

# THE ONE THING

WHAT IF WE FOCUSED ON WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE?

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Second Sunday of Christmas  
9:15 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

January 3, 2021

## **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: THE ONE THING**

There are a lot of things you need to do this new year. There are a lot of things you can and will do. But what's one thing you must do? Maybe just as importantly—what might keep you from doing it?

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# The Gathering

**OPENING SONG** *please stand*

## **Blessed Be Your Name**

Blessed Be Your Name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed Be Your name

*Pre-Chorus* Every blessing You pour out, I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say

*Chorus* Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name (*Pre-Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord, blessed be Your name (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*)

## **Yes I Will**

I count on one thing  
The same God that never fails  
Will not fail me now  
You won't fail me now  
In the waiting  
The same God who's never late  
Is working all things out  
You're working all things out  
Yes I will, lift You high in the lowest valley  
Yes I will, bless Your name  
Yes I will, sing for joy when my heart is heavy  
All my days, oh yes I will  
I choose to praise  
To glorify, glorify  
The Name of all names  
That nothing can stand against  
For all my days, yes, I will

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

L: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## The Word

### FIRST LESSON

**Nehemiah 6: 1-4**

Now when it was reported to Sanballat and Tobiah and to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had built the wall and that there was no gap left in it (though up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they intended to do me harm. So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?” They sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We Are Called

Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be the light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God.

### GOSPEL

**John 1: 10-18**

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we

have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## MESSAGE

The One Thing | 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: Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. 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**

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# 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

## One Thing Remains

Higher than the mountains that I face  
Stronger than the power of the grave  
Constant through the trial and the change  
One thing remains, One thing remains

*Chorus* Your love never fails, never gives up  
Never runs out on me  
Your love never fails, never gives up  
Never runs out on me  
Your love never fails, never gives up  
Never runs out on me Your love...

On and on and on and on it goes  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul  
And I never, ever, have to be afraid  
One thing remains (*Chorus*)

In death, In life I'm confident and covered by  
The power of Your great love My debt is paid  
There's nothing that can separate  
My heart from Your great love... (*Repeat*) (*Verse 1*)

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

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## 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.

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## JOYS & CONCERNS

Jennifer, Mark & Booker, daughter of Dale Bridge  
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  
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