

Through Zion's Window

September 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

In the last few years I've used the term "Lutheran Law/Gospel dynamic" many times. On not a few of those occasions I caught a blank look on the face of whoever heard me. Since I like this part of Lutheranism and I'll probably refer to it many times in the future I think this would be a good opportunity to explain, simply, how I understand the differences between the "Law" and the "Gospel". This is a bit deeper than I can get into in one page, so today I will share the definitions of "Law" and "Gospel" and spend some time breaking down "Gospel". And, over the next couple of months, we'll learn about what is meant by the "Law" and sum it all up at the end. I invite you to keep these letters and refresh yourself on them each month as we expand our understanding of this confusing topic.

The Law is best understood as "That which God demands we do for ourselves and for our neighbor and God will not do for us." And the Gospel can be defined as "That which you cannot do for yourself therefore God does it fully, freely, and without condition for you."

Let's start with Gospel or "Good News". The Gospels in the Bible are the stories of the Good News of Jesus Christ, but the Gospels contain both Law and Gospel. I realize this can be confusing, but when I am saying "Gospel" in this letter I am not talking about the books of the Bible. With the understanding of the Gospel definition above we see that proclaiming the Gospel, therefore, is simply sharing the story of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ for our redemption. As we read the scriptures we come across many stories of loving and caring for our neighbors, feeding the poor, etc. All of these things we do for our neighbors or ourselves and they may be good news (lower case) for everyone who receives the care. However, because we do them for each other and it is not God who is doing them for us because we cannot, these words are not Gospel. When looked at this way we can see that the Gospel is only about the one thing we cannot do for ourselves – gain our salvation. Because we cannot do this, God has done it and that is our "Good News." Luther says, "...when your conscience is terrified by the Law and is wrestling with the judgment of God...rely only on grace and the Word of comfort."¹ The Gospel is used when the Law has failed – failed to comfort us, failed to give us hope, failed to answer our questions. The Gospel is not for the mundane happy moments of life, but to comfort and uplift us when everything seems to be darkest.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Pastor Doug



¹ Luther, Martin: Pelikan, Jaroslav Jan (Hrsg.) ; Oswald, Hilton C. (Hrsg.) ; Lehmann, Helmut T. (Hrsg.): *Luther's Works, Vol. 26 : Lectures on Galatians, 1535, Chapters 1-4*. Saint Louis : Concordia Publishing House, 1999, c1963 (Luther's Works 26), S. 26:13



Church Council Meeting August 14, 2022, The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesener at 9:45 AM. Devotions were led by Franklin Wolter. September devotions will be led by Carrie Wendorf.

Reports:

Secretary's report: The minutes were presented and were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was presented, discussed, and approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor has visited quite a few people over the last two month's. Pastor Doug has two confirmands; one at Zion and one at Cross this year. The Packers play October 9th in London at 8:30 our time. Cross will hold Worship at 5:00pm Saturday evening and Zion will hold its regularly held Worship.

Sunday school will resume with activities and crafts in fall.

Ministry Reports:

Parish Ed: No Report.

Missions: Bread and Roses is looking for a chef. Meals will continue curbside service. Zion's next date for volunteering is November 10th. Vaccine Clinic was held in June, two people were served.

Worship: the committee will be meeting August 15th to plan services for September thru November. The slides for the projector screens are working well.

Building and Grounds: The replacement windows are being built currently and should be ready. The church roof will be inspected for hail damage. We need to find a copy of the bill from the last time we replaced the shingles for the insurance claim. The doors to the outside of the fellowship hall are going to be replaced.

Stewardship: A new giving and time and talent form is being prepared. Presentation will be late October like last year.

Old Business:

It was brought up at the June council meeting that we need a copy of the covenant governing his call at Zion and Cross to answer people's questions about time he spends with each congregation.

We need to finalize a job description for the Church Secretary. Pastor, Debbie Guenther, and Mike Johnson will put this together. We also should have a job description for every employee.

New Business:

The quilt for Oktoberfest are ready. Raffle Tickets are being sold for prizes at Oktoberfest. Simple box lunches will be served.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Debbie Guenther and seconded by Suzy Rather. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Johnson, Council Secretary.

Adult Education



Adult Education will resume on Wednesday, September 14th. It will be from 10:00-11:30 at Zion. The following months it will take place every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at Zion. Pastor would like to add a second evening bible study, if anyone is interested please let him know what evening and time works best.

Sunday School will be resuming for the year on September 25th. Our first gathering will take place at Cross at 11:00am. Stay tuned for updates on the schedule for the following months.



Meeting on a New Day!!!! Pastor will be on the boardwalk behind Roots, weather permitting, Fridays from 10-12. Join him for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome!

We will be providing coffee each week after worship. If you would like to bring in treats, please do. We will still be holding fellowship with Pastor after Worship the second Sunday of the month. Join us!



If you are interested in participating in the baking of our Communion bread each week, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on the bulletin board. It's a great way to participate.

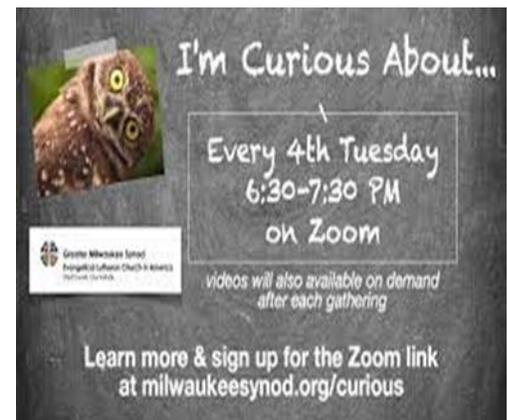
Please
Pray
for...



Ellen Braunschweig
Shirley Chatfield
Carly Ostrom
Peyton Wolter
Tom & Donna Meotke
Ross & Jacob Kopfer
Patrick Jones
Art Hall
Millie Kopfer
Beatrice Zwieg
Shirley Koeppel

Our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

New topics each month, every 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Come, hear inspiring reflections from others. No experience is needed. All voices are welcome.



Contact Rev. Matthew Short at matt@milwaukeeesynd.org with questions.



Mark your Calendars! Oktoberfest 2022 will take place on Sunday October 2, 2022. The day will begin with the Oktoberfest Worship Service at 10:00am led by Pastor Doug and the Goodtime Dutchmen Band. Guests will be able to view the many raffle baskets, quilt raffle, and purchase raffle tickets in the church basement. (The quilt is on display now at church.) There will be box lunches and other food and drink items available to purchase. (The lunch selections are either brat, hamburger, or corndog.) The Good time Dutchmen Band will provide music and dancing in the church basement. There will be no festivities held at the Maple Inn this year. Please see the Weekly email blast for the updated copy of the Oktoberfest Gazette for more info. Please join us as we are excited to host this traditional Zion fellowship event.

Sincerely, The Oktoberfest Committee

