**HOW TO READ THE BIBLE, THE LUTHERAN WAY**

**Gospel**: good news, promise, hope, God’s grace, freedom, what God does

**Law**: what we must do, consequence of sin, keeping order, condemning

*Lutherans have traditionally viewed and read scripture through the lens of “Law” and “Gospel”. Look up the following scriptures and place a “L” beside the text that describes “Law”, and a “G” beside the verses that reveal “Gospel” meanings. The whole bible can be read through the lens of Law and Gospel. So, these are a mere sample:*

Psalm 103:8-13 John 13:15

Isaiah 43:4a Exodus 20:1-17

Ephesians 2:8-9 John 1:5

Genesis 50:20 John 13:34-35

Luke 15:20 Romans 8:38-39

James 2:24 Romans 2:1

James 1:27 Leviticus 26:3-4

*Can you suggest other verses that show either Law or Gospel, or both?*

*HINT: When reading the bible, learn to tell the difference for yourself between a* ***conditional*** *statement and an* ***unconditional*** *statement.*

***Conditional*** *has something like: “IF you do this …. THEN … this will happen” (cause and effect).*

***Unconditional*** *suggests someone doing something out of freedom, gift, surprise, not deserved.*

*While the Law is normally revealed through conditional statements, the Gospel is usually revealed through unconditional statements. Sentences that begin with God’s action are usually cues that the Gospel is emphasized (e.g. “Because God is/does … THEREFORE I/we can do/be …”*

*Both Law AND Gospel hold the true tension in the spiritual life. We need both in the life of faith.*