



# Carpe Diem

Anglicans For Life's Official Newsletter



MARCH 2026

[AnglicansForLife.org](http://AnglicansForLife.org)

## Human Dependence

The Rev. Matthew Woodley, Iterim Dean, Church of the Resurrection, Wheaton, IL

Let's begin by imagining a stage that represents the span of a human life. On one side, we have the end-of-life, and on the other end, we have the beginning-of-life. That would be the arc of a whole human life. Some people have short arcs; some people have long arcs.

I want you to imagine a woman – let's call her Maria. She lives in West Chicago. We're going to start at the end of her life. She's 93 years old. When she was 89, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She has profound memory issues. Most days she can't remember her children's names.

Now let's look at the other end of the stage, to the beginning of her life. She was born in Mexico City, immigrated to America when she was 20 years old. She came out of profound poverty and violence and became a U.S. citizen when she was 33. She was very successful, first as a community leader and then as mayor of West Chicago.

Successful and competent until around age 87, as she ages, she declines, and now she has Alzheimer's as life winds down.

What do we know about Maria? Well, Biblically speaking,

we know a couple of things. First of all, we know that she is made in the image of God. Genesis 1 describes this profound, revolutionary, beautiful, soul-stirring vision of what it means to be a human being, to be made in the image and likeness of God.

Throughout her whole life, she never loses that. That's never degraded, or diminished, and never decreases. She is always fully made in the image of God. The second thing we know is that throughout her whole life, at all these various stages – from the time she was an embryo to the time she is 93 years old, and everything in between – she is living a life of dependence upon God and others.

I mean, she may try to live independent of God, but even as the Apostle Paul says, "In God we live and move and have our being." So truly, she lives in dependence upon God and other people.

**Now I want to press into this idea of dependence because this is at the heart of a Biblical vision of what it means to be a human being.**

I want us to know from Scripture that dependency on God and others is not some kind of defect that we need to

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# Canon Georgette

AFL President

Last October I got a phone call from Fr. Keith Hartsell, a priest from Grace Anglican Church, Oceanside, California, who said that he was bringing a group of teenagers to Washington, D.C. to attend the March for Life events. He wanted information about the Life Forum that we were hosting and wondered if his group was welcome. Obviously, I said YES!

I heard back from him in early January, and he let me know that their group had grown to 22 students and 9 adults! While I was excited to host the students, I did wonder if the topics would bore them or be over their heads! My fears were allayed as they thanked me after the first presentation on fertility, expressing how much they learned and how their eyes were opened to concepts like embryo adoption.

When I got back from Washington, D.C., an email from Fr. Keith, was waiting for me, along with five video clips of the students discussing the Life Forum along with these comments:

*My name is Genevieve, I am a high school senior, and I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend the 2026 March for Life and Anglican bioethics seminars. The biggest question on my heart since then has been: What does it really mean to be consistently pro-life? When it comes to having a consistent pro-life ethic, I have been strengthened in some beliefs and challenged in others – whether they be embryo adoption, pro-life legislation, or the application of the Imago Dei principle. Reflecting on my time in DC, the speakers I learned from, and the ideas I've wrestled with, has affected my pro-life worldview and will affect my actions and advocacy as I grow into adulthood. I am thankful for the ability to go on this trip and inspired to keep learning more about bioethical issues facing my community and culture.*

*The bioethics seminar was incredible! I learned so much, especially about organ donors and the moral laws surrounding them. My entire group is still debating about those topics and about IVF, which not all of us knew much about beforehand. My mind and heart were challenged when learning about and understanding the emotions surrounding IVF and why so many turn to it for help. Thank you so much!!*

*The trip to Washington DC was AWESOME!! I have learned so much about abortion and life, and about all the options that people can turn to for assistance. My lungs have grown from all the time we got to explore DC and check out museums, and my heart has as well, because the girls' room gathered to watch Unplanned, which helped us to understand the why behind women going in for abortion. We also got to go to a seminar on bioethics and a Pro-Life convention, and we are all motivated to actively support life. Thank you so much!!*



The videos are now an extraordinary 10-minute travelogue of their trip which you can view here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XotxcDmfrU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XotxcDmfrU)

I applaud Fr. Keith and the chaperones who ensured the students had this incredible opportunity to learn about life and experience an adventure with God and fellow Anglicans. I hope more people will start planning trips with students to Washington, D.C. during the January March for Life and Life Forum events that Anglicans For Life hosts. The Church must ensure students have access to biblical teachings on life and death matters, given their exposure to propaganda on the internet.

