



Love Wins— by Pastor Glenn Huebel

The popular slogan used by those who celebrate the recent Supreme Court decision legalizing the marriage of homosexuals is “love wins.” George Orwell, in his well known books, *Animal Farm*, and *Nineteen Eighty Four*, exposed the left wing strategy of abusing language to serve its deceptive goals. The devil himself has used this technique from the beginning of time, even in Eden, showing us that hell itself is an Orwellian paradise. Christians must learn how unmask the devil by seeing through his pious slogans and exposing his agenda with the light of truth.

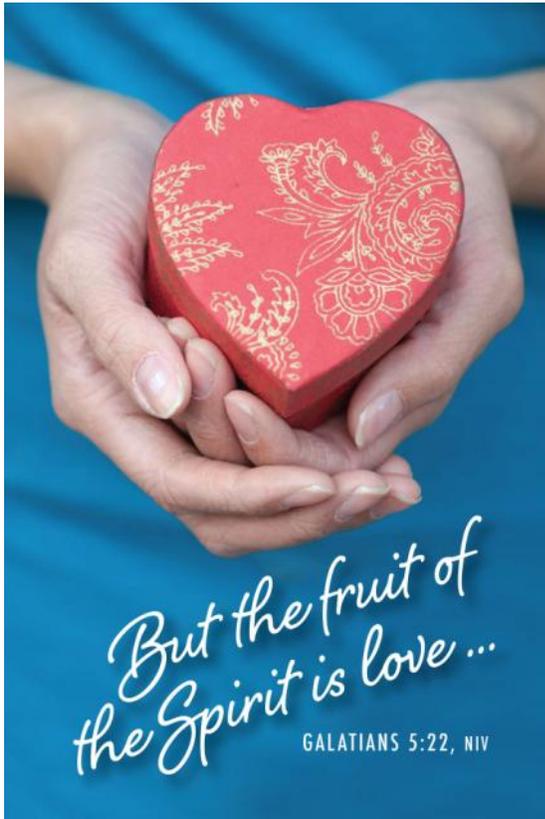
Most of the moral changes we are facing today are derived from the sexual revolution of the 1960s. This is the movement that identified unrestrained sexual activity unbounded by marriage or any other commitment as “free love.” Both words in that slogan are horribly corrupted, for the truth is exactly the opposite. Allowing the passions of the flesh to rule is not liberation,

but slavery to corruption. Furthermore, sex divorced from faithfulness, commitment, child-bearing responsibility, or any sort of tender care for the partner is pure narcissism, not “love”. This silly and foolish “freedom and love” language has so thoroughly polluted the American mind that it is almost impossible to hold a coherent discussion today.

Biblical love is quite a different conception than self-deification and casting away all restraint on the passions of the flesh. Biblical love focuses on self-sacrifice for the welfare of others as we see perfectly in the love of God in Christ who gave Himself for us on the cross that we might live through Him. Biblical love is manifested in service to others as Jesus said, “The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.” Biblical love is bound to faithfulness and responsibility such as we see in God, who remained faithful to His disobedient creation and still seeks their reconciliation in Christ. Biblical love is not based upon the worthiness or usefulness of the object, but is full of mercy and pity, embracing the lowly, the broken, the lost of the world. Biblical love does not insist upon rights, but freely restrains liberty if liberty causes harm to the neighbor. God’s love is defined in the Ten Commandments, for “love is the fulfilling of the Law” (Rom 13:10).

