



## The American Association of Lutheran Churches

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July 1, 2022

Grace be unto you and peace from God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

We were in the midst of concluding our 28<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The American Association of Lutheran Churches when the news came forth about the actions of the Supreme Court. While The AALC has clearly expressed its position on abortion in the statement “The Sanctity of Life and Abortion” (see <https://www.taalc.org/sanctity-of-life>), I thought I would ask Pastor Steve Klawonn to provide a statement on behalf of The AALC concerning the recent SCOTUS reversal of Roe v. Wade.

### A Statement in Response to the Supreme Court of the United States Reversal of Roe v. Wade

For nearly 50 years, the landmark decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, Roe v. Wade, has given women access to the medical procedure known as abortion as they sought to terminate their unwanted pregnancies. In an equal landmark decision handed down on Friday, June 24, 2022, The Supreme Court decided that women do not have a constitutional right to terminate their unborn children's lives. As the issue now is relegated to each state, we pray that state legislatures will follow the lead of SCOTUS by passing and upholding laws that protect human life from conception to the grave.

The American Association of Lutheran Churches praises this decision that upholds the sanctity of human life as we affirm that life begins at conception. Psalm 139:13-14 (ESV); ***“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”***

While we are grateful for this ruling, we recognize that it is not the Law that changes hearts and minds but only the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The spiritual battle that continues to rage in our country and the world will not stop on this side of heaven. We must stand up as Christ's church, roll up our sleeves, and continue to minister with humility and mercy to those who are in need with their crisis pregnancies and other situations involving the protection of life, showing them the love of Christ through our actions. We will not repay evil with evil, but rather, we will love them and call them to repentance for the forgiveness of their sins just as we do ourselves.

As we prayerfully thank God for this positive step forward, we pray continually for those who are hurting—looking for opportunities to serve our neighbors with the Gospel, remembering that they are not our enemies. Like all of us, they need the love of Christ Jesus in their lives. We find guidance for our Christian lives in the God-breathed words of Romans 12:9-10 (ESV), ***“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”***

We pray that this decision will encourage each of us to realize the importance and sanctity of life and know it is truly a blessing from God.

Thank you, Pastor Klawonn for your faithful response to this recent momentous decision of SCOTUS.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson,  
Presiding Pastor, The AALC