

Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

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From Pastor Wright

MARCH FOR LIFE

Last week eleven people from Immanuel attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. On Friday we took the subway to the national mall and went through security to stand together with about twenty thousand people to hear the president speak. It was a historic occasion, for no other American president has addressed the March for Life in person for the forty-seven years it has been held. He began his address by saying, "We are here for a very simple reason: to defend the right of every child, born and unborn, to fulfill their God-given potential." There were many young people there, whom he mentioned by saying, "Young people are the heart of the March for Life. And it's your generation that is making America the pro-family, pro-life nation." Towards the end of his address he said,

"We cannot know what our citizens yet unborn will achieve. The dreams they will imagine. The masterpieces they will create. The discoveries they will make. But we know this: every life brings love into this world. Every child brings joy to a family. Every person is worth protecting. And above all, we know that every human soul is divine and every human life, born and unborn, is made in the holy image of Almighty God."

Elsewhere in this letter we have printed the full text of the president's speech.

In the past our president has said things we wish he didn't say, but we were thrilled to hear him say something that we have believed all along. He did not mention Jesus. He did not say he believed in Jesus, that he confesses his sins and receives forgiveness from Jesus. We would have been thrilled to hear that as well. What we did hear is what the Declaration of Independence taught us since we first heard it as children. ***We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*** Read that again. Americans believe human life is a right that is self-evident and unalienable. No person should be allowed to take life from another person. The March for Life is just

one instance where citizens exercise their right of free speech and the right to assemble to call attention to the rights that are being violated in full view of the law and legal courts of our nation.

As Christians we have more reasons to ask our country to deny the wishes of those who would take life from other persons. We believe that God has specially created each and every human life. He fashioned us from the ground, breathed into us the very breath of his life, and he wrote that he created us in his own image. He tells us that he knows all the days we will live. He fashioned us in the womb like a handmade knitting project. That means we are different from animals. We were designed to know our creator, to communicate with him, and to be responsible for the world around us. Each person has the dignity of being created in God's image.

We also know that God loves human life more than anything else. That is why Jesus became a human being himself. He was eternal, with no beginning, but at a point in history he took for himself a date of conception and a birthday. His life was lived for human beings, and he gave his life on a cross to bring humanity back to its creator. Therefore we can say, "God loves life, all human life." And so should we.

It's not enough to change laws to protect life. We are called to honor life. We honor life when we help the unwed mother to birth a healthy child. To find good parents for the unwanted child. To support families to house, feed, clothe and educate their children through good employment and fine schools. To see to it that our government does what it does best, to punish those who violate the law and endanger the life of others in any way. We are to support our churches to preach about the value of all human life and God's forgiveness for sinners through Jesus, which leads to a life after death.

There were people carrying signs at the March for Life that read, "You don't have to be religious to be pro-life." They get it. The science says that unborn children are human beings, whether they are old enough to feel pain or not. We are hurting a human being when we take its life. We are hurting ourselves.

Rev. Matt Harrison, the president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, spoke at the Chicago March for Life on January 11. He marched with us in Washington D.C. He has issued statements

teaching us to protect human life. We are blessed to have such leadership. Not all national church bodies can say this.

There will be a March to the Arch on Saturday, March 7 in St. Louis. People will gather outside Planned Parenthood in the Central West End and walk to the arch, catching a shuttle back to their cars. Check it out at www.coalitionforlifestl.com. We hope to get a group from Immanuel to go.

Will you stand for life? God is calling you. Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of these...you did that for me." By caring for people in need, we can make abortion unthinkable.

Pastor Wright

Lent Begins on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30 with the Ash Wednesday Service. As a sign of godly contrition for sin and repentance, we offer the imposition of ashes at the beginning of the service for those who desire it. The Lord's Supper will be received at this service also.

Each Wednesday during Lent we will have a different pastor from the LCMS churches in our area give a homily about keeping our eyes on Jesus. A meal will follow each service.

