



Third Sunday of Lent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 8, 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

Praise

I'll praise in the valley, and praise on the mountain

I'll praise when I'm sure, praise when I'm doubting

I'll praise when outnumbered, and praise when surrounded

'Cause praise is the waters my enemies drown in

Pre-Chorus As long as I'm breathing

I've got a reason to

Chorus 1 Praise the Lord, oh my soul

Praise the Lord, oh my soul

I'll praise when I feel it, I'll praise when I don't

I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control

My praise is a weapon, it's more than a sound

My praise is the shout that brings Jericho down (*Pre-Chorus*)

Chorus 2 I won't be quite my God is alive

How could I keep it inside

Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign Praise 'cause You reign

Praise 'cause You rose And defeated the grave

I'll praise 'cause You're faithful Praise 'cause You're true

Praise 'cause there's nobody Greater than You (*Repeat*)

(*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 2*) (*Chorus 2*)

Let everything That has breath

Praise the Lord Praise the Lord (*Repeat*) (*Repeat*)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

Matthew 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MESSAGE

Reclaiming the Plotline | Pastor Rob

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: O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**

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

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Praise and Thanksgiving

please stand

Praise and thanksgiving God we would offer
For all things living You have made good
Harvest of sown fields Fruits of the orchard
Hay from the mown fields Blossom and wood

OFFERATORY 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.

The Meal

P: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
The trees of the field clap their hands,
the birds of the air sing songs of praise.
And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices
And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. And at Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken for you.
Take and eat, and do this to remember me.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe,
for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine,
you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us.
And at Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross,
Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it.
Then he passed it among them saying:

This is my blood shed for you.
Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

And now we come to your table again, Jesus,
Mindful of how you laid your life down,
so that we and creation could be born anew;
Mindful of how you took your life up again,
so that we and creation could be filled with your abundant life.
May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth,
so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood.
May your Spirit work in us, so that we may be transformed into Christ's
body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.

C: **Amen.**

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: 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 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 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.

Hope Has a Name

CLOSING SONG

There is a song I know it well
A melody that's never failed
On mountains high in valleys low
My soul will rest
My confidence in You alone

Chorus Hope has a name His name is Jesus
My Savior's cross has set this sinner free
Hope has a name His name is Jesus
Oh Christ be praised I have victory

There is a light salvation's flame
Christ undefeated trampled the grave
See now the cross be lifted high
The light has come the light has won
Behold the Christ (*Chorus*)

There'll be a day my hope complete
Now home in glory Your face I'll see
My pain no more my fear will cease
I bow my life I fix my eyes
On Christ my king
I bow my life I fix my eyes
On Christ my king (*Chorus*)

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: 3/11, 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.

For all details visit <https://discoveringfaith.com/thegivingproject>

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.

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

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.

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.

REVOLUTION

Sun 3/15 & 4/19 | 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

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

Begins 3/17 | 9:00 AM

It's Good to Be Queen by Liz Curtis Higgs

This book chronicles the Queen of Sheba's intentional journey to seek wisdom from a godly source, King Solomon, and challenges the readers to become as bold, gracious and wise as the Queen. The workbook will be made available at the meetings (\$12). 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

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 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!

ROCKSTAR BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR TROOP 643

Sat 4/11 | 7:00PM

Bring your friends and family to this fun, musical, fundraising event hosted by Pack 643! Our Faith Lutheran Cub Scout pack 643 is hosting their 2nd annual Rockstar Bingo fundraiser. When bingo, and music come together, everyone wins! A silent auction, prizes after each round, food, drinks and a 50/50 make it a winning night for everyone! This is a perfect date night, parents' night out or fun night with co-workers!

NEXT

Sun 4/12 | 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.

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

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

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