

LELC Pentecost 10

CWA Report - aftermath

Decisions create division: ex. ELCA clergy FB
(Actions for justice) Objections → you're creating division
(we're shrinking...)

Is it binding on all?
(e.g. do we have to?)

That's what happens
whenever institutional church acts boldly

living out the Gospel

- a) try to block, stall
- b) Resist
- c) Avoid

Do we have to...

- ordain women
- call a gay or lesbian
- address racism

Short answer to "Do we have to...?" No.
Not a matter of salvation - God will still love you
God will still care, bring you to eternal life.

Is a matter of living out the Gospel.
living out the love you know.

Jesus told us this would happen. (Luke text)
Division!

the loving ways of God will
always be opposed by sin, death, ego-driven
self-centered way of world.
God loves us (rule followers) v God love
what Jesus would do

The world will always oppose what Jesus would do

Nevertheless, we followers of Jesus are
called to persevere, to keep living out love.
as radically, inclusively, boldly as we
are given opportunity to do.

Not alone. Never alone in this work.

Power of Holy Spirit!

Hebrews text → cloud of witnesses.

Who is that? Big names in faith history
Saints, Big deals

People we've known personally.

Cloud is bigger than that: Witnesses watching
cheering us on includes

Names we've forgotten, names of those who
hope we can make some change.

Names like: (List: Emanuel?
Stoneman-Douglas
Refugees drowned
Detainee children died.)

This cloud of witness ≠ peaceful, fluffy clouds

A turbulent rain-bringing storm cloud.

- could do some damage

(Hope so: (dismantle some racism,
wash away some hatred
drown some of our sinful
self-centeredness & apathy.)

→ Storms pass; rain subsides ⇒ Rainbow

Rainbows a plenty later today - Pride Event
Symbol of welcome, inclusion.

3 weeks ago: Recital of Patrick & Friends: Kermit
The Frog:

Why are there so many songs about rainbows?
... lovers, dreamers: me...

R = Promise of God's favor; encourage to persevere.

Hold onto a vision, dream God's dream.

(Luke: Division ^{sides} Acts: Pentecost (Spirit) ^{ones} old ~~men~~ see
visions
young dream
dreams

Emanuel 9

Rev. Clementa Pinckney

Cynthia Hurd

Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton

Tywanza Sanders

Ethel Lance

Susie Jackson

De Payne Middleton Doctor

Rev. Daniel Simmons

Myra Thompson

Heather Heyer

Valerie Stoneham
Douglas

Alyssa Alhadef

Scott Bergel

Martin Dugue

Nicholas Dworet

Aaron Feis

Jamie Guttenberg

Chris Hixon

Luke Hoyer

Cara Loughran

Gina Montaito

Joaquin Oliver

Alaina Petty

Meadow Pollack

Helena Ramsay

Alex Schachter

Carmen Schentrup

Peter Wang

Alan Kurdi

~~Alberto~~

Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez

Valeria Martinez

Darlyn Cristabel Cordova-Valle

Jakelin Caal Maguin

Felipe Gomez Alonzo

Juan de Leon Gutierrez

Wilmer Josue Ramirez Vasquez

Carlos Hernandez Vasquez

part of persevering is to
dream God's dream - well-being (shalom)
for all peoples
for all creation

We are called. to be lovers, dreamers

Take baby steps

(yes, false starts stumbles along the way)
→ persevere w/ hope
confidence
because
≠ our efforts

God's dream
God's project
God's victory

— we have honor to take part.

Dream the dream

Hold fast to the vision

Let clouds give way
to rainbows.

Amen.