The Life Forum, ended with a Prayer Service that also featured a testimony by Diane Pyle, who recounted the devastation, loneliness and shame of aborting her baby as a teenager, and her long, painful journey back to God. Her story was recently turned into a book titled, "She Smiles at the Days to Come."



Above: Father Keith and his students.

The presentations and panel discussions from the Life Forum were outstanding and all the videos from the 2-day event are now available on our website. I encourage you to visit [AnglicansForLife.org/LifeForum](https://AnglicansForLife.org/LifeForum) and view them.

For His Glory,

*Canon Georgette*

# Two Ways to Get involved for Life



## #1: Donate

### JOIN OUR “LIFE CHAMPIONS” MONTHLY SUSTAINERS PROGRAM.

Through our generous donors, and God’s Grace, we continue to grow this ministry and impact the lives of Anglicans around the world. As a result of this incredible growth, AFL continues to create new goals, initiatives, and programs to spread His word and protect life.

By choosing to donate regularly (by credit card or EFT), you provide stability and predictability for AFL because we rely on the generosity of donations to fund our ministry. This also allows us to plan and execute our programs more effectively. Learn more at [AnglicanForLife.org/Life-Champions](https://AnglicanForLife.org/Life-Champions).



## We’re Hiring a Multimedia Specialist

### Job Description:

AFL seeks a part-time Multimedia Specialist that will help elevate AFL’s social media presence, curate compelling content for digital and print formats, and implement content creation strategy to reach new and current audiences. This person will report to and work directly with the Director of Marketing and Communications to build a more impactful online presence for our audience. While this position is heavily focused on social media and content creation, the ideal candidate will have a multi-faceted background in digital communications and written communications.

### Benefits:

Flexible schedule, telecommute options, fulfilling work that helps you grow closer to God.

## #2 Join the Team

### Duties

- Perform monthly social media insight evaluations, and utilize the results for target marketing and campaign development based on the data collected.
- Design and edit digital assets using Adobe Creative Suite
- Write articles for print and web
- Develop email marketing content
- Manage and engage with online communities by monitoring and responding to comments, messages, and interactions across all social media platforms
- Create compelling video content for AFL and its ministry initiatives.
- Maintain a content calendar to ensure timely, consistent, and mission-aligned messaging
- Plan and execute marketing campaign strategies that align with seasonal events, ministry goals, and key pro-life initiatives

### Requirements:

- Love for God and value for all human life
- Degree or extensive experience in marketing/communications/multimedia or equivalent
- Proven experience managing social media accounts (1-3 years)
- Ability to be creative and intentional in content curation
- Experience with Adobe Creative Suite or willingness to learn
- Experience reporting and understanding social media metrics
- Experience developing short form video and reels

Please submit your **cover letter and portfolio** to Anna at [Bookkeeper@AnglicansForLife.org](mailto:Bookkeeper@AnglicansForLife.org) or call (412) 749-0455 with any questions.

# Life Affirming Resources & Activities



Over the course of this year, AFL is going to reintroduce you to a variety of resources that can help you and your church reach your Life-Affirming ministry goals & inspire you in 2026.

**ZOOM FOR LIFE** is a monthly meeting hosted on Zoom, on the second Monday of the month at 8 pm EST. Each month we feature a guest speaker sharing information on a life issue or new project. We record each presentation and currently there are 24 videos on our AFL YouTube channel Zoom playlist addressing a variety of topics. Sign up to get email notifications before each Zoom or visit the AFL YouTube Channel to view them. [AnglicansForLife.org/ZoomRecordings](https://AnglicansForLife.org/ZoomRecordings)

**I'M JUST LIKE YOU FLASH CARD SET** for Children's Sunday School is a great resource to teach little ones about how unique and special God created them. The Flashcards feature baby Chris at 12 developmental stages in the womb that correspond to features we all share in common, like the development of our ears! View the flashcards and learn more at [AnglicansForLife.org/resources/flashcards](https://AnglicansForLife.org/resources/flashcards).

