

Spring 2012

LifeDate

A quarterly journal of life issue news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

Equipping the Saints For Life!

“He also gave apostles, prophets, missionaries, as well as pastors and teachers as gifts to his church. Their purpose is to prepare God’s people to serve and to build up the body of Christ”
(Ephesians 4:11-12 *GOD’S WORD*).



Join us at the Westin
Chicago Northwest
hotel in Itasca, Illinois,
August 3-4 for 2012
Lutherans For Life
National Conference!
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Lutherans
For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
motivated voices For Life.

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The Right to Heresy?



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

The Greek word, *αιρεσις* (hair-e-sis), means “choice.” It is often translated “heresy” when describing a wrong choice, a choice contrary to the way of God (Acts 24:14 KJV). Thus, the popular pro-abortion phrase, “the right to choose,” could be, “the right to heresy,” and “pro-choice” would be “pro-heresy” if the choice is contrary to the way of God.

Everyone knows that “pro-choice” equals “pro-abortion” and the “right to choose” means the choice of abortion. Since abortion is the murder of a human being, clearly prohibited in Exodus 20:13, such choosing is heresy. Pushing this a little further, those who support such statements would be heretics!

I hesitated to develop this line of reasoning for fear of initiating a name-calling frenzy among fellow Christians. This would serve no purpose and only further entrench people with opposing views. My intent, however, is to help us all remember the very serious and theological nature of abortion and of the position of defending it as a “right.” Abortion goes beyond political or social or moral. Abortion is heresy, a choice contrary to the way of God. For a Christian to agree to the wrongness of abortion but defend it as a right is,

therefore, not tenable. It is neither proper nor loving to support a fellow Christian’s right to heresy.

On the contrary, Christians are compelled to confront this heresy as they would any false doctrine. Abortion is a heresy that actual undermines many doctrines. It undermines the doctrine of creation for it destroys the work of God’s hands (Psalm 139:13). It undermines the doctrine of redemption by making light of the value given every human life from the moment of conception by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus “for all” (Hebrews 10:10).

Abortion undermines the doctrine of sanctification as it destroys someone God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him (1 Timothy 2:4).

Christians confront heresy with another Greek word, *αληθειας* (al-ay-thi-is)—TRUTH. The truth of God’s Word exposes what we are to be against and reveals what we are FOR! The Church

cannot just be against abortion, it must be FOR LIFE! Sharing the truth of the immeasurable value God gives to life not only exposes the heresy of abortion it also prevents Christians from falling prey to this heresy. For those who have been seduced by the heresy of abortion, the truth offers The Way back, Jesus Christ and His grace.

Lutherans For Life will continue to equip Lutherans to confront the heresy of abortion and to connect the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the life issues so that *αληθειας* triumphs over *αιρεσις*!



Equipping the Saints to be a Haven of Mercy



by Kristin Wassilak

“If only I would have known the pain and guilt would stay with me forever!” It’s a common reaction from Christian women journeying toward healing after abortions. It causes me to wonder, “What could have been said or done that would have stopped you from choosing the death of your little one?”

A few answer, “Nothing.” Some say, “I didn’t give anyone the chance. I was too ashamed to tell anyone.” Many respond, “I couldn’t see any other way.”

These women believe their Christian families and churches are not safe havens for sinners.

Are we *really* such a poor reflection of God’s mercy that someone with a crisis pregnancy concludes ironically: *death is the only viable option*?

Yes, I confess I am a poor reflection. I get defensive instead of saying, “I was wrong.” I talk harshly about others. So why should I expect my son and daughter to feel safe approaching me with their sin? Why should they be confident of mercy, when they see me pronounce verdict on others?

Our churches rightly “equip the saints” by teaching the Law (e.g. purity, abstinence, the sin of abortion, the 10 Commandments) and the Gospel (baptism, Apostles’ Creed, The First Article—treasures of the Church).

But we can also fail corporately to equip the saints for lives of mercy if we merely state Law and Gospel without applying it at the proper time. The Gospel is very difficult for a scared woman to trust. To her troubled soul, Satan brings

to mind every harsh commandment; he obscures Christ’s merciful words and instead convinces her fearful soul she is guilty beyond redemption.

So then how will a woman in a crisis pregnancy stand a chance to truly *hear* the Gospel? How will she recognize it is safe to confess her sin and that she does not need to cover sin by sinning more?

She will know it because she has experienced time and time again confession received with Christ’s forgiveness in her home and church:

- Her mother responded with mercy and hugs when a she was a child tearfully saying, “I’m sorry.”
- Her father lashed out in anger and said, “I sinned. Please forgive me.”
- Her pastor hurts her feelings and sought her out to beg forgiveness.
- She receives the Body and Blood of her Lord, “shed for you.”

She will also know from her Lord, the holy, perfect Son of God who responds to a woman’s sin-broken heart with mercy. When the woman caught in sin stands alone, abandoned by her judges, Jesus declares a sentence of life: **“Neither do I condemn you”** (John 8:11). For in Christ, she does not have to be innocent to be declared “not guilty” by God. Let us be who we are in Christ: a safe haven for every sinner’s confession and a vehicle of God’s mercy!

Hurting from Abortion?
A Word of Hope can help.
 888-217-8679
www.word-of-hope.org
 Confidential . . . Caring

The Consequences of Roe v. Wade

54,559,615

Total USA abortions since 1973

Based on numbers reported by the Guttmacher Institute 1973-2008, with estimates of 1,212,400 for 2009-2011. GI estimates a possible 3% under reporting rate, which is factored into the total.

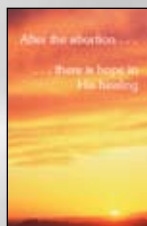
Source: National Right to Life, 1/12



“The Bible has much to say about God’s concern for the defenseless. And the most defenseless of all people are unborn children. They are speechless to plead their own cause and helpless to protect their own lives. So it is our responsibility to do for them what they cannot do for themselves.”

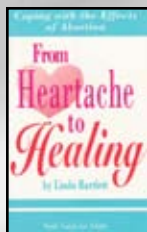
John Stott, English Christian leader and Anglican cleric

To help heal after the abortion ...



