



FOLLOW



LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 5, 2023

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 : FOLLOW

No matter what you believe, no matter how you behave, Jesus invites you to ... follow.

The Gathering

OPENING SONGS *please stand*

Our God

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus Our God is greater
 Our God is stronger
 God You are higher than any other
 Our God is healer
 Awesome in power our God our God

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
(Then) what could stand against

Good, Good Father

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

Chorus You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide
'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word (*Chorus*)

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us (*Repeat*)

Oh, this love so undeniable
I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable
I, I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

OPENING PRAYER

A: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Blessing, Honor and Glory

please stand

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!
Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 10: 25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

MESSAGE

Love Does | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
- A: Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

please stand

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed trinity

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C: Amen.

The Meal

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift our hearts with joy,
we lift them to the Lord.**

P: We give you thanks, our God,
for that is right and good.

Yes, it is truly good,
our duty and delight,
that we should everywhere
and at all times give thanks.

And so we thank you now,
our holy Father, Lord,
eternal, mighty God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who came to earth for us in great humility
and by his birth and life has shown your love to us.

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
You fill all of heaven and earth; save us, God on high!**

P: Let us praise the One who comes in the name of God.
Praise to you on high!

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
and said, Take and eat; this is † my body, which is given for you. Do this
in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, after the supper, and when he had given
thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † my
blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Gracious Father, we therefore remember the sacrifice of our Lord in
celebration, as we receive his body and blood with this bread and wine.
We rejoice to receive all that he has done for us in his life and death, his
resurrection and ascension; and we wait for his coming again to share
with us the heavenly feast.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

AN INVITATION

We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed to the table enjoy this gift of God's love and mercy. Apple/Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at usher stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
† bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

I love You, Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after It's running after me

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Faith!

We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! Have questions about Faith? Wondering how to get connected or get more involved? We'd love to help. No matter where you are in life or how many times you've visited, we're here to guide you towards your next best step. Stop by the welcome center located near the main entrance. If this is your first time at Faith, let us know, we've got a special gift just for you!

CHILDRENS MINISTRY VALENTINES DAY EVENT

Fri 2/10 | 6:30 PM

Faith families are invited to attend the Valentines Day event. We will be packing up goody bags and making Valentine's cards to be distributed to our congregation members! Bring your creativity and the children's ministry team will provide the supplies!

MEMBERSHIP AT FAITH

Mon 2/13 & 2/20 | 6:30 PM

This two-part course invites participants to explore the vision, mission and values of Faith, as well as a broad overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will also discover their unique gifts and how they can use them in serving others. This course is open to everyone, and is an expectation of those who wish to become members at Faith. Register online or sign up at the welcome center.

CHIME IN CHOIR

Hand chimers needed. Come make a joyful noise with us on the first three Saturdays of the month at 11am to 12 noon. No musical experience needed. Inquire at the welcome desk about this fun and uplifting group!

CANDYGRAM FOR VALENTINES DAY FUNDRAISER

The 2023 Uganda mission team is hosting a Candy Gram fundraiser for this coming Valentine's Day. You can order your custom candy gram that will be delivered including your choice of candy, rose, and personal message. You can also upgrade to a singing candy gram and team members, including Pastor Rob, will deliver the candy gram with your song of choice. To order your candy gram, go to www.discoveringfaith.com/candygram, or stop by the welcome center. All proceeds go to benefit our mission team that will be serving orphaned and abandoned children in Uganda through our ministry partner Watoto Church.

GROUPLINK

Wed 2/15 | 7:00 PM

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending GroupLink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online.

ADULT ONLINE STUDY GROUP: COLOSSIANS

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Back in the first century the church was dealing a massive challenge that has never gone away...the problem of division. Throughout history, and in every part of the world, people can be divided because of ethnicity, gender, social class, religion, and a long list of other things. The world might be divided over these things, but Christians should not be.

Join us for our 6-part online study group that meets Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:15pm. Register today either online or at the welcome center.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for preschool classes which will begin Fall 2023. There is a 5% tuition discount for church members. Information and forms for registration are available on the church website discoveringfaith.com/bright-beginnings. Feel free to call the church (630) 862-3500 and leave a message for Jenn at extension 103 or email jenn@discoveringfaith.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wed 2/22 | Noon & 7:00 PM

During the Christian church year, there are two major celebrations. One is Christmas where we celebrate Jesus' birth, and the other is Easter, when we celebrate His death and resurrection. There is a time before Easter where we often prepare ourselves for Jesus' death and resurrection. This time is known as Lent.

Lent consists of the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays— because they are always celebrations of Jesus' resurrection. Thus, the first day of Lent is always a Wednesday. In ancient times, people marked times of fasting, prayer, and repentance by placing ashes on their foreheads. Today we do it as a reminder of who we are and what we are—forgiven sinners.

KIDWERKS

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Kidwerks~in person AND online!

Join us as we dive into learning about new virtues each month through stories from the bible so that we can grow in our understanding and relationship with God. To register go to discoveringfaith.com or for more information please contact jenn@discoveringfaith.com

REVOLUTION

Sundays | 5:00 PM

On Sunday Nights at Faith, we've created an event that attracts **middle & high school students just like you**. After all, we figure you want to be wherever your friends are. We make this time as fun and relevant as we possibly can. The goal is for you to leave feeling energized to go out there and tackle another week!

Register online- discoveringfaith.com

UPCOMING REVOLUTION DATES

Sunday 2/5 – Groups

Sunday 2/19 – Groups

Sunday 2/26 - Gathering

Giving at Faith! As Easy as Click & Give



As followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace irrational generosity. We know it changes lives—ours and the people we're reaching. At Faith, taking action on your generosity is simple. Just scan the QR code with your camera and give. Simple, safe, and secure.



Pastor Rob Douglas

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