



<https://manchester.clclutheran.org/>



<https://www.zelcloganville.com/>

Pastor Frank Gantt
(470-214-3401)

August 23, 2026



Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

<https://clclutheran.org/>

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

We come before the Lord as people who do not always hear His Word as readily as we should, do not always trust what He says, and do not always speak His truth as faithfully as we could. Yet our gracious God continues to open hearts, strengthen faith, forgive sins, and place His saving Word into the mouths of His people. Today we rejoice that even when His Word confronts and corrects us, it also gives us Christ, and in Him forgiveness, life, and salvation.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

HYMN: #5

Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear

**Lord, open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let me Thy child and heir remain.**

**Thy Word doth deeply move the heart,
Thy Word doth perfect health impart,
Thy Word my soul with joy doth bless,
Thy Word brings peace and happiness.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise, and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.
Amen.**

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 use. 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.

**Father most holy, merciful and tender;
Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Thy pow'r make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.**

O Comforter of priceless worth,

**Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.
Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: O merciful Lord Jesus Christ, You wept over Jerusalem because she did not recognize the time of Your gracious visitation: deliver us from false security, contempt for Your Word, and confidence in outward religion without repentance and faith. By Your Holy Spirit, preserve among us the pure preaching of Your Gospel, grant to Your people gifts for the common good, and teach us to pray with confidence, knowing that through Your perfect sacrifice our prayers rise acceptably before the Father; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 29:13-24

(EHV) The Lord says: These people approach me with their words, and they honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is nothing but commandments taught by men. (14) So watch how I will continue to amaze these people with amazing, extraordinary things. The wisdom of the wise will perish, and the intelligence of the intelligent will be hidden. (15) Woe to those who try to hide their plans from the LORD. Their deeds are done in darkness, and they think that no one sees them or knows what they are doing. (16) You turn things upside down! Should the potter be treated like clay? Should the thing that was made say to its maker, "You didn't make me"? Should the creation say to the creator, "You know nothing"? (17) Isn't it true that in a very short time Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field, and the fertile field will seem like a forest? (18) On that day, the deaf will hear the words from a book, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will

see. (19) The humble will rejoice in the LORD once again, and the poor will delight in the Holy One of Israel. (20) But the ruthless will come to nothing. Those who mock will be no more, and all those who plan evil will be cut off— (21) all those who slander others with a word, all those who argue cases at the city gate, all those who use false testimony to deprive the innocent of justice. (22) Therefore this is what the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, says about the house of Jacob: Jacob will not be ashamed anymore. His face will not grow pale. (23) But when his children see what I do among them, they will honor my name. They will honor the Holy One of Jacob. They will stand in awe of the God of Israel. (24) Those who are confused will come to understand, and those who complain will gladly receive instruction.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7:31-37

(EHV) Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis. (32) They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him. (33) Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. (34) After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!") (35) Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. (36) Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. (37) They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

REVELATION LESSON: Revelation 10:1-7

(EHV) Then I saw another powerful angel coming down out of heaven. He was clothed with a cloud, a rainbow was over his

head, his face was like the sun, his feet were like pillars of fire, (2) and he had in his hand a little scroll, which had been opened. He put his right foot on the sea and his left on the land, (3) and he cried out with a loud voice, just as a lion roars. And when he cried out, the seven thunders spoke using their own voices. (4) When the seven thunders had spoken, I was about to write. But I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Seal up the things that the seven thunders said, and do not write them down." (5) The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven, (6) and he swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created the sky and the things in it, the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it. He said, "There will be no more delay. (7) Instead, in the days of the sound made by the seventh angel, that is, when he is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will also be completed, exactly as he made this good news known to his servants the prophets."

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.

**Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee
While thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of thy salvation,
Breathed thine own life-giving breath.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**From the cross thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Give us lips to sing thy glory,
Tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats to shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send**

Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

**God the Father, light-creator,
To thee laud and honor be.**

**To thee, Light from Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.**

**Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!**

THE SERMON: Revelation 10:8-11

(EHV) The voice that I heard from heaven also spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that has been opened in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” (9) I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little scroll.” He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” (10) I took the little scroll out of the angel’s hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. (11) And they said to me, “It is necessary that you prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”

Bitter-Sweet

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN:#294

O Word of God Incarnate

O Word of God Incarnate,

O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky--
We praise Thee for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

The Church from her dear Master,
Received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket
Where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture
Of Christ, the living Word.

It floateth like a banner
Before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon
Above the darkling world;
It is the chart and compass
That over life's surging sea,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
Still guides, O Christ, to Thee.

Oh, make Thy Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations
Thy true light as of old!
Oh, teach Thy wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see Thee face to face!
Amen.

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.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE CLASS: We will resume our Bible Class series on the three ecumenical creeds of the Christian Church this Wednesday at 9:30 AM.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The church council will meet following the church service today.

CALL NEWS: Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has **returned** the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison, Heights, MI. < > Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. < > Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Vernon, British Columbia, has **returned** the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. < > Pastor David Reim has also **returned** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. < > Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, has **returned** the call to St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN.

“Train Up the Children”

As a professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary John Gresham Machen (1881—1937) was a recognized scholar and zealous defender of conservative Reformed theology. He wrote a book titled, “*What is Faith?*” which incorporated lectures he delivered in 1925. In it, he addresses principles which bear hearing, in that he speaks of what he calls “Intellectual decadence”: “Men discourse very eloquently today upon such subjects as God, religion, Christianity, atonement, redemption, faith; but they are greatly incensed when they are asked to tell in simple language what they mean by these terms. They do not like to have the flow of their eloquence checked by so vulgar thing as a definition.” (p.14) He further states, “In the midst of eloquent celebrations of faith—usually faith contrasted with knowledge—it seems disconcerting to be asked what faith is. This anti-intellectual tendency in the modern world is no trifling thing...” (p.14)

Machen also offers these significant comments: “The absence of doctrinal teaching and preaching is certainly one of the causes for the present lamentable ignorance in the Church.” At the same time, he lays responsibility at the feet of parents for ignorance of what faith is. “The most important educational institution is not the pulpit or the school, as important as these institutions are: but it is the

Christian family. And that institution has to a very large extent ceased to do its work.” (p. 21)

One Hundred years ago, Machen wrote, “A year or so ago I heard a noted educator give some advice to a company of college professors—advice which was typical of the present tendency of education. It is a great mistake, he said in effect, to suppose that a college professor ought to teach; on the contrary he ought simply to give the student an opportunity to learn” (p.15).

If one did not know better, his reference to the church and the lack of instruction in the home sounds as if it had been written today. While speaking primarily of conditions in the church and family, Machen speaks also in a wider sense. “*The intellectual decadence of the day* is not limited to the Church, or to the subject of religion, *but appears in secular education as well.*” (p.15)

His Reformed background notwithstanding, Lutherans can identify with his concerns about the general state of education, and the “intellectual decadence” of which he wrote. Today, caring parents, religious or not, know that 100 years later government schools to a large extent have become indoctrination labs rather than teaching institutions. Education in government schools in this country is in a bad way, insofar as its goal is to instill in children what to think instead of how to think. Consequently, it is not unusual to hear about students who have fallen short of meeting academic standards in subjects such as reading and math. Of education in 2026 a University of California professor wrote: “Some students are five to eight years behind in mathematics,” when they come to college (*Fox News*, online, 8/16/26). Further, in order to promote personal or political agendas, there is increasing emphasis in government schools on social issues and reinterpretation of history, which has led to an abysmal ignorance of historical facts.

The word “educate” originates from the Latin verb *educare*. It means “to bring up, rear, train,” which is related to *educere*, meaning: “to lead out or bring forth.” According to Webster, education is “the impartation or acquisition of knowledge, skill, or the development of character, as by study of discipline.”

