

A dark purple rectangular background featuring a central cluster of vibrant, multi-colored scribbles in shades of pink, purple, blue, and green. Overlaid on this background is the text "BUILDING YOUR BEST LIFE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines. Below this, the phrase "The Simple Way..." is written in a white, elegant script font.

# **BUILDING YOUR BEST LIFE**

*The Simple Way...*

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Time After Pentecost  
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

September 14, 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: BUILDING YOUR BEST LIFE**

Change is something that most of us know we need, but few of us understand how to get it. We need more than willpower. We need God's power in our lives. In this series based on Galatians 5:22-23, we will explore the qualities that God's Spirit produces in us when we walk with Jesus – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – so that we can live our best lives!

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# The Gathering

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

Rise Up, O Saints of God! | ELW #669

*please stand*

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Rise Up, O Saints of God!'. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are arranged in two systems, with five numbered lines of text corresponding to the first system and a final line of text corresponding to the second system. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, with notes and rests clearly visible on the staves.

## GREETING

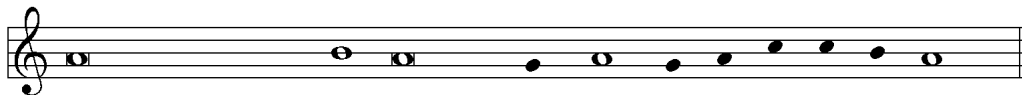
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

# KYRIE



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

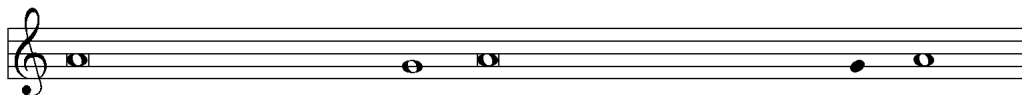
**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



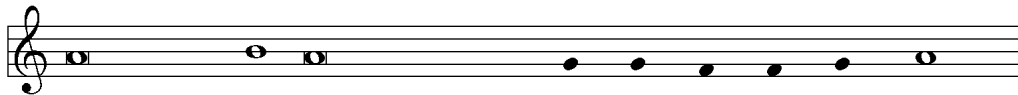
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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

# HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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## *The Word*

### FIRST READING

**Exodus 32:7-14**

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

## SECOND READING

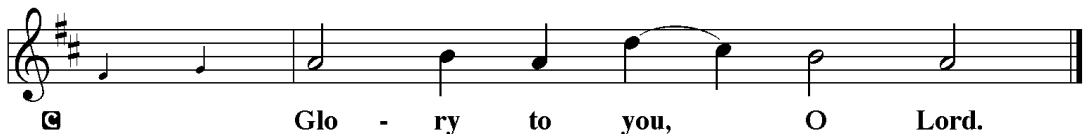
1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*



P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.



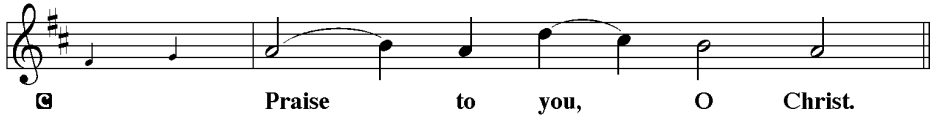
## GOSPEL

John 15: 9-12

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

Love | Pastor Rob

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | ELW #631

*please stand*

Musical notation for the hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling". The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown, Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

**C: receiver our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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*



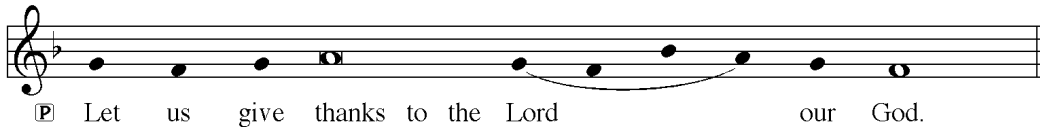
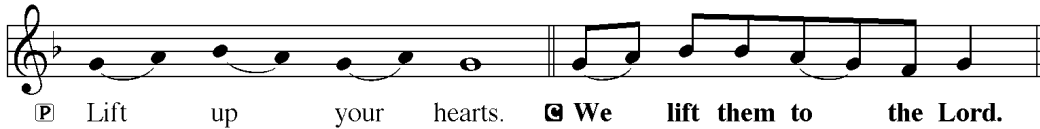
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble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

