

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Yesterday was Halloween. I saw a meme about it that was thought provoking so I wanted to share it with you. It said,

Halloween: a day when we get it right. Strangers come to us, beautiful, ugly, odd, or scary, and we accept them all without question, compliment them, treat them kindly and give them good things. Why don't we live like that?

I thought that was an interesting take on Halloween. So often we as Christians look down on Halloween because of false correlations that were created in the 20th century about it being a pre-Christian holiday or a day of the devil. It's not. And if we look at it like the meme that I saw, it's a good day and a day we could emulate every day of the year.

Tuesday is election day. A couple of my favorite one-liners about elections and people of faith.

A vote is a kind of prayer for the kind of world we desire for ourselves and for our children.

You can't tell someone you love them and then vote for someone who will hurt them.

The ELCA (our denomination) has resources about why voting matters for a Christian on their website. It shares, "Scripture reveals God's presence in all realms of life, including political life. This church understands government as a means through which God works to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just social order in a sinful world. The electoral process is one way in which we live out our affirmation of baptism to "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus," and "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." If you would like more information google ELCAvotes.

The ELCA is always researching and striving for ways to grow the church. The latest way is through a survey for ELCA members. Our congregation has the unique opportunity to participate in a national study of worship attenders. The study is being conducted by Faith Communities Today (FACT), a research partner of the ELCA. Since 2000, FACT has conducted research that provides religious leaders of all traditions with critical information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to respond effectively.

For participating in this survey, our congregation will receive a \$200 Amazon gift card and, if at least 10 people respond, a report of our responses.

Anyone 18 or older who is a regular participant can complete the survey. It should take between 12 to 15 minutes.

To take the survey, please click the link below.

https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=20047

Please fill out the survey by November 22, 2024.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley