



The Church and Civic Politics

A Zoom Discussion with Bishop Rick Jaech and Tom Hulst, Synod Vice-President (Southwestern Washington Synod – ELCA)

September 19, 6:30-8:00PM

As we look at both our Lutheran teachings and the Constitution of the United States, what are the rights and duties of church members and church denominations as we guide our cities, states, and nation through complicated times? We invite all of you to join us to consider and discuss together the working relationship between the Church and Civic Politics.

There is much media discussion currently about those who, on one hand, promote Christian nationalism and those who, on the other hand, insist on a wall of separation between church and state.

Lutherans in the United States have the tradition of practicing a third, middle way.

- What is that third way?
- How do Lutheran Christians work together with civic political institutions to build and maintain a just society?
- How do we help democracy to function in a way that the voice and well-being of every person is honored?
- How do we follow Jesus and “love our neighbor” in the face of the critical problems that often divide us?

To register for this discussion, email the Synod Office at swwsynod@plu.edu. Registrants will receive the Zoom link to join the event and also background resource material.

Through Jeremiah, God said, “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you.” In our discussion together, we will learn from each other and ask the Holy Spirit to help us know how to do just that.

Bishop Rick Jaech is the bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA. Tom Hulst, the Vice-President of the Synod Council, has enjoyed a career in education and public service and currently teaches political science at Tacoma Community College.