THE VIEW

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church and Preschool 2606 Chimney Rock Road Hendersonville, NC 28792 www.mtpisgahlutheran.com 828-692-7027 Email: mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Obedience and Faith

A unique characteristic of Lutheranism is our clear distinction between Law and Gospel, sometimes to a fault. How can it be to a fault? It is when we make blanket generalizations regarding Law and Gospel that rigidly separates them so severely that they are not permitted to interact with each other. God's word is nuanced. This does not mean that Scripture is malleable to our personal interpretations, but we do see a constant ebb and flow of Law and Gospel because both find their source in God's loving will for His creation.

Take for example Christ's words from John 14:15: "if you love me, you will keep my commandments." Even though this is a reference to a love from Christ that can only well up in us on account of Christ's love for us ("We love because he first loved us" 1 John 4:19.), which is very clearly a result of grace and therefore gospel, the command to love and obey Jesus, however, is most certainly Law. It is God's will for us, and what is expected of those who are redeemed in Christ. Here we see Law and Gospel dancing together in complimentary fashion, yet not blending in a way that they lose their clarity or distinction.

For most of us (especially my generation), however, we learned Law and Gospel in a more wooden fashion: Law condemns and Gospel saves. On the surface, this is true. Scripture plainly teaches that the does not and cannot save. On the other hand, the Gospel condemns no one; rather it sets us free and makes us truly alive. Therefore, functionally, the simplicity of stating that the Law condemns and the Gospel saves is absolutely true. The problem arises when we look at it only by how it functions from the human perspective. If the Law condemns, then it must be bad. If the gospel saves and even overturns the condemnation of the Law for the sake of Christ, then it would be prudent to focus on the gospel alone. This oversimplification is known as Law/Gospel Reductionism.

Casting aside and abandoning the Law because of its unpleasantness and developing an overly permissive Gospel has popped up repeatedly throughout Christian history. In Paul's writings, he chastised the church in Rome for using God's grace as a license to violate the Law (Romans 6). Shortly after the last of the Apostles died, gnostic teachers like Marcion rejected the harshness of the Law so completely that he taught that God from the Old Testament, who created the world, was a different god from the loving Father of the New Testament that sent Jesus. He even published his own canon of the Bible that excluded the Old Testament and book of the New Testament that were problematic for his views. Marcion was denounced by the other Church Fathers and excommunicated in 144 AD.

No one who has a knowledge of church history wants to be called a Marcionite, but that hasn't stopped many churches from following in his footsteps by discarding Scripture and treating God as a villain because of a distaste for the Law. In modern times, it is either declared unnecessary because of the Gospel, ignored because it makes people feel self-conscious about the sin in their lives, or rejected for various reasons that all result from refusing to acknowledge the Law's authority. In fact this was a false charge levelled against the early Lutherans because they taught salvation as Sola Fide (Faith Alone).

What the adversaries of the Lutherans misunderstood, whether willfully or ignorantly, was their adherence to Scripture's doctrinal separation between justification and sanctification. Justification is God's declaration of forgiveness and reconciliation with man because of Christ. We are justified by grace alone because of Christ alone, which is received through faith alone. Our adherence and obedience to the Law count nothing toward this; it is Jesus who fulfilled all righteousness necessary for our salvation. He kept the Law in our stead because we could not. This is the good news (Gospel) that we receive by faith and are saved.

But then what? Once we are saved, is there nothing more? Of course, there is more! Justification is only the beginning. We were reconciled to God by Christ that we may now live a new life in Christ. He has made us holy and set us apart as His people (Sanctification) in order that day by day we may fulfill the works that God has set before us by loving Him as we love our neighbor. This culminates with Christ's return and endless kingdom, where we will know this new life in its perfection. Therefore, to combat the false accusations that the Lutherans have thrown out the Law, in their statement of faith from the Augsburg Confession, they made it clear that both Law and Gospel are forever essential to the Christian life.

Article VI: Of New Obedience

Also they [Lutheran Churches] teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God's will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. For remission of sins and justification is apprehended by faith, as also the voice of Christ attests: When ye shall have done all these things, say: We are unprofitable servants. Luke 17:10. The same is also taught by the Fathers. For Ambrose says: It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving remission of sins, without works, by faith alone.

The Sixth Article of the Augsburg Confession, after a tangent on how God provides the Office of the Ministry for the distribution of His Means of Grace, returns back to further develop the Fourth Article's teaching on the justified status of the believer by God's grace through faith alone in Christ. Faith alone may justify, but the righteous life that God imputes according to that faith is not void of good works. The will and command of God for us to do good works remains a natural and necessary product of the new obedience of faith that constitutes the life of those born again in Christ (a.k.a. the regenerate).