After the Abortion
There is Hope in His Healing, by Linda Bartlett, offers hope to those who are struggling with an abortion decision.

“Through the power of Christ’s death and resurrection, you are set free to rejoice in the newness of life!”
Item LFL405B. \$1.00 ea.



From Heartache to Healing – Author Linda Bartlett encourages us all to consider the reality of abortion and the ways in which the Church can minister to the needs of those who

suffer abortion’s effects.
Item LFL401BS. \$4.85 ea.



Hope in His Healing (Spanish) – Abortion may seem convenient, but anger, guilt, and despair are soon to follow. God doesn’t want us to carry the baggage of sin. Instead, He offers to set us free to rejoice in the newness of life!

Item LFL403T. \$0.50 ea.



Word of Hope offers information on LFL’s post-abortion ministry, which offers confidential post-abortion counseling and reconciliation. **Note: Limit 25 copies.** For larger quantities call LFL.

Item LFL404T. FREE

Sunday and Roe v. Wade



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

God and abortion came face to face this year. The anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, January 22, 1973, fell on a Sunday. People gathered to worship the Lord and Author of Life on the day when, thirty-nine years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court effectively took the right to life away from the defenseless unborn and declared the right to murder them constitutional.

Since then, over 54,000,000 little lives have been slaughtered under the death cry of “the right to choose.” That equals the population of eighteen of the twenty-two states west of the Mississippi.

Many would say I exaggerate the importance of the convergence of *Roe v. Wade* and Sunday. They maintain there is no connection. Their oft repeated mantra: “Abortion is political and the Church exists to proclaim the Gospel not to be ensnared in politics.” This flawed and deadly reasoning is precisely why the carnage of abortion continues.

The killing of little boys and little girls at any stage of development for any reason is a travesty. Killing little boys and little girls created and gifted by God, purchased by the blood of Jesus, and children God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him is a travesty against our Triune God.

Therein lies the connection. Abortion is not just a choice that destroys life. It destroys life precious to God.

Add to this the immeasurable guilt and regret an abortion choice eventually brings to the hearts of those involved in that choice and you have a set of circumstances that compels the Church of Jesus Christ to speak and act.

You have a mission field tailor made for the proclamation of God’s law and especially the proclamation of His life-changing Gospel.

Lutherans For Life (LFL) exists to help Lutherans make the “abortion/Sunday” connection and move them to speak and act out of love for their Savior and His blood-bought gift of life. Our approach to accomplish this goes beyond “Don’t have an abortion, choose life.” It begins with a more fundamental “do”: “Do trust God and choose life.” For the door that leads to the violation of the Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” swings wide open because of a prior violation of the First Commandment, “You shall have no other gods before me.”

For the Christian, abortion is at its core idolatry, a failure to “fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” We choose the death of the helpless to deliver us from a difficult situation rather than trust in God “**my help and my deliverer**” (Psalm 40:17).

But the Church dare not merely pound her pulpits and demand, “Trust God, choose life” as if trust in God is something we can conjure up if we just try hard enough. Time and time again the Scripture associates help from God with salvation from God. “**Help us, O God of our salvation**” (Psalm 79:9). Those who profess Jesus Christ as the source of their salvation must be led to see and trust that the God who saved them from sin is the source of their help and will never abandon them.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32)

Because God’s love for us was demonstrated on the cross, we can confidently trust that nothing **“in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 8:39b). The unmarried, pregnant teen needs to hear this applied to her. The world points to the god of death as her source of help with the poisonous lie, “It’s your only choice; but don’t worry, it won’t hurt much, and it will all be over soon.” If the Church does not counter this, it becomes the only message she hears. One young woman who wrote to me put it this way: *“All I could think of was abortion. I really could not see beyond the moment.”* Another wrote: *“If just one person would have told me not to have the abortion, I wouldn’t have. But no one did.”*

Someone needs to! As part of her Gospel message, the Church needs to proclaim with clarity that there is help in the Lord for those in this difficult situation—help in the Lord who, first and foremost, is our Savior. He helps deal with the sin of premarital sex that resulted in these circumstances, through repentance and forgiveness. The young woman mentioned above—**she can trust in that.** The Lord, who is our Savior, will never leave or forsake her. **She can trust in that.** The Lord, who is our Savior, will help her through His body, the Church, to bring love, counsel, and support. **She can trust in that.** The Lord, who is our Savior, will help and bring courage and discernment so she can choose life and do what is best for her and her baby. **She can trust in that.**

LFL’s life-affirming ministry approaches the life issues of our time based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We seek to help Lutherans make that “abortion/Sunday” connection and then equip them to apply what they are already proclaiming,

the Gospel, to these issues. If you are wondering how we do this, I offer this brief summary. (Learn more from our 2011 Annual Report online.)

- Over 200 of our For Life resources are available at www.cph.org.
- Our website and Facebook and Twitter feeds offer a wealth life-issuue related info and commentary.
- Need a speaker? We have 21 great ones in our Speakers Bureau!
- I travel extensively preaching and teaching in congregations, schools, universities, and seminaries.
- Our network of 12 state affiliates, 138 chapters, 158 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 68 Life Advocates—all volunteers—helps raise awareness of the life issues in a multitude of ways.
- Our *Word of Hope* post-abortion hotline offers Gospel-based hope to over 300 hurting people every month (www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679)
- LFL’s three major initiatives (**Renewal For Life®**, **Teaching For Life®**, **Generations For Life**) help Lutherans make the Gospel/Life Issues connection.

I close with the encouragement I received from another young woman regarding connecting the Gospel to the life issues: **“Tell them pastor! The people need to hear!”** LFL will continue to “tell them” about the help we all have in “God our Savior.” We can trust God and choose life.

Life In the Real World

by Linda D. Bartlett
www.titus2-4life.org



Megan is an all-American girl. Like other freshmen in college, she considers herself “modern.” She communicates by iPhone and Facebook, is comfortable with her “sexuality,” strolls through Victoria’s Secret with her boyfriend, and, ready for a serious relationship, scheduled an appointment to discuss birth control with a Planned Parenthood counselor.

Megan also considers herself to be a Christian. She attended church regularly with her parents. She was educated in parochial schools. Her friends are Christian. She knows the Bible stories and sings praises to God.

