

# Notes for Life

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## Truth and Life

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PHOTO: LOMSERK, M. LUNSFORD

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Truth and life go hand in hand. Where one is, the other is to be found also. Praise God that He has built this principle into the natural order of His creation! Where respect for God’s Word and truth are present, life and blessings abound. This is the natural consequence of living in His good will. There is a flip side to this, however, and it is not good. Where a lack of respect for God’s Word and truth are found, death and curses abound. This is the natural consequence of living *outside* of His good and perfect will.

It shouldn’t surprise us, then, that the postmodern culture of today, which is repulsed by absolute truth claims, will fail us in upholding life. In fact, we see it championing death in all of its forms — pills that kill early embryos, late-term abortions and physician-assisted suicide, just to name a few. While these are the most obvious works of darkness, there are other ways our culture works against life in more subtle, yet still grievous, ways: Domestic violence. Gun violence. Emotional abuse. Sexual abuse. Slander. Hatred. Greed. Failure to respect elders. Failure to respect governing authorities. The list goes on, and you may find yourself swept away by the cultural tide, guilty of such sins, too.

You see, Christians are not immune to the devil’s attacks, and may just as easily fail to respect life as our enemies do. But we who are baptized have passed from death into life. We repent of our sins, and are forgiven on account of Christ. Thanks be to God! Therefore, we daily remind ourselves of our Baptism, as Martin Luther urges us to do, and we clothe ourselves with the whole armor of God. This is not a mere suggestion; it’s not simply a thing to strive for; rather, it is an imperative, a necessity. *It is absolutely vital to our health.*

As baptized people, we are urged to “put on the whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6), not because we expect to wage war against a people or a culture, but because our fight is “against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil,” and against all the demonic forces that hide behind our worldly struggles. And it is a most deadly fight.

So what is the first item in God’s armor that we shield ourselves with? It is the belt of truth. What is truth? The Word is truth (John 17:17). The same Word that created us, the same Word that spilled over us in Baptism, the



“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

EPH. 6:10-17

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same Word that strengthens and preserves us at the Lord's Table, the same Word proclaimed to us in absolution — the Word that we hear and read and receive with our senses, the Word that is Jesus — this is the Word we arm ourselves with. God has richly blessed us with the Means of Grace by which we receive truth, all of which are gifts from Him. Thus, it is our duty to fasten this truth around our waist as we would a belt. So tight should truth be to our body that it becomes a part of who we are — it becomes our very identity. As Deuteronomy 6 states, the Word should constantly be on our hearts: We must teach it to our children, and talk about the Word when we sit, when we walk, when we lie down at dusk

and when we rise at dawn. We must bind the truth on our hands, on our forehead and around our waist. Then, and only then, are we equipped to stand firm for life on the defense and ready for action on the offense.

Christians need not be afraid or timid to join in on the battlegrounds for life. It is our duty, part of the very fabric of our identity as the chosen and baptized of God. Standing for life — from before conception until natural death — is standing for truth. We will one day be accountable for how we handled the fight. Therefore, “stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home” (Luke 12:35).

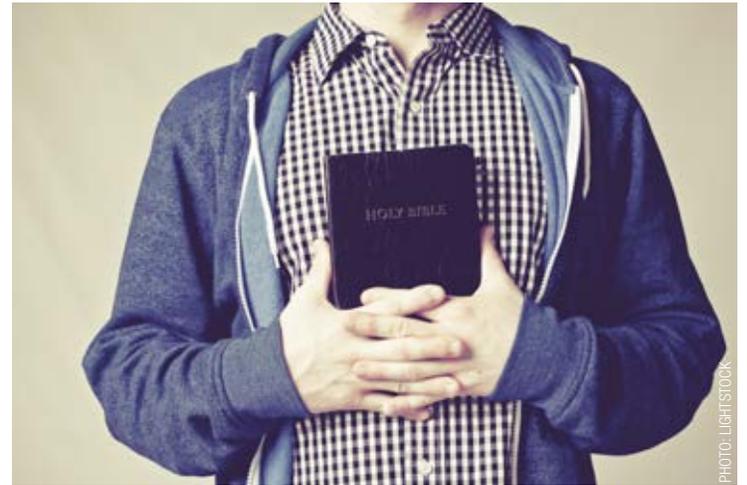
## The Breastplate of God's Righteousness

