

**From your pastor...**

**KEEP IT BETWEEN THE MAYO  
AND THE MUSTARD!**

There's nothing as frustrating as putting your car in the ditch and having to be towed out. At best, it's inconvenient, embarrassing, and maybe expensive. At worst it could leave you with a totaled car, severe injuries, or even worse. It's much better to, as truckers say, "keep it between the mayo and the mustard." (I.e. between the white and yellow lines of a lane)

When we look at God's Word, there are often ditches to avoid as well. Using our human reason and logic to take a Biblical teaching to its extreme can often land us in a ditch. The coronavirus has exposed a couple of ditches that Christians have struggled not to fall into since long before 2020.

The first ditch is the "God has everything in his control, so it doesn't matter what I do, and all this talk about Covid-19 precautions displays a lack of trust in God," ditch, often known as fatalism. The Bible tells us that God is indeed in control of all things: "When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?" (Amos 3:6) Other passages encourage us to trust in God entirely; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Clearly God is in control and we can and should trust him, but not to the point where we are poor caretakers of what he has given us. God describes our bodies as living "temples" that are not our own (1 Corinthians 6:19), and expects that our faith will show itself through how we take care of what we have been given. (Romans 2:6, 14:12) God expects us to trust in him and make

wise decisions to take care of our health and the health of others to the best of our ability.

On the other side of the road is the other ditch, the, “God expects me to take care of my body and health, and he has put it in my hands, so I must take every precaution possible, and trust that the precautions and decisions I take and make will keep me safe,” ditch. Although it can be, this ditch isn’t necessarily a failure to trust in God. After all, the Bible clearly indicates that God generally provides for and protects us through natural means: “He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth.” (Psalm 104:14) In James 5:14,15, James seems to encourage sick believers to seek medical attention in the form of oil applied medicinally. The danger of this ditch is not in using reason and medicine and the tools that God has given us or recognizing that God generally takes care of us with such means. The danger is forgetting that God is at work through those means. Moses warned the Israelites of this danger in Deuteronomy 8:10-11, 17-18: “When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God... You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”

As a congregation, we are committed to keeping it “between the mayo and the mustard.” In faith we must reject the temptation to do nothing and expect God to care for us miraculously. Even though he can certainly do that, he calls us to be wise stewards of our gifts, including our bodies and health, so that we can continue to use everything we have to glorify him. At the same time, as we take precautions, and do our best to make decisions that will protect what God has given us and enable us to reach more of our members and

more of our community, we do so recognizing that everything we do falls under God's direction and control.

As individual members, we can walk the line between these ditches too. Trust in God. He's in control of all things, and promises to work them for your eternal good! What amazing confidence you can have! Make wise choices and take good care of the blessings God has entrusted to you as he calls you to do. What an amazing honor to serve and glorify him like that! Regard your brothers and sisters in faith with love and patience as they do the same.

God bless you as you stay out of the ditches!

- Pastor Wilde

This newsletter includes a survey that the church council has asked all Salem members to fill out. It will help council to better understand the thoughts and attitudes of our entire membership concerning Covid-19. Please take the time to fill it out, whether online or by paper. It will provide helpful information for council as they make plans for the coming months. Please keep the council in your prayers, and remember that our goal as a congregation is not always to be our own personal comfort, but love for others and a desire to reach as many members and guests with the gospel as possible.



**If you would like to take the survey online instead of on paper, use this code to access the online version.**

## From our Church Council:

Financial Report as of September 30	
	Year to Date
Total Receipts	\$201,172.58
Total Expenses	\$197,451.62
Difference	\$ 3,720.96
Owed to internal line of credit:	\$0

Our church properties board reported that the new door signs at school have been put on as well as the new sign for the driveway between the school and house. We are on the schedule for our new school windows to be installed.

**We were happy to have the The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra group here on October 18<sup>th</sup>. If you missed it, you can watch the service by going to our YouTube channel: Salem Owosso**



# School Sports Soccer



Michigan Lutheran Seminary is proud to announce our fall musical, *In-Laws, Outlaws, and Other People (That Should Be Shot)*, coming to you November 20-22, 2020.

**MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY PRESENTS:**

**In-Laws**  
**OUTLAWS**  
**& Other**  
**People**  
*(that should be shot)*  
**NOVEMBER 20-22, 2020**



Desperate to hide out from the police, two small time crooks - Tony and Vinny - take the Douglas family hostage right as they're sitting down to a Christmas dinner! But Tony is clearly flying by the seat of his pants and Vinny is too dimwitted to be much help. The two bumbling criminals have the tables turned on them, becoming hostages themselves at an uncomfortable, awkward family dinner! Will the crooks escape the awkwardness or will their geeses get cooked along with the Christmas ham?

We will have limited seating available and the show will be live-streamed. You can reserve your tickets or your very own, free streaming pass at [www.mlsem.org/fall-play](http://www.mlsem.org/fall-play) starting on Tuesday, November 10 at 10:00 a.m. We hope you will be able to join us!



