



ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

330-483-4119, www.spvc.org

April 2017

Extending the Mission of St. Paul

The Mission Fund / Alaska / Local Projects

Jesus said, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

When Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, 40 days after His resurrection from the dead, He made it clear to His disciples that they were going to be the ones to carry the Gospel into all the world. He tells them that they will be the witnesses who will give the first-hand accounts of what God has accomplished for everyone. This wasn't just going to be a message for Jews or people living in Jerusalem or Israel. The message was going to go far beyond one location, nation, or people. The Gospel was going out into all the world. Like a pebble dropped into still waters, the message of Jesus' work would radiate outward; beginning with Jerusalem and having no limits. They would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, then outward into Judea and Samaria, and further still into all the earth.

Our congregation, as the Body of Christ and the people of God, has inherited this mission of God and the calling to witness to the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. Each and every congregation is another pebble dropped into the waters of their particular location. From Valley City, the ripples of God's work radiate outward from us, locally—and beyond! Just like the disciples would begin in Jerusalem and go outward into all the earth, our congregation has a witness to bear right here in our community—AND into all the earth, beyond our local community.

The Mission Fund

When the “new parsonage” was sold, \$10,000 was set aside for use outside our congregation as something of a tithe on the income from the sale. (In this way, the congregation has modeled what being a generous and cheerful giver from the blessings God gives each of us.) After careful consideration, the Executive Board has established with those funds a permanent “Mission Fund” to provide subsidy and seed-money for mission trips and projects that place us in witness and relationship with our community and beyond.

We could have used these funds to simply write checks to organizations that do mission work and care for our neighbor. But, we would be missing out on the opportunity to personally connect with the people impacted by our generosity. There is a tremendous blessing in working face-to-face as a witness to the Gospel of Jesus. Just like the best parents spend time with their children face-to-face, we give the best witness to the Gospel face-to-face.

Growing the Fund: The Mission Fund is like a “memorial fund” or “building fund” that can receive contributions from individual members (check your envelopes for ones labeled “Missions” or “Special”). You can designate gifts and offerings to go specifically to the mission fund and they will be used accordingly.

Using the Fund: The fund has two purposes: Mission Trips and Mission Projects. The Board of Evangelism will be where projects and trips get going. Have an idea? Talk with Dave Hesketh or Pastor Zielinski.

Expenditures from the fund will be to supplement mission projects and mission trips which support the congregation’s outward focus of bringing the Gospel and God’s mercy to our neighbors, near and far. In particular, mission trips and projects supplemented by the Mission Fund will have a significant face-to-face component that will place participants into direct relationship with those impacted by the work done on the trip or in the project. The Mission Fund will be utilized after other forms of fundraising and support have been used.

Mission Trips: Participants in a Mission Trip will be expected to pay no less (but maybe more) than 1/3 of the individual cost of the trip. This is an important step in committing yourself to a trip. Participants need a “stake” in the success of raising funds and promoting the trip. Then, through fundraising, congregational campaigns, door offerings, endowment, etc. the team will raise funds for the rest of the money. Finally, depending on funds available, the Mission Fund will round out the costs. Ideally, this would divide the costs into 1/3rds and give the congregation the opportunity to show their support as well.

Mission Projects: Sometimes opportunities just need some seed money get things rolling. The Mission Fund can serve as a catalyst to get a larger project off the ground. To give the congregation and individuals the opportunity to show their support, the Mission Fund could support up to 2/3 of a project in the first year, but only 1/3 in subsequent years. If the idea takes off and gains traction, then we can put it in the budget or commit fundraisers and door offerings to it. If it’s just not a good fit or the right time, we can move on to another opportunity.

If you’d like to see a copy of the guidelines for the Mission Fund, they will be available at the Welcome Center for a few weeks, or contact the church office.

