



Stratford and District Right to Life

# NEWSLETTER

September 2024  
Newsletter No.172

STRATFORD AND DISTRICT RIGHT TO LIFE IS A PRO-LIFE, non-denominational organization of individuals who believe that all life - before and after birth - has a right to care and protection. We try to serve as a centre of information on the abortion issue, and to reach out to all Canadians concerning the preservation and dignity of human life, and also to urge one to take action in our democratic society.

## CONTACT US AT

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[www.stratfordright2life.ca](http://www.stratfordright2life.ca)

## Prayer Calendar Intentions

That the Canadian government will respect and value human life, ending abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide (MAiD); help for all women in crisis pregnancies; for all families affected by abortion; in support of conscience rights for doctors, nurses and health care workers; for freedom of speech and religion

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings call Glenn  
519-616-3536 for time and location.

### Picketing

To be held the last Thursday  
of the month 4-5pm in front of LHSC.  
Call Terry Miller: 519-393-8400

### Life Chain

Sunday October 6th, 2-3pm  
Call Pat Bannon 519-273-1616

3 Stratford Locations:

Ontario St @ CH Meier Blvd  
(Walmart)

Ontario St @ Waterloo St. S  
(Popeye's)

Huron St. @ Mornington St.  
(St. Joseph's CC)

### 4Life London Gala

### Abby Johnson VIP speaker

Thursday Oct 24th 5:30pm

Call 519-659-3334

### 40 Days For Life

### 4Life London

800 Commissioners Rd E

Call 519-659-3334

## President's Message

### **LIFE CHAIN Sunday October 6th 2-3pm**

Every Year across Canada, people who value human life hold the most peaceful, yet powerful, regular protest against abortion at over 300 locations from local church frontages to city centers! For just one (1) hour people stand silently along the side of the road holding respectful signs extolling the blessedness of life and proclaiming simple truths about abortion - ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN, ABORTION HURTS WOMEN, ADOPTION IS A LOVING OPTION.

This year again in Stratford 3 life chains will be amassed along our King's Hwy. #8 artery through the city at Walmart on Ontario Street @ CH Meier Blvd., Popeye's on Ontario Street @ Waterloo Street S., and at St. Joseph's CC on Huron Rd. @ Mornington Street. Please consider standing up for these babies in the womb and letting our community know that they are all precious!

Signs will be provided (or bring your own) along with prayer instructions for this silent vigil. A time of fellowship and refreshments will be held starting at 3pm in the St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 39 Hibernia Street (next to St. Joseph's CC). Please come to both. Contact Pat Bannon at 519-273-1616 for more information.

Please advertise this event and put up the poster at your church (with their permission of course)

### **Abby Johnson Gala October 24th 5:30pm**

4Life London and Choose Life Elgin groups are hosting this powerful speaker with the amazing history of once being a Planned Parenthood Director and about whom the movie "Unplanned" is based upon as their speaker for their Gala Dinner at the Hellenic Community Center, 133 Southdale Rd. W., London ON on Thursday October 24th. Tickets are \$75 a person and you must RSVP by October 5th to 519-659-3334 or online at: <https://4lifelondon.ca/event/gala-2024/>. Call me if you would like to car pool from Stratford area... Glenn Kahle 519-616-3536

### **40 Days For Life Vigil**

This prayer & sign protest lasting from September 25th to November 3rd will be taking place on the same corner as our monthly abortion picketing occurs at 800 Commissioners Rd. E., in London ON If you can help or participate in any way, call 519-659-3334 or go online to <http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/london> to sign up. If you can show up for 1 hour a week or even 1 hour a month, please join us to pull off this powerful witness!

### **Membership**

Has its rewards (information, association and encouragement) so PLEASE renew OR take out a Stratford & District Right To Life Association membership. And thank you for your support! See Membership Renewal form inserted.

Join Us! Choose Life!

GOD is Good!

