

Trinity Tribune: June 2025

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“The Conscience: Three Pictures”

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What is the “conscience”? At the most basic level, you could also describe it as the inner voice that tells us whether we’ve done something good or bad. The conscience is important to consider because we all have one. We all have a part of us telling us what is right and what is wrong. Now, the comical version of this is an angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other, each whispering into your ears. In TV commercials, they sometimes argue about what the person should do.

I. Conscience as an Umpire

The first picture of the conscience is that of a baseball umpire. The umpire is not part of the game but stands outside of it. He makes judgments on the pitches coming in but also the actions of the batter (fair/foul) or runner (out/safe). For our case, our conscience judges things just or evil or right or wrong.

However, just like an umpire, our conscience can be wrong. It can be misinformed or misguided. If you do something right, your conscience may say that it was wrong. Or if you do something wrong, your conscience may be telling you that it was right. We must be sure that our conscience is rightly ordered.

Perhaps the clearest passage is from Romans 2:14–16, “When Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their **conscience** also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”

So everyone has this umpire inside of them, even unbelievers. The conscience is always judging what we do, think, and say—and not only this but also what we see others doing or hear them saying.

II. Conscience as a Window

Your conscience helps you see the things outside of you. It’s like looking through a window. If you look outside a window that is cloudy or dirty, it makes everything out there look dirty. The sun that shines in is also distorted, casting shadows in the house. If the conscience is unclean by sin, everything you see outside takes on a dirty, sinful hue, and everything inside even more so. The shadows that are cast also distort everything inside so you don’t know if the dirt you see is due to the window or the item in front of you.

Yet when you have a clean conscience, it doesn’t make everything look a certain way, but those things (inside and out) look like they truly are. It gives you clarity of sight. It makes everything outside that is dirty look dirty and everything inside that is dirty look dirty. A clean conscience gives you a clear sight to see things as they really are.

Leviticus 26:36, “The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues.” When we have a troubled conscience, anything causes us to tremble like a leaf. Everything around us makes us question if God is mad at us.

Titus 1:15 is even clearer: “To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.” The conscience is affected by sin and unbelief and reacts in such a manner.

III. Conscience as a Courtroom

This is a more complex image. Just like in a courtroom, there are different characters involved in your conscience. If everything in your conscience is right, you are the one on trial who sits before the judge, who is God. You have the Ten Commandments as the law by which actions are judged. Satan (whose name means “accuser”) is the prosecuting attorney, and he rightly accuses you of breaking God’s law. You have by your side the Holy Spirit who is your defender or Paraclete or Advocate. So how do you plead? Ideally, you plead guilty,

knowing that nothing in you can save you. God, however, pronounces you innocent for the sake of Christ's suffering and death. You are acquitted fully.

But things can go wrong. You can see yourself in the wrong position, like the judge perhaps, judging your friends or family or enemy.

Maybe instead of pleading guilty, you submit your own works and declare your own innocence before the judge. Many people think that if we've made God mad by our sin, we can make him happy by our works. This is called the *opinio legis*, the opinion of the law. We are constantly tempted to plead innocent based on our works.

This courtroom is of course real. There is truly a heavenly court of God with Jesus as your advocate (1 John 2:1). There is also an earthly court, the church,

where the pastor preaches the gospel and forgives your sins that have been confessed. You also have this court within you as your conscience, where Satan wages his fight. He knows that he cannot stand before the Father, so he tries to war against the church by using false doctrine and in your soul by hurting your conscience. Yet the forgiveness of sins that is pronounced in heaven is brought to your own conscience by the earthly means that God has instituted.

Every time Satan brings up your sins, the Holy Spirit works as the defense attorney, reminding you that "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1), because he has paid for your sins.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

- June 1..... Kelsey Davis
- June 1..... Sara Slack
- June 1..... Michele Prothe
- June 1..... Minna Meyer
- June 2..... David Koelsch
- June 3..... Fritz Carter
- June 4..... Arlin Prothe
- June 4..... Jamey Kaiser
- June 4..... Molly Eilts
- June 5..... Samantha Ferrell
- June 5..... Linda Prothe
- June 5..... Lance Stewart
- June 6..... Rhonda Kerr
- June 7..... Kendra Fuller
- June 9..... Kendra Woodrow
- June 9..... Jordan Menefee
- June 10..... Madison Wood
- June 10..... Chance Hager
- June 13..... Ed Reyelts
- June 13..... Augustus Prothe
- June 14..... Chris Carstens
- June 14..... Ethan Debrick
- June 14..... Leland Prothe
- June 15..... Kathy Hall
- June 15..... Kevin Prothe
- June 16..... Michelle Jones
- June 17..... Bailey Kaiser
- June 18..... Theresa Kettler
- June 19..... Richard Honn
- June 19..... Dale Moser
- June 20..... Paul Brack
- June 20..... Judy Minden
- June 20..... Sophia Woelmer
- June 20..... Nikki Chilson
- June 21..... Kim House
- June 21..... Jon Wendte
- June 22..... Greg Brandt
- June 22..... Beth Curry
- June 24..... Tina Edwards
- June 25..... Beth Herra
- June 25..... Rich Wood
- June 26..... Kyia Fuller
- June 26..... Donna Prothe
- June 26..... Allison Wood
- June 27..... George Holtz

- June 27 Kynda Harshman
- June 29 Devin Bruce
- June 29 Betty Cline
- June 30 Garry Block

