

Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter Spring Edition 2007



From the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada:

I read a profound statement in my daily devotions the other day, “*Satan hates babies!*” I expected that statement would be followed up with some sentimental and un-Biblical talk about how sweet and pure babies are. I was surprised by the direction the devotion took. Far from being un-Biblical, it took me right into God’s Word.

Satan started hating babies when God spoke the first salvation promise in the Garden of Eden. Right then he learned that One who would be born as a baby would crush his head. Since that time Satan’s hatred of babies has taken different forms. He encouraged pagan religions to engage in infant and child sacrifices. He moved victorious armies to take out their anger on the most vulnerable of their captives, including infants whom they would dash against the rocks. He used people like Pharaoh and Herod to carry out mass exterminations of infants.

In more recent times Satan has added to his baby-hating repertoire. Infant abuse and infanticide have become more and more commonplace. Trouble-plagued adults curse the day they were born. Teen pregnancies happen too often and at ever younger ages. The number of abortions that are performed daily keeps rising. These truths provide ample evidence that Satan continues to prowl our world and to devour many with this temptations, darkness, and death.

All this would lead us to be very grim and despairing were it not for a much more powerful truth. Jesus loves!

Jesus loves...babies! He showed this most completely when He became one Himself, fulfilling that promise that started Satan on his baby-hating rampage. Jesus did not think twice about hanging on to His position of being equal with God, but willingly took on the helpless vulnerable position of being Mary’s baby.

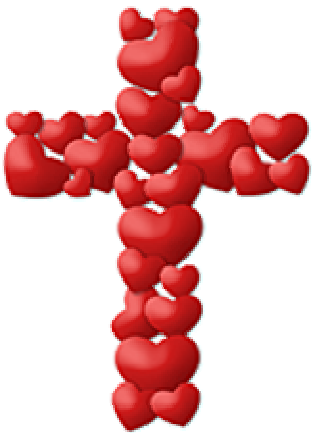
Jesus loves...children! When all the adults tried to keep the children away, Jesus welcomed them. When the adults wanted the children to be quiet during the Palm Sunday procession, Jesus encouraged their praise.

Jesus loves...teens! Look what He did for Jairus’ daughter and the widow of Nain’s son. We don’t know their ages when they died the first time, but we can assume they were younger rather than older. And Jesus raised them from the dead. We don’t know what illness or condition brought about their death, but after Jesus brought them back to life we can assume He healed them as well.

Jesus loves...troubled adults! Mary tells us what He will do for the faithful, the humble and the hungry (Read Luke 1:46-55). Jesus Himself tells us, through Isaiah’s prophecy, what He will do for the poor, the prisoners, the blind and the oppressed (Read Luke 4:17-19). All the healing

of the sick, casting out of demons and raising of the dead, pale in comparison to His work of love and salvation to which all the other wonders He performed point – the forgiveness of sins!

Jesus loves...sinners! The woman caught in adultery and the woman who anointed Jesus' feet in Simon's house heard His words of forgiveness and knew Jesus' love. Whether they heard it or not, those who crucified Jesus were offered His love as He prayed for His Father to forgive them. The thief on the cross knew Jesus' love as he received the undeserved gift of a place in paradise.



Jesus loves...us! At every stage of life – infant, child, teen or adult – we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. And we, whatever our life circumstances, are being drawn to the cross of Christ where His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We are being drawn to the waters of Baptism where God forgives our sins and creates saving faith in Jesus in our hearts. We are being gathered by the Holy Spirit into church families where He, through the means of grace, can nourish, strengthen, sustain, and preserve us in Jesus Christ in that one true faith.

The world provides us with ample reminders of Satan's hate. But in the holy Christian Church we are provided with overwhelming evidence of the love of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus' love is more powerful than Satan's hate. Jesus' light has entered our world and sin's darkness cannot overcome it. Jesus' resurrection has destroyed death. These truths lift us out of our sorrow as we look at the state of the world around us. These truths remind us of the joy of our salvation. These truths empower us to proclaim Christ's victory by sharing LFL-C materials at every opportunity and by standing firm on scriptural truths when life issues are discussed. Satan's hatred is conquered by Jesus' love for babies and for all.