Megan believes Jesus is her Savior. If you were to ask her if she is a creation of God, she would answer “Yes!” She has been taught that she can talk to God as if talking to her daddy. He is “Abba Father” and, Megan has been assured, there is nothing she can do to change this fact. Even when Megan forgets to pray or skips worship for another activity or sins in any way, God remains her Heavenly Father. This gives Megan comfort, especially when she’s lonely or troubled. She adores her “awesome God” on Sundays. But, on Mondays, she returns to the “real” world.

In the “real” world, Megan was sharing a bed with her boyfriend. They were in love and being “responsibly adult.” Planned Parenthood helped her to sep-

arate the act of sex from procreation. One weekend while visiting her parents, Megan did the usual thing by attending church with them. But, what happened took Megan by surprise. This day, the pastor seemed to look right at her. The Word he spoke did not comfort but, instead, convicted. Megan heard him say that those who follow the flesh by being sexually immoral, impure, and sensual are in danger of missing heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). Megan also heard him say that a new person in Christ is equipped to guard against passions and desires (vv. 23-24).



Megan was conflicted. She did not leave church that morning in a good mood. What did it mean to be a “new person?” How did that fit with being a “sexual being” as she had been taught to see herself? Couldn’t she love Jesus and know He died for her, yet be “modern” in her thinking and behavior? In an honest moment with her parents, Megan expressed fear. “I’ve always known God loves me, no matter what. No matter what, right Dad?

Right, Mom?” In a way, Megan was asking what so many Christians might be asking themselves: If disobedience or sin cannot make me less God’s child, what does it matter what I do? Why is it so important to obey God? Why can’t I just follow my instincts? Do whatever feels right for me depending on the situation? Won’t it all work out in the end? After all, Jesus died so that my sins are forgiven!

This is most certainly true. Jesus died for a world of sinners. You. Me. Every person ever conceived. But, dear Megan, our behavior matters. Why? Because our

behavior changes our attitude toward God. Evidence of this abounds. It is seen in a culture that determines for itself what is “right” and “wrong.” It is the Christian parent who asks the pastor not to speak about the sin of living together lest his daughter co-habiting with her fiancé stops coming to church. It is the pro-life Christian who has four children but isn’t married to any of their daddies. It is the Christian woman whose choice of clothing reflects her glory rather than God’s and, intentionally or not, becomes a temptress. It is the Christian father who, fearing for his daughter’s future, insists she have an abortion. It is the Christian mother who defends her son’s homosexual lifestyle, saying, “God made him that way.” It is whole bodies of Christians who want Jesus to wrap Himself around the desires of their hearts.

The heart, says the world, is good and can be trusted. The heart, says God’s Word, is deceptive and not to be trusted. Ah, the fickle human heart! It is influenced by the world and our own sinful flesh to oppose the Lord God even while it thinks it is still clinging to Him.

Is Megan doing what we Christians too often do? She knows she is saved and has the promise of heaven. But, does she want God to fit her world? She acknowledges God as her Creator but, depending on her circumstance, does she re-define what He has made? She says Jesus is her Savior, but does He have anything to say about her relationships and choices? She finds hope in being a “new person in Christ,” but is she talking and walking like a sinner bound to sin?

Megan’s identity matters. She is a child of God because of what Jesus did for her. She has divine possibilities. A rich inheritance. Megan’s behavior also matters. How does a daughter honor her Father? How does she reflect His kind

of love? Patience? Kindness? Purity? Megan’s identity as a child of God will never change. But, her choices and behavior can change her attitude toward God. Even place her inheritance at risk.

Our identity and behavior matter. When we separate our God-given identity from the “real” world identity we give ourselves (at any given time, in any given circumstance), we are in danger. We are in danger when we re-define things of God such as the value of human life, being male or female, purity, and marriage. We are in danger when we follow instincts of the flesh and stubbornly defend every personal choice. We are in danger when we exchange His Truth for our opinion. These are dangerous behaviors that change our attitude toward God. It is the most dangerous thing of all to make God what we want Him to be.

But, when children of God trust His Word to be living, active, and mighty in “real” life, our perspective of the world changes. It does not hold us captive. It is temporary. It is a place we journey through on our way home to our Father’s Kingdom. It is opportunity to think, speak, dress, work, play, love, care, and choose in ways that encourage others to ask: “Who is your Father?” “Why do you do the things you do?” “What is your hope?”

Megan is the King’s daughter with a divine inheritance in store. This is compelling reason to live a more noble and holy life. A life with divine possibilities. A life that reflects God rather than self. A life that makes a difference in a “real” world.

The Titus 2 for Life ministry exists to help Christians, young and old, to make godly choices and to know that mistakes of the past do not have dominion over Christ’s people. You are welcome to visit www.titus2-4life.org or www.ezerwoman.wordpress.com.

Puzzle Pieces



by Karen Frohwein
President of LFL of Iowa

Have you ever spent hours on a puzzle only to find out there are a few pieces missing? If you step back, the picture looks so beautiful and yet not quite complete. Maybe it's a part of a leaf, or the tip of the kitten's ear, or a brick in the foundation of a castle. You want to celebrate your accomplishment of assembling all these pieces! However, knowing that there are gaps in the smooth surface of assembled pieces dampens the celebration a bit.

Consider the attempt to build a culture of life. Gallup polls show that Americans between the ages of 18-29 are becoming increasingly pro-life.¹ Hooray! I read everywhere that our



young people are more pro-life than their parents. These are the future leaders who could turn the pro-choice tide in our country to one of the belief in the sanctity of life. Abortions will decrease; old people will be valued; ethical research will be conducted without endangering human life. I pray that this is so. It certainly creates a nice picture!

But a recent encounter has caused me to step back and wonder if there aren't some missing pieces in this nice picture. A few weeks ago, I was working at an event for expectant parents and met a woman carrying her eighth child. Now, I get really excited about big families. I admire couples who go against the

world's idea that limiting the number of children you have to one or two is being responsible. So, I had to smile when I heard this woman say this was her eighth child. However, her next statement revealed that she was not married. I don't know if she had ever been married, but it was obvious that this child was conceived and would be born outside of marriage. This concerned me. On one hand, in today's culture of death, a woman could easily abort a child who has come at an inconvenient time or will make a family too large. Thank you for choosing life, I thought. But, like that puzzle, I had this feeling that my picture was missing a piece and it wasn't quite right.

