



November 2020

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

With days to go before we know the results of our national, State and local elections, I've found myself thinking about the concept of the terrible toll that taking on the role of the President of the United States takes on those who inhabit the office. You can see it in their faces, the new wrinkles, the hair, greying prematurely, and the fatigue that each person serving in this capacity experiences no matter what party or what year, whether two terms or just one.

Concept A Human President — pages 1, 3, 6 –13
Pastor's Message — page 2
Indigenous Peoples — pages 4 & 5
Powerful Words From Christian Pastor— page 14 & 15
Repair America Act — pages 15—19
Thoughts From a Historian — page 20
Join in The GHIAA Celebration —page 21
Enlighten Solar Panel Report — page 22
The Psalms / November's Birthdays —page 23

We will soon decide who will take this huge responsibility on, and we decide who is to put on this impossible mantle. Our judgment, and our accountability is central to the process of selection of a president. No one is appointed, no one takes the responsibility by force, and no one simply makes her/his way to the throne. We put them there. Each one of us. Whether we voted or not, we put the person there. The thousands who did not vote in 2016 in key states voted for Donald Trump. The thousands who do not vote for Joe Biden this year, will also be voting for a second term for Mr. Trump. I ask all who read this message to ask yourself, look yourself in the mirror and ask yourself, is this the best you and we can do? Is this who you want for four more years, or more? Is this what you want for your family, friends and neighbors, and generations who are likely to have to pay for the devastation he leaves in his

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**

wake? Let me offer another thought for you. Let me give you a reason to act. I want to describe to you what a President with humanity looks like. I want this description to call you to look again, and consider the differences between a president for all of the people and a person with humanity and compassion as central elements of her/his character. I want you to compare the differences between Donald Trump and Barack Obama. Then, vote.

Last week in a parking lot somewhere in Philadelphia, President Obama took a simple spot on a portable stage to talk with people who drove their cars to hear him, were not exposed to him as everyone was at a very wide distance, and he spoke extemporaneously just as Mr. Trump does at his so-called "rallies." The substance of each of these presidents' presentations was completely different, yet both have held the office. President Obama did not use Air Force One as a prop to point out his power, nor did he wear a hat with MAGA on it, as did President Trump.

Those who attend Trump rallies mostly do not wear masks and are packed together like sardines. The Trump rally is planned carefully to set the stage for the triumphant arrival of his majesty. You see, Mr. Trump's preparation for the office was as a host of a TV show where he got to fire people every week.

(continues on page 3)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE – WE MUST MAKE CHANGE NOW!

This is the longest Grace Notes ever (at least during my time). I am frightened that we may re-elect a man who has led us to the worst crises in our country's history. It is no longer funny to watch him trash others. It is no longer funny to watch him lie repeatedly. It is no longer funny to see him deny climate change and any form of science. It is no longer acceptable for us to have him representing us in the world. It is no longer acceptable that he violates the spirit and the letter of the law daily. It is no longer acceptable to have his cronies wrecking institutions of our government that have long been held in high esteem by our people and the rest of the world.

It is no longer OK that he marches forward to turn our democracy into an autocracy. It is no longer acceptable that he gets the kind of attention he does through the press which has kept him going, un-knowingly, by having his image on every TV station for every day of every year that he has been in office and the period he has run for office. I am fearful of life with Trump. I am fearful of the thousands who are dying, the millions who are at risk, the destruction of our small businesses and the elimination of our schools.

He is a sadly mentally ill person who frightens those who faun over him, and anyone with any competence at all. [Here I stand!](#)

Anyone who can't see his dereliction of duty, please read this issue. Anyone who is on the fence about this election, please read this issue. This is more than our country at risk; this is our country's acceptance of evil and support of it, while people face death, starvation, separation from their families, loss of jobs and the stacking of judgeships, including the Supreme Court. This is not just separation, racism, narcissism or greed. This is the worst threat to our country since its beginning and a challenge to our very way of life.

Power run amok. Sickness spreading. Scientists belittled. Promised quick cures. We're not turning a corner we are climbing the heights once again of exposure and death. Please vote.

Please vote. Please vote.

**They are darkened in their
understanding, alienated
from the life of God because
of the ignorance that is in
them, due to their hardness
of heart.**

Eph 4:18

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)

He also managed to take more than \$400 million in inheritance and yield debt greater than that sum while paying no more than \$750/year in taxes for his first and second years as president. Over the course of a scandalous life as a power broker, a schemer, a tax evader, pervert, and a failure in managing money he began with a huge silver spoon in his mouth. He managed to marry three times, accumulate more than 26 lawsuits against him for rape and other sexual abuse charges, and he was pals with people of the ilk of Jeffrey Epstein who victimized children all his life. Trump was to be seen with Mr. Epstein at his parties, pointing at the young innocents gathered by to satisfy Mr. Epstein's pleasure and those he invited to join in. Trump routinely lies as witnessed by the world before and during his time as president. At the final "debate" with Joe Biden, Trump lied more than he had in his first encounter where he just yelled over Biden making it virtually impossible for the debate to succeed. At the last one, he simply lied, deflected, and lied again.

As you can see, I am horrified that a man of his character has assumed the highest position in our country and that he has consistently violated our laws, our traditions and trampled on our institutions and the people in them. Yes, Trump is the model of the inhuman president.

I want to contrast this with our prior president, simply by sharing the Philadelphia presentation he offered in a parking lot this past week. Rather than my characterizing the differences, I want to encourage you to listen to President Obama and remember what it was like when he was our leader:

"Hello, Philadelphia.

Man, it is good to be back in Pennsylvania. What beautiful weather we got here. Little Indian summer. I know the president spent some time in Erie last night, and apparently he complained about having to travel there. And then he cut the event short, poor guy. I don't feel that way. I love coming to Pennsylvania. You guys delivered for me twice and I am back here tonight to ask you to deliver the White House for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. I want to thank Mr. Philadelphia, Charlie Mack, his daughter, India Marie. What an outstanding young lady she was. Those of you who are fathers and have daughters you know how that feels when you see your daughters just shining. I know a little bit about that. And it was great to see representatives, Brendan Boyle, Mary Gay Scanlon, Governor Tom Wolf, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, and Mayor Jim Kenney. Philadelphia we got 13 days. That's our lucky number right here. 13 days until the most important election of our lifetimes.

