



SPEAKING UP

Volume 8 - Issue 2 - May/June 2021



...for the Pregnancy Care Centers of Flint and Saginaw; and encouraging area WELS and ELS members & congregations to continue to support this ministry with their prayers, participation, and financial gifts. Our Centers are affiliated with Christian Life Resources, (CLR), a parasynodical organization of WELS.

FLINT CENTER

5154 Miller Rd, Suite H
Flint, MI 48507
(810) 762-1262
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SAGINAW CENTER

916 Gratiot Ave
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GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

As full-swing summer approaches, things are finally starting to feel a little more normal for many of us.

Normal shouldn't always be our goal, however. You probably celebrated Memorial Day this year, and remembered and honored the 646,596 American soldiers who gave their lives in battle through the entire history of our country. That number is tragically high, but it's even more shocking to realize that in a single normal year, the number of abortions far exceeds the number of soldiers lost. (In 2017, there were 862,000 abortions reported, and that was a record *low* number since records have been kept!) This is not a normal which we want to return to or maintain under any circumstances! Perhaps just as tragic, it is normal for mothers, especially single mothers to feel hopelessly alone, unsupported, unloved, even, to the point that they feel they have no alternative besides terminating a pregnancy. To our shame, it is normal for Christians to judge these women and attack them for making wrong decision, rather than to reach out in love, even if it requires sacrifices of time, money, or energy.

Why is this the case? Why is it normal for women to choose actual murder? Why is it normal for the world to hold infanticide as a right instead of condemning it? Why is it normal for Christians to judge (even rightfully) without showing any of the love that Christ is known for?

The reason is simple. It's because normally humans are infected with sin, sin that leads us to selfish acts, failures to trust that God will provide, failures to love that lead others to feel isolated, unloved, and unsupported. This has been the normal for humans since Adam and Eve's first failure to trust and obey their loving God in the garden. Just as we long to return to the pre-Covid normal, our hearts long to return to this normal.

But we don't have to! And all because of one very abnormal person: our Savior, Jesus. His abnormal sinless life and his innocent death and glorious resurrection mean that by the Holy Spirit's power, we can live in a new normal and resist the urge to slip back into our old ways.

What our volunteers do at the centers is really the opposite of normal. Instead of judging from a self-made position of authority, they show love to people who might not expect love, especially from people with different cultural, economic, and religious backgrounds. As they do this, they have opportunities to teach people about the new normal that God offers everyone through Jesus' work!

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come!" As the world around us returns to normal and the work at our care centers picks up pace, let's not go back to the sinful normals our hearts desire and recognize what a great blessing it is to be created in a new normal in Christ!

YOU CAN HELP!

Anyone can help our PCCs in their important work! Consider whether you can serve by volunteering, even just a couple of times per month will help. We are in constant need of new helpers, mentors, and others. A few new volunteers are currently in training, but the need for workers is still especially great in the Flint center. Remember, you know your Savior, so you are probably more prepared for this work than you might think! Even if you can't volunteer, your donations and prayers are greatly beneficial. Pray that the Lord will provide volunteers, and that he will continue to bless the work our volunteers do as they share his life-changing message with people who so badly need to hear it!



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