

Hope for Life

by Thomas Eggebrecht

Eve was, of course, the first person in the history of the world to give birth to a child. When Cain was born, she said, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord” (GEN. 4:1). Some — including Martin Luther — believe that Eve was, at that moment, thanking the Lord that He had already provided the gift of a Savior following her fall into sin. But that wasn’t yet the case. Original sin had already taken hold. It was passed on to the very first generation of children. Before long, Cain devalued life so much that he killed his very own brother.

It was the first of a long and historical pattern showing just how much sinful human beings hurt and harm their neighbors and fail to help them with physical needs. But God did indeed have a plan to restore not only the dignity of life but life itself. The Apostles’ Creed says that Jesus “was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.”



Use this space to answer the questions posed here or by your Bible study leader.

1. Read Psalm 139. What does this psalm reveal about human beings? What does it tell us about God? What does it say about the way He values human life?

2. God not only values human life, He gives it purpose. See Jer. 1:5. What was the purpose of Jeremiah’s life? How does this verse inform the purpose God has for you? Do you have to be a prophet in order to have purpose in God’s plan? See Rom. 8:1–11 and Eph. 1:3–14.

3. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has said, “Christians aim always to care, never to kill.” What does this kind of care look like as Christians deliver the love of Jesus from conception all the way to the point of death? See Matt. 25:31–46; Rom. 14:7–9; and 2 Cor. 1:3–5.

4. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (JOHN 11:25). How do Jesus’ life, death and resurrection redeem our own thoughts and actions regarding God’s value of both physical and eternal life?

The Apostles’ Creed goes on: “[Jesus] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.”

The creed declares that our triune God has redeemed all human life from sin, death and the grave. He provides certain hope for eternal life, even in the face of death. Jesus has guaranteed it by actively restoring what Adam, Eve, Cain and all human beings have destroyed. Jesus *is* life for *you*. **LW**

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