The fact that the Lutheran Reformers saw this as being bound and necessary may surprise some people. After being set free from the works and condemnation of the Law according to justification by faith alone, the Law is reintroduced, but in a new light and a new way. Whereas, previously, the Law functioned in only two ways: demanding compliance by all mankind to keep the whole will and word of God and condemning man for is inability to keep it; this has been satisfied by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But what happens to the Law? Is it annulled? No. The Law is the good will of God for His creation that governs all things. It cannot be removed, not one dot or tittle. Since we have been freed in Christ from the condemnation of the Law, and we are deemed righteous in him, the Law now reverts to its original intent by which our obedience to is brings glory to God and a delight to us instead of something that separates.

Although this new obedience would not be referenced as a Third Use of the Law until the next generation of Lutherans in the Formula of Concord, this Article strongly testifies to the necessity for both Law and Gospel to be taught and upheld within the church and in the lives of Christians. Not only does the severity of the Law remain to discipline God's people, since we have not yet received the perfected natures that are promised in the resurrection, but Law presents itself in a new fashion to those who have been regenerated in Christ, as it now guides us that we may love Christ by obeying His commandments.

Looking to this Third Use of the Law frees us from the pitfalls of a Law/Gospel Reductionism that ultimately results in the loss of both Law and Gospel. Instead, we have a nuanced and complimentary dance as the Law points to the Gospel and the Gospel restores a right use of the Law as we live a new life of faith and obedience in Christ.

"You know you are Lutheran if, when agreeing with someone, instead of replying "yes I agree" you answer "this is most certainly true!"

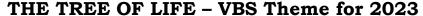
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

A back-to-school prayer: "Jesus, Savior and Good Shepherd, who has given Your life to save us, You have directed us to feed and tend your lambs and sheep. Bless our students, schools, teachers and staffs. Strengthen, equip and encourage all who teach and all who learn, so that

Your name is praised and honored as knowledge, skills and attitudes are imparted and acquired. Strengthen and encourage our students, schools, teachers and staffs so they grow in faith toward You and in love to one another, that, by Your grace, they may be a light in a world held captive in the darkness of sin. Amen."

Parish Life

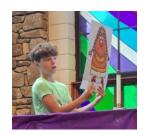
Parish Life will be hosting a pot luck dinner for Friendship Sunday on August 6, 2023 after second service. A signup sheet will be in the narthex. Please let us know many of your family and friends will be attending and what dish you plan to bring.





From creation to the resurrection, our preschool children learned about God's love and the gift of life while attending Vacation Bible School each afternoon July 10-14. The opening lesson and group lessons were reiterated through songs and crafts. And, of course, there was game time.

The daily attendance ranged between 20 and 24 children, supervised by preschool staff and the following: Pastor Christensen, Sue Glossop, Donna Clancy and her sister Joanne, Debby Zagone, Eva Maumemee, and Tyler, Arianna, and Gracie Maloney. Many thanks to our VBS staff and volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you!



Linda Licht, Chairman Board of Christian Education

NEW SEMINARY STUDENTS

Josiah Schultz

Dear Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church Mission Board,

Hello from North Canton, Ohio! My name is Josiah Schultz and I am 25 years old. I am from Overland Park, Kansas, where I went to a Lutheran grade school and high school. When it was time for college, I had no idea what God's calling was for my life, so I decided to go to community college. After two years of community college, I felt the Lord's calling to the Seminary, so I decided to attend Concordia University Chicago to finish my last two years there. And thanks be to God I decided to pick this wonderful school because along with a great preseminary education I also met my wife Hannah in the first week of school. I immediately knew that I was going to marry her and now here we are ready to finish up year number 3 of seminary. God could not have mapped out a better plan for my life.

This coming year Hannah will be a part-time teacher aid at Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, MO. She loves teaching and is excited to get back into the classroom on a part-time basis. It has been amazing to watch her become a mother to our son Simeon and to see her care for him every single day. She is excited to work part-time so she can still have time with him during the day. Simeon is one and a half years old and is very active. He loves running around, playing outside, and reading books. It's a joy to watch him learn and grow every day.

This past year we have been in North Canton, Ohio for my vicarage. I have been learning and growing as I gain experience from preaching, teaching, and visiting with members. One of my favorite parts of vicarage has been teaching confirmation to the 7th and 8th graders. I enjoyed seeing their engagement and growth with their faith. It has been a wonderful year, but I am excited to return to St. Louis and finish up my education before I am sent out into the harvest field. Support from churches like you is what makes it possible for my family to make it through

the Seminary, and I am so thankful for the many ways that God provides through the generosity of His Church.

In Christ,

Josiah Schultz





Jacob Moede

A good mail address for this year is 911 Tirrill Farms Rd. St. Louis, MO 63124.

My name is Jacob Moede, I am from a small town in northeast Wisconsin called Bonduel. I'm the middle child, one of three boys, and the first generation in my family to go to seminary.

My wife Caroline is from Concordia, Missouri. She and I met in college at Concordia University Wisconsin. We have been married for one year now and are currently expecting a baby girl due this coming November. Our excitement is growing just as she does, we can't wait to see her face to face.

I am enjoying seminary education thoroughly. The academic classes alongside experiential training at off-campus sites has been effective at teaching me and my peers in our first year. I love all fields of theology being taught but have a soft spot for the languages. Hebrew and Greek are a love of mine, they reveal so much from the Scriptures that is often lost in translation.

Blessings in Christ, Jacob Moede

Outreach & Community Concerns



Our Mission of the Month for August is the Safelight Child Advocacy Center in Hendersonville. Our Mt Pisgah family has supported Safelight in the past, but the funds given during August will be specifically given to support their assistance to children and families in crisis.

Safelight operates a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Henderson County where children and their families are provided crisis intervention due to abuse. (First Nationally Child Alliance accredited CAC in NC in 1990) The CAC offers a coordinated community effort to provide a one and done intake interview for children and nonoffending guardians to reduce the trauma a child faces telling their story of neglect, abuse, or exploitation at multiple locations or repeatedly over several days. Many services dealing with law enforcement and medical needs are provided at a single location in a safe, non-threatening environment.

Their need currently is to establish a safe, warm, and welcoming teen space, where teens can distract themselves during the crisis intervention process. Several items from the CAC's list of wants will be displayed in the narthex, along with information about the work they do in the community. This waiting space will be a teen's first connection to a safe, warm, and supportive environment.

Please take a moment to view this display and see for yourself the good that our Mt Pisgah Family has a chance to support!



Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church Ladies Guild/LWML
August 2023

LWML Biennial Convention, June 2023

See the following news release for information about LWML mission projects to be funded in the next two years. The money gathered monthly in the big Mite Box is sent to LWML to support these projects.

NEWS RELEASE

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, welcomed over 3,500 people to their 40th biennial convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023, under the theme "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations." The convention theme was based on Psalm 33:12–13.

2023–2025 Mission Goal and Mission Grants

The Lutheran Women in Mission voting body adopted a \$2,350,000 mission goal for the 2023–2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 31 mission grants, as women and men respond in prayer and mite offerings during the next two years. Here is the list of Mission Grant Recipients:

- 1. Orphan Grain Train Servant Center Orphan Grain Train, U.S. \$100,000
- 2. A Healing Space for At-Risk Children Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota \$100,000
- 3. Serving God's Children with Special Needs Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin \$100,000
- 4. Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000
- 5. Disaster Response Team Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Texas \$50,000
- 6. Mobile Kitchen Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. \$85,000
- 7. Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach LCMS Life Ministry \$96,500
- 8. Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri \$100,000
- 9. Equipping Young Leaders LCMS Youth Ministry \$50,000
- 10. Set Apart To Serve LCMS Office of Pastoral Education \$100,000
- 11. Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job Ministry in Mission, Haiti \$85,000
- 12. Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana \$35,000

- 13. Water and the Word Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya \$80,000
- 14. Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S. \$47,000
- 15. Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals Trinity HOPE \$58,082
- 16. Care for Street Children of Western Kenya Capstone Ministries \$50,000
- 17. Nurturing Faith for the Aging Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew) \$100,000
- 18. Zoe's Home Support Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, Missouri \$75,000
- 19. Tanzania Children's Homes Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa \$74,500
- 20. Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000
- 21. Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church Lutheran Family Services \$106,000
- 22. Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in the United States Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000
- 23. A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children Lutheran Special Education Ministries \$100,000
- 24. God's Word for Central & South American Missions Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$100,000
- 25. Bringing God's Word to India India Bible Translation Project \$100,000
- 26. Life Connection Events and Kits Lutherans for Life \$70,000
- 27. Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, Nebraska \$50,000
- 28. Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students Our Place After School Care, Inc., Nebraska \$20,000
- 29. Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School St. Paul's Lutheran School, Cullman, Alabama \$50,000
- 30. Showering Love on the Least of These Mercy Holistic Ministry, California \$100,000
- 31. Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit— Camp Restore Detroit, Michigan, Partial Payment of \$58,988.62

Upcoming Ladies Guild/LWML Events

We want YOU!

The first meeting of the "new year" for our group will be on Monday, September 11, at 1 pm. Join us to help plan the coming year of projects, fellowship, and time spent in God's Word. Last year, one of our projects was preparing a meal for our preschool staff. We would like to do other hands-on projects, especially those that combine an opportunity to help with not just physical needs, but spiritual needs in our community and beyond. Come to our September meeting with your ideas!

August LWML Retreat

We hope to hear a report in September from women who were able to attend the August retreat held at Camp Linn Haven. LWML sponsors such faith building activities several times a year, so if you were unable to attend the August retreat, be looking for the next gathering of area Lutheran women. News of these events will be in the Midweek News and posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Can't attend meetings but want to help out when you can? Join the LWML Mailbox Members Program to receive monthly updates and spiritual supports such as devotions or Bible studies. Contact Debby Zagone in person or at debbyzagone@gmail.com to get signed up.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Kathy Kirchoefer

Outdoor Properties: Blessings and Opportunities

Thanks be to God for the repair of the handicapped parking lot near the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks be to God for church members who water plants, trim bushes, and pick up trash.

Thanks be to God for beautiful flowers, berries, trees, and grass.

Thanks be to God for a beautiful and secure building.

Mark your calendar for helping care for our buildings and grounds 9am to Noon on Saturday August 12th. Bring your favorite yard tools (put your name on them). Projects include trimming, weeding, putting edging along the South Playground fence, gutter repair, and painting doors.

Additional opportunities to help will be from 10am to 1pm every Tuesday and Thursday, between August 8-31. Join Bill in doing a variety of projects such as cleaning the garage, fixing signs, and working on the path in the woods.

Bill Paris, Outdoor Property Chair

ALASKA MISSION TRIP

Bill Paris joined a team from Redeemer Lutheran Church (Ft. Collins, Colorado) for a week in the Anchorage, Alaska area. The team was helping Alaska Mission for Christ (AMC) share and show the love of God with Alaskan residents and others. AMC is an LCMS non-profit ministry. This year, a record number 450 volunteer missionaries on 55 teams served in Alaska. This is an answer to the earnest prayers of God's people for "the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:38, ESV)

Here are some highlights from the trip:

- June 18 Attended the worship service at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Chugiak (Chew-key-ak), bought food and planned for the week, got oriented to our new "home".
- June 19 Projects at the St. Francis House making a large garden box, weeding, and organizing clothing and food donations.
- June 20 Toured the new Resource & Navigation Center (for the homeless) and reorganized the clothing room at the Brother Francis Shelter. In the afternoon, we helped with the Lutheran Social Services drive-thru food pantry at the Lutheran Church of Hope.
- June 21 Inventoried many baby related items for the Community Pregnancy Center that were in the large backlot storage unit. Also did yard care many hours of weed whacking.
- June 22 Put mulch on paths between long garden beds and made new tool shed at the Grow North Farm (a community co-op garden). Then we helped set up and conduct various activities for children at the World Refugee Day event being held at the garden.
- June 23 Deep cleaning counselling rooms, and restrooms at the Community Pregnancy Center along with washing outside of windows.

The team also had some downtime to enjoy Alaska's nature, wildlife, history, and food.

<u>More information</u> with pictures, videos, and music will be shared with the congregation during the Sunday School-Bible Study time (9:15-10:30am) <u>on Sunday August 20th</u> in the Fellowship Hall. Come and hear how God is using His Word to reach the world and to help His people!

If you are interested in being a short-term missionary with AMC, please contact Bill Paris.





