First Sunday of Lent
8:00 am worship service

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving…

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

February 26, 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 WORSHIP SERIES: MEALS WITH JESUS

Can a meal change your life? The Gospel of John says that Jesus came "eating and drinking." Of course, he came to give his life as a ransom on the cross, but his method of sharing the good news centered around ordinary food and drink—wine at a wedding, bread in the desert, dinner around a table, grilled fish on a campfire. For Jesus, ordinary meals eaten with sinners represented something bigger. They represented a new world and a new kingdom, and that's why his critics called him a "friend of sinners." Take your place at the table and discover that a meal with Jesus changes everything.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C Amen.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.

P Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory | ELW #324

please stand

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,
Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

FIRST READING **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

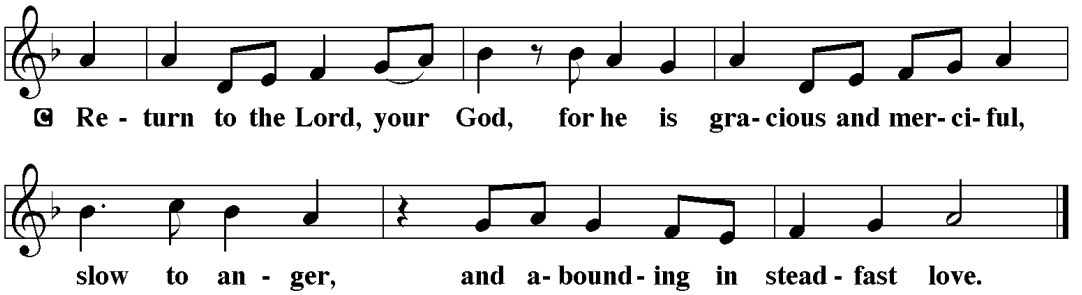
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

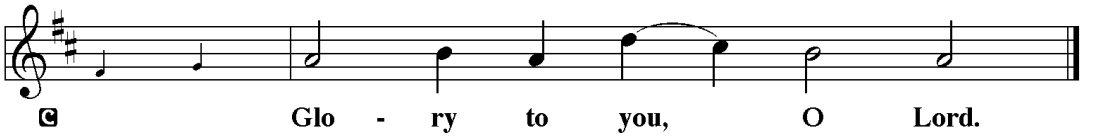
SECOND READING **Romans 5:12-19**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

LENTEN VERSE *please stand*



P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd chapter.

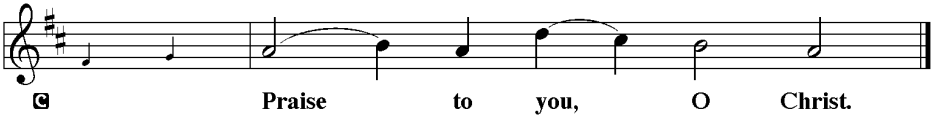


GOSPEL **John 2: 1-12**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE Wine at the Wedding | Pastor Rob

HYMN OF THE DAY Let Us Break Bread Together | ELW #471

please stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A: You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith… Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

The Meal

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

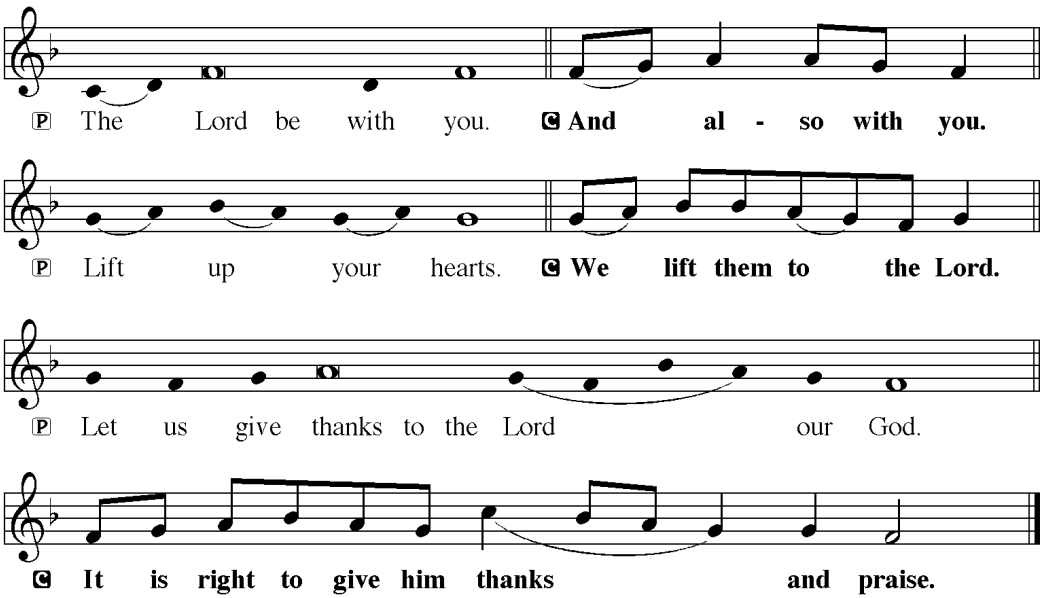
OFFERING RESPONSE *please stand*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