The “free love” of the 60s has now given birth to the monstrosity called homosexual marriage (which is itself an oxymoron). All this “love” has brought in its wake violence and bloodshed, pestilence, and a pervasive narcissism that threatens virtually every social institution today from marriage and family to workplace and government. In the interest of “free love” abortion “rights” are demanded. The death toll of babies is approaching 60 million in America alone. To protect “free love” divorce has shattered the lives of many spouses and children, and thrown great numbers of women and children into poverty. The new sexual

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That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31

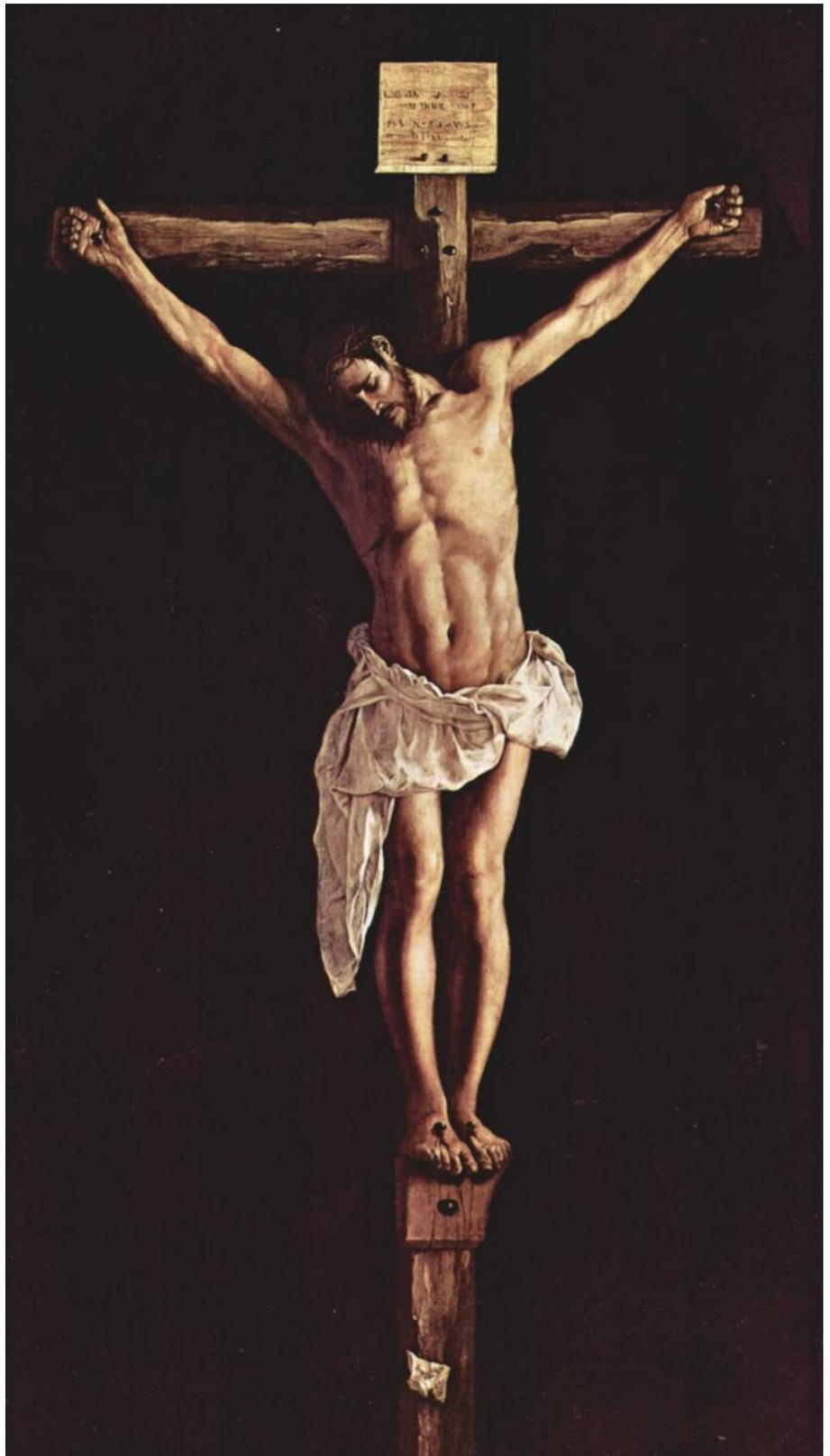
Love wins, cont.

