



LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

AUGUST: SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Unalienable Right of Life

In August 1776, the colonies were living under the newly adopted Declaration of Independence. It was now time to put actions behind words — especially the revolutionary claim: *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

The idea of rights being **unalienable** — given by God and not granted by government — had never before been declared as the official position of a civil government. It was unprecedented.

To say that **life** is an unalienable right means that the Creator gives life, not the state. No legislature grants life, and no government owns it. Therefore, government has no legitimate authority to arbitrarily take innocent life. Its purpose is to **protect** life, not dispense it as a privilege.

In 1776, “life” was understood in terms of protection from:

- arbitrary execution
- murder
- government violence without due process
- rulers who could imprison or kill at will
- the inability to defend oneself or one’s family

Even then, the Founders recognized that life could be taken **only** through due process: the lawful execution of a convicted murderer, the taking of enemy combatant lives in war, or the defense of one’s own life.

Over the years, the meaning of life as an unalienable right has been debated, legislated, and tested in the courts. The United States has not abandoned the principle — but today we wrestle with difficult questions: Whose life is protected? When may the government lawfully take a life? Are there Constitutional exceptions to the right to life?

As society continues to debate these issues, the **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty** affirms that **all human life is worthy of protection**. We invite your partnership in praying for those who defend life at every stage — **from conception to natural death**.

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(s) that defend life.

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

