



Fifth Sunday of Lent
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

March 22, 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

Agnus Dei

A-llelui-a A-llel-ui-a

For the Lord, God Almighty, reigns

A-llel-ui-a A-llel-ui-a

For the Lord, God Almighty, reigns

A-llel-ui-a

Chorus 1 Holy Holy
Are You, Lord, God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb

Chorus 2 You are holy holy
Are You, Lord, God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb
Amen

A-llelui-a A-llel-ui-a

For the Lord, God Almighty, reigns

A-llel-ui-a A-llel-ui-a

For the Lord, God Almighty, reigns

A-llel-ui-a

(*Chorus 2*) x2

Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb

King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

You are good good oh You're good good oh
You are good good oh You're good good oh

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

You're never gonna let me down Never gonna let me down (*Repeat 3x*)

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

1 Corinthians 9: 19-23

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it.

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
What heights of love What depths of peace
When fears are stilled When strivings cease
My Comforter my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

MESSAGE

Fight Like the King | 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: We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. 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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful

please stand

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

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:

**C: 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:

**C: 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.

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. 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: 3/25

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.

EASTER FLOWERS

Due Today!

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.

BUTTERBRAID SEASON!

Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip, Summer 2026

Butterbraids are back for your Easter brunch this year! The middle and high school students at Faith are happy to provide you warm, sweet, gooey goodness with a Butterbraid fundraiser. Place your order by 3/29 at the welcome center. Pastries will be delivered and available for pick up on Thursday 4/2. All proceeds will benefit the youth mission trip, summer of 2026.

HOLY WEEK 2026

Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 7:00 PM

Lent concludes as we gather around the table and a new commandment that Jesus gives, "Love one another as I have loved you." Join us as we begin the three day journey to the resurrection. Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday

April 3 | 12:00 & 7:00 PM

Join us for our Good Friday service of gathering darkness. We gather together at the foot of the cross to remember the depth of God's love for us. Services will be held in the auditorium.

Easter Celebration Worship

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

At Faith, we want to experience the excitement of Easter with you. On March 31, join us at one of our worship services for some awesome music, an inspirational message, and a time for refreshments and fellowship in our café afterwards. Come and celebrate Easter at Faith!

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 3/23 | 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.

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.

REVOLUTION

Sun 4/19 & 5/3 | 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

TUESDAY AM WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 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.

HELICOPTER DROPPED EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat 4/4 | 11:00 AM

Be a part of the excitement!

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Drop on April 4th, at 11:00am. This event has become an anticipated community event which all of our friends in the Fox Valley look forward to each year. While it is intended to bring focus to Faith and celebrate the renewal of spring time and the blessings of Easter...it is also a magical day in which children revel in the excitement and anticipation of the Easter Bunny and all of his goodies... which is magnified by the special delivery from a helicopter!

This event is only possible by the many gifted volunteers who help prepare the entire experience. Volunteer opportunities include the stuffing thousands of eggs, set up, traffic directors, music, photography, leaders and tear down. There is no doubt YOU have something to offer! You may sign up to volunteer online or at the welcome center.

Parking passes can be purchased through Eventbrite on our website. There are a limited amount of on-site parking passes but additional parking will be available at Young Elementary School on Liberty Street, just down from the church. There will be bus transportation to and from the school. Volunteers are asked to park at Young Elementary.

Visit: www.discoveringfaith.com.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to this incredible event!

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!

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 4/11 | 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.

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!

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

TRIVIA NIGHT

Sat 4/5 | 5:00PM

Join us on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 5:00pm for Trivia Night. Our own Matt Clemm will be our Trivia Guide. Teams of 4-6 will compete for fun and prizes. Please bring an appetizer to share. Pop, water and coffee will be provided. BYOB. Sign up today at the Welcome Center or online. Bring your friends for a great night of Trivia and fun!

Pastor Rob Douglas
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