



## Divisive Issues, Unifying Faith

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*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.*  
1 Corinthians 10

Paul's message to the Corinthian church reminds us that when we tackle tough and divisive issues in our communities, we need to keep in mind the faith that unites us. This month our "Advocacy on the Road" series tackled a tough issue -- hydraulic fracturing in Pennsylvania -- that sparks a wide variety of opinions and responses from Lutherans. Each of the voices that contributed to our blog represents a single point of view, but all are rooted in our collective faith as Christians and Lutherans.

If you haven't had a chance to read our stories from Pennsylvania, you can find them [here](#).

And as we close this month of reflection, think about where our common faith should lead us in dealing with an issue that sparks so many different responses. Do we acknowledge that we don't agree and sit on the sidelines of this divisive issue? Or do we hold each other in prayer, look for common areas of concern and work together to help our neighbors?

## **A prayer for the journey**

*Creator God, we are among your creatures, recognizing the responsibility you have entrusted to us – as “stewards” and “caretakers” of this planet we call home. Our current conversation about fracking is both complex and divisive. It is also of great importance.*

*Bless us as we continue to discuss and learn. Grant us courage to listen to opinions that are different from ours and openness to see things from another’s point of view.*

*Allow your faithful people to remember our central identity – our salvation through Jesus Christ – and to gather around his cross, recognizing that our different convictions ought not divide us.*

*May we more closely resemble the biblical image of “lions and lambs resting together,” rather than opposing forces waging battle.*

*Hear our prayers – for those trying to earn a “sustainable wage” in the petroleum industry, for those who live in close proximity, or “downstream” from drilling, and for our elected officials as they seek the good of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our larger nation.*

*And for leaders of the faith communities, as the ELCA joins with other church bodies, seeking to discern your holy will. Amen.*

The Rev. Paul Lubold

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