*Glenn Kahle*

## **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**National 24 Hr Help Line**  
**1-800-665-0570**  
**888-217-8679**

### **Birthright**

Pregnancy Centre (Kitchener)  
96 Highland Road West, Unit 1  
Kitchener, ON N2M 3B5  
519-579-3990

**KW Resource Centre**  
519-886-4001

**Help After Abortion**  
1-800-395-HELP

### **Homes for Pregnant Moms**

St. Monica House  
231 Herbert Street  
Waterloo, ON N2J 1V1  
519-743-0291

Marillac Place  
109 Young Street  
Kitchener ON N2H 4Z2  
519-571-0722

### **Fresh Start Support Services**

Karen Schouten  
Phone: 1-519-637-7775  
Fax: 1-866-245-1774  
Cell: 1-519-639-5841  
118 Centre Street  
St. Thomas, ON N5R 2Z9

### **Sisters of Life**

Pregnancy Help and Hope & Healing  
Call 416 463 2722  
Text: 647 794 9414

### **Abortion Pill Reversal**

Time is of the essence  
For more information or  
immediate medical help,  
immediately call the  
Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) hotline at:  
(877) 558-0333.

The goal is to start the abortion pill  
treatment within 24 hours of taking the  
Abortion Pill mifepristone (RU 486)

### **Fertility Care**

NaPro  
<https://www.fertilitycare.ca/>  
Charting method that reveals  
underlying issues that can impede  
conception of a healthy baby:  
<https://creightonmodel.com/>



*Stratford and District Right to Life*

# **NEWS!**

## **Our Beloved Virginia!**

It has been longer than I have been on this organization's board that this gentle Christian lady has been the editor and chair of the S&DRTL newsletter committee and who was the new president when I joined 5 years ago. She has worn both hats well but incurred a very serious stroke the week following our annual family day (and picnic) this June. Her losses originally were total on her left side but with many, many prayers seeking the grace of our Heavenly Father & Great Physician and the care of the medical doctors, nurses and physio therapists at Stratford hospital, the love and attention of Terry her husband & her daughter Veronica and the determination of this warrior of the Lord's, she is back at home and come a long way to a substantial recovery. So this edition of our newsletter is the first (in many years) without her at the helm looking after the many details of research, sourcing good information and unapologetically reminding us that LIFE is of GOD, a gift from Him, His to give and only His to end (determination of our days)!

She has already been back to worship and guided me through some of the things to do to keep the sanctity of LIFE before you so that all may know who is The Way, The Truth and The LIFE... our LORD and Saviour Jesus, The Christ (GOD with Us - Emmanuel). We look forward to her participating with us as the LORD determines. GOD bless our Virginia Miller to be with us for many days to come.

## **In Memoriam**

GOD also brings into our midst many others who have supported this organization. We remember those members who have been called home to their eternal reward; Catherine Culligan, David Kittmer, Annie Poppe, Richard Skinner, Ria Dewit, Edith Harper and Donna Kittmer.

## **Recent Board Changes**

Paul and Leire Douros recently moved to London ON. Leire became our secretary completing the term of office of long time serving member Carla Revington. Both Paul and Leire are involved with the Canadian Center for Bio-ethical Reform, the Toronto March For Life and Young Adults movement. We wish them GOD's blessings.

Our present board consists of Pat Bannon (Past President and Life Chain Chair), Mary Horenberg (Pregnancy Care Centers Chair), Mary Kay Lobsinger (Treasurer), Terry Miller (Picket Chair), Virginia Miller, Patrick Murphy, Jacob Runstedler, Tony Rybka (Membership Chair), Jared Thorne (new Secretary, AGM and Resources Chair), and Glenn Kahle (Chair & President). Other committee chairs/non board members are Tom Diemand (Billboard Chair), and Robert Van Ryswyk (Social Media Chair).

We appreciate the members who volunteer to help with so many projects/activities and welcome your suggestions and willingness to step up to accomplish them.

# Considerations Regarding Vaccinations Derived From Fetal Stem Cell Research

*This short essay is an in depth but well worth the read commentary on the question Vaccines...How Ethical Are They?*

Lutherans are caught in a moral dilemma. Our Church is overtly anti-abortion, which includes opposing all technologies that are derived from abortion and murdered fetuses. And yet, most of us have unhesitatingly received vaccinations, undergone medical procedures, and received medications that have been derived from fetal stem cell technology.

