

Is Jesus a Republican or a Democrat?

Who would Jesus support in our upcoming elections? What about God, his Father? This is a question frequently tossed around by those on all sides of the political spectrum - especially every four years. It's electioneering gone wild! There are paid ads, charges, counter-charges, spin, fact-checking, back-tracking, all sometimes resulting in chaos and confusion for us voters.

In answer to the question I raised in the title of this article, I feel confident in asserting that Jesus is neither Republican, Democrat, or Independent. My answer is informed by the Word of God as it is proclaimed in Holy Scripture. In no place of the old and New Testaments does the Lord or God's Son endorse a political party or ideology. Once when Jesus is asked a seemingly pertinent question about the payment of taxes, he answers: "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." In other words, Jesus was not sent to support a king or governor or emperor or president. These political figures who ascend to their position by either force or the choice of people reflect human opinions, aspirations, and ideologies. And all of these things are tinged by human sinfulness, ambition, selfishness, and so forth. Our election on November 6, 2012, is no different. All of our candidates at every level are human, fallible, sinful men and women. And not one reflects the perfect, holy values of God.

Jesus came to bring forth the Kingdom of God, not democracy or theocracy, not capitalism or socialism, but the Kingdom of God, with its own set of values, which frequently clash with our ideas and values. Having said all that, I nevertheless want to urge all of us to pray about our vote and to be informed by the values of our faith, which are the values of the Kingdom of God.

From the Ten Commandments to the Prophets of Israel, to the words and teaching and actions of Jesus, there are certain core values that address and challenge people of faith. They include respect for the creation, care and concern for the neighbor, especially "the least of these," a desire for peace, and **love.**"

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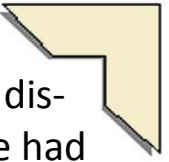
In October ...

- **October 4, 11 & 25** - Acts Bible Discussion Group
- **October 7** - 6:30 Sunday Sundae Night
- **October 11** - 1:30 PM - WELCA
- **October 13** - 1 to 5 PM Durham Day; 6 PM Rodgers & Hammerstein Sing Along
- **October 14 at 10:30 AM** -- Children Sing at Worship
- **October 20** - 9 AM Upper Bucks WELCA
- **October 21**- 3-5 PM - Fall Gathering
- **October 27** - 9 AM - Transformational Ministry
- **November 4** - Worship with Bishop Burkat

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Council Corner



After a very busy but crisis-free summer, Council met on September 11th to discover that CAL teachers were reporting a recurrence of the water problem we had last spring, with a strong odor and very poor pressure. We thought we had solved the contamination issue by the installation of an ultraviolet system as test results had been fine, but this latest episode indicates we can no longer rely on our spring for safe water.

Therefore, we scheduled a congregational meeting for September 30th in order to facilitate a solution. Meanwhile we operate under the severe handicap of only being able to use our water to flush toilets. This is especially difficult for our pre-school. Please say a prayer for three resourceful women who are coping with sixteen little ones with bottled water and hand sanitizer. Our custodians, Altar Guild, Sunday School, and WELCA will also be dealing with challenges, and there are upcoming events that will require hospitality. While we know a well has been attempted previously, Council sees no other viable options. At least we can borrow from ourselves, not China, to finance it, thanks to Mrs. Shaefer.

Let's all pray that clean water flows again in time for our Durham Day Sing-a-Long Concert on October 13th and the All Saints Day service with Bishop Burkat on November 4th as we continue to celebrate 200 years of sharing God's love.

Val McGinn, Council President

Next Council Meeting: October 9 at 6:30

Council Assignments for October: Val McGinn and Dave Sauter

News from the Palisades Cluster

The next meeting of the Cluster will be Sunday Sept. 30th at Durham. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM with Bible study; then go over the ongoing projects of the Cluster, including an update on the parish nurse program which is slowly moving forward.

The Transformational Ministry team will repeat Module 1 on Saturday October 29, 2012 at Christ, Ferndale. We are repeating the training because the first time it didn't take!

Helen Dungan

Food ministry: We will be collecting jelly and juice for the food banks during the month of October. Thanks to everyone who contributed to Harvest Home, and to those who put food baskets on the altar during this past month. We filled two cars with food.

Durham's Community Day is Saturday October 13th. We will be present to offer birthday cupcakes and an invitation to our Hammerstein Sing-along. If you are free to help man the table for an hour or two, please speak to Pastor or me.

Transformational Ministry: On October 27, 2011 we will be repeating the first module of the transformational ministry workshop and are looking for more members to join us in this endeavor.

