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Pastor Frank Gantt
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October 28, 2026

Mission Festival Sunday



Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

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WELCOME: *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

Like Isaiah, we are sinners who cannot stand before the holy God; yet in Christ, God has reconciled the world to Himself, forgiving our sins and giving us His righteousness. Saved by grace, we pray that His salvation may be known among all nations. This Mission Festival, our risen Savior sends His Church to make disciples by baptizing and teaching, with His promise to be with us always.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN: #505

O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness

O'er the gloomy hills of darkness,
Cheered by no celestial ray,
Sun of Righteousness, arising,
Bring the bright, the glorious day.
Let the morning
Of Thy blessed Gospel dawn.

Kingdoms wide that sit in darkness,
Grant them, Lord, the glorious light;
And from eastern coast to western
May the morning chase the night
And redemption,
Freely purchased, win the day!

Fly abroad, eternal Gospel;
Win and conquer, never cease.
May Thy lasting, wide dominions
Multiply and still increase!
May Thy scepter
Sway th' enlightened world around!

INVOCATION

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

Cong: (spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Cong: If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and His truth is not in us.

Cong: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Then let us confess our sins to God in prayer and seek His forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Cong: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray, of Your bountiful mercy, be merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.

Cong: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 67:1-6

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us. May his face shine on us

Cong: So that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

Pastor: May the peoples praise You, O God. May the peoples praise You—all of them.

**Cong: May the countries be glad and sing for joy, because
You rule the peoples with fairness, and You guide the
countries of the earth.**

*Pastor: May the peoples praise You, O God. May the peoples
praise You—all of them.*

**Cong: The earth will yield its harvest. God, our God, will
bless us.**

**May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us,
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the heathen show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.**

**Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of ev'ry nation,
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation;
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word,
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.
Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

*Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, You have reconciled the
world to Yourself through Your Son and entrusted to Your
Church the Word of reconciliation. Cleanse us from our sins,
strengthen our faith in Christ, and send faithful laborers to
proclaim His Gospel among all nations; through Jesus Christ,*

Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

(EHV) For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. (15) And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again. (16) As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. (17) So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! (18) And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (19) That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (21) God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 28:16-20

(EHV) The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. (17) When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain. (18) Jesus approached and spoke to them saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and by teaching them to keep all the

instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.”

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostolic Creed

I believe 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, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living 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.

HYMN: #342

Chief of Sinners, Though I Be

**Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die,
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me—wondrous thought!—
Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Jesus only can impart
Balm to heal the smitten heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiven,
Joy that lifts the soul to heaven;
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife,
He sustains the hidden life.**

**O my Savior, help afford
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.**

THE SERMON: Isaiah 6:1-8 (NKJV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!”*

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.” Then one of the

seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Sinners...Saved and Sent

OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me with Your free Spirit.
Amen.**

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #496

Hark! the Voice of Jesus Crying

**Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers thee;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?**

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the Judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.
If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.
Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: We give our thanks to Missionary Ohlmann both for the Bible Class presentation and for sharing the Gospel with us, as he does so faithfully with others around the world. He just returned from Bangladesh on Friday after a week and a half trip to share the Gospel there. May God bless the Word he preaches both to them and to us.

FOOD DRIVE: Even as we also are fellow witnesses of the saving Gospel of Christ, we also have opportunity to help our fellow man with his bodily needs. For a couple of months now we have been collecting food items (as well as other essentials) to help those in the greater St. Louis area with these needs. If you have items to donate, you may drop them off on the table in the kitchen.

REFORMATION FESTIVAL: Next Sunday will be the Sunday after Reformation, during which we will consider the great blessings God has bestowed upon us through the Reformation and the clear presentation of the Gospel of free forgiveness through Christ. The morning Bible Class will be a video presentation of the 500th Anniversary of Luther's Mass, which serves as the basis of our own liturgy, especially the liturgy used on Sundays during which we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The video was written and produced by Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd in Rapid City, SD.

PASTOR ON VACATION: Following the service next week, Pastor and Candra will be departing for their final week of vacation. God willing, we will return on Tuesday, November 3. Leonard will be conducting the service on November 1. We thank him for his service to the Lord and to the members of Faith and Zion.

CIRCUIT TRIPS: Due to a few health issues, Pastor Gantt will not be taking his circuit trips for the months of November and December as he needs to do some doctoring. Already, from this past couple of weeks, things are looking much brighter, but this added time of not traveling will be a benefit in the process. God willing, he will resume his work among our brothers in TN, GA, and NC in January.

CALL NEWS: Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has **returned** the call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as Part-Time Missionary to India. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA, and Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO, has **returned** the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, has **accepted** the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Neal Radichel of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has **received** the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

October 26 – October 31, 2026

Mon John 4:46-54 Jesus' compassion extends far beyond healing. He is most interested that people should believe His Word (v48,50,53). The official returns home in faith, his son lives, his whole family believes!

Tues Ephesians 6:10-17 How shall we be protected? By truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God. This is the full armor of God which enables us to stand on the evil day.

Wed Hosea 13:14 After showing how His people have forsaken Him, God calls them to believing repentance with the promise of ransom and redemption. With Him they will overcome Death and Grave!

Thurs Psalm 31:1-8 David took refuge in the LORD and found deliverance in His righteousness. David's Lord remembered these words (v5) as He hung on the cross (Lk24:36) and repeated them as He saved us.

Fri Psalm 119:161-168 Persecution may come from those in high places, but the believer holds God's Word in even higher esteem. He hates falsehood because he loves the truth, which brings salvation.

Sat John 8:31-32 Reformation Day – a time to thank God for keeping Martin Luther in God's Word. From that Word he learned the truth about God's forgiveness in Christ, and freedom from condemnation.