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

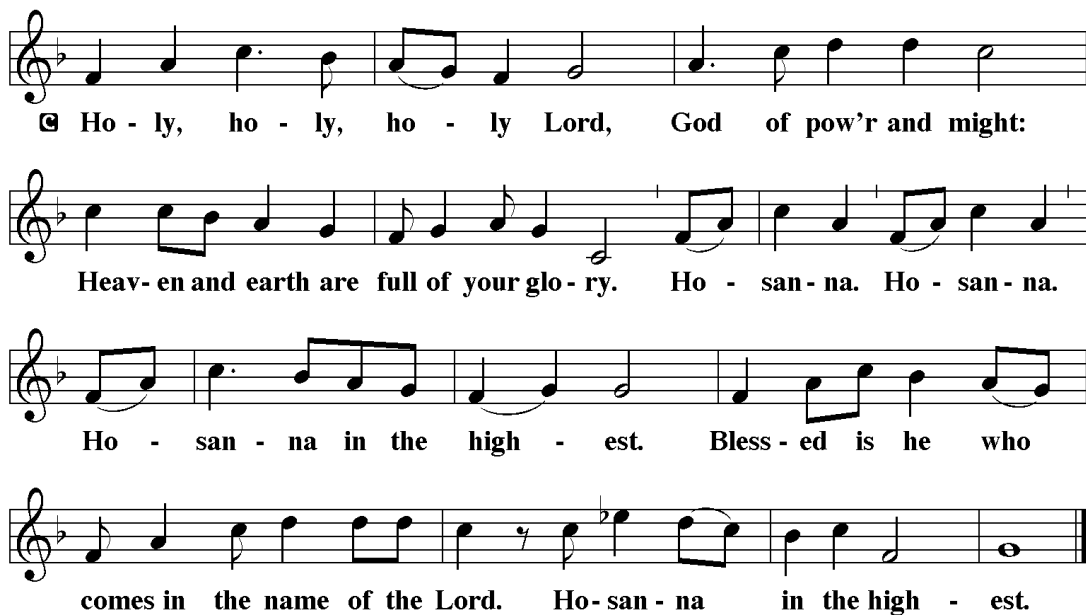
A: Lord of the harvest,  
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.  
Multiply what we have gathered  
to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**

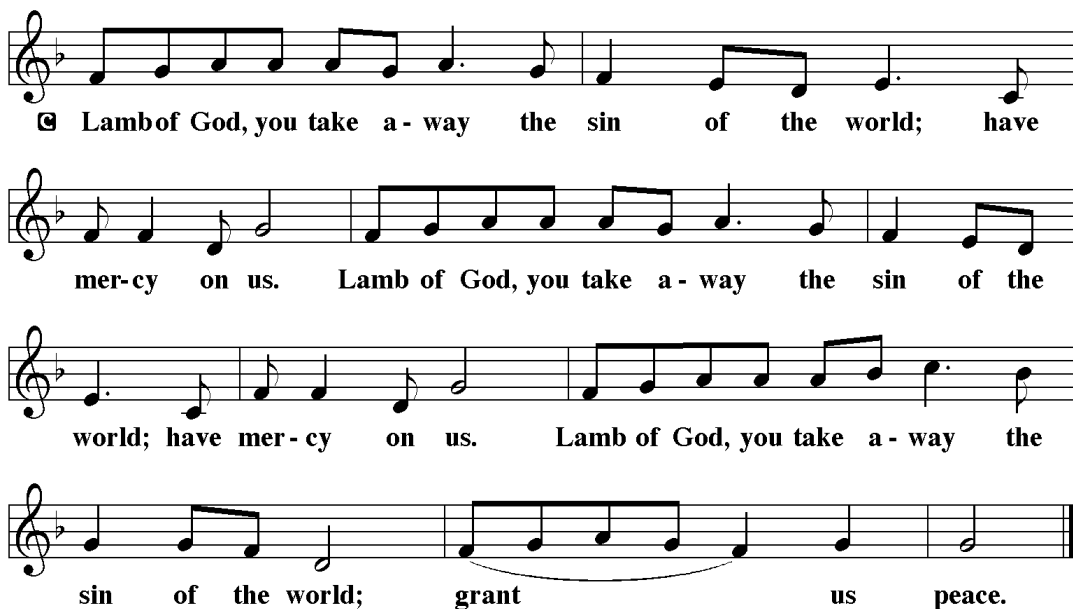
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.  
**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### **AN INVITATION**