**ANGLICANS IN ACTION VIDEO SERIES** can be found on AFL's YouTube Channel as a playlist that features 50 brief videos that discuss a range of life topics and includes activities you can do related to each topic. [AnglicansForLife.org/AnglicansInAction](https://AnglicansForLife.org/AnglicansInAction).

**THE SERMON COLLECTION** is a repository on the AFL website filled with sermons preached by fellow Anglican priests and shared with the goal of inspiring more Life-Affirming sermons to edify the Sanctity of Life in our churches. You're invited to submit sermons about life. Read the sermons at [AnglicansForLife.org/resources/sermons](https://AnglicansForLife.org/resources/sermons).

**LITURGIES & LITANIES** that feature the sacredness of life are available to use for special days like Life Sunday or Mother's or Father's Days. Memorial and healing liturgies are included in the collection that can be found at [AnglicansForLife.org/resources/sermons](https://AnglicansForLife.org/resources/sermons).

**TAKE ACTION FOR LIFE** is an interactive form designed to help you identify unique ways that you can get involved with Life-Affirming activities based on your interest and the type of activity you want to do. Utilize the form at [AnglicansForLife.org/take-action](https://AnglicansForLife.org/take-action).

**LIFE LECTIONARY REFLECTIONS** are a collection of teachings written by Anglican Priests using the Sunday Lectionary readings. The reflections are organized by the books of the Bible and are often used in sermon preparation and Bible studies. Search the records online at [AnglicansForLife.org/LifeLectionary](https://AnglicansForLife.org/LifeLectionary).

**REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS** is a series of brief videos that feature women sharing how abortion harmed them and impacted their future. This series is designed to educate people about the harm of abortion and has been effective when shared during voting seasons that have abortion amendments on the ballot. Watch the videos at [AnglicansForLife.org/ReproductiveFreedom](https://AnglicansForLife.org/ReproductiveFreedom).

**THE PRAYER TEAM AND MONTHLY S.W.A.T. MEETINGS** provides the frontline defense for the spiritual warfare we wage against the forces of death and darkness. The Prayer Team is made up of 850+ people receiving quarterly calendars with daily prayers. The monthly SWAT calls are led by an AFL Board Member and focus on specific needs of Anglicans For Life. Sign-up for the prayer team at [AnglicansForLife.org/Communications](https://AnglicansForLife.org/Communications) or email [info@AnglicansForLife.org](mailto:info@AnglicansForLife.org) and ask to be added to the SWAT team.

# Ministry News



## Meet AFL's Newest Board Member

Above: (L to R) New AFL Board Member Scott Gough, fellow Emmaus parishioner Candi Matejka, with Candi's brother, Lon, and sister-in-law, Debbie.

### WELCOME SCOTT GOUGH!

Anglicans For Life is pleased to announce that Co-Chapter Leader Scott Gough, from Emmaus Anglican Church, Castle Rock, CO was unanimously affirmed to join our Board of Directors at the December meeting. Scott's passion for life along with his leadership skills make him a terrific addition to the Board of Directors. Scott jumped into his new duties by attending the AFL Life Forum in Washington, DC where he was able to meet fellow Board Members, Ed Speare and Lesley Hackman and experience all the events.

After returning home from the Life Forum, he shared this, "The excitement, enthusiasm and energy were palpable. Thousands upon thousands participated. We were near the front of the March, and for more than 40 minutes after we got to the Supreme Court building, marchers kept streaming past us. Also, I would estimate 40-50% were 30 years or younger, which was uplifting and inspirational. It was an exhilarating, emotional, educational and memory-packed two days. I made a lot of new friends and was encouraged to be with so many dedicated and joyful people. I don't know what next year's Life Forum and March for Life will look like, but I would urge everyone who can attend to do so. I am still processing everything I saw and did, but I return home with even greater hope that we will prevail against the sin of abortion."

