

### *From the Pastor's Desk...*

#### **"Euthanasia and the Christian"**

*The following is a portion of the article "Euthanasia and the Christian" written by Pastor Matt Kaufman. The full article can be seen online at the Lutherans For Life website.*

The most alarming trend in American society is the devaluation of human life. This first became apparent with the shift in attitudes toward abortion, justified by making "choice" a right. The mentality that justifies ending the lives of infants in the womb has not stopped there. Today, those who are elderly, sick, or disabled are being viewed as burdens and at risk of becoming candidates for euthanasia.

The "right-to-die" movement employs phrases such as "self-determination" and "death-with-dignity" and presents itself as a humanitarian crusade to reduce human suffering. It is, however, a philosophy radically at odds with scriptural truth. The Bible clearly teaches that life is a precious gift from God and that the number of our days are in His hands (Psalm 139:16; Job 14:5). As with other humanistic movements, when the standards of God are rejected in favor of the opinions of men, the results are not more humane but more barbaric.

In response to an aging population and a strained healthcare system, important people in both government and the private sector contend that in the interests of "cost containment" we cannot afford to devote resources to people "who will die soon anyway" or whose lives are deemed to lack sufficient "quality." Therefore, the "right-to-die" becomes an obligation to die.

Christians view these developments with the greatest concern. We fear their impact on the elderly and the infirm who face emotional, financial, and legal pressures to "choose" to die rather than "burden" their families. Many will feel, as University of Michigan law professor Yale Kamisar says, "that to reject euthanasia, once it is acceptable and others are

'doing it,' would be selfish and cowardly." We are similarly concerned about the impact on the medical profession whose members' identity as healers is compromised by their potential role as executioners.

Most of all, we are alarmed about the impact on all of us. As a society, we are exchanging our beliefs in the God-given innate worth of every life (Acts 17:25; Isaiah 43:1-2) for a notion that the perceived quality of life determines its value.

#### **What Euthanasia Is - What It Is Not**

Allowing a person to die when a disease process is irreversible and death is obviously imminent in hours or days is not euthanasia. Patients—or, when they are not able to speak for themselves, their families—have the freedom to refuse medical treatments which will not cure, improve, or control their disease process or which will impose a burden beyond any benefits.

Christians must reject euthanasia which is a deliberate action taken for the purpose of causing or hastening death. This may include direct action (e.g., administering a lethal injection) or withholding of basic medical care or standard medical treatment (e.g., denying lifesaving medical care to a disabled child that would be provided to a "normal" child). The goal must be always to care, never to kill.

#### **It is important to differentiate between care and treatment.**

Care meets the basic needs—nutrition, hydration, warmth, shelter, emotional and spiritual support—of all people, sick or well. Today, many seek to define food and water as medical treatments that can be withheld to hasten or cause death. This is unacceptable. This does not apply to the time when someone is so close to death that his body cannot metabolize food—then feeding may be useless and excessively burdensome. In all other cases, care must never be withheld.

Medical treatment is aimed at curing or controlling acute or chronic health problems. Physicians can use

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standard treatment in many situations while more advanced or serious situations require aggressive treatment. Standard treatment consists of medical therapy, such as medications, and surgical procedures commonly used to relieve health conditions and other problems due to injuries or illness. When treatment becomes medically futile or the burden of that treatment outweighs its benefits, it must be evaluated considering the best interests of the patient.

What is ordinary for an 18-year-old may be excessively burdensome for an 84-year-old with heart disease and diabetes. But determinations of what is excessively burdensome as a treatment must not be confused with subjective judgments of a person's "quality of life." The goal must be always to care, never to kill.

## Who Decides and How?

When a person cannot speak for himself, it falls to the family to make decisions for him. The key question at this time must be "what is best for the patient?"—not "is this person's life worth living?" or "what is best for me?" As Christians, we are obliged to consider the will of God who gives us the precious gift of life (Deuteronomy 32:39). The basis of any decision, therefore, is whether a given treatment will benefit or burden the life of a patient, not whether the life of a patient is useless or burdensome.

In addressing these situations, rather than relying merely on a piece of paper or directive, a Christian should consult with his family doctor and family. Each of us should do the following:

- Consider God's view about the sanctity of life as revealed in His Word and pray for understanding and wisdom from Scripture.
- Express his convictions to his family, personal physician, and pastor.
- Determine if his family/doctor/pastor's views are in line with what is revealed in Scripture.
- Ask his doctor if he upholds the entire Hippocratic Oath in which a doctor swears not to assist in euthanasia.