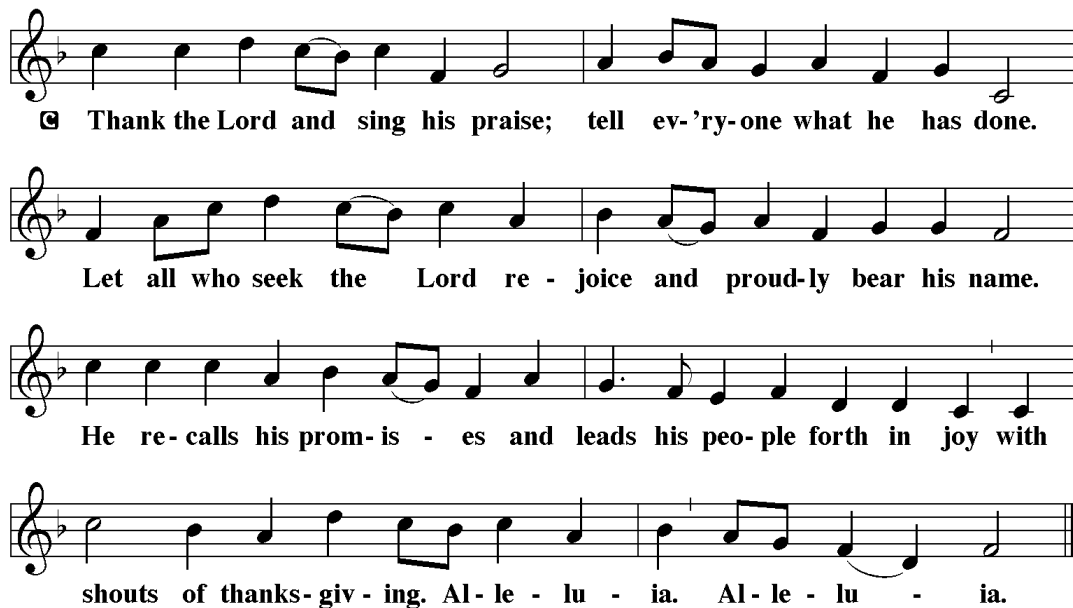
*We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed 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.*



**L**amb 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.**



**T**hank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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: O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
C: **Amen**

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## *The Sending*

### BLESSING

P: The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
† bless you now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

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

*please stand*

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

**P:** Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**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!

### **STUDENT MINISTRIES ORIENTATION MEETING**

**Sun 9/14 | 10:45 AM**

All 6th – 12th grade students and their parents are invited to attend the orientation meeting for Revolution, on Sunday, Sept 14 @ 10:45am in the sanctuary. Come learn about the exciting events planned for this year. Our program, events, mission trip 2026, Middle School Summer Camp 2026, and expectations for our Crossroads/Confirmation program will be covered. For more information contact Pastor Rob.

### **FAITH GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**Sun 9/14 | 1:00 PM**

Join us for Faith's Golf Scramble at 1:00pm on Sept 14 at Springbrook Golf Course 2220 W. 83rd, Naperville, IL 60564. Grab your 4-some or sign up and we will add you to a group (no 5-somes allowed). All are invited so grab your friends and sign up today. Clubs can be rented for an additional fee.

Cost is \$45/per person and includes 9 holes of golf, 1 cart and a bucket of practice balls. In the event of rain, a rain date will be provided or a voucher to use another time.

Scramble golf, prizes and fun await!

### **WOMENS GROUP**

**Mon 9/22 & 10/6 | 7:15 PM**

The Monday Night Women's Bible Study Group will resume on Monday, September 8th. This Fall we will be studying "Encouraging One Another, Women of Faith Bible Study" by Nicole Johnson. In Encouraging One Another, you will explore what Scripture has to say about the value God places on your life and how He notices all that you are doing. You will read passages that will lift your spirit as you hear God speaking His words of encouragement into your life. You will also discover that just as God lifts you up, He wants you to lift up others. We will study 2 chapters per session. You may order the book online at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)

We meet bi-weekly at Faith's café & no need to sign up- We'd love to have you join us!

## **A MOMENT FOR MOM**

**Sat 10/11 | 10:00 AM**

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](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/amomentformom).