We have been given a wonderful gift in knowing Jesus; in having him to turn to in times of distress and grief; having his example to follow in our relationships with one another; and knowing when we fail, Jesus has paid the price for our sins and we are forgiven. Outside our doors is a world which doesn't know him or what they are missing by not knowing him. The goal of transformational ministry is to help us in meeting their need.

The idea is that each participant makes a commitment to be in prayer, worship and scripture study - to let Jesus Christ speak to us and mold us. Hopefully as those going through the training process deepen their own faith and commitment, this will translate to a deeper commitment to Jesus from the congregation as a whole, and a readiness to share the wonderful gift of Jesus with those around us.

Please prayerfully consider joining us on the 27th.

Do you know someone who is dying or seriously ill? Have you found yourself tongue tied, didn't know what to say to them? Have you wanted to help but didn't know what to do?

The program for the October meeting of WELCA is Walking with the Dying; our leader, Lois Altemose, will attempt to

answer some of these concerns and share some of her experiences as a nurse and a Hospice worker.

Date: Thursday October 11th **Time:** 1:30 **Program:** Walking With the Dying

Leader: Lois Altemose

Hostess: Esther Crouse

All are welcome to join us! We particularly urge you to join us if you are going through this situation now or have gone through it and can share your experiences to help those of us who are floundering.



by Helen Dungan

On a lighter note, the Upper Bucks Gathering of WELCA will be **Saturday October 20, 2012**. The program is a skit portraying Katie Luther, Anna Muhlenberg and a woman of our time. It should be both fun and informational – as we get a chance to learn about our foremothers in the faith.

Date: October 20, 2012

Time: Registration 8:30-9; breakfast beginning at 9:00.

Place: Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church 100 Old Bethlehem Pike, Perkasie Pa.

October	7*	14*	21	28*
Acolyte	Jack Pyne	Austin Apgar	Matthew Mueller	Katie Aquino
Communion Assistants	Val McGinn, David Sauter, and Jack Pyne		Val McGinn, David Sauter, and Matthew Mueller	Val McGinn, David Sauter, and Katie Aquino
Greeter(s)	Manfred & Elfriede Marschewski	Helen Ballek	Ken and Cleo Eck	Betty Fox
Lector	Beth Ross	Joe Hlavaty	TBA	JoAnn Thaler
Counters	Val McGinn and David Sauter			
Head Usher	Althea Crouse			
Altar Guild	Barb Naska and Bety Fox			

	October Birthdays		October Anniversaries
1	Ed Haney, Scott Lehr, Jessica Lehr		
2	Austin Apgar	4	Beth and Tom Ross (4th)
5	Pastor David Deal and Conner Aquino	5	JoAnn and Jack Thaler (49th)
6	Virginia Hager	13	Bruce and Lisa Crouse (22nd)
7	Lois Altemose	15	Valerie and Paul McGinn (18th)
20	LeeAnn Kressman	20	Linda and David Sauter (31st)
21	Ed Xander and Steve DeWalt		
22	Tara McMullen	22	Diane and Steve DeWalt (29th)
25	Cheryl Mesko		
30	Benjamin John Naska		
31	Nicole Crouse		

Yet another Joyful Birth Announcement!

Coraline Renae Trauger, born to Erica and Shawn Trauger on August 8, 2012. Mother, baby, and family are doing fine.

Pastor's Article continued ...

And so God commanded the people to welcome and help the widow and orphan, the alien sojourner in your land, the poor and hungry, the lame and sick. And Jesus reached out to the lepers and the prisoner and the mentally challenged and the demon-possessed. He commanded all of us to love one another as he has loved us. And he has given his life for you and me.

So, as you ponder your vote, pray and remember these Kingdom Values that ought to guide the imperfect human process of voting - and remember one more vale -- do not slander, defame, or murder with your words the person or candidate who disagrees with you. Treat him or her as you would treat Jesus, as Jesus would treat him or her. Perhaps we'll be able to have civil discussion about the issues as God's children over these next six weeks. And we can surely believe and trust that Jesus will still be Lord and that God's Kingdom will continue to come no matter the outcome on November 6th.

~ Pastor David Deal

Community Dinner - Joe Hlavaty

The First Annual Community Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Riegelsville Fire Company. It is an ecumenical event sponsored by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham with St. John United Church of Christ, St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, all of Riegelsville. Lee Ann Hissim of St. John UCC was the initial driving force behind the project. The purpose of the dinner is to promote community caring and sharing during the holiday season.

