



CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES

— FOR LIFE • FOR FAMILY —

Clear, biblically grounded direction on today’s most challenging topics—bioethics, end-of-life care, reproductive technology, gender questions, and more. Whether you’re serving in ministry, teaching, counseling, or simply navigating life, we provide resources and support tailored to your needs.

The Life Challenges Podcast

We are closing in on 250 episodes and have reached over 50,000 downloads. Check out our top five episodes:



1. **The Pro-Life Diet** (<https://bit.ly/4d90Si3>)
2. **Interview with Pastor Kurt Ebert on Suicide and Grief** (<https://bit.ly/4s2Xj0Q>)
3. **From Transition to Truth: A Journey with Katie Coblentz | Part 1** (<https://bit.ly/4uMQ9A6>)
4. **A Christian Dialogue on the Death Penalty** (<https://bit.ly/4bPnhP7>)
5. **“Acceptable” Addictions? with Mike Helwig** (<https://bit.ly/47mfGX3>)

1.



2.



3.



4.



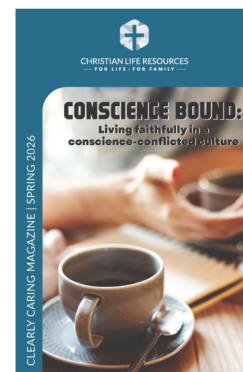
5.



A weekly 30-minute Biblical perspective on challenging issues. Find us at: LifeChallenges.us

Clearly Caring

A quarterly publication of Christian Life Resources, focusing on the issues and challenges of our time. The current issue focuses on situations that challenge the Christian conscience.



Coming Soon

Easy access to Life Sunday materials through WELS Foundations. You will be able to insert prepared material for special focus worship services celebrating God’s gift of life.



CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES CENTER OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Recent Life & Family News

Scan or Click QR Code for Original Article



First Birth from Transplanted Womb: A UK woman with MRKH syndrome gave birth to a baby boy after a deceased-donor womb transplant—the first in the UK and among Europe’s few cases. The 10-hour transplant, IVF, and delivery occurred within a clinical trial assessing womb transplantation for women without a viable uterus. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/28jq6x7h> accessed 2-24-26)

Fascinating Theory on Preventing Autism: The article explores whether some cases of autism might be prevented by reducing parental exposure to environmental toxins during a 1,300-day window from preconception through age 2. It highlights hypotheses about air pollution, pesticides, and endocrine disruptors, while stressing preliminary evidence, multifactorial causation, and warnings against blame or overstated prevention claims. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2ck4nfw9> accessed 2-25-26)



The Appeal of Assisted Suicide to Baby Boomers: The article profiles aging boomers like 71-year-old Pat Ames, who, though healthy, seek control over death, including travel for assisted suicide, as more U.S. states legalize tightly regulated physician-assisted dying for terminal, mentally competent adults, intensifying debate over autonomy, safeguards, dementia exclusions, and a truly “dignified” end of life. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/248s2h8g> accessed 2-25-26)

Love with an AI Reboot: As China faces a shrinking population and record-low birth rates, many young adults are forming intimate bonds with AI chatbots rather than pursuing God-ordained human relationships. As Communist Party pressure to marry rises, regulators warn these designs may replace real social interaction. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywecuww> accessed 2-26-26)



Home Birth Raise Dilemmas: Amid rising interest in home births, serious risks arise when complications require hospital transfer, and mistrust or poor coordination delays care. Midwives report refusals, redirection, and stigma; physicians report traumatic outcomes from delayed emergent transfers. Birth centers offer a middle ground, though formal hospital-transfer agreements remain difficult to secure. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2bwj3kxu> accessed 2-26-26)

Artificial Intelligence and Personhood: Amid growing concern about AI’s rapid development, futurist and former CLR Board member Tom Frey examines whether AI should be granted limited personhood, akin to that of corporations. From a conservative Biblical and Christian perspective, he urges prudent, early planning rather than reactive crisis management. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/24abhdsww> accessed 2-27-26)



Stem Cells to Treat Spina Bifida in the Unborn: A first-in-human Lancet trial found no significant short-term adverse effects in six children when placenta-derived stem cells were applied in a patch to the exposed spinal cord during fetal surgery for severe spina bifida. UC Davis expanded enrollment to 35 patients, with follow-up through age six. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/24s6cr24> accessed 3-1-26)



Redefining Death to Help Organ Donation: Donation after circulatory death (DCD)—harvesting organs after the heart stops rather than after brain death—now accounts for 49% of deceased U.S. organ donors, up from 2% in 2000. A JAMA study found regional variation, but public trust remains strained by reports of potential donors showing signs of life. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2dd28g9m> accessed 3-1-26)

