

“Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

This challenging question is at the heart of what it means to live as citizens of this nation!

We, the Episcopal and Lutheran Bishops of Indiana, invite our sisters and brothers in Indiana to pray for our nation as we continue to prepare for Election Day, Tuesday, 8 November. Let us remind each other that as part of our Affirmation of Faith in the Book of Common Prayer and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, we have committed ourselves “to respect the dignity of every human being” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

As engaged citizens, let us demonstrate these affirmations by our behavior, in our conversations and through our actions. Pray for *all those* who have offered themselves for elected office in our townships, cities, state and nation. Our fervent prayers can be manifested in various ways. We offer these two texts as resources to support our prayer throughout the state.

For Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer 1979, page 821

Responsible Citizenship

Lord, God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Amen.

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The Rev. Dr. William Gafkjen, Lutheran Bishop, Indiana – Kentucky Synod, ELCA
The Rt. Rev. Francis Gray, Episcopal Bishop, Diocese of Northern Indiana, retired
The Rt. Rev. Edward Little, Episcopal Bishop, Diocese of Northern Indiana, retired
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Sparks, Episcopal Bishop, Diocese of Northern Indiana
The Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick, Episcopal Bishop, Diocese of Indianapolis