



Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

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September 2011

Distinguishing Law and Gospel Part 3: Different Effects of Each by Pastor Boehne

These first articles on Law and Gospel have been setting the groundwork for understanding why we must distinguish between Law and Gospel. Last article discussed the differences in how each is revealed, the contents of each, and the promises of each. This article will continue the differences between Law and Gospel by discussing the *effects* of each.

The effects of the Law and the Gospel are entirely different. When God commands you to do something (Law)—such as don't take His name in vain, don't covet, don't steal, etc.—what effect does it have on a person? Does it make you a better person and produce in you the ability to keep His command? If so, then the answer to all of our problems of morality and ethics would be answered simply by preaching the 10 commandments to everyone in every place. If the Law could actually make people do what it says then all this world would need is a whole lot more rules and commandments. But we know this isn't the case.

Because of the sinful nature, the Law actually does the opposite. The Law doesn't make people better but actually creates even more desire to sin. This is St. Paul's argument in Romans 7 when he says that the commandment actually increased the sinful desire in him. We know this from common experience. The minute a parent tells his/her child not to do something—they want to do it all the more. That's the effect of the Law.

Since the Law can only tell us what's right and wrong but not give us the ability to do it—then we're only left with despair and fear. We realize just how sinful we are and yet we don't see a way out of it. The Law doesn't give us any hope—it just says "do this" and "don't do that". This leaves us completely terrified of God with no hope of anything but hell and eternal punishment. Think of what happened at Mt. Sinai when God gave the Ten Commandments. The people were absolutely terrified. That will always be the result and effect of the Law. Because we are sinners, the Law only shows us just how frightening our situation is.

On the other side, the effect of the Gospel is miraculous. The Gospel "demands" repentance and faith. But here's the incredible thing—the Gospel actually gives what it demands. The Gospel gives repentance and faith. That's the power of God's Word. St. Paul says in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation..." The Gospel then doesn't rebuke or terrify the sinner, but it actually takes all terror and fear and anxiety away and gives peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The Gospel doesn't require anything at all from us—in other words it doesn't say "do this" or "don't do that"—but instead the Gospel itself changes us. It gives us new life, a clean heart, a good conscience, and puts faith and love into our hearts for God and our neighbor.

In short, here is the difference. The Law demands everything, but it gives nothing. The Gospel, however, demands nothing, but gives us everything. As we will see, this difference becomes pretty important to understand when we hear a Word of God. Is God speaking Law or Gospel? The effects are entirely different. Next month we will finish up the differences of Law and Gospel, talking about the *persons* to whom each is preached.

(The basis of this material is largely from Walther's *Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*.)

September Mission Project – El Paso Corn Festival Sept. 8th – 10th

The Corn Festival booth is an important part of this congregation's relationship to the community of El Paso. It's a chance to be visible in the community and tell our neighbors about Jesus Christ and His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Please make an effort to get involved in some way. Sign up sheets are in the narthex or you may talk to Karen Wilkey. The following are different ways you can help:

- † We will start setting up the booth Wednesday evening, September 7 and will need several trucks.
- † We need help with pie baking starting on Wednesday, September 7 and don't forget Thursday is men's night. You don't have to know how to bake pies, just be here and someone will show you what to do.
- † Pie cutting and wrapping will begin at 6:00 a.m. this year so the pie pans are ready for the bakers at 7:00.
- † Finally, make sure to pick your favorite day, time and area to work at the booth.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Corn Festival

September 8th-10th (sign up any day)

LWML Fall Rally

Wednesday, September 21st at Zion Lutheran, Danvers

Congregational Wienie Roast

Sunday, October 2nd at 5:00 pm in East Parking Lot

Bible Studies

LifeLight (Hebrews) – starts Tuesday, Sep. 27th at 6:30 pm

Bible on Trial Study – Oct. 9th, 16th, & 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool

September Update

At a special Voters' meeting on August 14th, Trinity voted to embark on the new adventure of starting a Lutheran Preschool. St. John Lutheran Church in Secor filled this need for many faithful years. With their decision to discontinue St. John's Lutheran Preschool, we at Trinity started to consider whether the Lord might lead us to take on this mission. After much study and research by a committee of Trinity members, the decision was made by the Voters' to proceed. The plan is to "open the doors" of Trinity Lutheran Preschool in the Fall of 2012.