There will be five seatings throughout the day. The times will be 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM and 6 PM. Each seating will last approximately 50 minutes. Tickets will be printed by each church and will be available in October. Each congregation can assign 40 people per seating, for a total of 200 for each church. Tickets will be numbered with the appropriate seating time. A free will offering cornucopia will also be available at the dinner. The Lord's Pantry and Fig Tree will also handle tickets.

A volunteer sheet will be placed on the table in our narthex in the near future. The "Help Sheet" will have listed responsibilities for Friday, November 30th (the Prep Day) and Saturday, December 1 (the Dinner Day). Please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time for this great cause.

Here's our chance to extend a helpful hand to the local community collectively with our fellow Christian Churches in Riegelsville. It's a win-win for all. Be there!!

Any questions can be fielded by Nancy Fox or Joe Hlavaty.



200th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE Our next anniversary event is on October 13, 2012 - the Rodgers & Hammerstein Sing-A-Long at 6 PM, after Durham Day. The evening will feature songs written by Oscar Hammerstein, from shows such as South Pacific, Oklahoma, and the Sound of Music, as well as other famous Broadway tunes. Even if you know that you're not a singer, come and enjoy the familiar music. The event is free of charge and open to the public, so invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Light refreshments will be served at intermission. A free-will offering will be collected to help defray the costs of the event.

Please submit any recipes you have to be included in our
200th Anniversary CookBook by October 15th!

Lynn Gaun, 200th Anniversary chairperson

“Plant it. Water it. Watch it grow!” is the theme for the fall 2012 gatherings with Bishop Burkatt, which will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21 at Trinity, Lansdale’s Hyson Hall. The event, which runs from 3 to 5 pm, gives you opportunities to learn about and share how seeds of God’s mission are being planted and nurtured across the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The event is free and open to all clergy, lay leaders and members of SEPA congregations.

Mark your calendar and plan to go along with the team from our congregation!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

FOR HEALING: Bob Erceg, Leo Fox, Johnny Hesser, Michael Kempf, and Bob Newcomb.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: Corporal Michael Hesser (USMC, Camp Lejeune), Corporal Nicholas Squartino (USMC, Okinawa), Specialist Blake Rodd (US Army, Afghanistan), Sergeant Jamie Newcomb (US Army Reserves).

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Al Borse, Melissa Carafa, Ronald Christman, Sr., London Dally, Rev. Harold & Miriam Deal, Charlene Higgins, Bryant Hlavaty, Karen Hlavaty, Ronnie Klingbeil, Carolyn Litzenberger, Dawn Margeson, Pearl Musser, Glenn Newcomb, Ken Newcomb, Bill Schnable, Joanne Seipt, Alex Senft, Lewis Snyder, Alex Ulrey, and Vernon Wehrung.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND: Judy Barron, Ruth Behm, Madlyn Chasar, Jean Haas, Betty Kiefer, Marcella Krager, Lillian Melchior, and Norma Rodenbach.

FOR THE GRIEVING: The families of Pat Butler, Dave Morrell, Mary Ann Segeletes, Pearl Emma Howey, Clarence Fox, Evelyn Peterman, Naomi Hoover, Virginia Fisher, Gloria Phillipps, Gene Gribbin, Alexa Bailey, Clarence Berger, Mildred Seifert, and Irene Fox.

"Plant it. Water it. Watch it grow." is the SEPA Synod theme for its Fall Gathering with the Bishop (Sunday, October 21, 3-5 PM at Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale). In this our 200th year of existence at Evangelical Lutheran, the Holy Spirit has been inspiring, planting, watering, and growing in our community of faith. Read these demonstrations of activity and growth below.

Acts Bible Discussion Group: October 4, 18, and 25 at 7:00 PM (also possible afternoon group). Meet in the Church Fellowship Hall. No Previous Bible Experience Necessary.

New: Family/Children/Youth Group - Kicking off in October with a Sunday/Sundae Night on Sunday, October 7 at 6:30 PM with ice cream and games.

200th Anniversary: Rodgers & Hammerstein Sing-A-Long on Saturday, October 13, at 6:00 PM, after Durham Day, here at Evangelical Lutheran, Durham. This event will feature Oscar Hammerstein researcher Jessica Barth, our own Carolyn Williams, lots of singing, and light refreshment (no charge - free will offering).

Increased Children Participation in Sunday Worship (at least once a month), beginning Sunday, October 14 at 10:30 AM. Children sing a song from "Spark" Sunday School.

Special Women's Event - Saturday, October 20 at 9:00 AM at Peace - Tohickon Lutheran Church - "A Visit with Mrs. Luther and Muhlenberg." All women of the congregation and community are invited.

