

Classical Lutheran Education in Theory and Practice: A Primer

Marie K. MacPherson ▪ Into Your Hands LLC ▪ www.intoyourhandsllc.com

February 2019

Perhaps you've heard the term "Classical Education," but you're not clear what it means. Maybe you understand the basics, but feel uncertain on how to implement this methodology in your classroom. This session will outline the basic philosophy of classical education and brainstorm practical ideas for incorporation across the curriculum, including a discussion of our Classical Lutheran heritage.

Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A) What is the Purpose of Education?
 - B) Christian Education's Answer
- II. Defining Classical Education:
 - A) A Quest for Truth, Beauty, and Goodness,
 - B) Using The Liberal Arts,
 - C) As Preparation for a Life of Service.
- III. The Lutheran's Classical Heritage
 - A) Augustine Borrows the Best of Greek and Roman Methodology
 - B) Luther Praises the Liberal Arts and Uses Them to Reform the Schools
 - C) Walther and German Lutherans Immigrate to America in Order to Begin Schools
 - D) The Heritage of Classical Education for Lutheran Schools Today
- IV. American Education Takes a Turn for the Worse
 - A) The Prussian Model Aims to Delude Education
 - B) Western Civilization is Interpreted as Oppressive
 - C) Progressive Educators Demand Autonomy and Freedom from Indoctrination
- V. Classical Education Implementation in Grade School Content Areas
 - A) Religion
 - B) Language Arts
 1. Reading
 2. Literature
 3. English
 4. Writing
 - C) History (not "Social Studies")
 - D) Math
 - E) Science
 - F) The Arts
 - G) Everything—and Anything—Else!
 - H) Latin?
 - I) Special Education and Struggling Learners?
- VI. Conclusion
 - A) The Education Model That Has Lasted 1,500 Years
 - B) Evaluating Your Curriculum in Light of a Classical Model
 - C) God's Abundant Love and Forgiveness For You and Your Classroom

Sources and Recommended Reading:

Bauer, Susan Wise, and Jessie Wise. *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2016.

Hanson, Victor, and John Heath. *Who Killed Homer: The Demise of Classical Education and the Recovery of Greek Wisdom*. Encounter Books, 2001.

Korcok, Thomas. *Lutheran Education: From Wittenberg to the Future*. Concordia Publishing, 2011.

Painter, F.V.N. *Luther on Education*. Concordia Publishing House, 1889.

Plass, Ewald M, editor. *What Luther Says: A Practical In-Home Anthology for the Active Christian*. Concordia Publishing House, 1959.

Sayers, Dorothy. *The Lost Tools of Learning*. CrossReach Publications, 2016.

Swope, Cheryl. *Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child*. Memoria Press, 2013.

Swope, Cheryl, Steven Hein, Paul Cain, and Tom Strickland, editors. *A Handbook for Classical Lutheran Education: The Best of The Consortium for Classical and Lutheran Education's Journals*.

Veith, Gene Edward Jr. *Loving God with All Your Mind: Thinking as a Christian in the Postmodern World*. Crossway, 2003.

Veith, Gene Edward Jr., and Andrew Kern. *Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America*. Capital Research Center, 2015.

Into Your Hands, LLC Blog Links:

Go to www.intoyourhandsllc.com and in the search bar, type:

- Suggested Poetry Memorization List
- Book Club Questions
- Core Curriculum Choices
- Building Bridges: Fostering Cooperation between Christian Day Schools and Homeschool Families
- Eternal Treasures Book Review

Websites:

- The Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education: <http://www.ccle.org/>
- 1,000 Good Books List: <http://classical-homeschooling.org/celoop/1000.html>
- The Logic of English: <https://www.logicofenglish.com/>
- Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons: <http://startreading.com/>

Marie K. MacPherson is wife to Ryan, homeschool mom to their six living children, and redeemed child of God. She is author of *Meditations on the Vocation of Motherhood* (2018) and editor of *Mothering Many: Sanity-Saving Strategies from Moms of Four or More* (2016). She has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Bethany Lutheran College, with Lutheran school certification and a specialty in communication arts and literature. In 2018, she became a certified Classical educator from the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education. Marie enjoys community service and reads extensively, researching natural health, education, theology, evangelism, marriage, and parenting. Follow her blog at: www.intoyourhandsllc.com.



Into Your Hands LLC