You will hear me and others repeatedly affirming one very important point—Trinity Lutheran **Preschool** is a mission of Trinity Lutheran **Church**. The Preschool must always stay intimately connected to the congregation. You will see regular updates in newsletters, bulletins, etc. so that the entire congregation will be able to stay informed. This will be *your* Preschool. Please stay informed. Please support those who will be working directly with the Preschool. Please pray for the Preschool. And please lend a hand when you are able.

What now? Now that the initial committee has finished its work, the next major step is to appoint a Preschool Board. We are actively searching to fill the positions of Treasurer and Secretary on the Preschool Board. Joan Comincioli has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Preschool Board and Pastor Boehne will serve as an advisor. Many of the committee members who have worked on the initial project have agreed to continue helping in various ways.

Once a Preschool Board has been established then we will begin with initial steps such as searching for a Director/Teacher and Teacher Aide, putting together by-laws and a handbook, acquiring supplies for the classroom, planning fundraisers, etc. All of this will prepare us to start actively advertising the Preschool in the Spring.

What can you do? Please stay informed. We will be periodically putting information in the bulletin and newsletter looking for your assistance. There will be many ways in the future that you can support the Preschool with your gifts and talents.

Next Month In October, we will be including an article which explains the blessings of a Lutheran Preschool and why this will be an important mission of Trinity Lutheran Church.



Monthly Reading from the Book of Concord



FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION ARTICLE V: THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

"The Gospel is properly a doctrine that teaches that God's Son, our Lord Christ, has taken upon Himself and borne the Law's curse and has atoned and paid for all our sins. Through Him alone we enter into favor with God, receive forgiveness of sins through faith and are delivered from death and all punishments of sins, and are eternally saved.

Everything that comforts, that offers God's favor and grace to transgressors of the Law, is, and is properly called, the Gospel. It is a good and joyful message that God will not punish sins, but will forgive them for Christ's sake.

Every sinner ought to believe (i.e., place his confidence) in the Lord Christ alone. For Christ "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." "He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God," "whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption." His obedience is credited to us for righteousness before God. The Gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes," which preaches righteousness. Dr. Luther taught that the knowledge of God from the Gospel is far different from that which is taught and learned from the Law. The pagans had a knowledge of God from the natural law. But they neither knew Him nor glorified Him correctly."

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jill Schieber	Sep. 1
David Donaldson	Sep. 2
Keith Schramek	Sep. 2
Moli Copple	Sep. 3
Carley Matzke	Sep. 3
Tom Enright	Sep. 11
Pat Aeschleman	Sep. 16
Lisa Barhum	Sep. 17
Dylan Evans	Sep. 18
Abbey Barhum	Sep. 18
Wyatt Van Hovel	Sep. 20
Sawyer Van Hovel	Sep. 21
John Caflisch	Sep. 23
Nick Paternoga	Sep. 23
Sandee Kessinger	Sep. 28
Kristina Kearfott	Sep. 29

Happy Birthday

(If there is a birthday we have missed, please let us know.)



NOTES FROM HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE

This past July, three members of Trinity attended the Higher Things youth conference which was held at the campus of ISU—Luke Meyers, Hannah Meyers, and Leah Meyers. Higher Things is an LCMS organization which is dedicated to teaching high school youth the Lutheran faith. Hannah and Leah wrote up the following summaries of their experience:

"This year I had the privilege and blessing of being able to go to the Higher Things Conference on the ISU Campus in Bloomington, Normal. While I was there I spent most of my time at worship services, lectures, and classes. The daily worship services were Matins in the morning, Vespers in the afternoon, and Evening Prayer in the evening. The lectures and classes were set up so that we could pick and choose which ones we wanted to go to.

The lectures and classes that I went to were Talking about Homosexuality in a Tolerant World, Eustace Coram Leo: Rebirth in the Chronicles of Narnia, God's views on Premarital Sex and Cohabitation, and Talking to Your Non-Lutheran Friends about Jesus. In all of these lectures, I learned something different that helped me to understand more about what God wants me to do. I enjoyed sitting and listening to everyone there both speaking and asking questions.

Not all my time was taken with Worship and lectures though. We had free time at the end of the day and my sister and I were able to make some new friends and have fun. We played lots of different games, but our favorite was playing soccer at the new Recreation Center. This year the conference also offered other activities such as rock climbing, basketball, volleyball, dancing, and movies. There was also a choir that would sing at the Worship Services.