Canada boasts third place as the largest global spender per capita on pharmaceuticals, with the USA and Germany ranking at the top.[1] That means, not only are Canadians unusually ill or likely overmedicated, but decisions about fetal stem cells are very relevant due to the rapidly expanding use of fetal stem cells in pharmaceutical research.[2]

One of the subjects that I taught as a professor at CLTS was ethics. The intention of this paper is to offer some principles for consideration in Christian decision making. I myself refused the COVID "vaccinations"[3], one reason being that they utilize fetal stem cell technology in their manufacturing. However, I am not without guilt. For many years as a military chaplain deploying overseas, I unquestioningly received dozens of vaccinations which I only later learned contained fetal tissue and were derived from fetal stem cells. Yet, I have repented of those sins and now seek to help stop other Christians from making the same mistake. For it was only during the recent pandemic that I was forced to investigate this topic and was horrified by my discoveries. However, even today, many Lutheran Canadians proudly state that they would make the same decision on COVID injections despite their newfound knowledge that these injections are incompatible with Pro-Life values. This is shameful. I hope they change their minds. Maybe they will after reading this short essay.



Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau (a Canadian pastor, army chaplain and professor of 20 years, presently the President of Lutheran Classical College, Casper Wyoming, USA) recently sent this paper to Lutherans For Life Canada.

Before discussing the guiding principles in decision making the next time you consider a vaccination, I would like to share with you some, albeit horrible descriptions of what fetal stem cell research looks like in the laboratory. The book, *The Fetus As Transplant Donor: The Scientific, Social, and Ethical Perspectives*, by Peter McCullagh,[4] reports on the methods used in harvesting fetal tissue in Sweden:

"They would puncture the sac of a pregnant woman at 14 to 16 weeks, put a clamp on the head of the baby, pull the head down into the neck of the womb, drill a hole into the baby's head and attach a suction machine to remove the brain cells...At 16 to 21 weeks, they would do prostaglandin abortions where a chemical is injected into the womb causing the woman to go into a mini-labor and pass the baby. Fifty percent of the time, the baby would be born alive, but that didn't stop them....They would simply open up the abdomen of the baby with no anesthesia, and take out the liver and kidneys, etc."

Here's some more quick scientific details on the aborted cell line products used:

"PER C6 came from a healthy 18-week-old baby who was aborted for social reasons. This tumorigenic strain is being used to develop adenovirus, Ebola, influenza, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV vaccines. Developers call it a 'human designer cell' but what they really mean is 'aborted baby cells.' The HEK293 cell line is derived from the kidneys of a healthy aborted fetus and is being used to develop new influenza vaccines. The IMR-90 cell line came from a 16-week-old female aborted baby and IMR-91 came from a male aborted baby. Both were created for vaccine production and functional references. The WI-38 (RA 273) was a 16-week-old female baby (20 cm long) who was aborted in Sweden because the parents felt they had too many children. The baby was packed on ice and sent to the United States where it was dissected. The use of WI-38 cells is a lucrative moneymaking business. The WI-1 through WI-25 cell strains were derived from the lung, skin, muscle, kidney, heart, thyroid, thymus, and liver of 21 separate elective abortions. WI-44 was derived from the lung of a three-month old surgically aborted fetus. MCR-5 cell line was derived from the lung tissue

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of a 14-week-old male (Britain). Eighty elective abortions (recorded) were involved in the research and final production of the current rubella vaccine: 21 from the original WI-1 through WI-26 fetal cell lines that failed, plus WI-38 itself, plus 67 from the attempts to isolate the rubella virus.”[5]

