

# News and Notes

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PHOTO: LCMS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

“No more avoiding controversial conversations just because they are difficult. No more sidestepping life issues just because they are “political matters” or “personal decisions.”

# Families Belong Together

BY MICHAEL SALEMINK

## Families belong together!

Immigrants sometimes attempt unapproved entry into our country. Our laws grant each one due process to clarify their crime and their claims. When they bring little ones along, certain regulations have forbidden housing the children with the adults. These arrangements make sense, but we ought not take lightly the separation of the young from their parents. So protesters have recently raised the rallying cry against the detentions: Families belong together!

Christians can affirm this assertion. Families do indeed belong together. Both nature and Scripture establish it as truth. Our almighty Maker and heavenly Father has put husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers together. What He has joined, no one may rend. Only when it alleviates immediate and extreme danger should we entertain removing one from another, and then only until the risk is resolved.

Families belong together. So no more adultery. No more fornication. No more affairs. No more lustful fantasizing. No more pornography. No more perversions. No more sending nude selfies or lewd texts. No more enslaving ourselves to animalistic appetites. No more disconnecting sexuality from marriage and procreation. Let's instead exercise this blessing in exclusive service to our God-given spouse.

Families belong together. So no more freezing embryos. No more leaving them in laboratory storage indefinitely. No more manufacturing them by the handfuls. No more pulling them apart to procure their stem cells. No more genetically engineering them in the name of scientific advancement. No more declaring them “excess” and dispatching them for experimentation. Let's instead receive every child as a precious treasure and a special privilege.

Families belong together. So no more “no-fault” divorces. No more relaxing restrictions against broken homes. No more dissolving wedding bonds simply upon demand. No more cheapening nuptial promises by permitting their abandonment at will and without good reason. No more cohabitation without matrimony. No more forsaking society's responsibility to support and safeguard these sacred commitments when they are threatened or weakened. Let's instead strengthen and defend every one-flesh union.

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# A Race Against Time

When it comes to life issues, a lot has happened in the past year. Here's a look at some of the most notable events in 2018!

BY ROBERT SMITH

2019

**June 16, 2018:** The State Fourth District Court of Appeals in Riverside, Calif., reinstated California's assisted suicide law. A superior court judge had ruled the statute unconstitutional earlier in the year.

**June 15, 2018:** Canadian Supreme Court ruled that provinces can refuse to accredit law schools that require single students to be chaste.

**June 12, 2018:** In a lawsuit against two Christian colleges, *Dordt College v. Azar* (June 12, 2018), an Iowa-based federal district court imposed a permanent injunction against the enforcement of the Obama-era contraception mandate that required them to provide birth control in their health insurance packages. This was the latest of a series of similar judgments, since the Trump administration now concedes that the contraception mandate violates the free exercise of religion rights of Christians that believe certain birth control drugs cause abortions.

**June 4, 2018:** The Supreme Court of the United States in its opinion on the case *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* found that the state of Colorado and its courts had violated the First Amendment rights of its owner Jack Phillips when he refused to create a cake celebrating a same-sex marriage because his faith teaches it is immoral. The court ruled that government must treat such viewpoints with respect since people who hold deeply religious convictions are a protected class. A state must not treat such views with contempt nor defame people who hold them honestly.

**May 18, 2018:** The Trump Administration revived a Reagan-era rule that denies federal funding to health care agencies that perform abortions or refer women for abortions. This rule, in effect, defunded Planned Parenthood and similar organizations.

**April 24, 2018:** Pro-life lawyer Stuart Kyle Duncan confirmed as judge on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals for Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Judge Duncan was the lead attorney for Hobby Lobby when the Supreme Court allowed the company to refuse to provide abortifacient drugs in the health plan for its employees. He also defended a Texas law restricting abortions when it was before the court. He has also argued in court against same-sex marriage rights and supported the rights of adoption agencies to refuse to place children with same-sex couples.

**April 19, 2018:** An Indiana law blocking abortions based on sex, race and disability found unconstitutional by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

2018



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## Families Belong Together, continued from page 1

Families belong together. So no more physician-assisted suicides. No more letting loved ones feel like burdens or better off dead because of their age or their ailments. No more enabling them to put themselves out of our misery. No more lazy “love” that lives and lets die. No more keeping ourselves aloof and indifferent to the suffering of others. Let’s instead marshal all the resources of community to accompany one another in addressing affliction.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Families belong together. So no more abortions. No more killing children for convenience. No more prioritizing our liberties over their rights. No more appealing to privacy or poverty or adversity or public opinion. No more staying oblivious about which contraceptives cause miscarriages. No more forsaking panicked hearts to deal with their surprise pregnancies alone. Let’s instead advocate and intervene to celebrate and save every member of the human race.

Families belong together. So no more salvation-by-works. No more assessing anyone’s value according to age or appearance or ability. No more underestimating the ways God’s grace redeems lost causes and the most hopeless-looking situations. No more acting as if anybody’s history or sinfulness falls outside of His reach and rescue. No more forgetting that His will and His Word, His incarnation and His forgiveness have invested even our existences with everlasting significance. Let’s instead discover and distribute the abundant life in God’s unconditional love.

Families belong together. So no more keeping quiet. No more “minding your own business.” No more avoiding controversial conversations just because they are difficult. No more sidestepping life issues just because they are “political matters” or “personal decisions.” No more hiding the healing light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ under a basket. No more hoarding for ourselves the abundant promises of God that those close to us so desperately desire. Let’s instead declare the sanctity of life with courage and demonstrate it with compassion.

Families belong together!

*The Rev. Michael Salemink is executive director of Lutherans For Life.*

Read more at [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)!

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