



Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:30 Worship Celebration

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

April 26, 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: AFTERMATH

Jesus' resurrection launched a series of events that introduced the world to his new covenant and new hope. But old ways don't easily give way. Not then. Not now.

The Gathering

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Chorus To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

Holy holy holy Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy I want to see You (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

I want to see you, I want to see you

Goodness of God

I love You, Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after It's running after me

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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

Acts 15: 1-11

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

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 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

MESSAGE

Everyone | Pastor Rob

Service of Holy Baptism

P: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Oliver Taylor Vegrzyn to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: I do.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of His own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing

and rebirth. In obedience to His command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that this child who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away his sin and cleanse him by this water and bring him forth as an inheritor of Your glorious kingdom.

To You be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

S: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: Oliver, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Oliver: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

Oliver, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Ryan & Reilly. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for Oliver. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member in the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same Heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the Kingdom of God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

please stand

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: God's love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son, so that anyone
who believes in Him should not die
but receive eternal life.

We come to this table in need;
We are weak and need strength;
We are broken and need healing;
We are hardened and need softening;
We are poor in spirit and need care.

**C: We give thanks for Your compassion, O God;
We rejoice at Your invitation to share in this meal,
and we receive again Your abundant grace.**

P: So, let's remember how Jesus gave Himself for us;
At supper, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and shared it with His friends, saying:
This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember Me.

C: Amen.

P: After supper, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying:
This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me.

C: Amen.

P: In this bread and in this wine we receive again
the generous, and costly gift of life,
offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.
This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace
and a sharing in God's life.

C: And we will keep celebrating in this way until Jesus returns. 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: Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us, and all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Pre-Chorus Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1 And the angels cry, "Holy"
All Creation cries, "Holy"
You are lifted high, holy
Holy forever

If you've been forgiven, if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom, if you bear His name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen (*Chorus 1*)

Chorus 2 Hear Your people sing, "Holy"
To the King of kings, holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever

(*Pre-Chorus*) (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus 1*) (*Chorus 2*)

You will always be holy
Holy forever

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

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!

BAPTISM TODAY

Today we celebrated the baptism of Oliver Taylor Vegrzn, son of Ryan & Reilly Vegrzn. Please welcome him into God's family!

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLAMINGOS

Flamingo season is here. Yes, two flocks of those lovely, tacky, plastic, pink flamingo lawn ornaments will soon be descending upon the lawns of various families of Faith. Fortunately, we have a trained team of students who are ready to remove them should they land in your yard. Removal fee is \$20.

You can join the fun by requesting these flocks land at a specific address. Special requests will be honored for \$10. However, if that person has purchased basic insurance, you can purchase a premium flocking request for \$35 that will be honored unless they have purchased the premium insurance. Get someone before they get you! So choose wisely and have fun playing the game all month long!

Want to ensure these pesky birds don't land in your yard? There are two levels of flamingo insurance. The basic flamingo insurance is available for \$10 and will cover any basic flocking request. However, to protect your yard against basic or premium flocking request you can purchase premium insurance for \$35. Buy early and protect your yard!

All proceeds go to support the Student Ministries Summer Appalachia Service Project mission trip. Details, special requests, and insurance certificates are available at the Pink Flamingo Table, as well as online at www.discoveringfaith.com/news. Thanks for playing, and for your support!

MONDAY NIGHT WOMENS STUDY

Mon 4/27 | 7:15 PM

It's All Under Control

It's All Under Control is a book for every woman who is hanging on tight and trying to get each day right—yet finding that life often feels out of control and chaotic.

Discover a new way of living that will free you to be you, and finally experience the peace of knowing a God who truly has it all under control. The book is available on Amazon- Come join us! We will meet Monday nights at Faith 4/27, 5/11, 5/18, 6/8, 6/22

A MOMENT FOR MOM

Sat 5/2 | 10:00 AM

Our next session, Brandis Lynn Phelan, Certified Professional Christian Life Coach, will be speaking with us about an Emotional Declutter Workshop: "Let's Get Back to You!" You won't want to miss it!

A Moment for Mom is a group for moms of kiddos ages 0-10 that meets on a 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.

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.

VBS - Rainforest Falls

7/20 - 7/24/26 | 9:00 AM

Join us this summer at Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. For more information contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com or register online at discoveringfaith.com

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

God is Closer Than You Think

In the six-session small group video Bible study, John Ortberg helps us to discover and enjoy a vibrant, moment-by-moment relationship with God the Father.

Intimacy with God can happen right now – a closeness you can feel, a reality you can experience for yourself. God is closer than you think, and connecting with him isn't the exclusive domain of monks and ascetics. It's for business people, high school students, busy moms, single men, single women... and most important, it's for YOU!

This 6-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 5/3 | 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 only about 20 minutes after services and will provide you an overview of our mission, strategy, and environments to help you determine your best next step for continuing your faith journey. Meets fireside

REVOLUTION

Sun 5/3 & 5/17 | 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!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Wed 5/20 | 7:15 PM

This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity to help out in our community. We will be packing meals on Wednesday, May 20. Sign up www.discoveringfaith.com. All volunteers need to sign up before MAY 13. 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.

KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us 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. For more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com

Living Generously (through March 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.

YTD Revenue: \$106,648

YTD Budget: \$114,300

YTD Expenses: \$117,177

Giving at Faith! 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.

Prayers

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list and have the prayer team pray for them, please contact the church office at [\(630\) 862-3500](tel:6308623500) or send an e-mail prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com

Prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

Care

If you know of someone who is in need of emotional, physical, or spiritual support, please contact our care team at: careteam@discoveringfaith.com

Pastoral Emergency

In the case of an emergency that requires immediate Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Rob directly on his cell phone at [\(630\) 248-5515](tel:6302485515).



FAITH
Lutheran Church

Pastor Rob Douglas
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