



# “LAST WORDS”

JESUS'S LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

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First Sunday of Lent  
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 18, 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 WORSHIP SERIES: LAST WORDS**

There's something powerful about someone's last words. And that is especially true of the final words Jesus spoke from the cross. The gospel writers recorded seven sayings of Jesus from the cross, seven last words, and these sayings are the focus of our Lent series. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday, we are taking a closer look at these final words Jesus spoke before he died on the cross and discover their significance for us today.

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# *The Gathering*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C Amen.**

P Holy God,

**C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory | ELW #324

*please stand*



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime,  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

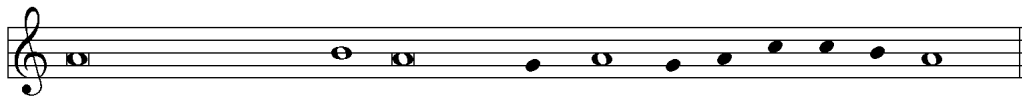
**C:** And also with you.

# KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



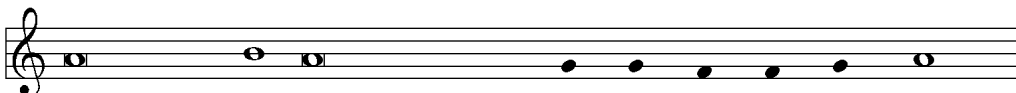
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

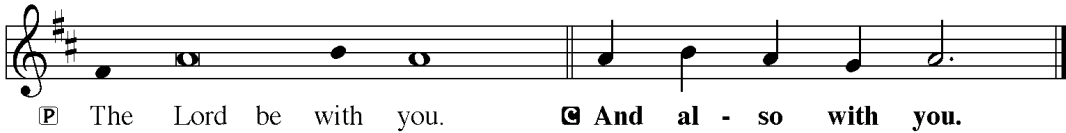
**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

**G** A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P: Let us pray,

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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## The Word

### FIRST READING

### Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

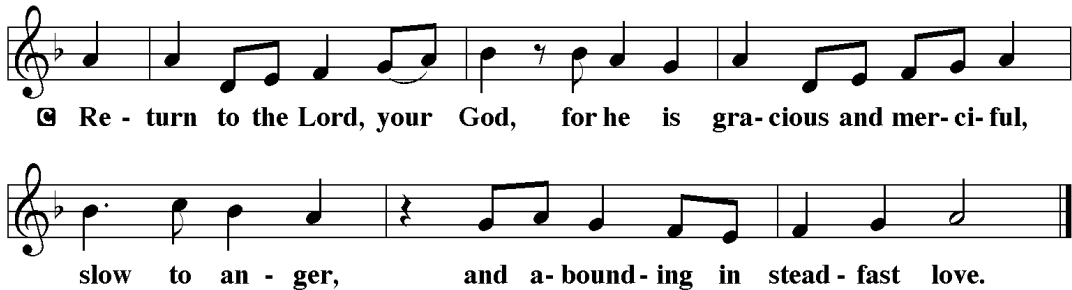
## SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

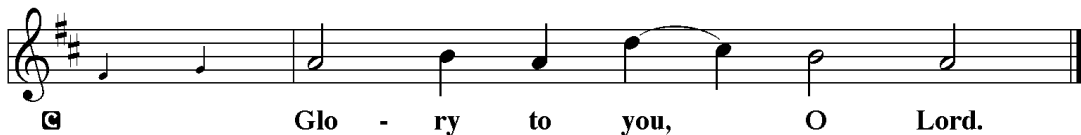
For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## LENTEN VERSE *please stand*



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

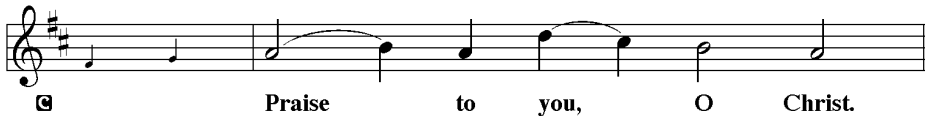


## GOSPEL

**Luke 23: 32-38**

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

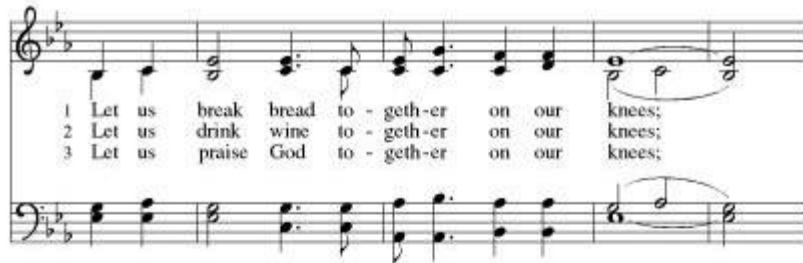
Forgive | Pastor Rob



## HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Us Break Bread Together | ELW #471

*please stand*



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

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# The Meal

## PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

## OFFERING

### OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*



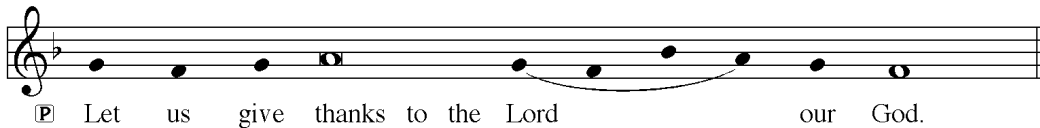
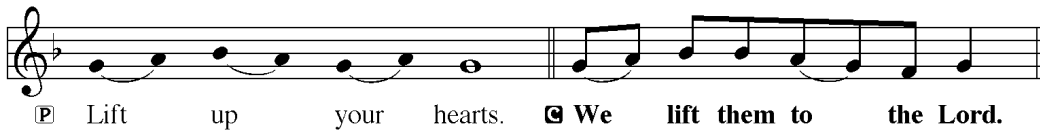
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

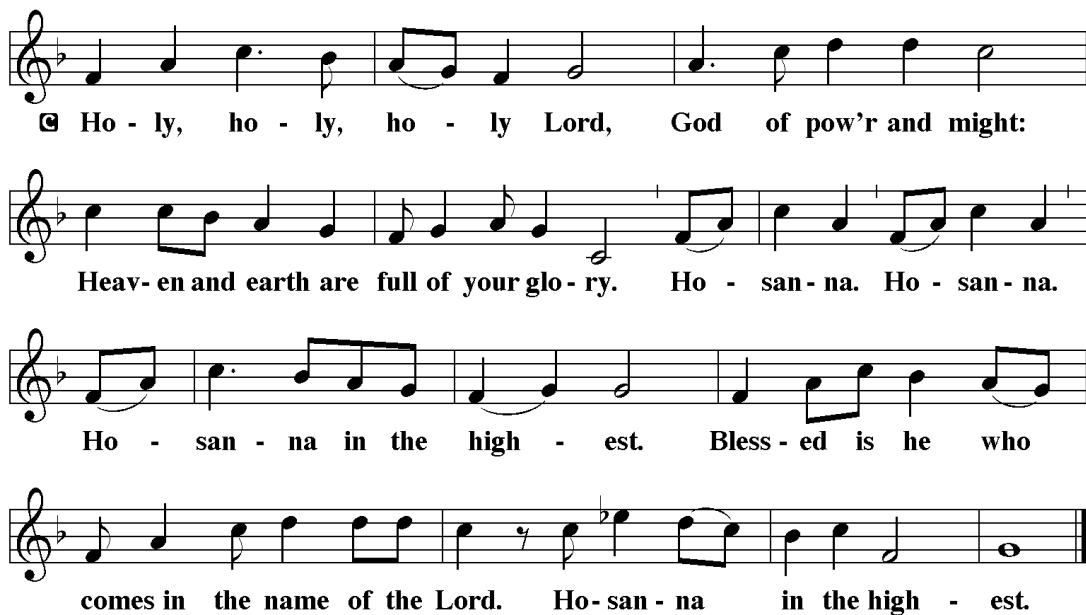
A: Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.

C: **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: 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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!  
**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 the usher stand, please ask an usher to assist you.*

