

Will YOU Support Us?

Although Pregnancy and Life Resources remains closed to the community, our volunteer staff continues to respond to phone calls, maintains the office and supplies, and eagerly anticipates the day when, in answer to our prayers, we will safely reopen. By God's providence, we've been able to keep paying our rent and utilities. The future may appear uncertain, but *God is able to bless us abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that we need, we will abound in every good work.* 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 NIV

Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to help us. If you decide to make a tax-deductible contribution, please write your check to *WELS Lutherans for Life* and mail it to:

WELS Lutherans for Life
359 Cambridge Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030

Please note: Your church envelope box might include envelopes marked Christian Life Resources (our parent organization) or WELS Lutherans for Life in West Allis, WI (a metro-Milwaukee group). Gifts given in these envelopes will not directly benefit our Pregnancy and Life Resources office in Mundelein.

PRAY

Please, dear Lord and Giver of Life, use this crisis to raise up and strengthen the cause of life in our nation. As we pull together to fight off death from disease, let the people of our nation and those who serve them also pull together to protect life whenever and wherever it is vulnerable from neglect, abuse, abortion, euthanasia, and encouraged suicide. When hard decisions must be made by mothers, medical professionals, and family members, lead them always to value life over convenience, comfort, and economics. Through this crisis, let the witness we present as your people give us opportunities to reach those around us who are without Christ. Make us always ready and move us to gladly give the reason for the hope that we have. Amen.

Pregnancy and Life Resources

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Conceptions

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

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Pregnancy and Life Resources of Mundelein

A Shepherd's Message

On Memorial Day every year, flags are lowered to half-staff to honor the memory of those who gave their lives defending this nation. But this year, all over the United States, flags were lowered to half-staff the entire weekend. This extraordinary gesture was intended to mark and to mourn a tragic milestone our nation has just officially passed, though in reality we likely passed it long ago: 100,000 lives lost to the COVID-19 virus.

Every year, Memorial Day commemorates lives sacrificed in battle. Maybe this year it seems more personal because we have all been sacrificing something of our lives in a battle to defend the people of our nation against sickness and death. Some are risking their health in hazardous workplaces. Others are facing financial peril as their hours are slashed at work, or their jobs are gone. Did you have a wedding, graduation, or even a much-needed vacation that didn't happen? We have all forgone many things that in a more normal time we take for granted: gathering for worship, hanging with friends, going to the ballpark or a concert or the beach. Hundreds of millions of people have sacrificed – and will likely sacrifice much more – to save an unknown number of people we will never meet.

The true cost of fighting COVID-19 will be beyond staggering. The question it raises is both inevitable and understandable: Is it worth it? Are the lives saved worth the cost of saving them? It is also a question that Christians, at least, will have no trouble answering. Christians – to the extent that we are indeed Christian – are pro-life, because we know that every life has infinite value. The Son of God purchased every life – including our own sinful lives – with his own holy life and his innocent suffering and death.

In his First Letter, St. John draws a conclusion that is all the more powerful for its simplicity: *“Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.* [And](#)

[we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers & sisters.](#)" (1 John 3:16)

Even in human terms, every life requires sacrifice. The mother who carries a yet-to-be-born child to term knows that she will spend the rest of her life caring for that child. It will cost her in every way – physically, financially, emotionally, maybe professionally or socially. What will she do? She will lay down her life. The same is true of the father who stays with that mother and child. It will cost him opportunities to make his life about something else. What will he do? He will lay down his life. Grown children whose now elderly parents' health is failing are faced with needs and expenses that only grow as time goes on. What will they do? They will lay down their lives.

Our nation is now faced with clear evidence of a tragic and shameful reality that we may well have been ignoring. The poorest and most neglected segments of our society – the ones whom Jesus certainly had in mind when he spoke of **"the least of these brothers and sisters of mine"** (Matthew 25:40, 45) – have proven to be the most vulnerable to this deadly virus. No one can know what it would actually cost us as a nation to change entire structures and systems that have allowed so many to remain so vulnerable. What if, measured in dollars and opportunities, the cost is predictably daunting? What if we will have to sacrifice some of our standard of living so that others can just go on living? Are those lives worth it? The pro-life answer is clear: We will lay down our lives.

Pastor Mike Borgwardt
Crossroads Church (WELS), Chicago

Don't Be Scared – Be Prepared!

As Christians, we've already passed from death into life, through Jesus' all-atoning sacrifice for sin. But have you prepared for Christ-pleasing medical treatment as your physical life on earth ends? It's estimated that about 60% of Americans don't have any end-of-life plan on paper.

Christian Life Resources, our parent organization, offers a **free** downloadable "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care – Christian Version." It's a legal document that allows you to designate a person to serve as your health care agent, allows you to make some selections regarding the kind of treatment or care you want to be provided, and includes a Christian witness to your faith and to the sanctity of human life. Visit christianliferesources.com or phone them at (414) 376-0594. Versions of the document are available for every state.

An Update ...

Since March 14th, the Pregnancy & Life Resources office has not been open to clients. A sign was posted on the door to let the community know that if they need our help, they can leave a phone message. Some people have done that, and we've been able to respond to material requests in a safe, contactless way.

One of the phone messages was from a young family who had just moved here from Florida. The father expected to be able to start a new job here, but it fell through. With a toddler, and a new baby due in two months, they needed help. Somebody gave them our contact information, and due to the generous donations of our supporters, we were able to give them baby clothing and supplies, maternity clothing, and even a crib! At a pre-arranged time, we set it all outside our door, and the family picked it up.

We praise God that He's blessed us to be able to continue helping people in material ways, but we look forward to the day when we can again use these opportunities for face-to-face gospel conversations with our clients. In our hurting world, the greatest need is for Christ, the Rock and Salvation of all people. Please pray to our Lord that He will soon enable us to safely reopen and continue to glorify Him in our work.

On a Pandemic Purge?

Have you spent time during quarantine on a quixotic quest to quash the quagmire of your quarters? Many of us have sorted, reorganized, and cleaned our homes, and now we have boxes and bags of things to donate. If you have baby, toddler, kids or maternity clothing, baby equipment, or children's toys and books, please save them for us!

At this time, we're unable to accept donations of "stuff," but when it's safe to reopen, please phone us to arrange a drop-off. We anticipate that the need will be very great. The items you donate help us "build bridges" to talk with our clients about God, His will, and His plan for their salvation in Christ.