

Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

We are in a unique political situation during this time. I was listening to a podcast that told in the 2000's, Senator Lindsey Graham introduced legislation to combat global climate change, President George W. Bush tried to fix immigration (not just punish and politicize the issue), and many senators of both parties split with their leaders depending on the issue. Today, it seems that if one party says, "Up" the other will automatically say, "Down!"

When our youth went to Washington, DC, we met with our elected officials (or their staff) of both parties. One party was more open to the issues the youth were concerned with and how to deal with them. It is hard not to favor one party over the other in our time. It is hard not to see that we support one party over the other in our time. We should be focused on issues, as the church and as Christians, and willing to work with either side to promote justice, compassion, and equity. But (big one) it is hard not to cheer on the party that better aligns with where we want our country to go: women's reproductive rights, justice for the oppressed and the poor, funding and equity in our education system, clean air and water, and a plan to lessen the damage humans are doing to the planet.

The youth had two big asks in their presentations and meetings, one is better gun control and safer schools, and the other was concerning the Farm Bill of keeping food programs like SNAP and WIC, gearing farm programs toward small and family farms instead of corporations, and working on lessening the damage of global climate change.

It is no secret that the Democrats align with us (as a church, but not all) more (but not all) on these issues. It is also our job as citizens to hold both parties and our government accountable for its decisions and its priorities of where the government uses its resources and what are the goals it is working towards. May we continue to stand up for justice, for equity for all, and the rights of those who have been marginalized in the past and continue to be denied those rights now.

May we also remember that all people in either party and independents are citizens of this country, and we are to love our neighbor and even our enemy (however we define that).

Peace