**☞** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C:** **Amen.**

**☞** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*please stand*

A: Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen

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## *The Sending*

### BLESSING

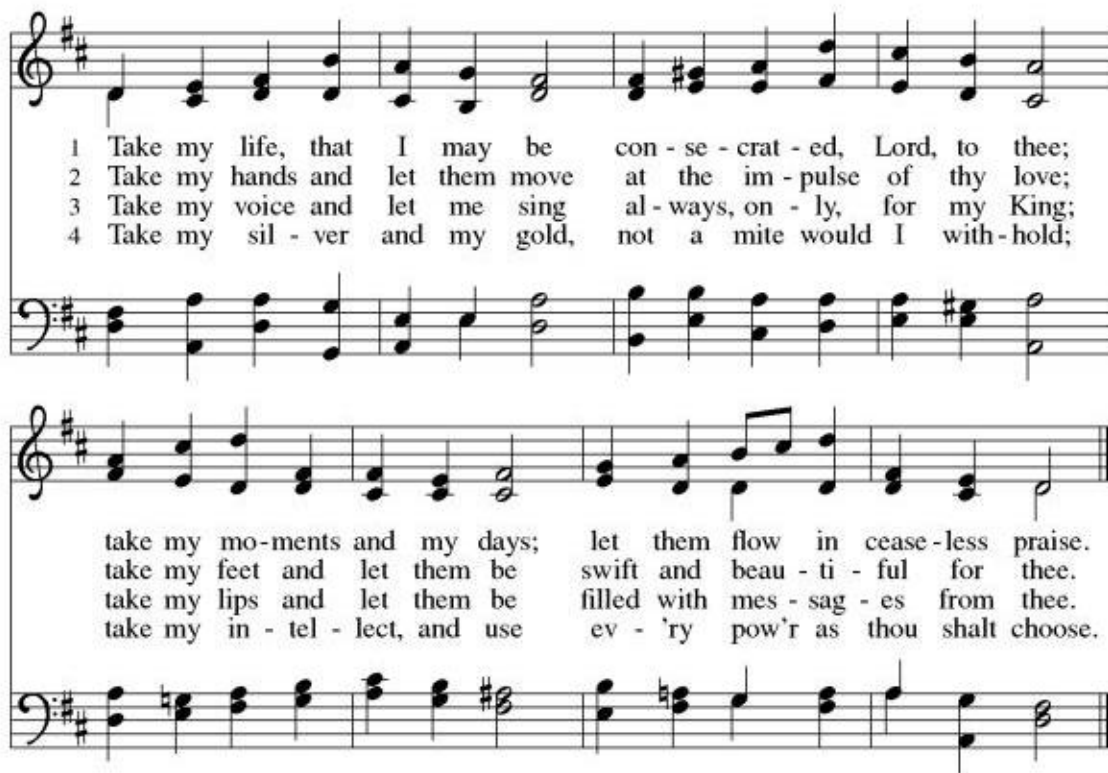
P: Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and † give you peace.

C: Amen.



## CLOSING HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be | ELW #685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

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!

### **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: 2/21, 2/8, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20. Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

### **MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP – “Things Jesus Never Said”**

**Wednesdays | 7:15 PM**

Begins 2/21/23

These days it's easy to see life the way we want to. We can filter our images, pick the news we want to hear, and listen only to the viewpoints that agree with us. When we do that, we start to distort our view of the world. The same thing can happen to our view of God. We reshape our perception of Him into what we want to believe, or what we want to think about others. Jesus came to bring us the truth about God and His plan for us, and it doesn't always sound like what you may think.

### **HOLY WEEK 2024**

**Maundy Thursday**

March 28 | 7:00 PM

**Good Friday**

March 29 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

**Easter Celebration Worship**

Sunday March 31 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

## **NEXT**

**Today! | 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

## **GROUPLINK**

**Tues 2/20 | 7:00 PM**

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending Grouplink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

## **HESED HOUSE SERVE EVENT**

**Weds 2/21 | 6:30 PM**

Faith's next serving opportunity at Hessed House is on 2/21. We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently sign up online or at the welcome center. All that's needed is a serving heart. If you have questions about Faith's Hessed House ministry, please reach out to the ministry team at [hessedhouse@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:hessedhouse@discoveringfaith.com).

## **MOM'S GROUP: A Moment for Mom**

**Sat 3/9 | 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](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom).

## **ST PATRICKS DAY PARTY – (21+ Event)**

**Sat 3/16 | 5:00 PM**

DJ, bagpipes, Irish dancers, food, drinks, and more! Tickets on sale online and at the welcome center. \$25 per person or \$45 per couple. Invite your friends and neighbors!

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

**Orders Due Mar 17**

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available at the welcome center or online at [www.discoveringfaith.com](http://www.discoveringfaith.com)

## FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sat 3/23 | 9:00 AM

For those parents who feel their elementary school-aged child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, you are encouraged to attend our First Communion workshop. This learning event is intended to be a time for both the parents and the child to discover the gracious gift of God's love and mercy that comes to us through this meal. The children who participate in this workshop will celebrate their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on March 28, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at [pastor@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:pastor@discoveringfaith.com). Sign up today at the welcome center.

## KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

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. For more information please contact [jenn@discoveringfaith.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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