

# AFFIRMING LIFE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LCMS

## Know the Truth, Understand the Culture, Live the Faith

The miracle of new life amazes me! Time after time God creates incredibly complex human beings while hidden in wombs. Sperm and egg unite to form one cell in which personality, physical characteristics, potential for the future, and so much more are already determined!

The Psalmist (139:13-16) describes the wonderful, intricate, incredible work of God knitting us together. Actually, God knows all about us even before he formed us, as the prophet Jeremiah wrote (Jeremiah 1:5).

Mind-boggling!

These truths of God's Word guide Christian thought with respect to life matters. The

**We further “live the faith” when we care, love and serve those struggling with making difficult choices in life.**

Rocky Mountain District Focus applies to our thinking, writing, and discussion of life issues: “Know the Truth, Understand the Culture, Live the Faith.”

God's amazing creating activity does not have value among everyone in our culture. Life can easily be ended and discarded legally for any reason.

Nothing new here. Rodney Stark, author of “The Rise of Christianity,” focuses one toward the Greco-Roman period; a time when abortions often took the life of the mother as well.

Seneca held that infanticide was acceptable and commonplace. Plato and Aristotle promoted infanticide. Stark writes that the earliest known Roman legal code, established in 450 B. C., “permitted a father to expose any female infant and any deformed or weak male infant.”

In today's culture, infanticide occasionally takes place even though alternatives are available.

Unwanted children are dumped into trash containers or disposed of by other means instead of being surrendered to safe places or being placed for adoption.

Early Christians frequently rescued children who had been left out in the open. What a beautiful, caring example of the third phrase of the District Focus, “Live the

This monthly newsletter, serves to support the Rocky Mountain District in the ministry of defending those who cannot defend themselves and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to those struggling with life-related issues.

Comments and suggestions are always welcomed and appreciated.  
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Faith.” Therein we see respect for lives created by God, a beautiful example of “loving your neighbor.”

Accusations are commonly leveled against Christians today that unfortunately are too often true. Those outside the Kingdom of God see us as judgmental, condemnatory, and only as people who are against abortion, infanticide, physician assisted taking of life, or anything that would destroy a life created by God.

Our desire would be that we are seen as caring individuals, as the early Christians were. That's why it's important to “live the faith.”

May our speech and writing identify us as compassionate, caring individuals. When we take a firm stand against evil, it's imperative that we do so in gentleness and with respect.

We further “live the faith” when we care, love and serve those struggling with

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making difficult choices in life: a pregnant girl who has been deserted by the father of the child when he learned of the pregnancy, for two teens who are not prepared for being parents, for a couple who learns that their child will be born with severe disabilities, or other difficult situations.

As we live out our baptism, we may have the opportunity to serve in a teen pregnancy center, provide a room in our own home when a mother-to-be has been rejected by her parents, mentor a young mother who knows little about

parenting or will be challenged to adequately provide for her child.

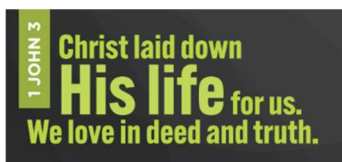
Our care and concern will embrace the spiritual dimension when guilt and/or shame engulfs an individual who has made poor choices. It presents opportunity to speak of God's grace, mercy and love; to speak of His Son who gave His life for us; and to connect someone to the Church.

Consider what it must have been like for the Virgin Mary in her journey to motherhood. In the face of wagging tongues and a future

husband who needed assurance from an angel, she endured and kept the faith. She gave birth to the One through whom all things were created, God's own Son embedded in human flesh. Marvel of marvels!

Praise God that in Him, the One who is Truth, we have not only physical life; we have new life with Him now and for all eternity! Knowing these truths, God grant you courage and strength to "live the faith" in the culture of the 21st century!

Pastor Roger Schlechte, President  
Rocky Mountain District, LCMS



On December 1, President Harrison announced the  
**LCMS 1 John 3 Million Dollar Life Match!**

This website will be updated with details as they become available. Check it out now for a link to a bulletin insert and other resources.

<https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/life-grant>

**"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."** (ESV, 1 John 3:16-18)

## MARCH FOR LIFE

**COLORADO** – Saturday, January 15 at the Colorado State Capitol in Denver. Rally at 1:00 and March at 2:00. Followed by an LCMS prayer service. Contact Deaconess Sara Smith, [DistrictLifeCoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:DistrictLifeCoordinator@gmail.com)

**UTAH** – Saturday, January 22 at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City. March at 11:00, preceded by a church service at Redeemer Lutheran Church and School at 9:00. Contact Jeremy Lamont, [jeremylamont@outlook.com](mailto:jeremylamont@outlook.com)

**NEW MEXICO** – Watch your inbox for information on a New Mexico march.

LCMS Life Ministry

[www.lcms.org/life](http://www.lcms.org/life)

[www.facebook.com/LCMSLife](https://www.facebook.com/LCMSLife)

LCMS Life Ministry Newsletter

<https://resources.lcms.org/tag/life-ministry-newsletters/>

Lutherans For Life

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



In this new podcast from LCMS Life Ministry, hear from life leaders and others who are speaking up about and living out the sanctity of human life.

<https://www.kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life/>