And you don't have to wait for November 3rd to cast your ballot. You've got two ways to vote right now. Number one, you can vote early in person through next Tuesday. Anybody here voted early already? If you haven't, just go to [iwillvote.com/pa](https://www.iwillvote.com/pa) and find out where you can vote early. Number two, you can vote from home with a mail-in ballot. Just go to [iwillvote.com/pa](https://www.iwillvote.com/pa) to request your ballot right away. And before you send it back, Pennsylvania's got this thing where you've got to use both envelopes. So you've got to read the directions carefully to make sure your vote counts. And if you've already voted, then you've got to help your friends and family make a plan to vote.



(continues on page 6)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

October 12, 2020

In the name of the God who creates every human being out of love, this church teaches human dignity is God's gift to every person and that the commitment to universal rights protects that dignity.

—ELCA social message "[Human Rights](#)," 2017 (p. 2)

We cannot advance justice today by forgetting injustice yesterday.

—Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, Osage Nation

While so many in our country endure a time of suffering and despair, God is present with us as we seek to see more clearly, heal from unrest and renew ourselves and our relationships. The way we talk about people matters. Names matter. Renaming a day matters. Recognizing the original people who have been here for time immemorial matters. Indigenous Peoples Day matters. We join states, cities and towns across the country to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus Day and honor the people whose lands we walk, whose Indigenous voices have always been spoken here and who share their gifts and contributions throughout our society.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's churchwide office sits in an Indigenous place. What is now known as Chicago remains the home of many Native nations. Historically and now, the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, Fox, Kickapoo, and Illinois people have congregated and lived at these crossroads along the banks of what is now known as Lake Michigan. The places where every synod has its offices, where every congregation built its place of worship, and where every Lutheran college and seminary was established belonged to a people. Indigenous Peoples Day is a time to acknowledge and recognize them.

Today there are nearly 5,000 American Indian and Alaska Native members of the ELCA and 30 ELCA congregations in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Alaska Native congregations occupy some of the oldest Lutheran places of worship. These Lutheran and Native places lie on the open tundra near the icy waters of the Bering Sea, on the rolling prairies of the Great Plains and in leafy woodlands. These places are their homelands.

The historical and generational trauma experienced by tribal nations does not have its source in nostalgia, or a sense of loss of private property: its source is in the loss of their place of deeply rooted identity in a specific place. This is a place which was given to them by the Creator thousands of years ago, a particular place where the Creator covenanted with their ancestors to live in this specific place; relation to the land cannot be moved to a different place, since the knowledge is meant for the specific relations which abound in that specific place.

—Rev. Dr. Gordon Straw, Brothertown Indian Nation

In 2016, the ELCA took steps to [repudiate](#) one of the most fundamental bases for colonialism, the "Doctrine of Discovery," which pledges, in part, ... to repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived doctrine of discovery as an example of the "improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword" (Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII, Latin text), and to acknowledge and repent from this church's complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members.

—ELCA Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

(continues on page 5)



This alone will not suffice. As a church, we must sustain our efforts to educate ourselves and the wider community on the consequences of the Doctrine of Discovery* on Native peoples.

We must continue to do this, repudiating racism, white supremacy, and logos, mascots and stereotypes that perpetuate prejudice against Native Americans. We must learn and tell the stories. We must educate ourselves and everyone within the sound of our voices about all the corners of our country's dark and shameful past. We must build and strengthen relationships anew. Today and every day we commit to do our part to understand, respect and celebrate American Indian and Alaska Native people, their congregations and communities, and the church.

As we celebrate our rich history as Americans, we should reflect on the reality that the arrival of Europeans to these shores is seen differently by those who have experienced great pain and suffered many broken promises. Naming and honoring Indigenous Peoples Day moves us all toward a better place.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 3)

Take them with you if you vote early, or if you vote in-person on election day, because this election requires every single one of us to do our part. And what we do these next 13 days will matter for decades to come.

Now, last time I was in Philadelphia, I was at the constitution center and I was delivering a speech for the Democratic National Convention this year. And I said, during that speech, I've sat in the Oval Office with both of the men who are running for president. And they are very different people. I explained that I never thought Donald Trump would embrace my vision or continue my policies but I did hope for the sake of the country that he might show some interest in taking the job seriously, but it hasn't happened. He hasn't shown any interest in doing the work or helping anybody but himself and his friends or treating the presidency like a reality show that he can use to get attention. And by the way, even then his TV ratings were down. So you know that upsets him.

But the thing is, this is not a reality show, this is reality. And the rest of us have had to live with the consequences of him proving himself incapable of taking the job seriously. At least 220,000 Americans have died. More than 100,000 small businesses have closed. Millions of jobs are gone. Our proud reputation around the world is in tatters. Presidents up for reelection usually ask if the country is better off than it was four years ago. I'll tell you one thing, four years ago you'd be tailgating here at the Lincoln instead of watching a speech from your cars. The only people truly better off than they were four years ago are the billionaires who got his tax cuts. Right now as we speak, Trump won't even extend relief to the millions of families who are having trouble paying the rent or putting food on the table because of this pandemic. But he's been doing all right by himself. As it turns out, this was just reported in the last 48 hours.

We know that he continues to do business with China because he's got a secret Chinese bank account. How is that possible? How is that possible? A secret Chinese bank account. Listen, can you imagine if I had had a secret Chinese bank account when I was running for reelection. You think Fox News might have been a little concerned about that? They would've called me Beijing Berry. It is not a great idea to have a president who owes a bunch of money to people overseas. That's not a good idea. I mean, of the taxes Donald Trump pays, he may be sending more to foreign governments than he pays in the United States. His first year in the White House he only paid \$750 in federal income tax. Listen, my first job was at a Baskin-Robbins when I was 15 years old. I think I might have paid more taxes that year working at dispensing ice cream. How is that possible? How many people here pay less than that? It's just possible now that if you are living high on the hog and you only pay \$750 in taxes that maybe, just maybe he might not know what working people are going through here in Pennsylvania. We cannot afford four more years of this, Philadelphia. But the good news is right now you can choose change. Right now you can vote for my friend Joe Biden and his running mate, Kamala Harris as the next president and vice president of the United States of America. Now, Joe's no stranger to here. He's a native son. Scrappy kid from Scranton. You know him and he knows you. But let me, let me tell you how I came to Norman and how I came to love him. 12 years ago, when I chose Joe Biden as my vice presidential running mate, I didn't know Joe all that well. We had served in the Senate together, but we weren't super close. He and I came from different places. We came from different generations.