morality has destroyed the moral fiber of our youth, increased sexually transmitted diseases in young people and health consequences for their babies, undermined relationships and healthy sexual relations between spouses, and produced a vast pornography industry with all its miserable consequences. The homosexual and trans-gender movement in general represents the frontier of the sexual revolution. The rampant promiscuity, disease, and unhealthy relationships in this lifestyle are disguised by the media, as is the true nature of the whole sexual revolution. The revolution has, for decades, openly targeted marriage for destruction and has now crossed the legal threshold toward accomplishing this goal. The moral wasteland we have seen since 1960 is nothing compared to what is to come when marriage becomes only a distant memory. When God's Word and Name are mocked, His authority rejected, and His good and gracious will ignored, the devil rejoices. When the devil rejoices, one thing is absolutely certain: Love is NOT winning.

The victory of love is seen at the cross of Jesus where God's love prevailed over sin, death, and devil for us. True freedom is experienced in our baptism into Christ, where we were buried with Him and raised with Him to newness of life.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:9-12)

Love wins – only in Jesus



#LoveWon

A Brief Latin Glossary for the Lutheran Armchair Theologian — by Pastor Tom Chryst

Lex semper accusat
Lex orandi, lex credendi
Simul justus et peccator
Ex nihilo
Sola scriptura
Sola gratia
Sola fide
Fides qua, fides quae
Ex opere operato
Quia and quatenus
Oratio, meditatio, tentatio
Soli deo gloria



“*Simul justus et peccator*”

This means, literally, “At the same time just and sinner” or in a shorter form, “sinner and saint”.

Here's one of the favorite Lutheran paradoxes. We believe, teach and confess that the Christian is **simultaneously** a **sinner** – corrupted entirely in his fallen nature, rebellious, wicked and vile – **and also a saint** – righteous and holy before God through the blood of Jesus Christ, who covers our sins and gives us his own righteousness.

This is a great mystery, but we Lutherans are quite familiar with paradoxical teachings of scripture: God is Three, but He is One. Jesus is human, but also divine. The Sacrament is bread and wine, but also his Body and Blood. And so also, we are sinners and yet we are saints.

Scripture teaches both.

Another set of terms that express this contrast is, “Old Adam” and “New Adam”. In the Small Catechism's explanation of Holy Baptism, we read:

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

We particularly highlight this mystery of sinner/saint on All Saints Day, usually the first Sunday in November. Here we recognize that it's not just the famous saints of old that are considered worthy of eternal glory, but that **we, too, share a place** in that great cloud of witnesses, the multitude clothed in white (Revelation 7) who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Some might expect that once we become Christians we become entirely free from sin in every way, that perhaps we don't sin as much, or even somehow stop sinning entirely! Some might expect Christians to be only saints, and to live perfect lives of obedience to God. But this doesn't happen. Christ gives us victory over sin, but we are still in this body of death. We still carry the baggage of the flesh in this earthly life. Our Old Adam is corrupt, and he must die with Christ and all sins.

On the other hand, some might think that because we still go on sinning, that somehow we aren't truly Christians. That our sin proves we are not holy, that we don't have faith, and so on. Those who would look only to the Christian's sins, or perhaps most despairingly, to our own sins, fail to see Christ! For he has won the victory. By his death and resurrection he has destroyed death, defeated the devil, and freed us from the power of sin.

You and I can do no better than poor St. Paul, who struggled with the “*simul*” himself. He writes:

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:21-25)

Of course this tension will one day end, and be resolved when we leave this fallen flesh behind. When we are resurrected in a resurrection like His, then we will be free of the sinner forever and glorified body and soul will live in His presence eternally. But until then, we struggle like St. Paul. We wait for our final deliverance from this body of death. And we give thanks to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Why Daily Chapel for Preschool is Amazing (And How You Can Share This News with Others) by Erika Mildred

Each year, I have a new MLCA family or two who is surprised to learn that we have 2 – 5 year olds in chapel every day, not a separate, “preschool only” chapel, but a chapel with every student in the school: preschool through high school. I get excited when they bring this up because there are so many great reasons why we have preschoolers with us each day in chapel! Moreover, as we are one of the few schools who conducts an all-school chapel that includes preschoolers, it truly makes MLCA unique and is one of the features of our program that sets us apart from the rest. Including preschoolers in our all-school chapel is age-appropriate, instills the Word of God at an early age, teaches self-control, models appropriate church behavior, builds school unity, develops beautiful relationships between our oldest and youngest scholars, and is loved and appreciated by both MLCA parents and their preschoolers alike!

