



FIVE IMAGES OF PEACE

As this is the first week in November in a presidential election year, I know there is a lot of uncertainty, unrest, and unease about what will happen in a few short days. As most of you, I have been praying over this election that God's will would be done and his ways of love, life, and truth would come to the forefront through it. I hope you all voted, and if you haven't I encourage you to do so now! With so much of the nation in a state of fear, we need to look to the peace of God. What I want to share with you now are 5 images of peace to focus on during this momentous week.

No Conflict – I believe that from a worldly perspective peace means there is no violence or it is the absence of war, but is this something any of us can have? As we look around there are external conflicts going on throughout our nation because of differing beliefs and circumstances. In addition, we have unrest in cities and on social media. All of this adds up to feeling like conflict is all around us. Furthermore, I think about the conflicts we have within ourselves: the conflicts of sin in our lives and conflicts about self-worth that we always seem to grapple with. These conflicts are struggles that will not end in our lifetimes, but the Good News we have is that Jesus resolves all those conflicts at the cross. We do not have to live conflicted lives any longer, rather we can dwell in the peace of our Savior. And let us be reminded, as Paul states in Philippians 4, that the peace of the Lord goes beyond all our understanding of what is going on right now.



Stillness-We use Psalm 23 so much, especially in funerals, but there are ways to apply it to our everyday lives. Currently, I am really focusing on how the Lord leads us by still waters. Man, I don't know about you, but 2020 hasn't been a year where we have been able to be still, even when stuck at home. Many of us have had to learn how to stream services, learn zoom, do house projects, and be fully present not only for anxious family members, but for friends and others we interact with. Furthermore, it is hard to feel still as we live under the shadow of what will happen on Nov. 3rd. So what do we do? When there aren't a lot of moments to be still, we must be intentional about seeking out still moments where our God can minister to us. Don't feel expectations in these moments to do anything, but rather just be still in the Lord and let him refresh you with his Still Living Waters.

Cool- This makes me think about the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat. A thermometer just takes the temperature of the way things are at a present moment. If we were to take the temperature of today's cultural climate it would be off the chart. It seems like everything is boiling and we can get sucked into that as well. And this leads to us getting hot and not having peace. So instead of being thermometers, we need to be thermostats. You see, thermostats set the temperature. In the power of Christ we are called to do that in our families, amongst our friends, and in our community. We are called to set the climate of Christ wherever we go. So set the temperature by dwelling in the peace of the Lord, unplugging from the constant news cycle, and by being engaged in the Word. Stay cool!



Continued on next page

Inside this issue:

- Five Images of Peace, 1
by Pastor Matt
- Five Images of Peace, 2
by Pastor Matt, cont. &
Announcements
- Built Right, by Brad 3
Soenksen
- The Church's Wisdom 4
in the Voting Booth, by
Chad Bird
- The Church's Wisdom 5
in the Voting Booth, by
Chad Bird, cont.
- LCMS Stewardship 6
Ministry November 2020
- Treasurer's Report 7
September 2020
- A Thanksgiving Hymn, 8
by Joan M. Thomas



Concord – Melina didn’t grow up Lutheran, so she wonders why so many of our schools, colleges, and publishing house have the name Concordia. So I have explained how a big part of our Lutheran tradition is to have concord, which means to have agreement in doctrine. While there is not concord in this world, it is so critical that as brothers and sisters in Christ we have concord so we can encourage and uplift one another. So often, even in the church, we let differences of worship, politics, and so many other things divide us. The result is that we do not have as much fellowship with one another as we should. Let us pray for this concord and how the peace of God can bring us together to support one another. As we do this, we will illustrate what Concordia means to all the people who might wonder what it is in this divided nation without it.

Finally, Breathe - There are a lot of phone apps that are geared toward relaxation and peace that remind you to take deep breaths. One of them is even named calm. While these apps are good things, the best breath we have is the one our God first breathed into us. He gives us Life as he knit us in the womb; he sustains our lives every day, and will be with us until our final breath. No matter what the future holds we have a God who gives us breath and sustains us just like he does the birds of the air. So no matter what it might be, how to reach out in COVID, the election, or anything else, just take time to breathe in the Spirit of God and he will bless you and keep you. He will make his face shine upon you and he will give you his peace! Amen!



In His Peace,
Pastor Matt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angel Tree Outreach is Going Through Nov. 15th



The effects of the COVID activity on our nation (and the world) has changed the way we are doing Angel Tree Christmas 2020. So the kids will not be forgotten, we have a goal to give (2) gift cards to each of our nearly 350 children of inmates in the greater Seattle area. From now through November 15th, so we have time to mail them, friends of the ministry can purchase gift cards for our children and caregivers, and we will collect them in the church office. Do not gift wrap the cards! Please indicate the value on every gift card. Here

is a chart with places and values you can purchase.

