

TABLE TALK

Submitting to the Governing Authorities

**Thursday, May 25, 7:00–8:00p, via Zoom,
or Saturday, May 27, 11:00a–12:00noon, in person in the Conference Room**

Gathered around the table in his home, Martin Luther talked freely and openly with his colleagues and students about matters of faith, theology, and varied aspects of daily life. In an effort to cultivate this kind of spirited discussion at St. Luke, I invite you to participate in a Table Talk on either Thursday, May 25, 7:00-8:00p, via Zoom, or Saturday, May 27, 11:00a–12noon, in person in the Conference Room.

In an email to me proposing the topic for May, Earl Cahoe wrote: “In Romans Chapter 13 Paul tells us to ‘submit to the governing authorities’. In light of Hitler and the Nazis in 1930’s Germany being the ‘governing authority’ and the Trump era violations recently (January 6th insurrection among others), how are we to respond to Paul’s admonition? How did Dietrich Bonhoeffer [who committed treason] reconcile his actions with Paul’s words?” Indeed, it was challenging for people of faith to discern how to relate to the governing authorities in the time of Jesus and Paul and in Nazi Germany, and it continues to be challenging in our own time.

We will begin this Table Talk by reading the brief commentary by New Testament Professor Frank Thielman entitled “What Romans 13 says about submission to government authority.” In preparation I would also encourage you to read Romans 13:1–10. I will be sharing some insights from Bonhoeffer on this topic as part of our conversation.

Here is the Zoom link you will need to access the Thursday evening Table Talk:

[ADD ZOOM LINK]

Mark Brocker
Theologian in Residence
On behalf of the Adult Education Team