



Second Sunday of Lent
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 1, 2026

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: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The writers of the New Testament consistently pointed out that Jesus's primary role was a king who had come to establish God's kingdom on earth. And everyone is invited to participate in it.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the
righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In | ELW #532

please stand



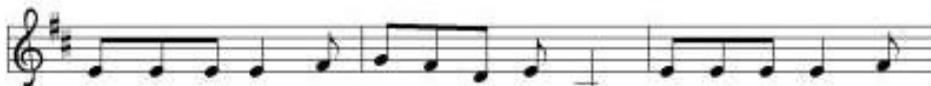
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth,
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

GREETING

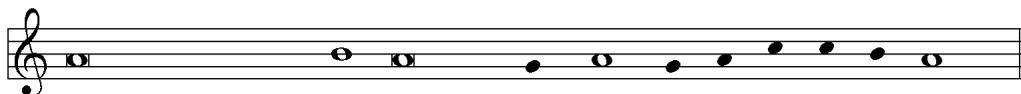
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



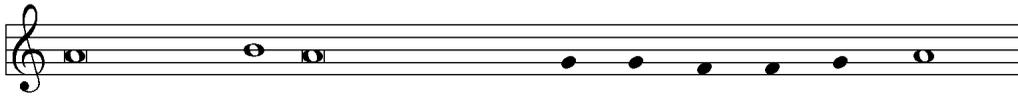
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. **☩ Lord, have mer - cy.**



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY



Ⓐ The Lord be with you. **☩ And al - so with you.**

P: Let us pray,

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

LENTEN VERSE *please stand*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 1: 26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

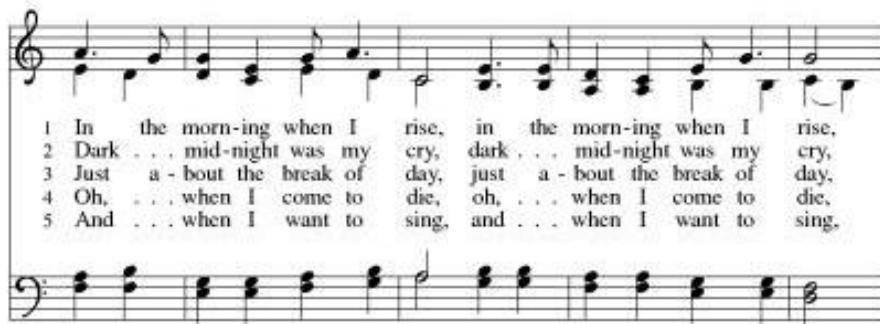


Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus | ELW #770

please stand



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus,
dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus,
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus,
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus,
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus,

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus,



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A: Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.



Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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: Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and 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.

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

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

C: Amen.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

A: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

The Sending

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
† bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine | ELW #774

please stand



1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?



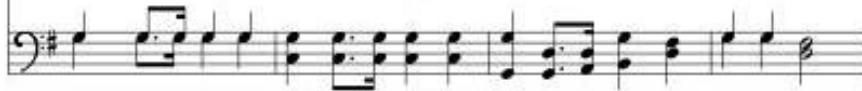
what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

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!

LENTEN MIDWEEK MEAL

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM

Each Lenten season we provide a fellowship opportunity for people of faith to gather around a table and share a meal at 6:30PM. This meal is intended to be simple and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another. Everyone who attends shares in the responsibility of providing different components for the meal. Volunteers sign up each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread or cookies. Beverages and table service will be provided.

The Lenten Meal will be offered at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

Our worship series begins after this fellowship time at 7:15PM. Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP "The Way of the Cross"

Wednesdays | 7:15 PM

In Jesus' day the cross was a symbol of suffering and shame. Join us for our midweek Lenten series where we'll talk about how it now represents an empowering invitation to a completely different way of life.