The woman moved on to another booth and again she was asked about the number of children she had. This is when I heard her proudly proclaim "I'm very pro-life!" Again, I looked at my puzzle picture and

felt something was missing. Is this what pro-life means to our young people? To not abort children is commendable, but to conceive them in temporary relationships is inconsequential? According to an analysis of census statistics by the Pew Research Center, just 51 percent of all adults who are 18 and older are married. As Andrew J. Cherlin, a Johns Hopkins University sociologist who studies families says, "In the 1950s marriage was mandatory. Now it's culturally optional."² Add to that the fact that according to familyfacts.org, more than 4 in 10 children are now born to unwed mothers, a six-fold increase since 1960.³

Putting together a puzzle can be diffi-

cult. As Christians, we have filled in some of the pieces that the world may ignore. We have the Word of God to guide us. We have the Gospel to offer to those who feel trapped in their sins. We have people who are willing to care for the pregnant teen, adopt children when their mother cannot raise them, and speak forgiveness to those who have made wrong choices. Our puzzle is so much more complete because of God giving us those missing pieces. We need to keep these pieces in the puzzle! We need to thank God for giving us those pieces!

But, what are the missing pieces and how do we address them? To start a discussion, I offer the following possible issues that must be addressed if we are to truly build a culture of life. I know there are more. I know there are better ways to articulate them. But I hope these will stimulate others to identify and address the pieces that keep the culture-of-life puzzle from becoming complete.

Acceptance of the worldly ideas of sexuality. We may be more pro-life but, at the same time, less equipped to guard life because our identity as “sexual persons” will reign supreme. Is it enough to celebrate our youth turning away from abortion? Are we teaching our children that sexual desires are natural and acting on them is unavoidable? Or, are we teaching them that as children of God, we can turn away from sinful desires and focus our actions on glorifying God, not man?

Diminishing God’s gift of marriage. Even within Christian families, marriage is no longer the strongest hope for our children. Parents allow their children to date at an early age. But, even if the right person comes into our son or daughter’s life, early marriages are frowned upon. Marriage prevents our children from achieving their education,

getting the perfect job, paying off their student loans, and other “goals” in life. Instead of considering God’s desire for His children to form families and to have children as a lofty goal, marriage is one of many equally important goals. Are we setting our children up for failure when we accept sexuality but restrict marriage?

Incorrectly applying Law and Gospel. The proper application of Law and Gospel is essential in building a culture of life. Yes, we need to offer God’s grace and forgiveness to the young woman facing a crisis pregnancy. But we also need to address the sin that caused this situation. God’s grace forgives again and again, but what do we say to someone who repeatedly has children outside of marriage? I’ve heard it said “When you sin, which you will, come to the Church to receive forgiveness.” Do we teach the Law with the caveat that we expect our young people to sin? How do we make sure the law is taught without scaring the sinner away before they hear the Gospel? Praise God for those pastors who understand and apply both Law and Gospel correctly!

Is the pro-life movement missing something? Is the Church missing something? Will we take the opportunity to speak out For Life, but not against immorality? Sexuality, marriage, law or Gospel—puzzle pieces that need to be addressed if we are to complete our culture of life puzzle. May the Holy Spirit guide the discussion.

¹ www.gallup.com/poll/118399/more-americans-pro-life-than-pro-choice-first-time.aspx

² Married Couples at a Record Low. Washington Post. 12/12/2011. www.washingtonpost.com/local/married-couples-at-a-record-low/2011/12/13/gIQAnJyYsO_story.html

³ familyfacts.org/charts/205/more-than-four-in-10-children-are-born-to-unwed-mothers?utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=culturewatch

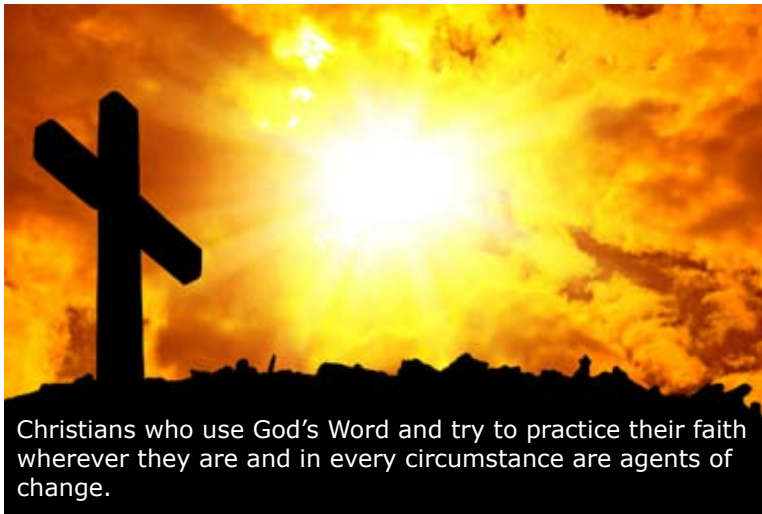
Agents of Change

by Linda D. Bartlett
www.titus2-4life.org



It's easy to become discouraged these days. Those who don't want to acknowledge the Creator God are bold. Those who want to acknowledge Him long enough to blame Him for all the ills of the world are just as bold. All worldviews except the biblical worldview are tolerated on campuses. A "progressive" media scoffs at the "downward-sloped forehead"

people who live in virtually every state except along certain coastlines. The culture, in general, is certainly more coarse. Immoral. Selfish.



Christians who use God's Word and try to practice their faith wherever they are and in every circumstance are agents of change.

New York state legislators and the governor rammed through so-called "gay marriage" last year. Iowa's Supreme Court did the same in 2009. Most Americans oppose this redefinition of marriage. It has failed in 31 states where it was put to a vote. But, through the efforts of a small group of activists, America appears to be closer to embracing a radical social experiment that will, without any doubt, undermine marriage, hurt children, and destroy religious liberty.