REV. JACOB MUELLER, LIFE COORDINATOR, LCMS MISSOURI DISTRICT

Being pro-life means waging war in and against a culture of death. We Christians have been on the frontlines ever since the pro-life movement was galvanized by the opening shot in the *Roe v. Wade* decision. In 2016, the war looks pretty grim, at least politically. The front runners for president in both parties, Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Trump, do not have stellar records when it comes to valuing and defending the dignity of human life. The Supreme Court, with a new unbalanced court lacking Justice Antonin Scalia, is about to hear an abortion case in *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*. The case concerns two provisions in the 2013 Texas law, which require that doctors at clinics have hospital admitting privileges within 30 miles of the clinics and that clinics have facilities equal to those of an outpatient surgical center. The court's ruling could impact similar laws around the country. Not only is the political front in the pro-life cause an uphill climb at the moment, but the personal front can be draining too. There are so many people in our local communities who need help and pro-life counsel that demand often seems to exceed what we can supply.

We face the assaults of the culture of death on every front, and bad news on every page. The good news, however, is that we can and do stand firm against the assaults of the enemy! In our Baptism, God gave us the perfect righteousness of Christ and every piece of equipment that we need to make our defense in a hostile world. In Eph. 6:14, St. Paul says, “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.” Soldiers know that the breastplate is the most important piece of armor, for it is the piece that protects our heart. Lest our hearts grow faint and weary in battle, we are encouraged by the truth that we wear the breastplate of God's righteousness.

In Isaiah 59 we see the breastplate of righteousness and



“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Cor. 15:58

how God wears it in battle in circumstances not unlike our own today: “Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey” (Is. 59:14–15a). Sound familiar to our time? But keep reading to see how God answers!

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak (Is. 59:15b–17).

What enables us to stand firm in the battle now is the knowledge that God has defeated all our enemies in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christ's resurrection means our resurrection. His resurrection was the defeat of the army of

sin, death and the evil one. Our resurrection means that we triumph too because Jesus has given us the victory! The real tension we live with is knowing what God has already done but not yet seeing the full results. Isaiah prophesied that along with the breastplate of righteousness and helmet of salvation, God has also put on “garments of vengeance for clothing.” The Lord’s vengeance will come on the Day of Judgment.

In context of our various life ministries, we must always remember that the war is won and vengeance belongs to the Lord. Our task is to speak the truth in love at all times, knowing that even if we lose everything for the sake of the truth, we have lost nothing. We pray fervently for ourselves and for others, asking God to give us repentance and true faith, and the same for our enemies. We can speak to and pray for our enemies in the culture of death because we are free to love and serve our world in this way. Christ’s victory over sin, death and the devil means we are free to live in order to serve, not selfishly for ourselves. This victory is ours in Baptism, where we are clothed with the righteousness of God. Just consider what St. Paul says in Ephesians 4 about this reality, especially verse 24 (emphasis added):

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy

to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! — assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness* (Eph. 4:17–24).

God has given us every piece of equipment that we need for our defense in our Baptism. His Word, our prayers, and receiving His Body and Blood give us the strength we need to endure to the end. We endure knowing that God fights for us even now. The third verse of the hymn “Onward, Christian Soldiers” (LSB 662) captures our reality and hope very well:

*Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus  
Constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.*

*Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before.*



## Shoes of the Gospel of **PEACE**

CAROL TOBIAS, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER, LCMS SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

A song familiar to many is “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” in which the singer prays, “Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

The apostle Paul instructs us to put on the armor of God as we fight against the spiritual forces of evil. It is difficult to imagine many things more evil than killing innocent unborn children made in the image of God. This is a battle, so it seems contradictory to include the Gospel of peace as part of our armor. But as proliferators, we will be more effective when the Gospel of peace is advanced with every step we take.

The media has placed in the minds of many Americans a caricature of the pro-lifer as

◀ (L–R) Georgiana McLoren, Andrea Stone, and Deaconess Alyssa St. Georges of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Sanford, Fla., with her daughter Lylah, pray outside a Planned Parenthood in Orlando.

someone who is loud and angry, someone who doesn't care about women, someone who cares only about the unborn child. We counteract that image by putting on the shoes of the Gospel of peace.

