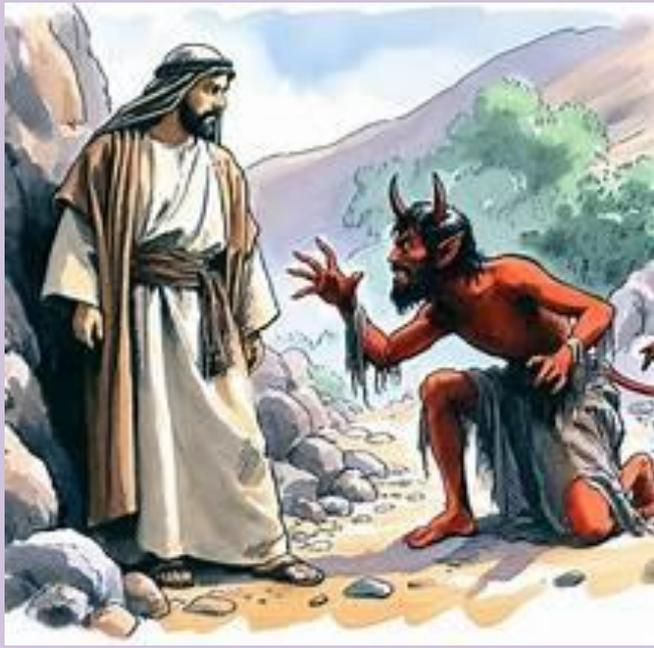


February 22, 2026
7th Sunday after the Epiphany



**Mission Statement: To Bring People to Christ
And Nurture Them in the Faith**



Pastor: Rob Bacon
Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Rev. Jerry Swanberg, Emeritus
501 2nd Street, PO Box 307
Maxwell, IA 50161
Office and FAX: (515) 387-8594
Website: <https://www.maxwellmc.org>

Maxwell Methodist Church
February 22, 2026 – 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor: Robert Bacon; Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon

Pianist: Deb Mitchell

*Please stand if able

Prelude. Deb Mitchell

Welcome/Announcements

We Worship as We Rejoice

The Praise Team

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Blessed is the one whose sins are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

**People: We confess our sins to the Lord
and rejoice in His mercy.**

Leader: Jesus was led into the wilderness and
overcame every temptation.

People: We come to follow Him and live by His word.

Leader: Come, let us worship the one who offers grace to all.

ALL: We lift our hearts to the Lord, our Savior and King!

We Worship in Prayer

***Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen deep into sin. We have
turned away from Your Word and followed the desires of our hearts.
Forgive us, Lord, and lead us in paths of righteousness. We pray this in the
name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

We Worship as in Song

Hymn. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". Hymnal #35

We Worship in Prayer

Praises and Requests

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Worship in Giving

Offering plates are at both doors as you enter or leave and will not be passed.

***Doxology / *Offertory Prayer**

We Worship by Hearing the Word

Psalm 32 {NIV}

- ¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- ² Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- ³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
- ⁷ You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
- ⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.
- ¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The

tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

We Worship in Song

Hymn. “Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord”. Hymnal #558
(Verses 1, 3 & 4)

We Worship in Learning the Word

Sermon. “O, The Joy and Blessing of Forgiveness”. Pastor Rob Bacon

We Worship as in Song

*Hymn. “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”. Hymnal #93
(Verses 1 & 3)

*Benediction

Postlude. Deb Mitchell

Announcements

- **Pastor’s Office Hours** : By appointment. Rob 515-460-8885; Carol 515-460-8969
- **Bulletin Announcements**: Please forward bulletin announcements to office@maxwellmc.org by Wednesday.
- **Fellowship Sign-up**: Please sign up to bring refreshments for fellowship time.
- **SSNOW**: Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- **February 28 @ 8:30 am**: Men’s Breakfast
- **March 8**: Daylight Savings Time Begins