(Continued on the next page)

Alaska Mission Trip 2017

We've had strong interest in the Alaska Mission Trip! We have a couple individuals signed up and I know several others have been waiting to see what kind of support will be available from the congregation. The individual cost will be about \$1500. \$500 will first come from participants. That leaves \$1000 to raise per participant. We'll need a team of 8-10 individuals, so let's say we need \$10,000 still. Between the German Dinner and the Mission Fund, we've raised \$7,600. Will you help to finish the job?

Alaska is a giant-step out into the ends of the earth with our witness. As a congregation we've generously supported individual members traveling to other countries to provide help and assistance. We've had members travel to help with the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Now, we have the opportunity to send a team of members specifically called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus to the people of Alaska.

Working together with Alaska Mission for Christ (AMC, www.alaskamissionforchrist.org) we are preparing to host Vacation Bible School for two churches outside of Anchorage: Our Redeemer, Chugiak, and Lamb of God, Wasilla. The team will depart June 23, VBS goes from June 26-30, and then the team is free to return home or travel on their own and explore beautiful Alaska.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE! You can be a part of a life-changing experience as you show the children of Chugiak and Wasilla how much God loves them and how much St. Paul cares that they know Jesus. We're willing to go to great lengths to be sure they hear about Jesus because without our help, who will tell them?

Local Mission Projects

Certainly a local congregation will have the greatest impact in their local community. No one knows the needs or resources of an area better than the people right there. God blesses congregations with particular gifts and opportunities unique to them and to their situation. We can use these gifts and opportunities as we fulfill our calling of witness here in our community and beyond. What ideas do you have for how we can bring the Gospel and share God's mercy with our neighbors here in Valley City, Medina County, and the greater Cleveland areas?

Extending the Mission

St. Paul is a vibrant community of Christians. Our generous hospitality and care for one another and our community abounds to overflowing. Through the Mission Fund and the commitment of you, the individual members of the Body of Christ here, we can fulfill our calling to be Christ's witnesses starting where we are and going out into all the world. It's an exciting time to see what God can do!

In Christ,
Pastor Zielinski



2017 LENTEN SERIES



Ash Wednesday, March 1

11:30am - Worship (Study @ 10am)

7:00pm - Worship (Supper 6-7pm)

Lord's Supper celebrated at both services

Wednesdays in Lent

11:30am - Worship (Study @ 10am)

7:00pm - Worship (Supper 6-7pm)

Maundy Thursday

(Divine Service with the Lord's Supper)

April 13, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Good Friday

April 14, 11:30am & 7:00pm

The Salutary Gift

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Join Us for a New Lenten Series

Easter Sunday: April 16

8 & 10:30am Festival Divine Service

9:15am Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

ADOPTED SEMINARY STUDENT

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church

I apologize that I have not written in some time. The winter quarter at the seminary seems to drag on and on. But, it has finally ended. I wish I could say the same for the season of winter or spring or winter, because it can't seem to make up its mind what it wants to be. I don't spend too much time worrying about the weather, though Samuel would have enjoyed a little more time in the snow. He will enjoy the spring weather I'm sure. His favorite place has become Eagle Marsh. Eagle Marsh is a wetlands preserve not far from our house. They have all sorts of special programs geared towards kids that include hikes and animal searches. I have promised him that we will go when it gets warmer and there will be a lot more animals to see. Last year for his birthday he got a brand new fishing pole that we haven't had the chance to use yet. All of this we are looking forward to along with the excitement of my final quarter at seminary.

The break between winter and spring is relatively short which I am actually grateful for. Not that I don't enjoy being at home more and having less to do. It's exactly that actually. The fact that I am only ten weeks from graduation is exciting on so many levels. It means that all the time that I have put into papers and studying, tests and classes is finally coming to a close. While I am frightened by the prospect of the transition from what I've been doing for the past 4 years and what I'm going to be doing the rest of my life I have to say I'm more excited than frightened. I have been assured that the final quarter goes by fast. I hope so. I have also been told to front load my school work, get as much done before call night because afterwards your mind goes elsewhere. We shall see, I purposefully made my spring quarter a little lighter on the class load, I think I'm going to appreciate that quite a bit as the year comes to an end.