But I came to admire Joe as a man who had learned early on to treat everybody he meets with dignity and respect, living by the words his parents taught him, no one's better than you Joe, but you're better than nobody. And that empathy, that decency, that belief that everybody counts, that's who Joe is. That's who he'll be. And I can tell you the presidency doesn't change who you are, it reveals who you are.

(continues on page 7)



And Joe has shown himself to be a friend of working people. For eight years, Joe was the last one in the room when I faced a big decision. He made me a better president and he's got the character and experience to make us a better country. And he and Kamala- A better country.

And he and Kamala are going to be in the fight, not for themselves but for every single one of us. Well, I get that this president wants full credit for the economy he inherited and zero blame for the pandemic that he ignored. But you know what? The job doesn't work that way. Tweeting at the television doesn't fix things. Making stuff up doesn't make people's lives better. You've got to have a plan. You've got to put in the work. And along with the experience to get things done, Joe Biden has concrete plans and policies that will turn our vision of a better, fairer, stronger country into reality.

We literally left this White House a pandemic playbook that would have shown them how to respond before the virus reached our shores. They probably used it to I don't know, prop up a wobbly table somewhere. We don't know where that playbook went. Eight months into this pandemic, cases are rising again across this country. Donald Trump isn't suddenly going to protect all of us. He can't even take the basic steps to protect himself. Just last night, he complained up in Erie that the pandemic made him go back to work. I'm quoting him. He was upset that the pandemic's made him go back to work. If he'd actually been working the whole time, it never would've gotten this bad.

So, look, here's the truth. I want to be honest here. This pandemic would have been challenging for any president but this idea that somehow this White House has done anything but completely screw this up, it's just not true. I'll give you a very specific example. Korea identified it's first case at the same time that the United States did. At the same time, their per capita death toll is just 1.3% of what ours is. In Canada, it's just 39% of what ours is. Other countries are still struggling with the pandemic but they're not doing as bad as we are because they've got a government that's actually been paying attention.

And that means lives lost. And that means an economy that doesn't work. And just yesterday, when asked if he'd do anything differently, Trump said, "Not much." Really? Not much? Nothing you can think of that could have helped some people keep their loved ones alive?

(continues on page 8)

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 7)

So, Joe's not going to screw up testing. He's not going to call scientists idiots. He's not going to host a super spreader event at the White House. Joe will get this pandemic under control with a plan to make testing free and widely available, to get a vaccine to every American cost free and to make sure our frontline heroes never ask other countries for the equipment they need.

His plan will guarantee paid sick leave for workers and parents affected by the pandemic and make sure that the small businesses that hold our communities together and employ millions of Americans can reopen safely. Donald Trump likes to claim he built this economy but America created 1.5 million more jobs in the last three years of the Obama-Biden administration than in the first three years of the Trump-Pence administration. How you figure that? And that was before he could blame the pandemic. Now, he did inherit the longest streak of job growth in American history but just like everything else he inherited, he messed it up. The economic damage he inflicted by botching the pandemic response means he will be the first president since Herbert Hoover to actually lose jobs. Joe's got a plan to create 10 million good clean energy jobs as part of a historic \$2 trillion investment to fight climate change, to secure environmental justice. And he'll pay for it by rolling back that tax cut for billionaires. And Joe sees this moment not just as a chance to get back to where we were but to finally make long overdue changes so that our economy actually makes life a little easier for everybody, the waitress trying to raise her kid on her own, the student trying to figure out how to pay for next semester's classes, the shift worker who's always on the edge of getting laid off, the cancer survivor who's worried about her preexisting conditions, protections being taken away.

Let me tell you something Pennsylvania. This I know to be true, Joe and Kamala will protect your healthcare and expand Medicare and make insurance more affordable for everybody. Republicans love to say right before an election that they'll protect your preexisting conditions. Now, Joe and I actually protected your policies to make sure people with preexisting conditions could get health insurance and have coverage. We did it through something called the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a Obamacare. And Republicans tried to repeal or undermine it more than 60 times.

And when they've been asked about, they keep on promising, "We're going to have a great replacement." They said, "It's coming." It's been coming in two weeks for the last 10 years. Where is it? Where is this great plan to replace Obamacare? They've had 10 years to do it. There is no plan. They've never had one. Instead they've attacked the Affordable Care Act at every turn, driving up costs, driving up the uninsured. Now, they're trying to dismantle your care in the Supreme court as we speak as quickly as they can in the middle of a pandemic with nothing but empty promises to take its place. It's shameful. The idea that you would take healthcare away from people at the very moment where people need it most, what is the logic of that? There is no logic. Joe knows that the first job of a president is to keep us safe from all threats, foreign, domestic or microscopic. When the daily intelligence briefings flash warning signs about a virus, a president can't ignore them. He can't be AWOL. Just like when Russia puts bounties on the heads of our soldiers in Afghanistan, the commander-in-chief can't be missing in action. I can tell you this, Joe Biden would never call the men and women of our military suckers or losers. Who does that? He knows these heroes are somebody's children, somebody's spouse, somebody's dad or mom. He understands that. And he's going to restore our standing in the world because he knows that America's true strength comes from setting an example that the world wants to follow. A nation that stands with democracy, not dictators, a nation that can mobilize and inspire others to overcome threats like climate change and terrorism and poverty and disease. And with Joe and Kamala at the helm, you're not going to have to think about the crazy things they said every day. And that's worth a lot. You're not going to have to argue about them every day.