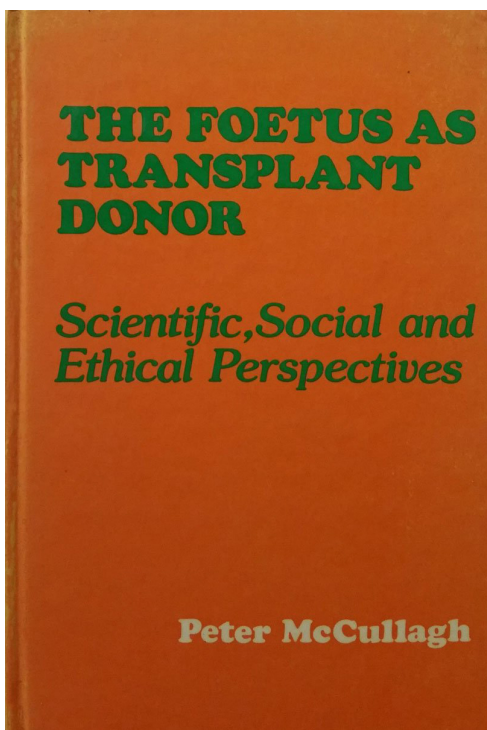
I realize that this information is disturbing, which is why our synod and all Pro-Life Churches are theoretically opposed to fetal stem cell research. Yet, the fact that Lutherans and Church leaders of all conservative denominations received vaccinations without considering the controversial dimension of the “vaccinations” during the recent pandemic, demonstrates the need for training in Christian ethics.

Firstly, two arguments for Lutherans succumbing to the temptation of receiving a vaccination that they were morally uncomfortable with was fear of the physical and social consequences of not receiving it. During the recent “pandemia,” Lutherans were terrified that they would die from COVID, and health concerns were more important than any other moral considerations. At best, they bought into the mainstream narrative that taking “the jab” would help others, such as the elderly and immune-compromised. Questioning the science or ethics was perceived as selfish. Peer pressure included: “Everyone is doing it”. “You deserve to travel”. “Don’t ask questions, just follow the party line”. Many pastors who knew the differences between vaccines, and knew their controversial character, chose to not raise the issues, arguably an abuse of their authority. Not all brands were produced from the same fetal stem cell research and thus moral distinctions could have been made between them. Instead “This is no time for theological heroics”, one pastor is recorded as saying. It’s shocking. The moment that we cease to filter all of life’s issues through a theological lens, we demonstrate that we are no different than the world around us, a world that we claim that we despise (Rom 12:2). In our words and our silence, we failed in our response as a Church and are guilty of grave sins before heaven. We knew these injections were controversial and for very good reason and did not even take the time to seriously discuss the matter. In many cases discussion was actively prevented and shut down. The government works for God and not the other way around. We rendered unto Caesar what is God’s. In the best-case scenario, we can argue that our fear clouded our ability to reason. Yet unless we learn from our mistakes and repent of our sins, we will make the same mistakes again. Yet God is good to us in Christ, and after confession and repentance, we find a God eagerly waiting for us with his outstretched arms of love, ready to forgive our sins. “[I]f we are faithless, he remains faithful” (2 Tim 2:13).

The bottom line is that as Christians we know that two wrongs do not make a right. Utilitarian arguments such as “the means justifies ends” are refuted by the Lord’s convicting words of Law.

Yet still the old sinful Adam always tries to find a clever way of justifying bad behaviour. Some Christians argue that unless they feel bad about something, it is not a sin. This is based on a misinterpretation of Romans 2:15, as if to say that the only judge of what is sin for you as an individual is feelings that you have in your conscience. If your conscience is not troubling you, then you must be clear with God. Well, truth be told, your conscience could be misinformed. You could cause a car accident by driving poorly and never realize it. You are still guilty for that sin despite your ignorance. You are still guilty for sins you do not know or feel in your heart. Consider the Nuremberg Trials prosecuting Nazis after WWII. One was still considered guilty for serious crimes despite lack of full knowledge of all the details and circumstances of the situation in question. We require forgiveness for both sins of which we are aware and unaware. God is eager to forgive them all, and we can only confess those that we know, and we ought never invent sins to “cover our bases”. But an honest confession of the mouth presumes a careful examination of the heart. And we dare never ignore the accusations of the Law when newfound knowledge reveals sins that were previously hidden in the darkness of personal ignorance. Certainly, the punishment varies according to knowledge (those who know more or have more power/influence are held more responsible: See Luke 12:48) but no one is “off the hook” just because they didn’t know better, and nobody told them the whole story. And there is certainly no excuse when it comes to choosing to be misinformed. Such lazy and childish responses reflect irresponsible stewardship of our bodies and neglect of our divine purpose in society as Christians whom God uses as His witnesses and influencers in a changing the world.