Of course, having said all this, I run the risk of being labeled "intolerant."

"Judgmental." A "theocrat." A "dominionist." Or a "Christianist." (I run this risk because I don't believe that my faith is a private matter.)

In spite of all this, there is hope. (I believe there is always hope.) "Think about it," writes Chuck Colson. "Most surveys estimate the number of homosexuals in America is only around two to four percent. If these few people, with the help of like-minded liberal elites, can bring America to this dangerous tipping point, why can't faithful, orthodox Christians—who make up a far greater percentage of the population—bring some sanity to

the critical moral and cultural issues of the day?"

Colson references an article in *Science-Daily*. "Scientists at Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute (RPI) have found that when just 10 percent of the population holds an unshakable belief, their belief will always be adopted by the majority of the society."

Did you know this? Why might this be? Colson explains. "Researchers at RPI note that this is possible because people do not like to hold unpopular opinions and are always seeking to reach a consensus."

As a Lutheran, I'm compelled to ask, "What does this mean?" It means there is hope! Colson writes, "Those who stick

to their intellectual and moral guns can eventually influence their undecided neighbors to adopt their views — and begin to spread them themselves!”

The very thing that Jesus did He asks us to do. Jesus launched a movement that greatly impacted the world for good starting with twelve disciples. Twelve ordinary, kinda-like-you-and-me people. Those disciples became agents of change. Modern Christians who use God’s Word and try to practice their faith wherever they are and in every circumstance are agents of change.

Well over 10 percent of the U.S. population, according to every survey conducted by any polling group, identifies itself as having unshakable Christian beliefs. So why do we appear to be losing on so many cultural fronts?

Colson answers well. “We need to be more active in sharing our beliefs about absolute truth in our pluralistic society. Too many culture-war-weary Christians have retreated to the pews. Too many so-called ‘Christian leaders’ are advising the rest of us to do the same. Nonsense. We must speak up.”

Second, says Colson, “we need to make our case confidently, winsomely, and positively. The Christian worldview provides the only way to live rationally in the world. It is the blueprint for human flourishing. And it is visible whenever we defend the dignity of every man, woman, and child; when we feed the hungry and clothe the naked; and when our marriages and families and churches and schools are refuges for love and learning.” (*www.breakpoint.org*, 8/9/11)

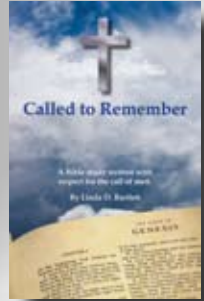
For most of my life, I’ve been surrounded by agents of change. This was no accident. God placed them in my life so that I could learn how to be one too.

Here are three wonderful booklets written by Linda Bartlett.

Called to Remember

– When men remember their role in God’s Story as protectors and servant-style leaders, the world becomes a safer place for women and children.

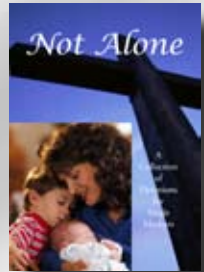
Item LFL302BS. \$2.00 ea.



Not Alone

– This devotional booklet for single mothers makes an appropriate and helpful gift for caring pregnancy centers or congregations to give to single mothers.

Item LFL901B. \$2.00 ea.



Into His Loving Care

– A unique devotional booklet dedicated to all the mothers and fathers who mourn the loss of a child’s life through miscarriage or stillbirth. “It may seem as if God is far away at such times of sorrow, but He knows every sparrow that falls. How much more He must care for you and me ... and our little ones.” *Into His Loving Care* features suggested Scripture readings, prayers, and beautiful artwork. This unique booklet has been very well received and makes an excellent and thoughtful gift for those who are hurting. Item LFL902B. \$2.00 ea.



Order at www.cph.org

Scientist: Human Life Begins at Conception, Fertilization

by Gerard Nadal, Ph.D.

When one considers the ethics of manipulation, the question of whether we ought to, or whether we may, manipulate an organism or entity depends on the answer to the first and most fundamental question:

What is it?

Ascertaining the identity and status of the object of our intended manipulation is essential.

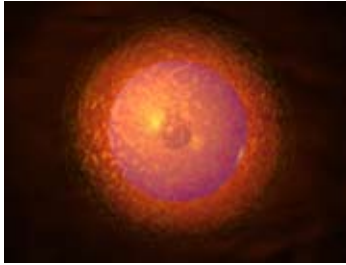
In the fields of obstetrical medicine and reproductive medicine the ethical debates have raged for four decades. Enlightened discourse between opposing parties must assume good motives by all involved, and then go about asking the essential questions, following where the truth of science and reason lead.

Many claim that life begins at some point distant from fertilization, always beyond the point at which they propose some manipulation (abortion, embryonic stem cell culturing, etc.). There is always a list of biological functions that are given to define when human life begins: cognitive capacity, etc.

The simple biological truth of the matter is that the Cell Theory states that all cells arise from pre-existing cells. There is no blackout period between sperm and egg uniting, and then the emergence of “life” at some point distant.

The Carnegie stages of human development indicate that human development begins in the zygotic stage. Then there is the assertion of developmental

biologist and leading textbook author in the field, Scott Gilbert. In his text, Gilbert takes us through the life cycle of a dog. His text, *Developmental Biology*, is arguably the leading text in the field. Gilbert writes about, “Traditional ways of classifying catalog animals according to their adult structure. But, as J. T. Bonner (1965) pointed out, this is a very artificial method, because what we consider an individual is usually just a brief slice of its life cycle. When we consider a dog, for instance, we usually picture an adult. But the dog is a ‘dog’ from the moment of fertilization of a dog egg by a dog sperm. It remains a dog even as a senescent dying hound. Therefore, the dog is actually the entire life cycle of the animal, from fertilization through death.”



First, note how he sets the word dog off in quotes at one point, to communicate the very essence of the organism:

But the dog is a “dog” from the fertilization of a dog egg by a dog sperm.

The same may be said of all vertebrates, including cats, giraffes, chimpanzees, and humans. Substituting the word human for dog in Gilbert’s analysis gets to the heart of the matter. We are human for our entire life cycle. We are whole and complete in form and function at every stage of our development, for that given developmental stage. The prepubescent child is fully human, even though they lack the capacity to execute all human functions, such as abstract reasoning, or reproduction.