(continues on page 9)

It just won't be so exhausting. You might be able to have a Thanksgiving dinner without having an argument. You'll be able to go about your lives knowing that the president is not going to retweet conspiracy theories about secret cabals running the world or that Navy seals didn't actually kill bin Laden. Think about that. The president of the United States retweeted that. Imagine. What? What? We're not going to have a president that goes out of his way to insult anybody who doesn't support him or threaten them with jail. That's not normal presidential behavior.

That's not normal presidential behavior. We wouldn't tolerate it from a high school principal. We wouldn't tolerate it from a coach. We wouldn't tolerate it from a co-worker. We wouldn't tolerate it in our family, except for maybe a crazy uncle somewhere. I mean, why would we expect and accept this from the President of the United States? And why are folks making excuses for that? "Oh, well, that's just him." No. There are consequences to these actions. They embolden other people to be cruel and divisive and racist, and it frays the fabric of our society, and it affects how our children see things. And it affects the ways that our families get along. It affects how the world looks at America. That behavior matters. Character matters. And by the way, while he's doing all that, it distracts all of us from the truly destructive actions that his appointees are doing all across the government, actions that affect your lives. The Environmental Protection Agency that's supposed to protect our air and our water is right now run by an energy lobbyist that gives polluters free reign to dump unlimited poison into our air and water. The Labor Department that's supposed to protect workers and their rights, right now it's run by a corporate lobbyist who's declared war on workers, guts protections to keep essential folks safe during a pandemic, makes it easier for big corporations to shortchange them on their wages. The Interior Department, that's supposed to protect our public lands and wild spaces, our wildlife and our wilderness. And right now that's run by an oil lobbyist who's determined to sell them to the highest bidder.

You've got the Education Department that's supposed to give every kid a chance, and that's run by a billionaire who guts rules designed to protect students from getting ripped off by for profit colleges and stiff arms students looking for loan relief in the middle of an economic collapse. I mean, the person who runs Medicaid right now is doing their best to kick people off of Medicaid instead of sign them up for Medicaid. Come on. When Joe and Kamala are in charge, they're not going to surround themselves with hacks and lobbyists, but they're going to appoint qualified public servants who actually care about looking out for you, for your job, for your family, for your health, for your security, for your planet, and that more than anything is what separates them from their opponents. They actually care about every American, including the ones that don't agree with them.

And they're going to fight for you every day. They care about you and they care about this democracy. They believe in a democracy. The right to vote is sacred and we shouldn't be making people wait in line for 10 hours to cast their ballot. We should be making it easier for everybody to vote. They believe that no one, especially the President, is above the law. They understand that protest on behalf of social justice isn't un-American. That's the most American thing there is. That's how this country was founded, protesting injustice. They understand we don't threaten our political opponents threatening to throw them in jail, just because we disagree with them. They understand that our ability to work together to solve big problems like a pandemic depends more than on just photo-ops. It depends on actually learning the facts and following the science and not just making stuff up whenever it's convenient.

Our democracy is not going to work if the people who are supposed to be our leaders lie every day and just make things up. And we've just become numb to it.

(continues on page 10)

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 9)

We've just become immune to it. Every single day, fact checkers can't keep up. And, look, this notion of truthfulness and democracy and citizenship, and being responsible, these aren't Republican or democratic principles, they're American principles. They're what most of us grew up learning from our parents and our grandparents. They're not White or Black or Latino or Asian values, they're American values, human values, and we need to reclaim them. We have to get those values back at the center of our public life. And we can. But to do it, we've got to turn out like never before. We cannot leave any doubt in this election, because you know the President's already said, "If this is even close, I'm going to just make stuff up." He's already started to do it.

So we can't have any doubt. We can't be complacent. I don't care about the polls. There were a whole bunch of polls last time, didn't work out, because a whole bunch of folks stayed at home and got lazy and complacent. Not this time, not in this election, not this time. Listen, listen. I understand why a lot of Americans can get frustrated by government and can feel like it doesn't make a difference. Even supporters of mine, during my eight years, there were times where stuff we wanted to get done didn't get done and people said, "Well, gosh, if Obama didn't get it done, then maybe it's just not going to happen." Look, government is not going to solve every problem, it's true. Every elected official is going to make some mistakes. This is a big complicated country and the system's designed so that change happens slowly. It doesn't happen overnight.

And believe me, I've got firsthand experience with the way Republicans in Congress abused the rules to make it easy for special interest to stop progress. But we can make things better, and we shouldn't be making things worse. A president by himself can't solve every challenge in a global economy. But if we've got Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in the White House and a House and Senate that are focused on working people, it can make a difference and get millions of people the help they need. A president by himself can't eliminate all racial bias in our criminal justice system. But if we've got district attorneys and state's attorneys and sheriffs and police chiefs focused on equality and justice, it can make things better. In Pennsylvania, you've just got to flip nine seats in your State House, just five seats in your State Senate, to give Democrats control and new life for policies that'll make a real difference for working families right now. It can make things better.

In the end, Pennsylvania, that's what voting's about, making things better, not making things perfect, but putting us on track so that a generation from now we can look back and say, "Things got better starting now." And that's what voting's about. Voting's about using the power we have and pooling it together to get a government that's more concerned and more responsive and more focused on you and your lives and your children and your grandchildren and future generations. And the fact that we don't get 100% of what we want right away is not a good reason not to vote. It means we've got to vote and then get some change and then vote some more and then get some more change, and then keep on voting until we get it right.

And we will never come close to seeing what it would be like if everybody voted, when I hear people say, "Well, I don't know, you're voting don't make a difference." We don't know because usually no more than half the people who could be voting vote.



(continues on page 11)

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 10)

We get 50, 55% of people voting. And then people say, "Well, look, not enough change happened." Well, imagine what would happen if 60% voted? What about 70%? Imagine January 20th, when we swear in a president and a vice president who have a plan to get us out of this mess, who believe in science, and they have a plan to protect this planet for our kids, and who care about working Americans, and they have a plan to help you start getting ahead.

And who believe in racial equality and gender equality, and believe in not discriminating against people because of their sexual orientation, and are willing to bring us closer to an America where no matter what we look like and where we come from, who we love and what our last name is, if we go out there and we work, we can make it.