First, our daily chapel is age-appropriate for preschoolers. Just like our liturgy on Sunday mornings, we believe that worship and the exposure to the Word of God is applicable for all of God’s people – from babies to the wisest elders among us. Romans 10:17 (a verse that most of our preschool scholars have memorized) says, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” This verse shows us that God is the worker of faith in all of us and that He chooses to work through the means of the proclamation of His Word. The Word of God is active, and when it hits even the youngest ear drums, it produces faith. This is why mothers read the Bible, sing songs about Jesus, and pray out loud with their babies, even when they are still in the womb. This is why parents bring infants to church. The proclamation of God’s Word is always age appropriate!

In addition, we are blessed at Messiah to use the Lutheran Service

Book, which contains Scripture set to music in our liturgy, canticles, and hymns. Putting words to music excites and fascinates the preschool mind. We sing selected verses from the same three hymns all week in chapel. We sing the Opening Verses, *Venite*, and *Benedictus* from Matins every day except feast days, when we add other liturgical songs (a preschool favorite is “This is the Feast”). This repetition is so beneficial for the preschool mind. Throughout most of preschool, scholars cannot yet read, and even when they can, they often cannot read at the speed needed for singing. This repetition allows preschoolers to memorize and then participate in chapel. As they become reading emergent, their chapel buddies hold the hymnal and encourage them to follow along, teaching reading and brain-development skills such as directional left-to-right eye training, crossing the midline, phonics, blending, and scanning for context. We also recite aloud two Bible verses and a part of the catechism each day.

All of this oral repetition is exactly how preschoolers learn best. While externally and in a group setting, the youngest in the preschool may just appear to be sitting, what is going on in their brain is extensive development and the storage of long-term memory of The Word of God. In addition, with Pastor Cholak’s knowledge of American Sign Language, MLCA’s ability to memorize Bible verses and the catechism and to understand doctrinal words such as “atonement,” “sin,” and “Trinity” has been greatly enhanced. The preschool teachers and Mrs. Kirk help Pastor Cholak teach signs to our youngest scholars. This physical connection to key words and phrases is scientifically proven to be one of the ways preschoolers learn best. And that’s just the “science” part of brain development – the faith

development that the Holy Spirit is doing for these little Christians is far more amazing!

While building faith and developing the brain are the primary reasons we include preschoolers in chapel, there are some other secondary benefits that occur as well. First, toddlers and children greatly improve in the exercise of self-control as they have a daily place to practice listening, sitting still, folding hands during prayer time, whispering when they have a need, and waiting to be called on to answer questions (and YES! Our preschoolers answer Bible questions that our pastors ask in chapel!). This 30-minute exercise in self-control practice bears much fruit in a preschooler’s life: better table manners and patience at mealtime, the ability to sit longer at story time with parents and teachers, the skill of listening, and better church behavior on Sunday mornings. These traits do not just magically “appear” in preschoolers – they have to be practiced. Through daily chapel at MLCA, they are!

MLCA chapel also is the one time of day when our entire school gathers together. This builds unity among all at our school. It sends a great message to all scholars that we are one. We saw this truly bear fruit between the 2014-15 school year and this one, when 8 of the 10 students in Mrs. Cholak’s PreK joined Mrs. Kirk’s Kindergarten class at MLCA. (Typically, we were gaining only 1 – 2 kindergarteners almost every year from our preschool.) Prior to last year, our preschoolers never really interacted with any of the older students from the school. Now, they interact daily. It is truly a heart-warming thing to see a four year old member of Messiah saying hi to high school youth on Sunday mornings on their way to the Fellowship Hall for donuts. J

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Daily Chapel for Preschool, cont.