You have in some way or fashion supported me throughout my time here. For that I am eternally grateful. You have welcomed me into your congregations and I have gotten to know you through the letters and visits. I hope that you too have gotten to know us the same. I can't begin to tell you how your support has helped us along the way. The family is doing well. Samuel has made the transition to homeschool quite well. He really enjoys the extra programs that he is able to do now as well. He is currently doing gymnastics which he really enjoys. Swim lessons and music lessons keep him active and that's not even mentioning all the trips to the library and aforementioned Eagle Marsh. He is looking forward to dad not being in school and moving to the new house and church though most of all. Kaleb, well is Kaleb. He likes to eat and eat and eat. But is otherwise a very happy baby. His first birthday falls on the same night as call night. So it will be an exciting day for both of us. Kaci is doing well too. This is as good a time as any to tell you all that Kaci and I are expecting a third baby come September. Pregnancy is progressing well and she is pretty well through the sick days. It is just one more thing to add to our year of excitement.

As we make the transition from full time school work to full time church work it does not come without its struggles. At this time we don't know when we will be able to move which causes troubles for planning out how long we can stay at our current house. For anyone who has switched jobs there is gap which can put a strain on wallets. We have begun to save for that time in the summer when I will be in limbo; continue to pray for us in that regard. My job at the seminary should continue for as long as I need it to so that will be helpful. While my time dwindles down at CTSFW your support is still needed and I thank you for your faithfulness in that regard. God's blessings to you all during this lent and Easter season.

David Weirauch and Family

ADOPTED SEMINARY STUDENT

801 Seminary Pl.
Clayton, MO 63105

March 1, 2017

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! On this Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent, I want to take the opportunity to write and thank you again for your support and prayers. It is such a blessing to have people like you who follow the Christ-like example of service with your prayers, talents, and treasures. I appreciate it so much.

Things have been going well. I am currently finishing up my two week break from Seminary as we just finished our winter quarter. It was quite the shock coming home from St. Louis which was 75 degrees outside when I left for Wisconsin, and then came home to 30 degree weather. However, it did not take long to adjust to my former self which can handle the cold in this state! I really am not complaining though as this winter has been very mild even for Wisconsin.

Wedding planning has been going good. Now that I have been home the last couple of weeks I have been able to connect with Morgan in person to discuss things regarding the wedding such as the service outline, invites, logistics, and the like. What we really have enjoyed and found beneficial is the pre-marriage counseling we have been going to with Morgan's pastor in Sheboygan Falls. Our latest topic when we saw him yesterday was how we handle stress as a couple. He pointed out that couples handle stress and problems differently and how we need to honor each other's way of dealing with things, but yet seek active communication with each other. We then did some exercises which forced us to speak using statements that made it clear what our needs are rather than assuming the other person knows what the other wants. It was a very healthy and helpful exercise for us both.

I hope that everything has been going well for you and now that we begin the Lenten season, let us be reminded of the great sacrifice that our Lord Christ has done for us. For John the Baptist came preaching and preparing the way for Christ by proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2). Let us prepare for the coming of Christ anew this Lenten season through prayer and repentance knowing that Christ has saved us from our sins.

Blessings to you and yours this season of Lent! Thank you again for all your support and prayers. You are in my prayers as well and we will be in contact again soon.

In Christ,



Adam Wolfe

Vicarage Placement Services – WATCH PARTY!

We have applied to host a Vicar and are still waiting to hear whether we've received an assignment. If we do, we will announce the day and time of the "watch party" so we can live-stream the service from the seminary into the fellowship hall (like we did for Jeff Burgess' placement last year).



Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana



Concordia Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri

QUILTING

Anyone interested in quilting is invited to join us on the third Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon. Recently five smaller lap quilts were given to the prayer shawl ministry. Questions: contact Jeanette Rafter, Judy Renz, Norma Rankin or Diane Johnson.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for all the past donations to the Food Pantry. Last month we were able to assist 12 Families. Because of the many families we were able to serve, the Pantry is currently in need of paper products, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, soups, tuna, hamburger helper, and cake mixes. Right now the Pantry has a sufficient amount of pasta and pasta sauce. If you are able to donate, please leave your items on the table in the Food Pantry. Thank you.