Abortion is a violent act against an unborn child. We are angry that a million preborn babies die every year. We shake our heads in wonderment that many people will defend this killing and that some even make a living by killing these precious little ones. We are frustrated that the abortion industry continues to perpetuate the lie that women are not affected by abortion. And we are determined to stop the carnage.

Our response is not to return violence with violence, not to judge, but to put on our shoes of the Gospel of peace, showing the love that is all too often missing in this world.

Sometimes our shoes are snow boots. Every January for the last 43 years, often through snow, pro-life people have peacefully marched in Washington, D.C., to protest the Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion on demand. Marchers want to make sure the country knows that we are not going to stop working to protect innocent human life. As the crowds in Washington keep growing in size, more and more marches are taking place in cities across the country, giving people an opportunity to add their voice to a local event.

Wearing everything from flip-flops to pumps, the Gospel of peace is spread by pro-lifers in pregnancy resource centers, offering support, hope and love to women who are pregnant and may be considering abortion. We offer a solution other than violence to the woman and her child.

One place that sometimes shows the ugly confrontation between sides is outside an abortion facility. Although it is less common than it might have been many years ago, pro-lifers who want to save babies will sometimes react with shouts

and screams at the women entering the site, or with insults to those accompanying her or to employees of the facility. I have heard of more success stories ("We saved a baby!") when those present offered a peaceful, loving countenance.

One pastor related a story to me about quietly standing apart from those gathered outside an abortion facility, holding a sign that said, "I can help." A pregnant woman approached him, got some information, and left. A baby was saved by one man wearing shoes (sneakers? loafers?) of the Gospel of peace and a loving smile on his face.

I know many pro-lifers who practically wear out their peace shoes working to elect candidates and lobby legislators on behalf of pro-life legislation. Changing the law is necessary if we are to stop the violence against unborn children. Providing information, using persuasive arguments and building trust with the lawmakers in a peaceful manner goes much farther than browbeating them with verbal assaults.

Because of physical limitations, many pro-lifers can't be out and about, interacting with the public, but they can and do make a difference while wearing slippers of peace. Their activities might include writing a pro-life letter to the editor of a local newspaper, calling friends to urge support for a pro-life candidate or posting pro-life stories on their Facebook page.

Regardless of the shoes we wear, we can be soldiers of the Gospel of peace. Our feet may get tired, and earthly shoes may wear out, but the Gospel of peace, that effective tool against the violence of abortion, never will.

"With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."



## The Shield of Faith

REV. STEVEN CHOLAK, MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, KELLER, TEXAS

The devil's flaming darts have been aimed at the flesh of man ever since the Garden of Eden. After receiving his curse from God, the devil's desire has been to strike the heel of the woman's seed and to watch as his deadly venom slowly debilitates and sucks the life out of every human being. It doesn't matter if they are born or not.

There is no better way for the devil to go about his duty of murdering than to add to it his love of deceit: "Did God really say it was a human being? Did God really say that you weren't important enough to live your life without this mistake hanging over your head? God doesn't really love you. He just wants you to suffer." His word is his weapon of death as he plants deceit and doubt. It may come in the form of personal attacks, or it may manifest itself in the public sphere by way of laws or court judgments. It may be op-eds in the

newspaper or executive orders from the White House. Or it just might be the voice of a friend.

Needless to say, the Church on earth is always going to experience Satan's attacks and those of his accomplices: the world and the sinful nature. The Church and her people will always be persecuted. So what is a person to do? How can you stand against such a mighty attack? Alone, in the deep of this dark night, you will not win. You will be defeated and all will come crashing down around you.

The Gospel isn't about putting trust in worldly things or people, princes, or prosperity, but instead is about the saving work of Christ on the cross. It's about how Christ is not willing to leave you alone. By sending His Holy Spirit, calling you by His Word, and enlightening you with His gifts, God transfers you from death to the eternal life that is Christ Jesus. You

are taken from the loneliness of sin and death and placed into Christ's holy Church to be built into a spiritual house. Yet, even here, to be a Christian is to be a little Christ, one who must suffer. To be a Christian is to be one who will fight, together: a Church militant, a Church protected by faith, armed with the truth of the Word of God against the lies and death spewed from Satan's tongue.

