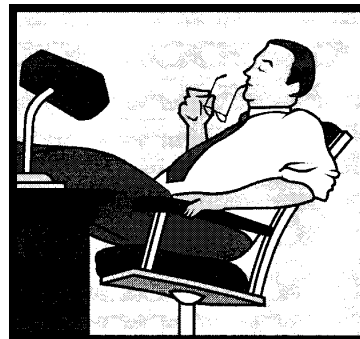




## From the Desk of the President: Bits and Pieces

Every now and then I like to catch you up on what has been happening around TLC:

- Vacation Bible School was again conducted during the hottest week of the year. Thank you to all of the teachers and volunteers. A special thank you to Ginny MacCoy who has said this is her last year directing VBS. Thank you to the Gentiles for hosting a dinner for the volunteers.
- On August 7<sup>th</sup> we bid our farewells to the Koziol family who have moved to Fort Wayne, IN. Stephen soon begins his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary on September 6. Stephen, Tina and Kaitlyn will be greatly missed for their friendship and all they did for TLC.
- At the August 7 Congregational Meeting, Julia Launer was elected to fill the Council vacancy left by Dawn Werrbach. Thank you, Dawn, for your faithful service.
- The 2011 TLC Golf Tournament raised \$880. Thank you, Bill Capalbo, for organizing another successful tournament.
- The Trinity Ladies Circle tag sale on August 13 raised over \$400 for their projects.
- Thanks to Dean Darling for the new furniture in the Pastor's office.
- Thanks to Elder Chad Ehinger for substituting on August 14<sup>th</sup> while Pastor and his family were on vacation. If you weren't there you missed Chad's best sermon to date!
- The final cost of the fire code compliance modifications was \$19,925; well within the \$26,000 authorized by the congregation. Thank you, Dean, for heading up yet another major building activity.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Pastor Mazikas' ordination and installation at TLC was on July 12th.
- Thank you to the Griffins for the two pedestal fans that have helped cool the sanctuary this summer.
- 2011 TLC scholarships were granted to Jolynn Dassler, Ciara Haines, Stephen Koziol and Tim Calcagni. Best wishes on your studies.
- Thanks to Steve Potochniak for stripping and waxing the floors in time for the Preschool opening.



Peace,  
Bob

## How can God love the Sinner?

"God hates sin but loves the sinner." Maybe you said it, I know I have. HUMMM-- let's all think about what that statement means for a moment. How can a Just and Holy God love the sinner (the adulterer, the thief, the murderer, etc.) when He hates the sin (adultery, theft, murder, etc.) so much? (Ahh - a teaching moment, or by another word --wait for it --ta da-THEOLOGY.) So to keep this article as short as possible -- let's dust off our Bibles and see what Scripture has to say about the question of the title and that statement mean.

*"Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God'. Leviticus 19:2* Mankind can no more be '...be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy... be holy, for I am the LORD your God", then that rock in your front yard can walk. -- Read here "SINNERS"-- we'll get to the "BUT" a little later on.

*"The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers." Psalm 5:5,*

*The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Psalm 11:5*

Also read Prov. 6:16-19, Lev. 20:23, and Hosea 9:15.

And in Luke 12:5 Jesus is NOT talking about fearing Satan; Satan will be cast into Hell just like the rest of the sinners.

*The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them Gen 6:5-7 YEP!* And in chapter 7 of Genesis, God destroyed a whole world of sinners with that flood.

But yet here we read: *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. Gen 6:8, 9*

How can an Almighty, Just, Holy God say, "But Noah found favor" in His sight? Or for that matter, Able, Seth, Enoch, Job, Abraham, or King David, You, Me, Pastor, or your Neighbor next door. HOW after this statement? *"God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one."* Psalm 53:2, 3. If that is how a Holy God sees mankind, we should all be headed to Hell.

Now as you read through Proverbs 11 (told ya you need to dust off that Bible of yours) I want you to notice something -- **something very important**. Notice that God distinguishes between "the righteous" and "the sinner", look again at Psalm 11:5. So I ask the question again - How can an Almighty, Just, Holy God say, "But Noah found favor... in His sight...Noah was a righteous man?"

Read Hebrews 11. The answer you will read there are in two often overlooked, small words, "by faith." But faith in what? Your car starting when you turn the key? That takes faith. That faith may leave you stranded in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere.

No - The Faith the writer of Hebrews is talking about here, is God's promise made to Satan right after the fall. *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."* Gen 3:15, Think about that for a second, God didn't follow that Human Relations rule of "praise in public - judge in private." Nope - He judged Satan right then and there in front of everyone. Everyone overheard that judgment, and was given Hope "...her seed; He...Him..." - Hope that God would set things right again. So much HOPE Eve even named her first born "Cain" "...and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. Genesis 4:1 (KJV). And when that didn't work out the way they hoped, Adam passed that promise to Seth.

