



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Come to the cross and learn of God's great love for all His people. There is friendship, fellowship, and the gift of God's word of forgiveness.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

SYNOD OFFICIALS SAY RECENT VIDEOS 'LAY EVIL BARE'

Note: To follow the links suggested in this article go to <http://blogs.lcms.org/2015/synod-officials-say-recent-videos-lay-evil-bare>

"It had a face. ... Its nose was very pronounced. It had eyelids." In the seventh Center for Medical Progress video, Holly O'Donnell, ex-procurement technician for StemExpress, describes what she witnessed in a Planned Parenthood clinic: A baby boy, an abortion survivor, was rinsed off and dropped in a pie plate for the procurement of his organs.

She continues, recounting the doctor's words and her own thoughts: "I want you to see something cool, kind of neat." ... She has one of her instruments and she just taps the heart and it starts beating. I'm sitting here and I'm looking at this fetus, and its heart is beating. 'You know why that's happening?' I knew why it was happening. It's because an electrical current, nodes were still firing."

Her words are heart-stopping.

A child, still alive, is then cut — through the chin and face and forehead — so that his brain can be invoiced and sold. "I can't even, like, describe, like, what that feels like," O'Donnell says.

But we as the Church can. It feels like — it is — evil.

The infanticide that is occurring at Planned Parenthood must end. It is not simply time to defund that organization; it is time to end abortion in the United States altogether.

As for us, we can no longer claim that we didn't know Planned Parenthood doctors killed children so ruthlessly or that we weren't aware human bodies were cannibalized for their organs.

We can't just say it's a woman's choice or shrug our shoulders and mumble, "Who

are we to judge?"

We can't hide behind the half-truths that women have no other place to find health care or that Planned Parenthood provides millions of mammograms per year.

It doesn't matter. None of it matters.

Children are being killed, their organs are being sold, and their mothers are left with physical scars and — greater still — haunting memories that sometimes never fade. The death of these children is barbaric, and it is evil, and we are without excuse. Silence and attempts at justification are no longer options. The only option is for each one of us to act. Here's what you can do:

- **Write** a letter to the president and to your congressman or senator regarding this issue. Ask them if they've watched the videos. Tell them why you believe life — no matter how young — has innate worth. Encourage them to end abortion and to defund any organization that performs them.
- **Support** LCMS Life Ministry. Its staff members are committed to teaching why human lives and bodies matter and why there is hope and healing in Christ.
- **Call** your LCMS representatives who serve at local, state or federal levels of government. Remind them of their Baptism and confirmation vows, of the faithful confession they are called upon to make, even when it's unpopular.
- **Use** your social media channels to share pro-life resources or LCMS life-related social media imagery (click on "Religious Freedom Toolkit").
- **Share** resources from Lutherans For

Life, start a life team or kick-start a young adult life team in your congregation.

- **Pre-order** a new, free resource from the LCMS — the Ultrasound Education Project — that will bring the miracle and sanctity of human life into the middle-school and high-school classroom through the use of ultrasound technology.

We see in these videos how Satan thrives on darkness and chaos, how he delights in baby boys and tiny girls picked apart with sterile utensils. And while we are repulsed and horrified, we no longer have the option to turn away. In this, we have been provided with the biggest opportunity of all: to highlight a still greater need that every person — pro-abortion or pro-life — has for the mercy and forgiveness of Christ.

Without Him, we are all capable of performing equally horrifying acts, of seeing children as nothing more than line items or cadavers. But our Lord is merciful. Because of Him, we have been given consciences that cause us to act and tongues that can speak truth in the midst of evil. We have been given His forgiveness in water and Word, and so we speak it, in turn, to hurting mothers and repentant participants in the deaths of these babies. We have the truth, and we are no longer ashamed to call the deaths of 55 million children what it is: genocide.

Our heavenly Father, it turns out, knows a thing or two about hearts. He knows our own, and He knows each heart of each child, even as He knows their faces and noses and eyelids. We are the reason He allowed His own Son's heart to stop beating for a time, so that ours may thrive for all eternity. In so doing, He shows us His own heart, full of grace, mercy and compassion.

Through each of these videos, He has seen fit to lay evil bare, and by His grace, our hearts and lips are freed to speak, to act, to pray, to repent, to call upon His name and to trust in His heart, which is ever turned toward us in Christ.

It's all that matters.

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CATHY HOLLMAN BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

CLOTHING FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes at the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER please consider receiving your monthly newsletter via email to conserve and save paper. Please contact Cathy Hollman at the church office 826-3883 or cathy-atchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

HEALTHY HABITS: ARE YOU PREPARED???

September is National Preparedness Month so how prepared are you? Here's some tips on what to have available in an emergency. An emergency can be a natural (tornado, fire) or man-made (terrorism, war) disaster. First Aid Kit - Injuries often occur in emergencies. Having a health kit will make treating injuries possible. Here is a list of what to include.

