



# Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

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October 2011

## Distinguishing Law & Gospel Part 4: Who needs to hear Law & Gospel?

by Pastor Boehne

This month we close out the discussion of the differences between Law and Gospel by talking about the difference in who needs to hear the Law and who needs to hear the Gospel.

Let me give you two scenarios to show why this is important. Let's take the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, "You shall not murder," which of course also commands us not to be angry and unforgiving toward our neighbor. If you are terribly angry with someone and refuse to forgive them for a sin committed against you, and you aren't sorry for it but you feel that you are totally justified in your anger—then what if you were told, "Don't worry. God forgives you for Jesus' sake"? Is that what we need to hear in such a case? Absolutely not. That would tell you that you are forgiven for a sin of which you're not at all repentant. This would only drive us further into our sin and further away from Christ and His kingdom. This would be hearing Gospel when we ought only to hear the Law—that we must forgive and love our neighbor.

Now consider the other side. Let's say you are caught in the same sin. You are terribly angry with your neighbor. However, in this case let's say you realize that your behavior is sinful and you realize that you are breaking God's clear command. You are sorry and confess your sin. Then what if you were told, "You sinner! Don't you know that God has told you not to be angry and to love your neighbor as yourself?" Is that what you need to hear? Absolutely not. That would only further drive you into despair and hence would drive you away from Christ and His kingdom. That would be hearing Law when you ought only to hear the Gospel—that you are forgiven for the sake of your Savior Jesus.

Remember that the Law always tells us what to do while the Gospel tells us what God has done for us in Christ. There are times we need to hear the Law and times we need to hear the Gospel. And we must be careful as Christians about distinguishing when each is right. To "secure" sinners who aren't sorry for sin—the Law must be given. We need to hear the threats and punishments of God's Law so that we will see the damaging effects of our sin and the need to be forgiven. On the other hand, to "terrified" sinners who see the depths of their sin—the Gospel must be applied immediately. We need to hear that there is no longer any condemnation for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1). We need to hear that we are freely forgiven in Christ.

You want to see how this is done and why it's important? Read the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John) and hear Jesus do it over and over again. He preaches the harsh Law when it needs to be heard and He proclaims the sweetest Gospel to sinners who need to hear it. May your comfort and assurance always be found in the Gospel—in what God has done for you in Christ—and never in the Law. The Law kills, but the Gospel of Christ gives us life—abundant life.

## THE BIBLE ON TRIAL

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt

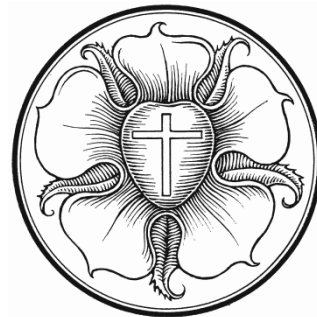
**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall**

*The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt* is a full-length television program produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries which has aired in major markets across the country. Hosted by attorney Craig Parton, *The Bible on Trial* lays this pointed question before some of the world's foremost authorities in biblical scholarship and ancient history: "Are the Bible and its claims trustworthy?" A panel of experts that includes Dr. Paul L. Maier of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Dr. Randall Price of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.; Dr. Jeff Kloha of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. and Joel Lampe of The Bible Museum, Goodyear, Ariz. weighs the evidence from contemporary non-Christian writers and archaeological, bibliographic and eyewitness sources to answer this crucial question. The balanced testimony and specialist insight these scholars provide affirms the accuracy and reliability of the biblical record.

Trinity Lutheran Church will host a three week study of the program on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Church's Parish Hall. Each evening will include a segment of the program followed by study and discussion.

### CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE

**St. John's Lutheran Church in Secor**  
**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 4 p.m.**



This year we will again be joining with our fellow LCMS members to celebrate the Reformation. Circuit Counselor Rev. Bryan Hopfensperger will be the preacher and the service will include special music. Mark your calendars for this important celebration!

# Trinity Lutheran Preschool

## October Update

We continue to progress in the steps of starting the Preschool here at Trinity. In October we will hold the first official Preschool Board meeting. This Board will start the processes of finding a Director/Teacher and Teacher Aide, putting together a handbook, acquiring supplies, planning fundraisers, etc. We are excited to now be part of the Thrivent Choice program so that Thrivent members may direct their Choice dollars to the Preschool. (Please see a Sunday bulletin for information on how to do this.)



This month we'd like to share with you five blessings of Lutheran schools. Next month we'll give five more. These are all potential benefits of having a Lutheran Preschool here at Trinity Lutheran.

### **1. Strengthen the Congregation**

Lutheran preschools get more people involved in the life of Christ's Church. Children attending the preschool are equipped to become active members. Lutheran preschools also involve young parents in more congregational activities than in congregations without schools.

### **2. Nurture the children's faith.**

Faith is nurtured by daily proclamation of the Gospel, teaching children the Word of God and how to read and understand that Word on their own, and by modeling and challenging students to live the Christian faith.

### **3. Help parents to fulfill their role as Christian parents.**

Parents have a God-given responsibility to teach their children the Christian faith. In today's "busy" society, it is all too common for the Christian education of children to be neglected. Lutheran preschools insure that parents receive help in this important role of raising up children in Christ.

### **4. Strengthen the community.**

Every community needs students who are academically qualified and have learned to practice appropriate morality and respect. Since Lutheran preschools accept students from all parts of the community, they have a strong impact on the community itself.

### **5. Provide a safe, caring place for children.**

Lutheran preschools provide a place where children are all seen as precious in God's sight. Loving teachers daily demonstrate Christ's love for them and their love for children.

## Monthly Reading from the Book of Concord



### FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION ARTICLE VI: THE THIRD USE OF GOD'S LAW

"The law is not laid down for the just" as the apostle testifies, but for the unrighteous. Yet this is not to be understood, as though the justified are to live without Law. God's Law has been written in their heart. Also a law was given to the first man after his creation, to conduct himself according to this law. What St. Paul means is that the curse of the Law cannot burden those who have been reconciled to God through Christ. Nor must the Law confuse the regenerate with its coercion, for they have pleasure in God's Law in the inner man.

If God's believing and elect children were completely renewed in this life by the indwelling Spirit, so they were entirely free from sin, they would not need any law. They would need no one to motivate them, either. They would do voluntarily, without any instruction or admonition of the Law, what they are in duty bound to do according to God's will. Indeed, they would act just like the holy angels.

However, believers are not renewed in this life perfectly. Their sin is covered by Christ's perfect obedience, so that it is not charged against believers for condemnation. Also, the putting to death of the old Adam and the renewal in the spirit of their mind is begun through the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, the old Adam still clings to them in their nature and all its inward and outward powers."

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### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Engelhorn	Oct. 5
Judi Hartman	Oct. 6
Laverne Hinthorne	Oct. 6
Dennis Parkhouse	Oct. 10
Sandra Finck	Oct. 11
Denise Porth	Oct. 11
Brent Kearfott	Oct. 14
Pat Clements	Oct. 17
Barb Ramsey	Oct. 19
Paul Meyers	Oct. 25
Vernon Schieber	Oct. 26
Barb Weber	Oct. 27
Jennifer Moody	Oct. 27
Kathryn Gilliland	Oct. 28
Nancy Jarrett	Oct. 29
Barb Krug	Oct. 29
Laura Carls	Oct. 31
Laura Punke	Oct. 31

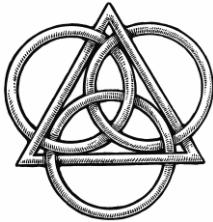
*Happy  
Birthday*

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



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*Mailing Label Here*



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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