



**PREGNANCY
CARE CENTER**

Speaking Up

Volume 10 Issue 5 November/December

Baptism Part 3: Blessings and Responsibilities

Baptism is a wonderful gift from God by which God gives faith, forgiveness and eternal life to the one baptized. It's no wonder we rejoice when one of the mother's who has come to us asks to have her child baptized.

But along with the rejoicing, let's also think seriously about what these words from Hebrews chapter 10 tell us: "How much greater punishment do you think will be deserved by the person who trampled the Son of God underfoot, who considered insignificant the blood of the covenant, by which he was sanctified, and who insulted the Spirit of grace?"

Baptism brings a person into a relationship with "the blood of the covenant," the blood of Jesus shed on the cross to pay for our forgiveness. However, if a child becomes a Christian through baptism, but then is never fed in that faith, the faith will shrivel up and die. "He will consider *insignificant*" that is, as something common and ordinary "the blood of the covenant."

Certainly the parent bears much responsibility in a case like this. If the parent who wanted the baptism in the first place never follows up by feeding the child's faith, "How much greater punishment do you think will be deserved by that person," for letting faith die. But sadly, though it might be a problem caused by the parent, it will be a problem

suffered also by that child who no longer has a living faith. We can't escape from the fact that Jesus said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16 (EHV)

Baptism **with** its resulting faith in Jesus saves. But baptism **without** faith—which can happen when baptismal faith is left unfed—does not save. Thank God it's so easy to feed baptismal faith! Bible classes are available for these mothers. The mentors at the center can stress the saving power of baptism when one is requested. Children's Bible story books can be read to the child. If the Holy Spirit could cause John The Baptizer to "leap for joy" in Elizabeth's womb, He can also work in the hearts of these little children when they hear Scripture and Scripture based stories. Please pray that the Holy Spirit so works in the hearts of the mothers who come to us for physical assistance, that they will train up their children to know and appreciate the Christian faith that has been given to them.

The annual meeting of the Pregnancy Care Centers of Saginaw and Flint will be at noon Saturday, January 13th at St. John Lutheran Church, Zilwaukee. Lunch will be served at 12:00, with the general meeting following. All are welcome. The PCC Board of Directors will meet afterward.

The house at 820 S. Porter, next to the Saginaw PCC, has



been demolished, leaving this nice open area for much needed parking for the Center's clients.

*Speaking Up...*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 the WELS.

FLINT CENTER

5154 Miller Rd, Suite H
Flint, MI 48507
(810) 762-1262
flintpcc.org

SAGINAW CENTER

916 Gratiot Ave
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-7664
saginawpcc.org