



# LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

## AUGUST: SANCTITY OF LIFE

### The Worth of a Human Life

After I became an adult and had children of my own, I learned some things about my mother's journey to motherhood.

As the firstborn of three sons, I experienced all the "firsts" as my parents discovered their parenting style. I was often jealous of how "easy" my younger brothers had it when it came to things like gaining independence or taking on responsibility. I sometimes resented how easily my parents said "yes" to them when they had said "no" to me.

After my mom died, I uncovered parts of her story that redefined my understanding of my growing-up years. For example, I learned that after my birth, the doctor told her she should not have any more children—that if she did, she would risk her health and possibly her life. I also discovered that after giving birth to my youngest brother, she was pronounced dead but was revived through extraordinary medical procedures. That's when I realized the reason I spent so much time at Grandma's house with my younger brother after the baby was born. For my mother, her children's lives were priceless—even at the cost of her own.

As a devotee of television crime dramas, I often hear familiar storylines: someone robbed and killed for a small amount of change. The star of the show remarks, "His life was worth only \$5.00!"

Fans of a certain science fiction TV series—set in space as the final frontier—will recognize the moment when a spaceship from the future travels to Earth's past and encounters a U.S. fighter pilot. Trouble follows as the space crew realizes that this pilot's descendant will one day discover critical principles of space travel. His life must be preserved at all costs so that his descendant can live.

The framers of the Declaration of Independence declared that life is priceless and were willing to do whatever it took to ensure that all could live in freedom.

As Christians, we believe that life is sacred and should be protected—from the moment of conception until God calls us home.

So, what is the worth of a life? Does its value change according to size, ability, intelligence, or physical characteristics? Does a person's worth diminish when they are inconvenient or unwanted?

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty affirms that all life is worthy of protection and invites your partnership in praying for those who work to defend life at every stage—from conception to natural death.

The national average cost of raising a child from birth to age 16 today is \$368,000 to \$400,000. The worth of that same child? **Priceless.**

Let Us Pray:

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 1 Timothy 2:1 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. Bless and sustain all who labor to preserve and defend life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, keep all who minister to the unborn and their families under Your care. Bless those who work, 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 defend life, especially the preborn and infirm.

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 affirm and protect life. You are also encouraged to pray for local organizations you know.

The LCRL suggests that you would not only pray for these organizations, but let them know that you are praying for them.

It is a blessing to these organizations to know that there are people, groups, and organizations that lift them up in prayer!

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:

*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*