And we're part of an American family. All of that is possible. All of that is within our reach, if we vote. Because let me tell you something Pennsylvanians, people ask me sometimes, they say, "Man, how have you been able to take these last four years, just watching all this? How do you keep your spirits up?"

And I tell them, I say, look for all the times, these last four years that we've seen our worst impulses revealed, we've also seen what our country can be at its best. We've seen folks of every age and background who've packed city centers and airports in town squares, just so families wouldn't be separated.

So another classroom wouldn't get shot up, so our kids wouldn't grow up on an uninhabitable planet. We've seen Americans more racist, joining together to declare in the face of injustice that black lives matter, no more, but no less, so that no child in this country feels the continuing sting of racism.

We've seen folks, our essential workers, our healthcare workers risking their lives day in day out to save somebody else's loved ones. We've seen people volunteer and contribute to help those who are having an especially difficult time right now.

That's true in Pennsylvania, that's true all across the country. America is a good and decent place, but we've just seen so much noise and nonsense that sometimes it's hard for us to remember.

Philadelphia, I'm asking you to remember what this country can be. What it's like when we treat each other with respect and dignity, what it's like when our elected officials actually behave responsibly. I'm asking you to believe in Joe's ability, in Kamala's ability to lead this country out of these dark times, and help us build it back better, because we can't abandon those who are hurting right now. We can't abandon the children who aren't getting the education they need right now.

We can't abandon those protesters who inspired us. We've got to channel their activism into action, we can't just imagine a better future. We've got to fight for it. We've got to out hustle the other side, we got to outwork the other side, we've got to vote like never before and leave no doubt. So make a plan right now, for how you're going to get involved and vote. Do it as early as you can. Tell your family, tell your friends how they can vote. Don't stop with Joe and Kamala, make sure you vote all the way down the ticket.

And if we pour all our efforts into these 13 days, if we vote up and down the ticket, like never before, then we will not only elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, we will also leave no doubt about what this country that we love stands for.

(continues on page 12)

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 11)

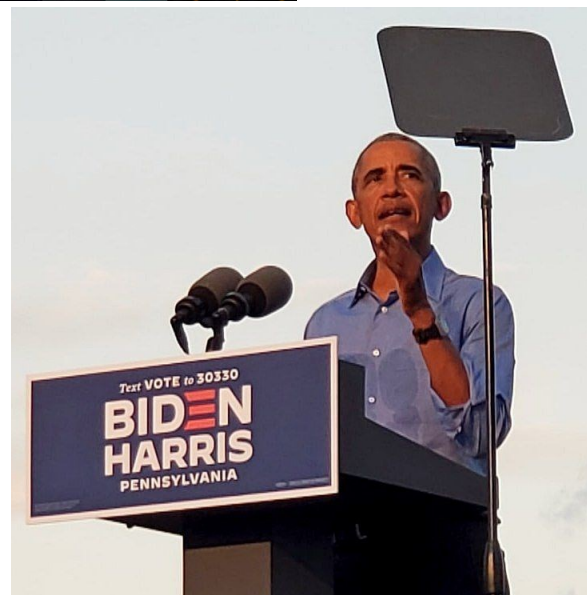
We will not leave any doubt about who we are as a people, and the values and ideals that we embrace.

What Lincoln called the better angels of our nature, those are still in us. We see them operating every single day. We see them in neighborhoods, we see them in churches and synagogues and mosques and temples. We see them in people helping out a neighbor. We see them inside our own families. We see that what is best in us is still there, but we've got to give it voice, and we've got to do it now.

So let's get to work people. Let's bring this home. I love you, Philadelphia. Honk if you're fired up, honk if you're ready to go. Are you fired up?

Are you ready to go? Are you fired up? Are you ready to go?

Let's go make it happen. I love you Philadelphia. Thank you. I love you. Come on."



(continues on page 13)

THE CONCEPT OF A HUMAN PRESIDENT

(continued from page 12)

Note: President Obama didn't call anyone a name, his words are full of substance, compassion and genuine hope for the future of our country. Having attended President Obama's first inauguration with two million people in attendance, the young people we brought with us from Providence who had never been to Washington were thrilled. We went to the Lincoln Memorial very early in the morning of that historic day. We read the Gettysburg address together. The memories of that time cannot be fully explained. It was deeply and profoundly meaningful.

Then, the first week of President Obama's presidency, Mitch McConnell pledged to make sure that he would be only a one term president. Obama was never given a chance even though he had to clean up the worst recession in our country's history. He wasn't perfect, but he got elected again, got 20 million people healthcare, led the longest period of economic growth in our country's history, and he presented a model of decency, respect and compassion. His family were models for all of us, his decency is a matter of record.

Sadly, while President Obama was not perfect, and he would be the first to say that is the case, he made our country and the world better. A racist wanted him gone before he had even started. He did nothing to help, but did plenty to undermine. It is time for change now. Please vote for a person with the character of those we expect from our leaders. It's time to bring this terrible period of our country to an end. Please vote. Please vote now. Please vote for change.



Powerful words from Christian pastor John Pavlovitz:

“see <https://johnpavlovitz.com/>”

“Dear White Evangelicals,

I need to tell you something: People have had it with you.

They’re done.

They want nothing to do with you any longer, and here’s why:

They see your hypocrisy, your inconsistency, your incredibly selective mercy, and your thinly veiled supremacy.

For eight years they watched you relentlessly demonize a black President; a man faithfully married for 26 years; a doting father and husband without a hint of moral scandal or the slightest whiff of infidelity.

They watched you deny his personal faith convictions, argue his birthplace, and assail his character—all without cause or evidence. They saw you brandish Scriptures to malign him and use the laziest of racial stereotypes in criticizing him.

And through it all, White Evangelicals—you never once suggested that God placed him where he was, you never publicly offered prayers for him and his family,

you never welcomed him to your Christian Universities,

you never gave him the benefit of the doubt in any instance,

you never spoke of offering him forgiveness or mercy,

your evangelists never publicly thanked God for his leadership,

your pastors never took to the pulpit to offer solidarity with him,

you never made any effort to affirm his humanity or show the love of Jesus to him in any quantifiable measure.

You violently opposed him at every single turn—without offering a single ounce of the grace you claim as the heart of your faith tradition. You jettisoned Jesus as you dispensed damnation on him.

And yet you give carte blanche to a white Republican man so riddled with depravity, so littered with extramarital affairs, so unapologetically vile, with such a vast resume of moral filth—that the mind boggles.

And the change in you is unmistakable. It has been an astonishing conversion to behold: a being born again.

With him, you suddenly find religion.

With him, you’re now willing to offer full absolution.

With him, all is forgiven without repentance or admission.

With him you’re suddenly able to see some invisible, deeply buried heart.

With him, sin has become unimportant, compassion no longer a requirement.

They recognize this all about white, Republican Jesus—not dark-skinned Jesus of Nazareth.

And I know you don’t realize it, but you’re digging your own grave in these days; the grave of your very faith tradition.

With him, you see only Providence.

And White Evangelicals, all those people who have had it with you—they see it all clearly.

They recognize the toxic source of your inconsistency.

They see that pigmentation and party are your sole deities.

They see that you aren’t interested in perpetuating the love of God or emulating the heart of Jesus.

They see that you aren’t burdened to love the least, or to be agents of compassion, or to care for your Muslim, gay, African, female, or poor neighbors as yourself.

They see that all you’re really interested in doing, is making a God in your own ivory image and demanding that the world bow down to it.

(continues on page 15)

Your willingness to align yourself with cruelty is a costly marriage. Yes, you've gained a Supreme Court seat, a few months with the Presidency as a mouthpiece, and the cheap high of temporary power—but you've lost a whole lot more.

You've lost an audience with millions of wise, decent, good-hearted, faithful people with eyes to see this ugliness.

You've lost any moral high ground or spiritual authority with a generation.

You've lost any semblance of Christlikeness.

You've lost the plot.

And most of all you've lost your soul.

I know it's likely you'll dismiss these words. The fact that you've even made your bed with such malevolence, shows how far gone you are and how insulated you are from the reality in front of you.

But I had to at least try to reach you. It's what Jesus would do."

John Pavlovitz

"Handy List - Laws We've Lost" by Carolyn West of Hartford, Connecticut

Day 1 - Repair America Act

A list of Freedoms and Rights We Have Lost in the Last 4 Years

If we win the White House and Congress this will be easier to fix.

For Congress - The Omnibus Bill: Day 1 - Repair America Act

Laws for Congress to quickly re-institute what we had before Trump's insanity controlled the all -Republican Congress. Each of these laws and practices have been enacted, not just threatened:

- Census: 'Add additional time to get the 2020 Census right'. I read that Hartford CT had only 45% of the expected response because of Covid and Trump cutting the survey short - which the Supreme Court allowed. This injustice will last a decade. Require in law full implementation of the 2020 census and changes going forward, including questions that provide data to protect people's rights and prohibit use of the census to endanger people's access to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Add sanctions with teeth.
- Affordable Care Act: Repass the stuff the courts have rejected about the Affordable Care Act - including if the Supreme Court rejects preexisting conditions or nullifies the whole act because they got the financial tax wording wrong. Then, we can take the time to pass a more perfect law.
- Citizens United: Put in law that corporations do not have the same rights as individuals.
- Voting Rights Act Re-pass the Voting Rights Act with oversight and sanctions on states that had been on the list that unfairly messed with elections. Establish severe criminal penalties for impeding the ability of citizens to vote in any way, including voter intimidation, changes to casting or submitting a ballot without oversight and notice, etc. Pass a new provision that prohibits the dissemination of false information one month before an election.
- Right to Privacy: Make the right to privacy a law. Re-pass the law that prohibits states from blocking Title X funding for reproductive rights.

(continues on page 16)

Day 1 - Repair America Act

(continued from page 15)

- Gender Identity: Pass a law protecting the right to determine your own gender identity and the right for transgender people to be in the military. Restore healthcare protections that were afforded to all people, including transgender people.
- SEC Laws: Place in law the Obama rule changes to make enforcement of SEC laws over Wall Street easier.
- Food Security a Right: Make food security a right, not just a budget item that can be slashed. WIC, food stamps, school food programs.
- US Postal Service: Make the functioning of the US Postal Service a right of citizens that shall not be abridged, including public funding if necessary.
- Science Security: Make access to vetted scientific research and analysis the right of citizens, which shall not be delayed or altered by the White House, Congress, Courts or any other authority.
- No Mineral Rights on Public Land: Prohibit in law any further drilling/rights for fossil fuels on public land. Nullify any that grant such authority.
- Freedom of Protest: Place a check on the President's ability to deploy the National Guard or any federal employees against American citizens in peaceful demonstration - include speedy remedies.
- Restore Gun Laws: Reinstate the law that strengthened firearms background checks and strengthens enforcement of the current law that prohibits certain individuals with a serious mental illness and those with outstanding warrants from gun possession,. Prohibit all gun sales without a background check.
- Strengthen separation of church and state. No government authority shall prioritize or give any benefit to a religious organization at the expense of a public entity. (Note diversion of funds to religious institutions that was for public schools.)
- FEMA: Allow Congress to step in if the President doesn't activate the full powers of FEMA in an emergency. This may require a new position established with "inspector general status" to order line staff to implement the operations.
- Immigration: a) Explicitly prohibit caging, separating families or other egregious acts to those that request asylum, with criminal and financial penalties. Set an absolute limit on detention of children. Require humanitarian sustenance and medical treatment be provided while in US custody. Provide immediate and unfettered access to Congressional and court-ordered monitors and legal representatives. Prohibit any unnecessary medical procedure, provide criminal penalties with mandatory jail for procedures such as forced sterilization. Prohibit charging a fee to immigrants seeking protection. b) Restore DACA. c) Remove egregious ICE powers. d) Prohibit executive orders regarding birthright citizenship, and make explicitly illegal any other abridgement of provisions of the US Constitution.
- Tax Reform Act Nullify the provisions of the tax reform act, beginning January, 2023. Then begin again.

