

Bishop's Message for October 2008

During the month of October our country Canada will call its citizens to the voting polls to elect a federal government. As Lutheran Christians, we understand from Scripture and our Confessional writings that government and civil authority are a gift from God to order human life in community for the common good. References in the Small Catechism and the Apology of the Augsburg Confession remind us that “legitimate civil ordinances are good creations of God and divine ordinances in which a Christian may safely take part... we are permitted to make outward use of legitimate public ordinances of whatever nation in which we live, just as it permits us to make use of medicine or architecture or food, drink and air.” (see Apol. Art. XVI: Political Order). Casting our vote is a mark of good citizenship and also an act of thanksgiving to the God who has put government in place for our welfare and the welfare of all. Western nations have been marked in recent decades by an increasing voter apathy – more and more people choosing not to exercise their privilege of suffrage. I urge that for our part, on October 14th we would celebrate the privilege of our citizenship, and God's good gift of government, by casting our votes.

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