**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW AFL ON YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS!**



@anglicans4life



@Anglicans4Life



@AnglicansforLife

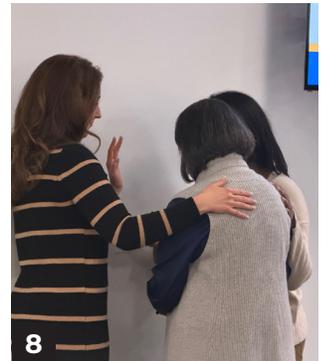
## In Honor/Memory

- Joshua Morden made a donation in honor of Ella Morden.
- Mr. David Thompson made a donation in memory of Betty Jean Muir for the Life Forum.
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Edisto Island, SC made a donation in honor of Canon Georgette Forney.
- The Rev. Nicholas Lubelfeldin made a donation in honor of The Rt. Rev. John and Rev. Meg Guernsey.
- David & Greta Stanley made a donation in honor of Sally Stanley.
- Julie Freed made a donation in memory of Mary Vanderwal.
- The Rev. Canon Ronald & Kathy Moock made a donation in memory of Rebekah Elizabeth Moock.
- The Very Rev. Canon John Park & Susan Delgado-Park made a donation in memory of Susan's parents The Rev. Robert & Jeanne Delgado.
- Mrs. Valerie Vitunic made a donation in memory of her husband The Rev. Joe Vitunic.
- Mary Cody made a donation in memory of Lenore Peters.
- Miss Sophia English made a donation in memory of Mark Hoyt.

# Ministry Updates

## Life Forum Event Photos

Photos 1-4: Thursday Night Photos 5-10: Friday Presentations and Prayer Photos 11-21 March for Life  
**REMINDER:** Visit AFL's Facebook page to view more photos from the events!



# Ministry Updates



# Leadership Updates



## Welcome, NEW LEADERS!

### New Life-Affirming Churches:

- Anglican Church of the Ascension, Indianapolis, IN
- Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Billings MT
- Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd, Binghamton, NY.

AFL is excited to announce the following churches have signed-up to become Life-Affirming Churches since our last newsletter, and we have welcomed a new Life Leader and new Chapter!

**New Life Leader:** Patty Clair - Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Billings MT

**New Chapter:** Charles Sperry – leading the Chapter of St. Aidan’s Anglican Church, Kansas City MO

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Prince of Peach Anglican Church | Hopewell, PA

Chapter Leader Blanche Heidengren led church member in the annual Life Chain held in Beaver, PA.

### Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity | North Augusta, GA

Chapter Leader Terri Henley and her church hosted Sherry Manly, RN during Adult Formation on Life Sunday. She is the Nurse Manager of Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center in Aiken, South Carolina. She spoke about her experiences doing sonograms at the Center. The church collected baby shampoos and lotions for the pregnancy care center during the month of January. Those hygiene items will be placed in welcome baskets for new moms taking parenting classes at the center.

### Emmaus Anglican Church | Castle Rock, CO

Co-Chapter Leaders Scott Gough and Deacon Debra Robbins spotlighted National Adoption Month by inviting Megan Munroe, Outreach Coordinator for Colorado Christian Services (CCS), to talk to us about her organization, challenges of Christian adoptions in Colorado and to show a video of one of their successful open adoptions. The audience was reminded that AFL has funds for grants to families who are members of an Anglican Church to offset the costs of adoption of January. Those hygiene items will be placed in welcome baskets for new moms taking parenting classes at the center.

### Holy Trinity Anglican Church | Plainville, CT

Chapter Leader Valerie Rich reported on two exciting events the Chapter hosted during the holiday season. Valerie notes, “We were able to give gifts to many seniors without families living in a nursing/rehabilitation facility. We identified those who do not have visitors or families, and the church members got together and gave gifts of PJ’s, hats, deodorants, and different toiletries. The Chapter also celebrated life with a beautiful baby shower for Leanna and Carlos Maldonado in December, 2025 and their baby Malachi was born on 1/17/2026.



*The Rev. John Heidengren holds sign calling for America’s repentance at the Life Chain.*



*Emmaus Chapter hosting guest speaker Megan Munroe*



# Human Dependence (cont.)

overcome, as our culture will often tell us. It is rather the normal posture that all of us receive from the Lord. We even see from Scripture that it is the place where we encounter the power of the risen Jesus — in our weakness, in our dependence, in our vulnerabilities.