# SPEAKING UP

Volume 7 - Issue 3 - September/October 2020



...for the Pregnancy Care Centers of Flint and Saginaw; and encouraging area WELS and ELS members & congregations to continue to support this ministry with their prayers, participation, and financial gifts. Our Centers are affiliated with Christian Life Resources, (CLR), a parasynodical organization of WELS.

## **FLINT CENTER**

5154 Miller Rd, Suite H  
Flint, MI 48507  
(810) 762-1262  
flintpcc.org

## **SAGINAW CENTER**

916 Gratiot Ave  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
(989) 752-7664  
saginawpcc.org

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## **MORE EFFECTIVE THAN VOTING IN NOVEMBER!**

God's Word is clear. Life is a precious gift from God. Unborn babies are individual human beings. Ending the life of another human being under any circumstances other than acting as an agent of the government is wrong. Christians rightly identify abortion as a sin against God that robs a child of their time of grace. Working to prevent abortion is a worthy and godly cause. However, Christians make the mistake of identifying the presidential election every 4 years as the most effective means of championing that cause. Each election brings the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate into the spotlight, and it is common to hear Christians urging other Christians to vote for a specific candidate based only on their stance on abortion, sometimes even going so far as to say it's wrong to vote any other way or with any other issue in mind.

Despite these strong assertions, statistics seem to show that the sitting president has little to no effect on abortion rates in our country. Abortion rates have dropped continually through the past several decades, despite the party of the presidents in office. After continuing to decline through President Obama's administration, abortion rates reached an historic low in 2017. (We can praise God for that!) Even Supreme Court nominations seem to have had little meaningful impact on national abortion rates. In contrast, elections and policies on the local and state levels have been shown to have significantly more influence. While a presidential candidate's abortion views are worth taking

into consideration, Christians who want to make a difference with their vote will do well to educate themselves and give special attention to local and state elections. Even then, voting isn't the most effective way to combat abortion in our country.

Research conducted by the University of Norte Dame provides some insight. A recent survey concluded that 2/3 of Americans fall somewhere between the extremes of "pro-choice" or "pro-life." More encouragingly, it also showed that the overwhelming majority of Americans on all sides of the issue view abortion as something to be avoided.

What does this all mean? It means that even though it might feel like Christians are fighting an uphill battle against an evil the world is set on, the battle might not be that much uphill at all. Trying to force abortion to stop by political action or legislation might not be necessary, if few people actually see it as a desirable outcome.

There is something more effective, more powerful: Christian love! Christian love and support for families and mothers, looks like this: showing that Christians care about helping and saving, not just forcing opinions on others, helping a young and scared mother see that she does have another way, that her life isn't over, that there are people who will love and care for her and her baby and ask for nothing in return. That's what the PCCs are all about, and God is blessing our work!

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## EARLY THANKSGIVING

We are celebrating an early Thanksgiving at the Pregnancy Care Centers because the mortgage has been paid off! We thank God for making this possible through the generous supporters of our ministry. Having the mortgage paid off frees up funds to be used more directly to support mothers, children, and families in our area. We look forward to seeing how God will bless these efforts!

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## SUPPLY DONATIONS

Donated supplies support the ministry of the Pregnancy Care Centers of Flint and Saginaw. Check with your congregation to see if you have any leftover cradle roll materials that are no longer needed. Our centers could put those materials to good use. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to have need for additional volunteers. The Flint Center especially needs mentors and receptionists. Please pray that God will fill our centers' needs for workers, and consider whether you might be able to volunteer, even on a limited basis. Every hour counts!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00 am Communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Communion 1:30 pm Public Confirmation Class	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Online Bible Class	<b>3</b> 10:30 am Bible Class in church	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Worship Service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship 1:30 pm Public Confirmation Class	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:30 am Bible Class in church	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Communion Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00 am Communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Communion 1:30 pm Public Confirmation Class	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Online Bible Class	<b>17</b> 10:30 am Bible Class in church 5:30 pm BCE 6:15 pm Church Properties 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Worship Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship 1:30 pm Public Confirmation Class	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Online Bible Class	<b>24</b> 10:30 am Bible Class in church	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Service	<b>26</b> No school 10:00 am Thanksgiving Service	<b>27</b> No school	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:00 am Communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Communion 1:30 pm Public Confirmation Class	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Online Bible Class					

## Serving in November

### Altar Helpers

Pat Bare  
Barb Manausa  
Carol Hanchett

### Ushers

Early	Late	Th: Chuck Spalding
Ken Spalding	Russel Mallery	
Gary Svarc	Allyn Schultz	

### Opening/Closing

Nov 1	E Perry	K DePeal	5	E Perry
8	D Doederlein	K Lahmann	12	P Strauch
15	E Perry	R Jensen	19	K Lahmann
22	E Perry	D DePeal	25 7PM	26 10AM
29	D Doederlein	K Lahmann	Dec 3	D Doederlein

### Radio Room

<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>
Sam Norder	David Meiers