

Welcome

We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn

Christ Be My Leader | 861

Please be seated. Turn to page 268 in your hymnal, for the rite of Holy Baptism.

The Service of Holy Baptism for Marguerite Elaine Carmickle

Born February 14, 2026

Parents Rick & Allegra Carmickle

Sponsor Joseph & April Ann Wofford

Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026 (Setting 4)

Abraham's Account and Accounting

Banking and other financial services largely work on a system of credits and debits. Direct deposits, earnings, and gifts from others get added to your account. Debit cards, checks, losses, and other charges are subtracted. Accountants are employed to make sure "the books are balanced." Many of us have struggled to balance our accounts correctly with at least some money left over.

Romans 4 recounts the "account" of Abraham. In it, Paul uses a financial term eleven times to describe God's banking system. But it operates in a most unusual way, the way of the Gospel! At our jobs, when an employee completes tasks as assigned, the employer is obligated to pay what's owed (4:4). Before a righteous God, our sinful works also deserve to receive their just payment, which would leave us all hopelessly bankrupt. But here Paul declares that true blessedness resides in the fact that God does not charge our sins against our account; instead, all of our debts are erased (4:7-8)!

Yet the Gospel encompasses so much more than removing negatives! It also delivers many gracious gifts. Positively speaking, our account before God is "credited" with righteousness, free of charge. Faith simply receives all of this as a gracious gift (4:5). Paul later uses the language of inheritance (4:13, 16). Here again, one is granted financial benefits simply because of being the offspring of a wealthy father.

~Rev. Michael P. Middendorf, Irvine, California.

Please stand.

Confession & Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

[Matt 28:19b; 18-20]

Our help is in the name of the Lord **who made heaven and earth.** [Psalm 124:8]
If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

[Psalm 130:3-4]

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]



Kyrie

[Southwell LSB 424]

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** [1 Timothy 4:22]

Let us pray... *[silence for individual prayer]* O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb. [Genesis 12:1-9]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading is from Romans.

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not

counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. [Romans 4:1-8, 13-17]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [John 3:1-17]

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.

Children’s Message

The children are invited forward for a message led by Pastor Fitch.

Hymn God Loved the World So That He Gave | **571 (1-3)**

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

...let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the Life at Faith insert.

Please be seated.

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay



Please stand.

Hymn

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares and pleasures.
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation.* [LSB 422]

Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

The Words of Our Lord

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 the disciples and said: “Take, eat: this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this is My + blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

[Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** [John 20:19]

Lamb of God

[John 1:29]

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

Hymns Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart | **708**
 The Lamb | **547**
When all have communed, please stand.

Post Communion Song

[Luke 2:29-32]

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Announcements

[Galatians 6:10]

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you
 and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you + peace. **Amen.** [Psalm 103:1; Numbers 6:24-26]

Hymn God Loved the World So That He Gave | **571 (4-6)**

Postlude

Acknowledgments—Artwork: Nicodemus Visiting Jesus by Henry Ossawa Tanner. All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The order of service is from Lutheran Service Book, © 2006 Concordia Publishing House Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under oneLicense.net #A-710394.2026Bulletins (Year A) 2 Lent March 1, 2026(A)



Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

Faith Lutheran Church
 P O Box 1164
 Columbus, Indiana 47202
 812/342-3587
 www.faithlutheran.org

Church Office
 office@faithlutheran.org
 Missy Collins
 Sarah Dill

Pastors
 Josiah Fitch
 pastor@faithlutheran.org
 Richard Tremain
 Pastor Emeritus

Church Council
 Tom Rafferty, Chair
 *If you would like a Board Chair's email, contact the church office

Church Elders
 Michael Waltz, Chair
Church Trustees
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Mercy Ministry
 Regina Allman, Chair
Stewardship Ministry
 Bill Schnackel, Chair

Christian Education
 Susan Waltz, Chair
 Laurel Weddle, Preschool Committee Chair
 Child Care Director
 preschool@faithlutheran.org