Benefit for Altamont Ministerial Association The AMA provides a food pantry and vouchers for fresh food, utility payments, and gasoline for people in time of need. A spaghetti supper benefit will be held at Immanuel on Fat Tuesday, February 25, from 6:00-7:30 PM in the parish hall. All are invited to eat and give a free will donation. Help is needed to serve, both youth and adults. Sign up in the narthex to assist. A Thrivent Action Team will be formed.

Director of Youth and Family Life In response to the congregation's direction, the Board of Elders has offered the position of Director of Youth and Family to Andrea Wendling. Andy currently lives in Texas and is considering the position. She will announce her decision in a couple weeks.

You are invited to attend an informational meeting Sunday, February 2, 1:30 in the Immanuel Parish Hall. We will talk about forming a Lutherans For Life chapter with the four congregations that belong to ALIS.

Prayer Corner

- For healing of Curtis Baginski, Gail Bryan, Tiffany Dunaway, Abbey Franzen, Wayne Franzen, Robert Hammer, Gert Heiden, Pam Kepley, Joe Matthewson, Judy Mercier, Margaret Miller, Marsha Mueller, JR Newby, Deb Pagel, Gary Pryor, Larry Quandt, Todd Sigg, Carol Sheppard, Evelyn Shumaker, Norma Siebert, Candy

Stuemke, Nora Wendling, Craig Wolff and others.

- For our pastor, church staff, ALIS school staff.
- For Lutheran missionaries Ted Krey and Britt Odemba and for their families.
- For our government for protection of unborn children and elderly.
- For all who travel
- For peace in the world, an end to violence in the name of God, and for harmony among nations.
- For those persecuted for their faith in Jesus.
- For police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel, and those who serve in our military and their families; Chelsea Giovannetti and Michael Weishaar from Immanuel

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during Larry's illness and during our loss. A special thanks to Pastor Wright for his prayers and visits and a beautiful sermon for us at Larry's funeral.

God bless you, The family of Larry Rhodes

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for the cards, visits, food, and prayers we received during our difficult time.

Thank you Pastor Wright for all the visits to Melvin during his stay at the hospital and nursing home. It meant so much to him and our family.

To the Ladies Aid – your help with the food and serving the luncheon was amazing. There are numerous people who helped us through this and we thank all of you as well. Truly words cannot express our gratitude for everything that was done for us. We all feel blessed by the love and support and it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, The Family of Melvin Beccue

Thank you to all who sent birthday cards and for all the phone calls I received.

May God Bless, Kenny Mercier

Dear Immanuel,

I really appreciate all of the support that has allowed me to attend the March for Life. Thank you for donating baked goods or buying baked goods that have helped with the expenses of this trip. I am looking forward to March for Life and I appreciate all of the support that allows me to do this.

Claire Busby

Pork Dinner is March 1. The committee would be thrilled to have anyone interested in being on the committee to come to our planning meeting on Sunday evening Feb. 2 at 5PM in the parish hall. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Bowman 217-821-6266 or Rita Guse 618-367-4441.

President Trump's address to those gathered at the National March for Life in Washington D.C. on January 24, 2020.

Thank you very much and thank you, Jeanne. It is my profound honor to be the first president in history to attend the March for Life. [applause] We are here for a very simple reason: to defend the right of every child, born and unborn, to fulfill their God-given potential. [applause]

For 47 years, Americans of all backgrounds have traveled from across the country to stand for life.

And today as President of the United States, I am truly proud to stand with you. [applause]

I want to welcome tens of thousands – this is a tremendous turnout – tens of thousands of high school and college students who took long bus rides to be here in our nation's capital. And to make you feel even better, there are tens of thousands of people outside that we passed on the way in. If anybody would like to give up their spot, we can work it out.

We have a tremendous group of people outside. Thousands and thousands wanted to get in. This is some great success. [applause]

Young people are the heart of the March for Life. And it's your generation that is making America the pro-family, pro-life nation. [applause]

The life movement is led by strong women, amazing faith leaders, and brave students who carry on the legacy of pioneers before us who fought to raise the conscience of our nation and uphold the rights of our citizens. You embrace mothers with care and compassion. You are empowered by prayer and motivated by your unselfish love. You are grateful and we are so grateful – these are incredible people – to be joined by Secretary Alex Azar and Kellyanne Conway. [applause]

And thanks also to Senators Mike Lee and James Lankford who are here. Thank you, fellas. And Representatives Steve Scalise, Chris Smith, Ralph Abraham, Warren Davidson, Bob Latta, John Joyce, Lloyd Smucker, Brian Fitzpatrick, and Brad Wenstrup. Thank you all. I have to say – and I look at it, and I see it exactly – we have many more politicians in the audience. But if you don't mind, I won't introduce them all.

All of us here understand an eternal truth: Every child is a precious and sacred gift from God. [applause] Together, we must protect, cherish, and defend the dignity and the sanctity of every human life. [applause]

When we see the image of a baby in the womb, we glimpse the majesty of God's creation. [applause] When we hold a newborn in our arms, we know the endless love that each child brings to a family. When we watch a child grow, we see the splendor that radiates from each human soul. One life changes the world – from my family, and I can tell you, I send love, and I send great, great love – and from the first day in office, I have taken historic action to support America's families and to protect the unborn. [applause]

And during my first week in office, I reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy and we issued a landmark pro-life rule to govern the use of Title X taxpayer funding. I notified Congress that I would veto any legislation that weakens pro-life policy or that encourages the destruction of human life. [applause]

At the United Nations, I made clear that global bureaucrats have no business attacking the sovereignty of nations that protect innocent life. [applause] Unborn children have never had a stronger defender in the White House. [applause]

As the Bible tells us, each person is wonderfully made. [applause]

We have taken decisive action to protect the religious liberty – so important – religious liberty has been under attack all over the world and frankly, very strongly attacked in our nation. You see it better than anyone. But we are stopping it. And we're taking care of doctors, nurses, teachers, and groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor. [applause]

We are preserving faith-based adoption and to uphold our founding documents, we have appointed 187 federal judges, who apply the Constitution as written, including two phenomenal supreme court justices – Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. [applause]

We are protecting pro-life students' rights to free speech on college campuses. And if universities want federal taxpayer dollars, then they must uphold your First Amendment right to speak your mind. And if they don't, they pay a very big financial penalty, which they will not be willing to pay. [applause]

Sadly, the far left is working to erase our God-given rights, shut down faith-based charities, ban religious leaders from the public square, and silence Americans who believe in the sanctity of life. They are coming after me because I am fighting for you and we are fighting for those who have no voice. And we will win because we know how to win. [applause] We all know how to win. We all know how to win. You've been winning for a long time. You've been winning for a long time.

Together, we are the voice for the voiceless. When it comes to abortion – and you know this, you've seen what's happened – Democrats have embraced the most radical and extreme positions taken and seen in this country for years and decades, and you can even say, for centuries.

Nearly every top Democrat in congress now supports taxpayer-funded abortion all the way up until the moment of birth. Last year, lawmakers in New York cheered with delight upon the passage of legislation that would allow a baby to be ripped from the mother's womb right up until delivery.

Then, we had the case of the Democrat governor in the state of Virginia, the commonwealth of Virginia. And we love the commonwealth of Virginia, but what is going on in Virginia? What is going on? The governor stated that he would execute a baby after birth. You remember that.

Senate Democrats even blocked legislation that would give medical care to babies who survive attempted abortions. And that's why I've called on Congress – two of our great senators here, so many of our congressmen here – I called upon them to defend the dignity of life and to pass legislation prohibiting late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in their mother's womb. [applause]

This year, the March for Life is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which forever enshrined women's rights to vote in the United States and given by the United States constitution. Such a big event. Today, millions of extraordinary women across America are using the power of their votes to fight for the right and all of their rights as given in the Declaration of Independence – it's the right to life. [applause]

To all the women here today, your devotion and your leadership uplifts our entire nation and we thank you for that. The tens of thousands of Americans gathered today not only stand for life – it's really here that they stand for it so proudly together. And I want to thank everybody for that. You stand for life each and every day. You provide housing,

education, jobs, and medical care to the women that you serve. You find loving families for children in need of a forever home. You host baby showers for expecting moms. You make – you just make it your life's mission to help spread God's grace.