LWML

Thank you to Todd Gery for his presentation at our last meeting on disaster relief programs by Lutheran Disaster Response. Flood buckets were assembled and are ready to help wherever in the US they are needed.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 4 at 10 o'clock. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. We will be discussing Food Pantry Easter Baskets and the upcoming bake sale at the Swiss steak dinner.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Food Pantry. Twelve families outside of St. Paul have used our food pantry last month. Food can be placed in the food pantry and monetary donations given to Judy Renz or any LWML officer. St. Paul is such a generous congregation! The Food Pantry is open the third Saturday of the month to the community and to members of the congregation in need whenever the church is open.

LWML will be collecting Bibles again for the Prison Ministry. Bibles are marked according to guidelines of Lutheran Prison Ministry. No other words may be written in them. If you have old or multiple unused Bibles in your home, please place them in the food pantry or basket marked Prison Ministry in the coat room. They will be marked at the May 2 meeting.

Starting your spring cleaning? LWML will be collecting gently used clothing for the clothing ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church on W. 30th, downtown Cleveland. All spring and summer clothing is needed, but especially men's clothing and shoes. Donations can be taken to the basement, back corner wall of the big room OR left in the food pantry. Clothing will be collected through May 10. On May 10, We will sort clothes at Trinity, listen to the noon organ recital, and possibly go to Lakeview cemetery weather pending. More details to follow.

Diane Johnson



**Christian Growth Workshop
Faith Lutheran, Avon, Ohio
Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10:00 AM**

Enjoy our speaker, Deaconess Robin Hughes and fellowship with our zone ladies. There will be a brief meeting followed by a salad luncheon. Please bring a salad to share and your ingathering items (used clothing) for Trinity Lutheran, Cleveland. Our sorting date of the donated clothes at Trinity is Wednesday, May 10th, 9:30 AM, followed by an organ concert at noon in their sanctuary.

Ethel Schiemann, Zone President

TRUSTEES

As a reminder, all cemetery decorations should be removed from the gravesites by the end of March to allow for grass cutting to begin. Most cemeteries have the same standards. Please remove any wreaths or winter decorations by March 31.

The Trustees continue to work on maintaining all aspects of the church and property. If you notice anything that needs attention, please contact one of the Trustees or drop a note in the Trustee mailbox. Thank you.

Finally, we hope to have some more volunteers to help with Spring Cleaning Day again this year. Spring Clean Up Day is set for **May 13 at 9am**. Please consider a couple of hours to help keep your church the way you like it. If the weather is dry, we are especially looking for a number of younger men to help level gravestones in the cemetery. The more members who participate make the project so much faster and easier.

YOUTH GROUP



Here I Stand
2017 HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCES

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017 the Youth Group will begin preparing for the Easter Egg hunt. The Easter Egg hunt will be held between services on Easter morning. Any questions, see Liz Kato, David or Molly Ross.

The members of the Youth Group will help serve at the Swiss Steak Dinner on April 22, 2017. Proceeds from this dinner will go towards their trip to Higher Things **"HERE I STAND" – 2017 Conference, July 4-7, 2017.**

EVANGELISM

Attention - All youth and adult members! Our bulletin board corner in the narthex has been looking empty, except for a few articles. We would like to see your school awards, your sports' awards, and any other mention of activities in which you may be involved. We know St. Paul members keep busy with many fun and worthwhile activities. Please share these clippings and awards with your fellow church friends. You can give them to Cindy Hawke or Marilyn Rauhaus. These "news" items will be returned to you.

