

Growth Group Questions

Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist, October 18, 2026

Introduction

As Lutherans, we don't make a big fuss over what we call the "Minor festivals", also called the "saints" days. We don't ignore them either. When they fall on Sundays, we sometimes incorporate them into our worship theme. October 18th is the Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist so this weekend we remember how God blessed the church through him.

Into the Word – 2 Timothy 4:5-11

1. The Apostle Paul didn't expect to escape prison in Rome when he wrote this particular letter. What thoughts does that bring to his mind in verses 6 and 7?
2. Even as he contemplated his own death, what confidence does he express in verse 8? If you are in a group, practice using these verses to share peace with someone mourning or facing their own death.
3. In verse 11, we see that not only was Luke a companion to Paul on his third missionary journey – he was faithful and beside him right to the end. Say a short, spontaneous prayer of thankfulness not for pastors this time, but for those who help them and make ministry enjoyable.
4. What's remarkable about Paul's request to have Mark come to him in Rome? (For context, see Acts 15:36-40.) What can we learn from their relationship?

Into the Word – Acts 1:1-3

5. The Evangelist Luke wrote (by Divine Inspiration) the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. What does he say here was the goal of writing his Gospel?

6. Luke wrote his Gospel to record what Jesus "began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven." What then do you suppose would be the purpose of his "follow-up" book of Acts (Also called the "Acts of the Apostles")?
7. Luke talks so matter-of-factly about Jesus' presentations and proofs of life after resurrection, it seems as if there was no need to make a big deal out of it.
 - Discuss: The "routineness" of Luke's writing here is an indicator that Jesus' physical resurrection was widely known and accepted already in the 1st Century.
 - Why does this matter as we defend and proclaim the Christian faith today?

Into the Word – Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

8. God inspired some Scripture writers in visions or dreams. Some, like Matthew and John, were eyewitnesses. Mark's Gospel seems to be the recounting of Peter. What work did Luke do to prepare his Gospel, and why does that make his inspired Gospel especially valuable for us 2000 years later?
9. What did Luke want Theophilus to gain from this Gospel?
10. Luke's Gospel begins with a desire for believers to be "certain" of what they've been taught. It ends with Jesus' reminders of repentance and forgiveness at his ascension. How are those two things connected?
11. The sermon focused on the need for forgiveness in faith. In what two ways is forgiveness at the heart of faith?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, you know me and my every sin, yet call me yours. Bless me in forgiveness and fill my heart with praise. Amen.