



“What’s the point in trying to help people? We can’t fill all their needs. And it’s probably their own fault that they need help. My family had to work hard, but we managed, and we took care of our own. I feel bad for their kids, but it’s not my problem.”

Almost every day, the TV news tells about government agencies, community groups, corporations, and individuals who are trying to help provide for the material needs of others. It may appear that Pregnancy and Life Resources is just “more of the same,” but as Christians our motivation and our purpose set us apart.

- ◆ **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.** John 15:12
- ◆ **Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.** Galatians 6:2
- ◆ **And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.** Hebrews 13:16
- ◆ **If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?** I John 3:17

We’re motivated by God’s incomprehensible love for us and for all people. Our purpose is to honor and obey Him and to help those who come to us, by sharing the truth of salvation through Christ and by doing what we can to meet their material needs.

We appreciate your support in whatever way our God has blessed you to give: prayers, volunteer hours, contributions, donations of diapers, wipes, clothing, etc. *Muchas manos aligeran el trabajo!* Many hands make light work!

Pregnancy and Life Resources
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Conceptions

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

Winter 2020

Pregnancy and Life Resources of Mundelein

A Shepherd's Message

The Attitude of Jesus Toward Little Children

Mark 10:13–16 (NIV84)

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

On Jan. 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court struck down all the state laws concerning early abortion and declared that the killing of unborn babies was not a criminal act. Since that time, millions have been aborted in our country. Lives are snuffed out by doctors who have no compunction about killing and by fathers and mothers who have so little natural love in their hearts that they are willing to destroy the lives for which they are responsible. As a general rule, we can say that not even animals treat their young with such heartless cruelty.

As I write this article, we are hopeful that in our country’s next election leaders will be elected who realize the chief role of government, which is to protect human life, born and unborn!

But, as Christians, we are much more concerned about what the Lord Jesus would have to say about this whole matter. What is Jesus’ attitude towards little children?

In the account from Mark, we can learn several things:

Jesus sets a high value on little children. The children in this account were infants. Luke later relates a similar account in his Gospel and says

that these children were infants. And this is especially significant when we talk about abortion, because the Greek word that Luke uses here means either a very young baby or an unborn baby. It is the same word that Elizabeth used when she said to Mary, “As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:44 (NIV84)

The Bible says that children are a gift from God. If we, as Christians, honestly believe that God talks to us in the Bible, every one of us must be opposed to abortion. This is not a debatable question. Like Jesus, we place a high value on little children.

Jesus not only shows by his actions that little children have a high value in his sight, but he demonstrates very clearly that he loves them. We are told that he took them up in his arms. This is the same way moms and dads and grandparents show their love as well. Of course, Jesus went beyond showing his love just for children. He willingly gave His life for all mankind to save them from their sins by forgiving them through his death on a cross.

We hear all kinds of false arguments today in favor of abortion. One of the arguments often used is that this is a good way to keep deformed and defective children from having a miserable life. Or sometimes it is claimed that we should spare the mothers involved the mental anguish of bearing an unwanted child. An unwanted pregnancy may bring anguish for months and perhaps years, but an abortion often brings a lifetime of regret, and the only place where true relief from that kind of anguish can be found is in the blood of the Lord Jesus who is willing to forgive even this terrible sin.

We want our babies also to have that forgiveness. Jesus wants them to have it too. He not only set a high value on little children, he not only loved them, but he also wants to bless them as only he can bless them. Mark says, “He took them up in his arms and blessed them.” And what is that blessing? Jesus says, “Of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

When we talk about the sanctity of human life, we, as Christians, recognize that while physical life is a great gift of God, it is greatly overshadowed by spiritual life which brings us the blessings of forgiveness and salvation and gives us the assurance that we will live in bliss with God forever. Jesus wants that for the little children of the world. So do we.

Pastor Philip Schupmann
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Aurora, IL

Giving Thanks



We thank the Lord that even during the pandemic, He continues to bless our ministry and the people we serve. Here are a couple examples

A new client -- let's call her “Mary” – was recently referred to us. She is fostering a baby girl, born prematurely, whose mother took out her frustrations on the baby. At four months old, the baby was put in Mary's care, abused and injured, with a broken arm, broken ribs, lacerated liver and on a feeding tube. **We thank the Lord** that she is now thriving. Mary asked for help with clothing, blankets, diapers and baby supplies, and we were happy to be able to provide them.

Not long ago, a woman visiting our office told us about a homeless mother living in a park out of her broken-down car with her toddler. She had been unable to get on any help lists or in a shelter, because there was *no room at the inn*; i.e., everything was full. Our director reached out and spoke to the mother, who needed clothing, blankets, food, etc. **We thank the Lord** that from the generous donations we've received, we were able to meet some of her needs, including a pair of colorful winter boots for her little girl -- which, we were told, she didn't want to ever take off. This mother also asked to speak with a pastor, so we passed along her contact information to one of our WELS pastors, and we've heard that she and her daughter are now getting additional help and have a place to stay.

We thank the Lord for this privilege to serve others! YOU too could be part of the Pregnancy and Life Resources team — greeting clients, sorting donations, answering our helpline from home, or simply sharing your faith with those who desperately need to hear it. Even a couple hours of your time each month would help us expand our ministry. Seize this opportunity! Call (847) 949-4443 to volunteer!

Christmas is just around the corner. A time to give **in His name**, because He's given us the ultimate gift: life eternal with Him. If you want to give a very meaningful gift from the blessings you've received, please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help Pregnancy and Life Resources. Just 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*. **Gifts given in these envelopes will not directly benefit your local ministry, Pregnancy and Life Resources in Mundelein.**

