

Just weeks after the traumatic attacks of 9/11, Senate Resolution 160, designating October as Family History Month, was passed unanimously. The resolution states, in part, "Whereas individuals learn about their ancestors who worked so hard and sacrificed so much, their commitment to honor their ancestors' memory by doing good is increased; Whereas interest in our personal family history transcends all cultural and religious affiliations..."

The Presidential Proclamation that followed stated, "Many one-parent families are also a source of comfort and reassurance, yet a family with a mom and dad who are committed to marriage and devote themselves to their children helps provide children a sound foundation for success. Government can support families by promoting policies that help strengthen the institution of marriage and help parents rear their children in positive and healthy environments."

As we celebrate National Family History Month this year, let us take a brief look at the family we call The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. (LCMS)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has its roots in the posting of the 95 Thesis by Martin Luther on October 31, 1517. This act began a Reformation that spread across Europe. Luther taught that salvation came from Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Scripture Alone! Christ Alone! These principles were so counter to the proscribed teachings of the day that it led to the formation of the Lutheran Church and gave rise to many other denominations.

In the centuries that followed Luther's Reformation, Germany's government gradually passed laws that conflicted with the faith of the Lutherans. Thus, to ensure religious liberty and freedom to practice their faith, 800 Saxon German Lutherans fled Germany and settled in Perry County, Missouri. In 1847 they joined with other German Lutherans across the United States to form The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The LCMS was founded on the foundation of Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Scripture Alone! Christ Alone! Today The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod still stands on these beliefs.

It is the belief in Scripture Alone! that places the LCMS at odds with many church bodies today, especially in the view of marriage. The LCMS stands fast on the words of Holy Scripture that marriage is one man, one woman, until death parts them. Culture and the government stand opposed to this and works hard to discredit and undermine the faith of the LCMS and its members.

Today, the LCMS family has an ally in Washington DC that advocates for traditional marriage – the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL).

Let us add the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty to our LCMS family story as it advocates for Scripture Alone! especially about marriage.

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

Most gracious God, we give thanks for the joy and blessings that You grant to husbands and wives through gift of marriage. Assist them always by Your grace that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their marriage vows and grow in love toward You and for each other; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for fathers and mothers, that they would be strengthened to raise their children in the faith; we pray for those who labor to protect and defend families that they would be a light in the darkness; we ask that You would strengthen congregations and their leaders as they proclaim Your words and works, that they would be protected, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for the work of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty as it advocates for Scripture Alone!

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:

www.LCRLFreedom.org

for more information about the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

You can encourage the LCRL and its Executive Director, Dr. Gregory Seltz, as you share the number of people who prayed.

For example: if you pray with your family of 3 for the LCRL, please send us the count of 3. If you publish a prayer request for LCRL 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 October 30.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NUMBERS TO: LCRLPray@gmail.com

PRINT - PERSONALIZE - Pray

Please feel free to cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director

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