

Good Shepherd News & Notes

Epiphany II/Life Sunday: January 14, 2024

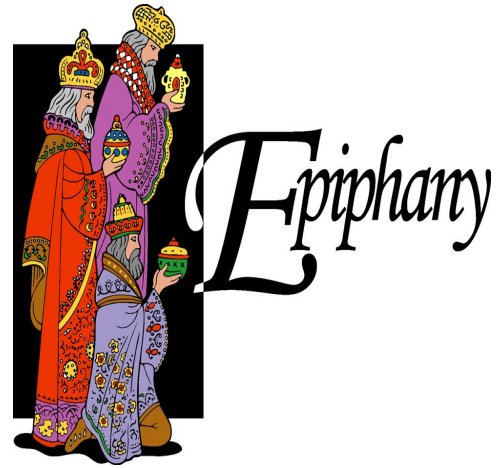
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KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org
Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



NEBRASKA BALLOT INITIATIVE

by Nebraska Right to Life

Pro-abortion groups have launched a ballot initiative in Nebraska which would enshrine a right to abortion until birth in our state Constitution. They are in the process of collecting signatures for the 2024 ballot.

Recently, we've been hearing from many wonderful supporters who have reached out asking, "**What can I do?**" knowing that this ballot initiative is detrimental to the pro-life protections currently in place in Nebraska. **We'd like to take some time today to answer this question by providing a starting point in the coming weeks.**

The right to life is under attack in Nebraska and one of the most important pieces in fighting this is education. To this end, we are providing the exact language used so that we can familiarize ourselves and have a clear reference point:

"All persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability means the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient's treating healthcare practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures."

Let's unpack this language to understand exactly what it entails.

To be very clear, this would allow abortion throughout the entire pregnancy. "Viability" is based solely on the abortionist's judgment. Abortion for the "health" of the mother is also left up to the discretion of the abortionist. Without defining "health" courts have found that it can be based on non-medical factors, including mental, spiritual, financial or familial health. For example, even if a child might only require a short stay in the NICU, an abortionist could deem the pregnancy non-viable. Further, "health" is also a vague term that could be used by an abortionist in nearly any case. For example, a mother could simply decide at 40 weeks that it would be easier not to have an infant in the home with her 3 other children.

This language also allows for the elimination of health and safety protections for women "without interference from the state". This puts all of Nebraska's medical safeguards at risk. This includes obtaining informed consent and performing a medical screening.

(see page 2)

In addition, parents would no longer have the ability to consent or even know if their minor daughter seeks an abortion.

Of course, understanding the ballot initiative and all its hidden meanings isn't enough and we still ask, "What can be done?"

More information will continue coming as the year goes on. We are working closely with other groups such as Nebraska Family Alliance, Nebraska Catholic Conference and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. **Right now, the best action to take is staying informed and ensuring your friends and family are informed.** Be sure they are receiving NRL emails and following us on Facebook or Instagram. **To make it easy, you can direct them to nebraskartl@gmail.com where they can sign up to receive emails.** We are careful to send only the most pertinent information so pro-life Nebraskans are always informed.

Another vital step is prayer and having conversations. We know this is also a battle of the heart. All scientific evidence is on the side of life; we need to pray that hearts would be softened to the vulnerable lives that are unable to speak but who deserve our protection. **Personal conversations are the best way to spread the word.** In the upcoming year, it is vital that average Nebraska voters understand that this is an extreme measure that would enshrine abortion as a right in our State Constitution and many don't realize this could eliminate all pro-life protections we currently have in place.

When you bring this topic up to family and friends, it is amazing how much of an impact you can make. You truly can effect change in your corner of the state simply by being willing to talk about this issue. As always, reach out to us if you are in need of any additional resources. Let's stay the course and keep fighting for life together.

Join us January 26 & 27 for the largest Nebraska Walk for Life yet, and our 2nd Gala the evening before.

MISSION PROJECT FOR JANUARY

Lutherans for Life is Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of January. Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

On Sunday, January 14, we are observing Sanctity of Human Life Sunday at Good Shepherd. Please take time to check out the display table in the narthex. You will find a number of brochures on "life" related issues as well as the large pictures showing fetal development and the fetal model set with life-like models of developing babies.

PRECIOUS FEET COOKIES

In observance of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, Nancy and Sarah Stepp and Jenny and Caraline Higgins are serving homemade "Precious Feet" cookies before Bible classes. Be sure to treat yourself to a pink and/or blue cookie and think about the value of each "precious" child in the womb.



PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639. Your request will appear for 6 weeks. If you would like to keep it on the prayer list, you may

call during the 6th week to renew it.

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues (5)
- **Pastor Luke Russert**, for a successful adjustment of his medication (3)
- **Sharon Burke**, dealing with Parkinson's disease (2)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with continued medical issues (1)
- **Taylor**, grand-daughter of Holly Herrod, for continued healing (5)
- **John Reigle**, for successful recovery from back surgery (4)
- **Terry Meier**, friend of Terry Fitzgerald, undergoing medical testing (6)
- **Shari**, sister of Tish Loomis, having a medical procedure (6)
- **Gail Stachura**, for recovery from neck surgery and successful healing (4)
- **Kyle Lundberg**, cousin of Karen Kammann, for an accurate diagnosis and successful treatment (2)
- **The son of Jordan**, friend of Michael Jensen, who is having seizures (4)
- **Gary Chura**, brother-in-law of Maureen Marshall, in hospice care with pancreatic cancer (1)
- **Kelli Stott**, daughter of Bob & Elaine Van Valkenburg, recovering from a knee replacement (5)
- **Elaine Egner**, having chemo and radiation treatments (1)
- **Elaine Van Valkenburg**, for continued strength and healing (1)
- **Rose Bock**, grandmother of Angela Von Busch, recovering from surgery (3)
- **Steve Waldren**, father-in-law of Melissa (Sidlo) Waldren, recovering from a second brain surgery (2)
- **Judy Korte**, mother of Sara Nispel, hospitalized (2)
- **Don Wiese**, in hospice care (1)

- **All who are** dealing with COVID and other respiratory illnesses (2)
- **The family of the sister of Joyce Thompson**, who was taken to her eternal home unexpectedly (2)
- **The family of Glenn**, friend of Karen Kammann, who was taken to his eternal home. Pray for peace and comfort for his wife, Cathy (1)
- **The family of Dan Bock**, uncle of Megan Lichtenfeld, who was taken to his eternal home on Monday (1)
- **The family of Phyllis Christiansen**, mother of Curt & Kevin Christiansen, who was taken to her eternal home recently (2)

WHO AM I?

The 2024 Higher Things Conference for confirmed youth will be at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR from July 16-19. The theme is "Who Am I" which is based on Isaiah 49: 16a. Sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin table. Deadline: January 19th. Please bring any questions to one of the pastors.

FLOWER CHART

There is a flower chart on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you would like to provide flowers in memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion, please sign up for the appropriate date **with the pen provided.** You may contact Loraine Harnett at (402) 217-7414 to make the arrangements (price range, what occasion, kinds of flowers preferred, etc.) You may also contact Loraine with any questions you may have.

LOST AND FOUND

A tie clip (gold-colored with the initial "M") and a ring (with a black engraved design on it) were found and turned in to the church office. If one of these sounds like it might belong to you, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT- John 2:5 - "His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'" What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, "What does this have to do with me?" (John 2:4). But she knew that whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knew what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That's still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives, including in our generosity toward the Lord's work in the church.



Psalm 37:5, NRSV

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (Jan. 14 thru Jan. 20)

People celebrating birthdays are:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Chris Luebbe | Kevin Michel |
| Audrey Dloughy | Ella Moline |
| Bella Steinhauser | Barbara Kumm |
| Tracy Bauer | Jack Walker |
| Khloe Bauer | Nate Keller |
| Rebekah Pavlish | Eric Klutz |

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

No anniversary celebrations this week

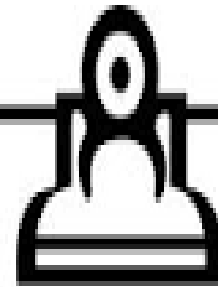
LIFE MOMENT

Life issues like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with uncertainty. But the Lord our God knows both our worries (Psalm 139:4) and the best way forward. He has already seen (John 1:48) what it will take to save, and He has still chosen life for all humankind, even when we behold only darkness and despair. We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you have not already had your photo taken for Good Shepherd's new pictorial directory, watch for another date in January when photos will be taken. We want to include as many members and regular attenders as possible.

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."
- Abraham Lincoln-



FINANCIAL INFORMATION
JANUARY 7, 2024

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED., JAN 3: 63
MATINS, JAN 4: 40
SUN., JAN 7: 245

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:
\$ 13,748

OUR OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE: \$ 1,636,542.68

Our goal is to pay off the mortgage by 2030. We need \$2,300 per week donated in principal only payments to accomplish this.

Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023
We have received
\$ 10,578.50
in principal only gifts.

