

Monday Quotes



Grain

“Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights - not corporations, unions, nonprofits, or other artificial entities, and Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech...” –Included in 2024 resolutions from the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Synod, and La Crosse Area Synod

Field

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate,

for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them. Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Thoughts

What stands out to you in the lesson from Proverbs? You could linger with each verse to meditate on what you value in life, which extends into how we engage with our neighbor. The ancient verses flow into other teachings in scripture, some of which were written thousands of years after the ones from Proverbs. We are reminded that although there are obscure Biblical verses that we can cherry pick, concern for our neighbor experiencing poverty and the importance of justice permeate scripture.

In relation to hunger and poverty what is on your mind in the 21st century? ELCA World Hunger's goal for zero hunger in the world? Or, perhaps you recall your own brushes with food insecurity or fears of becoming at risk of not having enough. Maybe you consider the displacement of people in Gaza and other war-torn areas, or climate refugees, a broken juvenile justice system at home, or money in politics.

This year, three synods passed resolutions to address money in politics at their assemblies. Each resolution referred to problems encompassed by the 2010 Supreme Court Decision, Citizens United. The aspects of the decision that the three synods voted to counter are in the "Grain" above. Money has always been in politics, but the 2010 decision intensified the influence of wealthy donors and corporations.

We need a long-term effort to amend Citizens United. What can we do right now? Please notice that there is a section on money in politics in the Draft of a Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith. Your feedback is needed! Social statements are important documents to back our actions for justice as a church. Also, as we prepare for the November elections, remember our values. "Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the Lord pleads their cause." Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy