



News From The Mount

Sharing God's Word! Serving All!

January 2025

In the month of January, Bible-believing churches have, for years, designated at least one Sunday as "Pro-life Sunday". This Sunday generally falls somewhere around the middle of the month to try and speak against the passage of *Roe v. Wade* on January 22, 1973. Therefore, this strong pro-life stance of our church has not often been the topic of the pastor's newsletter article. Before you assume this article is not for you, I urge you to follow its reasoning to the end.

One of the most public issues in our recent political cycle, was that of abortion – or as many incorrectly tried to label it "women's health." In fact, there was one sub-topic within the pro-life/pro-choice discussion that found wide support from people on both sides of our political spectrum: this year the "protection of IVF" (*In Vitro Fertilization*). What is so sad though is that the largest majority of those Americans talking – and I would submit the largest majority of all Americans – actually believe that this is primarily a political or medical health issue. While there certainly are political and health components to it, IVF is, at its core, a theological and moral issue to which God very clearly and succinctly has given us principles in the Bible that we, as Christians must place above any of our personal or worldly wants, desires or opinions.

Again, please do not brush this topic off as if it has no application to you, just because you are past the age of having children, or have been blessed by God not to have, or know anyone that has had difficulty bearing children. God makes it your issue and mine as His individual (singular) believers in Proverbs 31:8-9, when He says, "Open your mouth for those who cannot speak. ...judge righteously and defend the poor and needy."

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There is no human person that is more unable to speak for him/herself and is more in need of others to defend their very lives than those unborn babies within their mother's womb from the moment of conception. Today in the 21st century, all we need to do is open an *embryology textbook* or type a few words into Google to see that biologists agree that a new human life is formed not at birth, nor at implantation, but at fertilization. It is then that a new genetic code is created and the life of a new human, distinctly different from his/her mother and father begins. That makes this situation about much more than just the mother's body or life.

But what is the concern about IVF? Before I go farther, I want you all to hear me very clearly. I am not writing this to condemn or speak ill of you or anyone else, if you have already perhaps used or tried IVF to have children. In fact, most people have just not thought enough, or been well enough informed about all that is involved in IVF to make the connections to the Biblical implications involved. That's what I believe we heard in the political rhetoric earlier this fall. I am not ignorant to the great suffering involved for a couple that deeply desires to bear children according to God's design. Neither can we believers ignore God's command that we are not to take or end His gift of human life (5th Commandment). But it's hard to name any Christian to whom God doesn't seem to be saying, "Not *this* (whatever the issue may be) on this side of heaven." These are the "thorn in the side" struggles that we face, to which God says, as He did to St. Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:7-9). So, please hear me trying as hard as I can, to speak God's truth in love so that we all can grow to live under Him faithfully (Eph. 4:15).

There are two primary Biblical concerns with the practice of IVF. I will try to express them as clearly as I can. The first is the often hidden fact that, according to the *National Library of Medicine* up to 40% of fertilized eggs (human babies) in IVF are never given a chance at life within the mother, and an additional 20% are not successfully implanted within the womb. That means that up to 60% of children made in the IVF process do

not make it to birth (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7670474/>). Fertility doctors have openly said that grading, selecting, and discarding embryos are a critical part of their business model. In order to get some to eventually survive they must make very many fertilized children. Those that are “unused” are then frozen for “future use”. The *National Embryo Donation Center* says there are 1.5 million of these frozen babies right now in the U.S. (<https://www.embryodonation.org/>). Almost all of these will never have a chance at life. Yet God says in Deuteronomy 30:19, “Choose life, that you and your offspring may live.”

The second Biblical concern with IVF is the way that it knowingly separates God’s intended design in Creation for sex, marriage and babies to be intimately and physically connected with each other. In Genesis, chapters 1 & 2, God created male and female humans to “be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28) within the “one-flesh” union of marriage (Gen. 2:24). He is the one who opens and/or closes wombs (whether it is a male, female, or both issue), according to His perfect, immutable will. When a couple is unable to conceive, we must then look to Isaiah 55:9 in faith and accept that God is saying, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways...” and then prayerfully consider and embrace the honorable and loving gift that God blesses and lovingly offers to both couples and children in adoption. The Father Himself shows how intimate the parent/child relationship in adoption is in the fact that, through Christ, He adopts us into His eternal Christian family in our baptism (Gal. 4:5-6).



Hopefully I have been able to show that the IVF issue, just as it is with abortion, euthanasia, and other life issues, is not really a political or “women’s health” issue at its core, but instead these are matters of faith that speak to how God has created us to live in this earthly life in such a way that we honor His gift of life to us and all others; life from the moment that our life begins (fertilization) until it is God’s will to bring it to an end and then embrace us in the loving and eternal arms of Jesus our Savior.

It is in His marvelous light that we live, today and forever,

Pastor Keith Beed

The Board of Spiritual Outreach

The Board of Spiritual Outreach received a note from Donna Howard of the Methodist Church here in Ft. Lupton. She thanked us for our donation of 227 Turkey gravy mixes that were used in their Thanksgiving Food Boxes and delivered to people throughout Ft. Lupton. She said that 325 boxes were given out this year!

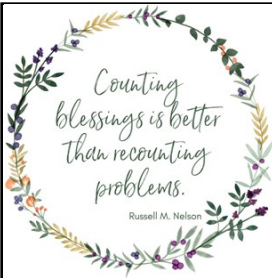


Miracle House of Ft. Lupton collects medicine bottle caps and redeems them to support their ministry of providing shelter for people who are transitioning from homeless and jobless into a more stable environment. They will take caps that have Dales Pharmacy on them or just generic/plain caps. Please help us support Miracle House by donating your medicine bottle caps. We have a container on the table by the restrooms to place your caps in.



We also collect milk bottle caps from the Longmont Dairy for Butler Elementary. There is a box on the table by the restroom to place the caps in.

By, Judy Kimball, Board Chair



CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

It's easy for us to find things to gripe about, but God's blessings abound!

- ✦ For God's greatest gift, delivered in the lowliest way, who was announced to poor shepherds in a field and worshipped by kings. Born to save the world - including you and me.
- ✦ Human Care Board for providing a delicious breakfast.
- ✦ Everyone who helped to beautify the church for Christmas.
- ✦ A dedicated choir and choir director whose music adds to our services.
- ✦ MaryBeth, Rafael, and Jan for providing special music for the candlelight service.
- ✦ Family and friends with whom we could celebrate Christ's birth.
- ✦ A new year to learn about and worship Jesus.

Count Your Blessings

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



The Board of Human Care is here for you! If you have any needs, please contact Cathy Newell, Kathy Heitschmidt, or Christina Kraemer. On Dec ember

22nd, we provided a light breakfast tocelebrate our church family and preparation for Christmas.

We are also looking for people who wouldn't mind stepping in to help with those in our congregation who have various needs: rides to appointments, shopping done for them, or just a friendly visit. We have a signup sheet on the bulletin board for those willing to help. Thank you!!

- Christina Kraemer

"Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." Romans 12:13

On Saturday, January 11th at 8:30 am., come help "undecorate" the church! Many hands make light work!



A new Altar flower chart is posted! Sign up for one or 2 vases at \$25 each.

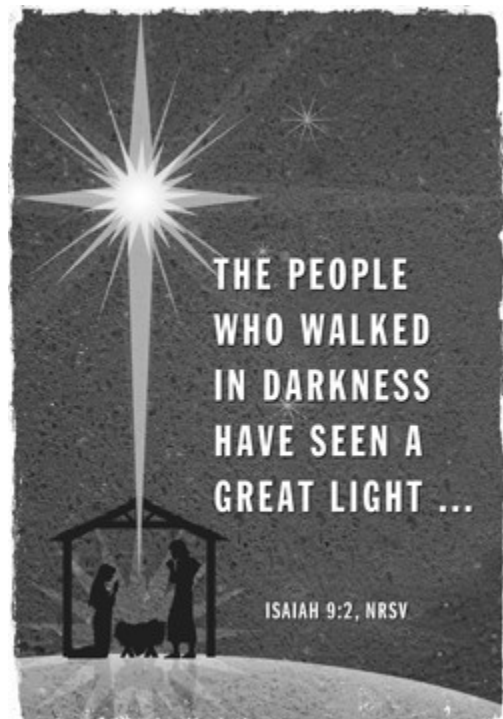
More instructions are on the chart.