More Couples Choose Domestic Partnerships Over Weddings: More couples are choosing “domestic partnership parties” over weddings, using civil domestic partnership status to formalize their commitment without the full legal and financial entanglements of marriage. Millennials and Gen Z drive modest growth, valuing intimacy, flexibility, lower cost, and select benefits while avoiding the obligations and “risks” of traditional marriage. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/28hvjmh9> accessed 3-2-26)



Lab-Grown Brains Becoming More Powerful: Scientists at the University of California, Santa Cruz are taking lab-grown mini-brains into their toddler era, after demonstrating that brain organoids can process information in real time and learn to resolve the “cart-pole” problem. (Source [easy read]: <https://tinyurl.com/2yf37v8z>; Source [deep read]: <https://tinyurl.com/242calu4> accessed 3-3-26)

The Canadian Killing Fields: Canada is nearing 100,000 deaths under Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). Same-day suicide has reportedly led to the killing of a patient who had withdrawn her request for MAiD, highlighting the deadly moral drift of legalized euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. About 5.1% of deaths in Canada are by MAiD. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/23oqggyt> accessed 3-12-26)



Costco Enters the Fertility Business: Costco is partnering with Sesame and fertility network IVI RMA to offer members discounted fertility services, including IVF, IUI, and egg freezing, plus up to 80% savings on fertility drugs, aiming to expand access, lower out-of-pocket costs, and streamline coordinated specialist care for people facing infertility. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/25gfjs8o> accessed 3-12-26)

Scotland Rejects Assisted Suicide: Scotland’s Parliament rejected an assisted dying bill, 69–57, after an emotional debate over coercion, disability rights, safeguards, and palliative care. The proposal would have allowed terminally ill, mentally capable adults to request life-ending medication. Supporters called it a compassionate choice; opponents said vulnerable people needed stronger protection instead. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/25lcvkfb> accessed 3-18-26)



Japan Approves Reprogrammed iPSC Cells: Japan approved the world’s first stem cell therapies for Parkinson’s disease and severe heart failure, using induced pluripotent stem cells to replace damaged neurons or support heart repair. Both received conditional approval based on small early trials, so longer-term monitoring is still needed to confirm safety, effectiveness, and cost justification. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/26lngu6d> accessed 3-18-26)

A Limit on Serial Cloning: Japanese researchers spent two decades repeatedly cloning mice from earlier clones, producing over 1,200 animals and reaching 58 generations before accumulated harmful mutations caused the line to collapse. Early generations stayed healthy, especially with trichostatin A, but the experiment showed serial mammalian cloning is not limitless; sexual reproduction may help reset the damage. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2y7aerh7> accessed 3-25-26)





Umbilical Cord Blood Lawsuit: Two states are suing Cord Blood Registry, alleging it misled parents by overstating the medical benefits of storing newborn stem cells, despite limited real-world use, contamination concerns, and high costs. The case follows earlier reporting that private cord blood banking often delivers far less value than advertised. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2a29veuj> accessed 3-26-26)

The Slippery Slope of Assisted Suicide: A 25-year-old Spanish woman, Noelia Castillo, died by legal euthanasia in Barcelona after a prolonged court fight with her father, who argued her mental illness impaired consent. Approved in 2024 under Spain's 2021 euthanasia law, her case drew national attention because of her age, paralysis, and family opposition. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/24pfhjfk> accessed 3-28-26)



AI and Neural Consciousness: In the past, I have hinted at how artificial intelligence is moving towards autonomous thinking models. This is a BIG step in that direction: TRIBE v2 is an AI system that predicts whole-brain fMRI responses from video, audio, and language. It has been trained on more than 1,000 hours of data from 720 subjects. It helps scientists run computer-based brain studies that are easier to understand, including how people process sights, sounds, and language. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/24nt65uz> accessed 3-30-26)

Upload Human Consciousness: AI research is still a “wild west” of trials and errors. As intelligence models improve, outliers will fall away, and convergence will occur (as we saw with computers and the entertainment industry). Consider the content of the previous NEWS story with this announcement about uploading human consciousness. Any guesses of what this might look like in 50-100 years? (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/25qvvt5k> accessed 3-30-26)



