



***“TRUST NOT IN PRINCES....”***

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

***“Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.”  
Psalm 146:3***



It's no secret that we are in the last month of a presidential election. I know many people who are exhausted by it all – and it seems to get worse every cycle. The constant barrage of advertising is one thing. But now we also have the flood of social media political content, and the strife it either creates or reveals among people who might otherwise get along. Of course I won't be endorsing a candidate or party, but permit me to offer some biblically shaped guidance. Let the Word of God shape our thoughts about these

current events, the world in which we live, and our place in it.

**Government is a good gift of God.** As much as we joke about politicians, governments, taxes, and the like, Christians must acknowledge that earthly government is a good gift of God. Romans 13 teaches us that any authority that exists has been established by God, and is God's servant to do us good. He is also to bear the sword and punish wrong-doers. The government functions to protect us, promote good order, and to curb gross outbreaks of sin (the first use of the law). If you think the government is bad, imagine a world with no government (anarchy). Some tyrant would surely come to power soon and fill the void. Therefore Christians also pray for our leaders and those in authority, that they would do their job well, and that we may therefore live in peace and serve the Lord in freedom.

Likewise, especially in America, we citizens are blessed to be a part of the political process – to vote, to participate in the process, to voice our opinions about public policy, etc. A Christian does these things, and ought to do these things, especially, in service to our neighbor. These are good works in our vocation as citizens. We are, in a way, a part of the government. But we should also do these things as peacefully as possible, remembering that even our neighbor in the other political party is someone for whom Christ shed his blood, and is dearly beloved by God.

**Like any gift of God, we can make government an idol.** It is always the inclination of sinners to take a good gift of God and twist it, corrupt it, or make it into an idol. And you really can see, with some people, how their “religion” is their politics. They spend so much time, energy and attention on the governing of our nation that it becomes their one true god. But shouldn't we fear love and trust in God alone? Ought we not be wary of glorifying, or even worshipping any man as our savior except for Jesus Christ alone?

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God, and that by believing  
you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

**Trust in God, not princes.** The Psalmist writes, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.” (Psalm 146:3). One of our hymns, “Praise the Almighty” (LSB 797 v. 2) keys in on the Psalm and puts it this way:

*Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;  
Earth-born they are and soon decay.  
Vain are their counsels and life’s last portal,  
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.  
Since mortals can no help afford,  
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**There is only one savior** who can help us escape the real, ultimate, most pressing problem of sin and death – Jesus Christ, our Lord! A king who will never disappoint you. A ruler who is always just and right and good. A leader who has charted us a course through death and to life again – even life eternal.

**This world is passing away.** Our true citizenship is in heaven. All the problems that politicians promise to solve - and hardly ever do – will not matter in the end. Jobs, the economy, taxes, education, immigration, health care, the supreme court, and whatever other issue of the day – while they may be important for this world – ultimately pale in comparison to what awaits us. St. Paul says it well, “*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*” Romans 8:18

**So if your guy doesn’t win** the election – have no fear, for Christ still reigns, and your future in glory is still secure. **And if your guy does win** – don’t put all your trust in a mortal prince who cannot save this fallen world. Rather look to Christ, the one who deserves all honor and glory.

**Keep your perspective**, Christian – an eternal perspective – informed by the Word, rooted in the faith, and secure in the hope which anchors the soul in Jesus Christ. To him – with the Father and the Spirit - be all glory forever, Amen!



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***Bible Studies this Fall***

Board of Education

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**Men’s Breakfast Bible Study** has resumed. Join us for the **1st and 3rd Saturdays at 7am**, at **Sunny Street Café** in Keller.

**JOY group** has resumed. Join every **Tuesday at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall

**Confirmation 1 and Confirmation 2** has begun! We will continue to meet on **Sunday during the Sunday School hour and Tuesday evenings at 7pm for Confirmation 2.**



## STEWARDS UNDER THE CROSS

Newsletter article – October 2020

We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints' Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

*"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)*

*"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)*

*"The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'" (1 Tim. 5:17–18)*

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

*"When Paul says 'all good things,' this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. ... The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: 'God is not mocked.' ... All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: 'Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages'; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): 'Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.' It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages ... it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office." (LW 27:125–126)*



Thank You again to everyone who helped install the new Ninja Warrior Course!

**Ninja Course Dedication Fun!!**



Everyone had so much fun at the The Ninja Course Dedication!!