In the same way, the early embryo is alive and fully human, though it has not yet executed all human organismal functions.

(LifeNews.com, 11/18/11)

A leading European governmental body has passed a resolution stating clearly that euthanasia “must always be prohibited.” The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), a body of European lawmakers representing the 47-member states of the Council of Europe, approved the measure in January on a 34-16 vote. Although not legally-binding, the resolution would still have an impact on legislative and judicial processes, according to anti-euthanasia advocates. Acclaimed ethicist Wesley J. Smith said, “The declaration would appear to oppose actions taken against the incompetent to end their lives, such as by lethal injection, intentional overdose of morphine, or removal of feeding tubes.” Gregor Puppink, director of the European Center for Law and Justice, also welcomed the adoption of the PACE measure, stating, “This resolution is a major victory for the protection of life and dignity.” (*CNS News, CLR Life News, 1/27/12*)

Abortions of twins in the UK have risen since

2006, official statistics show. In 2010, 85 women aborted at least one unborn child while going on to give birth to the other baby, up from 59 in 2006. Anthony Ozimic of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) commented: “There are a number of factors which may be responsible for this rise. There may be pressure from doctors on women to abort babies deemed as ‘surplus,’ whether conceived through IVF or naturally following fertility treatment. Doctors may also be influencing women to abort with the reason that disability in a child or complications for the mother are more likely in multiple pregnancies than in single pregnancies. Another rea-



son may be the practice of sex-selective abortion among some ethnic groups. Whatever the causes of the rise, it nonetheless reveals the reality of eugenics in modern British medicine, in which some innocent human beings are deemed too inconvenient to be allowed to live.” (*Telegraph, 12/28/11, SPUC 1/6/12*)

Marie Stopes International, the international abortion provider, has been awarded a certificate of merit by Vietnam’s Ministry of Health for its so-called family planning work. Vietnam’s government operates a coercive two-child population control policy. Marie Stopes International is also complicit in China’s coercive population program. (*MSI via Twitter, 1/16/12, Fr. Timothy Finigan, 5/24/10, SPUC, 7/21/09 and 1/17/12*)

SPUC has described as “macabre and unethical” a so-called ‘three-parent’ embryo technique which is due to receive £5.8 million of funding. SPUC was responding to an announcement by the Wellcome Trust that embryo research into mitochondrial disease will start at its new centre at Newcastle University. (*SPUC, 1/19 and 2/1/12*)

The Armenian representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has warned of a rise in unborn girls being aborted in Armenia. Garik Hayrapetyan said that: “In ten to 20 years, we will face a deficit of women—that means, of potential mothers.” Anthony Ozimic of SPUC commented: “UNFPA’s words of concern about sex-selective abortion are empty, considering that UNFPA has for decades been complicit in China’s forced abortion programme, which is largely responsible for China’s massive gender imbalance.” (*AFP via Yahoo!, 12/19/11; SPUC, 12/20/11*)

New Bulletin Inserts for Mother's Day and Father's Day!



Reflections on Motherhood (Item LFL1113BI, \$0.10 ea.) encourages us to celebrate motherhood while also asking for prayers that more moms will know of the presence of God in Christ no matter what their circumstances. **A Father's Responsibility** (Item LFL1114BI, \$0.10 ea.) tells dads, "fatherhood is an eternally important and impossible responsibility!" but also that, "Dads can strive to be the best instruments possible, not out of obligation or fear, but out of the joyful and freeing knowledge that God is the one at work!" **Order both inserts at www.cph.org.**

The Handiwork of God brochure & new DVD Bible Study!

The value of human life comes from what God has done and continues to do! Life is His **handiwork**! He creates life with His hands. He redeemed life with His hands. He desires to call and hold each life in His hands. Understanding these answers gives us a positive, Trinitarian foundation for dealing with the life issues.

Both the **brochure** (Item LFL1007T, \$0.50 ea.) and the **DVD presentation with Dr. Lamb** (Item LFL1401DVD, \$5.00 ea.) are wonderful resources for congregational, school, and home use!

Order both resources at www.cph.org. Note: a free DVD study guide can be downloaded at both the CPH and LFL websites.





Lutherans For **Life**
2012 National Conference
Equipping the Saints For **Life**



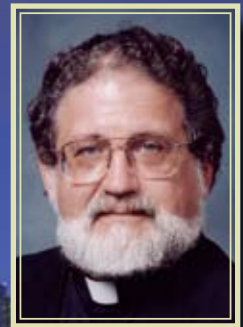
August 3-4, 2012 • LFL's national conference –
Equipping the Saints For Life (Ephesians 4:11-12)
– will provide a variety of ways to become equipped “For Life” personally and also to learn how to participate in the equipping of others.

Mark your calendars! Come ready to be equipped! You will leave ready to equip!

Great speakers! Workshops! Life-affirming fellowship!
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Keynote speaker!
Rev. Ken Klaus,
speaker emeritus of
The Lutheran Hour



For more conference info and to register go to:
www.lutheransforlife.org

Note: June 30 is the deadline for Witness Book Sponsorships.

A Diagnosis that Kills

by Bobby Schindler
www.terrifight.org



Having to stand by and witness the intentional death of a loved one is a help-less torture. Having most of the globe tuned in to your unimaginable situation exasperates the feeling even more.

I should know, since it was my family and I who tried to save my sister, Terri Schiavo, from being starved and dehydrated to death while the world watched.

People thought Terri didn't know what was happening because they wrongly believed much of the media reports that said she was in a "persistent vegetative state" (PVS). But my family always knew that my sister was aware of what was happening, and now yet another new study reveals we were right.



The Lancet, a well-respected medical journal, recently published a groundbreaking study that shows that many patients claimed to be in a PVS are misdiagnosed. Further, the study proved that many of these patients have a much higher level of consciousness than otherwise thought.

Although these findings are certainly welcome, particularly to family members who care for their cognitively disabled loved ones and already know their loved ones are not in a PVS, they are not entirely unique. There have been several other studies revealing the same. In addition, many physicians have known for

years that patients diagnosed to be in a PVS were, in reality, misdiagnosed.