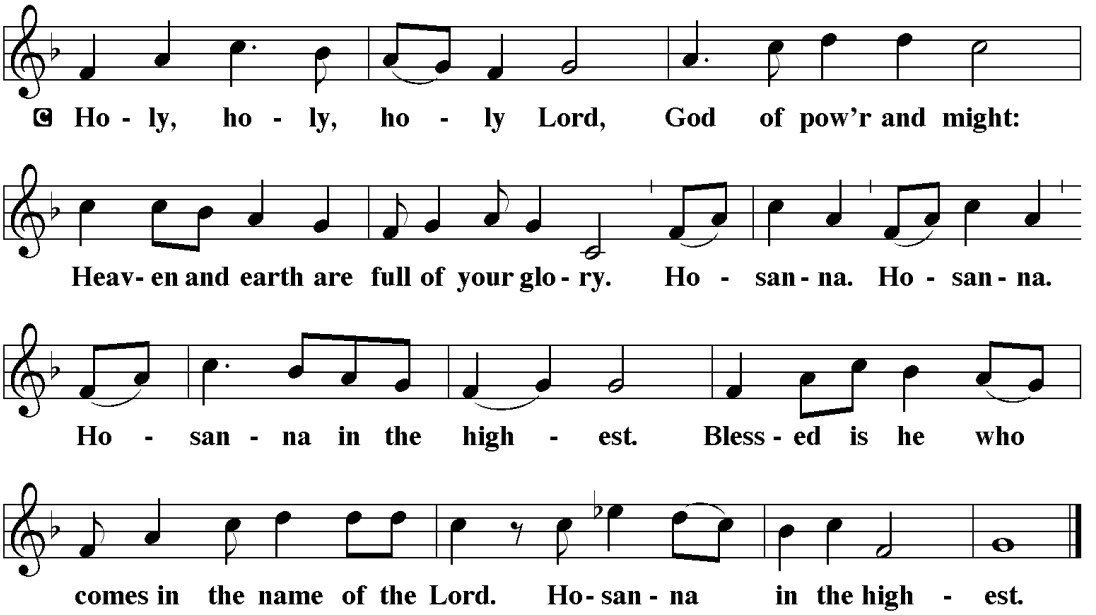
A: God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right and salutary . . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

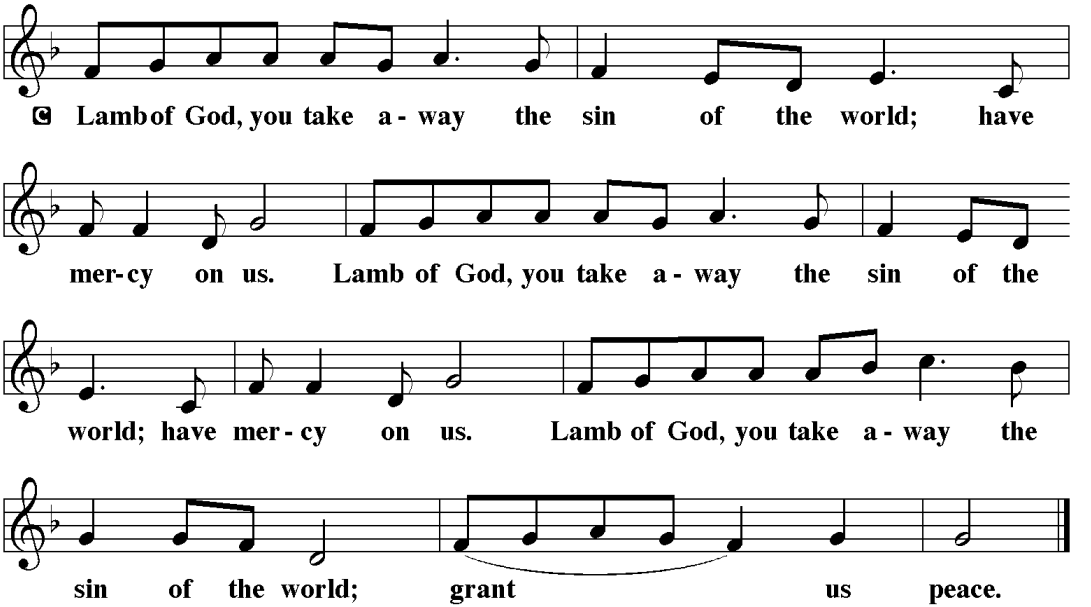
P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

