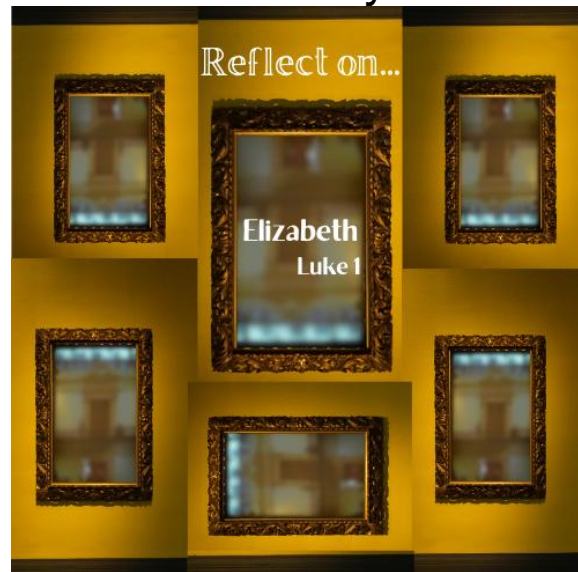


Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
January 11, 2026
Pastor Bethany Walker



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Nick & Kendra Weber In support of radio ministry

Call to Worship [Psalm 29 - The Lord Will Bless His People With Peace - Francesca LaRosa \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered in this holy space let us pause to reflect on the ways we have fallen short in our call to be God's faithful people

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of the helpless, you meet us in this place, holding up a mirror to our lives. Where we are called to reflect your love too often we reflect our own brokenness in ways that cause more harm. Where we are called to care too often we judge and leave people worse than we found them. Turn our hearts back to you O God and your ways so that we might reflect grace on our neighbors whose lives bear your image. Teach us to mirror your mercy and love for the sake of all creation.

God, in whose image you were created, sees only your belovedness. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit you are forgiven, freed from the burden of sin and claimed once again by God's saving grace. In the freedom of this fresh start let us now worship God mindful that our lives of faith reflect God's love for all the world.

Opening Hymn

Come to the Water of Life ACS 955

All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love, all who are thirsty for love, for mercy come, come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for healing all who are thirsty for touch; all who are thirsty for touch, for healing come, come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for beauty; all who are thirsty for truth; all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty come, come to the Water of life

All who are thirsty for justice; all who are thirsty for peace, all who are thirsty for peace, for justice come, come to the Water of life.

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

God of our lives, as we open scripture to learn from the lives of the faithful, open our hearts to reflect on your faithfulness in our lives too. Make this season of living in the unforced rhythms of grace one of reflecting on the good news that is ours through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Centering Song [Into the New Year With You – Inspired by Chris Tomlin | Christian New Year Worship 2026](#)

Welcome the Word

Let us build a house where prophets speak, the Word is strong and true, where all God's children can reflect on God's reign made a new. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus; All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 57-66

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

I Love to Tell the Story **LBW 390**

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory,
Of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true.

It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

(refrain)

I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory and tell the old,
old story, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, how pleasant to repeat what seems each time
I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some
have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy
Word. (refrain)

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering
and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I
sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved
so long. (refrain)

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, receive our prayer

Peace

Offering

Offertory Response

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a
banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the
love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we
reflect the Christ that feeds us; All are welcome. All are welcome. All
are welcome in this place.

Offering Prayer

God of all hope and help, these gifts given freely reflect our trust in
you and our commitment to share your good news with the world.
Use them in forgotten places and sacred spaces that need to know
your love. Prepare us now to eat this holy meal with Jesus as host.
Ready us to reflect on what love looks like when it is served at an
ever-expanding table of your grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Consecration

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he writes, "For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." Jesus' first followers were blessed to know Jesus face to face. As they traveled, laughed, cried, prayed and lived life together they became fully known to Jesus. On the night Jesus was handed over he gathered with his disciples to share a meal...through this holy meal we know in part the sacredness of our relationship to God. Lord let your Holy Spirit be poured out on this sacred food and drink, reflecting your unending love for your people. Strengthen us in this meal until we see you face to face. Make us fully known as we eat of this bread, drink of this cup and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

God of Faithfulness, you have hosted a meal that fed our spirits and restored our souls. Strengthened by this sacred gift make us willing to reflect your mercy, grace and love into the lives of all whom we encounter. May we make you fully known in how we live and move and have our being. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee LBW 551

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,

Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine;

Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Dismissal

We go now to reflect on God's love and share it with the world!

Thanks be to God!