

# Choosing Life Reflects the God of Life

Kenzie Boozikee  
Grade 12  
Mayer Lutheran High School

In the second trimester of my mother's pregnancy with me, she had a prenatal screening in which I tested positive for Down syndrome. Though fearful of the future, not knowing whether or not she had the ability to care for a child with that disorder, abortion was never an option for her. In the end, the test was inaccurate and I do not have Down syndrome, but because my mother upheld her Lutheran faith and decided to keep me and not abort me, I am able to write this paper today, upholding those same beliefs. So why do Lutherans like my mother and I feel that abortion is wrong? In John 10:10 Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Lutherans choose life because God is for life. Motivated by the Gospel of Christ and advocating life for all ([lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)), it is important to follow Paul's words in 1 Peter 3:15, "but honor Christ the Lord as Holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

There are two parts to the 1 Peter verse to focus on. First, is that we should always be prepared to make a defense. It is crucial to be equipped and truly comprehend the beliefs we are standing by. The most prevalent question to be answered in the case of abortion is the personhood of the fetus. The biblical and Lutheran view on this issue is that the fetus is a person from the time of conception, with "all the capacities necessary to mature into a full adult" (Rae 142). God ascribes the same features to the unborn as the people outside the womb (Rae 128). Therefore, abortion is taking away an innocent life, which goes against the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment. Even more devastating, however, is that the work of God in that life is being destroyed. Life is created by God and each life is someone for whom He sent His son Jesus to die for. Furthermore,

the Holy Spirit aspires to be in a relationship with each person, born or unborn (lutheransforlife.org). Jeremiah 1:5 says “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” Each human life is precious to God, so we have the duty to defend it.

The way in which we go about rescuing human life from abortion brings us to the second part of 1 Peter – “yet do it with gentleness and respect.” It is vital to always keep the Gospel as the motivating factor of our defense. Our goal is not simply to change laws, but to change hearts (lutheransforlife.org). God’s desire for us is eternal life, He says so plainly in John 3:16. He sent Jesus in order that all people may live with Him in heaven. God gives value to human life through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So in our defense, the Gospel must be present in our actions and with the words we speak regarding the issue of abortion. For the Gospel changes hearts and allows people to see clearly the value of human life given by God. To sum it up perfectly in Ephesians 4:15, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

Restating the question formed in the introduction, why do Lutherans choose life? We choose life because God is for life. Jesus came into the world that we may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10). In advocating God’s desire of life for all, it is important to follow Paul’s words in 1 Peter 3:15, “but honor Christ the Lord as Holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” We must be grounded in our faith and equipped with the Gospel, always making sure to proclaim the truth in love, so that others may see life and the value to which God has given it.

## **Bibliography**

"Who Are Lutherans For Life?" Lutherans For Life. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2017.

"Mission/Message/Manner." Lutherans For Life. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2017.

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*, Third Edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2009. Print.

The Holy Bible