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Third Sunday of Advent  
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

## **Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

December 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: 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.

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# The Gathering

## OPENING SONG

### O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels

Chorus    O come let us adore Him  
              O come let us adore Him  
              O come let us adore Him  
              Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest (Chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing (Chorus)

His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor  
His name shall be Everlasting Father  
His name shall be Prince of Peace, Mighty God  
His name shall be Emmanuel

Chorus 2    We'll praise Your name forever  
              We'll praise Your name forever  
              We'll praise Your name forever  
              Christ the Lord (Repeat Chorus 2)

His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor  
His name shall be Everlasting Father  
His name shall be Prince of Peace, Mighty God  
His name shall be Emmanuel

## **Be Thou My Vision (Light Guiding Me)**

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me Save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought By day or by night  
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom And Thou my true word  
I ever with thee And Thou with me Lord  
Thou my great Father I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling And I with Thee one

Chorus I will lift up my eyes  
To my help and my strength  
Till my faith becomes sight  
Be the light guiding me

Riches I heed not Nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance Now and always  
Thou and Thou only First in my heart  
High King of heaven My treasure Thou art (Chorus) (Chorus)

High King of heaven My victory won  
May reach heaven's joys Oh bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart Whatever befall  
Still be my vision Oh Ruler of all  
Still be my vision Oh Ruler of all

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

A: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
strengthen our hearts  
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
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, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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**

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# The Word

## READING

**James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## RESPONSE

In Christ Alone

*please stand*

In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

## GOSPEL

**1 John 4: 7-16**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

**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 power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. 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

*please stand*

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him alleluia  
Thou burning sun with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him O praise Him  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

All Creatures of our God and King

## 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.

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## *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 to 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.**

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## *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

## King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting    Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running    There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets    To a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory    To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus    Praise the Father, praise the Son  
            Praise the Spirit, three in one  
            God of glory, Majesty  
            Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming    And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation    You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering    You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation    Jesus for our sake you died (Chorus)

And the morning that You rose    All of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good    For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs    And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come    To the Father are restored (Chorus)

And the church of Christ was born    Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old    Shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name    In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ    Who has resurrected me (Chorus)

## DISMISSAL

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

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!

### 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!

### POINSETTIA ORDERS

**Due Today!**

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.

### 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](mailto: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 Hesed House ministry, please reach out to the ministry team at [hesedhouse@discoveringfaith.com](mailto:hesedhouse@discoveringfaith.com).

## **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](http://www.heavenlytreasures.org) to learn more about the impact you can make. Every product represents a changed life!

## **REVOLUTION**

**Sun 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the auditorium. Register online- [discoveringfaith.com](http://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](mailto: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!

## 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

## 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.

## NEXT

**Sun 1/4 | 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.

## 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

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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

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### 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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