

## Reformation Day – Proclaiming the Sanctity of Life

As baptized Christian believers, we can be assured of our salvation!<sup>1</sup> Through His Crucifixion and Resurrection, Jesus accomplished all that was needed to forgive our sins and declare us right with the Father.<sup>2</sup> Being dead in our trespasses, we are simply unable to contribute anything to our salvation. Our salvation is all His gift given to us in our Baptism, in which we are literally brought back to life in Him.<sup>3</sup>

This comforting Scriptural truth is one of the core messages of the Lutheran Reformation. We are reminded of this when we confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness and absolution through our pastors. We are further reminded of this when we hear His Word and when we feast on our Lord’s Very Body and Blood in His Supper. Having received His gifts in His Divine Services, we return home confident that none of the troubles of this fallen world can separate us from His sacrificial love toward us.<sup>4</sup> He “is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”<sup>5</sup> We matter that much to Him! And being saved, we know for certain that we will live into eternity in His presence.

Moreover, God desires all, “to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”<sup>6</sup> Indeed, every human life matters to God, regardless of nationality, skin color, developmental stage, position in society, or personal strength/ability.<sup>7</sup> As we proclaim to our non-believing neighbor how precious s/he is to God, we trust in Him to continue adding “to (our) number ... those who (are) being saved;” namely, who are being brought back to life in Him.<sup>8</sup>

Reformation Day, like all Sundays and Feast Days in the Church Year, truly proclaims the sanctity of life from fertilization to forever. We on your English District Lifeline Team thank God for all He is doing through you as you reflect His “life and light”<sup>9</sup> in your communities. Furthermore, we pray His richest blessings on you on this day and throughout the Church Year.

Your English District Lifeline Team -



### Notes

1. 1 Peter 3:21
2. John 19:30; Romans 4:25
3. Ephesians 2:4-9; SC Creed, Third Article
4. John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39
5. Psalm 46:1; c.f. LSB 656.1; LSB 657.1
6. 1 Timothy 2:4
7. Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:2; Jeremiah 1:5; Romans 10:12; 1 Corinthians 12:22; Galatians 3:28; Revelation 7:9
8. Acts 2:47; c.f. Isaiah 55:11
9. LSB 633.5