Principle Only Gifts from
October 2022- Oct. 1, 2023
\$ 197,307.69

Vicarage Fund 01/07: \$2,9211..68

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Sun., Jan. 14): 8 am: Alan Brodbeck
10:30 am: Terry Fitzgerald
(Wed., Jan. 17): Scott & Dee Indgjer

ELDER TODAY: (Sun., Jan. 14): Matt Phillips
(Wed., Jan. 17): Matt Phillips

USHERS: (Sun., Jan. 14) 8 am: Sidlo, Broadbeck, A & A Von Busch
10:30 am: Klutz, Novak
(Wed., Jan. 17): Kaldahl, Pfeister, A & A Von Busch

ACOLYTES: (Sun., Jan. 14) 8 am: Cole Walker
10:30 am: Gabe Moline
(Wed., Jan. 17): Nolan Keller

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Sun., Jan. 14): Brittani Jackson
(Wed., Jan. 17): Ingrid Ehrich

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Sun., Jan. 14): Wendy Stepp
(Wed., Jan. 17): Arlene Nelson

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Sun., Jan. 14): Gayleen Potter
(Wed., Jan. 17): Arlene Nelson

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., Jan. 14): Joel & Sarah Kaldahl

VOTERS' MEETING

Good Shepherd's semi-annual voters' meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Tuesday, January 30th at 7 pm. Come for information about the decision to request a vicar for the August 2024 — July 2025 year. We will also hear some up-to-date information about other important coming events and opportunities. See you there!

THE AMAZING SOUP COOK-OFF CONTEST

Sunday, January 21st Good Shepherd will hold a soup cook-off at noon(ish) in the fellowship hall. Sign up to make your special soup recipe and compete for the prized "Golden Ladle" trophy. The congregation is invited to attend and rank the soups in order of their favorites. A free-will offering will be taken to support our church library.

A sign-up sheet and contest rules are in the narthex; please sign up by January 17th. A sign-up sheet for donations of cinnamon rolls, cookies, or dessert bars is also in the narthex. Mark your calendars for this opportunity to warm up in the cold month of January, sample some great soups, and have a fun time with good fellowship.

BUILDING FAITH IN THE HOME

The next class in this series of parenting sessions will be on Sexuality and Chastity. Pastor Moline will lead this session on Sunday 1/28/24 following the 10:30 am service. Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch. **Please bring a side or dessert to share.** The children will be able to participate in board games in the classrooms again while the parents meet with Pastor in the fellowship hall for the class after lunch.

GOOD SHEPHERD SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Several of our shut-in members have requested to be listed in the News & Notes in order that members might pray for them.

Ron Amack (at home)
Betty Bluhm (at The Grand Lodge)
Joe & Sharon Burke (at home)
Jim & Peggy Cather (at home)
Elaine Egner (at home)
Shirley Kalina (Pemberly Place)
Janet Kniep (at home)
Tish Loomis (at home)
Dorian Merritt (at home)
Cindi Olson (Country House)
Dean Posner (Holmes Lake Rehab)
Alice Urbach (at home)

Anita Armitstead (at home)
Irma Brandt (Yankee Hill Village)
Jim & Marilyn Carr (at home)
Georgene Duer (at home)
Verneda Gerdes (at home)
Arlyss Ketelsen (at home)
Jerry Kohl (The Woodlands)
Lynda Mahloch (Legacy Estates)

Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Marvin & Joyce Thompson (The Landing)
Don Wiese (Southlake Village)

On the tall table next to the pro-life display is a way for you to send birthday and anniversary greetings to our shut-in members. There are cards to sign or you may write a short note to those having birthdays and anniversaries in the current month. **There are currently no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate among our shut-in members.** Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.



DID YOU KNOW?

KNNA-LP 95.7 The Cross plays the Sunday morning Divine Service in its entirety every Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am. Did you know that the Sunday service is also replayed every Sunday at 7 pm? You can also listen to the 6:30 Wednesday evening service live. Most of the special services, including funerals, are broadcast live as well. Thanks for listening!

PANCAKES FOR PCAN

The congregation is invited to volunteer or attend the **Pancakes for PCAN** benefit on Tuesday, February 6 from 4:00—7:00 pm here at Good Shepherd. The **free-will offering will benefit Lincoln area families experiencing pediatric cancer.** This will be the 10th year Good Shepherd will partner with PCAN (Pediatric Cancer Action Network) in this community outreach fundraiser to reduce the financial burden on families with diagnoses of pediatric cancer and to advocate for a cure through awareness, action, and education. Last year we were able to raise over \$5,000 to help local families with essential needs!

Many volunteers are needed to help with 1 hour shifts. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex. Help is needed on Sunday the 4th, and various times on Monday the 5th. Call or text if you have any questions: Tiffany Walker 402-432-0003. THANK YOU! In case of inclement weather, February 13 is scheduled as a "snow date".

NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE GALA

Plan to attend: 2024 NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE GALA, Friday, January 26, 6pm at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel & NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE, Saturday, January 27, 10 am at the State Capitol, then walk to the UNL Student Union. Keynote speaker for both events is Melissa Ohden, a survivor of an abortion attempt and the founder of the Abortion Survivors Network. Call (402) 4802 for information about the Gala.

Prior to the Walk for Life a service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 12th and H Streets. Coffee and donuts will be served at 8:30 am with the brief service beginning at 9 am.