

# MISSION & MINISTRY CONNECTION

Each sermon needs two things!

Each Tuesday I study the lessons for the following Sunday with fellow Lutheran pastors, part of our time together is to translate from the original Greek! Other than translating the text, we spend a great deal of time reflecting on “how” we see God’s Law and Gospel within the text and how it is to be presented in the sermon. Any good sermon must have clear separation of Law and Gospel!

Recently in my Thursday morning Bible class we got onto the topic of Law and Gospel and how to see and understand it whenever we study God’s Word. Below you will find some helpful information in understanding Law and Gospel from **Edward Koehler: A Summary of Christian Doctrine** .

## The Law and the Gospel

The Law and the Gospel. —Both terms are used in the Bible in a wider and in a narrower sense.

In the wider sense, either of the terms denotes the entire revelation of God. In the narrower and proper sense, the Law is the Law of the Commandments, and the Gospel is the glad tidings of God's grace. The Law and the Gospel have this in common: both are the Word of God; both pertain to all men; both must be taught side by side in the Church unto the end of time. Nevertheless, they are fundamentally different, and must be carefully distinguished; “rightly dividing the Word of truth” ( 2 Tim. 2:15).

### **Differences between the Law and the Gospel.**

The Law, originally written in the heart of man, is still partly known to man by nature (Rom. 2:14, 15).—The Gospel is absolutely unknown to natural man; there is not even a trace of it in the religions of heathen people. We learn of it only from God's own revelation (1 Cor. 2:6–12).

In the Law God tells us what we must do or may not do. It is “the Law of commandments contained in ordinances” (Eph. 2:15). “Thou shalt” (Matt. 22:37); “Thou shalt not” (Ex. 20:3). It demands perfect obedience (Gal. 3:10; Matt. 5:48). The Gospel reveals what God has done and is still doing for our salvation (John 3:16; Luke 4:18, 19). It contains no commands, but only promises of grace and forgiveness (Rom. 1:16, 17; 3:21; Matt. 9:2). The command of the Gospel calling for faith (1 John 3:23), is not a legal command, but a gracious invitation, expressed in the most forcible way, to accept the proffered blessings.

The Law promises eternal life on condition of a perfect obedience. “This do, and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:28); (Lev. 18:5; Gal. 3:12). The promise of the Law must be earned by keeping all the Commandments.—The Gospel-promise is free, gratuitous, unconditional. “Being justified freely by His grace” (Rom. 3:24); (Rom. 4:16; 11:6; Is. 1:18; 43:25). There are “no strings attached” to the Gospel-promise. Faith is not a condition of the promise in the sense that

thereby we earn or become worthy of the promised gift, but only in the sense that thereby we accept what the promise offers.

The Law convinces man of his sinfulness. “By the Law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20).

Its transgressions provoke the wrath of God. Hence, it pronounces the curse of God on the evildoer; “cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this Law to do them” (Deut. 27:26). Thus, the Law proves us to be ungodly, and condemns us. The Gospel reveals to ungodly sinners the love and grace of God (John 3:16; Acts 20:24). It offers and imparts forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47), and the righteousness which Christ merited for man (Rom. 1:17). Hence, it declares the ungodly just (Rom. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:19). In the Law God tells the sinner: Thou shalt die for thy sins and be damned. In the Gospel God tells the sinner: Thou art redeemed; thou shalt live and be saved.

Because the Law reveals the wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man (Rom. 1:18), it works fear of punishment, sorrow and regret, despair, and hatred of God in the heart of man. It demands love (Matt. 22:37), but cannot inspire it; it kills love. “For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me” (Rom. 7:11); (2 Cor. 3:6). It cannot make us Christians (Gal. 3:2). The Gospel comforts those who are depressed because of their sins (Is. 40:1. 2); it works faith and trust in God (Rom. 10:17), love of God and the neighbor (1 John 4:19. 21), joy and hope (1 Pet. 1:3. 6). Thus it regenerates us (1 Pet. 1:23), creating a new spiritual life and a willing obedience (John 6:63; Ps. 119:32).

