



Second Sunday of Advent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 7, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Faith is a growing faith community in the Aurora area. We're people just like you, who are hungry to know God better. We're looking for the answers to life's tough questions. We're struggling to be better parents, spouses, friends, and neighbors. We don't have all the answers but we're growing as we go.

Faith is a great place to find healing for broken hearts and broken lives. In every Sunday message you'll learn new skills and attitudes to help you live life with the kind of joy that God intends for us. You'll also meet people who are also growing in their journey through the joys and challenges of life. You'll find lots of "walking partners" for your journey here. There are no closed doors at Faith, just lots of opportunities to grow in Christ, friendship, and love.

Faith is a church with a great vision; however, accomplishing a great vision requires the participation of many great people like you. There's a place in our vision for you to use your unique gifts and talents.

CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES: CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

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

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation
Our rock the only solid ground
As nations rise and fall
Kingdoms once strong now shaken
We trust forever in Your name
The name of Jesus
We trust in the name of Jesus

Chorus You are the only King forever
 Almighty God we lift You higher
 You are the only King forever
 Forevermore You are victorious (*Repeat*)

Unmatched in all Your wisdom
In love and justice You will reign
And every knee will bow
We bring our expectations
Our hope is anchored in Your name
The name of Jesus
We trust the name of Jesus (*Chorus*)

We lift our banner high
We lift the name of Jesus
From age to age You reign
Your kingdom has no end (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*)

Hark the Herald Angels Sing – King of Heaven

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King
Peace on Earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled

Pre-Chorus Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem
 Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all he brings Risen with healing in his wings

Pre-Chorus Mild he lays His glory by Born that man no more may die
 Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth
 Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn king

Chorus 1 King of Heaven come down King of Heaven come now
 Let your glory reign shining like the day King of Heaven come

Chorus 2 King of Heaven rise up Who can stand against us
 You are strong to save in Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Christ by highest Heaven adored Christ the ever lasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come Offspring of a virgin's womb (*Pre-Chorus*)

(*Chorus 1*)

(*Chorus 2*)

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come

(*Chorus 1*)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
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 Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strengthened beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

Romans 12: 9-17

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

please stand

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness
And all these things will be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism,

he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

MESSAGE

Home Alone | Pastor Rob

LITANY OF DEDICATION

- A We are grateful, O God, for the many blessings we receive each day. Bless these gifts, which we commit to you for the ministry and mission of this church.
- C God, we commit to you today not only our financial resources but our very lives. We know that all that we have been given are gifts from you. We promise to give freely of our time, talent, and treasure to the work of your church in this community and in the world.**
- A God, bless the givers as well as the gifts of love that we offer. In Jesus our lives are made whole and our offerings pure. God gives us our present and our future and calls us to seek after him and serve the world.

C Amen

(You are invited at this time to bring your Living Generously Response Cards forward and place them in the offering basket)

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: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. 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

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

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

Build Your Kingdom Here

Come set Your rule and reign In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now

Pre-Chorus We are Your church
 And we need Your power in us

We seek Your kingdom first We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause

Pre-Chorus We are Your church
 And we pray revive this Earth

Chorus Build Your kingdom here Let the darkness fear
 Show Your mighty hand Heal our streets and land
 Set Your church on fire Win this nation back
 Change the atmosphere Build Your kingdom here
 We pray

Unleash Your kingdom's power Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength And love of Christ

Pre-Chorus We are Your church
 We are the hope on Earth (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

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

Today!

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 today 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

Today! | 7:30 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 7:30 - 10:45am! Tickets are \$10.00 per person, or \$30 per family. Sign up online or at the welcome center. All proceeds go to support the ministries of Faith.

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 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: 12/9, 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!

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.

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.



Pastor Rob Douglas
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