And to all the moms here today, we celebrate you and we declare that mothers are heroes. [applause] Your strength, devotion, and drive is what powers our nation. Because of you, our country has been blessed with amazing souls who have changed the course of human history.

We cannot know what our citizens yet unborn will achieve. The dreams they will imagine. The masterpieces they will create. The discoveries they will make. But we know this: every life brings love into this world. Every child brings joy to a family. Every person is worth protecting.

And above all, we know that every human soul is divine and every human life, born and unborn, is made in the holy image of Almighty God. [applause]

Together, we will defend this truth all across our magnificent land. We will set free the dreams of our people. And with determined hope, we look forward to all of the blessings that will come from the beauty, talent, purpose, nobility, and grace of every American child.

I want to thank you. This is a very special moment. It's so great to represent you. I love you all. [applause] And I say with a true passion, thank you, God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you all. Thank you. [applause]

December Perfect Attendance

**Perfect for year*

3 yr. olds	4 th
Dusti Alwardt	*Haley Arend
Henry Burrow	Jadyn Cole
Abigail Lowry	*Cooper McManaway
Neely Wasson	Kolton Robison
Chase Grobengieser	Adilyn Schnarre
	*Reed Stuemke

4 yr. olds	5 th
Briar Berg	Lucas Berg
	Joseph Frederking
K	Cooper Hankins
*Connor Alwardt	Laila Hankins
*Harper Arend	Zaine Miller
*Reed Bowman	*Kaiden Wolff
Jordyn Cole	
Hadley Grobengieser	

*Maddie Ruholl	6 th
Bryntlee Stoldt	Cooper Pals
Carter Wasson	Brayden Schnarre
*Max Wolff	Adam Wolff

1 st	7 th
Barrett Alwardt	Madison Durbin
	Keegan Schultz
2 nd	*Alex Walker

*Olivia Bowman	8 th
Preston Kroening	Riley Berg
*Liam Schnarre	Claire Boehm
Aubrey Scholes	Dillon Hankins
Blaire Suckow	*Aden McManaway
Kinley Walker	*Kaidyn Miller
Nolan Winter	*Nathan Stuemke
Reagan Winter	

3rd
 *Brock Beccue
 Garrett Frederking
 Chase Pals
 Blake Stuemke
 Grant Suckow
 *Maggie Wolff

January Perfect Attendance

**Perfect for year*

3 yr. olds	4 th
Henry Burrow	*Haley Arend
Owen Kroening	Lilly Burrow
Neely Wasson	Jadyn Cole
	Carson Milleville
	Adilyn Schnarre
	*Reed Stuemke

4 yr. olds	5 th
Briar Berg	Kennedi Schultz
Samuel Stock	*Kaiden Wolff
Cooper Wendling	

K	6 th
*Connor Alwardt	Kade Milleville
*Harper Arend	Cooper Pals
*Reed Bowman	
Jordyn Cole	
Hadley Grobengieser	

*Maddie Ruholl	7 th
Silas Stock	Keegan Schultz
*Max Wolff	*Alex Walker
	Abigail Weishaar
	Gabriella Weishaar

1 st	
Griffin Kroening	

2 nd	8 th
*Olivia Bowman	*Kaidyn Miller
Dalton Cole	*Nathan Stuemke
Preston Kroening	
Aubrey Scholes	
Spencer Stock	
Blaire Suckow	
Nolan Winter	
Reagan Winter	

3rd
 Garrett Frederking
 Chase Pals
 Grant Suckow
 *Maggie Wolff

Annual Sausage Supper, hosted by the men of St. Peter's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, February 9 in the school gym. Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. Carry Outs available!

Camp CILCA Willing Workers Still Needed

Summer Program Counselors: Do you know a well-catechized, college-age Lutheran? Would they enjoying God's creation and teaching campers about Jesus? Send them to www.cilca.org to apply by February 12.