### **Use of the Bible, use of the Law and the Gospel**

The use of the Law and the Gospel. While radically different as to content, purpose, and effect, both, the Law and the Gospel, must be used.

By the Law man is brought to the knowledge of his sins, to regret, sorrow and despair. The Law “was added because of transgressions” (Gal. 3:19). The Law shows transgressions to be what they truly are, namely, transgressions. It, therefore, demolishes all self-righteousness and trust in one's own merit, and makes one realize his helpless and hopeless condition. The Law must be preached to all men, but especially to impenitent sinners. The Gospel brings the message of grace, offers forgiveness of sins, works in the heart the acceptance of its offer, and thus converts man. The Gospel must be preached to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins. But the Law must be used also after conversion. By faith we are perfectly righteous before God; the Law does not concern us at all as to our justification and salvation (Rom. 3:28). But with respect to Christian living the regenerate need the

### **Law as a curb, as a mirror, and as a guide.**

**As a curb:** “For the old Adam, as an intractable, refractory ass, is still a part of them, which must be coerced to obedience of Christ, not only by the teaching, admonition, force, and threatening of the Law, but oftentimes by the club of punishments and troubles”

**As a mirror:** “Therefore, as often as believers stumble, they are reproved by the Holy Spirit from the Law, and by the same Spirit are raised up and comforted again with the preaching of the Gospel”

**As a guide:** “This doctrine is needful for believers, in order that they may not hit upon a holiness and devotion of their own, and under pretext of the Spirit of God set up a self-chosen worship, without God's Word and command”

At first this may all seem like “Greek to me....” but read and reread this and you will begin to sense, see and understand what makes what we believe, teach and confess so amazing! Because with only either Law or Gospel the witness, message for Bible study is incomplete for sure. One without the other is NOT helpful either. We would like a lot of Gospel, who wouldn't but without the Law, the Gospel is weakened.

As a Lutheran pastor I am passionate about proper distinction (separation) of Law and Gospel, it may not seem like a big deal – but it is!

Blessings on your understand of the richness of God's Word and how it applies to you!

Pastor Below

### **A Note from our Director of Music and Worship**

*Subluxation*, noun; from the Latin *sub*, meaning ‘under, close to;’ *lux*, meaning ‘light;’ and –ation, a suffix indicating a state, condition, or quality.

Yesterday I paid my weekly visit to my chiropractor, and we were discussing my progress. I have some significant misalignment in my spine, due in part to several car accidents over the years, and it's been a long journey to get everything back to where it needs to be. During my adjustment, Dr. Hewkin explained that, in chiropractic medicine, the etymology of the word ‘subluxation’ is incredibly important. In the chiropractic approach, the correct alignment of the spinal column is imperative for optimal function of the spinal cord and all stemming nerves, and achieving that allows the ‘light’ of one's nervous system to shine. Misalignment does not allow for optimal function, and so shuts off that light. ‘Subluxation,’ then, refers to that misalignment, that squelching of function, that cutting off of light.

It strikes me that ‘subluxation’ is pretty important in our spiritual lives as well. In the book of Matthew, in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He states, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:14-16). I don't know about you, dear reader, but I find that there is plenty in this world that causes my light to be covered up and cause a *spiritual* subluxation. There is political and civil unrest all over the world. Children are dying from hunger, civilians are being slaughtered by their own governments, and pollution is wreaking havoc on humans and animals alike.

That dims my light.

Instead of open discussion and debate, I see our nation being divided by polarizing issues. Respect for others and speaking kindly is no longer fashionable, having been traded in for

shouting, slander, and hatred, villainizing the other side and anyone who dare question the status quo of one's own side.

That dims my light.

I go to work and there are preschoolers who need constant reminders to make good choices. Mommy and Daddy are getting a divorce and they don't know how to process those big feelings, so it shows up by hitting, running around, and not listening.

That dims my light.

When I arrive home after a long day, looking forward to tucking in for the evening, I am hassled by the stomps of my upstairs neighbor and it is so frustrating because I just want—no, NEED—some peace and quiet and then my dog wants to play and I am not in the mood and she just wants my attention so she barks and runs around to get it then I shout at her to stop and she goes and hides in her cage and then I feel terrible and apologize to her and feel overwhelmed by *everything*.

Oh, boy, does that dim my light.

Satan relishes a dim light. He lurks around and waits for an opportune time to \*poof\* it out completely. Satan is also super patient, and plays the long game, slowly wearing down the hearts of believers, until they're at their breaking point. When bad stuff happens, large or small, which it absolutely will in this fallen and broken world, we struggle to make sense of it. But we can't! This world was not designed to be broken. It was designed to be in perfect harmony with God. In our Baptism liturgy, the newly baptized is welcomed with the following statement: "In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasure of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother/sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Jesus knows that this earthly life is hard—He lived it! He knows that Satan's temptations are powerful—He was in the desert for over a month with them! And He knows what it feels like to be in a spiritual struggle and subluxation—He was. When He prayed earnestly in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was begging for God the Father to swoop in and make it so that He didn't have to die on the cross. When that prayer was answered with 'no,' He suffered in body and in spirit on the cross. And the moment He died, God the Father literally forgot His only Son. Jesus knows what it feels like to be in darkness, separated from God.

But if Satan plays the long game, God plays the longest game of all. From the very beginning of creation, before time was made, God knew all that would happen to us, in this day and time, in this earthly life. From tiny, insignificant irritations to huge catastrophes, God knew. God knows. God will always know. And further, God isn't just *aware* of the struggles, but truly walks with us through them.

Oh, boy, does that *brighten* my light! Jesus doesn't expect us to shine on our own and make our own light. He knows that we cannot. He knew that from the moment Adam and Eve fell into sin. What He does expect, and makes possible through faith, is for us to respond to His light, which shines through us.

Loving Lord, we praise You for Your enduring goodness and love. From before the first word of creation, You knew us. You knew that we would require a Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ. You knew that we would struggle. And yet, You designed us anyway. Fill us with the light of Your love, that we may shine brightly in glorious praise and faith in You. Amen.

*Elin Gomez*

Worship - Nurture - Witness - Service - Fellowship

June is an interesting month in the church calendar since the month starts with the Seventh (and last) Sunday of Easter followed by The Day of Pentecost and The Holy Trinity Festivals. The Pentecost Season lasts into October until Reformation. This is all after the Ascension of the Lord at the end of Easter. The Ascension, The Holy Trinity, the coming and work of The Holy Spirit. So much to try and understand and so many blessings for us from God.

We are fortunate in our service to have The Creed and say it together. The Creed is familiar to us and it keeps reminding us about the functions and blessings of The Holy Trinity. When we read Luther's Small Catechism we learn so much about The Holy Trinity.

God is the Maker of heaven and earth which means God made each of us and all creatures as well as all we need.

God defends us against all danger and guards and protects us from all evil.

God does all this out of love, divine goodness and mercy. All of this without any merit or worthiness in us. He just wants our thanks, praise, service and obedience.

Jesus Christ is true God begotten of the Father from eternity and also true man born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus Christ has redeemed us, purchased and won us from all sins, death and the power of the devil. He did this with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. Jesus Christ did this so we can live with Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, and keeps us in the true faith. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In the Christian church He daily and richly forgives all our sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise us and all the dead, give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

And all of this is most certainly true.

So much for all of us to be grateful for as we say the Creed together.

May God continue to bless you, your family and our congregation.  
Board of Lay Ministry

### **Preschool and Kids' Day Out**

May was a month of celebrations!

