

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
Wednesday November 7, 2018

THANK GOODNESS THAT'S OVER!

As of this morning the campaigning is finished, and from my point of view not a moment too soon. It seems like it all began nearly a year ago when we arrived here in Florida, and perhaps it was even earlier. I don't wish to comment on the outcome of the election, but I sure do have something to say about the process. Watching the TV and hearing the radio ads for the candidates I have to wonder...did someone take a chisel to the tablets of stone and remove the 8th Commandment? That's the one that says "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor!" Both major political parties are equally guilty, at least in my mind. Those pre-election ads were full of half truths, twisted truths, false accusations and out and out lies. It was disgusting. Is this what we have to look forward to in all of the elections yet to come. Unfortunately, I think we all know the answer to that question. As human beings, and especially as Christians, we long for the truth, while in our post modern culture truth is being redefined to be whatever someone wants it to be. The truth is that "truth" is not subject to individual ideas desires. Ultimate truth has been determined for us by God our Creator, and ultimately it is God, in the person of Jesus Christ who is the embodiment of truth. Jesus himself says; "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) As Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate on the morning of his crucifixion the governor asked him point-blank, "What is truth?" I often wish that Jesus would have said (although I hesitate to put words in God's mouth), "Well, you're looking at Him!" God's truth tells us that we are not to lie (bear false witness) about and against our neighbor, and our neighbors are anyone and everyone that we have to deal with. Now that seems sometimes hard to do. You might think; "Well you don't know my neighbor!" The truth is that doesn't apply here as we are called to serve our neighbor, and in doing so serve the Lord. We are to speak well of and defend him/her, always putting the best construction on everything (Luther's Small Catechism).