

LAKEVIEW *life*

WEEK OF JULY 4, 2022



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

I hope you all had a joyful Independence Day weekend. We have so much to be grateful for as a country, not just in the freedoms that we share, but also in recent court rulings. As I shared last week with you, given the significance of the reversal of Roe v. Wade, I will be addressing the issue of abortion for the next couple of Pastor's Pens. Next time, I will address some of the common objections to the pro-life position. Last time, I addressed a bit of the history of abortion rights in our country. I also discussed how God views the murderous sacrifice of children.

Of course, the question could be raised that the texts I mentioned last time where children were sacrificed were cases of children who had already been born. But what about the status of those who have not yet been born? Indeed, that is really the issue. Ethically speaking, both pro-life advocates and pro-choice advocates agree it is wrong to take the life of a human person (with few exceptions, like Peter Singer, Judith Jarvis Thomson, David Boonin, and Eileen McDonough). So the debate really comes down to the question of when human personhood begins.

HERE ARE FOUR COMMON PRO-CHOICE ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION:

- (1) Birth (40 weeks): With this position, a human becomes a person with full rights to life the moment he/she is outside the mother's womb.
- (2) Viability (24-26 weeks): A human becomes a person with full rights to life the moment he/she is capable of surviving independently of the mother's body.
- (3) Brain function and sentience (the state of having sensation) (6-14 weeks): A human becomes a person with full rights to life the moment hers/his brain begins functioning and it becomes capable of experiencing pain.
- (4) Agnostic individualism: We do not really know when human

life begins, so we should leave it to individual women to decide for themselves.

The one thing each of these views has in common is that with each, there is a degree of subjectivity. It almost seems that it is up to the individual person to determine when personhood begins. Author David Reardon shares an anecdote that really does reveal the problem with subjectivity in determining the personhood of the pre-born baby. A woman getting an abortion asked her abortion clinic counselor, *What does a three-month-old fetus look like?* The counselor replied, *Just a clump of cells.* Later this same woman viewed pictures of fetal development and said, *When I saw that a three-month-old 'clump of cells,' had fingers and toes and was a tiny perfectly formed baby, I became really hysterical. I'd been lied to and misled. I'm sure thousands of other women are being just as poorly informed and badly served.*

Of course, to be rightly informed and well served requires us to open the Scriptures. The Scriptures are our highest authority. This is what I want to address today. If it can be demonstrated from Scripture that life begins at conception, the case is closed, no matter what the culture might say. Culture is not our authority, nor is the fallen human consciousness. And if God is the one who brings conception and life begins at conception, and the taking of an innocent life is murder, then the case is closed. Period.

But before I get into this discussion, let me offer you a few stunning stats. In 2018 abortion was the leading cause of death worldwide, with 42 million victims (Life News, 12/31/18). That is equivalent to seven holocausts in one single year, more than one victim per second slain on the altar of a woman's right to choose. In Iceland, which is considered a progressive utopia, "the abortion rate for children diagnosed with Down syndrome approaches 100

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percent (George Will, "The Down Syndrome Genocide," 3/15/18). In New York City, more black babies are aborted than born (Tessa Longbons, "Abortion Reporting: NYC 2016").

In Asia, widespread sex selective abortions have led to as many as 160 million missing women—more than the entire female population of the US. And there is new evidence that suggests that sex-selective abortions of girls are common in the US as well (Mara Hvistendahl, "Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men, 2011).

For Christians, we are duty bound to seek the Word of God for clarity regarding the moral standing of the child who inhabits the womb of a mother. First of all, in regard to the value of human beings, Scripture indicates that God places a high and unique value on human life because human beings carry the unique and special status of "image-bearers." But admittedly, just because we know it is wrong to unjustly take an innocent human life, that does not necessarily mean that we have clarity on the issue of abortion. It must first be proven that the embryo/fetus in the womb constitutes a person who possesses the right to life. Indeed, the most important and debate clinching defense against abortion is the truth that the unborn child is a unique person. Several texts drive home that a child is a person from the moment of conception.

