



The recent Supreme Court ruling states the Constitution does not give the right to an abortion and returns the issue to the individual states. The issue of abortion is very emotional and

controversial. Many of the terms that are used in the debate are misunderstood and can lead a person to overlook the truth of God's Word. Abortion is the taking of another person's life. The Fifth Commandment states **“You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13)**. The issue is about life. The Fifth Commandment is concerned with the issue of life. God is the author and giver of life. As Christians, we believe God's Word, that life begins at conception and that all life is precious in God's sight. Christ died on the cross for all people (**St. John 3:16**) that is, for all people beginning with Adam and Eve until Christ returns on the Last Day.

The Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade* has certainly reinvigorated the discussion on both sides of the issue; yet it is a wonderful opportunity for Christians, for us in the LCMS, to teach the faith, to encourage, lift up, show compassion for people hurting and lead people to the truth of God's Word and the forgiveness of sins offered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is concerned about life and He offers life and salvation through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. In the resurrection, God raises us to new life to serve Him, to love and care for others as Christ has done for us, this includes the unborn.

When you find yourself visiting with someone who does not understand the pro-life view of Christianity you can help them with Scripture. In **Jeremiah 1:5** God says, **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”** God knows us before we are born and has formed us as **Psalms 139:13-14** makes so very clear: **“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”**

The catechism also helps us to offer help to those facing the difficulties of an unplanned pregnancy. When someone you know is pregnant and thinking of abortion, pray for guidance in helping that person to understand God's Word and that life is a gift from Him. God has given life to the unborn child and taking the life of the unborn through abortion will only add more guilt and shame.

Remember, Christ has already died on the cross for all sins, including abortion, and freely forgives by God's grace in Christ. Encourage the person you know in a difficult situation to not go through this alone. Help them to talk with parents and family members for support and assistance. There are many resources available through pregnancy help centers, medical help and counseling services also. Also, do not overlook the importance of prayer for strength both for you as someone who wants to help and for the person facing the difficulty of an unexpected pregnancy for God's mercy is for all.

For those who have already had an abortion, do not embrace the faulty ideas of the unbelieving world around us which minimizes sin or which makes the past an unforgivable sin. For those who have had an abortion God offers forgiveness through confession and absolution. To hear God's forgiveness is to trust in His forgiveness given for the sake of Christ. Pastors keep confessions absolutely private and offer the comfort of a loving and compassionate God who has placed all of our sins on Christ who died on the cross in our place. Through the death and resurrection of Christ, sin is forgiven and the burden of past sin is left at the foot of His cross, that we would receive comfort, forgiveness, life and salvation. **“The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” 1 John 1:7.**” As your pastor, I am always ready to visit with you about the issue of life as given to us by God's grace or any other topic and offer what God's Word teaches so that we may care for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you would like to know more about The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's position on the recent Supreme Court ruling concerning abortion and the issue of life, please visit: [LCMS.ORG](http://LCMS.ORG) You can then link to President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison's statement on the Supreme Court's ruling on Roe v. Wade; A statement from LCMS Life Ministry and, A joint letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland from President Harrison and the presidents of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod concerning increasing violence against churches, pregnancy resource centers and pro-life organizations. *(Excerpts taken from the 2017 Catechism, CPH)*

In Christ, Pastor Ahrendt