GIVING HOPE PROJECT

Our Faith community is partnering with Sharing Connections to help individuals and families who need basic supplies and furnishings. Veterans, Homeless transitioning to housing, Abuse/Domestic Violence victims and others in need. If you have gently used furniture, can donate supplies, or would like to help financially, please consider giving.

Donation bags are available in the cafe along with a list of items needed.

Items need to be dropped off to Faith by March 15th if possible. Late donations will be accepted on March 21st between 8-10:30 AM. Volunteers are also needed to help get large items and deliver all our donations to the warehouse in Downers Grove.

EGG STUFFING PARTY

Wed 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25 | 7:30 PM

Come join the fun and help make our egg drop a huge success. Volunteers are needed to stuff eggs. We will be having an Egg Stuffing Party in the cafe on Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 PM. Come join the fun! For more information contact the church office.

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Individually wrapped bite size candy donations are needed to fill our 15,000 eggs! If you are able to donate some bags of candy, please drop them off at the welcome center.

NEXT

Sun 3/1 | 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.

REVOLUTION

Sun 3/1 & 3/15 | 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

Mon 3/9 | 7:15 PM

Unfolding over 6 sessions, Nicki Koziarz walks women through the Book of Ruth, focusing on the Moabite woman's 5 practical habits that kept her eyes on God: Ruth accepted the assignment of refinement, followed through on her commitments despite her feelings, remained open to the movement of God, gave others what she needed, and moved forward in faith. Meeting Mondays at Faith Mar 9 & 23

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

COMMUNITY LIFE ST PATRICKS PARTY (21+ Event)

Sat 3/14 | 5:00 PM

Join us for a lively night of Irish food , fun and entertainment. Wear your favorite green outfit! Tickets will be on sale in the café or online beginning 2/22: \$25/person, \$45/couple

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders Due Mar 22

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available ONLY at the welcome center- no online ordering.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Weds 3/25

This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity to help out in our community. We will be packing meals on Wednesday, March 25th. Sign up online at www.discoveringfaith.com. All volunteers need to sign up before March 15th. Check out the volunteering policies before signing up!

Each day our partners distribute FMSC meals in schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs around the world to deliver hope and break the cycle of poverty.

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Begins 3/3 | 7:00 PM

The Case for Easter

In this four-session video Bible study, you'll examine the story around the resurrection of Jesus and how you can know it's true.

The Case for Easter will invite you to examine what you believe about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and determine what you believe about the most important questions of the Christian faith.

This 4-week online study is facilitated by Becky Marchiando. Please register below so that we may send you Zoom credentials required to participate and come join us!

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 3/14 | 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.

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Sun 3/22 | 3:00 PM

For those parents who feel their elementary school-aged child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, you are encouraged to attend our First Communion workshop. This learning event is intended to be a time for both the parents and the child to discover the gracious gift of God's love and mercy that comes to us through this meal. The children who participate in this workshop will celebrate their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on April 2, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Pastor Rob at pastor@discoveringfaith.com. Sign up today at the welcome center.

TUESDAY AM WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 9:00 AM

Esther - Character Under Pressure by Patty Pell.

This nine-session Bible Study looks at the Old Testament book of Esther and how she faced life-threatening pressure to save her people. Through Biblical reflection the study explores how to develop godly character through the contemporary pressures that challenge us today. The workbook will be made available at the meetings (\$8). It is also available in Kindle format. For additional information contact Sue Boozell at sue.boozell@discoveringfaith.com.

HOLY WEEK 2026

Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 7:00 PM

Good Friday

April 3 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Easter Celebration Worship

Sunday April 5 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

Living Generously (through January 2026)

Our mission is simple. Invite people to discover the new life that can be found in Jesus Christ. Because of your financial generosity, lives are being changed. Our budgeted resource needs to live out our mission are not currently fully funded. We would like to invite you to prayerfully consider how you can respond so that together we can enhance our mission impact in our community and beyond. Thank you for living generously.

January Revenue: \$34,363

January Budget: \$35,868

January Expenses: \$46,404**

**Three payrolls in January.

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.



Pastor Rob Douglas
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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