(continues on page 17)

Day 1 - Repair America Act

(continued from page 16)

Omnibus: Day 1 - Repair America Act, Part II: Norms

Norms we assumed protected us - but now we know need to be in law:

- Inspectors General: Require Congressional approval to fire, demote, sideline, remove, or obfuscate the findings of, any inspector general or oversight panel. Make such actions subject to judicial oversight. Criminal & financial penalties.
- Financial Sunshine Law: Require every presidential candidate to supply unedited IRS tax records for 5 years prior to entering a primary.
- Stop Retaliation Provision: Prohibit retaliatory financial cuts or any targeted sanction to Cities, States and their citizens for undertaking legal actions.
- Freedom of Congressional Oversight: Congress shall have the right to call anyone to testify on matters within its jurisdiction and the White House may not prohibit any federal employee from appearing as called and shall not influence such appearance or testimony in any manner, including retaliation relating to their position or that of family members. Enact effective sanctions that can be called on if necessary.
- Punish Bribery, Self-dealing, Personal Enrichment: Reinforce and augment with criminal penalties all laws concerning anti-bribery, self-dealing and personal enrichment schemes which shall include political advantage in the definition of personal enrichment.
- Prosecution of a President While in Office: The Justice Department shall pursue egregious violations by the President, regardless of departmental policy.
- Un-ratified Appointees: The authority and duties of top-level appointments that are un-ratified shall revert to the former appointee or non-partisan line personnel if not ratified within a reasonable period (2 months). Review 1998 Vacancies Act.
- Presidential Power Limitations: a) Security Clearances: Prohibit the President's ability to override unmerited security clearances. b) Prohibit Ethics Waivers: Ban the President from granting ethics waivers without the consent of Congress. c) Congressional Document Review: Provide meaningful sanctions on the President for destroying or otherwise obfuscating documents from legitimate Congressional review. d) Prohibit Budget Act Alterations: Prohibit the President's ability to ignore or otherwise change budget items passed into law, including shifting budget items where unintended, a prohibition on slashing staff positions, and shutting down the government. Provide for swift court-ordered injunction. e) Justice System: Provide enforceable sanctions and criminal penalties on the President's interference with the Justice Department. f) Tariffs: Prohibit the President's authority to institute tariffs unilaterally. g) Emergency powers: Prohibit the President's ability to use the military or the US intelligence services for partisan political purposes. Establish a check (Congressional or Court) on the President's ability to declare a national emergency or national security declaration for partisan reasons or reasons of personal gain. h) Abuse of Executive Power: Ban the President's ability to use the authority of any department against any entity for exercising their rights under the Constitution. This includes but is not limited to use of the Treasury Department to review the legitimate tax exempt status of schools for exercising their right to free speech. i) Pardons: Ban the President from pardoning himself or any others wherein the President or related parties may gain from such pardon either financially, legally or politically. Any such pardons shall be reversed and immediately enacted if determined inappropriate by the Court after execution.

(continues on page 18)

k) Mandatory White House Budget: Require the President to stay within the budget allocated for personal expenses and security. L) Judicial Nominations: Require each nomination be reviewed and vetted by a bi-partisan judicial committee within a reasonable period of time before nomination. Require public disclosure of salient facts and a minimum five day waiting period before Senate deliberation.

- Radio Liberty: Prohibit Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty from operating within the US, regardless of content. Mandate the non-partisan (or balanced partisan) oversight of a Board of Governors.
- The Whistleblower Act: If determined by Congress to be a priority witness, provide certain support and protections to high-level whistleblowers such that they can maintain anonymity and that they and their families can retain a secure and normal life.

For President Biden to Restore What We Had:

- Be Kind. Bind the Country Together. Get experienced and talented civil service staff back.
- Regulations: Restore Regulations concerning air, water, land use, pesticides, pollutants, emissions standards, greenhouse gasses etc. previously in force or in process that the current administration had started or completed reversing.
- Executive Orders: Reverse all unacceptable Executive Orders
- Everything Covid: Please re-institute policies and credible information to get us safe and our economy back again. Work with Congress to pass a relief act. Re-institute the dismantled Obama plan for Pandemic Preparedness. Develop a clear and appropriate Back to School and Back to Work policy and Congregate Living policy. Re-Empower OSHA, the FDA and the CDC to follow their missions to protect us. De-politicize HHS. Make sane and safe rules we can depend on regarding vaccine development.
- Medicaid: Reverse Trump's encouragement that states require people to work and place other restrictions on eligibility to get Medicaid.
- Immigration: Reverse rules regarding resources made unavailable to immigrants and restrictions on immigrants who can't provide their own health care. Reverse racist bans on immigration and unnecessary travel restriction.
- Health Care Workers: Reverse the HHS rule that allows health workers to opt out of providing medical care if the procedure violates their conscience. Reverse the policy/rule concerning fetal tissue.
- Education & Childcare: Restore the million shortsighted and unkind cuts and changes to education and public education policy, including refocusing on Priority 1 districts, preschool, childcare issues, an emphasis on public rather than private education institutions. Campus safety for women and others preyed upon.
- Restore protections for students with loans and those in the military and in our communities subjected to Pay Day Loans.

Day 1 - Repair America Act

(continued from page 18)

- Justice: Provide policies and swift action to ensure that violations of human rights are stopped.
- Treaties:
 - ◇ Rejoin the Paris Climate Change Accord
 - ◇ Rejoin the Arms Trade Treaty
 - ◇ Rejoin the Mine Ban Treaty
 - ◇ See what can be done about the Iran accord
 - ◇ See what can be done about any nuclear containment deals eliminated or constrained with Russia, China, No. Korea, etc. including the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
 - ◇ Review new NAFTA deal
 - ◇ Review economic and social policies with other countries that have changed, including, but not limited to Cuba, Haiti, China, Taiwan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, the Philippines, former and current allies, and those with immigrants from banned countries.
- The International Community: Restore funding and solidly rejoin international organizations and efforts such as the WHO, NATO, UN and restore programs for international health, family planning and economic development.
- Nuclear and other Safety Policies: Look at current US Nuclear and other weapon development for appropriateness.
- Military Spending: Review military budgets for appropriateness.
- And... a million other things - large and small.

You are experienced. I know you can do this seemingly impossible list just to quickly restore what we had.

Then turn your attention to the hard work of moving forward. There's lots to discuss.

