



Grains

“Faith is nothing else than trust in the divine mercy promised in Christ.”
Philipp Melancthon

We can't drink money.” Sign in 2019 climate march

Field

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jewish people who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:31-36

Thoughts

On Reformation Sunday, we remember how Martin Luther’s private transformation erupted into an ecclesial public voice. The 16th century political timing was just right for Luther and other reformers to challenge unjust systems that held poverty in place; call out the scam of selling forgiveness via indulgences; model following one’s conscience; and uplift the gift of grace, grace, and more grace. But we don’t believe the Reformation was only about political timing. It was a *Kairos* moment.

Recently, in a discussion on the ELCA draft social message on Climate (not an ELCA teaching yet) led by our DC Witness in Society’s intern, Christine Moffett, we discussed the significance of recognizing the climate crisis as a *Kairos* moment. With a reference to Paul Tillich, the draft includes this comment: “In the New Testament, the word *kairos* most often refers to a decisive moment when all were called to repent, believe in the gospel, and follow Jesus. In Christian theology, however, the concept is not confined to this salvific context. In other decisive moments, such as the Reformation period (1517-1580), Christians have used *Kairos* to name God’s urgent call for decisive action in history.” [DRAFT-Social Message Climate Care](#). Offer your input [here](#).

Truth about the simplicity of God’s love setting us free is relevant in every generation. How does that freedom move us to love our neighbor and God’s creation today? We use language about pollutants and human contributions to greenhouse gases that was outside the 16th century Reformation vocabulary. With our 21st century dilemmas and crises, are we in another *Kairos* moment today? I believe we are and feel it whenever considering climate change or learning more about the nitrates, PFAs, and other chemicals polluting our drinking water. We have been legally free to pollute beyond what we will be able to continue to endure, but such liberty is not the freedom reflecting faith in God and love for our neighbor; it is not the freedom Jesus talks about in John 8 or that Luther discussed in “Freedom of a Christian.”

Take care in how you vote. However you vote, lifting our voices after the elections is urgent. We are free. We can do it. Happy Monday!

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many blessings upon you, ^[L]_[SEP]
Pastor Cindy