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CHRONICLER



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSOURI SYNOD

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Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

“When [the Magi] saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.” (Matt. 2:10-11 ESV)

Don’t think that the festivities are over! Christmas may be in the rear-view mirror, but Epiphany still governs the month of January. **Christ has manifested Himself to us and has given us the summons to proclaim Him to the nations**, starting with those who are nearest and dearest to us, those within our sphere of influence. Our families, our friends, our co-workers – these are folks that will listen to us, that value our positions, that trust us to advise them well. In this first missionary season described in the New Testament, the wise men followed the star to the Christ child, saw Him in the manger, brought Him gifts fit for a king, and then returned to their homes in the East, where they had come from, and told everyone who would listen about what they had heard and what they had seen. We should go and do likewise, not out of fear of God’s wrath for not doing this, but out of love, and devotion, and determination to do God’s will in this life, until He takes us home to Himself. See, I told you that Epiphany was a big deal! We’ll talk more about this manifestation of the Savior in the sermons this month.

But there’s something else to mark on your calendars in the month of January. **On Sunday the 22nd, we will be observing Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**. This is when we focus on the fact that all human life is a gift from God; it begins with His creation of us at conception and ends when He chooses to take us home to Him at natural death. Luther’s Small Catechism instructs us that the Scriptures clearly teach that life begins at conception, not at birth. The Psalmist writes, *“Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:16 ESV)*. Also, Jeremiah records, concerning God: *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.” (Jeremiah 1:5)*. Because God creates human life, **He alone determines when it begins and ends**. We may not intervene in this process; ending a human life according to our timetable is wrong! Even though we have been given a victory in the courts to give states the right to eliminate the scourge of abortion, there is still much work to be done. Even in our own state of Iowa, abortion is still legal. Our role as Lutheran Christians is to inform, encourage, and urge our elected representatives to restore the sanctity of human life within our state. We pray that our elected leaders would be driven to do what is God-pleasing, and we petition the Lord to lead and guide them in their God-given vocation.

Along these same lines, although not gaining as many headlines, is **the movement to legalize, and even encourage, physician assisted suicide and, along with it, euthanasia**. Up until recently, I didn’t realize how the two practices were so closely related. According to Dr. Jim Lamb, with Lutheran Family Services, and formerly the director of Lutherans for Life, there’s never been an instance when physician assisted suicide didn’t devolve into full-blown euthanasia. The reasons for ending one’s life early, and not allowing God to be God, continue to expand. While starting with the terminally ill, some countries have even allowed the decision to extend to mental illness, with the goal being to be “compassionate” to folks that don’t think that they have any other choice but to end their lives. In some cases, financial motives enter into the picture; people become convinced that they will save their families money by ending their lives prematurely. The Scripture is clear that this is wrong, folks, and I write about it because it’s being brought incrementally into state after state, in the name of “compassion.” In the book of Acts, St. Luke writes, *“[God] Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” (Acts 17:25 ESV)*. Since God gives the gift of life, He alone determines when it should end. **We might think that we know better, but our knowledge is corrupted with our sinful nature**. We must be on our guard; this misguided and ungodly proposal keeps being brought up in our state. Though it has been defeated many times, the fact remains that the idea that we can determine our own date of death is gaining in popularity and may someday be allowed under law if we don’t continue to speak out and proclaim the truth.

I’m not usually one to spend so much time on public policy, and issues of the kingdom of the left hand (society and government), as the things of the kingdom of the right hand (the church) are usually much more important. But, during this season set aside as the time to speak on issues of human life, it’s more than appropriate to comment on what the Scripture says regarding these issues, as well as give an update on what is happening in the public square.

If you have any questions or comments, please don’t be shy – come and talk to me. **My door is always open!** Just give me a call first, and we can set up a time to chat. That’s one of the things I’m here for – to encourage, teach, and shepherd the lambs of Our Savior Lutheran Church. I hope to see you in church, in Bible study (don’t forget, Wednesdays at 1:30 and Sundays after church!), and around the community.

Thank you to OSL for your patience, love and support through 2022. It is a pleasure to serve as your secretary! I feel blessed to have a great job with such caring and lovely people! Marsha

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Daniel M. Provost



The Bus!



The Caroling!



And The Food!





In December: Boots, snow pants and gloves were delivered to Emerson Hough! Coats were delivered to Cards House of Apparel at Newton High School. All provided for by Thrivent Grants for each school. There were approximately 51 tubes of lip balm collected and delivered for the high school hygiene closet. And Quilts!!! Twelve Quilts were delivered to Jes-

LWML News! The December meeting was a blast! There were winners and losers, that was all that I was told — pictorial evidence aboveI guess “What happens at LWML meetings, stays at LWML meetings!” WHO KNEW! If you haven’t been to a meeting, its time to join the fun!



sica at United Way! There are many happy warm kiddos due to the generosity, time and talents of OSL!



BOOK SALE!
Our Savior
Fellowship Hall
January 15, 22, & 29