The Incarnation—The most significant of the biblical arguments regarding the full moral status of an unborn child is the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Bible affirms that the person Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human from the moment of conception. In the Gospel of Luke, we see that Jesus was born of a woman (1:31) and that although his conception was miraculous, his gestation would proceed normally as Mary carried him in pregnancy for nine months. Not only did his life begin at the moment of conception, it was also at conception that the angel Gabriel told Mary to name him Jesus, thereby recognizing his personal nature. Luke goes on to say that Mary then went to visit Elizabeth and she recognized that Mary was already the mother of the "Lord" and not merely the incubator of a fetus: "How has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me" (1:43). This is significant because it means that the incarnation of Christ did not begin after birth. No, the divine nature of God the Son was joined to the human nature of Jesus from the moment of his conception in Mary's womb. From that moment on, Jesus Christ was/is a divine-human person, both God and man.

John the Baptist in Elizabeth's Womb—The text reveals Elizabeth saying, "the baby in my womb leaped for joy," which attributes personal human activity to the baby. Interestingly, the word "baby" is the Greek word, "brephos." This is the same word used for a child after it is born, as when Jesus is called a "baby (brephos) lying in a manger" (Luke 2:16). Furthermore, John the Baptist as a pre-born baby was able to hear Mary's voice and, even before birth, felt joyful about it. This took place when she was in her sixth month of pregnancy (Luke 1:44).

As a side, not that the Bible needs confirmation or defending, but it is interesting that in 2004, researchers at the University of Florida found that unborn children can distinguish their mother's voices and distinguish music from noise. Another study, reported in *Psychology Today* in 1998, confirmed that babies hear and respond to their

mother's voice while still in the womb. In 2013, research showed that babies learn words and sounds in the womb and retain memories of them after they are born.

Genesis 25:22-23. Here we read that "The children (the twins Jacob and Esau) struggled together within her (Rebekah), and she said, 'If it is thus, why is this happening to me?' And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.'" So here, the unborn babies are viewed as "children" within their mother's womb. The word "banim" which translates "children" is the plural of "ben" ("son"). "Ben" is the ordinary word used more than 4900 times in the OT for "son" or "sons" or "children." So before their birth, the twins are considered by Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as distinct persons.

Exodus 21:22-25—Outside the incarnation itself, perhaps this is the most important passage in Scripture that drives home the truth that the unborn child is a unique person and should be thought of and protected as a person from the moment of conception. 21:22 "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

So, in this scenario, a law is established that concerns a situation when men are fighting and one of them accidentally hits a pregnant woman. There are two possibilities: (1) if this causes a premature birth but there is no harm to the pregnant woman or her unborn child, there is still a penalty (a fine, v. 22); (2) but "if there is harm" to either the pregnant woman or her child, then the penalty is severe: "Life for life, eye for eye..." (v. 23-24). In other words, both the mother and the unborn child are given equal legal protection.

What's even more remarkable about this passage is that when the Mosaic Law addressed other cases of someone accidentally causing the death of another person, there was no requirement to give "life for life." On the contrary, the person who accidentally caused someone else's death was required to flee to one of the six "cities of refuge" until the death of the high priest (see Num 35:9-15, 22-29). This was a version of house arrest that was far less of a punishment than "life for life." The significance of this is clear. God established a law code for Israel that placed a higher value on protecting the life of a pregnant woman and her unborn child than the life of anyone else. Not to mention this law addresses a case of accidental killing of an unborn child. How much more serious would the intentional killing of an unborn child be?

Psalms 51:5—In this psalm that was penned by a repentant David after his sin with Bathsheba he confesses, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." David says here that his sinfulness extended back even before his birth. Of course, you could make the argument that he is referring to his mother's sin here. But context is king. Up to this point in the psalm, David has not mentioned his mother's sin but has spoken in depth about his own sinfulness. So he has to be referring to himself in this verse. From the

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PASTOR'S PEN CONTINUED

moment of his conception, he has had a sinful nature, which means he has been a distinct person from the moment of his conception. Whatever autonomy his mother might have over her own body, David recognizes that he is not merely a part of his mother's body but was distinct in his personhood from the moment of conception.

Psalm 139:13—David again contributes to this discussion when he writes “You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.” Here, he refers to himself as a distinct person (“me”) when he was yet born. Furthermore, the word translated “inward parts” (kilyah) refers to the innermost parts of a person, including the deepest inward thoughts and emotions (see Psalms 16:7; 26:2; 73:21; Prov 2:16; Jer 17:10).

