



Tuesday, December 5, 2023

## Cherish Life

Dear Pastor,

Our Vision Statement at Wisconsin Family Council is a Wisconsin where God is honored, **life is cherished**, families thrive, and religious freedom flourishes.

As Christians, we cherish life because we believe that all are in the Image of God from the moment of conception (Genesis 1:26-28). This Fall, my wife and I were given the blessing of conceiving our first child. Unfortunately, we lost baby Dani due to an ectopic pregnancy. As believers, we view these losses differently than some in the culture because we value and cherish all life made in God's image.

Through this journey, we discovered ways that the local church can better cherish the life that is lost through a miscarriage.

## Apologetics

After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last year, there was a misunderstanding (or mischaracterization) by some that a miscarriage is the same as an elective abortion. One of the common arguments we hear is that hospital billing statements sometimes refer to miscarriages as spontaneous abortions; therefore, it would be illegal to have a miscarriage in Wisconsin. This is patently false in that a miscarriage which is the unfortunate natural ("spontaneous") death of an unborn baby is not the same as intentionally, actively killing an unborn child.

Another argument we hear is that abortion bans would kill women with ectopic pregnancies. Ectopic pregnancies like my wife's occur in around 2% of pregnancies. An ectopic pregnancy happens when the unborn child in the embryonic stage of development gets stuck in the fallopian tube, never making it to the uterus where it needs to implant in the uterine wall in order to survive and come to term. Unless the embryo whose demise is certain is removed, the mother's life is at risk. This is not the same as an elective abortion. In our case, we were given the option of having the baby removed via chemotherapy that would naturally remove the baby or through surgery to remove the child. We cherish the lives of these children by allowing them to naturally die after being surgically removed or if they naturally die prior to injecting the mother with chemotherapy to safely remove the baby from the fallopian tube.



Churches can provide an apologetic framework that cherishes life and educates those in the pews on these issues by valuing human life through preaching, counseling, and prayer.

## Support

My wife and I were so grateful to have the support of our local church pastor and other families who have experienced miscarriages within our church. One in four women experience miscarriage. It is extremely likely that someone in your church has experienced one.

One way we were supported was the night we lost our baby, a family in our church dropped off a grief basket to bring us comfort. This was extremely beneficial to us, and we encourage your church to think through a similar way that you can support families grieving a miscarriage. By having a grief basket ready to go, you or someone in your church can deliver it to a family in need the moment you get the call or text that they lost their child. We would recommend that you put the following in a grief basket: husband and wife devotionals, a blanket, snacks, and a handwritten card from a couple in your church who have had a miscarriage, offering support and prayer.

We pray our personal experience will help your church effectively minister to those who experience these losses. Thank you for your work to cherish life in your church and for your prayers for our family.

In Christ,



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P.S. This week, we encourage you to join us by praying for Senator Brad Pfaff (Onalaska), Representative Tod Ohnstad (Kenosha), and Representative Donna Rozar (Marshfield).

P.P.S. We had 263 meetings with governing authorities this year. Our goal for Quarter One of 2024 is to have 40 pastors join us in the Capitol. We would appreciate your help in accomplishing this goal. You can sign up for the day(s) to join us in the Capitol [HERE](#).