



Pregnancy & Life Resources sends out a BIG THANK YOU to all donors who responded to our Christmas appeal and to all congregations for item collections & financial support.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT!

## Touching Lives, Reaching Hearts

We recently got a call from a man who was referred to us for help. He's an older dad with a three-year-old child, and he is in failing health. We asked him to come in to see how we could help. He left with a box of pull-up diapers, clothes, toys, and books for his little one. He was so appreciative! And, of course, he left with an invitation to come back anytime.

*Freely you have received; freely give.* Matthew 10:8b

**From Christian Life Resources:** In the U.S., we are seeing a rapid expansion of provisions in laws that have already legalized assisted suicide either by legislative or judicial action. The Patients Rights Action Fund has provided an informative resource piece: **ASSISTED SUICIDE: THE BAIT AND SWITCH** at <https://patientsrightsaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Bait-Switch.pdf>. Read & learn!

## Pregnancy & Life Resources

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Donations may be made to **WELS Lutherans for Life**  
Mail to 359 Cambridge Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030

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# Conceptions

*A Newsletter of WELS Lutherans for Life  
An Affiliate of Christian Life Resources*

Spring 2023

Pregnancy and Life Resources of Mundelein

## A Shepherd's Message

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

An anniversary. My words focus on an anniversary. It's an anniversary that's different from most anniversaries people normally observe. This isn't the type of anniversary which reflects on a married couple's years of blessings and an optimistic future. Nor is it an anniversary in which church members look back at their congregation's history, as well as look forward to exciting opportunities.

This isn't an anniversary which solemnly recalls past wars and fallen soldiers. It's also not the anniversary of a national or international disaster like the sinking of the Titanic or the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the World Trade Towers. The anniversary we acknowledge broke countless hearts, cost millions of lives, and shook a self-righteous and defiant fist at God in the name of "reproductive rights."

January 22, 2023. It was a Sunday. It was an anniversary. It marked exactly fifty years ago when on January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion in the United States and its territories. Perhaps you had a prayer in church that Sunday, like we did. In short, we prayed for mothers, fathers, and babies. We prayed that the Lord might protect life, so that we might share with as many as possible

the message of eternal life! Of course, we were thankful that the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade back on June 28, 2022.

God's Word teaches that human life is precious. The most dramatic demonstration of this was the sacrifice made by God for human life. God tells us beautifully in this one passage: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). What better testimony of the incredible value of human life than the sacrifice of Holy blood?

The issue of abortion—a.k.a. "reproductive rights"—is not simply a choice between a woman and her doctor. It is not an issue of a person's conscience. It is a gross violation of God's law. God's Word commands us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

As you read this, I ask you to stop. Close your eyes. Picture in your mind the cross that adorns the front of your church—inside or out. As you picture that cross, recall the sacrifice made to save each of us from our sins. Our brief time on earth is what we call a "time of grace." It's a time to know, to believe, and to share God and His salvation through Jesus Christ.

Soon we will celebrate the "anniversaries" we call Good Friday and Easter. Wonderful times to hear anew the glad, Good News of life! Eternal life! In Christ!

Close your eyes again. Reflect. Recite. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Wow! What a verse! What a Savior!

Pastor David Carlovsky  
Lord and Savior Ev. Lutheran Church  
Crystal Lake, IL

## Time to Talk to Grandma?



Cohabitation (aka "shacking up") has become increasingly accepted by many, perhaps most, Americans. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the two decades between 1996 and 2017, the number of unmarried couples nearly tripled, from 6 million to 17 million. In 1996, 60% of these couples were ages 18 – 34, 38% were ages 35 – 64, and only 2% were ages 65 and older. But by 2017, the percent of younger couples decreased by 19%; the middle-aged increased by 20%; and the percent of couples ages 65 and older increased by a whopping 161%.

Mass media often treats sex among seniors as a joke. Popular culture thinks it's "cute" or "sweet" or dismisses it as harmless. But our Lord in His Word doesn't talk about sexual immorality with a wink and a nod to seniors. His will is for all people of all time.

*It is God's will that you should be sanctified:  
that you should avoid sexual immorality;  
that each of you should learn to control your own body  
in a way that is holy and honorable,  
not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

As we age, we approach the end of our time of grace. The window is closing on our opportunity to call on the name of the Lord in faith, to live with the assurance of eternal life, and to tell others about Jesus and his gift of salvation.

Whatever your age, now is the time to be salt, to be light, to be an example to others. When your friends, your siblings, your parents or your grandparents choose to live unmarried with their sexual partners, lovingly and respectfully remind them that they are rejecting God's will. It won't be easy or pleasant, but you owe it to Grandma ... and to God.