Your strength doesn't come in numbers. It comes from the One who defeated the devil on the cross. Christ Jesus gives strength in His Word that is delivered to you. You have a shield against the devil and all his wily ways. This shield is faith. It has been given to you by the Holy Spirit and watered and granted growth by the Father in heaven. The object of your faith, the substance of your protection, is the Seed of the woman.

So the Gospel also leads us back to a pregnancy. It leads us to the baby Jesus. It leads us to the Man who paid the debt of sin and silenced the wrath of the Heavenly Father. Your faith is founded by Jesus, Who at the perfect time took up residence in the womb of woman and was born, the Seed of woman, in order that He might save all the sons of men from their sins.

Therefore, stand. Put on the armor of God. Wear the helmet of salvation and hold your shield of faith. None of the arrows or flaming darts of the evil one will strike you. Christ has already defeated them. Stand confident when the world is falling in around you and they take your life, goods, fame, children and spouse. Weep and mourn, but stand in the confidence and the hope that Christ has triumphed. He is victorious. He died and rose again. Christ has won the victory and the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.



# The Helmet of Salvation

REV. MICHAEL SALEMINK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

**“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”**

– Eph. 6:17

The proverb claims you can get to a man's heart through his stomach. Its analogue advises that you take hold of a woman's heart only after tickling her funny bone. And many do indeed mistake laughter or satisfaction — or lust or money — for love. Biblically speaking, however, neither food nor humor captivates a person quite as well as words. The almighty Maker built into every human body a handy access panel for uniting neighbors into family: One gets at another's heart through the ear by way of the mind.

Head and heart go together. The Lord instructed Ezekiel, “All my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears (3:10). But, “do not take to heart all the things that people say,” warns Eccl. 7:21. Deacon Stephen laments at his martyrdom, “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears” (Acts 7:51), echoing the apostle Paul, the prophet Isaiah, and Messiah Himself: “For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear” (Acts 28:27; Is. 6:10; Matt. 13:15). Love the Lord your God not only with all your heart but also with all your mind (Mark 12:30), and “I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also” (1 Cor. 14:15).

Sticks and stones may break the bones, but words can wound the heart. Words construct ideas, which then condense into beliefs. “With the heart one believes” (Rom. 10:10), but “faith comes from hearing” (10:17). Any argument made to persuade pens a check the heart has to cash, whether for better or for worse — a fact that Satan also exploits with his, “Did God really say?” Head shots prove fatal (or at least

disabling) to whole body, heart included. Salvation necessitates a helmet, especially since in fallen world with broken sinners, no idea is innocuous. Neutrality is a myth. We will be forced to care because the battle will continue to be brought to us.

In the Ephesian environment, helmets protected from impending danger. Any other context rendered a helmet too hot, awkward, uncomfortable and compromising (thus it was the last article of armor put on before taking up one's sword). Entertaining ideas, ignoring them, or accepting or opposing them, involves hostile conflict in the mind's frontlines and the heart's trenches. Ideas like “reproductive freedom” and “right to die,” though they may represent public opinion, operate as artillery and ammunition. Ideas like “equal opportunity requires abortion on demand” and “terminal, comatose, handicapped or chronic limits on quality of life,” while they may provide political expediency, deliver deadly force. Ideas like “aborted is better than unwanted,” “fetus means parasite,” “persistent vegetative state,” “suicide beats suffering,” or “medical technology must serve individual autonomy” cause collateral casualties.

Humankind stands together or stumbles together. We protect and defend every human life, or else we attack and endanger us all. Either each genetic human being at any stage and in any state has the right to life, or none of us does. Evaluating existence according to accomplishments or capabilities initiates a nuclear holocaust that contaminates everything and exterminates every one of us. Personal preference



and competitive comparisons cut both ways: No outcome in my favor occurs without an equal and opposite consequence at my expense. We all fall short of earning the air we inhale or justifying the evil we inflict.

