

POSITION PAPER

POSITION
ON
ABORTION

Church^{of the}
Lutheran
Brethren

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Position on Abortion

WHEREAS, The members of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America throughout the synod's history have spoken individually to condemn "willful abortion as contrary to the will of God;" and

WHEREAS, We as members of Christian congregations have the obligation to protest this heinous crime against the will of God, a crime legally sanctioned in the United States and other lands; and

WHEREAS, The practice of abortion, its promotion, and legal acceptance are destructive of the moral consciousness and character of the people of any nation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America in convention urgently call upon Christians

1. To hold firmly to the clear Biblical truth that, (a) the living but unborn are "person" in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9 – 11; Ps. 51:5; 139:13 – 17; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:41 – 44); (b) as persons the unborn stand under the full protection of God's own prohibition against murder (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Num. 35:33; Acts 7:19; 1 John 3:15); and (c) since abortion takes a human life, abortion is not a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable by-product of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, viz., the mother; and
2. To speak and act as responsible citizens in the civic and political arena on behalf of the living but unborn, to secure for these defenseless persons due protection under the law; and
3. To offer as an alternative to abortion supportive understanding, compassion and help to the expectant parent(s) and family, and to foster concern for the unwanted babies, encouraging agencies and families to open hearts and homes to these children in their need for family; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America earnestly encourage its pastors, teachers, officers and boards

1. To warn, publicly and privately (Prov. 31:8 – 9) against the sin of abortion;
2. To instruct the community of God that abortion is not in the realm of Christian liberty, private choice, personal opinion, or political preference;

3. To nurture a deep reverence and gratitude for God's gracious gift of human life;
4. To oppose in a responsible way attitudes and policies in congregations, schools, hospitals, and other institutions within their sphere of influence and work which suggest that abortion is a matter of personal choice;
5. To support the efforts of responsible pro-life groups in their communities; and
6. To promote clear instruction of Christians morality in our homes, schools, and churches, showing the blessings and safeguards inherent in God's will for sexual chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage; and
7. To teach the biological, social and parental functions of child-bearing within our Lutheran Brethren schools and churches; and
8. To support the efforts to secure the Human Life Amendment to the United States Constitution;
9. To show love and compassion to those who have had abortions and show them through the Gospel that there is a way of forgiveness.

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