Preschool parents were extremely generous as they not only acknowledged their child's classroom teachers with personal gifts, but they also treated all of the teachers to a lovely luncheon complete with the teachers' favorite treats. We were blessed to have a parent who is a party planner and a parent who is a chef at Napoli 2 play significant roles in our luncheon. What a special day it was and all of our teachers felt extremely blessed and celebrated!

Every preschooler's mother received special treatment at our Annual Mother's Day Tea. Every child prepared special gifts for his or her mother. Some classes sang songs. Some classes enjoyed a video presentation. Every mother left the event knowing that she is deeply loved by her preschooler!

We enjoyed beautiful weather for our Annual Western Day. Staff from Cindy's Zoo brought baby animals for the children to pet and to feed. Every child who wished to do so could have their picture taken riding Macy, the pony, while wearing a cowboy hat and bandana!

The children were encouraged during our final Sonshine Time and our final Chapel to share the love of Jesus with others. Even though they are little, their faith is big!

It rained the night before, but our preschool families and staff were able to enjoy a gorgeous day at Schroeder Park for our Annual All-School Picnic. We always relish the opportunity to play, visit, and eat lunch together. All of the children look forward to having popsicles on the playground!

Thirty-two Junior and Pre-Kindergarten students graduated on our last day of school, Friday, May 24. Due to the generosity of the Lord of Life congregation, we were able to gift each graduate with the HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible) Big Picture Interactive Bible. The Bible will literally pop off the page via a free downloadable app that lets the children view the images in an augmented-reality format. They will be able to listen to a narration of the event by Jenna Lucado Bishop. We are so very excited to be able to put God's Word in our students'

hands and pray that the students and their parents will be drawn closer to the Savior through this gift.

Our hard-working teachers are looking forward to a relaxing summer. Some will be working two weeks of Summer Camp – June 3 and June 10. Twenty-two of our current students are enrolled with most attending both weeks.

Happy Summer, Everyone!  
Miss Ann

### **Jr. Kindergarten**

Every year at this time I ask my Junior Kindergarten students what they have learned to make them ready for Kindergarten. It is always fun to hear what they have to say.

Anika- “I’ve learned how to share and all about being kind to others. I’ve learned all my letters and how to write them.”

Abby- “I can read all my friends’ names on the attendance chart and the weather words! I can count by 10’s and 5’s and all the way to 100.”

Mason- “I can add, and subtract! I can add 100 and 100! I became a great engineer; I built the Eiffel tower out of blocks.”

Hudson- “I can count by 10’s and 2’s. I can read all my friends’ names and the weather words.”

Max- “I know all the letters in the alphabet and I can write them! I can read weather words and my friends’ names. And, if you mess up, it’s ok!”

Ava- “I can count by 10’s and add numbers. I can read some words and write “AT,” and “IT” words. We learned lots of science, too!”

Carter- “I learned more math and lots of subtraction. I learned how to write and read more words. I learned lots of science, like how a chemical reaction happens with vinegar and baking soda.”

Autumn- “I made lots of friends and learned how to be a good friend and be yourself. I learned lots of different art and how to work hard.”

There you have it! They are ready for their next adventure!

*Nancy Kyle*

## **Support our VBS!**

**We Need You!! Be part of *Miraculous Mission* VBS, sharing God's miraculous message.** We have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Students who are just completing Sixth Grade on up through Adults are invited to pick up a VBS Staff Form from the VBS Display in the Welcome Center, fill it out, and return to the display. To learn more about how you can serve, contact Charlene Valett, VBS Director, at 314-374-7191; cfvalett@earthlink.net

**Supply Request Tags** for snacks and craft supplies needed at our *Miraculous Mission* VBS are posted in the Welcome Center. You are invited to take a tag and bring in a needed item by June 1. We appreciate your support!

**We appreciate your prayers** for our *Miraculous Mission* VBS. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

### **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In so doing, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but

with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, “a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.”

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.