Thank you for the many greeting card donations, which are being used by the Card Ministry ladies. Thank you, also, to those families who are remembering our shut-ins, with greeting cards, phone calls, or visits. The updated list is always on the bulletin board in the narthex. These homebound men and ladies appreciate being included as members of St. Paul.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(March 2016 – March 2017)

Jim, Joanna & Reagan Sherry, Angela Bailey, Lauren Heinz, Hailey Murawski, Jack Gordon, James Baker Jr., Laurie, Julia, James & Jackson Baker, Joyce Petcher, Donald & Sandra Heldman, Dan Inman, Elijah Inman, Gabriella Beck, Tony, Guynele, Hallana, Garrett, Gavin, Gretalyn, Tremontae & Zaendaya Beck, Alan Smith, Jason, Jessica, Mea & Chase Ehrman, Tim, Shelly, Anna, & Aaron Blaine, Philipp & Margaret Weintz, Pam McGuire, Kevin Harris, Gary & Lynn Eckert, and Sam & Cameron Eckert.



Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 9:00-1:00pm
Thursday 11:00-3:00pm.

To be sure the Church is open during noted hours, please give Cindy a call before traveling to church during the week, 330-483-3883.

You may contact Cindy by email at: cindy.hawke@spvc.org.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Easter decorating April 15 at 9:00 am

Swiss Steak Dinner & Bake Sale April 22 from 4:30-6:30pm

Confirmation May 7 at the 10:30 service

Spring Clean Up May 13 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Golf Outing June 3 at Bunker Hill Golf at 8:00am

Vacation Bible School – Week of June 12th

Alaska Mission Trip – Week of June 23rd

Higher Thing Conference (Youth Members) July 4-7

The Oaks Family Care Center

The Oaks Family Care Center is just as their name defines—a family care center open to serve individuals and young families. It's located in Brunswick, on Route 303 (just east of Route 42/Pearl Rd). It is a Christian based facility whose mission is through the love of Jesus Christ—to serve and support individuals and young families. They offer a variety of services, including: classes, material goods, counseling, and pregnancy services. Currently, they are only able to offer a free pregnancy test and counseling. They are looking to hire an Ultrasound tech. They have one of their funding raising banquets coming up (the Spring Banquet) on April 20th. Lastly, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities available. I will be posting the list soon, or you can talk with me. To learn more about the Oaks Family Care Center, you can go on their web site www.oaks-family-care.org. or you can call them at 330-220-7777. Yours, in Christ, Kathy Fargo.

Swiss Steak Dinner

April 22
4:30 - 6:30

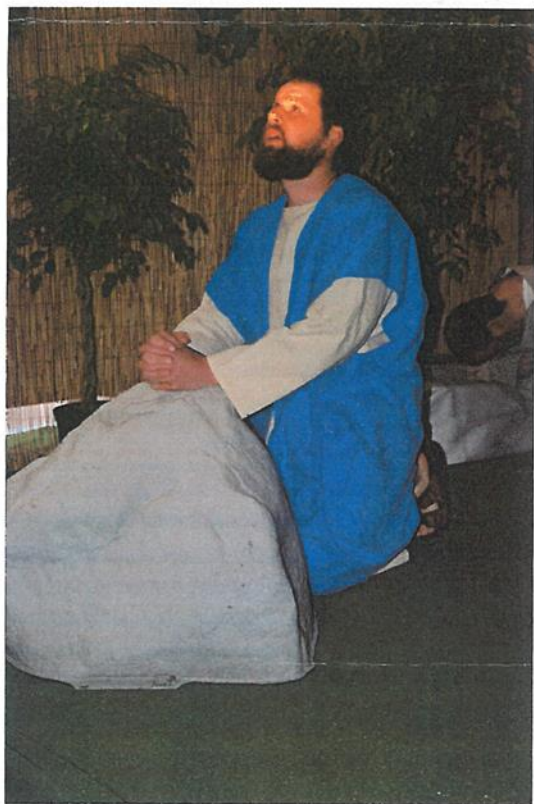
Adults: \$13
Children (6-12) \$6
5 and under: free
take-out available

Swiss Steak & fixin's
Country Sweet & Sour Slaw
Homemade Desserts!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1377 Lester Road
Valley City, Ohio
330-483-3883

www.spvc.org

Ninth Annual
Passion Walk
Sat. April 8 & Sun. April 9
Runs continuously
6:30 – 8:00 pm



