



Third Sunday of Advent
9:15 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 13, 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*

Because of Your Love

Yeah, yeah

Yeah, yeah

As we come into Your Presence

We remember every blessing

That You've poured out so freely from above

Lifting gratitude and praises

For compassion so amazing

Lord, we've come to give You thanks for all You've done

Because of Your love, we're forgiven

Because of Your love, our hearts are clean

We lift You up with songs of freedom

Forever we're changed because of Your love

Yeah, yeah

Yeah

Yeah, yeah

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L:** We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
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, O Branch of Jesse,
Free your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell you people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

OPENING PRAYER

- L:** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

please stand

I Love You Lord

I love you, Lord and I lift my voice
To worship You, oh my Soul rejoice
Take joy, my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear

GOSPEL

Luke 5: 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon

Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

MESSAGE

Leveling the Playing Field | Pastor Rob

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: God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. 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

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels

Pre-Chorus O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Chorus 1 O come all ye faithful Come let us adore Him
O come all ye faithful Come let us adore Him

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God
Glory in the highest (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus 1*)

Chorus 2 O sing hallelujah Come let us adore Him
O sing hallelujah Come let us adore Him

Yes Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing (*Pre-Chorus*)

Chorus 3 O come all ye faithful Come let us adore Him
O come all ye faithful Come let us adore Him
O sing hallelujah He alone is worthy
O sing hallelujah He alone is worthy

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

Chris, friend of Danita Curry
Betty Wampach
Sarah Hennings prayers of healing
Brad and Kathy Gorman- prayers for health
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
Jerry, son of Judy Bridge
Dana & Daniel, friends of Judy Bridge
Nick Falkos
John Larkin, cousin of Pastor Rob
Bella, Karen Solan's granddaughter
Dave Belinski
Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk
Muriel Weigel, mother of Gary Weigel
Christy Dunn, Diane Rinehard, Jess Schell- working with Covid patients



DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

3000 LIBERTY ST. AURORA, IL. 60502 | (630) 862-3500 | OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM