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Subject: Living the Word This Week - Celebrating the Sanctity of Life!!

Greetings to All of Our Extended Living Word Family,

This weekend we celebrated the **Sanctity of Life** by sponsoring a **"Walk for Life"** supported by **seven additional local churches and the Advice and Aid Pregnancy Center**. The "Walk" included prayers, sign carrying and drawing lots of attention as we went from City Hall to Locomotive Park.

Then on Sunday we enjoyed songs/hymns/reading/preaching focused on the **Sanctity of Life**. I have attached the texts we used.

Three things to pray and think about this week:

1. We have to begin with understanding the **WHY** of observing/ this issue every year. **On Sept 13, 2001** a horrible thing happened : **4,000 innocent people were killed. Did you know that on Sept 12th another 4,00 innocents died?** and also on the 13th, and 14th and all the days to follow? **That's how many innocent unborn children die, on the average, each day through abortion** in the United States -- **may God have mercy on the soul of our nation...*it must stop.***

2. Yet, we miss the point of this weekend if we don't also celebrate the **incredible process of how God "knits us together" in the womb**. Too much detail to recall here -- check out the sermon on the YouTube or face book vid at "**LivingWordLutheran**". When the Psalmist says we are **"fearfully and wonderfully made"** it is an infinite understatement! Not only is the creative complexity of our physical body beyond comprehension, but even more importantly, God **KNOWS, LOVES, NAMES, and HAS A PURPOSEFUL LIFE PLANNED** (Jeremiah text) for that first cell of YOU that was formed when your Mom and Dad each contributed a cell with half their DNA to form YOU! God also had a relationship with and purpose for each of the 4,000 infants aborted each day....

3. We also need to be reminded that the "bad guys" here are not the young women who feel forced into or are even actually forced into abortion, by the boyfriends, husband, parents and politicians **that are the actual perpetrators here**. From my experience, **the young women are usually as much a victim as the unborn child**. Let's do what Jesus would do and embrace, comfort, and support them as they struggle to put their lives back together.

I know this is a touchy subject. PLEASE review the sermon, not just the notes, and follow the texts provided below carefully as you do.

We are not God. Life is HIS. ONLY He decides when it begins and ends.

May the Lord bless, keep, and protect all of you during these difficult times.

Pastor .

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum

Sanctity of Life Sunday Texts

Genesis 1:27

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

Psalms 139:13-16

¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 1:5

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Matt 7

"Do **not judge**, or you too will be **judged**. For in the same way you **judge** others, you will be **judged**, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

John 8

⁷ *When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."*

⁹ *At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"*

¹¹ *"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

Ps 147:3 He heals **the brokenhearted** and **binds up their** wounds.