Visit a Jerusalem marketplace

*Be present at the table at
the Last Supper*

*Hear Jesus praying in the
Garden of Gethsemane*

Witness Peter's denial

*Watch Jesus' trial before
the court of Pilate*

*Listen to Jesus' last words
from the cross*

Stand at the sealed tomb

Zion Lutheran Church
2233 Abbeyville Road Valley City
www.zionvc.org 330-483-3837
Handicapped Accessible

April 2017

Church Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | 10am LWML Zone meeting at St. Paul |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class | Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm | LWML Meeting 10am | Bible Study 10-11:30am Lenten Services 11:30a & 7:00p (6:00 supper) | Choir Practice 7pm | | |
| 9 PALM SUNDAY | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & BC Blood Pressure Clinic 11:30 Youth prepare for Egg Hunt | No Confirmation Handbell Practice 7:00pm | Elder Meeting 7pm | No Bible Class | Maundy Thursday 11:30a & 7pm | Good Friday Service 11:30a & 7pm | Easter Decorating 9:00am Food Pantry 10:30am |
| 16 EASTER | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15a Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt | No Confirmation Handbell Practice 7:00pm | Executive Board Meeting 7pm | No Bible Class Quilters 12:00pm | Choir Practice 7pm | | Swiss Steak Dinner & LWML Bake Sale 4:30-6:30 |
| 23 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class 30 8a & 10:30 Worship 9:15a SS & Bible Class 11:45 Golf Comm Meeting | 24 Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm | 25 | 26 Bible Study 10-11:30am | 27 Choir Practice 7pm | 28 | 29 Christian Growth Workshop Faith Lutheran, Avon, Ohio 10am |

April 2017

Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | Julia Heffinger |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Tricia Hibler | Jim & Trena Tighe # 41 | Emil & Audrey Paliokas # 53 | Dave & Judy Scaife # 42 | Jeannie Burgess | | Tim & Maria Tighe # 11 Deb Weigel Lenore Winterstein |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Chris Schnurr | Tremontae Beck | | Tom Albrecht Jack Gordon Abigail Klooz Stephanie Krueger | Kayleigh Keller Gary Kirchenbauer | Rosie Hibler | Maryann Chavayda Terry Jansen Wendy Patrick Mark Ross |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Jeri Bosela Laura Provenzano | John & Susan Willkom # 24 Teresa Luthy | Carol Hesketh | Kyle Bremke | Andy & Wendy Patrick # 43 Matt Buddie Sarah Read Sarah Scheiman Brian Witt | Matt Bosela | |
| 23 Walter Dill Lauren Jaeger 30 | 24 Fran Leu Lillian Wilson | 25 Susan Adams Jerome Duran | 26 | 27 Paul & Dianne Schultz #54 | 28 Carl & Chris Strekely # 44 Dennis Goodhart II Pam McGuire William Moysey | 29 Jonathan Klooz |

April
2017

Life NEWS

www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

After struggling over medical assistance to end their patients' lives, some physicians are having second thoughts. Many doctors in Canada who initially signed up to provide lethal injections or medication for their patients have found the act “simply too distressing,” according to Jeff Blackmer, the Canadian Medical Association’s VP of Medical Professionalism. “... we’re seeing doctors who go through one experience and it’s just overwhelming, it’s too difficult, and those are the ones who say, ‘Take my name off the list. I can’t do any more.’” Canada’s Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) law went into effect last June, officially legalizing euthanasia in the country. The list of 137 physicians in Ontario willing to participate in MAID continues to get shorter. At least 24 doctors in Ontario have already asked to be removed from the listing and another 30 have opted out temporarily. Meanwhile, the College of Physicians and Surgeon of Ontario (CPSO) has stated that doctors who oppose euthanasia must provide patients with “an effective referral” to a “non-objecting” physician who will kill their patient. The Coalition for HealthCare and Conscience is challenging the CPSO’s policy to protect conscience rights for all medical personnel. (*Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Newsletter*, March 2017; *CLR LifeWire*, 3/16/17)

