



## STATEMENT ON SCOTUS DECISION

Dear Brothers,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, in whom there is life and light in our world of darkness and death.

As everyone in our sharply divided country knows, on Friday the Supreme Court of the United States struck down *Roe v. Wade*, which since January 22, 1973 had endorsed the taking of unborn life as a constitutional right. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has consistently and vigorously voiced its opposition to the Court’s infamous decision and we have continuously engaged in public and private efforts in support of pregnant women and their babies.

We urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you use this opportunity to provide your parishioners with a public and private example of Christian clarity and compassion on this matter which strikes at the very heart of what it means to be man and woman made in the image and likeness of God. This is especially true with the flood of social media arguments which show not only a divided people, but many seared consciences who need the peace our Lord provides.

This is not a time for arrogant triumphalism. Keep in mind there are undoubtedly people in your flock and many in your community who have themselves had abortions or encouraged them. You can be a voice of calm reason and empathy in the highly charged domestic debates and disturbances which are sure to follow in the wake of this decision. As MN Governor Walz stated on Friday: “This ruling changes nothing in Minnesota... We will not turn back the clock on reproductive rights.” Therefore, we must maintain advocacy and care for all life in our Minnesota communities. All life young or old, male or female, is precious. Each is a soul for whom our Lord Jesus Christ bled and died.

Above all, tend to your calling as a servant of Christ and steward of God’s mysteries. Preach the Law of God uncompromisingly, of course, but preach the Gospel as well, without equivocation or apology. The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses from all sin – even the sin of abortion. There is mercy, forgiveness, and restoration for every penitent soul.

Finally, lead your people in prayers for our governor, the President, Congress, and all judges and magistrates, that they may provide for the common good and ensure domestic tranquility,

so the gospel may continue to be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people and they may serve Him in quiet peace.

#### Prayer

*Lord God of Hosts, You establish government to reward good and punish evil. We praise You for the defeat of rulings and precedents that harm the innocent. Continue to move lawmakers and leaders, judges, and justices, to pursue what is good and right for the people under their care. Grant safety to them and their families, and give them the courage to meet violence and discord with appropriate justice.*

*Heavenly Father, raise up the people of Your Church to commit ourselves anew to Your gift of life. Help us to love our neighbor in word and in deed. Bless and defend the unborn, the elderly, and those who have disabilities of any kind. Prosper the work of people who serve them, that all people may know their lives are a gift from You through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. [2 Timothy 2:1-4]

Your brothers in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Brady Finnern". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Brady Finnern, President MN North

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucas V. Woodford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, President, MN South