

ISSUE OF CONSCIENCE. Synod Assembly. 6/13/26

The congregation of Saint Paulus Lutheran Church
Has by unanimous vote, declared itself to be
A Lutheran Protesting Tyranny Confessing Church.
LPTC Church

It is matter of conscience

Both personally and institutionally

And more importantly, it's a confessional matter

A matter faith, a confession that Jesus is Lord

Over all aspects of human reality – including government

All authority, biblically speaking, is instituted by God for good order

And we are surely subject to it as God's ordering.

However, when in the hands of tyrants

(those who claim such authority as their own)

The exercise of their false authority

Violates good order

Defies accountability

Lies to cover its deceit

Oppresses rather than serves

Dominates rather than frees

Instills fear and division

Inflicts suffering and death

This we have seen and experienced

We have seen and agonized with the victims of such tyranny.

The degree of its excesses are everywhere present

Until now it dominates our country's spirit

And metastasizes into international venues

This is a matter of conscience, a matter of faith, a time for confessing

That Jesus is Lord

In protest and resistance to such tyranny

In truth-telling to all who will listen.

To do otherwise, to turn a blind eye, to wring hands in powerlessness,

To remain safely silent

Is to capitulate, collude and empower such tyranny

And bend the knee to an alien gospel.

From the killing of Rene Good and its coverup

by the United States Department of Justice;

to the illegal detention of immigrants, their imprisonment

in prison camps, and cruel deportation;

From the nearly 200 extra judicial killings on the open seas

To the establishment of a policy of "Maximum lethality"

coined by the Secretary of the newly renamed Department of War;

From the self-aggrandizement and unconstitutional enrichment of the President, now
estimated at over \$2 billion, at the expense of a fretless public

To the current, relentless strategy to undermine and destroy confidence
in the election process (the bulwark of our constitutional way of life)
as the midterms approach.

The arrogance and condescension with which these exercises of tyranny are pursued,
Like Trump depicting himself as Jesus healing a man,
Is clear evidence that the worst is yet to come.

And the list, which is only partial,

Fully demonstrates the intentional destruction of good order, structural institutions,
and common human decency – tyranny unleashed

To remain silent, siloed or ignorant

And by such example

Teach the same to our congregations, our communities, our self

Is to disgrace the mandate of Jesus to serve our neighbor with suffering love,
seek justice, and honor all

The withering example of the church's capitulation to Nazi tyranny should serve as a
blazing reminder of the cost of silence and the betrayal of the Gospel of Jesus.

So, it is with this passionate confessional appeal and steadfast faithfulness

We urge you and your congregations to stand with us as LPTC Churches

Lutherans Protesting Tyranny Confessing Churches

To lift up voice and body, individually and institutionally, in solidarity

And in confidence and dependence in the One who has called us

“to go into all the world, making disciples, baptizing, and teaching all

To obey what I have commanded you”

The One who is always with us, to the end of the ages. Jesus Christ, the Lord.

THIS IS OUR ISSUE OF CONSCIENCE.

Join us at admin@saintpaulus.org