Transformational Ministry - Palisades Lutheran Cluster congregations are seeking spiritual transformation with assistance from a coach. Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at St. Luke Lutheran, Ferndale.

New Lyric/Liturgical Dance as a part of our Sunday worship, inspired and organized by Katie Aquino and friends. They will dance at our October 28 worship service at 10:30 AM.

Community Holiday Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 2-7 PM, planted and watered by lay people of our congregation and the three churches in Riegelsville. See page 5 for information.

CARE-A-LOT NEWS

Welcome fall! October brings us changes in the feel of our weather as well as what we see around us. This is a perfect time to examine three of our five senses. This month, we will taste, touch, and smell the world around us as we visit Trauger's Farm Market for a hayride and flower and veggie experience. We will also talk about how we are Wild About Safety. We will discuss fire safety and have a visit from the fire department. We may even have a visit from the Upper Bucks EMS to see an ambulance and go inside it.



Care-A-Lot

In Math, we will learn about shapes and more about numbers. Pastor Dave will talk to us about Treating Others As You Want To Be Treated. Our Halloween parade/party and pumpkin decorating will be on Halloween Day. Come and see the children in their costumes as they parade around the room while the parents give them treats.

Love,

Mrs. Naska, Mrs. Pason and Mrs. Hower

TO: LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS AND CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE
FROM: RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILDELPHIA
RE: A CALL FOR CIVILITY IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

We, the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia believe that our democracy thrives when differing viewpoints can be exchanged with respect; when voices other than our own can be listened to, and heard. Robust, vigorous debate is a hallmark of a diverse society. A frank and civil exchange of ideas helps to inform our decisions and provoke new, constructive ways of addressing issues.

However, we live in a time when public discussion and discourse is often increasingly uncivil. As differences devolve into acrimony, dignity is diminished and people holding diverse viewpoints cease listening to each other. Particularly in an election season, these regrettable trends tend to be even more pronounced. It has become more difficult to find common ground.

We, as community leaders, have the responsibility to lead others by promoting and maintaining civility in discussions, including and especially those focused on public policy issues. Order relies on the integrity of all people and we, the members of the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, hold ourselves accountable for setting a positive example.

We ask and challenge those in political leadership to join us in this effort to choose the path that leads away from polarization and towards a unity of purpose that fosters a shared future. This will uphold the dignity of each person, created in the image of God, and our resolve to show respect and to do more good will be strengthened.

We call upon you, and all those seeking public office to support this by signing on as your show of commitment to carry out these valued principles of civility and mutual respect.

Adopted September 13, 2012

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But our work is far from over. We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for everyone here. Help us share the love of Christ far and wide with a gift today. Your gift will help train new leaders, open the doors of new congregations and share the gospel with others. **Give now** - <https://community.elca.org/page.aspx?pid=574&>

OCTOBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office	2 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study.	3 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	4 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 7 PM "Experience Acts" Bible Study	5 Pastor at Home Office	6 Pastor's Day Off
Worldwide Communion Sunday 7 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion 6:30 PM Sunday Sundae Night	8 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office 7 PM Commu- nity Dinner Planning Mtg.	9 9 :30 AM Durham hosts Up- per Bucks Confer- ence 6:30 PM Church Council Supper/Mtg	10 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	11 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot Pastor's vacation day 1:30 PM WELCA "Walking with the Dying"	12 Pastor's vacation day	13 1-5 PM Durham Community Day 6 PM Sing- Along
14 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word - Children Sing	15 10 AM-noon Pastor in Church Office	16 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot First Day 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study.	17 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	18 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 7 PM "Experience Acts" Bible Study	19 Pastor at Home Office	20 Pastor's Day Off 9 AM UBC WELCA meets at Peace, Tohickon
21 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion 3-5 PM Fall Gathering at Trin- ity, Lansdale	22 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office	23 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study	24 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir	25 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 7 PM "Experience Acts" Bible Study	26 Pastor at Home Office	27 9 AM Transfor- mational Minis- try Module 1 at St. Luke, Ferr- dale
Reformation Sunday 28 9:00 AM Spark Sunday School 10:30 AM Commu- nion/Liturgical Dance	29 Simon & Jude, Apostles 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office	30 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM Pastor at UBC Bible Study	Reformation Day 31 9 AM -12:30 PM Care-A-Lot 10 AM -noon Pastor in Church Office 6:30 PM Choir			

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

"The church on the hill, lighting the way to God's love"

821 Durham Road - P.O. Box 100 - Durham, PA 18039-0100

Phone: 610-346-8500 e-mail: evangel@durhamlutheran.org

Web site: www.durhamlutheran.org



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