



As the 2026 LCC Convention closes, a prominent feature stands out amidst the fellowship and worship. That is the governance of the church, parliamentary procedures speaking to rules and regulations. . . Together with worship, this evokes a highlighted distinction for Lutherans: *Law and Gospel*. In today's *Conversation*, the Director of Communications (Dr. T) puts an important question to Rev. Al Lewis:

Dr. T: What is the purpose of God's Law?

Rev. Lewis: Several years ago, a brother pastor from an adjoining parish was stopped by the RCMP for not wearing his seatbelt. This brother was out and about doing church work, including home visits. He was wearing his clerical shirt – obviously a pastor. As the RCMP officer was handing him his ticket he remarked, 'Father, you should know better!'

This event leads us directly into the question being asked and answered today, 'What is the purpose of God's Law?' When we dive into the Lutheran Confessions, we discover that Lutherans hold that God's Law has three purposes. The first purpose of the Law is to provide outward discipline so that good order might be maintained in society. You can well imagine the total chaos that would occur if there were no curb to our behavior and anyone could do anything any time they wanted. The motivation to obey God's Law under the first purpose is to avoid punishment and receive rewards (see Romans 13:1-7).

The second purpose of God's Law is to . . .

Rev. Al Lewis graduated from CLS in 1992 and served as a parish pastor in B.C. and Alberta. After retiring in 2013 he ministered as an Intentional Interim Pastor in three congregations over ten years dealing mainly with conflict ministry. He is currently serving as vacancy pastor at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Dickson, AB.

In our next *Conversation*, we pick up on what is that second purpose of God's Law. Do you know? It is OK if you don't right now, but after next week, you will as we journey together back to basics . . .