



Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:15 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 20, 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*

Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and naturesing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, Repeat, the sounding joy

Chorus Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love;
And wonders of His love;
And wonders, wonders of His love. (*Chorus*)

O Come All Ye Faithful

Chorus O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

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!

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest (*Chorus*)

Christ the Lord You are the Lord

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

You are the Lord You are the Lord
You are the Lord Yeah

We'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever
Christ the Lord Glory in the highest (*Repeat*)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.
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 come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, 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

Philippians 2: 1-15

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

please stand

Great is the Lord

**Great is the Lord, he is holy and just,
by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true,
by his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice,
now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

MESSAGE

Be the News | 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: Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence. 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

Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation
Our Rock the only solid ground
The nations rise and fall
Kingdoms once strong now shaken
We trust forever in Your name
The name of Jesus
We trust in the name of Jesus

Chorus You are the only King forever
 Almighty God we lift You higher
 You are the only King forever
 Forevermore You are victorious

Unmatched in all Your wisdom
In love and justice You will reign
And ev'ry knee will bow
We bring our expectations
Our hope is anchored in Your name
The name of Jesus
Oh we trust the name of Jesus (*Chorus*)

We lift our banner high
We lift the name of Jesus
From age to age You reign
 Your kingdom has no end

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

Candlelight, glittering ornaments, the fresh smell of pine, and Christmas carols sung with family and friends. It's the most wonderful time of the year, and this year, we'd love to share it with you! Join us online 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. This year we will be providing "Christmas at Faith" gift bags that will include candles, communion bread and grape juice, and a special Christmas Eve devotion from Pastor Rob. Gift bags will be delivered on Dec. 23.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

12/11 – 12/21

Get on out and tour our homes for the Holiday Lights Competition! A map is posted on our website for you to begin touring all the homes. Cast your vote before 12/21 and winners will be announced on 12/22!

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

The Family of Muriel Weigel- mother of Gary Weigel, who passed away

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

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



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