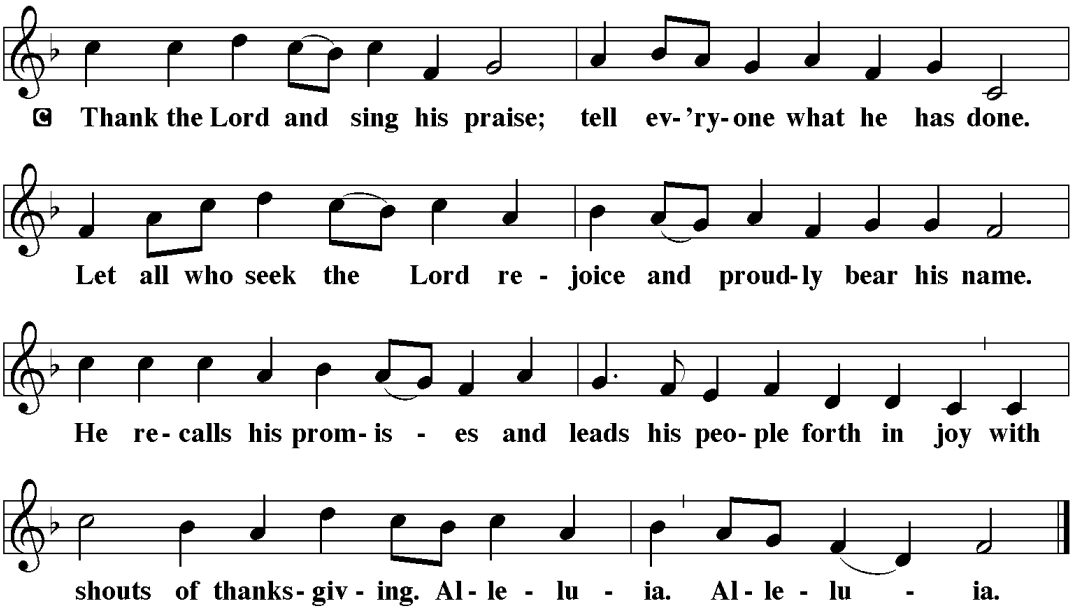
AN INVITATION

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 the usher stand, please ask an usher to assist you.



