



Ascension Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCER

Dear saints in Christ,

Jesus says, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10). A “pastor” recently suggested that these words reveal Jesus as pro-choice, because “God’s plan for our lives is to actually have a meaningful life with loving contentment and satisfaction” (www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/05/progressive-christians-abortion-jes-kast/590293/). In other words, if having a baby gets in the way of you having an abundant life, then by all means, abort the baby, because that’s what God desires for you. This article-interview was published after Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, and Ohio passed heartbeat bills that will nearly eliminate abortion in those states. In the opposite direction, Illinois passed a sweeping bill that rolls back its ban on partial-birth abortion (the vilest deed in all of history), eliminates parental consent for a minor, and requires all insurers to fund abortions. New York passed a similar bill, after which One World Trade Center was lit pink in celebration while pro-life groups broadcast a 4D ultrasound in Times Square with an amplified heartbeat. To say the battle surrounding abortion has been intense the last few months would be an understatement.

The question is: Will the clearly evident ever be acknowledged? We might ask the same question regarding the gospel, but hard hearts have a way of making themselves harder in resistance. Abortionist Dr. Warren Hern titled his opinion piece, “Pregnancy Kills. Abortion Saves Lives” (www.nytimes.com/2019/05/21/opinion/alabama-law-abortion.html). Therein he makes a ridiculous statistical comparison that more women die during pregnancy than during an abortion procedure. Of course, he’s neglecting to admit that every abortion ends in a death, save those miracle babies who survive the attempt. That 60,000,000 abortions have taken place in America since Roe vs. Wade (1973) means 30,000,000 little girls have died—a fact that makes for a fair statistical comparison of female deaths.

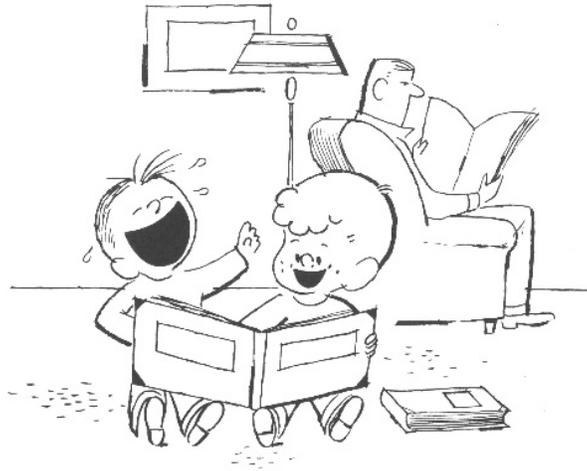
National Public Radio (NPR) recently issued language guidance for reporting on abortion-related stories (www.npr.org/sections/memmos/2019/05/15/723678750/guidance-

reminder-on-abortion-procedures-terminology-rights). For instance, “partial-birth abortion” must be specified as “intact dilation and extraction.” The memo goes on to assert, “Babies are not babies until they are born. They’re fetuses.” Abortion advocates also now speak of a heartbeat as “embryonic pulsing” (www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/us/louisiana-abortion-heartbeat-bill.html). These are bad faith word games intended to sanitize abortion and dehumanize life. It’s the same tactic Planned Parenthood uses when referring to a baby as a “product of conception.” If you just reclassify the human being as something subhuman, you can do whatever you want to him/her... which is the very foundation for slavery. “Babies are not babies until they are born. They’re fetuses.” It’s important to remember that different words describing human development don’t make the life less than human; hence, zygote, blastocyst, embryo, and fetus all refer to a human being, just like infant, toddler, teenager, and adult all refer to a human being. When you relegate a human in development to something subhuman, you arrive at the conclusion of Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: “A woman who exercises her constitutionally protected right to terminate a pregnancy is not a ‘mother’” (www.cbsnews.com/news/indiana-abortion-law-ruth-bader-ginsburg-clarence-thomas-use-of-word-mother/). Those loving parents who grieve over a miscarriage won’t find peace in such a heartless (and entirely unscientific!) lie.

The aforementioned “pastor” says, “I still think encouraging someone to carry a fetus and give birth to a baby might not be the most life-giving decision.” In a disgusting rationalization via a denial of reality, ending life can “be the most life-giving decision.” Her creed is that “every person I encounter, including myself, has the right to their body. When that bodily autonomy is taken away, to me, that is against Christian scripture, and is against the Gospel I believe in.” But in fact, the Scripture she purportedly adheres to makes explicit that there is no “bodily autonomy,” for “do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? *You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body*” (1 Cor 6:19-20). She should revisit the entirety of John 10:10 that reads, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” Killing is an impediment to the abundant life, not a means to achieve it.

Will the clearly evident ever be acknowledged? Not universally. Not while people believe that “Abortion saves lives” and “A woman who... terminate[s] a pregnancy is not a ‘mother.’” It’s a disheartening, discouraging, dismal state of affairs. We must hold the right to life as the most important civil concern for the church, because it is God who creates to redeem and sanctify. We combat the evil at hand and offer God’s forgiveness to those who renounce that evil, loving those who made the most regrettable decision and declaring, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1).

In His name,
Pastor Greg



"That's Daddy dressed for Sunday school."