Birthday Blessings

08/02 Millis Parshall 08/05 Philip McLain 08/11 William Leger 08/13 Anna Emerson 08/23 Kathryn Kirchoefer 08/25 Stephen Leyrer 08/31 Kathleen Fox



Baptismal Blessings August Tyler Maloney 8/11 Anna Emerson 8/13 Dailyn Rappley 8/21 Kathleen Weege 8/31

Prayer List Long Term Illness

Cynthia M. (Lundquist) Michael Terzian (Keeney) Brian Keeney Joyce (Kruse) Stacy Olson (Ryel) Brenda Ridgeway (Amato) Gretchen Sweetser (Mincer) Mary Coffman (Coffman)

Mike & Suzie Characky (Steen) Annette & Jim Bodden (Heaphy)

Surgeries and Illness

Donald Young (Rappley)
Michele Escude`
Dietrich Fabricius
Karen Lundquist
Dewayne Grooms
(Gonzalez)
Kurt Dellutri
Michele Escude`

Dietrich Fabricius
Jackie Fry
Madeline Biddle
Patty Metcalf (Luecke)
Jan Tharp
Wally Rose Mincer
Joe Gabriel (Amato)
Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)

Joanne Blanchard (Clancy) David Hawthorne Vicki Fisher Mary Hill Louise Bauer Betty Ude

Personal and Family Concerns

Roger & Kay Lund (Heaphy) John Renick Nancy Stang Joann Kapugi Kaufman Family Debbie Leger Sandi Rivers (Ryel) Wayne & Karen Mathis (Steen)

Teresa Fisher & children Colby & Audrey (Kaufman)

Homebound

Louise Bauer Warna Berryman Albert & Marianne Bugner Kathleen Fox Joann Kapugi Suzie Karnatz Dianne Luecke Jan Nelson Sue Smith Nancy Stang Betty Ude

Compassion and Sympathy

Ministry Concerns

Our Preschool staff, children & families
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti
Pastor Dale Kaster (Missionary, Czech Republic)
Pastor Daniel Jastram (Missionary, Japan)
Pastor Daniel Conrad (Missionary, Dominion Republic)
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminarian)
Josiah and Hannah Schultz (Seminarian)
Jacob and Caroline Moede (Seminarian)

NEW DONATION STATION

Mt. Pisgah has added a Donation Station to the Narthex. Three collection bins are located to the right as you enter the church. For many years, we have been continuously collecting food items for Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM). Instead of having the receptacle down a side hallway, we now have the drop-off location in the Narthex and added two other reception bins to it.

One of additional bins will receive gently used clothing items for IAM. Instead of making a special trip, you can bring items with you to church, and we will deliver it for you.

The third receptacle is for donating used sneakers. Instead of sending your old tennis shoes to a landfill, the GotSneakers? Organization provides a fundraiser that partners with non-profits to either reuse sneakers in second-hand markets or to ecologically recycle those that cannot be used again.

The organization will donate funds back to our Youth accounts for the shoes (Sneakers Only) that we contribute. If you have food, clothing, or sneakers that you do not need and others may benefit from, please check out our Donation Station in the Narthex.

ECM Board

Staff of Mt. Piagad Preschool.

Shank you so much for the love and care you give each child. The graduation was perfect for this age.

Noah has loved his school and teachers. He has made great friends. Most importantly he has learned more about I seen. Thank you for showing him God's love and this Son. Sheng Waily (Mimi)

Jean thatherine,

I cannot thank you enough
for the apportunity to work
here is be part of the Mt.

Pisgan tomily. I truly last his
place is every one here with
all my heart.

Thank you for being the
teacher/menter lie neided in
my life. Everything you've
taight me will help me
be successful where ver I
go - or it I seture somewhere.



NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES OR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Information for accessing church service or evening Bible Study

Online: Video will be found on the home page at http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com

The service bulletin will also be available on the homepage.

Phone: Service will begin at 10:45 am, dial in direct with no access code to (508) 924-5662 or call toll-free (844) 802-6666 and enter access code 889956

YouTube: Recording link will be published on the home page once it is available.

A DVD is available outside church door in the red box on the wall.

For complete information on church events, please visit the website:

https://mtpisgahlutheran.360unite.com

Thank you for bringing hope for their future!



Your contribution for this supper will provide Christian education for children in the Central Plateau of Haiti. In their neighborhoods, there are no public schools. If there is a school, it consists of a black board under a shade tree and the teachers are not paid. Families are too poor to pay for their children to attend private school. That is why your contribution changes their lives and brings them hope and a future!

We welcome and need your support. If God moves you to help support Christian Education for children in Haiti, 100% of your donation is tax deductible and 100% goes directly toward supporting Christian Education in several Haitian villages. You can give by mail to Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, 2606 Chimney Rock Rd, Hendersonville NC 28792 or give online at our website Home | Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church (360unite.com) and click on the donate button at the top.

Christian Education brings these families hope and a future for their children. And all of us need hope and a future!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



\$1,525 was given to support these starter schools in Haiti.

Thanks to all who supported this effort!



Send your story, photos, ideas to Karen.Lundquist@yahoo.com

We can also record your story on video!