



First Sunday of Christmas
9:15 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 27, 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 WORSHIP SERIES: MERRY CHRISTMESS

We all look for meaning in even the most random events—especially in the negative, difficult, challenging events. The Christmas story is a reminder that God interrupts our stories for a clear purpose that bring hope to not only us but the entire world.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG *please stand*

Here For You

Let our praise be Your welcome Let our songs be a sign

We are here for You, we are here for You

Let Your breath come from heaven

Fill our hearts with Your life

We are here for You, we are here for You

To You our hearts are open Nothing here is hidden

You are our one desire You alone are holy

Only You are worthy God, let Your fire fall down

Let our shout be Your anthem Your renown fill the skies

We are here for You, we are here for You

Let Your Word move in power

Let what's dead come to life

We are here for You, we are here for You

Let it fall Let it fall Let it fall

We welcome You with praise

We welcome You with praise

Almighty God of love

Be welcomed in this place *(Repeat)*

Let every heart adore Let every soul awake

Almighty God of love Be welcomed in this place

We welcome You with praise We welcome You with praise

Almighty God of love Be welcome in this place

Be welcome in Your house Lord Be welcome in Your house

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

L: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

MESSAGE

Merry Christmess | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P: Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

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: Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Chorus Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy Light. (*Chorus*)

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. (*Chorus*)

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn! (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVOLUTION ONLINE

Resumes 1/10 | 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

Resumes 1/10 | 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 Pat Gatske, who passed away

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

Chris, friend of Danita Curry

Betty Wampach

Sarah Hennings prayers of healing

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 & Jan Belinski

Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk

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



Pastor Rob Douglas
DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM

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