

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**23425 Davis Mill Road**  
**Germantown, Maryland 20876**

*A Congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches*



**Our Mission Statement**

*We strive to be worthy witnesses to the world.*

**At Christ Lutheran, we strive to lead lives worthy of our calling as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in God's world.  
(Ephesians 4:1)**

**Web Site:** [clcmd.org](http://clcmd.org) or [christlutheranofgermantown.org](http://christlutheranofgermantown.org)

**Facebook:** Christ Lutheran Church AALC

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**Church Secretary:** Carrie Shriver Perini  
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**Pastor Emeritus:** Irvin Stapf  
**Pastor:** Vacant  
**Vicar:** Chris Clarke  
**Liturgist:** Bob Petersen

SECOND SUNDAY IN  
**LENT**

***Second Sunday in Lent***  
***March 1, 2026***

*During the music before the service let us join in a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

*Please stand as you are able where marked\*\*\**

***Greetings and Announcements***

***Prelude***

***\*\*\*The Confession and Absolution***

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

***(A time of silent reflection and self-examination.)***

**Pastor:** Most merciful God.

**People:** We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

**Pastor:** 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 declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen. Thanks be to God.

***\*\*\*Opening Hymn:***

***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

***Hymnal #385***

*My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' Blood and righteousness:*

*No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face I rest on his unchanging grace;*

*In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

*His oath, his covenant, his Blood, Support me in the whelming flood;*

*When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne!*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

**\*\*\*Psalm: Psalm 121 (read responsively)**

**Liturgist:** <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills –

**People:** where does my help come from?

**Liturgist:** <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,

**People:** the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Liturgist:** <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip –

**People:** he who watches over you will not slumber;

**Liturgist:** <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel

**People:** will neither slumber nor sleep.

**Liturgist:** <sup>5</sup> The Lord watches over you –

**People:** the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

**Liturgist:** <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day,

**People:** nor the moon by night.

**Liturgist:** <sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all harm –

**People:** he will watch over your life;

**Liturgist:** <sup>8</sup> the Lord will watch over your coming and going

**People:** both now and forevermore.

**\*\*\*The Gloria Patri: (sung)** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**\*\*\*The Kyrie: (responses are sung)**

**Liturgist:** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Liturgist:** Christ, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**Liturgist:** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Liturgist:** Glory be to God on high!

**\*\*\*Gloria in Excelsis: (sung)** *And on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen*

**\*\*\*Collect:**

**Liturgist:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And with thy spirit.*

**Liturgist:** Let us pray.

**People:** O God, who seest that of ourselves we have no strength: Keep us both outwardly and inwardly; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## ***The Scripture Lessons:***

### **First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.”

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

**Liturgist:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### **Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17**

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup> 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.

**Liturgist:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**\*\*\*The Lenten Sentence: (sung)** *Christ hath humbled himself, and become obedient unto death: even the death of the Cross.*

**Vicar:** Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the third chapter of Saint John beginning with the first verse.

**\*\*\*People (sung)** Glory be to thee, O Lord

**Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup> 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?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> 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.

**Vicar:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**\*\*\*People: (sung)** Praise be to thee, O Christ

**Children's Sermon:**

*Vicar Chris Clarke*



*For God so loved  
the world that he  
gave his one and  
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

*Jesus, refuge of the weary, Object of the spirit's love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Saviour from the world above;  
O how oft thine eyes offended, Gaze upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the Cross extended, Thou didst bear the pain of all.*

*Do we pass that Cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see thee wounded, bleeding, See thy thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet thy sinless death hath brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what thy grace hath taught us Calm the sinner's stormy breast.*

*Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for thee;  
May our eyes be ever turning To thy Cross of agony;  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Saviour's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the Cross, the Crucified.*

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Stapf**

**Faith  
in the  
Right  
Object**



**The Sermon Response: (sung)** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

**\*\*\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*\*\*The Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

**\*\*\*The General Prayer: (after each petition)**

**Vicar:** Lord in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**\*\*\*The 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, For ever and ever. Amen.

**\*\*\*The Prayer Response: (sung)**

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

**\*\*\*The Benediction:**

**Vicar:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**People: (sung)** *A-men, A-men, A---men.*

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn:**

***Nothing But the Blood***

***P&P #180***

*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Chorus)*

***Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.***

*For my pardon this I see – Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
For my cleansing, this my plea – Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Chorus)*

*Nothing can for sin atone – Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
Naught of good that I have done – Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Chorus)*

*This is all my hope and peace – Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
This is all my righteousness – Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Chorus)*

**\*\*\*The Postlude**

### ***Prayers and Praises:***

For our church leaders:

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carey G. Larson  
Assistant Presiding Pastor: Rev. Roger Twito  
AALC Administrator: Rev. Dean Stoner  
Secretary Pastor: Rev. Joe Marsh  
Home Mission Developer: Rev. Joe Christina  
National Office Manager: Bonnie Ohlrich  
Seminary President: Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper  
Seminary Administrator: Duane Kleven

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Dorothy Foster	Brian Gray
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf
Ben Flynn	Meryl Benenati	Tom Jarels	Rodney Perini
Mary Neighly	Ana Soulen	The Reverend Joe Christina	

For those that have suffered loss due to hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke,  
Bethany Hueter, Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: The Reverend Joe Christina, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, NC

For our missionary work: Pastor Scott Yount

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Damascus UM Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Joseph Flesch, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Men's Bible Study: Monday – 11AM at Joe Flesch's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM at Church.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School at 9:30 AM.**
- **You may continue to watch the Sunday services (10:30 AM) via Livestream on Facebook – Christ Lutheran Church AALC. The Bulletins for the services are on our website: [clcmd.org](http://clcmd.org) or [christlutheranofgermantown.org](http://christlutheranofgermantown.org). The video of every livestream is on our Facebook page. You can access the livestream by clicking the link at the bottom of the first page of our website or by visiting the Facebook page directly. Be sure to click on the 'videos' tab.**
- **We will be collecting canned fruits and vegetables for Damascus HELP during the month of March. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, March. 8<sup>th</sup>, after church. Please plan on attending, as we need a quorum. HELP us plan what you would like for 2026!! Please bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided.**
- **Don't forget to pick up your Lenten devotional booklet in the hallway.**