

CCB Update May 2005

Update from the Director on End-of-Life Issues...

The outcome of the Terri Schiavo case disturbed many of us who believe that human life is sacred.

On April 22, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) Sanctity of Human Life Committee sent out an email statement to all members of the LCMS about the End-Of-Life Decisions. Since I am a member of that committee, I wanted all supporters of the CBI to have a copy of the statement. Here it is verbatim.

To: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

From: LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Committee

Subject: A Statement on End-Of-Life Decisions

Date: April 22, 2005

Recent events in the national headlines have initiated a dialogue among many Americans regarding end of life issues. Many LCMS clergy and laity have found themselves in the midst of this emotional debate, while sometimes struggling for clarity on these various issues themselves.

As Christians, we need to recognize this unique opportunity to become Christ's serving hands and to provide the needed spiritual, emotional, and physical palliative care at the end of a person's earthly life. We can consider it an honor to participate in someone else's preparation for eternal life.

The idea of a "living will" has become almost synonymous with "Advance Medical Directive" in

(which is not diminished by age or infirmity) when He endured such pain and suffering in His death to restore eternal life to mankind.

To be sure, this is a difficult and often confusing area of human existence. People have, and will continue to make mistakes in their decision-making. But Christ's death and resurrection offer forgiveness and comfort for all our decisions and actions in the past, present, and future. We can look to the cross and find relief and forgiveness for our burdened consciences and forgiveness for all sin, known and unknown.

To assist pastors and laity in their healthcare decisions LCMS Life Ministries recommends the following resources:

Lutherans For Life, 1-888-364-LIFE, <http://www.lutheransforlife.org>.

LCMS Life Ministries 1-800-248-1930, <http://worldrelief.lcms.org>.

Christian Life Resources, 1-414-774-1331, www.christianliferesources.com.

Playing God: Redesigning Life, a Bible study by Rev. Dr. Robert Weise, (Concordia Publishing House).

Update on the Concordia Center for Bioethics (Abbreviated CBI)...