



Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. (Matthew 3:15)

In His Baptism in the Jordan River, the perfect Son of God became sin as He began His work of redemption for us and for all sinners that would end on the Cross. Our Lord literally put Himself in our shoes (or sandals)! He needed to do this in order to carry out God's plan for salvation. Christ needed to become poor and weak to win victory for us over sin, death, and the devil. In our Baptism, we join in His death and resurrection, as God crucifies our old selves and raises us to new life, declares us righteous and free from the effects of sin, and grants us eternal life in Him. God does all of the work; we bring nothing to the table except the sin which we all have in common.

Consider that, in becoming weak, Jesus identified with the weakest among us. They too are included in God's plan of salvation. In truth, when measured up to His standard of perfection, we all are weak. God shows no partiality; all human lives matter to Him! And this includes our non-believing neighbors with whom we share the Good News, praying that God will use our words to bring them as well to the waters of Baptism and eternal life in Him. Like every day in the Church Year, the Baptism of our Lord truly proclaims the sanctity of all human life, from fertilization to forever.

As we begin the Epiphany season, we share a list of Sanctity of Life events upcoming in AD 2025:

First and foremost, all of the services, Bible studies, fellowship events, community outreach, etc. in your own congregation!

Life Week 2025, January 19-25, sponsored by Lutherans For Life - This year's theme is *Life Shines in Darkness*. Programming includes online presentations Sunday through Friday evenings and Saturday morning, associated fact sheets and activities, and a live conference for high school and college students attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C. More information is available at <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2025/>.

National March for Life, Washington D.C., January 24 - The day begins with a Divine Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA, followed by brunch at the church, and travel to the March in D.C. This year, Bishop Jeffrey Miskus will be joining President Harrison and many of the District Presidents at the March! You may register for the event at https://www.lcms-life.org/need/detail/?need_id=934362.

Mercy: Love Throughout Life conference, March 14-15, sponsored by LCMS Office of National Mission, at Concordia University, Irvine, CA; Grace Lutheran Church, St. Petersburg, FL; LCMS International Center, St. Louis, MO; and online. More information and a link to register are available at <https://calendar.lcms.org/event/mercy-love-throughout-life-conference-2025/>.

State and local marches and rallies in Tucson, AZ (January 18); Ft. Wayne, IN (January 18); San Francisco, CA (January 25); Austin, TX (January 25); Des Moines, IA (January 27); Topeka, KS (January 29); Richmond, VA (Pro-Life Day, January 29); Phoenix, AZ (March 15); Richmond, VA (March for Life, April 2); Jefferson City, MO (May 1). More information and links to register are available at <https://www.lcms-life.org/need/>. Watch the site for more opportunities as they arise!

Dying Well in Christ: A Forum on the Church's Care at Life's End, July 7-9, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The conference will bring pastors and the people of God together to consider death and dying in light of what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. Remember that we proclaim the sanctity of life from fertilization *to forever!* Save the dates; registration will go live in February. Follow the conference page on [Facebook](#); also, we will provide information in *Servant to Servant* as it becomes available.

Lutherans For Life National Conference, September 24-26, Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs, CO. The theme for the conference is *I Am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. Save the dates, more information will be forthcoming at <https://lutheransforlife.org/conferences/>.