And the church embodies this theology of dependence. We live it, become it, and reflect it to the world, as we bear one another's burdens. We become a place where there are networks of lavish giving and graceful receiving in this life of interdependence.

And let me just say, if we don't understand how to meet others in their dependency — and that we ourselves are dependent on God and others — we will live subhuman Christian lives. It's not a better humanity; it's a lesser vision of humanity. But if we get this right, we are constantly tapping into the power and the presence of Jesus for ourselves and for one another.

We are living between two radically different worldviews: the Biblical worldview — this life of dependence — and the other worldview, which is a life of radical independence from God and from each other, where we do not need the Lord. We do not need other people. Every day we are being shaped by either one or the other, depending on how we choose to live our lives.

So let's explore this better story of human dependence.

The dependence that the Bible talks about can be seen in 2 Corinthians 12, St. Paul describes a spiritual experience he had which was so dramatic and overwhelming, this encounter with the Lord, was like being transported into the heavenly realms. Then he was tempted to boast about it, to become arrogant and conceited about it, that the Lord gave him a gift, and that was the gift of a thorn in the flesh.

So he says in verse seven, "To keep me from becoming conceited because

of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited." Now Satan meant it for harm, but the Lord actually meant it for good in his life.

What was the thorn in the flesh? Nobody really knows. It could have been a chronic eye issue. It could have been a health issue. It could have been some other kind of affliction. For us, a thorn in the flesh can be any kind of disease, relational hurt or longing, a disability, a child with disabilities, or some kind of temptation that we constantly face.

The thorn in the flesh was there to blow the story of radical independence to bits. So, in verse eight: "Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me." Now I love that the great apostle St. Paul didn't just say, "Whatever, Lord." He said, "I don't want this, Lord. I'd rather not have this." And the Lord let him pray that, let him express his anguish.

But verse nine: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities..."

And then he ends this section with a zinger of a one-liner: "When I am weak, then I am strong." Why? Because when I'm weak, when I know my dependency, and I rely on God and others, I am creating openings for the power of Jesus to flow into my life.

*Dependence is not a defect to overcome. It's the place where we meet the risen Christ.*

One more example real quick. If you back up to 2 Corinthians 4, Paul comes to this remarkable city of such great

power, prestige, wealth, sophistication, and diversity. And he comes to this church in Corinth, and he proclaims this theology of dependence and the theology of the cross, that Jesus died for us and for our sins, and that actually shows God's power. Chapter four, verse seven: "We have this treasure in jars of clay." What's the treasure? He talks about it in verse six. The short way to say it: it's the presence of Jesus. Where is it? It's in a jar of clay. It's in me. It's in you. It's in our bodies. We are embodied creatures, and that's where Jesus dwells within us. Paul goes on to say we are afflicted, perplexed, driven to despair, persecuted, struck down — but we never lose the presence of Jesus.

And then onto verse 10: we are carrying in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. So it is in our weakness, in our dependence, that the power of Christ comes in and goes out through us to others.

This is at the heart of the better story of being human.

Being in the Imago Dei also means that we are creative, that we are inventive, that God has given us agency, strengths, and gifts. But also at the heart of this story is this theology of dependence. There are competing anthropologies that we are facing in our culture today.

On the one hand, we have a Biblical anthropology, which talks about weakness, vulnerability, and dependence. We are truly dependent on God and others. But there is another anthropology that is very strong in our culture. It is basically the default one that is often referred to now as expressive individualism.

It is a form of radical independence from God and others where we get to the place where we say, "I don't really need God." Even though in Him we live and move and take our



## Human Dependence (cont.)

every breath, we say we don't need Him. We don't need other people. We don't need to live under any kind of external authority. We can be radically independent from authority or morality. We choose who we want to be.

It really is the position from Genesis chapter three. It's not just our cultural moment — it's every cultural moment. The human heart tends this way, to agree with the devil: "I can decide what is good and evil. I don't need someone else to choose that for me."