	Gift Cards Children	Food Gift Cards Caregiver
Safeway / Albertson’s	\$30	\$50 or more
Fred Meyer / QFC	\$30	\$50 or more
Target	\$30	\$50 or more
Walmart	\$30	\$50 or more
Kohl’s	\$30	

Keep Your Eyes Peeled for Two Emailed Surveys Concerning the Voters’ Meeting and Christmas Services

Because of the ongoing health ordinances we will have to approach doing our Voters’ Meeting and Christmas Services a bit different this year. Firstly, we are looking at moving the Voters’ Meeting back to Dec. 13th to give the council a bit more time to work on the budget and will be streaming it online. For constitutional reasons we will need RLC membership approval on this. Secondly, we are looking at possibly doing multiple services on Christmas Eve, based on the demand of people wanting to come, and want to see how to plan accordingly. So please keep a look out for both of these coming to your email over the course of the next 2 weeks.

Christmas Decorating—Nov. 22nd

We will be looking at doing a scaled down Christmas decorating after service on Nov. 22nd. Please mark your calendars so we can get this done in a quick and cheerful manner!

BUILT RIGHT by Brad Soenksen from 1517.org/articles/built-right

In 2009 a newly constructed 13 story apartment building in Shanghai China collapsed. The pilings just pulled out of the ground and it fell over on its side. Thankfully, the building was not inhabited. An inquiry into the accident pointed to building standards that were overlooked in favor of speed of construction.

Impatience is such a human problem. We see it in the way we live, eat, drive, and spend our money. We just cannot seem to wait for anything. We see it when we look back to our very first parents, Adam and Eve. There in the garden they fell to the temptation to take a short-cut in getting the knowledge that God possessed. They ate the forbidden fruit, and as they ate, humanity's relationship with God collapsed.



In response to this disaster, God launched a rebuilding program by which he would restore his relationship with us. This rebuild took time and it cost him dearly. As we hurry our way through our lives at the frantic pace we often set for ourselves, we should remember that God took no short-cuts in his building program. He used the best he had; he used his Son who took the nails and the timber of the cross, and in this scene of judgment, Jesus was transformed into the guilty object of God's wrath in our place.

By His act of selfless sacrifice, Jesus reconstructed us. He took the crushing weight of our sin off us, and in its place, he covered us with the robes of his own perfect righteousness. In this act, He transformed us from guilty sinners into righteous saints in the eyes of God. The Apostle Paul put it this way, "For our sake God made Jesus, the one who knew no sin, to be sin in our place, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

We want glory, and we want it now! But Jesus came to be our patient and suffering servant. Because of him, we now stand on the solid foundation of God's complete forgiveness with the sure hope of eternal glory. Because of him, when we are burdened by the guilt of our sinful short-cuts to earthly pleasure and glory, God assures us that he has clothed us with Jesus' righteousness. Because of him, we are restored to a solid relationship with our Creator God. And, because he built it right, it will stand forever, whatever comes our way!

When we are wounded by being used or passed over by others, he embraces us with the value of the price he paid to reclaim us. When we are tempted to see ourselves as forgotten outcasts, he steadies us with his purpose for our lives. When we are afraid of an unknown future, he calls out to us that nothing can separate us from his love. When we are disillusioned by investing our lives in the temporary things of this world, he lifts us out of the ashes of disappointment to the freshness of the new beginnings he brings to our lives. To God be the glory!

THE CHURCH'S WISDOM IN THE VOTING BOOTH by Chad Bird 1517.org/articles/the-churchs-wisdom-in-the-voting-booth



The only politician mentioned in the creeds of Christianity is the one responsible for executing its founder. Of Jesus we confess that he was crucified for us “under Pontius Pilate” (Nicene Creed) and “suffered under Pontius Pilate” (Apostles’ Creed).

That is the church’s political statement every Sunday.

This gives us wisdom as we prepare to vote. When Christians select their candidate, we have a unique insight. We realize that behind the people who are running for office is the God who’s mysteriously at work to bring about his will, even as he used Pilate to accomplish his saving will for us.

Part of that divine will is this: to bring our nation and world to a fiery, cataclysmic end and to usher in a radically new beginning. The world will itself experience a kind of final Good Friday and Easter, death and resurrection, destruction and recreation in Christ.

We step into the voting booth with one foot on the outside. We are Americans, to be sure, but we are much more. Our true citizenship is in another country, a heavenly one. We are citizens of the kingdom of God, over which the King of kings reigns supreme. Our time here is temporary. We are resident aliens in a land that will not remain forever.

Our allegiance is to Christ.

Whether you think America is great now, or will be great again, or has never been great, one thing is for certain: America will cease to be anything. It will no longer exist. But the kingdom of God will never end.