Because clergy largely failed in raising these discussions before the COVID injections were being pumped out, many pastors were deliberately not raising



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questions in order to circumvent division within their congregations under the utilitarian argument: "its not worth losing members over this. We will hurt their feelings. Many members have already taken a dose and they can't undo the past. We don't want anyone feeling guilty". With such weak and pathetic arguments, pastors consoled themselves that they were being kind shepherds, instead of protecting the sheep from the wolves of the world that seek to devour human children through abortion. Ostensibly, we don't necessarily lie, but we don't tell the whole truth, or hold back information that Christians need to know. Misinformation included faulty arguments to artificially soothe consciences such as the use of the laughable "remote distance of evil" argument: the aborted babies from which we benefitted were murdered several decades ago. In short, you are not guilty for the action of others. The act is too far removed from you personally to make you accountable for the act to any mentionable degree. If this logic was Christian, we could deny the guilt for which we are responsible accrued by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Sins took place thousands of years ago for which we are still responsible. We call it original sin. And this is why Christ died for all sinners, including you and I, and not just our first parents. This is why we are baptized at birth even though we haven't had much time to commit any deliberate sins.

In reconciling a crisis of conscience, some have tried to heroize the sacrifice of those poor children who died for the sake of the scientific industry, comparing them with Christ our Lord, joining voices with Caiphas, the enemy of Christ (John 11:50). The difficulty here is not only that it is intuitively crass, but these children had no choice in this apparent martyrdom. This is like saying, "I killed a man in order to save my own life. That man is such a hero!" One cannot escape the reality that murder is murder. Some claim that only a very few babies were killed long ago for the benefit of the science from which we now profit. Even if that were true, which it is not, since in selecting and then harvesting the healthiest stem cells from one child, one needs to slaughter a lot of others[6], it does not change our level of guilt. Christians should be the first to stand up for the one lost sheep. Furthermore, allowing fetal stem cell research and product development to continue will lead to more and more abortions to satisfy the demand since the existing "immortal" cell lines are not in fact immortal but will need to be replaced at some point resulting in the vivisection of many more fetuses. In fact, there are many ways to make products that achieve the same goals and objectives, that do not use fetal stem cells. However, many have fallen out of production due to lack of demand stemming from lack of concern. In other words, if Christians would begin to stand against these sinful practices, the companies would resort to other ethical methods of research and production.[7] We shouldn't be surprised that our faith can have such a positive impact on civil society. The best of Western culture is a direct consequence of Christian decision-making.

The strongest argument for compromising on any ethical or moral decision is the one that states that nobody can ever act completely consistently because we are imperfect sinners in a complex broken world. "Because I am not able be entirely consistent, I may as well not bother trying. After all, nobody's perfect". Yet any sensible Christian must flee from such argument arising from an unbelieving and unsanctified heart. God will be our judge when we stop trying to do right even in midst of gray world. Life is filled with daily decisions. We mess many of them up. But we are not excused. We don't say "because I messed up similar ones in the past, and, because I am a sinner, I will mess up again in the future, I may as well not try to do better." Such thinking is rebuked by St. Paul in Rom 6:1 in which he addresses lukewarm Christians who are abusing the grace of God.

A line of reasoning that shrugs its shoulders in matters such as these, quickly tumbles into a heresy called "antinomianism". Because I am freed from the Law, I don't need to care about obeying God's law as a Christian. Luther's famous quote about "sinning boldly but believing more surely", is often employed as an excuse for making bad decisions that are promised to be forgiven afterwards. Instead of fearing God by putting Him to the test, those who misquote Luther here believe that because the blood of Jesus covers all your sins – past, present and future – great faith imagines any judgement as inconceivable, temporally and eternally. Yet the context of Luther's words was an encouragement to be honest in your private confession, and not hold back anything from our loving Lord in that sacrament. He was not addressing questions of ethics. Yet even so, if one wishes to apply this phrase to ethics as a way of approaching a situation where either decision is polluted by sin (i.e. a "best of two evils" situation), one still needs to admit that the decision is sinful. In this case, those who received injections polluted by fetal stem cells because they believe they had no choice, should not celebrate the act (e.g. boasting about it, tempting others to follow their example, publicizing it, etc.) but undergo it in a repentant attitude begging that God have mercy on us all, and that He come back soon to save us from this dark world in which we believe that we are forced to make compromised decisions. Is this how Christians and churches reacted to the vaccines/injections? Instead, most continue to dismiss, cancel or demonize those who underscore the controversial nature of these injections and vaccines.