And it's not just out there; it's in here. It's in the church. It's not just "those people." This is something we wrestle with every single day of our lives. Every time you choose to sin, you are basically living in the story of expressive individualism: I want what I want, I get what I want, I decide what is good and evil.

So this is a battle we all fight. According to the Biblical view, that story is a lie. It ignores reality because you are never independent from God. You are always dependent on others. It is a better story — a better anthropology — to say that dependence, in line with the Biblical view, is not marginal. It is central to our humanity.

We have physical weaknesses. Our bodies get sick. We age. We grow old. Eventually we die. We have fears.

We have anxieties. We carry burdens. We have moral weaknesses. We can deceive ourselves. We can be tempted. We can give in to sin so easily. All of these factors make us dependent on God and others.

And this is where the church comes in and says, "Yes, we embody this. We live this out together." We bear each other's burdens in a variety of ways.

Example 1: First, let's consider embryos. Why do we care? If you know your biology, an egg is produced by a woman, but it will never turn into life unless it is met by a male sperm, and then it becomes an embryo — a person whose life we may count in days or even hours.

An embryo is not something different from a human being. The embryo is a person at the earliest stage of natural development — a unique, unified, self-integrated person. As someone has said, an embryo is not potential life; he or she is life with potential. Just as a two-year-old or a thirteen-year-old is in a stage on the way to adulthood, the embryo is in a stage on their way to becoming a toddler, on their way to becoming that ninety-three-year-old Maria we discussed earlier.

Who you are today was once an embryo. You went through that stage to become who you are today. An embryo is not a special case. It is a test

case. How we view the embryo reveals our anthropology. What do we really believe about being human?

An embryo is a person who is wholly embodied and utterly vulnerable. Dependence is not a defect; it is a feature of who we are. And dependence calls forth obligation from us. As believers in the Imago Dei, here is something I think we should agree on: we reject any forms of technology, current or future, that dishonor the dignity of the human person at any stage of life.

Example 2: Now let's consider someone impacted with a disability. People impacted by a disability are not exceptions, their dependence is simply more visible. Radical independence is a lie. It is not reality; it is denial. People with disabilities help us understand that.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says the parts of the body that seem weaker are indispensable, and the parts we think less honorable we treat with greater honor.

Persons with disabilities are not people we serve "down to." They are fellow image bearers — equally Imago Dei. They are also our teachers. They show us what it means to be human, what it means to live in interdependence: I need you, and you need me. And in that shared dependence, we receive together the power of God — the gift

of giving and the gift of sharing one another's burdens.

Example 3: Finally, let's consider what happens at the end of life with the availability of physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia, helping people die before natural death.

On March 27 of 2025, a brilliant Nobel Prize-winning economist named Daniel Kahneman flew to Switzerland, took a few days of vacation, checked into a clinic, and had a physician assist him in taking his own life. He was ninety years old and mostly in good health. He simply thought it was time to go.

His friends were shocked because he hadn't told them. Daniel Kahneman said in a letter, "I didn't want to deal anymore with what he called the misery and indignities of the last years of life." He wanted to go out on his terms. A friend said he was afraid of losing control or of being dependent on others.

Why is this important? Because people can get into a frame of mind where they begin to believe their life is burdensome and they are worthless.

In the Biblical vision, illness, dementia, aging, and mental illness do not obliterate the Imago Dei in you or in anyone else. Actually, our dependencies reveal what it has always meant to be human. Dependence at the end-of-life is simply another example of what we face throughout the whole arc of life. "When I am weak, I am strong." When I understand my dependence, I am relying on the strength of the Lord.

My dad died in November of 2019. He grew up in a single-mother home in poverty in South Minneapolis and became a successful and respected doctor of internal medicine in Minneapolis. He raised seven kids in nine years — kudos to my mom for that too. He put seven kids through four years of college each. Twenty-eight years of college. Pretty amazing.

He was a man of deep conviction. When I was growing up, sometimes I

agreed with him; sometimes I didn't. When I became a new Christian, I heard my dad say things like, "When people get old and become useless, they should — like some tribal groups — wander off and die. They should take the initiative."