What does Hebrews 11:1 say again? *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

*(continued on back)*

Able, Seth, Enoch, Job, Abraham, King David, St Peter and the rest of the Apostles, You, Me, Pastor, and all Christians have been given THIS HOPE- The Old Testament ones who looked forward “by faith” to this promise of hope and to us New Testament ones who have “through faith” have seen this promise of hope fulfilled on the cross of Jesus and in the empty tomb of Easter.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18*

*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us Romans 5:6,8*

Jesus Christ became SIN and suffered OUR punishment for US *“For our sake he made him to be sin **who knew no sin**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21* So that we are “...a righteous man, (or woman) blameless in his (our) generation. He (We) walked (walk) with God.”

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (here is the “BUT”) **For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.** (see Leviticus 19:2 above 'You shall be holy...') **By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** Rom 8:1-4*

Praise God you-you Christian, **“He who believes in Him is not judged”, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** HEY- You Saint, HELL is NOT YOUR destination.

Now what do we do with this information?

Am I now going to lay down some LAW? After all we just read Law and Gospel, Is it going to be Law, Gospel, Law? No-No that is not the Lutheran understanding of the “Good News”. Nope you are free to do what you wish to do with this information. **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** Let the Holy Spirit guide you. Eph 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them.* Because of this the Sheep in Matthew 25 said “HUH? - When did we do that?” Or in biblical words *“Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’”* Matthew 25:37-39

**“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” WOW! I can't say that enough and neither can GOD.**

So here is the answer to the question posed in the title, if you have not already figured it out.

**“for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.” Gal\_3:26**

**“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” WOW! I still can't say that enough and neither can GOD.**

Isn't Theology fun?

Pax Christi

The Elders

Another summer has flown by and it is time to start thinking about cooler weather, autumn leaves and before you know it, the holidays! Time really does fly by as you get older and every year I am convinced even more. This is Trinity's 28th year for the preschool and it's hard to believe I have been there for the past 15 of them. I am so blessed to have spent so much time here doing a job that I have always loved and look forward to doing every day. I am also thankful for the support from our congregation and dedicated staff I have worked with over the years. Once again we welcome back our full staff: Lori Antoch, Valerie Hammond, Delia James and Patricia Shimkus.



As most of you know we have had to make some changes in our program this year due to state regulations and changing times. We are now officially licensed through DCYF and offer full and half day programs. Our philosophy and curriculum have remained the same though as we continue to cherish and teach each individual child that they are a unique gift from God.

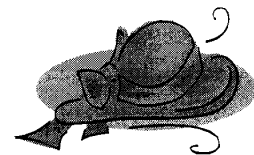
On behalf of my staff, we are excited and looking forward to the new school year and have lots of exciting plans in the works. Orientations for the classes are Friday, September 2nd and school begins on Tuesday, September 6th. We have a few openings so if you know of anyone looking for a preschool, tell them about us! See you all real soon!

*Lori Calcagni*  
Preschool Director

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**T. L. C. Ladies Circle News**

Hello, Everyone! Can you believe it? September, already! And so begins the whirlwind of fractious weather. Earthquake? Hurricane? Anyway -- the Trinity Ladies' Circle has had a busy summer. In July, we met at Lois O'Brien's beautiful home for our monthly meeting. I'm afraid the food and the pool took our minds off of the meeting.



About a week after that, many of us from TLC took part in the Vacation Bible School activities.

In August, we had our annual School Supply Day. At the same time, we held a Yard Sale. Tables were available for those who wished to use one for their goods. All in all it was a very successful day.

September brings Rally Day. We welcome back all those who have been away for the summer by having a potluck/picnic after church on Sunday, September 11th.

And now October -- Once again we'll have our "Oktoberfest" and Silent Auction. It was such a success last year! Saurbraten, red cabbage, knockwurst, bratwurst; m-m-m-m-m, is your mouth watering yet? Well, then, keep FRIDAY, October 21st open and join us at 6:00 pm for some great food and lots of laughs during the Silent Auction.

All ladies of the church are cordially invited to come to our meetings (usually held on the first Saturday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm) and to enjoy the fellowship. So -- "Happy Fall"! We're looking forward to the rest of 2011 and we hope you'll all be part of our activities.

Yours in Christ  
*Dixie*

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**LWML - SAVE THE DATE - OCT 1 - RALLY:** The Mountain Laurel Zone and the Mid-Valley Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League will hold a joint Fall Rally on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1055 Randolph Road, Middletown, Ct, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Matthew Hass, missionary to Japan, will be the guest speaker.

## Calling All Singers!

Choir resumes in September.  
First rehearsal is Tuesday,  
September 13 at 7:30 pm.

Come and join us,  
we've got the best seats in the house!



- John Bennett,  
Organist and Choir Director

## Outreach



Thank you to all those who have made food donations to the **Food Pantry**. Please keep up the good work, as times are getting difficult for many people. Also, we desperately need Food Pantry volunteers to help on alternate Tuesdays for one hour. For more information, see me.