For those who have had an abortion—a
Word of Hope. 630.990.0909 or
www.word-of-hope.org

Speaking Up For Life

“On Easter Sunday, Christ became the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20). Because He lives ... you and I shall live and never die (John 11:25-26). This joyous message is for all ages because all who believe in Jesus have life in His name (John 20:31).” *Ryan C. MacPherson, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota*

“Let us stand firm for the rights of all people, especially for the most vulnerable, defenseless of them all, the unborn children ... The Church has confessed from the beginning that each life is created by God, that human life is the supreme gift of the Creator. Human life is not given unconditionally but is given under the condition that we will be responsible for preserving it.” *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington*

“Instead of helping people to kill themselves, we should offer them appropriate medical care and human presence. We should respond to suffering with true compassion and solidarity. Doctors should help their patients to die a dignified death of natural causes, not assist in killing. Physicians are always to care, never to kill.” *Ryan T. Anderson, William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow in American Principles and Public Policy*

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes

Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org • 888.364.LIFE (5433)

Transhumanism (Luke 20:34-38) by Rev. Michael Salemink

“[T]hey cannot die anymore, because they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” (Luke 20:36)

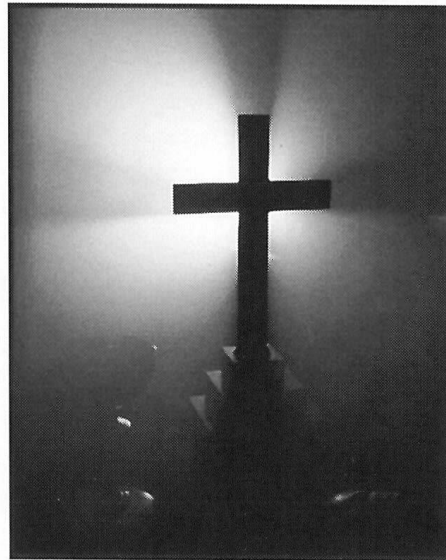
Transhumanism seeks to convert us into superhuman beings. Transhumanists support enhancing human abilities beyond natural limitations. The movement advocates applying technological advancements to expand memory and computation, improve immunity and endurance, and heighten consciousness. Transhumanism claims as its strategies and successes artificial intelligence, assisted reproductive technologies, and genetic engineering. It pursues direct participation in our own evolution until man-machine symbiosis produces an immortal, omnipotent species supplementing or supplanting humanity.

Sounds like science fiction. Smells like science sinfulness. Transhumanism tells the same old story of human hubris. It promises we can become like God and build a tower into heaven. However sophisticated, salvation sought from our works always begins in selfishness and ends in death. This “advancement” of humanity idolizes technology and inevitably leads to the annihilation of humankind.

Transhumanism rightly recognizes that forces beyond our control threaten suffering and destruction. But it overlooks how our own sinful motivations must sabotage anything we attempt.

Jesus has not come to rescue us from being human. God’s Son instead restores our humanity. He made man in His own image. He saw that we were very good. He will not abandon His original creation. He indicates this joyous, hopeful truth by fully sharing in our humanness, including living with limitations, suffering, and dying. Jesus redeems our servanthood not by seizing immortality and wielding omnipotence but by self-giving. His resurrection from the dead and ascension in human flesh confirms His love and salvation of human beings. In Holy Communion’s body and blood, we share in the heaven everlasting of Him who united His divine life to us in substance and spirit. So we neither lust after machines’ might nor fear it. We find our fulfillment in Christ.

Prayer: Son of Man, join me to You. Amen.



This devotion was taken from Christ the Life of All the Living – Devotions for Lent, Item LFL1637. Order at www.cph.org.

**Since Roe v. Wade in 1973:
58,586,256 abortions in America**

Source: www.lifenews.com/2016/01/14/58586256-abortion-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973