Rev. Ron Mohr, President, LFL-C

“Does the Church Want People With Problems?”

by Diane E. Schroeder, President, National Lutherans for Life, USA.

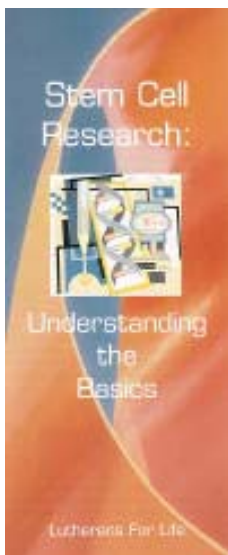
“When we fail to accept those among us who have made a wrong choice, we are telling them that they committed the unforgivable sin. When we harshly judge a pregnant teen we are putting up the sign, “No sinners here.” What message does that give to other women who someday may find themselves in the same situation? Instead of condemnation, let all of us reach out to these women and men with Christ's hand of compassion and healing. If the church, representing Christ and His forgiveness, cannot welcome these forgiven men and women who will? **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”** (Matthew 11:28) (An Excerpt from *LifeDate*, Spring 2007, p. 3):



Key Facts About Stem Cell Research

Many media reports contain misleading scientific reporting-particularly common with stem cell research. Christian Medical and Dental Association Executive Officer David Stevens, MD, says doctors have a key role in setting the record straight in their local papers. Here are some key facts:

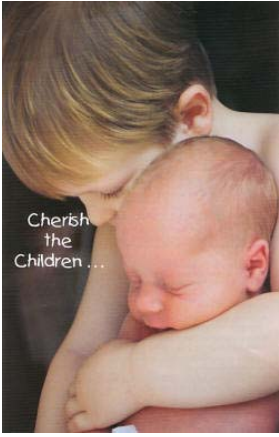
- Over 70 therapies are already available using **adult** stem cells.
- Over 1,229 publicly available clinical trials using adult stem cells are underway. There are none underway using embryonic stem cells.
- A number of adult stem cells appear to be pluripotent, including amniotic and placental stem cells. Why not use a readily available, ethical source of cells for research so that no patient will have reservations in accessing the treatment they need?
- Despite millions of dollars being spent on research using embryonic stem cells, embryonic stem cell research is still in its infancy and has identified numerous problems in using these cells. They are difficult to maintain in culture, readily mutate, are hard to differentiate, form tumors, and are likely to require patient cloning.
- What we need is real cures for sick patients real fast. Why wait decades hoping over-hyped promises will materialize? Let's put our money and efforts where we will find results the quickest. (From CMDA News and Views, 2/1/07, as reported in *LifeDate*, Spring 2007, p. 9)



Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics: It is important for the Christian to understand that God's Word does have something to say about embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). To understand how God's Word applies to this controversial issue, however, a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first. So welcome to Embryonic Stem Cell Biology 101! Available from at .25 cents (US)

A FREE DVD: *Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer.* This 37 minute DVD is hosted by Dr. James I. Lamb, Executive Director of LFL-USA. He says, "I want to make it clear from the beginning that this presentation is not going to be complicated and hard to understand. I will be presenting the basics of stem cell research and cloning. There are two reasons for that. First, I am not a scientist or an expert in these areas so I cannot make it complicated! Second, all we need to know are the basics. Once we will be able to apply God's Word to these technologies – and God's Word is where we want to begin."

*** These resources (and many others) are available at: www.lutheransforlife.org. or by calling, 1-888-364-LIFE.



Have A Life Sunday During 2007! Cherish the Children!

Numerous resources are available from Lutherans for Life (USA) at a nominal price. Check out and order these resources online at www.lutheransforlife.org. There are numerous sermons, Bible studies, bulletin inserts, children's messages, etc. available on line and they are FREE!

