



LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

AUGUST: SANCTITY OF LIFE

Is it possible to change a culture that condones the elimination of infants just because they are unwanted?

The month of August provides us a hint to the answer, for August was named by and for the first Roman Emperor, Augustus.

Augustus was the adopted son of the Roman leader, Julius Caesar, and was expected to succeed him as head of the Roman Republic. However, with the assignation of Julius, Augustus had to find a different path to be the leader of Rome. Through patience, military victories, astute political maneuvers, and with the help of his loyal allies he was able to eliminate the Roman Republic and create the Roman Empire, under his autocratic rule. He expanded the Roman Empire across the known world and unified it under a common system of laws, transportation, currency, architecture, calendar, and culture.

To finance his Empire, he instituted a system of taxation based on a census, the most famous being the one recorded in Luke 2: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. (ESV) Christ also referred to Caesar in His answer to the question about paying taxes recorded in Matthew.

The Roman Empire was also notorious for its treatment of infants. It was legal for babies to be sold, killed, or abandoned for no other reason than they were unwanted. Parents had the legal right to dispose of their children for a number of reasons: economics of the family, birth defects, sickness, illegitimacy, or just being a female.

Sometimes mothers left their new born at a Columna Lactaria (Milk Column) which were government sanctioned sites where those who wished to have an infant would come and claim one.

It was also common for a parent to take their unwanted baby into the woods outside the city and leave the child to die of exposure or attacked by animal predators.

It was into this culture that the first Christians came with their respect for life, even small children. The Roman government responded to the Christian message with persecution. The goal of the government was to exterminate Christians by stripping their legal rights, destroying their churches, burning their sacred texts, and martyrdom.

The Christians responded to the persecutions with acts of compassion, including seeking out and rescuing unwanted, abandoned babies. Through personal sacrifice, prayers, and acts of kindness, the Christians were able to show the culture how it can cherish and not eliminate unwanted infants.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty asks for your partnership in praying for those who reach out in acts of compassion and care for those children and their families. It is these people and organizations who can create a culture that values and protects life, especially the babies.

Let Us Pray:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

Lord of life, You create and bless all life with Your abundant care and mercy. Make us ever mindful of the many blessings You have given to us in this life. Move us to share Your mercy, protecting and supporting that blessing of life for all people. Help us transform culture through acts of compassion and protection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, keep all who minister to the unborn and their families under Your care. Bless those who labor, serve, support, and help in any way. Grant them wisdom and strength as they care for those who seek life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for those people and organizations that show acts of care and compassion for children during the month of August.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

Please see:

<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations/directory>

for a directory of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Recognized Service Organizations. You can search for those that specifically care for children. You are also encouraged to pray for local organizations you know.

The LCRL would like to share that you are praying for these organizations. We plan on informing them that there are many people praying for their ministry. In order to do that, we need your help.

Please let us know the name(s) of the organization(s) you prayed for AND the number of people who prayed. For example: if you pray with your family of 3 for Lutheran Family Services, please send us the count of 3 for Lutheran Family Services. If you publish a prayer request for a Pregnancy Crisis Center in your church bulletin and pastor prays with 234 people in attendance, then use the number 234. Please count all numbers and send them by August 28.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NUMBERS TO:

LCRLPray@gmail.com

Please include the website information of the organization you are praying for.

Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with the name(s) of the organization(s) that you will pray for in August, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

Organization that shares acts of compassion and care:

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