

# Through Zion's Window

November 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

This month we wrap up our study of the Lutheran Law/Gospel dynamic. If you recall in September, we looked at the use of the Gospel or Good News and in October we looked at the two uses of the Law. When we break it down this way it can become very easy to look at everything as independent of each other – Gospel is separate from the Law and the Civil and Theological uses of the Law really aren't related either. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The two uses of the Law are not independent of one another. The same Law that permits us to live in harmony with our neighbor can also show us where we have failed to live as God would have us live and show us where we have failed in our relationship with God. Also, that very Law that shows us how we are supposed to live our lives before God demonstrates how we are to treat our neighbor. In the same manner that the two uses of Law are inseparable, so is the relationship between Law and Gospel. It is often understood in Christianity today that Gospel completes the Law or that the Gospel has replaced the Law. In their article on "Two Kinds of Righteousness" Joel Bierman and Charles Arand point out that,

"Luther stressed that the two kinds of righteousness are not alternative forms of human existence. He did not see them as alternatives to one another, as if we could be fully human by possessing only one kind of righteousness, either the passive (*that is receiving God's gift through the Gospel*) or the active (*participating in the Law*). Luther did not compartmentalize the human being in such a way that one could be human by partly possessing passive righteousness and partly possessing active righteousness. To be a human being as God created us to be, a perfect human specimen, involves being totally passive—as a newborn child of God—and totally active—as a responsible neighbor to other people and to the whole of God's world. People need both kinds of righteousness in order to be completely and genuinely human. "We must be righteous before God and man. Without one or the other we find our humanity diminished."<sup>1</sup>

To be both totally passive and totally active at the same time seems impossible. When confronted by the impossible, the most human thing to do is to give up. What we can see in our society today, when we look at it critically, are the symptoms of diminished humanity. Relegating "others" to less than human status, treating others, not as we would like to be treated, but as we think they deserve to be treated due to their unrighteous or sinful nature. But we must remember, that with God all things are possible! Through faith and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be both totally passive, humbly accepting of God's grace, and totally active, showing God's love to the world. Thanks be to God!

*Pastor Doug*

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<sup>1</sup> Arand, Charles P. ; Biermann, Joel D. [Why the two kinds of righteousness?](#) Concordia Journal 33 no 2 Ap 2007, 120



**Church Council Meeting October 9, 2022,** The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesener at 9:45 AM. Devotions were led by Suzy Rather. Mike Johnson will do devotions for November.

**Reports:**

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

Treasurer's Report: Carrie will send out the treasurer's report via email soon. The Oktoberfest profits were about \$4800.

Pastor's Report: Attendance for Oktoberfest service was good. Adult Education has begun. Pastor informed the council that there was not enough interest in the evening session, so we will instead offer adult education on the first thru fourth Wednesday mornings. Children's education has started as well. Meetings once per month will continue at Cross. Pastor will be on vacation the last week of October including Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Dean Natterstad will fill in on that day.

**Ministry Reports:**

Parish Ed: Meetings a Cross will continue once a month.

Worship: We will have a more traditional setting as part of worship until Advent. Zion, Cross, and Holy Name will share a Thanksgiving eve service. Discussion ensued about returning to the practice of using the rail for communion as we did before Covid. Once a month, we will begin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in November.

Evangelism: It is not known at this time if Zion has any college students. Cards will be sent to shut-ins for the holidays. The Siedschlag family will handle the Saints-in-Light tree.

Missions: At Bread and Roses last month Zion pitched in and helped serve about 200 people. A vaccine clinic will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November here at Zion. Zion is scheduled to serve at Bread and Roses again in a month or so.

Stewardship: Pledge forms and time an talent sheets will be handed out on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Building and grounds: The retaining wall behind the church building is leaning. Some interior lights will need replacing.

**Old Business:**

The Oktoberfest Committee will meet soon to review the last service and begin planning for next year.

The council will complete the Church's secretary's job description at the November meeting.

Pastor and Franklin Wolter will go over the custodian's job description.

We still need to finalize the Pastor's covenant as far as adjusting times that both Zion and Cross will start their services.

The windows which need to be replaced have finally been measured.

**New Business:**

The executive committees from Zion and Cross need to meet soon in order to discuss budgets, salaries, etc.

Zion needs to nominate two new individuals to council for 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Johnson, Council Secretary.



## Adult Education



Adult Education will be from 10:00-11:30 at Zion, every 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. All are welcome! Readings for Study will be available in the narthex the week before class.

Sunday School will be held at Cross at 11:00am on November 6<sup>th</sup>. All children are welcome. Join us!



Pastor will be at Whelan's Fridays from 10-12. Join him for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome! In the event of any changes Pastor will update you via Facebook.

We will be providing coffee each week after worship. If you would like to bring in treats, please do. Pastor will be joining us the second Sunday of the month.



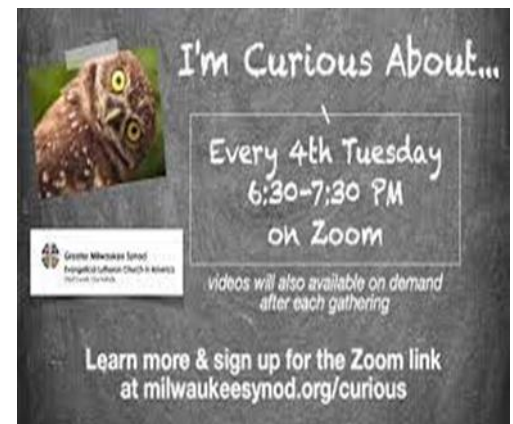
If you are interested in participating in the baking of our Communion bread each week, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on the bulletin board. It's a great way to participate.



Ellen Braunschweig  
 Shirley Chatfield  
 Carly Ostrom  
 Peyton Wolter  
 Tom & Donna Meotke  
 Ross & Jacob Kopfer  
 Patrick Jones  
 Art Hall  
 Millie Kopfer  
 Rachel Zwieg  
 Shirley Koeppel  
 Marlee Smith  
 Roger Kopfer  
 Brian Wolter  
 Larry Rather  
 The Family of Bill Mack

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@milwaukee-synod.org](mailto:matt@milwaukee-synod.org) with questions.



Zion will be serving at Bread and Roses on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups are available in the narthex. We will need volunteers to serve at the event starting at 4pm and some donated items ahead of time. If you would be able to help in either way, please see the bulletin board for more details.

Thank you! Any Questions contact Christine at 920-545-8439.



All Saints Day is November 6<sup>th</sup>. Once again, this year we will be lighting a tree to remember and honor loved ones. Please see attached form for more details. Requests will be excepted thru October 30<sup>th</sup>. All forms should be returned with payments to the Siedschlag Family. Thank you!

We will be hosting another vaccination clinic on the November 17<sup>th</sup>. Covid and Flu Vaccines will be available to attendees. The clinic will run from 9-Noon. Hometown Pharmacy in Watertown will be our medical provider for the day. Drop- in and get vaccinated!



**ST. OLAF CHURCH**

St. Olaf's in Rubicon will be hosting a bluegrass band on November 13<sup>th</sup>. More details available on the poster in the narthex or on their website.

We will be hosting a Joint Thanksgiving Eve service here at Zion at 7:00pm. We will be joined by both Cross and Holy Name. Join us for a fun evening of Worship and Fellowship!



**Shorehaven**  
Trusted for Generations

Shorehaven is once again collecting items for their holiday tree gift drive. A full list of requested items is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. See posting for more details!