

## *BRRR*

Colder weather is just around the corner. Some of the families that we serve will struggle to keep their toddlers and older children warm at night.

If you're looking for a great project for a group (or for just yourself), think about sewing simple blankets or quilts to donate to us. Don't sew? No problem! It's fun and easy to make no-sew fleece tie blankets.

On cold winter nights, you'll know that a child is sleeping comfortably under a nice warm blanket that you made in love and for the glory of God.



*And do not forget to do good and share with others,  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Hebrews 13:16 EHV

### **PRAY — SPEAK the Truth with Love — and VOTE**

The Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion, recently released findings of a study that shows an estimated 1,037,000 unborn babies were killed within the formal "healthcare" system in 2023. 2023 was the first full calendar year after the US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade*. This is an 11% increase since 2020 and is the highest number and rate measured in the U.S. in over a decade. Pray, speak the truth with love, and vote!

*For God did not give us a timid spirit,  
but a spirit of power and love and sound judgment.* II Timothy 1:7 EHV

### **Pregnancy & Life Resources**

300 N. Seymour, Mundelein, IL 60060  
847-949-4443

Donations may be made to **WELS Lutherans for Life**.  
Mail to 359 Cambridge Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030

Find us on Facebook at *Pregnancy & Life Resources*



# Conceptions

A Newsletter of  
**Pregnancy and Life Resources**

Autumn 2024

*An Affiliate of Christian Life Resources  
in Fellowship with WELS*

## **A Shepherd's Message**

### **Forgetful, Not Forgotten**

"Don't you remember, Mom?" the exasperated daughter pleads as her tear-filled eyes meet her mother's. The eyes that used to fill with joy and delight at the sight of her daughter's smile now stare back hollow and empty.

Memories are life's currency, the tender that holds its value long after the bank account becomes a meaningless number. Yet, for some, even this fundamental human resource isn't safe. Society jokes about the elderly having "senior moments," and sometimes they are just that: senior moments. However, there are times when those senior moments become more frequent and less amusing, times when critical memories do more than just "slip the mind," times when the struggle to recall becomes the inability to remember. The times I'm talking about are all caused by a dastardly devilish trick often prepared for those closest to heaven: dementia.

Dementia is the umbrella term which describes any disease that inhibits motor control and memory recall such as Alzheimer's, Lewy Body, and Parkinson's. While the casualties of movement and memory are devastating enough, dementia's greatest victim is identity. Think about

it. Who are you when you become incapable of living like you, speaking like you, and remembering like you? That is the empty place where the dementia road ultimately leads: a place without identity.

Though there may be no physical cure to any identity-draining dementia, the Lord, in his grace, does provide a spiritual cure: the gospel. What dementia robs, the gospel gives. No amount of brain plaque or shaking limbs can change the fact that the Christian who happens to have dementia is God's friend, a member of the body of Christ, and a child of Paradise. That's the good news every sinner needs, especially people with dementia, and that's the good news we get to share. God calls us, as members of his church, to be spiritual caregivers by supporting, encouraging, and reminding those closest to Heaven that even though they might be forgetful, God hasn't forgotten them. **"I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands..." (Isaiah 49:15-16)**

Pastor Zack Zuberbier  
Faith Lutheran Church, Antioch, IL

### *A Suggestion for Prayer*

Pray for the families you know – and those in your community you may not know – as they face long-term caregiving situations with their terminally-ill loved ones. Pray that God would strengthen and empower them during this difficult time. Pray too that temptations toward quick, easy answers would be met with the conviction that life is precious in God's eyes even when a loved one's "quality of life" seems to have diminished. From christianliferesources.com

*The King will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'* Matthew 25:40 EHV

## When You Can't Give Directions...

As long as you can make your own decisions, you never need a medical directive statement of any kind. But what if a medical decision needs to be made when you are not alert, awake, or competent?

Our parent organization, Christian Life Resources, developed a Christian version of a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care document. It's a legal document to enable Christians to provide Christ-centered direction for their medical care when and if they can't express their wishes, and it's available for free.

For more information, go to <https://christianliferesources.com/resources/christian-medical-directives/> or call 414-376-0594.

### *It's Not Too Late!*

Did you miss *National Clean Out Your Closet Week* in March? How about *National Clutter Awareness Week* in August? Don't wait for next year! Please take time now to clean out your kid's closets and dresser drawers, and donate to us the clothes that they've outgrown.

We need children's clothing and shoes in sizes from infant to about size 10 or 12. Socks, underwear, and sleepwear in new or nearly new condition are rarely donated, but always appreciated.

If you don't have children but want to help, consider looking for deals at garage sales, or ask your friends and neighbors if they have items to donate.

Maybe your congregation would like to host a Children's Clothing Drive and/or a Diaper Drive to benefit Pregnancy and Life Resources. (We urgently need diapers, especially size 6, and wipes.) Please ask your pastor what you can do to make it happen!