I didn't have much theological understanding at the time, but I remember thinking, as a Christian, that doesn't sound right. So I told my dad, "Dad, I don't agree with that. It seems like the tribe should take care of people." That felt natural to me.

“

**That is our comfort:  
that we belong to Him  
in life and in death.**

”

He retired around age 75, stopped working completely, and that is when he began to struggle with feelings that his life was basically over — that he was useless, that he was a burden. He began to decline emotionally, and it became a real struggle.

Then in 2010 my own life fell apart in ways I never imagined. I lost my job. I stopped being a pastor. I didn't know what I was going to do with my life. I was 50 years old and freshly aware of my dependence on God and others. And you know who was there for me as much as anyone? My dad.

We had never been very close before — always butting heads, always feeling like he didn't understand me or love me the way I wanted. But then my dad showed up. He became a dad to me. He began opening up about his life — his abusive alcoholic father, the poverty he grew up in.

In the last few years of his life, when he was at his lowest, he let me read the Gospel to him. He let me pray with him. A few months before he died, he allowed me to administer last rites. I am so thankful that time was not cut

short. I was able, in some small way, to bear his burdens and walk with him through those final years.

That experience taught me something profound about the Bible's vision of what it means to be human, something we might never figure out on our own, but something Scripture reveals to us about living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

There is a beautiful catechism — not specifically Anglican, but belonging to the whole Church — the Heidelberg Catechism. It begins with this question: "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" And the answer: "That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ."

That is our comfort: that we belong to Him in life and in death.

What does it mean to live under the Lordship of Christ? It means saying, "This is hard. This is agonizing. But Jesus, You are Lord. You will walk with me, and You will walk with us through this."

As the church, we do not leave sufferers alone. The Church, with our Lord Jesus, must say: "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Come unborn child. Come child of war, violence, persecution, or poverty. Come persecuted believers. Come displaced people. Come you who feel worthless, useless, defective, or in total despair — maybe even tempted to take your own life. Come all of you with aching bones and fading memories. The church will hold your hand. We will feed you. We will sing over you. We will walk beside you. We will help bear your burdens.

So let us be the church that walks with the Marias', through suffering, pain, and anguish, and display in our lives, through our bodies, to the world, the power of the risen Christ.

You're Invited to Participate in the World's LARGEST



# Baby Shower

March - June 2026



Join Anglicans For Life as we host a nation-wide baby shower for women facing unplanned, crisis, and new pregnancies.

## How to participate:

1. Pick a donation deadline between April and May.
2. Download the promotional content on AFL's website using the URL below.
3. Post announcements and flyers for parishioners about the items you wish to collect, such as, diapers, formula, clothing, car seats, blankets, strollers, and baby gear like pacifiers, bibs, and bottles.
4. Set-up a crib, bassinet, or playpen to gather the donated items.
5. Take a few pictures and videos of the goods and delivery of item collected, inventory the items, and send the inventory list and pictures/video to [info@AnglicansForLife.org](mailto:info@AnglicansForLife.org).
6. Deliver the supplies to your local pregnancy center.



St. Peter's Anglican Church, Birmingham, AL 2025 Baby Shower donations and volunteers.



Apostle's Anglican Church, Knoxville, TN 2025 Baby Shower donations.



Chirst the Redeemer, Nampa, ID 2025 Baby Shower donations and volunteers.

## Over the past 3 years, the Baby Shower has collected



**6,964**  
articles of  
clothing



**100,301**  
diapers



**\$51,277**  
in cash



**2,448**  
packs of wipes



Visit [AnglicansForLife.org/baby-shower](https://AnglicansForLife.org/baby-shower) to learn more and download promotional graphics, text, and announcements.

## YOUR GIFTS WILL HELP CHANGE LIVES.

Anglicans For Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to uphold the Sanctity of Life by supporting Life-Affirming ministry in Anglicans churches across America. Our work is made possible thanks to the generosity of friends, churches and foundations. Please use the enclosed envelope to donate or visit [AnglicansForLife.org/Give](https://AnglicansForLife.org/Give).



Scan to  
donate.

335 Sherman Street, Ambridge, PA 15003 | 412-749-0455 | [AnglicansForLife.org](https://AnglicansForLife.org)