The real question is why these understandings haven't caused us to rethink the morality of removing food and water from such persons.

In a society where resources and medical research are so great and have revealed so much in this area, it is time to realize that PVS is nothing but a political code word for a "candidate to euthanize" and should be eliminated. This "medical term" not only dehumanizes the cognitively disabled, but these findings only prove that it is broad, subjective, and unscientific. Tragically, it has emerged in our society as a death sentence waiting to happen, as it turned out to be in Terri's case.

Regrettably, Terri never was afforded any type of new exam. This was despite the fact that upwards of 40 medical professionals, some being the most prominent neurologists in the nation, believed that Terri was not in a PVS or could have been helped with proper diagnosis/treatment if given the opportunity.

My family begged the judge in my sister's case, George Greer, to permit further testing and therapy during the time Terri's case was awaiting appellate court hearings. Such testing could have only helped Terri, and yet Judge Greer consistently refused. Not even the autopsy was able to confirm whether or not Terri was in a PVS. This is at the heart of this issue. The desire to impose death on patients taints the judgments of those who refuse to understand the myths surrounding a diagnosis of PVS.

Since the inception of the Terri Schiavo

avo Life & Hope Network, over 1,000 families have contacted us for help looking for some type of support or because they were going through a similar situation as we did. Indeed, a large number of these families were dealing with a loved one who was diagnosed with PVS and fighting to save their lives.

There is no mercy and compassion in starving a person to death. Some say this is a peaceful and painless way to die. This is contrary to Terri's last excruciating hours. And some in the media portrayed her death as "beautiful compassion." This is also patently false. Terri died a barbaric, painful, and inhumane death. My sister suffered terribly and the look of desperation in her eyes those last days will always haunt me.

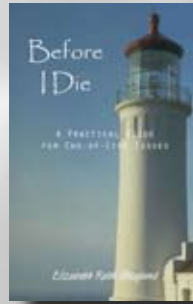
My family and many others knew that Terri was very much alive, alert, and at times was extremely interactive. Where is the mercy and compassion in putting a human to death in a way we don't allow to happen to animals? Can anyone even imagine if it were acceptable to take our family pet and decide to starve and dehydrate it to death?

None of us deserves to be deprived of food and water, whether we have a brain injury or not. Additional studies like the one in *The Lancet* will continue to validate that those in a PVS are just as human as those of us who have all our cognitive capabilities. The capacity of the human brain and body to rebound is beyond our comprehension. We see this proven in real-life cases where a person suddenly wakes up and recovers after years of being considered "brain dead" or in a PVS.

Every life is precious and should be handled with great care and consideration, whether one's fate is being decided on a national scale or not.

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Help with end-of-life decisions ...



Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues shares principles for the Christian at life's end along with words of encouragement.

Item LFL809B.

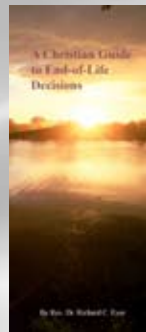
\$2.00 ea.



The Basics on Advance Directives: "Thy Will Be Done" has basic information about Living Wills and other advance directives.

Item LFL807B.

\$0.50 ea.



A Christian Guide to End-of-Life Decisions shares spiritual insight into end-of-life issues by Rev. Dr. Richard C. Eyer who offers guidance in Christian decision-making and in being a faithful witness to God's presence in your life.

Item LFL801R. **\$0.50 ea.**



Ventilators, Feeding Tubes and Other End-of-Life Questions – What about extraordinary treatment? But what if I'm a burden? Are food and water extraordinary care?

What about unconscious patients? When is enough enough? By Karen Rehder, M.D. and Linda Bartlett.

Item LFL800B. **\$2.00 ea.**

Thank you for your ongoing and often sacrificial support of Lutherans For Life during 2011. Your prayers, volunteer efforts, and financial support allow Lutherans For Life to continue to equip Gospel-motivated voices For Life! You are examples of Christ's love in action. Your partnership with Lutherans For Life is needed today more than ever before!

2011 Memorials and Honorariums can be found on the *LifeDate* and *Give* pages at www.lutheransforlife.org.

2011 Abundant Life Giving Society

“A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have it abundantly”

(John 10:10).



The Abundant Life Giving Society (ALGS) was introduced in 2010. We are pleased to announce that the following LFL

supporters (individuals, families, LFL state federations and chapters, and congregations) donated \$1,000 or more last year. Thank you for your gifts!

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Our Inheritance



by Kay L. Meyer
Director of Development

“He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves” (Psalm 47:4). According to God’s Word, the Lord chooses our inheritance for us. As I read the above Bible verse it reminded me of an evangelism call I made many years ago in St. Louis. The woman I visited lived in a small, run down home. She had an aged car that had seen better days. As we visited she told me she was praying that God would give her a million dollars. And it was obvious that she was serious about getting the money.

She had been attending a home Bible study with Christians who were promoting “name it/claim it” theology. They had told her that God would give her anything she asked for—all she had to do was ask. So, she had asked Him for a million dollars.

As I visited with her we talked about our faith in Christ, prayer, and money. I shared some reasons why God might say “no” to her prayer request for this large amount of money. I explained that God doesn’t always answer prayers with “yes,” but sometimes answers our prayers with “no” or “wait.” I said, “Maybe he knows that if you had that much money you would turn away from Him. Maybe He knows that money could easily become your god. Maybe he knows you can’t handle that amount of money yet.” I don’t think she ever received the money that she prayed for, but it was an interesting encounter that made me think about the gifts God has bestowed upon me and my family.

Have you ever prayed for something

and God said “no” or “wait”? Neither answer from God is as easy to accept as when He says “yes” to our prayers. This woman could have asked God for all kinds of things—a loving family, a thankful heart, stronger faith, a newer car, enough money to pay their bills and have some leftover, but instead she asked for a million dollars. I don’t know why that was her request, but I wonder if she loved money more than she should have. God’s Word says in 1 Timothy 6:10, **“the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.”** Note that it doesn’t say money is evil, but the “love of money.” The love of money causes seemingly good people to do things that are wrong and sinful—embezzle funds, steal, and yes, even have an abortion—to name just a few.

