

From Bishop Susan J. Briner
Southwestern Texas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Beloved people of God of the Southwestern Texas Synod:

Here we are, on November 6th, at the end of a particularly painful and polarizing election season. We as a nation have chosen a president, and many new leaders around the country, and there are those who are rejoicing and those who are weeping today as we look to the future.

As people of faith, here is what we know and trust:

- Jesus is still Lord and promises to bring about the reign of God; it has already broken into our world!
- Jesus is still inviting us, every day, to participate in this reign of God right now with its values of justice, mercy, compassion, love, and inclusion.
- We are still called to love one another, even in the midst of disagreements.
- We are still called to be compassionate, knowing that everyone has a story that we know little about.
- We are still called to treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- We are still called to boldly advocate for the marginalized and the oppressed.
- We are still called to welcome the stranger.
- We are still called, in the words of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.
- We are still called to denounce violence of any kind, whether in speech or action.
- We are still called to build bridges of understanding rather than erect walls of intolerance.
- We are still called to participate in civic life, holding our leaders accountable to serve the common good.

May we not tire of doing good.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we lift before you all who have been given permission to govern. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and corruption; grant in your mercy just and honest government; and give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Love,

Bishop Sue