

Growth Group Questions

3rd Sunday after Pentecost, June 14, 2026

Introduction

In the Lutheran Church we talk about “Law and Gospel” endlessly. May that always be! What are the law and gospel? What do they do? As we think about Jesus leading us, how do each function as motivation for ministry?

Into the Word – Numbers 27:15-23

1. Moses had seen the people of Israel turn away from God regularly. What was his first concern as he realized his time to lead the Israelites was ending?
2. God directly and specifically appointed Joshua to be the new leader of his people. In what way is that similar to our called pastors, teachers, and staff ministers today? How is it different?
3. Joshua would have the Urim & Thummim to receive answers directly from God to help him lead. Today’s leaders in the church have the Word of God in Scripture. Which is better?

Into the Word – 1 Corinthians 4:1-7

4. Use verse one to explain how ministry is both the highest calling and the lowliest service? What attitude will this lead to among those who lead? Among those who follow?
5. According to verses 3-5 whose opinions and judgments are most important to the true minister and servant of God?

6. Favoritism of some leaders over others can be a cancerous problem in the Church. What responsibility do members have to avoid it? What responsibility do leaders themselves have? (Read verse 6 carefully for part of the answer to both.)

Into the Word – Matthew 9:35-10:8

7. What was the driving force behind Jesus’ personal healing and teaching ministry? Why MUST that be the motivation for us as ministers too?
8. Jesus told the disciples to pray that God would send an answer to the need for workers, and then made them a part of the answer. What prayers do you have for our church at Salem? How might you be God’s answer to that prayer?
9. Jesus didn’t just move his disciples to ministry by compassion; he also moved them to go in power. What power of God does every Christian have, and what can it do for us AND for others?
10. Why did Jesus tell the Twelve to go only to the Jews? How do we know that wasn’t a lasting command? (See Mt. 28:19)

Closing Prayer

Jesus, lead us in our lives in your grace and truth. Bless us to be your faithful disciples and your eager witnesses. Move us to ministry at home and through Salem that brings you praise and provides us purpose. Amen.