Please Do Not forget the **Community Box** located near the piano as this is another way to help those in our community.

Items needed:

- Pop Tabs (Ronald McDonald House)
- Cancelled Postage Stamps (The Grange)
- Box Tops (Schools)
- Campbell Soup Labels (RI School for the Deaf)
- Greeting Cards (fronts only) (school projects)
- Old Eyeglasses (sent to missions)
- Old Cell Phones (sent to military)

Thank you all.

- Dawn Werrbach

## Trinity Ladies Circle Yard Sale

Trinity Ladies Circle would like to thank everyone who donated items for our yard sale fundraiser, and everyone who helped set up, break down, and run the sale. We raised \$452.00 which will help fund our projects. On the same day we gave away 46 school packets, and 38 packets were given to Faith Lutheran in Groton to be given away at their soup kitchen.



Again, thank you for all of your support in making these events possible. Special thanks to Carol Darling for organizing these projects.

- Linda Griffin

## Rally Day Potluck



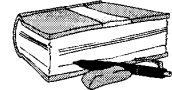
YOU ARE INVITED:

What: Welcome back potluck luncheon  
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church  
Date: Sunday, September 11th  
Time: Following worship service

Please see the signup sheet in the narthex. Meat will be furnished. Suggested items to bring are side dishes, drinks, desserts, etc.

*Hope to see YOU there!*

## Sunday School Resumes...



**Welcome Back!** Our Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, Sept. 11. We look forward to seeing everyone for an exciting year of learning and good fellowship. Remember, classes begin at 9:20 am. We thank all our faithful teachers. We are currently in need of one substitute teacher. If you would like to volunteer, please see Rich Hank or Cheryl Sadowski. *Thank you!*

## Bible Studies at Trinity

Bible Studies resuming in September:

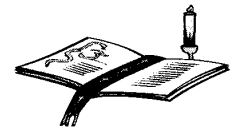
### Sunday mornings

9:30 am beginning Sept. 11 - Study of the Epistle to the Hebrews - Leader: Dr. David Tonn

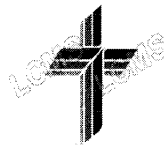
### Wednesday evenings

7:00 pm beginning Sept. 14 - Study entitled "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" - Leader: Pastor Mazikas

Both Bible Studies are held in the new conference room (formerly the nursery) and everyone is encouraged to attend either or both studies!



## Adult Instruction Class



Pastor will begin a new Adult Instruction Class on Sept. 18. Class will meet each Sunday morning following worship service. This class is for anyone who would like to learn more about our Lutheran faith and all are welcome!

## YOUTH NEWS

**Confirmation Classes** resume on Tuesdays, meeting from 4:30 - 5:30 pm beginning September 6th

**Scrip Cards** are available from "Gathering Youth" in the parlor following worship each Sunday.

Reminder: **Essex Steam Train and Riverboat Trip** is planned for Saturday, September 10th. Train departs at 2:00 pm from Essex Station for a 2.5 hour trip. A block of tickets have been set aside for our use. Reservations were due by August 28, however, it may be possible to book your ticket after that date if space is available. Please see Julia Launer.

## STEWARDSHIP

September 2011—A Month of New Beginnings

Next to January, September is probably one of the biggest and busiest start over months in the year. A number of congregational ministries which may have been on a summer break start up again. A new school year has started. It is interesting to note that September opens with Labor Day when we pause to thank God for honest and fruitful labor. Perhaps that is appropriate since things pick up after vacations and other summer activities and we have more opportunities for service.

September also marks the beginning of autumn and that will be a welcome change for many people who this past summer were impacted by a record number of tornados, serious flooding around major rivers, heat and drought that broke many records, along with many wild fires that caused so much destruction.

In spite of all the above problems God still richly blessed much of our country with seasonable weather so that seedtime and harvest prevailed and the activities of agriculture, commerce and transportation continued so that the earth was fruitful and yielded its increase to supply food for all of God's creatures. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

God's stewards appreciate new opportunities to start over again after life has become like a long, hot summer. In September many of God's faithful stewards can get involved with new and exciting volunteer activities in their churches and communities. In September many of our students can begin one of their best years of learning. In September many of our churches and schools can get involved with some of the most exciting ministries in their history. A fresh start is always appreciated. The past is behind us; the future is still in front of us but the present is where we do our work as God's stewards. God has some great things in mind for us as His stewards. He wants us to use our talents, our time, our resources and our relationships in ways that honor Him and bring blessings to those around us.

Sometimes we may feel like we just can't get started! We may feel inadequate to take on new challenges. We may remember when we have tried some bold ventures before and they didn't work out. We can chase those negative thoughts away when we remember words like these from one of our well-known hymns:

*Let none hear you idly saying, "there is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me." (LSB 826)*

So, keep your eyes open for some new opportunities to put your time, talents and resources to work for the Lord and His people, and when those opportunities come, **GO FOR IT!**

*(article courtesy of LCMS website)*