But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

June of Concern Needs:

- Jelly
- Snacks
- Hand / Bar Soap
- Hand / Body Lotion
- Conditioner
- Cereal
- Laundry Detergent
- Pasta Sauce - CRITICAL
- Tomato Products
- Condiments
- Adult diapers / incontinence products

The Yellow Meal-A-Month Bags are on the Circle of Concern barrel in the entryway. Please take one, bring your items in those bags or a paper bag, and place them in the barrel. Circle has informed us that they can no longer reuse plastic grocery bags. They can only accept brown paper bags.

**Our goal is 500+ cans each month. Thanks for your support!**

***June Baptism Birthdays:***

- Oscar Fantroy 6/1
- Ken Lichtenheld 6/1
- Charlie O'Connell 6/1
- Paul Suchland 6/1
- Kayla Suchland 6/5
- Sheri Beirne 6/6
- Laura Gilbert 6/10
- Carter Gilbert 6/13
- Daryl Hagstrom 6/14
- Daniel Schelp 6/14
- Stan Roux 6/15
- Mark Stallmann 6/15
- Olivia Smith 6/20
- Margaret Drury 6/21
- Luke Eatherton 6/22
- Cory Gutzler 6/24
- Jeremy Chamber 6/24
- Michael Clasen 6/28

***Happy Birthday To:***

- Nathan Burlis 6/1
- Rachel Chamber 6/3
- Abby Tampow 6/3
- Audrey Fantroy 6/4
- Nilo Figur 6/7
- Cory Gutzler 6/7
- Don Roberts 6/10
- Kristen Roux 6/10
- Harriet Pancoast 6/14
- Kelly Chamber 6/17
- Virgil Schotte 6/18
- Alma Ayres 6/25
- Ernie Peck 6/26
- Shelia Fischer 6/27
- Mark Kammeyer 6/27
- Julie Heyen 6/28
- Jan Oesch 6/28
- Laura Clasen 6/29
- Gladys Mueller 6/30

***June Wedding Anniversaries:***

- Paul & Patty Suchland 6/20
- Ken & Pat Lichtenheld 6/21
- Doug & Sue Mowczko 6/21
- Darrell & Debbie Schelp 6/25

**Serving Teams**

Jun 2	8:00	Team 7-11
	10:30	Team 9
Jun 9	8:00	Team 2
	10:30	Team CAAN
Jun 16	8:00	Team 3
	10:30	Team 6
Jun 23	8:00	Team 7-11
	10:30	Team 4
Jun 30	8:00	Team 1
	10:30	Team 9

**Lay Readers**

Jun 2	8:00	Zach Zeigler
	10:30	Marty Schamber
Jun 9	8:00	Mark Bossi
	10:30	Regan Reed
Jun 16	8:00	Diane Wolf
	10:30	John Dye
Jun 23	8:00	Tracy Heaton
	10:30	Carla May
Jun 30	8:00	Zach Zeigler
	10:30	Marty Schamber

**Altar Guild**

Team #3  
 Janet Kammeyer  
 Carla May  
 Debbie Schelp  
 Charlene Valett  
 Kathy Roux

**Lay Ministers**

Jun 2	8:00	Justin Langrehr
	10:30	Donnie May
Jun 9	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Brian Andrew
Jun 16	8:00	Joe Delmore
	10:30	Gene Valett
Jun 23	8:00	Ted Greer
	10:30	Joe Delmore
Jun 30	8:00	Gene Valett
	10:30	Nehemiah Langness

**Counting Teams**

Jun 2	Peggy Krause Gene Valett
Jun 9	Steve Mueller Carol DuMontier
Jun 16	Yvette Hagstrom Cindy Young
Jun 23	Ken Rosemann Marilyn Evensen
Jun 30	Linda Rosemann Dennis Oneal

**Nursery – 10:30**

Jun 2	
Jun 9	
Jun 16	Carla May
Jun 23	Robbie Doebert
Jun 30	Colleen Clasen