST. AURORA, IL. 60502 | (630) 862-3500 | OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM