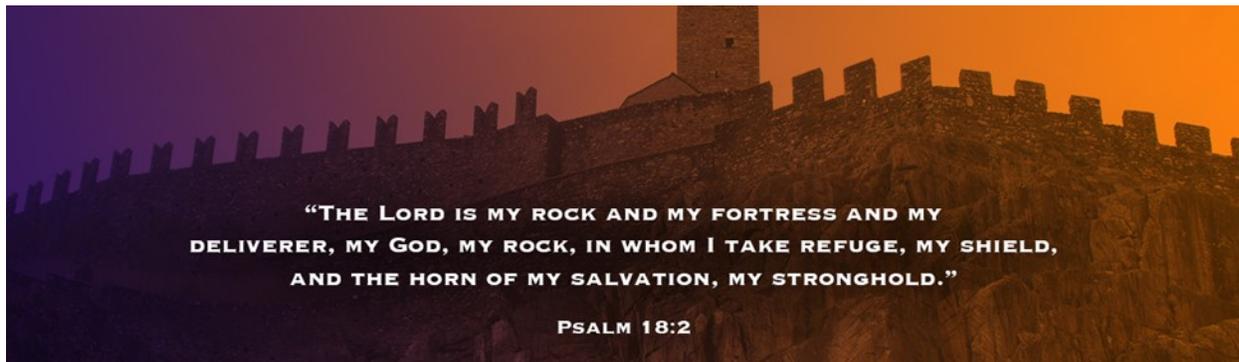


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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner



Due to the concerns of some of our members with regard to COVID-19 Vaccines, I offer the following recently published article from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations

Update September 24, 2021: The fact sheet below, originally published in January 2021, was intended (1) as a general guide to the available information on the COVID-19 vaccines and their relation to abortion through the use of fetal cell lines; (2) Synod's current position on the use of such vaccines; and (3) pastoral counsel for those deciding whether to be vaccinated or not. Technical terminology was intentionally minimized in keeping with the intended general audience. The fact sheet should not be mistaken for directive scientific, medical, legal, or political guidance on this deeply sensitive and highly complex issue. As noted in the original document, we continue to encourage our members to inform themselves using the best pro-life resources at their disposal and we direct them to the principal source we used in drafting our statement: the pro-life scientists of the Charlotte Lozier Institute. You can find their discussion of the COVID-19 vaccines here: lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines.

COVID-19 Vaccines and Abortion

- Reliable information on the sourcing and testing of COVID-19 vaccines from the pro-life researchers of the Charlotte Lozier Institute may be found at lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/.
- According to the Lozier Institute, the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines do not use aborted human fetal tissue in the design, development or production of the vaccines.^{1,2}
- The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have been tested using human fetal cell lines (as are many other medicines, such as the MMR and chickenpox vaccines, as well as treatments for HIV, Parkinson's and diabetes), but the vaccines themselves do not contain any aborted fetal cells.^{3,4}
- Many remaining COVID-19 vaccines in use or development, including Janssen/Johnson & Johnson and the UK-approved Oxford AstraZeneca, do use human fetal cell lines and are therefore considered “ethically controversial.”

COVID-19 Vaccines and the Synod

- The Synod in convention has repeatedly adopted resolutions supporting the sanctity of human life and opposing abortion (e.g., 2019 Resolution 3-02A, 2010 Resolution 6-02A, 2007 Resolution 6-02, 2004 Resolution 6-04).

- The Synod in convention has not officially adopted a resolution concerning the use of vaccines developed from or tested using fetal cell lines.

- The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact an individual's ability to seek a religious or personal belief exemption from vaccine requirements. In many states, religious exemptions from vaccine requirements can be obtained by individuals on the basis of conscientious objection.

- Complete consensus does not exist in the pro-life community at-large on the reception of vaccines developed from or tested using fetal cell lines (e.g., the debates within Roman Catholic circles).⁵

- The LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations has published no report or opinion on vaccines. It has discussed the possibility of addressing it pursuant to 2019 Resolution 11-01A ("To Give Guidance and Encourage Action on Beginning-of-Life Issues"), but work on that has not begun.

What We Can Say

- The Synod remains steadfastly committed to the sanctity of human life and supportive of those institutions and individuals advocating for the unborn.

- Genuine concerns for life exist on both sides of the COVID-19 vaccination question: concern for the use of aborted fetal cells in the design, development, production and testing of vaccines, as well as concern for the physical well-being of one's neighbor endangered by the virus.

- There is no official Synod position on the use of COVID-19 vaccines (as such positions are ordinarily expressed through a resolution of the Synod in convention).

- Christians should respect the consciences of one another on a question where Scripture and the Synod have not spoken expressly.

- Members of the Synod and Synod congregations are encouraged to:

- Educate themselves about the vaccines;

- Consult with trusted health care providers, clergy and those who may be impacted by their decision;

- Act on the basis of informed conscience as to receiving the vaccine.

¹ For this and other information on the use of fetal cell lines in relation to COVID-19 vaccines, see lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/. The two cell lines pertinent to COVID-19 vaccines — HEK-293 and PER.C6 — were developed by a Dutch scientist from separate abortions that occurred in 1972 and 1985, respectively, though these abortions were not undertaken for the purpose of medical research. On this, see "Human Cell Strains in Vaccine Development," *The History of Vaccines*, last modified Jan. 10, 2018, historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/human-cell-strains-vaccine-development. See also Meredith Wadman, "Abortion Opponents Protest COVID-19 Vaccines' Use of Fetal Cells," *Science*, June 5, 2020, [sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/abortion-opponents-protest-covid-19-vaccines-use-fetal-cells](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/abortion-opponents-protest-covid-19-vaccines-use-fetal-cells).

² Some objections have been raised within Roman Catholic circles to the status of the Moderna vaccine. See Stacy Trasancos, "Measuring Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine: Now's the Time to Press Hard for Ethical Options," *National Catholic Register*, Nov. 20, 2020, [ncregister.com/news/measuring-moderna-s-covid-19-vaccine-now-s-the-time-to-press-hard-for-ethical-options](https://www.ncregister.com/news/measuring-moderna-s-covid-19-vaccine-now-s-the-time-to-press-hard-for-ethical-options).

³ See Ivan Couronne, "How Fetal Cells from the 1970s Power Medical Innovation Today," *Medical Xpress*, Oct. 20, 2020, medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-fetal-cells-1970s-power-medical.html. See also Carina Storrs, "How Exactly Fetal Tissue Is Used for Medicine," *CNN*, Dec. 8, 2017, [cnn.com/2015/07/17/health/fetal-tissue-explainer/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2015/07/17/health/fetal-tissue-explainer/index.html).

⁴ Stephanie Hauer, "Fetal Cells in the Cosmetics, Food and Medical Industries," (Nov 14, 2020), rehumanizeintl.org/post/fetal-cells-in-the-cosmetics-food-and-medical-industries.

⁵ "Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses," *Immunization Action Coalition*, June 9, 2005, immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines/vaticandocument.htm. "Conscience Exemption for Vaccines Based on Fetal Tissue from Abortions," *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, last modified April 2015, [usccb.org/resources/PL%20Secretariat%20Vaccines-Conscience-Exemption-updated-April-2015_0.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/PL%20Secretariat%20Vaccines-Conscience-Exemption-updated-April-2015_0.pdf). See also the recent discussion in the *National Review*: Isaac Schorr, "The Facts about the COVID Vaccines and Fetal Cell Lines," *National Review*, Dec. 20, 2020, [nationalreview.com/2020/12/the-facts-about-the-pfizer-and-moderna-vaccines-and-fetal-cell-lines/](https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/12/the-facts-about-the-pfizer-and-moderna-vaccines-and-fetal-cell-lines/).

In addition to the above information, I offer the following comments about COVID-19 vaccines from our synod president, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison:

Can I obtain a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine? Religious or personal belief exemptions are based on conscientious objection and do not require official support from the denomination. The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact your ability to seek an exemption. Please consult your local lawmakers or public health officials for more information on how to proceed should the need arise.

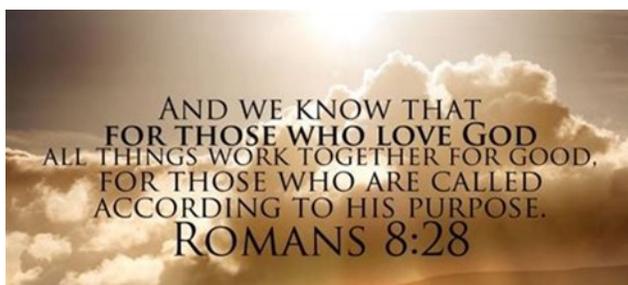
Should I take the COVID-19 vaccine? This is a question only you can answer. Some may choose not to take the vaccine because of concerns over its relation to abortion or fear of possible health complications. Others may take it in spite of such reservations out of concern for their own health or that of their neighbor. Since neither Scripture nor the Synod has explicitly addressed this issue, it remains a matter of Christian freedom where you must choose according to your individual conscience.

How should I talk about the vaccine with others who disagree with my view of it? In a sensitive issue of this nature, we remember the words of St. James: *“Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger”* (James 1:19). Listen carefully and openly to the points of others. Consider them. Share your positions patiently and objectively. Reflect upon your own penchant for error. Forgive others where they sin against you and ask for forgiveness where you wrong them.

In this contentious issue, we must respect the consciences of fellow believers who share our same commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as our life together as a Synod. As St. Paul urges us regarding matters of conscience, *“let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor”* (1 Cor. 10:24), and *“let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother”* (Rom. 14:13). At a time of cultural upheaval, I would encourage you not to allow disagreement even over undoubtedly important matters such as this to take precedence over the faith that unites us in Christ. In all things, we should heed the call to *“maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Eph. 4:3).

I hope it proves useful to you as you wrestle with how to bear Christian witness in this world through your love of both God and neighbor.

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen” (Heb. 13:20–21).



Hymn of the Month



“Rise Up, O Believer” is a new hymn of faith by Lisa M. Clark (text) and Benjamin M. Culli (music) that was written especially for One and All Rejoice (OAR). The hymn teaches us that Christ has defeated all death, hell, and sin, and helps us to boldly proclaim this message to others. As we cling to Christ, we can be certain that we will be gathered to the Victor’s throne on the last day.

This hymn is in “The Church Militant” section of One and All Rejoice, and fits in with our celebration this month of the Reformation. We thank the Lord for His faithful people over the centuries, like Martin Luther, who, by the grace of God, rise up against all the forces of evil in them and around them because of their God given faith in His Word.

Reformation/New Member Dinner

Sunday, October 31st will be our Reformation/New Member recognition Service, with the Divine Service at 9:00am followed by the Reformation Dinner following the service.

Brats and drinks will be provided for the Sunday lunch meal. Families are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. Families whose last name begins with A—N are asked to bring a side dish, families whose last names begin with O—Z are asked to bring a dessert.

Our new members that we have received in the last year are: Josie Kindschy, Nathan & Natalie Jordan, Shaun, Regina, Gabriel & Thomas Howell, Elias Candelaria-Shumock, Dave Burgess, James Brewster, Jessica Bizer, Samuel Bachman and Blake Oberheu



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



An auto-da-fé of the Spanish Inquisition: the burning of heretics in a marketplace.
Wood engraving by H.D. Linton after Bocourt after T. Robert-Fleury. (Public domain)

Hispanic Heritage Month will be observed by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. As part of the observance, Reporter is featuring a series of online articles about Lutheran Hispanic ministry. This article is the second in the series. [see LCMS.org for more]

During the 16th and 17th centuries, thousands of Roman Catholic missionaries crossed the Atlantic in order to baptize the unconverted inhabitants of the Americas and the isles of the Caribbean into the Christian faith.

The millions of Native Americans converted by these missionaries led the famous theologian and cardinal, Robert Belarmino, to proclaim that the conversion of so many pagans was proof that the church of Rome was the true church. For Cardinal Belarmino, the lack of similar missionary activity by the Lutherans had taken away their right to be considered part of the church universal.

There is a long list of possible reasons to explain the apparent lack of Lutheran missions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) resulted in the destruction of hundreds of Protestant churches in Europe and the deaths of millions of Protestants. The small Lutheran states in northern Europe lacked ships on which Lutheran missionaries and immigrants could travel. Meanwhile, the Spanish Inquisition organized three centers in Latin America to hunt down, imprison and execute alleged heretics who refused to repent of their heresies. Such heretics included Jews, Muslims, alleged witches and shipwrecked Protestant sailors.

The Inquisition and the persecution of Protestants notwithstanding, Martin Luther could boast of the sending of thousands of missionaries to Latin America and other closed regions. Concealing their materials in bolts of cloth produced by Protestant weavers in Holland and other ports of call, these missionaries were able to smuggle into Latin America countless Bibles, catechisms, tracts and prayer books.

Through the Christian literature that reached Latin America in this way, many came to confess Christ despite the Inquisition and the persecution of those considered heretics by the authorities. In 1672, the Inquisition imprisoned four priests on the charge of being unrepentant Lutheran heretics. Three of the priests were Canary Islanders serving in Venezuela; the fourth was a native Venezuelan from Caracas named Juan de Frías.

Although the four priests were imprisoned and tortured for 16 years in the dungeons of the Inquisition, they all refused to recant. Finally, on May 30, 1688, the four Lutheran martyrs were burned at the stake in Cartagena de las Indias in what is now Colombia.

Today the theological program of the Lutheran Church of Venezuela carries the name of the priest Juan de Frías, who suffered imprisonment, torture and the stake in order to proclaim that, being justified by faith, God's people have peace with Him through their Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice that it is no longer necessary to smuggle Bibles and catechisms into the homes of our Latin American brothers and sisters. God has given us the Internet, Facebook, Zoom and other technological means to proclaim the Gospel for which Juan de Frías gave his life.

Article by Rev. Dr. Rudolph Blank [*The Rev. Dr. Rudolph Blank was an LCMS missionary in Venezuela for more than 40 years. He is the founder and former director of the Juan de Frías Theological Institute.*]

Submitted by Pastor Hofman

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

October 3 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 22B) – This world idolizes sexuality so much it sacrifices unborn children in worship. Our Heavenly Father establishes boundaries to protect us from this slavery. He elevates us by connecting sexuality to marriage, intimacy, procreation, and family. Human bodies testify that we're born already belonging to somebody. Where the world sees selves for expressing or enjoying, we celebrate them in sharing and serving!

October 10 – Pentecost XX (Proper 23B) – “I would never choose it for myself, but I'm not comfortable telling anyone else how to act.” Our neighbors need more from us than lukewarm. The Lord God invites the same courage and compassion His salvation has shown us. “Hate evil, and love good” (Amos 5:15). Real love proclaims both the Law and the Gospel directly (Mark 10:19-21). Jesus makes us nothing less than gentle but relentless!

October 17 – Pentecost XXI (Proper 24B) – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can indeed make anyone feel vulnerable (Ecclesiastes 5:15). Our Incarnate Almighty knows (Hebrews 4:15), and so He arranges better solutions than intentional death. His promises have power even over problems of the body (Hebrews 4:12), and whatever losses we may suffer, He more than compensates (Mark 10:29-30). Jesus the Savior makes all things possible—even joy amid suffering (Ecclesiastes 5:18).

October 24 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 25B) – Disabilities do not deserve death, either at life's beginning or near its end. The Lord our God loves to save us in all our brokennesses (Jeremiah 31:8-9). May we learn something even greater than comfort from our limitations—may we learn in our disabilities to cry out to Jesus and follow Him (Mark 10:48, 52), through affliction to life everlasting.

October 31 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26B) – The grace of God doesn't prevail only in private. His life-giving words belong in bedrooms and on bodies (Deuteronomy 6:6-8), brought before congregations and into conversations for the sanctity of every human life. So, we do not keep these life-affirming convictions to ourselves because His blessings become even better when celebrating them with others (Deuteronomy 6:3).

NEWS FROM REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Our students are happy to have a new swingset for use at recess time. We are grateful to parent Michael Pierce and members Ken Weber, Chuck Sidor, Michael Miller, Tim Hinz, and Dennis Oeltjenbruns for their hard work digging holes, securing the poles of the swingset in concrete, and installing the six swings. In addition, special thanks from staff and students to the generous donor in our congregation who purchased the swingset for the school!

We also are grateful for the food items that have been provided for our hot lunches each Wednesday.

Throughout September, the third and fourth graders have been working on reading fluency and comprehension, sentence structure, creative writing, improving math computation skills, reading Bible stories from the book of Genesis, and memorizing Bible verses and the names of the books of the Bible. The class visited the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park as part of their Colorado studies, hiking and exploring the geological features and sketching some of the abundant plants and wildlife in the Park.

First and second graders have been focused on God's everyday miracles, basic reading skills, number sense, early United States history, memorizing Bible verses, and singing songs of praise to God. Learning is non-stop in Mrs. Weber's classroom!

Among many other things, Mrs. Mummert's Kindergarten class is working on blending sounds, sight words, number recognition and counting, signs of autumn, and the names of the months. The students have also gained an awareness of the variety of jobs that people work.

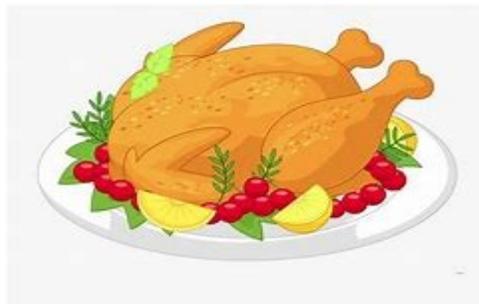
Special learning activities for the month included a visit by Barb Nagoda to share information about the pipe organ and demonstrate its various settings and sounds. The students also enjoyed a field trip to Triple M Orchards in Olathe and received a glimpse of the amount of work it takes to grow and harvest an orchard full of apples. They were treated to a ride on a hay wagon and a bag filled with apples.

Student work is posted on the bulletin board and on the table in the narthex. Please take a moment to view their work.

Five of our 17 students are baptized members of our congregation, and several other students and their families attend churches in the area. God's Law and Gospel is shared every day with all the students. What a great outreach ministry we have through Redeemer Lutheran School! Thank you for your gifts, support and prayers!

Mary Martha Group

LOOK OUT for the sign up sheets for our Annual THANKSGIVING MEAL AND PIE AUCTION November 21st @ 6pm.



Birthdays

Audrey Kruger—October 4th
Sandy Holden—October 7
John Koppes—October 9
Jacob Oberheu—October 17
Zach Weber—October 17
Phillip Dwyer—October 19
Eveli Strassle—October 23
Nancy Seeley—October 26
Alisha Clubb—October 30

Baptismal Birthdays

Mary Miller—October 3
Lucy Orros—October 12
Jan Polzin—October 13
John Moseman—October 18th
Doreen Dwyer—October 25
Devona Henderson—October 25
Amanda Bizer—October 27
Stephanie Nesbit—October 27
Carl Nesbit—October 27
Jacob Oberheu—October 31

Wedding Anniversaries

Pastor & Andrea Van Fossan—October 6
John & Brenda Moseman—October 8th
Doug & Michelle Scarbrough—October 15

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of September to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
9-5 -2021	81	68	\$7, 897.50/\$12, 876.00.00	\$4,455.06
9-12 -2021	81	53	\$2, 936.50/\$338.00	\$4,455.06
9-19 - 2021	123	89	\$4, 616.50/\$436.00	\$4,455.06
9-26 -2021	99	72	\$2, 766.50/\$2, 043.00	\$4,455.06