

Welcome to the first edition of the *CBI Bioethics Update*! We thought that it would be a good idea to send periodic (about once per month) bioethics updates to those who have shown interest in the institute and to LCMS Pastors in the State of Wisconsin. The *Update* will briefly address bioethics issues of regional or national concern and will give a report on the Concordia Center for Bioethics. My goal is to make these updates readable and informative. If you have any ideas for future issues, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

CBI Bioethics Update will be mostly sent out by e-mail and posted on the web. Others will receive it by regular U.S. Mail. If you get one by regular mail, please call my office or send an e-mail so that we can send it to you electronically from that point forward. Thanks much in advance for doing so!

Update on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research...

It seems to me that this Presidential election year has been the most hotly contended in recent memory. Numerous issues are thrown around the press without much thought or depth. One of these is the future of human stem cell research. There are about 210 different kinds of cells in our bodies. They all come from very specialized cells called stem cells. For example, a stem cell found in our bone marrow makes all the different kinds of blood cells found in our bodies. From another kind of stem cell comes the various skin cells covering our bodies. Researchers hope to successfully treat incurable diseases like AIDS and Parkinson's disease. This contact one or more times a week.

Here are a few important points to remember about stem cell research. First, President Bush is the first President to allow federal funds to be spent on embryonic stem cell research. On August 9, 2001, during his first live TV appearance before the American people, he announced that taxpayer money could be spent for research on stem cell lines derived from embryos already destroyed before August 11, 2001. Since that time it has been determined that there are approximately 22 stem cell lines that would be eligible for federal funding using that criterion. Second, embryonic stem cell research supported by private funds is still legal in the U.S. Third, while President Bush and Senator Kerry both support federal funding of adult stem cell research