While we are here, we do our civic duty. We use the wisdom God gave us to select a candidate that we think will be best for our nation. Christians not only vote; some serve in political office. This is all well and good. Listen to the candidates, debate, pray, cast your vote. But vote with one eye on eternity, one ear listening for the final trumpet, one hand ready to grasp the nail-scarred hand of the King of kings when he returns again.

There will come a day when “the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed,” (2 Peter 3:10). This particular spot on earth we call the United States will melt into Mexico, and Mexico into England, and England into Israel. Like so many pieces of butter thrown into a raging fire, all nations will melt together and be dissolved in flame. The oceans will hiss and steam and vanish.

All creation as we know it will be reduced to nothing, as at the beginning.

And from this nothing, God will create a “new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells,” (2 Peter 3:13). The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat. A little boy will play by the hole of the cobra. No one shall be hurt or destroyed in this place (Isaiah 11:6-9). We shall live there with bodies that have been glorified to be like our Lord’s body. We shall feast, love, live, and enjoy our humanity to the fullest. This is where our citizenship lies. This is the kingdom we await.

But for now, we live here. We are “under Pontius Pilate” or whoever our political ruler might be. Things may go well for the church, or they may not. Like our Lord, we too may be crucified under a politician.

In some parts of the world, it is happening even as we speak.

Whatever befalls the church in this world, we have a unique perspective. We know that the world is not gradually improving. It is getting worse. It’s on its way to a fiery grave. The world is dying; it must die. The true, unelected Ruler of this world—the Creator himself—has said so.

And unlike most politicians, he keeps his promises.

The ultimate future of the world was foretold on Easter. The man who “suffered under Pontius Pilate,” who was “crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate,” arose alive again from the dead over Pontius Pilate. In so doing, he told us the most important truth we need to know about politics, elections, parties, and nations: they will all eventually end up in the grave he vacated. They are temporary parts of a temporary world that will one day face permanent destruction.

Yet just as our Lord was resurrected, so shall his people be. He will bring us forth from our graves, alive again, gloriously refashioned as those who bear his immortal image. We shall live forever in the new heavens and new earth, our true and everlasting home.

That is the perspective we need as we step into the voting booth.

All of this will slip away, will vanish.

But Christ, and those who are his, will never pass away.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY November 2020 Newsletter Article



Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

Resurrection Lutheran Church Balance Sheet 09/30/2020

Assets				
Assets				\$180,208.18
Current Assets			\$79,024.05	
Checking Account		\$53,160.80		
Savings Account		\$21,477.44		
Facilities Account		\$3,406.31		
PayPal		\$979.50		
Investments			\$101,184.13	
LCEF Steward Account		\$95,692.33		
LCEF Supplemental		\$5,491.70		
Schwab Account		\$0.10		
Total Assets				\$180,208.18
Liabilities				
Total Liabilities				\$0.00
Equity				
Operating Accounts				\$175,370.47
Operating Accounts			\$175,370.47	
General Fund		\$47,017.96		
Sinking Funds		\$106,646.82		
Local Impact Giving	\$2,124.97			
Workers Comp	\$1,790.11			
Piano Organ Maint	\$1,777.67			
District Conv	\$624.02			
Short-Term Maint	\$7,680.79			
Landscape	\$872.59			
Long-Term Maint	\$36,246.85			
Surface Water Mgmt	\$636.82			
Property Insurance	\$871.92			
Parsonage Maint	\$7,655.96			
Emergency Fund	\$46,365.12			
Special Funds			\$21,705.69	
Congregational Emergency Fund	\$1,818.89			
Kitchen Fund	\$4,760.60			
Memorial Fund	\$13,446.54			
Concordia Publishing	\$(5.32)			
Social Action Fund	\$1,684.98			
Retained Earnings				\$4,837.71
Total Equity				\$180,208.18



134 S. 206th St.
Des Moines, WA 98198

Phone: 206-824-2978
Fax: 206-824-2979
secretary@resurrection-lcms.org
www.resurrection-lcms.org
www.facebook.com/rlcdesmoineswa

A THANKSGIVING HYMN By Joan M. Thomas



Leaves blown by November's wild wind dance and blaze
Flickering flames lighting up the dark sky
Hurling and twirling in a dazzling maze
Their beauty extolling Our God Most High

Then fall like bright embers to the earth below
While family and friends secure and warm
Sheltered and safe from Autumn's storm
Thank Our God for the blessings He bestows

They come together with grateful reason
In Our Lords house to worship, sing, and pray
To Celebrate Autumn's Harvest Season
And to praise Our God on Thanksgiving Day

Come, join us while we sing hymns of adoration
To Our Own God, King, and Lord of all Creation..

Joan M. Thomas, R.N., B.S.N.A. Author/Illustrator/Speaker