A LITTLE LUTHER

"And it is surely a great thing for God to appear to a human being and to fit His promises to a particular individual. For this reason many consider the saintly fathers far more blessed in this respect than we are, since they had such definite and individual comforts and appearances from God through the ministry of angels... I answer: You have no reason to complain that you have been visited less than Abraham or Isaac. You, too, have appearances, and in a way they are stronger, clearer, and more numerous than those they had, provided that you open your eyes and heart and take hold of them. You have Baptism. You have the Sacrament of the Eucharist, where bread and wine are the species, figures, and forms in which and under which God in person speaks and works into your ears, eyes, and heart. Besides, you have the ministry of the Word and teachers through whom God speaks with you. You have the ministry of the Keys, through which He absolves and comforts you. 'Fear not,' He says, 'I am with you.' He appears to you in Baptism. He baptizes you Himself and addresses you Himself. He not only says: 'I am with you,' but: 'I forgive you your sins. I offer you salvation from death, deliverance from all fear and from the power of the devil and hell. And not only I am with you, but all the angels with Me.' What more will you desire?"
(*Lectures on Genesis*, 1535-45; AE 5:21)



Stewardship

The calendar year is already half spent. It's a good time to take inventory of what God has given to us! We take for granted food, clothing, shelter, etc. Are we freely sharing our time, talents and monies? God freely continues to nourish us day in and day out. How quickly we forget God's goodness to us. Please review what you have given in your offerings at Ascension the past six (6) months. Let us be good stewards of what we have been given and remember God's goodness to us. We can do nothing apart from Him.

—Ora Mae Golter

Missions & Ministry

Organizations and people we support:

 <p>http://rescue1global.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.trinityhope.org/</p>
 <p>http://helpmadison.org/</p>
 <p>https://nashvillerescuemission.org/</p>
 <p>https://www.hopeclinicforwomen.org/</p>
 <p>Caring Closet and other programs http://www.lstn.org/</p>
 <p>International Health Partners http://ihptz.org/</p>
 <p>Seminarian Corey Shaffer and family https://www.csl.edu/</p>
 <p>Missionary photographer: Johanna Heidorn https://www.lcms.org/heidorn</p>
 <p>Missionaries in Germany: Carl and Karen Cecil https://www.lcms.org/cecil</p>



I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Joy Beach, director of Christian Cooperative Ministry. They have a number of volunteer opportunities available to aid the Madison community. Please see myself for a list of opportunities, or feel free to call Joy at 615-868-6865 or email her at j.beach@helpmadison.org.

–Pastor Greg

Joy also provided these impressive year-to-date statistics for items distributed through May 2019:

- Food boxes: 1,986
- People served: 5,130
- Homeless lunch sacks: 1,400
- Toiletry items: 1,130
- Clothing items: 6,992
- USDA milk: 5,215

Serving Ascension in July

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Lector	Judie Mader	Linda Fritz	Liz Brown	Rick Speitel
Acolyte	Michael Patterson	TBD	Michael Patterson	TBD
Elder	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert	Phil Weinert
Ushers	Phil Weinert & Rick Speitel			
Cantor	Tim Hanusa	Mark LaLumondier	Tim Hanusa	N/A
Altar Guild	Cindy Dougherty & Grace Lehmann			

If you're unable to serve, please find a replacement.



Coffee Half-hour

July 7: Kathy Meyers
 July 14: Linda Fritz
 July 21: Minae Hayashi
 July 28: Ora Mae Golter

The Organist

July 7: Cindy Dougherty
 July 14: Cindy Dougherty
 July 21: Minae Hayashi
 July 28: Cindy Dougherty



Celebrations

Birthdays

July 2: Diane Bergeron
July 2: Afkar Elradi
July 5: Emily Bergeron
July 10: Ian Conner
July 11: Steve Boggs
July 11: Tim Hanusa
July 11: Michael Patterson
July 11: Daniel Szusterman
July 15: Brooklyn Deland
July 15: Katelyn Gupton
July 18: Beth Stevens
July 22: Minae Hayashi
July 20: Jamie Jones
July 23: Mark Boggs
July 23: Christian Gerson
July 26: Nathan Gupton
July 27: Wendy Golter
July 30: Scott Shaffer
July 31: Randy Summers



ANNIVERSARIES

July 11: Chris & Julie Fritz
July 22: Dan & Beth Newton



Baptismal Birthdays

July 7: Amanda Bauch
July 10: Jocelyn Sutton
July 13: Erin Langston
July 22: Deliah Gerson
July 22: Hattie Pickel
July 22: Dana Summers
July 31: Brad Langston



If a celebration is incorrect or missing, please call (615-868-2346) or email (office@ascensionmadison.com) the church office so our records can be updated. Thanks!

Church Calendar

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Pastor's Continuing Education @ ALC</i>	2 <i>Pastor's Continuing Education @ ALC</i> 6:30 Women's Bible study	3 <i>Pastor's Continuing Education @ ALC</i>	4 <i>Pastor's vacation</i>	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's supper	8	9 6:30 Women's Bible study	10	11 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	15	16 6:30 Women's Bible study	17	18 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/ the Lord's Supper	22	23 6:30 Women's Bible study	24	25 9:00 ROMEO breakfast 10:30 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	29	30 6:30 Women's Bible study	31			



The mission of Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church is to connect people to the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—so that they may come to know and believe they are saved for eternal life by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.



Rev. Greg Bauch, Pastor
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Pastor Greg: (904) 553-7066
Pastor's email: pastorgregbauch@gmail.com
website: www.ascensionmadison.com

Sunday School & Bible Study at 9:00am
Coffee Half-hour at 10:00am
Worship at 10:30am

Please email newsletter submissions to office@ascensionmadison.com one week before the 1st of the month.

Please email all weekly bulletin announcements for the upcoming Sunday to office@ascensionmadison.com by Wednesday.