Get Closer to Your Kids by Victor M. Parachin

An Excerpt from *The Lutheran Witness*, August 1999, pp. 21-24.

Here are eight tips for getting close to your children.

1. **Always make Christ your top priority.** Close families become that way because they keep Christ at the center of their family life.
2. **Spend time with your kids.** There is no substitute for spending time with your children. Just as friendships need time to nurture and bond, the same is true for family relationships.
3. **Never neglect these three important words.** Close families know the healing power of forgiveness. They often say these three words: "Please forgive me. Or, I forgive you!" They know that forgiveness has the power to warm the heart whole cooling the sting. Within a family, forgiveness serves as a cleansing agent.
4. **Establish and maintain family rituals.** Rituals are the glue of family life. ... It takes work to establish and maintain family rituals such as family devotions and prayers, meals together, birthday celebrations, Mother's Day, Father's Day, a Sunday-afternoon hike, visits to grandparents.
5. **Be available.** No matter how busy you are with your job and other responsibilities, let your children know you are always available to them. Close families operate on the understanding that members can call on each other or interrupt schedules when necessary.
6. **Teach children to love and feel loved.** God loved us – and the whole world – so much that He gave His only-begotten Son for us. He also intended for families to be drawn together by the common bond of love – first to share His incomprehensible love for each of us, then to share our love for one another.
7. **Use words wisely.** "Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing," declares Prov. 12:18. Try always to speak in ways that affirm and assure, not that attack and abuse your children. How we speak to each other within families will

either pull people together or push them apart.

8. **Praise your kids, privately and publicly.** A word of praise is verbal sunshine. Just as we are drawn to people who shower us with compliments and praise, children are drawn closer to parents who are generous in praising them.



Life News from Around the World:

A CBS Poll Finds that 68 Percent of Americans Back Abortion Restrictions. Of those in favour of greater restrictions, 30 percent believe abortion should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest, and to save the woman's life, 12 percent say just to save a woman's life and five percent say not at all. – *LifeDate*, Spring 2007, p. 7)

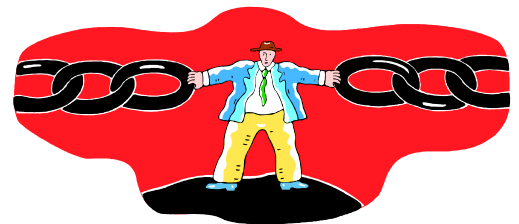
Elephants Given the Same Status as Humans: An Indian court has given elephants the same status as humans in a recent ruling. The owner of the elephant that had been killed in a working accident argued that the elephant should be considered to be of equal value to the human because she responded to commands, performed tricks, and was the main financial provider for his family. – Reported by LifeSiteNews.com. 12/22.

“A Global War Against Baby Girls” – So said, Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute at a UN conference on sex selection. Natural birth rates are about 105 males for every 100 females born, but in some areas of the world the rates are as high as 150 boys per 100 girls. Eberstadt cited a recent study showing there are 20 million “missing” baby girls in Asia alone and this is prematurely skewing the demographic balance in China, and increasingly, in India, too. – Reported in EWTN News, 12/11.

TEENS NEED THEIR DAD! -- According to a study conducted by Statistics Canada (released on Feb. 16, 2005), teens can experience symptoms of depression if they feel dad is becoming less affectionate. The study also found that the more positive relationship they have with a parent, the more positive their mental well-being. – *LifeDate*, Summer 2005, p. 7)

Make the Connection ... Join Lutherans for Life – Canada!

When you make an annual financial donation of any amount you become a member of Lutherans for Life – Canada. We place you on our mailing list and send you a quarterly newsletter.



Unfortunately, you are not able to receive a charitable receipt for your donation since LFL-C does not have charitable status with Revenue Canada.

You can send your donation to: Mr. Cliff Pyle 207 230 Heath Ave. Saskatoon, SK S7S 1N7.

Visit LFL-C's website: www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca.