

Based on Many Passages

Here We Stand



Services: Sunday, 1/22 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 1/23 at 7 PM

Church Year: Third Sunday after the Epiphany – 2017

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday – Observed

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: January 22 is the 44th anniversary of the tragic Roe versus Wade decision, *which legalized abortion in the United States* 😞. Even though many sad and tragic things could be said on the topic, *we are going to focus today on positive ways in which we stand for life* 😊!

Today you will hear the words, “**Here we stand,**” over and over again; those are similar to the famous words spoken by Dr. Luther in 1521 at the Diet of Worms. When he was commanded to retract his writings, he basically said, “**No!**” Then he said, “**Here I stand,**” in other words, “**Here I stand upon my writings, which are based on God’s truth, so I will not, I cannot retract them!**” *As Dr. Luther courageously stood for the **truth**, so let us courageously stand for **life!***

The 12 “**Here We Stand**” phrases in this sermon are from today’s **Lutherans for Life** 2017 Life Sunday insert:

1. **Here We Stand to declare and defend the precious value of every human being.** // Declare: David prayed, “...you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13 ESV). Defend: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Pr. 31:8 NIV).
2. **Here We Stand to celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life.** // Abundant: God “who

did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:32 NAS). Everlasting: Jesus said, “...he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (John 5:24 NAS).

3. **Here We Stand** for every human life, at each stage, in any state—no matter what she’s done, no matter what he can’t do. // God has a plan for every life: “As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him’” (John 9:1-3 ESV).
4. **Here We Stand** from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death—because of God’s purpose, not our own plans. // Every Christian life has a purpose: “...we are [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10 NAS).
5. **Here We Stand** behind Jesus Christ’s passion, not our own pride. // Jesus’ perfect obedience: “And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’ ... Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done’” (Matt. 26:39, 42 ESV). He prayed the same a third time (44).
6. **Here We Stand** bearing His Holy Spirit’s presence, not our own capacities. // God is able to do amazing things through us: God “is able to do exceeding abundantly

beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (Eph. 3:20 NAS). When we know we are weak; then, by God’s grace, we will trust in the power of Christ: Jesus said to Paul: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9 ESV).

7. **Here We Stand** against sin and selfishness, death and the devil, not against one another. // Notice how the Bible identifies our enemies: “Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:11-12 NAS). Let us realize that the powers of darkness are great, *but the power of God is GREATER!*
8. **Here We Stand** speaking truth and sharing love—in joy and not out of anger, in hope and not out of fear. // As believers we are NOT to be influenced “by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Eph. 4:14-15 ESV). Forgiven in Christ, let us “Rejoice always” (1Th 5:16 NAS). Gifted with faith, we live with hope, thus with certainty, in God’s promises: “...faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1 NAS).
9. **Here We Stand** for forgiveness and not comparison, for salvation and not competition; to relieve and release, not to accuse; to listen, assist, accompany, embrace, and befriend—not to attack. // Jesus hung in the place of all

people and received the wrath of God for their sins, so Jesus “is [the propitiation for our sins](#); and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*” (1 John 2:2 NAS). So there is good news: “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous to [forgive us our sins](#) and to [cleanse us from all unrighteousness](#)” (1 John 1:9 NAS).

10. **Here We Stand** with millions of His children around the world and multitudes across the centuries. // In heaven the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down and worshiped Jesus saying: “[by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation](#)” (Rev. 5:9 ESV).
11. **Here We Stand** with you and for you, wherever you are, wherever you’ve been, wherever you’re going. // To those who trust in the LORD, He said: “[Do not fear, for I am with you](#); do not anxiously look about you, for [I am your God](#). [I will strengthen you](#), surely [I will help you](#), surely [I will uphold you](#) with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10 NAS).
12. **Here We Stand** for anyone vulnerable or victim to violence against life—as Gospel-motivated voices For Life. // For everyone who is vulnerable or victim or sinner, there is good news: “[God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble](#)” (Psalm 46:1 NIV).

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, we thank You for life now and life forever through Jesus! For anyone who has wrongly taken a life, *grant forgiveness and peace*; finally, *move us to action to support and protect all human life!* In Jesus’ name, we pray...