Highlights from our September 23, 2020 meeting:

**Pastor Chryst –**

- September is "start up" month for:
  - Confirmation
  - Children's Sunday School
  - Pastor's Class
  - MLCA Chapel has also resumed
- Hymn Festival/Missionary Visit
- Hoping to be able to visit nursing homes again soon
- Texas District Convention is this summer

**Treasurer's Report** – So far this fiscal year The church received \$61.6K in offerings and with releases, a total of 87k to cover 99k in expenses. This yields a loss of 12k mostly in the Trustees repairs. The School has a total income of 48k, to cover 48.5k in expenses.

**Boards:**

**Education** – Please welcome Melissa Brooke as our new Sunday School Superintendent.

**Elders** – Organ project completed. Sound system may be updated. Continuing to monitor COVID situation and consider worship service changes. Handbells have been refurbished. Updating Benevolence Policy.

**Evangelism** – Swaddling Clothes is now serving by appointment – Families in September. Working on guidelines for supporting church workers, missionaries, and other outside missions.

**MLCA** – School has re-opened August 19. Enrollment at 62, down from last year, but many hopeful signs for increase throughout the year. Continuing to receive inquiries and give tours. "Classical Ninja Warrior" was completed and we had the dedication September 18th.

**Stewardship** – Continuing to monitor investment account (monies from Heidorn estate). Currently valued at \$191,000

**Trustees** – Ongoing repairs (toilet, ceiling leak, sprinkler system)

**Other Items of Business:**

1. Some discussion of changes to the Constitution/Bylaws that may be presented at the October Voters Assembly
2. Annual election of employee health insurance plan option.
3. Council will be updating the church "Recurring Calendar"



***PUMPKINS FOR SALE and TRUNK OR TREAT !!***



**Help support MLCA and buy your pumpkins here at MLCA!!** \$10 each—cash or check. They are available for sale NOW! See **Brenda Chryst** for details and payment.

**Trunk or Treat** will be **Sunday, October 25** from 4 to 6pm. We will have a pumpkin patch, balloon artist, games, prizes, book fair and the Kona Ice Truck!



### ***SPIRITUAL WARFARE - A Conference for College and College Age Young Adults in Austin!***

- When:** Saturday, October 17, 2020, 10 AM - 4 PM
- Location:** St. Paul, 3501 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705 (free parking)
- Activities:** Vespers and Matins, Pastor Wolfmueller presentations, Q &A, games, lunch.
- Topic Description:** <https://youtu.be/QbsZLqAlpZY> (Click on the link)  
Co-Hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and University Lutheran Church, Austin
- Questions:** Vera Sweet - [vsweet328@gmail.com](mailto:vsweet328@gmail.com)

### ***College Care Packages***

by Deaconess - Pamela Buhler

This year we have **TWENTY** college students! That's almost double our numbers from last year. If you want your child to receive a College Care Package, please text their name and address to Deaconess Buhler at 972-342-7697 as soon as you can.

Would you like to help provide items for our college care packages this year? We would like to let our members know that Messiah cares for them. These packages show them our love and encourages them throughout their semester.

If you would like to supply any of the following items, they can be dropped off in the narthex in the basket provided. We will be collecting items throughout the month of October and mailing care packages in the early weeks of November. Many students will not be returning to college after Thanksgiving Break, so they will go out a little early this fall. If you are willing to mail one of our pre-packaged boxes, please contact Deaconess Buhler.

#### **Here are several suggestions:**

Peanuts	TEA/Cocoa	Dried Fruit
Fruit Cups	Cheese Crackers	Pretzels
Gum	Popcorn	Peanut Butter
Nutella	Protein Bars	Ramen Noodles
Single Cereal	Chocolate	Animal Crackers
Goldfish	Granola Bars	Macaroni & Cheese
Oatmeal	Trail Mix	Cracker Jacks
Apple Sauce	Cookies	Yogurt Covered Snacks



## Guest Organist & Missionary - Phillip Magness



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Pastor

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

Messiah was pleased to welcome LCMS Missionary Mr. Phillip Magness on September 27th. Phillip played the organ for our Sunday Services and also led our Hymn Festival that afternoon. You can view recordings on Facebook under the "videos" tab.

Messiah members also generously donated to support Phillip's work with Lutherans in Africa, teaching church music and hymnody. Altogether, we will be sending \$5000 to support this important work. Thanks be to God!



### Save the date!

November 1st will be the Church **picnic** and Sunday School **Rally Day**. More information to come



Please continue to pray for Phillip and his family as he prepares for his next visit to Africa, and as he continues his work from the States until COVID permits travel to resume. We look forward to seeing him again next year!