Duke's Boozers Twins, IVF, and the Rest of the Story: Duke basketball twins Cameron and Cayden Boozers were conceived through IVF to save their brother Carmani from sickle cell disease, highlighting both medical triumph and moral cost. Their story underscores growing ethical concerns as advanced IVF technologies now enable genetic screening, embryo selection, and widespread embryo discarding in pursuit of “ideal” children. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/29e4kjm> accessed 3-31-26)

“Zombie Filler” the New Rage in Cosmetic Surgery: A new cosmetic trend uses Alloclae, an injectable filler made from sterilized fat harvested from cadaver tissue banks, to enhance bodies without surgery or anesthesia. While marketed as safe and convenient, it raises consent, commodification of the dead, and necro-cosmetic ethics concerns. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2bhnzog6> accessed 3-31-26)



Uterus Research to Study Gestation and Possible Artificial Womb: Researchers kept a donated human uterus alive outside the body for 24 hours using a perfusion machine called Mother. This breakthrough enables the study of menstrual cycles, uterine diseases, and embryo implantation with stem-cell models. Long-term goals include full gestation support, advancing uterus transplants, and infertility treatments. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/27tnk3gh> accessed 4-1-26)



Abortions Rose in 2025: Guttmacher estimates 1.126 million clinician-provided abortions in 2025, a slight increase from 2024, while interstate travel declined and telehealth abortions to residents of ban states increased. The shift shows how abortion access is increasingly shaped by state restrictions, cross-state networks, and remote prescribing, raising continuing legal and ethical concerns. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/23mbxy95> accessed 4-3-26)

Singleness Correlation to Cancer: University of Miami researchers found that never-married adults had higher cancer rates than people who were married, divorced, separated, or widowed, based on data from more than 4 million cases. The findings suggest social support, economic stability, screening, and health behaviors may shape cancer risk, highlighting marriage-linked inequities in public health prevention. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/23vjeoae> accessed 4-9-26)



US Fertility Rate Record Low: U.S. fertility fell again in 2025, reaching a record low as births declined and parenthood shifted later into adulthood. Fewer teenage and early-20s pregnancies suggest greater reproductive control, but the long slide raises concerns about future workers, aging demographics, family formation, and the nation's social and economic stability. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/26pnjv92> accessed 4-9-26)

Flipping One out of 2.8 Billion DNA Letters Makes a Boy from a Girl: Bar-Ilan University scientists report inserting a single DNA letter into a non-coding regulatory region in mice flips XX embryos to develop fully male bodies by activating Sox9, highlighting powerful roles of non-coding DNA in sex development and unexplained human sex differences. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/25xftnud> accessed 4-10-26)



Trouble with "Vegetative State" Diagnoses: New research using brain imaging suggests many patients labeled vegetative may show hidden signs of consciousness and can follow verbal commands through mental imagery tasks, challenging long-held assumptions about awareness, prognosis, and pain. Ethicists warn misdiagnosis could wrongly justify withdrawing life support. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2422uxqj> accessed 4-10-26)

MAiD in Canada and the Slippery Slope: Canada is moving toward expanding medical assistance in dying to people whose sole underlying condition is a psychiatric disorder, despite psychiatrists lacking reliable methods to determine futility or irremediability in mental illness. Critics warn this undermines safeguards, risks avoidable deaths, and shifts focus from care to killing. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/273xnacs> accessed 4-10-26)



Prehistoric Sequencing and a T-Rex Leather Handbag: Scientists and designers unveiled a luxury handbag made from lab-grown collagen modeled on fragments from Tyrannosaurus rex fossils, now displayed in Amsterdam before a high-value auction. The project highlights synthetic biology's push into fashion, raising questions about marketing hype, authenticity, sustainability, and how biotech may reshape status goods and materials. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2dpogw9s> accessed 4-12-26)



More Effective Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer: Revolution Medicines said its oral drug daraxonrasib succeeded in a Phase 3 trial for previously treated metastatic pancreatic cancer, extending average survival to 13.2 months from 6.7 months and cutting the risk of death by 60%. The results could expand options for a lethal cancer with few treatments and an urgent unmet need. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/29yug6un> accessed 4-14-26)

Kentucky’s “Pause in Procedure” Organ Transplant Law: Kentucky enacted House Bill 510, requiring organ procurement teams to stop immediately if any provider detects signs of life during donation procedures. The law follows a 2021 near-harvest case involving TJ Hoover and aims to strengthen patient protection, restore public trust, and address ethical concerns about death determination and informed oversight. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2d6dkp33> accessed 4-17-26)



Black Maternal Mortality 3 Times Higher: Black women in the United States remained about three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes in 2024 than white or Hispanic women, despite modest overall improvement. The disparity underscores persistent inequities in maternal care and raises concern that reduced abortion access and weakened equity efforts could worsen outcomes nationwide. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/29ocmuju> accessed 4-17-26)

Death Doulas at the End of Life: Nicole Kidman says she is training as a death doula after her mother’s lonely final days revealed gaps in end-of-life support. Death doulas are nonmedical companions who help dying people and families with comfort, fears, planning, and conversation, reflecting growing interest in more humane, relational care around death. (Source: <https://tinyurl.com/2byty4bq> accessed 4-17-26)



Your premier resource for Christian ethics, compassionate ministry, and practical support for your entire community—serving you, so you can serve others faithfully.

Christian Life Resources Staff

Mrs. Jennifer Bloomier, Office Manager | Ms. Sheryl Eller, Executive Assistant | Rev. Robert Fleischmann, National Director & Director of CLR Bioethics Institute | Ms. Rachel Greiner, Director of CLR Bridge Ministries | Mrs. Brittany Jahns, Donor Relations Associate | Ms. Cassandra Stanke, Creative Content Director | Mrs. Michelle Wallace, Development Director | Mr. Ellis Zuleger, Development Intern

Christian Life Resources Board of Directors

Rev. Em. James Behringer, Chairman | Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen, Vice-Chairman | Mr. Scott Menke, Treasurer | Dr. Steve Bondow, Secretary | Rev. Jeremy Husby | Rev. Adam Pilarski | Mr. Brian Roser | Mr. Philip Warnecke | Prof. Brad Wordell

Christian Life Resources | Box 56 | Richfield, WI 53076
info@christianliferesources.com | 1-800-729-9535
ChristianLifeResources.com



DISTRICT CONVENTION
 REPORT 2026



More than 20% of all recognized pregnancies end in miscarriage or stillbirth. (CDC)



You Can Care for Families After Miscarriage and Infant Loss

When a couple in your church experiences miscarriage or infant loss, they are often surrounded by silence, confusion, and experience deep grief. In those moments, it can be hard to reach their hearts—but the church can show love through tangible care. Bridge Ministries’ Care Boxes are a simple yet profound way to offer tangible comfort and Christ-centered hope to families in their pain.

Each Care Box is filled items that remind grieving parents God knows their child, God sees their grief, and God is near to the brokenhearted. **Each box includes items like a Christian mug and journal, blanket, helpful resource packet, *Held by the Shepherd* devotion book, and more.** These are mailed to families, churches, and ministries that request them.



Care Boxes Extend a Congregation’s Ministry

Give a Care Box to a family right after a loss so they know the church is walking with them. Order one or two boxes for your church and keep a Care Box on hand so you’re ready. Use the contents to prompt gospel conversations about grief, hope, and the value of every life. Share boxes with friends and family. This compassion may open the door to sharing the gospel.

Host a Care Box Assembly event and invite your church to pack boxes for families in your congregation and for outreach partners. This event trains your people how to care well after miscarriage and infant loss and strengthens your church’s culture of compassion.

Words of Gratitude

“This past July, our family experienced an early pregnancy loss. It wasn’t the first time I’ve lost a baby, but it was the first time I received a care package that was centered in my faith while also acknowledging the depth of my grief. My Faith mug holds a place of prominence in my home (as a pen and paintbrush holder, if I’m honest!), and every time I walk past it, I’m reminded of how, in a moment of emptiness, I felt comforted.”

Visit our website for tips on things to say (and not to say), our online memorial wall, to order Care Boxes, to request prayers, or to download our pastor guide.





Student & Parent Presentations

We offer student and parent presentations on valuing life, technology, healthy relationships, and more, tailored to your school, youth group, or church.

“The way the kids really were engaged with the message and able to have a safe space to talk about things they face in a world outside of school—I can tell it was both enjoyable and easy for them to listen.”
– Teacher who hosted a presentation



RachelG@christianliferesources.com

2026 Annual Conference

We invite you to join us Saturday, September 12, at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan, for our annual conference. We'll be tackling a range of life issues including healthy ways to cope, sexual shame, interview of abortion survivor. This year's theme is "Rooted by the River," based on Psalm 1:3, "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."



Scan or click the QR code for more information!



New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers Update

We are eager for a larger new building that will serve more families with care! The need is great.

M, whose baby is pictured, was recently blessed to meet with a local pastor to talk through questions about a sermon she had watched. Their conversation brought her clarity and encouragement.



Aimee, a labor and delivery RN and one of our resident supervisors, is a huge blessing to our moms! She walks alongside them, brings encouragement, and is making our boutique more beautiful for every family we serve.