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

C: Amen.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

please stand

A: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen

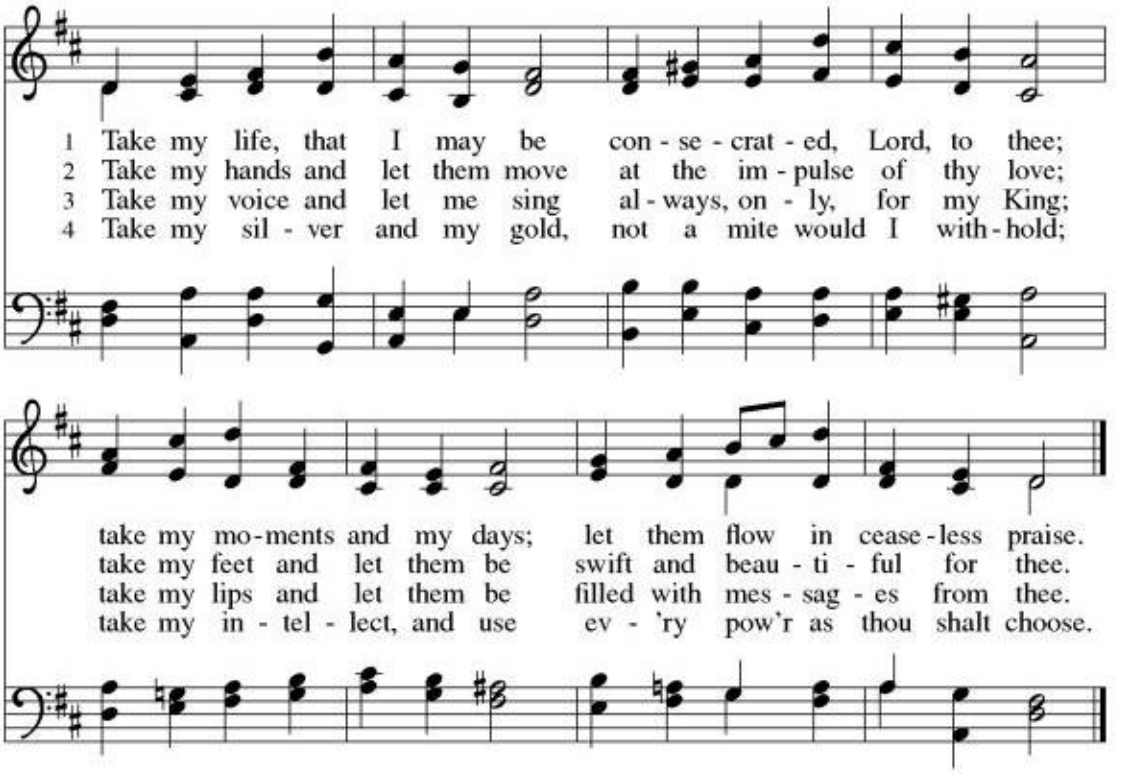
The Sending

BLESSING

P: God, the giver of love,
† Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN Take My Life, That I May Be | ELW #685



DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

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!

LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL **Wednesdays | 6:30 PM**

Each Lenten season we provide a fellowship opportunity for people of faith to gather around a table and share a meal. This meal is intended to be simple and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another. Everyone who attends shares in the responsibility of providing different components for the meal. We invite five to six volunteers each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread, vegetables or cookies. Beverages and table service will be provided. It is a great way to embrace fellowship time prior to the mid-week Lenten worship services. The Lenten Meal will be offered at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29. Worship service will begin at 7:15 PM. Please join us! You may sign up at the welcome center

MIDWEEK WORSHIP – The Power to Become **Wednesdays | 7:15 PM**

Begins 3/1/23

Few things in life are more frustrating than knowing you need to change, trying to change, but not actually changing. It's possible to find the power to become so you can start living the life you want. We'll discover together how to master the habits that matter the most so that we can become all that God has made us to be. Don't miss this inspiring journey!

HOLY WEEK 2023

Maundy Thursday	April 6 | 7:00 PM
Good Friday	April 7 | 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM
Easter Celebration Worship	Sunday April 9 | 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 AM

BLOOD DRIVE **Sat 3/18 | 9:00AM**

We will be hosting a Blood Drive on Sat, March 18 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the auditorium. There will be snacks and more! Download the flyer from the Faith website discoveringfaith.com for complete details, including how to schedule an appointment. Thank you!

EASTER FLOWERS **Orders Due Mar 26**

Once again a variety of spring flowers will be offered to adorn our altar for the Easter services. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one or just celebrate the Glory of God please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office. Order forms available at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

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 2/26 – Gathering
Sunday 3/5 – Groups
Sunday 3/12 – Serve
Sunday 3/19 – Groups

NEXT **Sun 3/19 | 9:00 & 10:30 AM**

If you've ever wondered how to get involved at Faith, or how to take the next step, don't worry. We've created a simple next step for you. It's a small gathering called NEXT. This informal gathering lasts only about 20 minutes after services and will provide you an overview of our mission, strategy, and environments to help you determine your best next step for continuing your faith journey. Meets fireside

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.

Prayers
If you would like to add someone to our prayer list and have the prayer team pray for them, please contact the church office at (630) 862-3500 or send an e-mail prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com
Prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

Care
If you know of someone who is in need of emotional, physical, or spiritual support, please contact our care team at: careteam@discoveringfaith.com

Pastoral Emergency
In the case of an emergency that requires immediate Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Rob directly on his cell phone at (630) 248-5515.

FAITH
Lutheran Church

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