I will say that I have never seen so many young Lutherans in one place! There were over 1,200 of us not including the chaperones and Pastors. I feel truly blest to have been there, and hope to be able to go again next year either in Missouri or South Carolina.

*GOD's Blessings to you all,
Leah Meyers*

"This year I was able to attend the 2011 Higher Things Conference in Bloomington, IL. The theme this year was Coram Deo which means before God.

There were three services a day held in the brown ballroom of the Bone Student Center which were attended by about 1029 Missouri Synod Lutherans. There was Matins, Vespers, and Evening Prayer each day. After each service there was a Breakaway Session which was a topical study on various subjects. We were able to choose from multiple topics which was nice.

I learned a lot and met a bunch of great teens who all shared my faith. I hope to be able to attend another Higher Things Conference next year.

*Yours in Christ,
Hannah Meyers*

Plea from President Buelmann Regarding Illinois Gambling Bill

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently sent a letter to Governor Quinn asking him to Veto SB 744, the massive gambling expansion bill. It was hand delivered when the ILCAAAP, University of Illinois Professors and members of the faith community met with the governor on August 18.

We learned that supporters of the gambling bill are outpacing opponents in calls and emails to the governor's office. A Quinn spokeswoman said 11,064 people have expressed support, while 2,961 are opposed.

As a result, I ask that you encourage the people in your congregation to generate thousands of calls to the Governor's office, asking him to Veto the gambling bill. Please ask everyone to also PRAY for the Governor to do what is right.

Phone the Governor's office at: 800-642-3112, 312-814-2121, and 217-782-6830

E-mail the Governor: <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/pages/contactthegovernor.aspx>

Write the Governor: The Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor of Illinois, 207 Statehouse, Springfield, IL 62706

Serving Christ, President David Buelmann
Central Illinois District, Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

FALL 2011 BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Colossian 3:16



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY In September we will complete the book of Genesis. (After just 15 months!!) That means now is a good time to come join us as we move into Exodus. Between Genesis and Exodus we will be taking a short break to do a four week study on Dr. C.F.W. Walther, the founder of our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. October 25th marks the 200th anniversary of his birth. Then we will pick up again in Exodus 1 with God's people in Egypt. Sunday Morning Bible Study is for everyone. Please consider starting a new routine this fall and come to Church at 9 am to study God's Holy Word.



LifeLight

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY This fall we'll be doing a LifeLight Study on the book of Hebrews. We'll meet Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. starting on September 27th. There's no sign up sheet this year – just come. If you have any questions about this study, please talk to Pastor Boehne. LifeLight studies are a combination of individual and group study. Everyone goes through the daily studies at home individually and then we come together as a group to go through them together. (Please note that this will be the only LifeLight study this year – we won't have one in winter.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING LECTIONARY STUDY If you have Wednesday mornings open, join us at 9 am to study the reading(s) for the coming Sunday. This is a good study to have during the week as it prepares us to better hear the readings on Sunday mornings. We also take up one Psalm per week as an opening each class. This class lasts about an hour.

BIBLE ON TRIAL: BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT This October you are invited for three Sunday evenings, October 9th, 16th, & 23rd, to a video and study on the defense of Holy Scripture. We'll meet at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall each night for a fifteen minute video followed by a discussion and study of the topic. This study will put the Bible on trial and show how the reliability and integrity of the Scriptures hold up beyond a reasonable doubt. Make sure to attend and invite family and friends to come with you.

THE BIBLE ON TRIAL

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt

Important Sunday School Dates



- † **Rally Sunday August 28th**
- † **September 4th – Sunday School begins at 9 am**
 - Students move to their new classes. Some will stay with their current teacher as we combine some grades.
- † **Wiener Roast October 2nd at 5 pm**
 - Hot dogs, buns, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.
- † **November Mission Project – Food Pantry**
 - Children are asked to bring nonperishable food items for the food pantry in place of offerings.
- † **November 13th – Nursing Home Visit**
 - Preschool – 6th grade children will share songs with the residents during Sunday School hour.
- † **Christmas Eve Service Schedule**
 - November 27th and December 18th there will be practice during the Sunday School hour only
 - December 4th and 11th there will be practice during Sunday School and also from 11:15 – 12:30 with lunch being served (no Preschool children for the afternoon practices)
 - Service will be Christmas Eve, December 24th, at 6:00 p.m.



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Mailing Label Here



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