Only one helmet suffices for salvation. If it suffices to save me, then it suffices to save you. And since it suffices to save you, then it suffices to save every son of Adam and all the daughters of Eve. Only Jesus Christ justifies any of us, and this Jesus justifies everybody. Ancient Ephesian helmets were fashioned from leather and reinforced with metal. So Jesus preserves our head and heart, our eyes, ears and all our members, our reason and all our senses, our body and soul, in this age and unto eternity. This He does because of His divine compassion and by His infinite forgiveness, gained with His own strapped-and-nailed body in crucified sacrificial atonement, and given in His risen-and-living ministry of Gospel proclaimed and performed. The Creator has made, saved and claimed humankind based on His grace and mercy, not on anyone's worthiness (or lack thereof). The helmet of salvation must be received (*dexasthe*, Eph. 6:17), not demanded, and it may be received even by those (of us!) who do not merit it.

“Only one helmet suffices for salvation. If it suffices to save me, then it suffices to save you. And since it suffices to save you, then it suffices to save every son of Adam and all the daughters of Eve.”

The irreversibly incarnate Son of God guarantees it. The Holy One among us entitles any heart-beating human being who has a head to salvation and survival. If your conscience afflicts you because you supported or participated in abortion, assisted suicide, or any other assault on life's sanctity, atoning Jesus releases you. He redeems you and He wraps you into a better way on earth and abundant life in heaven as entirely as every other. Just as precious are those of us who are unborn and those of us who are impaired. So great is His Gospel that He smiles purpose especially upon those who are expecting, however hopeless the circumstances seem. So strong is His promise that He celebrates significance especially in those who are expiring, however lost the cause looks. Even unbelievers, opponents and persecutors are given to us by God as blessed opportunities to show love and share life.

Such hope bids us not just to have this helmet. Lord Jesus can hardly contain Himself begging us to wear it. Behold the beauty of God's image in humankind, and bear it glorious into battle victorious. Rather than running, refraining or ridiculing, take His invitation to stay educated and engaged. Exercise the Christian disciplines, like confession, recitation, study and singing, listening and the Lord's Supper, which “destroy arguments ... and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Cor. 10:3–5). Explore organizations like the Charlotte Lozier Institute ([lozierinstitute.org](http://lozierinstitute.org)) and The Center for Bioethics and Culture ([cbc-network.org](http://cbc-network.org)). Read publications like Lutherans For Life's quarterly journal, LifeDate ([lutheransforlife.org/media/lifedate](http://lutheransforlife.org/media/lifedate)), and Life News ([lifenews.com](http://lifenews.com)). Attend conferences such as LCMS Life Ministry's (Jan. 27–29, 2017) and Lutherans for Life's (Oct. 21–22, 2016).

We wear the helmet not for superiority but for salvation. Don't be surprised when our Head Jesus Christ saves you from guilt and grief, from doubt and despair, as well as from death. And don't be surprised when He embraces your neighbors' whole head and heart in the same salvation, helmet-like, right before you and even through you. Indeed, expect it.



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We want to hear from you! If you've got ideas for future issues, comments, feedback on articles you've read in *Notes for Life* or news and life outreach stories from your part of the world, please let us know. Write to [tracy.quaethem@lcms.org](mailto:tracy.quaethem@lcms.org) with your stories, and be sure to include your name, city and state. Or post on our Facebook wall.

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# The Sword of the Spirit

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**“And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17).**

As I entered a nursing home the other day, I noticed the sign on the outside door that read, “Weapons Not Allowed.” I thought to myself, “I am carrying a concealed weapon with me. I am armed with the sword of the Spirit!” The person I visited that day came into contact with my “weapon” as he was reminded of his sin, and forgiven by His Savior.

Our 21st century culture criticizes our life-affirming position because our foundation, our motivation and our inspiration all come from the Word of God, which St. Paul described as the “sword of the Spirit.” In good Lutheran fashion we ask, “What does this mean?” Our answer is, “Everything!”

Many well-meaning pro-life Lutherans often find themselves wondering how to respond to life issues in ways that will change hearts. What arguments can we put forth that will win converts from the other side?

