

## Adoption

We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). Thus, as ones who have received His love and compassion, we love our neighbor and have compassion on those who are in need.

The adoption of parentless children is a beautiful and powerful reflection of our Heavenly Father's sacrificial love for us! As St. Paul writes, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." (Galatians 4:4-7) Indeed, throughout the history of the Church, Christians have rescued and adopted children in need, bringing them into God's Kingdom through the waters of Baptism, raising and nurturing them.

God showers His richest blessings through adoption! A birth mother (and father), often dealing with a surprise pregnancy and tempted toward abortion, is encouraged to choose life for her baby, knowing that a loving family awaits to raise him/her. An adoptive family is able to fulfill its desire to expand and provide a safe, stable, and loving home for a child in need.

Is God calling on you to adopt? We recognize that the process can be intimidating but help is available.

First and foremost, we encourage you to speak with your pastor to help you discern God's call on you and your family. We also urge you to visit with those you know who have adopted children; they will certainly help demystify the process for you.

Our Synod has resources available to help encourage you along the way. These are accessible at <https://lcmslife.org/tags/adoption/>. In addition, *Lutherans For Life* has many resources, including a list of frequently asked questions, accessible at <https://lutheransforlife.org/article/adoption-faqs>; a poignant article about one family's adoption journey, accessible at <https://lutheransforlife.org/article/adoption-gods-beautiful-plan/>; and published tracts on adoption available through CPH, accessible at <https://www.cph.org/c-1017-adoption-lfl>. Finally, Iowa-based *Lutheran Family Service* publishes an online blog, with pieces on the blessings of adoption along with practical information aimed at both birth mothers and adoptive families, accessible at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/category/adoption/>.

If there is anything your English District Lifeline Team can do to help you on adoption or any matter in the Sanctity of Life arena, please do not hesitate to let us know. We pray God's richest blessings on you and your family.