Given this Scriptural data, it would be virtually impossible for someone whose authority is the Bible to be pro-choice. Of course, to be pro-choice and a confessing believer might simply reflect a lack of needed discipleship. Yet, it also might betray that one is not as believing as he/she claims to be. Indeed, arguments against the pro-life position generally are not derived from the Scriptures. They are generally emotional, anecdotal, and experiential. They also often focus on rare cases. The fact is, over 98% of pregnancies are the result of sexual relations in which both partners willingly participated. But what about those other cases—cases like rape, incest, or the health of the mother? No one denies those are difficult scenarios. I will seek to answer those questions in the next Pastor's Pen.

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



praise WORTHY

RE/GEN CONCERT AND COMMISSIONING THIS SUNDAY, JULY 10 | 6:00 PM

Join us on Sunday evening, July 10, for our Re/Gen Youth Choir Concert and Commissioning. The concert will feature Re/Gen singing songs for their upcoming On-Mission trip to Cincinnati, OH.

PARENT / STUDENT / CHAPERONE MEETING THIS SUNDAY, JULY 10 | 7:00 PM

This Sunday, July 10, immediately following the Re/Gen concert and commissioning, we'll have a brief meeting in the Fellowship Hall to discuss important details of the trip.



Coffee & Connections

JULY
14
7:00

*the Barber
Home*

2741 PARTRIDGE LANE, AUBURN

Guest Speaker | CASEY MARTIN

AUGUST
11
7:00

*the Nahikian
home*

2740 DOE AVENUE, OPELIKA

Lakeview Women



congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

Hope to see men of every age on Thursday, July 14, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from 12:00-1:15 PM. Aaron Wine will be our guest for a question and answer session.

HIS PLACE & HOSANNA HOME NEEDS

The men that are residents of His Place and the ladies that are residents of Hosanna Home are in need of personal items:

- Deodorant (for both men and women)
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap (bars or liquids)
- Shampoo/conditioner (for the ladies)
- Laundry powder/soap

Please return the items to the box in the lobby (pre-school side). The box will be available on July 10 and 17.



children's CHATTER

ZOOMERANG VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT

"As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though I know not how to relate them all. I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone." Psalm 71:14-16

To God be all the glory for an incredible week of Bible school! Thank you for so wonderfully relating the saving acts of our great God during VBS! All of our pastors, support staff, adults, college, and youth who were amazing helpers and leaders who made all things possible for Bible teaching, crafts, music, decorations, scripture memory, games, missionary moments, and snacks.

VBS OVERVIEW:

Children (K-6) On-Campus: 420

Preschool: 100

Workers: 212

Total Enrollment: 916

Unchurched: 62 | Decisions: 30

Offering: approximately \$3,948.01 to Women's Hope Medical Clinic

LEADERS & COORDINATORS:

K5: Holly Hutto | 1st Gr: Betsy Carlisle | 2nd Gr: Susan Speakman

3rd Gr: Kara Olsen | 4th Gr: Tabitha Geiger & Amber Korstjens

5th Gr: Jenna Layson | 6th Gr: Ann Nahikian |

Recreation Directors | Amy & Brian Cole (1st-6th Gr) and Joel Beauchamp & Curt Johnson (K5)

Children's Administrative Assistant: Haley Wine

VBS Office Team: Anna Grace Cummings, Marie Foshee, Elaine Laird, Cindy Lawrence, Tammy McDonald, Annette O'Kelley, Karen Parker, Melody Poole, and Haley Wine

Preschool Coordinator: Joan Moreman

Preschool Administrative Assistant: Marie Foshee

Babies: Scott & Rena Kirk, Riley Ann & Jenny McBride

Toddlers: Susie Hansen & Sharon Duvall

Twos: Hannah Hildreth, Kem Jackson, Davide Malinowski, Cheryl Wood, & Brittany Wynn

Threes: Molly Grace Ingram, Angela Nichols, & Carl Owens

Fours: Jackie Ryals & Sara Snead

Assembly Director & Writer: Lauren Tyson

Assembly Cast: Rachel Snead, Laura Webb, & Aaron Wine

Assembly Choreography: Caroline & Mollie Grace Ingram

Assembly Offering: Cliff Knight

Assembly Sound, Screens, & Video: Jere Cooper, Greg Key, Adam Traylor, & Lauren Tyson

Assembly Speakers: Pastor Brian & Adam Traylor |

Monday: Daria Monroe (Women's Hope) | Tuesday: Cason

(England) | Wednesday: Nathan & Lesley Tubbs (NYC) | Thursday:

Josh & Susan Chance (Africa) | Friday: Andrew

Buddy Coordinators: Julie Brown & Florence Evermon

Classroom Setup Leader: Kenneth Chance

Decoration (Stage & Lobby): Kelli Watts

Decoration (Classroom and Special Projects): Sloan Fitzgerald, Carolyn Keasal, Tammy McDonald, Mary Catherine McDonald, Jenny Swaim, Kelli Watts, Classroom Coordinators, Classroom Leaders, & College Students

Family Fun Night Videos: Marie Vail

Family Fun Night Snack: Beth Carlson

Maintenance: Connor Brown, Amir Evin, Ben Ibanez, & Carl Owens

Missions Host: Linda Hall

Photographer: Nikki Adams & Elizabeth Lanier

Refreshments (children): Lauren Arthur, Elaine Laird, Mariann Jungnickel, Ashley McCay, Rene Traylor, Rick Traylor & a special team of snack preparation volunteers.

Refreshments (volunteers): Beth Carlson, Linda Daniels, Linda Freeman, Robbin Fowler & Beatriz Ibanez

Registration: Glenn Lanier

T-shirt Sales: Anna Grace Cummings

Van Coordinator: Rusty Parker

Van Drivers/Riders: Daniel Burnham, Brian Cole, Jerry Ferguson, Brad Freeman, Matilyn Garvin, Robert Hall, John Hung, Rob Martin, John Morgan, Rusty Parker, Rick Richards, Jordan Roberts, Ayanna Robinson, Randall Sanders, & Shelby Yoder

VBS Donation Church Partnership: Gretchen Hood

THANK YOU!

With all my heart, thank you all so much for your love for the boys and girls in our community and your desire to share the love of Jesus with them in Vacation Bible School. Thank you also to our Lakeview family for providing snacks for children and workers, and most importantly for covering us all in prayer. I am honored to know you and to serve alongside you. Please continue to pray for the boys, girls, and families involved in Vacation Bible School... for the seeds of truth planted in all of our hearts to spring forth and bear fruit in our lives for the lost to know Jesus as Savior and Lord and followers of Christ to be transformed more into His likeness for our good and His glory!

Love and Blessings,

Jennifer



OUR *newest*

WILLIAM ARCHER "ARCHIE" GOLDEN

Born: June 30, 2022

Parents: Will & Brianna Golden

Grandparents: Bill & Cindy Golden

sympathy

From the pastor, staff, and church family to:
Stella Crosby in the death of her mother.

FOOD PANTRY (JUNE REPORT)

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Households fed | 85 |
| Total pounds of food distributed | 4,250 |
| Average pounds per household | 50 |
| Average \$ per household | \$5.52 |



REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR SPRINGS

Louise Morris

EASE HOUSE

Ann Dodge

Harriett McNelly

Larry Ryan

MAGNOLIA PLACE

Nancy Thornton

MONARCH

Minnie Crosby

OAK PARK

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Bobby Jones

Emaleen Fagen

Joe Waller

VALLEY PARK MANOR

Kay Gaillard

AT HOME

Matthew Baker

Daniel Benjamin

Matt Beth

Mike Cannon

Dennis Clark

Jackie Cooper

Joe Denison

Hugh Fellows

Ambers Hanson

Sharon Newman

Renae O'Mary

Jane Parker

Matthew Richardson

Susan Scales

Lottie Sides

Larry Swango

Shannon Works

Joe Youngblood

JULY 3 ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----|
| MORNING SERVICE | _____ | 741 |
| EVENING SERVICE | _____ | N/A |

JULY 3 GIVING

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------|
| BUDGET | _____ | \$97,273.49 |
| RESTRICTED | _____ | \$14,826.00 |

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WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



Lakeriew
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