Please watch the bulletin board for the rough draft of our 2025 directory. Please make any changes necessary and put a checkmark so we know the info we have for you is correct. -Tracy T.



Ushers Needed

We are in need of 2 more ushers, Please prayerfully consider helping out and let Andrew Metzger know if you are interested.





Please remember that we cannot be a Youth Group without YOU!
All school age kids are welcome!
Confirmands this includes you!



Thank you to all our church members for helping us support our youth through prayers and fundraising! Pastor, Nathan, Owen, Xander, Isaiah and Jacob have started planning for the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 19th-23rd, 2025.

The 2025 Calendars are SOLD OUT!! Thank you for all your purchases!
This is the first time in over 3 years that we have sold all 50 calendars!



This month Isaiah's 4-H club is having a peanut butter drive again from January 1 - February 14, 2025. Also, Xander is selling mattresses for a Mead Band fundraiser.

Isaiah has been selected for the Northern Colorado Middle School choir which will be performing February 13th at Union Colony in Greeley. Wyatt is performing in Valley High School's performance of "Little Women" the first weekend in March.

We wish God's blessings on all these events.

Count your blessings and say your prayers.
Remember, there can be no Youth Group without YOU!

Yours In Christ's Service,
Nona Schaefer, Secretary for Board of Youth

YOUTH
Our next Meeting is:
January 19th
After Sunday School



God does not abandon us in our frailties and mistakes, whether embryos, elderly or ailing. Our insufficiencies only accentuate how great is His compassion.

Children born with medical needs and developmental issues are still precious to God. The work of God always seeks to adopt even the ones the world discards.

Everyone is made in God's image and has inherent, immutable value, regardless of our abilities. God has a purpose for us even in our age and suffering. We are not defined by age, size, environment or dependency. (Taken from Lutherans for Life.) Submitted by Elizabeth

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ...'" Genesis 1:26 (ESV)



Merry Christmas from the Board of Education!

Thank you to everyone who stayed for the movie, "Journey to Bethlehem", on Dec 29th and the discussion after wards. We hope you enjoyed it. If you missed the movie, you can borrow the movie from the Tiscareños.

We would also like to thank those who came out for New Year's Game Night. It is always a fun time!



We are still hoping to have this year's melodrama on Epiphany Sunday, January 12th, in lieu of the children's message. (Hopefully we can make it work.) Keep an eye out for more info.

- Tracy Tiscareño

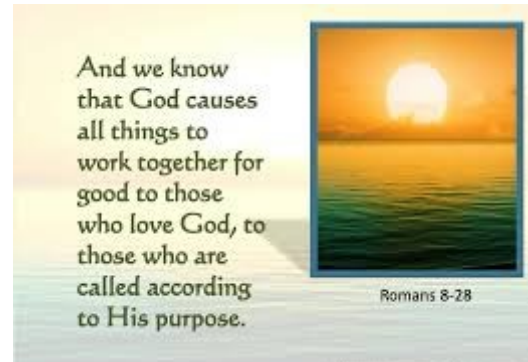
Thoughts *from your* Elder



I hope the new year finds you well. We have made it through another holiday season once again. Hopefully you can take a breath and prepare for whatever lies ahead of you. It can be all too easy to focus on the bad and negative things while we so quickly overlook the many great and wonderful things in our lives everyday that we so easily take for granted. It is also easy to get caught up in specific moments and lose perspective of the entire situation. This can lead to a downward spiral that can be difficult to come back from. Thankfully we have been given the tools and help to overcome whatever troubles we may find along the way.

