

November 2024

The presidential election has most likely been decided by the time this note comes out. It has been a cause of much anxiety, fear, and division of not only neighbors but families as well. Rational thought or rational conversations are few and far between. The networks have made money hand over fist with all of the political ads and will be sad to see it end even though it drives some to near insanity.

Whatever the results, everything won't be fixed. We should know that. Humanity is broken and has been since the fall in the Garden and Cain rose up against Able. We continue to rise up against each other - a disagreement on any front is magnified to a boiling point almost immediately. Kindness, gentleness, and self-control (fruits of the Spirit, Galatians 5) seem to be forgotten. Lord, help us!

If anything, all of this should make us yearn all the more for the knowledge and wisdom and comfort of our God who made heaven and earth. The Lord reigns (Ps. 97). It is Him who will work all things for good, therefore we are to seek Him while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near (Is. 55:6). This is the only way to combat the fear and anxiety which has been foisted upon us and captivated the networks and our minds for the last while. It's the only way forward - to fix our minds on heavenly things. *Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (Philippians 4:8).*

God tells us not to put our trust in princes (Ps. 146). Why not? Because men are fallible. They flip flop and often don't keep their promises. But you have a Savior who always keeps His promises. Who never goes back on His word. In high stress times such as these we want to double down on our efforts of having the clear Words of our Lord as our anchor against the wind and the waves which can seem so frightening. Everything won't be fixed but our Lord will deliver us through it all. He is faithful. We yearn for His return saying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Until that day, we have to be diligent, proactive, and purposeful in hearing His Word, reciting it to ourselves and each other, and praying. In this way we will see that God takes care of His people, the church, no matter who's in the White House or what we may have to endure. Salvation belongs to Him alone and he gives it to us as a gift. This keeps all things in proper perspective.

The peace of God that passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTE

For no one of those who are alive today knows where he was during the first two years, when he lived either in the womb ... Yet he lived at that time, and he was a body joined to a soul—a body adapted to all natural functions.” *Martin Luther – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From the Small Catechism: Confession

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Private, or individual, confession and absolution is available by appointment with Pastor Suggitt. You may call him at 989.551.3976 to set up a time.



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