By the Spirit, Solomon wrote, “That which has been is what will be, that which *is* done is what will be done, and *there is nothing new under the sun*. Is there anything of which it may be said, ‘See, this *is* new’? It has already been in ancient times before us” (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10).

It is interesting that fathers of centuries past found it necessary to address the same concerns that are before us today because there is nothing new under the sun. Concerning the training of children, Matthew Henry (1662-1714) made similar comments on Proverbs 22:6: “*Train up* a child in the way he should go...” According to the Hebrew dictionary in Strong’s *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* the prime root of “train up” means “to narrow.” Figuratively, to “discipline: dedicate, train up.” This is the only place in Scripture where this form of the verb is used.

Concern of Christian parents goes beyond the necessary education in the standard subjects which educate for daily living and success. Such education addresses only the here and now. Neither the spiritual aspect of life nor the hereafter falls within the purview of secular education. The latter is the responsibility of the home, the church, and a Christian oriented school.

Henry, addressing the spiritual welfare of children spoke of the “great duty enjoined, particularly to those that are the parents and instructors of children, in order to the propagating of wisdom, that it may not die with them: *Train up children* in that age of vanity, to keep them from the sins and snares of it, in that learning age... *Catechize* them; initiate them; keep them under discipline... *Train* them up, not in the way they would go (the bias of their corrupt hearts would draw them aside), but *in the way they should go*, the way in which, if you love them, you would have them go. *Train up a child according as he is capable* (as some take it), with a gentle hand, as nurses feed children, little and often.” He quoted Deuteronomy. 6:7-- “You shall teach them [the commandments] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

While Machen expressed concern about the intellectual decadence in secular education, he makes this most pertinent comment which Christian parents will take to heart: The most important institution for instilling Bible knowledge “is the Christian home.”

“Behold, children *are* a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb *is* a reward” (Psalm 127:3). Christian parents, who appreciate that children in the home are a gift of God, will bring them to baptism, whereby they are by the power of the Spirit adopted into the family of God. God, who has ordained the family structure, has established the principles for family life. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘*Honor your father and mother*,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth’” (Ephesians 6:1-3). Further, while it is not to the exclusion mother, God lays the heaviest responsibility upon the fathers (6:4): “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (6:4). Such training begins from earliest youth. Faithful Christian parents teach their children to pray and teach them the word of God. As caretakers of God’s children in their home, parents, by their own faithful study of the Word and faithful attendance at worship, as well as by their righteousness of living, will with gratitude fulfill their responsibility toward the Lord, to the benefit of the children.

We live in a perilous age, in which a secular society mocks God and tempts our children no less than ourselves. What Christian parents have not worried about the world they are sending their children into? Christian parents will appreciate every assistance offered to help them in their responsibility to prepare their children for life in this world, and in their responsibility to prepare their children for

the next. “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven’” (Matthew 19:14).

As the new school year is soon upon us, children will be off to public institutions as well as private academies and Christian elementary and secondary schools. To the extent that Webster includes development of character as part of the educational process there is, nevertheless, a difference between education and training as we understand the Lord’s instruction in Proverbs 22:6. In our Lutheran Church, Christian parents who appreciate the difference will count it a blessing when and if they have a Christian elementary school in their congregation to assist them and, even more so, if they have a secondary school in which their children can be educated and trained.

Martin Luther said, “You parents cannot prepare a more dependable treasure for your children than an education in the liberal arts.” The sorry condition of education in the public sector today, being what it is, does not change the fact that “the liberal arts are noble gifts of God, good and useful for all kinds of things, wherefore one cannot do without them in this life.” Reading, writing, math, music, language, and history are essential. However, even the best education that prepares children for life of work and service in society, is not enough. Luther said, “Human reason teaches only the hand and the foot of a man. God teaches the heart.” Therefore, “Where the Holy Scripture does not rule, I certainly advise no one to send his child.”