## **REVOLUTION KICK OFF**

**Sun 9/21 | 5:00 PM**

Put it on the calendar and get ready for a great new year of outrageous games, extraordinary worships, and engaging groups as we gather on Sunday Nights for our Student Ministries. Students, 6th-12th grade, are invited to attend this engaging night of growing as followers of Jesus. Student ministries meets the first and third Sundays of the month. Register today at [www.discoveringfaith.com/students](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/students).

## **WOMENS BIBLE STUDY**

**Tues 9/16 | 9:00 AM**

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will resume their weekly meetings on Tuesday, September 16. All women of Faith are welcome and encouraged to attend. The group meets in the cafe from 9-10:30. This Fall the Bible Study will explore the book of Ruth through Timothy J. Mulders' book Ruth - a Story of God's Redeeming Love. The study covers such topics as God's loving-kindness (hesed), the foreshadowing of Christ, waiting on God's timing, the providence of God, and the redemption of Naomi.

The workbook is \$10 and will be available at the meetings.

For additional information contact Sue Boozell at [sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com).

## **ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP**

**Begins 9/23 | 7:00 PM**

*In the Footsteps of the Savior*

Join us on an inspirational journey with Max Lucado through the hills, the dust, and the homes of the Holy Land! Discover, with new eyes, God's heart for his people and his deep love for you.

In this 6-week online study, you are invited to come with Max through Capernaum, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem, and more. This online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register at the welcome center or online so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

## **COMPASSION WEEKEND IS COMING!**

**September 19-21**

Compassion Weekend is all about caring for each other. All around us, people are hurting. They are tired, worn down and lonely. God cares deeply about the real-life challenges of real people in our neighborhoods. We serve each other as an extension of that compassion. There is no hidden agenda or secret motive. For this one weekend, we set aside our regular weekend services and activities simply to serve those around us. We want to invite you to join us! You can make a difference in the lives of others around us. Sign up today in the café or online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com)

## **Outdoor Sunday Worship**

**Sun 9/21 | 9:30 AM**

Come worship with us for our final outdoor service as we wrap up our Compassion Weekend on Sunday, September 21, we'll be meeting outdoors at 9:30 AM for only one worship service. No 8:00 AM service. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and join us on the lawn. We'll have some outdoor seating as well. You can also attend from your car by tuning into FM 88.3. We'll be live streaming this service as well, if you're unable to make it in person. Come join us!

## **GROUPLINK**

**Weds 10/1 | 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)

## **NEXT**

**Sun 10/5 | 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.

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**Sun 10/5 | 2:00 PM**

From kittens to chickens, guppies to puppies, join us for our blessing of all animals great and small. This free event celebrating the Feast of St. Francis is open to the entire community, so come and enjoy this soon to be annual tradition. A short service will be led by Pastor Rob followed by individual pet blessings. Refreshments for pets and their humans will be served. In the event of inclement weather, the blessing will take place in the café. We will also be collecting donations for the Naperville Area Humane Society. Link below for the shelter's wish list. So, bring your pets to be blessed and help us to bless other animals who are in need. <https://www.naperhumane.org/wish-list>

## HESED HOUSE SERVE EVENT

**Weds 10/15 | 6:15 PM**

We will need roughly 5 to 10 volunteers to help with meal setup, serving, and cleanup. Volunteers can conveniently signup 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).

## MEMBERSHIP @ FAITH

**Mon 10/20 & 10/27 | 6:30 PM**

This two-part course 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 an expectation of those who wish to become members at Faith! Register online at [discoveringfaith.com](http://discoveringfaith.com) or sign up at the welcome center.

## FAITH'S OUTDOOR PROJECT

You're invited to be a part of extending our vision as we look to enhance our property and grounds through our outdoor project initiative. The outdoor project will provide additional opportunities for our community to gather for worship, outdoor events, concerts, weddings, and more.

The project includes three phases. Phase I: Outdoor structure and canopy. Phase II: Landscaping: trees, bushes, flowers. Phase III: Trellis enhancements on patio. Our goal is to raise \$45,000 to complete these three phases. To learn more about the project and/or to donate visit: [www.discoveringfaith.com/outdoorproject](http://www.discoveringfaith.com/outdoorproject), or stop by the welcome center and pick up a brochure.

This project has been generously underwritten by the Terry Olson memorial fund. We believe this initiative will have a positive impact on our ministries and mission, and we encourage everyone to get involved. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

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

## 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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