



# SPEAKING UP

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...for the Pregnancy Care Centers of Flint and Saginaw; and encouraging area WELS and ELS members & congregations to continue to support this ministry with their prayers, participation, and financial gifts. Our Centers are affiliated with Christian Life Resources, (CLR), a parasynodical organization of WELS.

## FLINT CENTER

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## MORE EFFECTIVE THAN VOTING IN NOVEMBER!

God's Word is clear. Life is a precious gift from God. Unborn babies are individual human beings. Ending the life of another human being under any circumstances other than acting as an agent of the government is wrong. Christians rightly identify abortion as a sin against God that robs a child of their time of grace. Working to prevent abortion is a worthy and godly cause. However, Christians make the mistake of identifying the presidential election every 4 years as the most effective means of championing that cause. Each election brings the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate into the spotlight, and it is common to hear Christians urging other Christians to vote for a specific candidate based only on their stance on abortion, sometimes even going so far as to say it's wrong to vote any other way or with any other issue in mind.

Despite these strong assertions, statistics seem to show that the sitting president has little to no effect on abortion rates in our country. Abortion rates have dropped continually through the past several decades, despite the party of the presidents in office. After continuing to decline through President Obama's administration, abortion rates reached an historic low in 2017. (We can praise God for that!) Even Supreme Court nominations seem to have had little meaningful impact on national abortion rates. In contrast, elections and policies on the local and state levels have been shown to have significantly more influence. While a presidential candidate's abortion views are worth taking

into consideration, Christians who want to make a difference with their vote will do well to educate themselves and give special attention to local and state elections. Even then, voting isn't the most effective way to combat abortion in our country.

Research conducted by the University of Norte Dame provides some insight. A recent survey concluded that 2/3 of Americans fall somewhere between the extremes of "pro-choice" or "pro-life." More encouragingly, it also showed that the overwhelming majority of Americans on all sides of the issue view abortion as something to be avoided.

What does this all mean? It means that even though it might feel like Christians are fighting an uphill battle against an evil the world is set on, the battle might not be that much uphill at all. Trying to force abortion to stop by political action or legislation might not be necessary, if few people actually see it as a desirable outcome.

There is something more effective, more powerful: Christian love! Christian love and support for families and mothers, looks like this: showing that Christians care about helping and saving, not just forcing opinions on others, helping a young and scared mother see that she does have another way, that her life isn't over, that there are people who will love and care for her and her baby and ask for nothing in return. That's what the PCCs are all about, and God is blessing our work!

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## EARLY THANKSGIVING

We are celebrating an early Thanksgiving at the Pregnancy Care Centers because the mortgage has been paid off! We thank God for making this possible through the generous supporters of our ministry. Having the mortgage paid off frees up funds to be used more directly to support mothers, children, and families in our area. We look forward to seeing how God will bless these efforts!

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## SUPPLY DONATIONS

Donated supplies support the ministry of the Pregnancy Care Centers of Flint and Saginaw. Check with your congregation to see if you have any leftover cradle roll materials that are no longer needed. Our centers could put those materials to good use. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to have need for additional volunteers. The Flint Center especially needs mentors and receptionists. Please pray that God will fill our centers' needs for workers, and consider whether you might be able to volunteer, even on a limited basis. Every hour counts!