The underlying purpose of education is to educate the *whole person*. Such education addresses the entire physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of a child. Educating the whole person, therefore, includes educating a child in the whole counsel of God which can only be done through the Word of God. Jesus spoke words that move us to introspection. “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul” (Mark 8:36-37)? Answer that question with respect to yourself as a parent. Answer it in determining what is best for your children. Obtaining eternal salvation through faith in Christ, necessitates and includes teaching the Word of the Lord. The sinful heart is changed only through the Word of God. If you believe that as a parent, why would you not want the assistance of a Christian teacher in the Christian school in your church, if it is possible to utilize one?

Luther would agree with the words of Machen who said, “Without cultivation of the moral interests, a technically trained man is only given more power to do harm.” Luther again, “Liberal arts...can never thoroughly tell us what sin and righteousness are in the eyes of God, how we can get rid of sin, become pious and just before God, and pass from death to life.” (Luther quotes from *What Luther Says*, Vol. I, pp.446-453).

Only through the power of the Spirit working on the heart through the Word of God can we understand the nature of sin, and its condemnation. Only in the Word of God do we learn that the blood of the Lord Jesus cleanses us from all sin, and that through faith in His meritorious work we have eternal life. Only through the Word of God, the Gospel, do we learn and be assured that whoever believes in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and clings to Him in faith is saved. can look forward to the abundant life of heaven. This is not the substance of secular education, but it is the foundation of Christian education in the faithful Christian home and in the Christian Day School.

Neither a Christian home nor a Christian school can completely protect children from the evil influences of the world, or their own flesh. Nevertheless, even assuming the best of circumstances in the public sector, where better can Christian parents give their children the educational benefits necessary for their temporal existence, as well as spiritual blessings that translate to eternal life than in a Christian Day school, if they have one and if they are able to access it?

Who better can *assist* parents in the rearing of their children than a faithful Christian teacher whose personal faith is in Christ, and who in teaching is not restricted from laying the whole counsel of God upon the hearts of the children?

No one will be saved because he or she went to a Christian school. But we also know no one can be saved apart from faith in Christ and His Word which is the underlying staple of a Christian home and school. Is your home such a haven in this ungodly world? If your congregation has a Christian Day School, and you have ready access to it, what a blessing it is to have the assistance of a committed Christian teacher to help in the education of God's children in your care

Dear Father, bless each Christian home
Where Jesus Christ is All in all.
May father, mother, children too,
Raise songs of joy and thanks to You.

Dear Father, bless each Christian school.
Where children come to learn of You.
Bless teachers too who train the lambs
To know, confess, and trust in You. (df)

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

August 24 – August 29, 2026

Mon Mark 7:31-37 When Jesus heals a man who has difficulty hearing and speaking, it is not to put on a show. He deals with him in private and does not want it publicized, but He still does all things well!

Tues 2 Corinthians 6:4-11 In all kinds of hardships and troubles, God's ministers (v4) continue to serve God (v6), in glory and dishonor, "as having nothing yet possessing everything" (v10), speaking from the heart (v11).

Wed Isaiah 29:18-19 The prophet Isaiah foretells a day of deliverance when the deaf will hear the words from a book, and the humble will rejoice in the LORD once again. The poor will delight in the Messiah!

Thurs Psalm 104:1-18 We are taken on a trip through God's creation, praising the power and wisdom that created the light, the sky, the waters and the dry land, the fruitful plants that grow and feed the animals.

Fri Psalm 104:19-35 The LORD not only creates, but also preserves and provides for the animals and people He has made. Sun and moon mark day and night, as He continues to be the LORD of all. *Hallelujah!*

Sat Psalm 119:89-96 This portion of our Psalm of the Word also praises the LORD whose word stands in the heavens and on the earth. His precepts are for the good of His own and endure to eternity.