



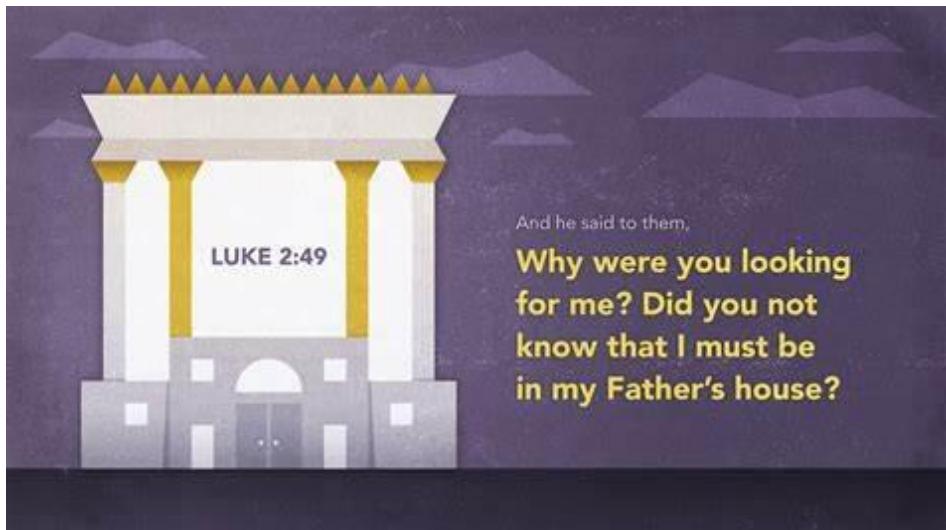
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**Pastor Frank Gantt**  
(470) 214-3401

**January 4, 2026**



And he said to them,

**Why were you looking  
for me? Did you not  
know that I must be  
in my Father's house?**

**Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession**  
<https://clclutheran.org/>

**WELCOME:** Good morning and welcome to all who are present with us this morning.

*In our service today our Scripture readings and hymns teach us to be prepared for the day our Lord will return to take us to heaven. That preparation is to be found not in watching for signs on the earth, but through daily repentance in regard to sin and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

**HYMN: #114**

*"Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"*

**Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.**

**Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told--  
Kneeling in her lowly cell--  
By the angel Gabriel.**

**Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen sons of earth,  
For the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall His people save."**

**Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe  
First He tasted here below.**

**Jesus! Only name that's given  
Under all the mighty heaven  
Whereby man, to sin enslaved,  
Bursts his fetters and is saved.**

**Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee,**

**Helpless, O our God, to Thee.  
Amen.**

## **INVOCATION**

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

**Cong: Amen.**

## **CONFSSION & ABSOLUTION**

*Pastor: Dearly loved by God, since we have come to worship and to give praise to our God, we ought to acknowledge that we come as sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God. So let us draw near with a true heart to confess our sins unto God, our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy upon us and to grant us forgiveness.*

*Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

**Cong: Who made heaven and earth.**

*Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord."*

**Cong: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

*Pastor: On the basis of your confession and by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of*

*my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Cong: Amen.**

*Pastor: O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who has set Your glory above the heavens.  
You, O lord, are our Father and our Redeemer.  
Your name is from everlasting.*

**Cong: (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,  
forevermore. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Glory be to God on high,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We thank You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You,  
we give thanks to You, for Your 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, You who takes away the sin  
of the world, have mercy upon us. You who takes away the  
sin of the world, receive our prayer. You who sits at the right  
hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.  
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
are most high in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**Cong: And with your spirit.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*Pastor: O Lord, Who for our sakes has made Your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to endure the curse of sin for us, we implore You, by the Holy Spirit, to make our hearts to be pure from all sinful desires and to fix our hearts on Him who is seated at Your right hand in the heavens that we might not lose that precious hope that You have given to us in Him; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.*

**Cong: Amen.**

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10**

(ESV) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (3) And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, (4) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (6) The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fatted calf together; and a little child shall lead them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the

adder's den. (9) They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (10) In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Galatians 4:1-8**

(ESV) I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, (2) but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. (3) In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. (4) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” (7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (8) Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

## **CONFESION OF FAITH**

*The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and**

**was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures And ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**HYMN: #347**

**“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”**

**Jesus, priceless Treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
Truest Friend to me.  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,  
Naught I ask beside Thee.**

**In Thine arms I rest me;  
Foes who would molest me  
Cannot reach me here.  
Tho' the earth be shaking,  
Ev'ry heart be quaking,  
Jesus calms my fear.  
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;**

Yet, tho' sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee;  
Death, I now decry thee;  
Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me  
Nor thy threats alarm me  
While I sing of peace.

God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore Him,  
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure!  
Jesus is my Pleasure,  
Jesus is my Choice.  
Hence, all empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story  
Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross,  
Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour, O pride and power;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,

Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest Pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless Treasure!  
Amen.

### THE SERMON: Luke 2:39-52

(ESV) And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. (40) And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (41) Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. (42) And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. (43) And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, (44) but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, (45) and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. (46) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. (48) And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” (49) And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” (50) And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. (51) And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all

these things in her heart. (52) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

## “Careful Expectations”

### THE OFFERTORY (*sung*)

    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.

## THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

### GENERAL PRAYER

HYMN: #358

“*Lamb of God, We Fall Before Thee*”

Lamb of God, we fall before Thee,  
    Humbly trusting in Thy Cross.  
    That alone be all our glory;  
    All things else are only dross.

Thee we own a perfect Savior,  
    Only Source of all that's good.  
    Ev'ry grace and ev'ry favor  
    Comes to us thro' Jesus' blood.

Jesus gives us true repentance  
    By His Spirit sent from heav'n;  
Whispers this transporting sentence,  
    "Son, thy sins are all forgiv'n!"

Faith He grants us to believe it,

Grateful hearts His love to prize;  
Want we wisdom? He must give it,  
Hearing ears and seeing eyes.

Jesus gives us pure affections,  
Wills to do what He requires,  
Makes us follow His directions,  
And what He commands, inspires.

All our prayers and all our praises,  
Rightly offered in His name--  
He that dictates them is Jesus;  
He that answers is the same.  
Amen.

## THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**Cong: And with your spirit.**

*Pastor: Lift up your hearts.*

**Cong: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord.*

**Cong: It is good and right so to do.**

*Pastor: It is truly good, right, and spiritually beneficial for us, in all places and in all circumstances, to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared , proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and calling sinners to bring forth fruits of repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and give glory to Your name, evermore praising You and singing:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts,**

**Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, Blessed is He,  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Pastor: 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.*

**Cong: (sung) For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**Cong: Amen.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God,  
Who takes away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, the Lamb of God,  
Who takes away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, the Lamb of God,  
Who takes away the sin of the world,  
Grant us Your peace. Amen.**

## **A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION**

*On the basis of the Bible's teaching about Holy Communion, at Faith Lutheran Church we believe that Christ gives to us His true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine. We also understand that, while Christ instituted this meal for the strengthening of His believers' faith, this Sacrament has the potential to bring judgment on those who do not receive it with a proper understanding of its nature and purpose. In love, we ask that if you are not a member of Faith*

*Lutheran Church, or a sister church in the CLC, that you NOT come forward to receive the sacrament.*

*If you would like more information concerning receiving Communion with us in the future, please speak with the pastor following the service.*

### **SIMEON'S SONG FOR A PEACEFUL DEPARTURE**

**O Lord, now You are letting Your servant  
Depart in peace according to Your Word.**

**For my eyes have seen Your salvation**

**Which You have prepared before the face of all people.**

**A Light to lighten the Gentiles**

**And the Glory of Your people, Israel.**

**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, forevermore. Amen.**

*Pastor: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,*

**Cong: And His mercy endures forever.**

*Pastor: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this special means of grace. We ask that, of Your everlasting mercy, You would strengthen us through it in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.*

**Cong: Amen.**

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**Cong: And with your spirit.**

*Pastor: Bless we the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

*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.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Today @ 11:30 Atlanta Circuit trip  
Monday @ 9:00 AM Wayne Everhart  
Monday @ 4:30 PM Loganville Service  
Wednesday @ 9:30 AM – Bible Class  
Friday @ 4:00 PM Wenner confirmation  
Sunday @ 9:00 AM Bible Class  
    @ 10:00 AM Divine Service  
    @ 5:00 PM Kansas City service

**ATLANTA CIRCUIT TRIP:** Pastor Gantt will be leaving after church for the monthly circuit trip through Alabama and Georgia. God willing, he will be home Tuesday evening.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** Our Wednesday morning Bible Class will resume this Wednesday beginning at 9:30 AM. We will be discussing the three parables contained in Matthew 13:44-52.

**CALL NEWS:** Mr. Peter Reim has received the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben

Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

**OTHER CLC NEWS:** Due to health considerations, Pastor John Hein has resigned his position on the Board of Regents, effective January 1, 2026. We thank John for his sixteen years of faithful service as a member of the board, eleven of which he served as chairman. May he and his family continue to find comfort and strength in the strong and sure promises of our Lord's unchanging and perfect Word.

Also, the Call Committee for Educational Institutions meets on Monday, 16 February 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to call an ILC Professor to fill the vacancy created by David Schaller's resignation and also to call the ILC President for a 2-year term (AY27-28). All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding the candidates for these two positions are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 22, 2026 (letters postmarked January 15, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

**January 05 – January 10, '26**

**Mon 1 Peter 4:12-19** The work of the Savior who was sent for us involves suffering, and those who share in His suffering may rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed (v13), entrusting their souls to Him (v19).

**Tues Matthew 2:13-23** As the child Jesus' glory is seen in the wise men's worship, so also is it seen in God's protection from Herod's murderous plans. The hand of God is seen again in the return from Egypt.

**Wed Isaiah 42:1-98** The Lord God upholds and delights in His servant, placing His Spirit upon Him. And what blessings are found in this servant, who is appointed a covenant for the people, a light for the nations!

**Thurs Matthew 3:13-17** When Jesus' is baptized by John in the Jordan, the Father shows His delight in Him by a voice from the heavens, and the Spirit descends on Him like a dove. Thus we behold His glory!

**Fri Psalm 110** The LORD Jehovah decrees that King Messiah will triumph over His enemies, and that He will also be a priest forever. The reconciliation that He brings about will have no end!

**Sat Psalm 85** The LORD has graciously redeemed and forgiven us, so we can be confident that He will revive us in present distresses. He also remains our true hope for future righteousness and peace (v10).