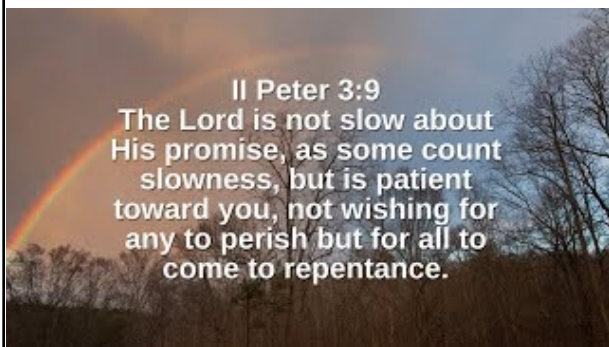
Have you ever turned the car key just to hear the click, click, click? It's a dreadful sound and seldom happens when you have nowhere important to be. Were the lights or accessory switch left on? Did I do something to cause this? Have there been warning signs that I have ignored. Has the battery given you many years of faithful work but has finally exhausted the last of its useful life? It is far easier to concentrate on the poor timing of this failure rather than recount the many times you didn't even think about it or the many other systems that all work

together to get you where you need to go. Things will go wrong in this world, but our response has been given to us. Paul reminds us to acknowledge and give thanks to God for the countless gifts, as well as the strength to endure trials. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Rom 8:28)



Celebrities and influencers make it all too easy to focus on others rather than on God and our relationship with Him. Ignoring high profile distractions, it's even easy to focus on others around us. I often grumble at other drivers who seem to have little to no regard for basic speed and lane laws with no perceivable consequence for their actions. This is frustrating and annoying as I worry about their actions rather than concentrating on what I can control, my actions. My actions should then be glorifying God and not myself. Paul again informs us, "Never repay evil for evil to anyone. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people." (Rom 12:17a, 18)

God has, of course, given us the examples, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance." (2 Pet 3:9) His patience and love are for you, me, and all people. "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, having cast all your anxiety on Him, because he cares about you. So resist him [the devil], firm in your



faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (1 Pet 5:6-7, 9-11)

- Nathan Deepe

Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update



Target Group #1 combines both the Youth and the Education Boards. (For this Target, the term “youth” is used to reflect all school-aged students.)



Our Target: **Mount Calvary is actively involved with the youth in our community.** Ft. Lupton and surrounding communities need healthy and safe opportunities for youth to interact with each other and with those who know Christ's love. We will work to build relationships and serve our community's youth in the name of Christ.

We have two goals and our tasks are listed below each:

Goal #1: Mount Calvary will support or implement one new program of service with Butler Elementary and Twombly Elementary by the end of 2024.

- ✦ Task: to reach out to the health aides at the two elementary schools to see what they need for their resource closet. We will then be gathering the items that are needed, led by the youth. We will be asking the congregation for help in gathering the items as well.

Goal #2: Explore pre-existing opportunities for youth service in which we can participate.

- ✦ We continue to support our students, by attending school drama productions, band, choir, and orchestra concerts in which they are involved. They are very happy to have so many people show up! Knowing that the congregation cares about our youth and are willing to take the time to come and see their performances is an important factor in building a sense of belonging for the youth in our congregation. This will be a continued task as we learn of opportunities throughout the school year to advertise and attend activities our youth are involved in. These are being listed in the “Youth Connections” section of the Youth Newsletter article.
- ✦ In an effort to adapt to our older youth (and adults), we continue to have movie nights at the church. The most recent was on Dec 29th, “Journey to Bethlehem”. We hope to schedule these every month or so. Please bring a snack to share and maybe a comfy chair! The hope is that we can bring in people from the community to join us. Please tell/bring a friend and join us!
- ✦ We are also supporting our youth by collecting or purchasing items for their different clubs or groups. This month Isaiah's 4-H club is having a peanut butter drive again from January 1 - February 14, 2025. Also, Xander is selling mattresses for a Mead Band fundraiser.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Lutheran High School, Parker Colorado

Grant amount: \$8,000

Cover the cost:

- ✦ To send 100 students on Mission trips.
- ✦ For materials for the communities being served.