



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

108 West Rice Street
Landis, North Carolina 28088
Church Office: 704-857-2441
www.tlclandis.org

Pastor ~ Reverend Candice Carter
Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

Welcome Visitors!

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We are both excited and honored that you've joined us for worship today! We hope you'll join us again next week at 9:30am for Sunday School and 10:30 for worship.



If you have a smartphone, use your phone's camera or code scanner to electronically submit your **church connection card**. Let us know how we might be able to serve and pray for you.

Restrooms: Located downstairs under the Sanctuary, the back hallway behind the Sanctuary or in the lobby connector with the Fellowship Hall.

Families with Children: If you wish, a staffed nursery for children aged 0-4 is located in the lower level of the building below the sanctuary. Children also have the option of worshipping in the sanctuary, or attending Children's Church, which begins after the Children's Chat.

Food & Drinks: To help keep our worship space clean and reverent, no food is permitted in the sanctuary. Water bottles or enclosed cups are welcome. Thank for your cooperation.

Question: If you have any questions, please feel free to ask an usher.

Please Connect With Us!



tlclandis.org



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You may contact the church office at 704-857-2441 or contact Pastor Candice by email: PastorCandiceCarter@gmail.com



✝ Please stand as you are able where denoted during the worship service.

Prelude

Karen McKnight

Psalm 51:1–13, 14–19

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

C: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

L: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

C: Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

L: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

L: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

C: Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

L: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

L: My sacrifice, O God, is[a] a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

C: May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

L: Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Exhortation

† The Prayers of Confession and Repentance

P: Let us draw near to God with an honest heart, confessing our sins to God the Father, and appealing to him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

(Silence is observed for reflection)

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and the exploitation of other people,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

† Imposition of Ashes

P: As children of a fallen humanity, each of us shares in the consequences of human sin. In the words that the Lord first spoke to Adam, he now reminds us all: “By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19) As a sign of repentance, I now ask those who wish to do so, to come forward to receive the mark of the cross in ashes upon their brow.

(When the imposition of ashes has concluded)

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn to him and live.

Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the least we may come into his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† Opening Hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” LBW Hymn

† Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12–19

- ¹² “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
- ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.
- ¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.
- ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.
- ¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber.
- ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”
- ¹⁸ Then the Lord was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.
- ¹⁹ The Lord replied[a] to them: “I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

- ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.
- ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- ¹ As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.
- ² For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.”[b] I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.
- ³ We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.
- ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;
- ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;
- ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;
- ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;
- ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;
- ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;
- ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

† **Response before the Gospel**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Sermon

“Marked by the Cross, Not by Applause”

† **Hymn of the Day** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LBW
Hymn 482

† **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

- ¹ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- ² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
- ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
- ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- ⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
- ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- ¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.
- ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,
- ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
- ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

† **Response following the Gospel**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

† **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

† **The Great Thanksgiving**

† **Words of Institution**

† **The Lord's Prayer**

† **Distribution**

“Ave Verum Corpus”

Choir

† **Prayer**

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Do this in Remembrance of Me

† **The Prediction of the Passion**

P: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem...
And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, who will condemn him to death...
And they will hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him and scourge him, and finally, they will crucify him...
But on the third day, he will rise.

For our Ash Wednesday Service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians are invited to participate. Those who do not commune may come forward with their hands at their side for a pastoral blessing. The ashes used for our service are from the Palms used last year on Palm Sunday. They were burned last night at our Shrove Tuesday Supper. They are a sign of repentance used in ancient practice. For us, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sins. They suggest cleansing and renewal and remind us of the brevity of human life.

(The congregation exits in silence)