Anniversaries

- June 3 Emerson and Wilda Bunch (69)
- June 4 James and Rhonda Prothe (20)
- June 8 Quentin and Kaelah Garrison (6)
- June 8 Jeff and Jamie Ennett (23)
- June 10 Chris and Lana Kettler (47)
- June 10 Rolland and Betty Prothe (53)
- June 11 Bruce and Gale Nowasell (38)
- June 12 Ben and Kennedy Rakoski (4)
- June 13 Rick and Connie Holte (27)
- June 14 Jim and Sharon Prothe (45)
- June 15 Stan and Sondra Loftiss (12)
- June 16 Mike and Susan Schmitt (8)
- June 16 Michael and Cindy Puckett (6)
- June 18 David and Lorranda Baldrige (20)
- June 19 Brian and Erin Meyer (21)
- June 22 Clint and Michelle Haley (23)
- June 25 Chancie and Carrie Minden (3)
- June 30 Charlie and Cheyenne Peckman (7)

COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2025 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS:
 “Survey of the Bible”

Our Bible Study is a Survey of the Bible, looking at each book of the Bible in overview. Although there are 66 books of the Bible, we will be combining a few and to make it through the whole Bible in a year. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room!

“LOOKING AHEAD” BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 AM in the Heritage Room. We study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service, so you can get a "sneak peek" of what you will hear on Sunday.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. This month, we are scheduled for Sunday, **June 15th**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at North Point, and then go to Medicalodges around 2:15 for the second service. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a few members who help but we could use your help too!

WORSHIP SERVICES IN JUNE/JULY

Please note the upcoming schedule for June/July with some minor changes to the communion schedule, working around the Shelter House services!

June 1: Ascension Sunday
Shelter House, no communion

June 8: Pentecost Sunday
Holy Communion

June 15: Trinity Sunday
Holy Communion

June 22: 1st Sunday after Trinity
No Communion

June 29: 2nd Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion

July 6: Independence Day service
Shelter House, no communion



We rejoiced to celebrate the Confirmation of August Meyer and Bailey Chilson on May 4th. “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life” (Rev 2:10).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Trinity is joining First Lutheran, Paola for Vacation Bible School this year. You are invited to come enjoy the party, “Epic Australian Adventure.” Come learn God’s promises to you as we celebrate God’s work in our lives. Join the fun Monday thru Friday, June 17-20, from 9:00 to 11:30 am. Held at First Lutheran Church, 401 East Piankishaw Street, Paola. Sign up for children or volunteers at <https://vbsmate.com/events/FirstLutheranPaolaKS/30211>.



FAITH BASICS CLASS

We'll continue to meet on Mondays from 1:30–3:30 to cover the basic Bible stories in the Old and New Testaments. Any youth can join us!

BLOCKTOBERFEST PLANNING

It's that time of year! Join us on Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m., at the Shelter House to continue planning for this year's Blocktoberfest!



SHELTER HOUSE ONLINE RESERVATIONS

As we approach the summer months, a reminder that we have an online reservation system for the Trinity Lutheran School Memorial Shelter House. It automatically shows which dates and times are open up to two years in advance, and it is easy to make your reservations online. Go to our church website at www.trinitylcms.org/shelter. You will also find there the rules for Shelter House usage. If you do not have access to a computer to make your reservation, you can simply call or speak to Pastor Woelmer, and he will make the reservation for you.



United in Christ

*Jocelyn Vaughan
& Noah Kwasiborski*
United in Christian Marriage
May 31st, 2025

“And the two shall become one.” Matt. 19:5



Jenna Brown
Daughter of David Brown
Baptized May 11, 2025



YOUTH/SUNDAY SCHOOL FISHING DAY

Youth & Sunday School families: put June 22nd from 3:00–4:30 on your calendar to go fishing! More details will follow.

News from the Clausing Family May Newsletter



The Mkwizu Family Together with Bishop Ulotu, Anita, and Me, following the Divine Service on Sunday Morning

If you've been searching your inbox for April's newsletter, I apologize! April became May too quickly for me this year. Needless to say, it's been a busy month, but busy with good things. Since my last newsletter we have celebrated our Lord's resurrection, been refreshed at our annual LCMS retreat in Kenya, and most recently completed final exams and closed the seminary for the semester. Our Tanzanian students are now safely home with their parishes and families, and this week is a week of transition for my family as we get our household in order and prepare to spend the summer months in the U.S.

A Special Guest

For the past two weeks my family has been delighted to welcome Johann Nafzger to Tanzania. My children met Johann previously during the covid epidemic when our family stayed for several months on the seminary campus in St. Louis, where Johann lives and where his father serves as professor. This year Johann finished high school a semester early so that he could do a bit of world traveling prior to college, visiting Germany, Kenya, and both western and eastern Tanzania during a lengthy tour. While in Tanzania Johann attended Sunday worship, visited the homes of Christians in Uchira, spent a few nights with our bishop's family, spent a day and night at the seminary, and also just joined my family as we went about our daily routine. We pray God's continued blessing upon him as he returns to the U.S. and prepares for college.



Johann Nafzger Wearing the Maasai Shuka Given to Him by Local Pastors Godson Mlay and John Urrio

The Clausings will be presenting for us on their missionary activity on June 11th at the Shelter House. Come on out to put on a potluck and to hear what they do!

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