Finally, when I talk with new families, I share how much those of us who have already experienced the blessings of having our preschoolers in daily chapel appreciate this wonderful gift that is given to our children! Last year, preschool parents emailed me regularly and posted on their Facebook pages how much their preschoolers LOVED chapel. The parents love hearing their children play “church” at home and sing hymns that they know and recite Bible verses and the catechism by heart and pretend to be an acolyte or crucifer or the pastor. The parents share with me their amazement at how much capacity their preschoolers have to memorize things. The parents report that their preschooler’s favorite part of the day is chapel. Pastor Cholak, who spends time with the preschool

classes each week for Bible Time in their classrooms, reports that the children often ask him to sing to them the hymns that we are singing that week in chapel. Some favorites this year are “Listen God is Calling,” “These Are the Holy Ten Commands,” and “We Praise You and Acknowledge You.” Mrs. Cartwright and Mrs. Main also worked together over the summer to write a song for our school verse this year, Colossians 3:23 – 24, which is also a popular one.

I, of course, have the wonderful privilege of serving at MLCA at a time in my personal life when I have two young children who have seen direct benefit from daily chapel at MLCA. In addition to knowing the science, the theology, and the educational pedagogy behind why this exposure is great for our

preschool-aged children, I also know personally as a mom how my children’s faith has grown exponentially from their time in daily chapel. I too am amazed at what their minds retain and how the Word of God soaks into them. I remember a conversation with one of my daughters last year when we were talking about working hard and doing our best, and the word “work” triggered her to say, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Out of the mouths of babes, indeed! We are so blessed as a congregation to provide this amazing gift to parents and their children, and these are the reasons why MLCA **LOVES** having preschoolers in daily chapel.



2015 Walk-a-thon Serving with Heart

Friday, November 6

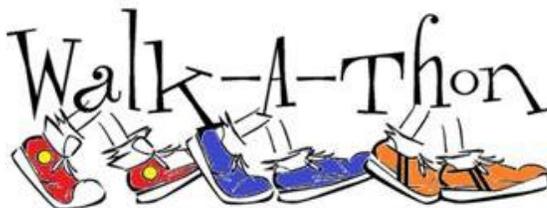
8:15 - 8:30 Volunteer Check-in

8:30 - 9:00 Chapel

9:00 - 9:30 Prizes

9:30 - 10:45 Walk-a-thon

10:45 - 11:00 Closing in Sanctuary



You're Invited to...

- Support the Walk-a-thon with a donation.
- Join us for chapel and prizes presentation.
- Volunteer!

See the flier in your church mailbox for details! ☺

Report on the LCMS Religious Freedom Conference in Washington, D.C., September 8-10, 2015

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

In early September, I was privileged to attend a special conference on religious freedom sponsored by the LCMS. I was expecting to receive a plateful of practical legal advice on protecting the rights of congregations in the new environment of government-enforced political correctness. My expectation was largely disappointed. The conference was primarily focused on the challenge of opening an LCMS government office in our national capital. It is argued that our church body needs to have a more direct line of influence to national leaders in the post-Christian world we face. While there may be some validity to this argument, I am fairly skeptical that it will have any real impact at all. Lobbyists seem to be most effective with money than with reasoned arguments, and we don't have money to spread around. It seems to me that the Church must now return to its real strength as a leaven permeating society. The social force for change today must come from the local level, from congregations and individual Christians in community, not the top down. This has been the vibrant force of the Church throughout history. We have never done well in close association with government.