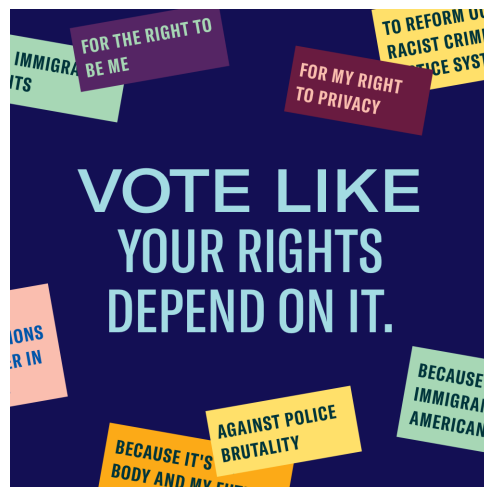


THOUGHTS FROM A HISTORIAN - Mark Jones

All that has happened with the Supreme Court during Trump's first term was predictable the day after he won the election. Why? They have had the votes in the Senate. That has predetermined the Democrats' response and Trump's also. All of this is legal and fits in with the Constitution. So we get a Supreme Court that is unrepresentative of all of our nation and poised to take away recently won civil rights.

Incidentally Republicans faced the same staggering numbers in Congress during FDR's term and as he was elected time after time, they called him a dictator. It depends upon whose ox is getting gored. Perhaps this is the Right Wing's New Deal caused in large part by the 2008 Depression. I think two terms of Trump will have a lasting negative impact on equal rights and aid to minorities. Our civil liberties will be limited and inequality will grow.

Over and Over again I am apprehensive about Trump's probable reaction to an election that may defeat him. He may cause constitutional chaos in order to suppress votes and elect himself. I get the jitters over this scenario. Today a retired professor of history at Trinity sent an e-mail with an attachment showing how Abe Lincoln favored a republican form of government. Unfortunately the musings of historians are not heeded very often, but we certainly do not want to see again the victory of a jack booted dictator who will open up detention/concentration camps to isolate and punish those who oppose him.



JOIN IN THE GHIAA CELEBRATION ZOOM MEETING - Darrell Urban

It was a year ago on October 28th that we launched the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). We had about 1,800 people there at Central State University from about 40 different houses of worship. The idea was to have present as many people as possible in order to impress upon political leaders and other stakeholders that our faith communities have power and commitment to live out their faith by intervening in problems bring justice for those who are disenfranchised and victims of greed and inequitable social structures. Grace is one of the founding and contributing congregations of GHIAA. Grace was well represented with 25 members in attendance.

GHIAA has continued on its mission successfully over the past year in spite of the hardships that the Covid Pandemic has placed upon us. On the anniversary of the launching, we will have a zoom meeting November 12th, 7:00 P.M. We are hoping that everyone that was at the launch meeting last year and even more can be present for this zoom meeting. At the meeting, we will be celebrating the success of GHIAA this past year and also we will need the large numbers to impress on political leaders and other stake holders our endorsement of some very important initiatives that are intended to intervene on racial injustice and help people affected by the Covid pandemic. We will be seeking, among other things to secure more specific commitments from our legislators and governor on:

Repealing Welfare Liens
Passing Clean State Legislation.
Declaring racism a public health crises

It's important that if you plan on joining the meeting that you let Darrell Urban know together with your email address or phone number if you plan on attending by phone so that you can get the phone number or link to attend. Also Darrell will need to know in order to voice record a roll call which will be included as part of the program that night.





Monthly Energy Production Report for Grace Evangelical Church

Enphase Energy maximizes your solar energy production and keeps you informed about your system. Your monthly energy report shows how your system performed and how much you contributed to offsetting the global carbon footprint.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
09/01/2020 - 09/07/2020	14.8 kW	606 kWh
09/08/2020 - 09/14/2020	14.8 kW	564 kWh
09/15/2020 - 09/21/2020	14.8 kW	643 kWh
09/22/2020 - 09/28/2020	14.8 kW	524 kWh
09/29/2020 - 09/30/2020	14.8 kW	96.6 kWh
September 2020 Total:		2.43 MWh
Previous Month Total:		908 kWh
Year to Date:		3.34 MWh

For more details on these production results, please visit your [Enphase® system](#).

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 1.68 tons
You have offset the equivalent of: **43 Trees**



All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.
©2008-2020 Enphase Energy, Inc. All rights reserved.
This is an automated system notification from Enphase Energy Inc.,
1420 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954, USA.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020

“The Psalms are not texts created on paper; they are invocations, often dramatic, that spring from lived existence. To pray them it is enough for us to be what we are. We must not forget that to pray well we must pray as we are, without embellishment. One must not embellish the soul to pray. “Lord, I am like this,” and go in front of the Lord as we are, with the good things and also with the bad things that no-one knows about, but that we inwardly know. In the Psalms we hear the voices of men and women of prayer in flesh and blood, whose life, like that of us all, is fraught with problems, hardships and uncertainties. The Psalmist does not radically contest this suffering: he knows that it is part of living...”

Pope Francis

November 2020 Birthdays!

Allen Redding	11/03
Wendella Colbert	11/10
Jayden McAdams	11/11
Michael Gagnon	11/17
Dominick Mathura	11/20
Natalie Dugan	11/20
Hazel Abrom	11/22
Barbara Ruhe	11/25
David Eberly	11/26
Bodo Jahn	11/28
Felicite Yigle-Kaljob	11/28
Marion St. Germain	11/30

***May you all be
blessed as you
celebrate your
special days!***

Did we miss your
birthday or anniversary?

Contact the office,
860-527-7792 or email

officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net

to update our records.





Grace Lutheran Church
46 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105



Our Staff and Council Leadership

The Rev. Rick Kremer, Pastor

rickkremer@aol.com

Nilda Bolorin, Parish Administrator

officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net

Dorothea Glatte, Lay Minister

Lloyd Smith, Lay Minister

Louisa Barton-Duguay, Religious Worker

Artist in Residence for Outreach

Barbara Ruhe, President

Barbara Calogero, Secretary

Dale Eberhardt, Treasurer

Janice Potter, Financial Assistant

Dale Eberhardt, Organist

Walter Scott, Sexton

www.graceistheplace.org