- Band-aids
- Antibiotic ointment
- Gauze pads
- Heavy gauze bandages-sterile
- Micropore tape
- Adhesive or duct tape to use for immobilizing a broken limb
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Antiseptic wipes for cleansing
- Pressure wraps such as Ace bandages
- Thermometer
- Burn ointment
- Disposable gloves
- Pain medicine such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen
- Prescription medications - rotate these monthly
- Eye wash - sterile saline works well for this
- Tissues and paper towels

Pack it all into a portable waterproof container and label it well. Keep items organized by placing like items into plastic zipper bags. Keep this kit in your safe room, the place you go to during a tornado. Many people make two kits and keep the other one in the car. If you don't have a kit begin by purchasing a few items each time you shop. Soon you will have them all assembled. A medical supply store will carry many of these items. If you are unsure how to give first aid, include a simple booklet that tells you how to treat any injury. This article just covers the First Aid kit. In another article we will discuss the other things it is good to have in an emergency. Happy Preparedness! For more information go to ready.gov/build-a-kit or redcross.org

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dave Wagner
- 2 Livia Hayes
- 3 Aubrey Shore
- 4 Vivian Kirkpatrick
- 6 Natahsa Ellingson
- 8 Janice Reetz, Paisley Williams
- 9 Karla Renner
- 13 Cheyenne DuBray, Bruce Nitzel, Kelly Reetz
- 14 Tonya Clark
- 15 Genie Dittmer, Tim McDermott, Linda Pomajzl
- 16 James Doiel, Wayne Eggert, Taylor Shore
- 18 Chris Reetz, Marilyn Weidner
- 20 Joshua Wohl

22 Charles Slama

23 Abbie Reitz

25 Brady Ellingson, Bernadean Strufing

26 Chris Kirkpatrick, Shane Renner

27 Madison Hefner-Kattau, Brianna Williams

28 Austin Weber

30 August Wendelin

BAPTISMS

2 Livia Hayes, Hannah Rethmeier, Marianne Tesar

4 Jennifer Hartman, Cassidy Meinke, Terry Meinke

7 Ray Bleich, Justin Henning, Shirley Reetz

8 Michael Reiss

10 Sheila Church, Aubrey Shore

12 Mara Hoyer, Miriam Weber

13 Kelli Jordan

16 Austin Adams, Diane Gropp

17 Karen Bachman

21 Kelly Reetz

24 Bruce Nitzel, Abbey Reetz

25 Bailey Stougaard

27 Paisley Williams

28 Madison Hefner-Kattau

30 Natasha Ellingson, Taylor Shore, David Wagner

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OUR MISSION Share the Joy
of His News by growing inward
through God's Word,
Sacraments and fellowship and
by growing outward through
words, actions, and mission
outreach.

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

By: Rhonda Beethe

Swim On Into A New School of Friends

We welcomed 9 students to our Monday/Wednesday/ Friday class this year and 7 students to our Tuesday and Thursday class. The children have started the year by making friends and having a good time at school. The children will spend the first weeks of school leaning how God made them His special children. We are also practicing our manners so that we can be a good friend to others.

Items Needed at Preschool

The preschool has need of the following items. Some items should be ordered from a school supply company other items can be found in traditional stores. You may either donate the item or the funds to purchase the item. The items should be new or like new condition. If you would like to donate an item from the list please contact the preschool office at 402-826-4375 or lambsofchrist-crete@gmail.com

- Sand buckets and shovels etc.
- Small to medium sized cars, trucks, tractors etc.
- Dolls and doll clothes
- Duplo blocks
- Magnetic Sensory Builders (Lakeshore \$29.99)
- Block Play People (Lakeshore \$19.99)
- Geer Builders (Lakeshore 27.99)

You are invited to join
the preschool at the
Meet and Greet Picnic
at 6:00 PM in the City
Park on Thursday, Sep-
tember 24th.

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on August 26, 2015, at the Crete Manor with JoAnn Renner filling in for president Olga Weidner. We opened the meeting by singing "Praise to the Lord, The Almighty". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on Galatians.

Roll call was taken with eleven members and one guest, Lorine Fangmeier, present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and seconded to donate

\$500 to the church for paving the parking lot and the roof repairs. Motion passed.

Birthdays celebrated in August were Diane Hayes on the 6th and Shirley Reetz on the 19th. The birthday song was sung.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

SEPTEMBER 13TH IS THE FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL. Parents and students are both encouraged to attend. We will kick off the year by doing a crafty activity and some games together. The whole congregation is invited to attend a Teacher Appreciation potluck luncheon afterward at 11:15. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (September 14)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (September 15)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (September 30)	1:30 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Dear friends in Christ,

August was a busy month around the church! With all the smiles and flashes of cameras during the collection of pictures for the new pictorial directory. Thanks to all the folks that we involved with the scheduling, registration and organization of this event. Great job!

As we look into September we see our youth getting more active again in the church. The midweek school program will begin again

with a student and parent meeting on September 2nd at 6:30 pm. The Sunday school will also have a kick off luncheon to resume our regular Sunday youth classes on the 13th of September. Thanks to the teachers that volunteer to teach and guide out youth throughout this year. Please keep in your prayers our teachers of the faith both Pastor Hays and Pastor Brinkmeyer as they share with us the word of our Lord every week!

Gods Blessings, The Elders

OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven,

We thank you for our students. As they begin this school year, help them to do their very best. May they listen to their teachers with respect and open-minds. Help them to be honest and to always seek the truth. Help them to be kind and to everyone they meet, and to serve others as they would like to be served. Help them to make good Christian friends and to be a witness to those in need. Lastly, help them to remember that You're always with them and that You'll never leave their side. May they love You and follow You throughout their life with all their hearts, soul and strength. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

DUTY	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen
Elders	Roger Koch	John Reitz	James Walker	Brent Wohl
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brunelle	Mr. & Mrs. Terry Dittmer	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Eggert	Diane Gropp & Darleen Dittmer
Acolytes	Ashlyn Adam & Mara Hoyer	Aaron Meinke & Madison Persing	Kylie & Cassidy Meinke	Olivia Pomajzl & Devon Reitz