Though I was disappointed in the purpose and main focus of the conference I did receive some very practical information from the excellent speakers. Erik Stanley, a legal representative of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), set forth the legal dangers we face as a result of the Supreme Court decision. With the decision, we are facing the denial of the inherent nature of religious freedom. The majority opinion made no mention of the free exercise of religion. Stanley thought that the Church's refusal to marry people will not be hindered at present, because government cannot (yet) compel a person to do what he or she is authorized to do. The issue of facility use is not so secure. This will, perhaps, be a problem with the

present laws on "public accommodation." This, he thought would be our first battle-ground in the courts. Some believe that churches should be under the same "accommodation" rules as businesses. He counseled us that congregations should adopt a facility usage policy and state that we will not use our facility in a way that violates our faith. Employment will also become a huge issue with non-profit institutions. Churches should state that their hiring policies are connected to their statement of faith. The issue of tax exemption is already being pressed. *Time* magazine called for removal of tax exemption for churches one day after the Supreme Court decision. There is a reason, however, why churches have tax exemption. They relieve the government of burdens (soup kitchens, pregnancy centers, etc.) that cannot really be replicated on a government level. Most importantly, churches produce good citizens. Furthermore, tax exemption and religious freedom go together. What the government taxes it controls. Mr. Stanley concluded with the positive reminder that the mission of the Church has not changed. We will continue to be a salt and a light in the world until Christ comes again in glory.

Another speaker, Ryan Anderson, also a representative of ADF, made an excellent presentation on the defense of true marriage (man and woman unions). This kind of presentation has been severely lacking in the public square. It has been utterly frustrating to hear "conservative" politicians give such inept and meaningless arguments in "support" of marriage. My favorite is always, "I'm old fashioned and still hold to the idea that marriage is between a man and a woman." It would be much better not to say anything than to throw such a soft pitch for the opposition to hit out of the park. God have mercy! We are not defending marriage because we are old fashioned and don't like

change. We are pleading for the nation to consider the serious consequences of undermining and destroying this fundamental institution. If you want to understand what the Supreme Court decision REALLY MEANS for America, read Anderson's new book, *Truth Overruled*. This is not a book you will want to read at bedtime. It is much too disturbing. We have crossed the threshold into a brave new world, and it will not be a utopia. Anderson freely acknowledges that his arguments are philosophical – which is his vocation. He urged us to make sound theological arguments in this battle.

One final speaker of note was Sharif Girgis, the keynote speaker at the banquet on Wednesday evening, a research fellow at Witherspoon Institute, Princeton, New Jersey. He is a 29 year old brilliant Roman Catholic Christian who already has an alphabet of degrees behind his name and is presently working on another degree at Yale. He is co-author of the book, *What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*. As a companion of Ryan Anderson, he goes to college campuses (over 800 to date) to defend marriage on a philosophical and legal base. These are not Christian college campuses, but hard core, left-wing lunatic institutions. He is always greeted by a hostile audience, with drag queens and hecklers and other hateful opponents of any speech that disagrees with the politically correct line. He has honed an opening statement that silences and challenges the crowd to prove him wrong, and gives his clear and logical presentation to students who are determined to confute his arguments. In almost every case he is surrounded by students afterwards who admit that they have never heard such arguments before, that they do not know how to refute them, and that though they are not yet convinced, they will have to think things through.

(Continued on page 7)

These speakers, together with many other bright young conservative journalists, pastors, parents, etc., move me to give thanks to God for demonstrating His promise that the gates of Hell will not prevail against His Church or His truth. In the past couple of decades, I have seen that

God is raising up a small but eloquent, clear-thinking army of Christians who can and will confound the foolishness of our age like Apollos once confounded the opponents of Christianity in the first century (Acts 18:24-28). The truth, of course, will prevail on its own,

without any human support, but God usually chooses to provide for His people through humble instruments and means. Pray for God to continue to send forth faithful laborers of all vocations into the fields today.



For more information on our Synod and religious liberty, go to <http://www.lcms.org/freetobefaithful>

Religious Liberty: Free to be Faithful

**A religious liberty education and awareness campaign from
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

Texans For Life Coalition - Annual Benefit Dinner (texlife.org)

From our local LFL:

Saturday, Oct. 24
Westin DFW Hotel
Silent Auction opens 5 p.m.
VIP Reception 6 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m.

Keynote speaker:

Megan Alexander
National news correspondent,
host, emcee, guest
commentator, TV personality,
and rising media star, Megan
can be seen every evening on
Inside Edition, TV's longest-
running and top-rated
syndicated news magazine.
In addition to appearing on
CNN Headline News, Fox
News, and covering the last
four Super Bowls, Megan will
cover the games and related
stories on CBS Thursday
Night football, giving viewers a
behind-the-scenes report on
Game Day.