All our decisions, including those for the end of our days, should be guided by God's will. Once believers

have committed their lives to God's control, they need to communicate their beliefs to those who may be responsible for their healthcare choices. This is the best way to ensure that when believers cannot make those choices for themselves that their Christian convictions can still be respected.

## "Super Seniors"

Pella is honoring its "Super Seniors" (80 years and over) with a catered luncheon and program on Sunday, May 20, beginning at 11:30 a.m. The family-style meal consists of baked chicken, beef tips, mashed potatoes, vegetable, and salad.

Folks under 80 years are encouraged to attend to honor our Seniors. Seniors and their spouses will receive free meals. Others are asked to pay \$13 per person. Reservations may be made by calling Rosemary Baumann (960-9184) or Donna Klosterman (324-2935). A reservation/payment may be made to Rosemary or Donna or by depositing a check in the Ladies Aid mailbox in the church office.

The final day for reservations is SUNDAY, MAY 6.

## Attn: Sr. High Youth

Please contact Karla Ceman (*Youth leader for both Jr. & Sr. High Youth*) at 920-291-8600 if you would like to attend the Madison Marlins game on Saturday, July 21st.

## May Select Mission

**Pregnancy Support Center of Dodge County, Inc.**  
**108 Parallel Street #2**  
**Beaver Dam, WI 53916**

Pregnancy Support Center of Dodge County, Inc. was founded to compassionately provide information, consolation and guidance (both emotional and educational) to any member of our community who is facing, or has faced a difficult pregnancy decision.

Their mission is to serve women and their babies, born and unborn, in Dodge County by offering support, guidance and education in times of physical, emotional and spiritual need.

# AROUND PELLA

## Relay for Life

The Relay For Life of Waupun will be held at the track at the Waupun Area High School on Saturday, June 9th. The opening ceremony starts at 10:00 a.m. and the event ends at 2:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the community center. The special luminary ceremony will be held at noon. The



luminaries are in honor of those who have survived their battle with cancer and in memory of those who have courageously battled this disease, but lost.

There will also be Caregiver luminaries available to purchase. These are to let those who help care for those battling the disease or those that lost the battle, know how important they are in this whole process. At this time, names for both luminaries will be read aloud.

Pella will again have a team this year and needs more walkers. Please contact Donna Klosterman at 324-3962 if you have questions or would want to join Pella's team. Please support the fight against cancer!



## Newsletter Prayer List

Our monthly newsletter prayer list will include the names of those who have long-term illnesses or who are in the military. If you know of someone who should be included on this list, please contact Lora at 324-3321, ext. 10. Thank you.

### Long-Term Prayer List:

Pastor Jim Herbolsheimer, Marvin Groth, Rose Farvour, Ed Bernthal

Sue Wilson (*Sister-in-law of Cheri Witkowski*)

Allison Townsend (*Friend of Cheri Witkowski*)

Meagan Schellpfeffer (*Granddaughter of Darlene Seering*)

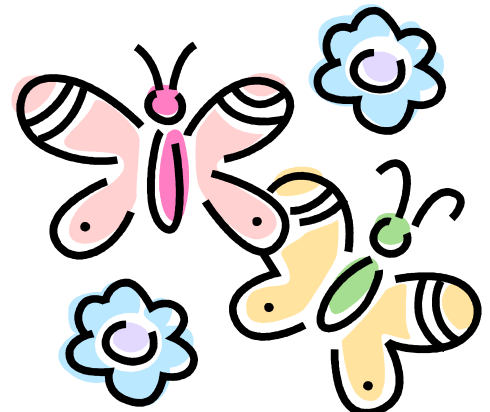
### For those in the Military:

## May Birthdays

1 Trista Gallenbeck	15 Lindsey Rasmussen	24 Braeson Cornelius
4 Amy VandeZande	16 Jeffrey Bonack	24 Addilyn Pluim
5 Cassidy Pluim	16 Jessica Cazett	25 Loretta Gedamke
5 Julie Vanderbush	16 Debbie Kuenzi	25 Lyle Hull
9 Rosalie Farvour	16 Nathaniel Mallow	25 Charles Husnick
9 Jordan Parsons	16 Brylea Martinez	26 Kenneth Baumhardt
9 Myla Schultz	16 Aaron Schouten	26 William "Dusty" Gerrits
10 Lucille Ninneman	18 Logan Hopp	27 Bernice Schultz
10 Kylie Peltier	18 Lori Schmidt	28 Dawn Smith
10 Darlene Seering	19 Nathan Schouten	28 Meagan VandeBerg
10 Raegen Sievert	20 Jeffrey Pluim	28 Julie Verheyen
11 Janelle Hendricks	21 Travis TerBeest	28 Amy Westhuis
12 Michael VanLoo	22 Amy Hopp	28 Eugene Wook
13 Kathleen Ryan	22 Lisa Vande Slunt	29 Crystal Slosser
13 Johanna Schultz	23 George Baumann	30 Cory Peterson
14 Celestine Uherka	23 Nicolina Beder	30 Jeffrey Swan
15 Gerald Rahn	23 Luann Westhuis	31 Kenneth Pluim
		31 Emily Zuhlke

## May Anniversaries

1 Fred and Sandra McIver	53
3 Matthew & Cassandra Shadley	4
12 Gary and Kim Luchini	28
14 Michael and Suzanne Pluim	35
19 Otto and Amber Zills	62
22 Ralph and Kristine Koehler	25
26 Jeffrey and Julie Bonack	28
31 Theodore and Brenda Krenz	15



# PELLA

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# May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Group	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Quilting  5:30 PM OGT Packing 6:00 PM Jr. Youth Group 7:00 PM Divine Service with Holy Communion	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  9:00 AM Sr. High Youth
<b>Confirmation</b> <b>6</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service with Holy Communion 10:15 AM Education Hour	<b>7</b>  6:00 PM Youth Board	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Group  6:30 PM Trustees Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Quilting  5:30 PM OGT Packing 6:00 PM Jr. Youth Group 7:00 PM Divine Service with Holy Communion	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  12:45 PM Blood Pressure Clinic <i>by Carol's CBRF</i>  5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service with Holy Communion 10:15 AM Education Hour  	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Pella Life Group  7:00 PM Elders' Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Group	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Quilting  5:30 PM OGT Packing 6:00 PM Jr. Youth Group 7:00 PM Divine Service	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	<b>18</b>  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>19</b> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  9:00 AM Sr. High Youth
<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Education Hour 11:30 AM Super Seniors' Meal  <i>Last Day of Sunday School</i>	<b>21</b>  7:00 PM Church Council	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Group	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Quilting  5:30 PM OGT Packing 6:00 PM Jr. Youth Group 7:00 PM Divine Service with Holy Communion	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath  NEWSLETTER MAILING	<b>25</b>  6:00PM Card Night	<b>26</b> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service with Holy Communion 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	<b>Memorial Day</b> <b>28</b>  <b>Remember Those Who Served</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Group	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Quilting  7:00 PM Divine Service	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	<b>Pella Lutheran Church</b> <b>315 S. Madison St.</b> <b>Waupun, WI 53963</b> <b>Phone 920-324-3321</b>	

# May 2018 Serving Calendar

Date	Time	Organists	Elder/ Altar Assistant	Finance	V/PA-Radio	Greeters	Acolytes	Ushers
5-2	7:00 PM	Ch. Zills	N. Trauernicht					
5-6	9:00 AM	Ch. Zills	W. Schmitz T. Canniff	D. Beder	V. Loehrke E. Swan ®	D. Klosterman	K. Westphal	D. Klosterman S. Long
5-9	7:00 PM	Ch. Zills	B. Kuenzi					
5-13	9:00 AM	Ch. Zills	D. Wetzel T. Canniff	M. Bowe S. Bowe	H. Schmitz W. Schmitz ®	M. & P. Hopp	C. Uherka	H. Flier M. Hopp
5-16	7:00 PM	L. Huizenga	G. Woock					
5-20	9:00 AM	L. Huizenga	B. Kuenzi	F. Mclver S. Mclver	D. VandeZande G. Baumann ®	H. & C. Schmitz		G. Baumann R. Baumann
5-23	7:00 PM	L. Huizenga	N. Trauernicht					
5-27	9:00 AM	Ca. Zills	D. Wetzel T. Canniff	B. Kuenzi D. Kuenzi	S. Schmitz C. Landaal ®	J. & J. Quade	E. Wachter	C. Lund M. Nolan
5-30	7:00 PM	Ch. Zills	B. Kuenzi					

**Altar Circle Committee:** Donna Klosterman, Julie Trauernicht, Sandra Bowe, Heidi Gerrits  
**Soul Accounting:** Dave & Phyllis Williams