If I am sick with the flu, I cannot help displaying the symptoms of it (like being grumpy, vomiting non-stop, etc.). My behaviour is explained by the illness. But that does not mean that I am excused from my acts and words. I am accountable for my words and deeds. The mess of things I make in and by my illness is my fault, my own fault, and no

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***Prayer for Canada***

Lord God, I thank You today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sister.

I know there is nothing that destroys more lives than abortion. Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the resurrection of Your Son. I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.

Today, I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn.

I commit myself to be active in the Pro-Life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected and Canada once again becomes a country which respects life from conception to natural death. Not just for some, but for all, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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one else's fault. Sin explains our behaviour but does not excuse it. Yet many Lutherans dismissed or trivialized the topic of the COVID injections saying "it's a grey world. Everything is controversial. We are all by nature hypocrites. If I say no to this vax, what about the others I have taken. What about the ones upcoming? We can't be consistent and must rejoice that we are forgiven. Sin boldly". This is a severely dangerous and unchristian attitude. We complain about the loss of young people in our Church. The youth are watching us. Are we proud of the example that we are setting forth? Repent. And then remember that your loving Saviour is waiting to embrace you with His mercy. Furthermore, there is an unparalleled joy and relief that comes with a heart unburdened by sin.

It takes a lot of work to be Christian today amid an increasingly anti-Christian culture. We are saved by grace, but Jesus never promised an easy ride. He said it would be a bumpy road of suffering and persecution. Picking up your cross and following Jesus includes evaluating the authorities in your life according to the word of God and addressing areas where their messages do not align with the Lord's. Your family doctor is no exception. Besides, he or she is a generalist and not a scientist, and likely not a theologian. So that means that you need to do your own research, and yes there are competing scientific narratives, and power politics and money often determines the "science" that ends up being displayed as authoritative through the mainstream media. It's hard to determine the truth in these latter days when information is no longer free flowing. So, at the very least, remember this: "vaccine hesitancy" is bad for business and there are many things that your family doctor either doesn't know, isn't sharing with you, or isn't concerned about. Don't make him or her into your god and blindly trust his or her decision regarding what you inject into your body. "Your" body is not your body. God made it. It's His. You are a steward over a temple redeemed by Christ. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor 6:19-20). Out of a love and respect for yourself and the unborn, take the time to research, reflect and pray for a mercy that God is more eager to give than we are to receive. God is ready to heal us all. Let's try our best not to get in the way!

[1] Pharmaceutical spending per capita in selected countries in 2022. Statista. Published by Matej Mikulic, Aug 22, 2023. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/266141/pharmaceutical-spending-per-capita-in-selected-countries/>; accessed Dec 21, 2023.

[2] The use of stem cells as research tools has expanded with most of the major pharmaceutical companies Pharma's Developing Interest in Stem Cells. Cell Stem Cell 6, June 4, 2010 Elsevier Inc. 5. Volume 6, Issue 6, 4 June 2010, Pages 517-520. Ruth McKernan 1, John McNeish 2, Devyn Smith 3 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1934590910002225>. P. 517; accessed Dec 22, 2023.

[3] The reason "vaccinations" are in italics is that mRNA injections are a form of experimental gene therapy and not actually vaccines in the traditional sense.

[4] Peter McCullagh, *The Foetus as Transplant Donor: Scientific, Social and Ethical Perspectives* (Wiley, 1987),

[5] The COVID "vaccines" used the HEK293 stem line in their development.

[6] The healthiest stem cells are harvested and then modified, "immortalizing" them for continued replication and reuse. However, this typically involves many attempts with cells from a number of fetuses before success. Hence, it's not just one abortion but many abortions that go into the development of any one fetal cell line.

