

AFFIRMING LIFE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LCMS

It's The Little Things

There is a picture frame on my desk holding the photos of our precious grandchildren. The heading is "It's the little things." The little things are the tiny moments of time that seem so small but make the biggest impression in our lives. They become important treasured memories, which will last our lifetime.

Children are like soft clay, or play-dough, where the *little things* they discover, learn, and celebrate through moments of love and

wonder will leave a lasting impression throughout their life. Things that they will want to pass on to their children.

Many times, while talking with people, moments of reflection about "*when I was a child*" flow out into their conversations. It can be noticed during informal talks or at church and school meetings. God created us as children to be like sponges. We soaked up all kinds of information – remembering how we felt when that information was delivered – both good and bad. We can all relate. This is played out and can

be seen by what we do and say and how we live our lives.

"*What God says*" is top priority we *want* our children to follow and treasure all their days. When we share His almighty goodness with them, we do it in love. These *little* moments are *great* things, as we find in Deuteronomy 6. And, we lovingly obey so we can enjoy

a long life as He promises! Verses 6 and 7 stand out:

"These commandments I give you today are to be upon *your hearts*. Impress them on *your children*." Notice the word *your* before "hearts" and

"children." We must first know the truth and then in turn impress that on our children. It starts with US. Our love and *desire* is to follow God's Word. When our children see us full of His joy in following Him, and how we share His love, they will *want* that too!

In our passion to share God's truth, it is beneficial to remember the *little things*, which is the *way* we deliver His truth to His lambs. Showing God's marvelous mercy and great grace for us best impresses the important foundational things. God created YOU alive! He chose YOU! He loves

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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.
Deaconess Sara Smith, Rocky Mountain District Life Coordinator
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YOU! He forgives YOU! He gives YOU His power through the Holy Spirit! YOU are His! To impress this amazing identity on our children, in a way that makes them naturally shine Jesus' light, is our God given desire. And, the Holy Spirit will help us to do just that – whether we are a parent, grandparent, baptismal sponsor, pastor, teacher, DCE, deaconess, Sunday School teacher, or whoever. This is a great privilege!

God gave me the words for my children's book, *Alive Before You Were Born*, published by Concordia Publishing House, so you could take a little one in your arms and share with them the wonder of their life's beginning. God creates and gives the gift of life because He loves us. This is truth. We honor Him by holding life as most valuable!

Alive Before You Were Born reiterates the fact that all preborn babies are already real people. This book holds to the sanctity of our God-given-life since conception. Adults will be able to share extra thoughts of truth

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while reading this book to children. These seeds of faith and guidance to follow God's truth will stay with children into their teen years and later as adults facing imminent temptations and life-altering decisions. *Alive Before You Were Born* helps to lay a foundation in children concerning the Biblical truth that they were alive and a real person while in the living-womb (a real living room) before they were born!

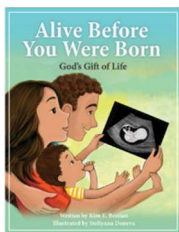
Let us apply all of that to LIFE issues. In our wonderful

convictions to monetarily sponsor a single mother to keep her child, to counsel a teen not to take his or her life, to buy diapers for those in need, or to boldly walk down a street in a March for Life event, let us remember the little ones, too. Look into the eyes of the children. Hold them and love them. Tell of our great God who sent Jesus to love us the most and always be with us. Tell of His great creation and how He continues to design and give life. Let children help us serve others in their needs. (That's

children ministering!) Let them walk with us when taking a stand for life. Let us make the most of the *little things* and celebrate life together!

I pray God's blessings to all who lead His little ones in truth and love for life. That is no little thing, but a great, big, important thing!

Kim E. Bestian, CPH author of
Blueprints for Children's Ministry and
Alive Before You Were Born



<https://www.cph.org/p-33876-alive-before-you-were-born-gods-gift-of-life.aspx>

"Before you were born, God knew you and loved you!" This simple-concept illustrated children's book communicates the living relationship between God and every child, from the moment of each child's conception. Encourage interaction between parents and children that reinforces the truth that God made them alive from their beginning. Brothers, sisters, multiples—every child!—are a gift to our families. Adults are encouraged to remind children that life is precious

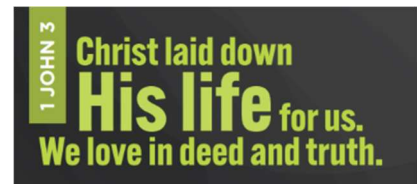
and of the highest value to our heavenly Father. After all, he gave His Son so that we could have eternal life. (Concordia Publishing House)"

LCMS Million Dollar LIFE Match

The application process is now open. Applications for the first phase are due April 8, 2022. There will be two more phases, with applications due on July 1, 2022 and April 1, 2023.

Find more information and the application at: <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)



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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.kfu.org/category/friends-for-life/>