

LIFE NEWS—JUNE 2026



LUTHERANS
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Life Newsbytes

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Speaking up For Life

“Watch and prepare for Jesus to return. Set your hearts on Him and on your life in Him. He is the beginning and end, the purpose and goal of your life. So there’s no need for tears as you see Him ascend. He is with you always. He will come back for His people soon. Then we will appear with Him in glory.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle*

“Let your life be so focused on the grace of God in Christ that your eyes are open to the people He is bringing into your life even now, ‘the least of these my brothers.’ Do not worry about whether the world considers them influencers or nobodies. Be attentive to those in your sphere of influence as Christ Himself is attentive to you. Concerned citizens? Sure! It is important. But being concerned disciples of Jesus for others is what ultimately lasts.” *Dr. Gregory Seltz, PhD, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty*

“As your life goes on, you will continue to see the effects of sin in the world. Your own bodies will fail with time. The world will seem to be a darker place. Loved ones will pass away. But do not be ignorant about those who have fallen asleep, the Apostle Paul encourages you. Instead, know with certainty that ‘the end for you is only the end of the hardship.’ Life awaits you in Christ!” *Daily Devotion, Lutheran Hour Ministries*

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OUR RISEN AND ASCENDED LORD

BY REV. DR. ARIC FENSKE



I am writing this article on the eve of the celebration of Christ’s Ascension. While we traditionally don’t give the Ascension as much attention as Christmas or Easter, Jesus’ Ascension to the right hand of the Father is an integral part of Jesus’ redeeming work. Jesus Himself says that it is for our advantage that He ascends to the Father (John 16:7). And the earliest Christians felt that the Ascension was important enough to the Church to include it in all three of the Creeds.

Christ’s Ascension has many implications for us, but perhaps St. Paul sums it up the best in his letter to the Ephesians: **“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all”** (1:23).

As God, Jesus always had authority and power and dominion. But in order to accomplish our salvation, Jesus laid it all aside for a time. When He became man, He lowered Himself to the point of being our servant. He placed Himself under the Law and under the curse of our sins and under the earthly authorities, and He suffered and died as the ultimate once-for-all sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Having finished His work of paying for the sins of the world and defeating death by His own death and resurrection, Jesus has been exalted by the Father and given authority over all things and now reigns as King over creation **for the sake of His Church**. That is what the Ascension is all about. And what comforting knowledge it is!

All of the power and authority and dominion that Jesus has, He exercises for the sake of the Christian Church—the believers, past, present, and future. Another way of saying this is that Jesus rules over all things, over all rule and power and authority and dominion, to bring sinners into salvation, to make them a part of His Church, and to guard and protect His Church so that His people endure to the end and enter everlasting life.

Think of what that means for us as we strive to uphold the sanctity of life in this world of sin and death! It means that we don’t have any reason to lose hope when the wrong person gets elected or when our politicians continue to make and uphold ungodly laws and policies. We mourn these things, of course, and we do what we can in good conscience to prevent them. But in the end, we get to leave it in Christ’s hands.

So, when our society continues to push abortion and assisted suicide, along with sexual confusion and immorality of every kind, we take comfort knowing that Jesus is still in charge and that He knows all things and is using even these evils to build up the walls of His kingdom. And when we, the Church, are singled out and persecuted for standing against these things and for defending life, chastity, and marriage between one man and one woman, we know that Jesus will not let the truth of His Word fade away and that He will guard and protect us in the way He knows is best.

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Christ's Ascension has many implications for us, but perhaps St. Paul sums it up the best in his letter to the Ephesians: **"And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all"** (1:23).

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Think of what that means for us as we strive to uphold the sanctity of life in this world of sin and death! It means that we don't have any reason to lose hope when the wrong person gets elected or when our politicians continue to make and uphold ungodly laws and policies. We mourn these things, of course, and we do what we can in good conscience to prevent them. But in the end, we get to leave it in Christ's hands.

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