



First Sunday of Advent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

November 30, 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: A GENEROUS LIFE

When you choose to live a generous life you start to change, and so does the world around you. Something incredible happens when giving becomes our idea and not out of a duty or obligation. When you move from awareness to action, miracles happen. Join us as we learn to follow Jesus' lead and make giving a lifestyle.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus Gloria in Excelsis Deo
 Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song (*Chorus*)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ our Lord, the newborn King (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name/ Crown Him With Many Crowns

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's praise Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred every tribe On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!

Crown Him the Lord of Love Behold His hands and side
Rich wounds yet visible Above in beauty glorified
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight
But downward bends his burning eye At mysteries oh so bright

Crown Him the Lord of Life Who triumphed o'er the grave
Who rose victorious to the strife For those He came to save
His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die

Crown him with many crowns The lamb upon His throne
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but it's own
Awake my soul and sing Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity

With younder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord

Crown Him Lord
Crown Him Lord of all

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L:** We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
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

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us
from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of
your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

RESPONSE

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)*

GOSPEL

Luke 5: 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But

when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

MESSAGE

Just Because | 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: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

please stand

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

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.

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.

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

Everyday

What to say Lord
It's You who gave me life
And I can't explain
Just how much You mean to me
Now that You have saved me Lord
I give all that I am to You
That everyday I can
Be a light that shines Your name

Everyday Lord
I'll learn to stand upon Your Word
And I pray that I
I may come to know You more
That You would guide me
In every single step I take
That everyday I can be Your
Light unto the world

Chorus Everyday it's You I'll live for
 Everyday I'll follow after You
 Everyday I'll walk with You (my Lord) *(Repeat)*

It's You I live for everyday
It's You I live for everyday
It's You I live for everyday *(Repeat) (Chorus) (Chorus)*

It's You I live for everyday

DISMISSAL

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

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!

SEASON OF ADVENT

The days of Advent point the people of God toward the three comings of the Lord Jesus. He came among us at Bethlehem. He comes among us now in the scriptures, the waters of baptism, the Eucharistic meal, and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Keep awake, for his coming is certain and his day draws near. With the change of season brings a change in our liturgical setting.

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!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sun 12/7

God has given us an exciting vision here at Faith to be a place where everyone is invited, encouraged, and challenged to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Join us on Sunday, December 7 as we share our gifts of financial commitment for 2026 during each worship service. You are invited to prayerfully consider your level of generosity and submit it through the mail, go online to www.discoveringfaith.com/agenerouslife, or bring your response card to worship on that day as we will lift them up to God in prayer. Let's get ready. God has exciting things in store for our community!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

Sun 12/7 | 7:00 AM

Get ready to celebrate Faith on our Commitment Sunday with some hot buttery pancakes, crispy bacon, sausage & eggs, fruit and delicious coffee! Faith is hosting an "all you can eat" pancake celebration breakfast on our commitment Sunday, December 7 from 7:00 – 11:00am! Tickets are \$5.00 per person, or \$20 per family. Get your tickets today online or at the welcome center. All proceeds go to support the ministries of Faith.

NEW MISSION CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX DRIVE

Share God's love this Christmas

During November, we are collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in Haiti who are a part of our mission partner New Missions. School supplies, hygiene items, toys and other small gifts make a big difference in the lives of Haitian children and their families. You can share God's love this Christmas by packing a shoebox. Stop by the shoebox drive display and pick up your box and gift list today.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Due Sunday 12/14

Faith's sanctuary will once again be adorned with beautiful poinsettias this Christmas Eve!

You may order a poinsettia online or fill out the form located at the welcome center. Return the form with your payment to the church by Sunday, December 14. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Please note Poinsettias on your check.

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 to learn more about the impact you can make. Every product represents a changed life!

REVOLUTION

Sun 12/7, 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 1st and 3rd Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- discoveringfaith.com

WOMENS GROUP

Mon 12/1 | 7:15 PM

This Fall we will be studying "Encouraging One Another, Women of Faith Bible Study" by Nicole Johnson.

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

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 9:00 AM

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will explore the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherd in the book *The Angels of Christmas ~ Hearing God's Voice in Advent* by Susan Robb.

The study will dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel as well as other angels in the Bible. The workbook is \$12 and will be available at the meetings.

The group will meet in the auditorium on the following Tuesday mornings: 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16.

For additional information please contact Sue Boozell at sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com.

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel

In *The Case for Christmas*, video-based bible study led by New York Times bestselling author Lee Strobel, we'll be digging into the true Christmas story to sort out the fact from the fiction and the hype from the holiness. This Bible study will help us reflect on the gospel story of the birth of Jesus in a focused and group-oriented way that might just change the way that we view the season. This 4-week online study will be facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register below so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate. Come join us!

THE GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE

Sat 12/6 | 4:00 PM

Faith Community Life will be hosting our Annual Holiday Gift Exchange on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Eola Tap House (formerly Paulie's Pub) at 444 N. Eola Rd, Aurora, IL (just down the street from Faith next to the new Fire Station).

Please bring a wrapped gift (under \$20). This event is open to everyone. Food and Beverages will be on your own and cake will be served.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or online www.discoveringfaith.com

Come celebrate the Holidays with our Faith Family and Friends!

NEXT

Sun 12/7 | 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 12/13 | 10:00 AM

The speaker for December is Yolanda Chenoweth, Women's Health NP. Let's talk about the things nobody talks about! A Session about Women's Health. Please use the QR code on our website to ask anonymous questions, that will be answered by our December speaker.

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.

LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH!

Sat 12/13 | 6:00 PM

This year, the spirit of Christmas will be alive at Faith, as we host our annual outdoor Live Nativity on Saturday, December 14th at 6pm.

the Live Nativity. The journey will take you back in time to the birth of our Savior. Shepherds peacefully tend to their flocks, while Mary and Joseph look after the child in the manger. Wise men will come from the East bearing gifts as angels watch over the scene. Faith's Live Nativity features a large cast, choir, live animals and scenery to provide a memorable Christmas event for the entire family.

LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sat 12/13 | 6:00 PM

Save the date for this year's Live Nativity here at Faith! However, many types of volunteers are needed to help make this event a huge success (actors, hospitality, set up, animal control, "Welcomers", photographers.) Sign up today at the welcome center or contact Pastor Rob if you are interested.

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 or for more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com PreK – 5th grade

LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA

Mon 12/15 | 7:00 PM

Ladies of Faith are invited to attend or host a table for this elegant and festive holiday evening of tea and desserts. The evening includes music, readings, and a seasonal devotion. Invite your friends and sign up for this free event online or at the welcome center! If you have any questions please contact the church office at office@discoveringfaith.com.

HESED HOUSE SERVE EVENT

Weds 12/18 | 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.

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.

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

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

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.



FAITH
Lutheran Church

Pastor Rob Douglas

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