First of all, you and I do not make converts of the heart. Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our task is to be witnesses to the truth of God’s Word, to the Gospel message of sinners forgiven by our Savior, Jesus. Yes, we simply get to share God’s for-life message, words that are:

- the most positive message known to mankind;
- the message that we find only in the Word of God; and
- the message that changes lives now and for eternity.

Almost 24 years ago, LCMS Lutherans in the Milwaukee area gathered across the street from an abortion clinic where pro-lifers spent Saturday mornings protesting. On one of those mornings, one of our pastors walked

across the street and was confronted by a woman who we had often seen “defending” the abortion clinic. She told the pastor that he had no right telling others that abortion is wrong. She had had several abortions; it was her right to choose. Our pastor looked her in the eyes, and with a kind smile, said, “Jesus loves you. He died to pay for your abortions. You don’t have to be here anymore.” That was the last day we saw her “defending” abortion.

What had that faithful pastor done when he was confronted with someone from the “other” side? He responded with the sword of the Spirit. He shared the Gospel with her. He spoke of Jesus to her.

Peter encourages us to do exactly the same: “If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 4:11 NIV).

As faithful followers of Christ Jesus, we can speak “the very words of God.” He promises to guide that process and even to give us the words to share.

For the last 23 years I have been privileged to serve with an LCMS pro-life ministry called A Place of Refuge. We have had the privilege of helping hundreds of mothers give life to their babies. I have personally known the joy of baptizing precious little ones who were given a chance at life, all because God’s people responded to the sword of the Spirit and served “with the strength God provides.”

What does this mean FOR YOU?

- You don’t have to be afraid to speak for life.
- You can help in a ministry like A Place of Refuge.



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- You can ask your pastor to preach on life issues (pastors need encouragement too).
- You can pray, praise and give thanks!

My favorite sword of the Spirit verse for our role in life ministry comes from the mouth of Jesus: “And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did

we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” (Matt. 25:38–40).

May the Lord of Life bless you and our dear Synod as we continue to help the “least of these,” armed with the only weapon we really need, the sword of the Spirit.

## Resources

- **LCMS Life Ministry is hosting a one-day symposium on Saturday, April 9**, at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This free event will provide resources for congregations and pastors who are helping families navigate mental health issues. The scheduled presenters are Dr. Beverly Yahnke, the Rev. Todd Peperkorn, the Rev. Jeffery Pflug and Deaconess Dorothy Krans. For more information or to register, contact LCMS Life Ministry at 314-996-1711 or [tracy.quaethem@lcms.org](mailto:tracy.quaethem@lcms.org).
- **Resources from the 2016 Infertility Ethics Symposium** are available online at [lcms.org/life](http://lcms.org/life).
- **The date for the 2017 LCMS Life Conference** is set for January 27–29, 2017, at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Va. Join LCMS Life Ministry as we proclaim God’s truth that all life is sacred — from the very beginning until the natural end. Conference highlights include marching at the 44th annual National March for Life in our nation’s capital, listening to presentations from speakers like Dr. George Delgado and the Rev. Jonathan Fisk, and attending daily worship and devotions with Divine Service on Sunday morning. Watch [lcms.org/lifeconference](http://lcms.org/lifeconference) for more information and registration details to be published soon.
- **The Synod’s Ultrasound Education Project** brings the miracle and sanctity of human life into the middle school and high school classroom through the use of ultrasound technology. Comprised of six modules and a video, the project is centered on the simple question, “What is this?” Classroom activities can cross over into several disciplines, including science, math, language arts and religion. The curriculum is now available, so please make plans to use it in your classroom this fall. Materials are free of charge for any interested school or congregation. For more information or to order, contact Tracy Quaethem at [tracy.quaethem@lcms.org](mailto:tracy.quaethem@lcms.org).
- **A Small Catechism on Human Life**, by John T. Pless. Examine abortion, bioethics, end-of-life and sexuality issues through the biblical eyeglasses of Luther’s Small Catechism. Thorough and readable for anyone at any age, each chapter is followed by thoughtful discussion questions and Bible references. Concordia Publishing House, [cph.org](http://cph.org).
- **Lutherans For Life** is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Resources for education and outreach are available at [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org).