[7] "The Vatican... in 2005, [expected] that Christians' objections would eventually lead to alternative vaccines. Unfortunately, the guidance did little to disrupt the widespread acceptance of vaccines using fetal cell lines. Rather, in 2009, Merck discontinued the separate measles and mumps vaccines, and offered them only as a combination with the rubella vaccine as MMR or MMRV, both of which use fetal cell lines. Yet developing and manufacturing vaccines that do not use fetal cell lines is quite possible. Japanese manufacturers have produced both rubella and hepatitis A vaccines using nonhuman cell sources. However, they are not licensed for use in the United States." Gifford Grobien, "As Long As Vaccines Are Tied To Abortion, Christians Need Exemptions", *The Federalist*. May 6, 2020. <https://thefederalist.com/2020/05/06/as-long-as-vaccines-are-tied-to-abortion-christians-need-exemptions/>; accessed Jan 28, 2024.



# LIFE CHAIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024

Join thousands across Canada standing against abortion in a peaceful, prayerful demonstration!



# Dignity and Compassion: *Hospice Care vs. Euthanasia*

*By Rev. Ken Maher, Parish Pastor of Christ Our Hope LC, Collingwood ON*

- Hospice care beginnings explained
- Hospice in the Canadian context
  - 90% of North Americas today die slowly from debilitating disease.
  - 70-75% die in institutions (where formerly more died at home)
  - Hospice got people out of hospitals where the focus was on healing, and dying people in hospital came to be seen as failures within the hospital system.
  - People need good symptom control and human presence. In the hospice facility, end of life care is emphasized over cure. Pain management is given top priority in patient comfort care.
- Hospice and MAiD in the current culture. MAiD soon to take over the fourth leading cause of death (84,000 Canadians). In Quebec, MAiD is the cause of 7% of all deaths.
- More and more Canadians are led to believe that they have no other choice than to choose MAiD.
- An issue is whether Hospice should be forced to offer MAiD.
- Arguments for MAiD within hospice:
  - It's expedient. Answer: Isaiah 55:8f.
  - We wouldn't treat our animals this way. Answer: 1 Corinthians 6:19f.
  - It helps prevent the unnecessary prolonging of life. Answer: Psalm 31:14f.
  - Certain life is not worth living. Answer: 2 Corinthians 12:9f.
  - Not wanting to be a burden. But there is no duty to die. Answer: Galatians 6:2
  - Suffering leads to an undignified death. Answer: 1 Corinthians 10:12-14

## **What is a Christian response?**

- Dignity is a character trait. Dignity is not as exalted as many make it, certainly not so in the Bible. The serpent's appeal was to man's dignity by claiming the forbidden fruit.
- Compassion however is a very prominent concept in the Bible.
- All life is a gift of God. Job 10:12; Acts 17:25.
- The 5th Commandment & Small Catechism Explanation, which includes despising anyone else's life no matter their condition.
- Death is already defeated. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

## **Dignity or Compassion: Problems with integrating MAiD into Hospice:**

1. It confuses the person (dying) with the problem (pain, suffering, etc.). You don't treat the pain by removing the person. Answer: Revelation 2:10
2. It destroys trust. People need to know they are respected and safe. MAiD gives frightening power to a professional and the state. Matthew 5:37
3. It causes fear and doubt among the most vulnerable. Jeremiah 22:3
4. It doesn't remove suffering ... it only transfers it to others. cf. The Good Samaritan
5. It denies the Hippocratic oath and makes hospice care providers complicit in killing. Hospice care is not the same as palliative care.

## **What to do?**

- Speak up! – to individuals – to elected officials. Proverbs 31:8f.
- Volunteer! Matthew 25:37-40
- Life is a life of forgiveness! Christ died for all – including the uninformed and wrong believing. Ephesians 4:32
- Live a life that celebrates life – this one is fun. Celebrate milestones. Luke 15:31f.
- Finally, Romans 14:7-9, we live to the Lord!

A copy of the above presentation in its' entirety is available by contacting Judy Obelnycki at:  
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