



Second Sunday of Advent
9:15 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 6, 2020

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 MESSAGE SERIES : GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

People close to Jesus were convinced they had met good personified. So they documented the story. They were convinced it wasn't just for a nation or for a generation, but for all nations and every generation. This was good news, great joy, for all people—perhaps especially for those of us who aren't all that good. Join us and discover, or rediscover, the joy inspiring message of Christmas.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

He Has Come For Us

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray

O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life (He is born to give us life)

From God, our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name

All the angels sing hallelujah
Jesus Christ is born
All the children sing Hallelujah
He is Christ the Lord

Angels sing Hallelujah
Jesus Christ is Lord
All the children sing Hallelujah
He is Christ the Lord

How Can I Keep From Singing

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)

What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. (*Refrain*)

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain every springing!
All things are mine since I am his.
How can I keep from singing? (*Refrain*)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L:** We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
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, Desire of Nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Oh bid our sad divisions cease
And be yourself our King of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

OPENING PRAYER

- L:** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

FIRST LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He is Exalted

please stand

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;
I will praise him.

He is exalted, forever exalted,
and I will praise his name.

Jesus is Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1-8

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

MESSAGE

Better Than True | Pastor Rob

LITANY OF DEDICATION

- P We are grateful, O God, for the many blessings we receive each day. Bless these gifts, which we commit to you for the ministry and mission of this church.
- P God, we commit to you today not only our financial resources but our very lives. We know that all that we have been given are gifts from you. We promise to give freely of our time, talent, and treasure to the work of your church in this community and in the world.
- P God, bless the givers as well as the gifts of love that we offer. In Jesus our lives are made whole and our offerings pure. God gives us our present and our future and calls us to seek after him and serve the world.

C Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

P: Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: (Prayers of the community). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

The Sending

BLESSING

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
† now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Born That We May Have Life

No reputation, no stately bearing
No palace bed for royalty
But a star in the Heavens, a sign full of wonder
Announcing the coming of the King of kings

Chorus 1 Rejoice, o world, your Savior has come
Through the love of a virgin's womb
Son of God, Son of man, born that we may have life
You were born that we may have life

A throne in a manger, the cross in a cradle
The hidden revealing this glorious plan
Of a Child who would suffer, the Child who would conquer (*Chorus 1*)
The sin of every woman, the sin of every man

Chorus 2 Rejoice, o world, your Savior has come
Through the love of a virgin's womb
Son of God, son of man
You were born that we may have life (*Chorus 1*)

You were born that we may have life

Born that we may have life

You were born that we may have life

You were born that we may have life

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Thursday 12/24

3:00, 5:00 & 11:00PM Live Stream & On Demand

Join us online this year for beautiful music 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 Friday 12/18

Faith's sanctuary will be adorned with beautiful poinsettias this Christmas Eve!

To order a poinsettia, please order online www.discoveringfaith.com \$15 each.

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. DO STUFF.

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Upcoming Adult Online Study Group

This series is about God's love... and the most amazing thing about that love is that it's not a bunch of rules or stuff we have to agree with. God's love is different. It changes things. It's active. It works. It risks. It's something we discover more about by "doing stuff." Love God. Love People. Do Stuff. Join us for our next adult online group series, "Love Does," based on the New York Times bestseller book by Bob Goff where we'll learn together how God's love for us enables us to love others outrageously through our actions. You'll discover how your faith comes alive when you do the love of God. Don't miss out! Register today at www.discoveringfaith.com.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

12/11 – 12/21

Online registration is up & running for Faith's Holiday Lights Contest! Register you or your friends home by 12/8. A map will be posted by 12/11 for you to begin touring all the homes. Cast your vote before 12/21 and winners will be announced on 12/22!

LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Save the date for this year's Live Nativity here at Faith! However, many types of volunteers are needed to help make this event a huge success (actors, hospitality, set up, animal control, "Welcomers", photographers.) Sign up online or contact Pastor Rob if you are interested.

LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH!

Sat 12/19 | 6:00 PM

This year, the spirit of Christmas will be alive at Faith, as we host our annual outdoor Live Nativity on Saturday, December 19th at 6pm.

Come and experience the birth of Jesus. Imagine what the first Christmas was like through the Live Nativity. The journey will take you back in time to the birth of our Savior. Shepherds peacefully tend to their flocks, while Mary and Joseph look after the child in the manger. Wise men will come from the East bearing gifts as angels watch over the scene. Faith's Live Nativity features a large cast, choir, live animals and scenery to provide a memorable Christmas event for the entire family.

During the performance as the story is told, visitors will be invited to join with the choir in singing traditional carols. After the performance, stay to have hot chocolate and cookies, enjoy the petting zoo, and get your very own nativity scene picture.

It's an experience that will bring the true meaning of the Christmas season for one and all!!

REVOLUTION ONLINE

Sundays | 5:00 & 6:00 PM

God is good, and He is with us in everything! We want our students to know that, trust that, and experience that every moment of their lives. Our fall groups for middle & high school students have begun. These 45 minute gatherings will allow our students to connect with each other and with God, and grow in their faith. This will be a fun, and engaging opportunity for your child to connect with others during this confusing time, where they will find encouragement, support, and growth.

KIDWERKS LIVE

Sundays | 10:30 AM

We've changed to a new time and a new engaging format to help our kids connect with God and with each other. Every Sunday morning kids are invited to connect and grow through our Kidwerks Live 2.0. This fun, interactive, event happens at our new time at 10:30am.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Betty Wampach

Bethany Boyles

Sarah Hennings prayers of healing

Brad and Kathy Gorman- prayers for health

Katie Riley

Nancy Staton

Mitch- son of co-worker of Christy Douglas

Mike Autry

Taylor Scott

Doris Johnson, mother of Karen Banschbach

Kathy, daughter-in-law of Karen Solan

Strength for Sonjia Ramsey

Sarah Barr

Scott Perkins, friend of Randy & Bonnie Schumacher

Bob Clark

Jay Bridge, brother of Dale Bridge

Ron Cizek, prayers of healing

Scott Lee

John, Jill O'Neal's godfather

Kathy, health care worker

Jerry, son of Judy Bridge

Dana & Daniel, friends of Judy Bridge

Claudia Marrow, friend of Danita Curry

Nick Falkos

John Larkin, cousin of Pastor Rob

Bella, Karen Solan's granddaughter

VerHagen family, friends of the Jensen family

Dave Belinski

Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk

Muriel Weigel, mother of Gary Weigel

Christy Dunn, Diane Rinehard, Jess Schell- working with Covid patients

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).



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