A proud supporter of faith-
based entertainment, and an
outspoken Christian

passionate about life and
marriage, Megan speaks life
as a member of the media--
because she knows it matters.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL -- until
October 12 - \$40 per seat
(after that, it will be \$45 each)

Lutherans For Life plans to
host a table, providing we
have 8-10 people planning to
attend.

*Please notify me as soon as
possible, and before Oct. 12,
if you plan to attend. 214-801-
4738 or gailjim@sbcglobal.net*

You can send your \$40 check
per person to our Treasurer,
with the check made out to:

Lutherans For Life
Chapter #117.
Mail to: Jo Ann Truelock,
3 Heritage Ct.,
Grand Prairie, TX 75050.

Blessings,
Gail Schroeder
LFL Chapter #117, Secretary

Amazon Smile

Did you know that there are many ways to help our church and school financially—just by doing what you are doing anyway?

One example is SCRIP. By using the gift cards purchased here for your regular shopping for groceries, home goods, clothing, or eating out, our school automatically receives anywhere from 2 to 10 percent of your purchase (depending on the retailer). Our school also collects the “Box Tops for Education” and “Labels for Education” found on many products you are probably already using! It’s simple to cut them out and place them in the drawer of the foyer computer stand.

A program you may not be aware of is “Amazon Smile.” Amazon will give back 0.5% of your amazon.com purchase, if you go through Amazon Smile, at no extra cost to you.

Go to **smile.amazon.com** and log in to your regular account. From there, you can choose a charity to support. Our church and school are both a part of this program. If you are an Amazon Prime member, this will still work, as e. So do amazon gift cards (which you can purchase in SCRIP).

If you shop at Amazon, please check this out. It is a very easy way to help. 0.5% does not sound like much, but if enough of us do it, it will add up pretty quickly. Every little bit helps!



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Associate Pastor

Rev. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Erika Mildred, MLCA Headmaster

www.messiahkeller.org



Swaddling Clothes Update, by Brittany Newton



“We love because He first loved us.”
1 John 4:19

The twelfth of September marked the sixth month of operation for our Swaddling Clothes ministry. Throughout the course of that morning, we welcomed many familiar faces and introduced ourselves to a few young moms whom we had not met previously. We were able to provide fifteen families with diapers, wipes, bottles, clothing, and other assorted baby items.

The Holy Spirit is truly at work in the ministry of the Swaddling Clothes. He has given Messiah members the desire to show love for their neighbors by supporting this endeavor. Prior to our opening day last April, numerous people contributed to preparing the space that serves as our Swaddling Clothes store. That labor of love continues to provide an inviting atmosphere to the moms who come through our doors. Messiah members have also committed hours of their time to washing, hanging, folding, and sorting donations. Families with young children readily give their gently used items to Swaddling Clothes. Diapers, wipes, bottles, baby food, formula, and new baby clothes are generously supplied on a regular basis by our church members and school families. Time and talents have been put into creating handmade blankets, burp cloths, and washcloths for the families that we serve as well. Willing volunteers transport donations from the church to the Activity Center on a weekly basis. Additionally, on the second

Saturday of the month, Messiah members dedicate their time to operating our store.

In total, we have served thirty-seven children, from twenty-six families, who have been referred to us by Pregnancy Help 4 U and our area high school pregnancy counselors. Many of these families come on a regular basis, and we have been able to begin building relationships with them. Because of the positive response we have had thus far, we have decided to open our store a second time each month. Beginning in January, we will be open on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. As this ministry grows, Messiah's continued support is essential. Our two greatest needs are having volunteers to sort donations and volunteers to operate the store. A sign-up sheet is located by the Swaddling Clothes bassinet for those who are interested in giving their time in this way. For more information about serving in the ministry, please contact Brittany Newton (815.985.7958 or brittanyjnewton@gmail.com).