All we have is a gift from God. And God wants us to wisely manage the gifts He bestows upon us. The Lord wants us to give generously, cheerfully, proportionately, and intentionally. **“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means ... Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”** (2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 9:7).

Generous giving is one of the traits of committed Christians who are growing in their knowledge of God’s Word and live their faith on a daily basis. It is hard to imagine a Christian who is serious about the Christian faith giving stingily. In Luke 12:34 Jesus says, **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** I pray your greatest treasure is your faith in Christ.

Most of the time we think of inheritances as money and/or assets that we receive when someone we love and care about dies and leaves us in their will or estate. But inheritances are not always about money or gifts. Acts 20:32 reminds us the most important inheritance we have received is the gift of eternal life that God gives us. What inheritance is shared by all of God's holy people? To be holy we need to be forgiven of our sins. We are holy because of Christ's death and the forgiveness that we receive through our faith in Him. Because of our faith, God bestows upon us eternal life.

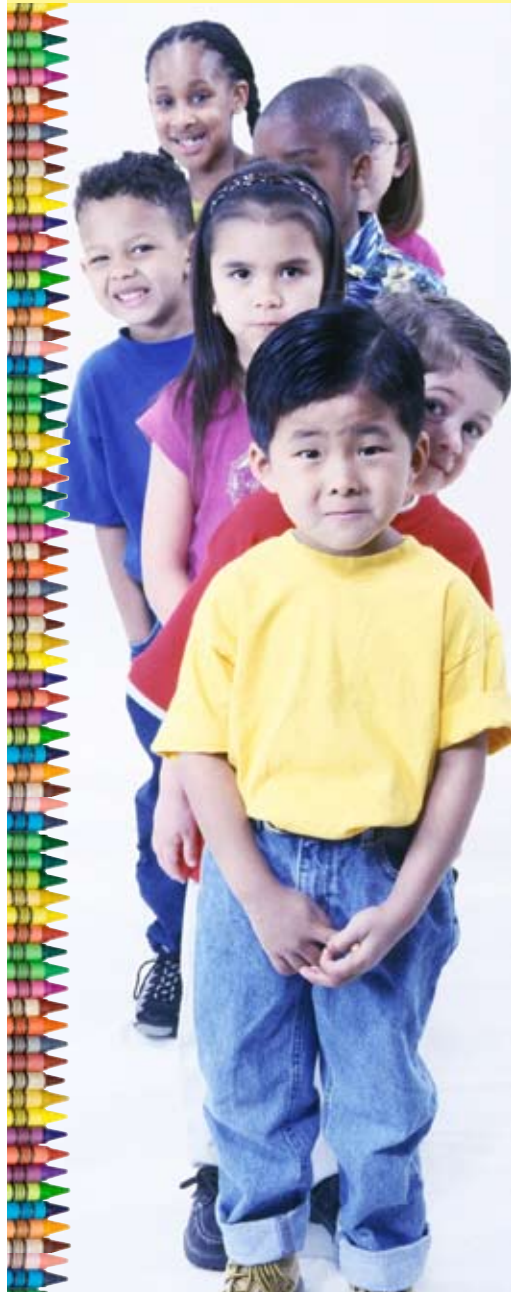
Jesus spoke about money and possessions often. He wants us to handle money wisely and teach our children and grandchildren how to handle money, too. Whether we have a little or a lot, we need to listen to God's word regarding all our gifts. It's just good stewardship.

In the next twenty-five years it is estimated that trillions of dollars will be transferred through inheritances to children and grandchildren. Are you handling your money wisely? Are you teaching your children and grandchildren to handle money wisely? May I suggest that your LFL chapter or congregation consider offering a financial workshop to help you learn to handle your money wisely? Contact me for some workshop ideas.

Lutherans For Life supporters are generous people. They care about Life and it shows in their gifts to us and their volunteer work throughout the United States under the banner of Life. Thank you for caring about Life and caring about Lutherans For Life!

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:19-21).

Teaching For Life®



Teaching For Life® is a unique, Gospel-centered, positive way to help Lutheran school teachers apply God's Word to the life issues! **Find out more at www.lutheransforlife.org/store-teaching-for-life.**

Equipping You to Write Your Will

by Jim Schroeder,
Christian Estate
Planning Counselor



If you have an up-to-date and valid will, you deserve our congratulations. You've accomplished what many people never quite get around to doing. Congratulations for taking the initiative and getting the job done.

On the other hand, you may be one of the many people who are practicing the fine art of procrastination. You may have been avoiding writing or updating your will for many years. There are at least ten reasons people give for not writing a will. If any of these apply to you, put an "X" in the appropriate box.

- I don't have an attorney who can draft my will.
- I don't want to deal with the subject of death.
- I don't want to make decisions that could cause family discord.
- I don't have time to get my will done.
- I can't afford to have my will done.
- I don't have a way to get to the attorney's office.
- I don't know who to name as my executor.
- I am too young to have a will; I'll do it when I'm older.
- My estate is too small to have a will.
- I don't need a will; my survivors can make the decisions.

If you marked any of the items you may want to contact me. I am able to visit with you at no cost or obligation. I can help you to understand why any of the above reasons can fail to justify the absence of a will. As a Christian, you will want to make your will a "last will and testament" by including a statement of your faith in your will.

I can provide you with a sample statement of faith that you can modify to reflect what you want to say to your family. You may also want to continue your support of your favorite ministries by including a gift to these ministries in your will. By doing so you can continue to support these ministries even after the Lord has called you home to Heaven. If Lutherans For Life is one of your favorite ministries we rejoice and I can assist you in the correct wording for your gift in your will.

Please pray about this area of Christian Stewardship in your life. We confess and believe that everything we have is owned by God and we are His managers. Our property and our family are gifts from Him. When we write our will we are acting as His steward and making plans for His property.

With the Holy Spirit's guidance and our encouragement, you can fulfill this most important act of stewardship.

If you would like me to encourage you and give you assistance in working with your attorney to write your Christian will please contact me at jschroeder@lutheransforlife.org or 515.490.7371.

Do you live in Kansas? LFL of Kansas is looking for new board members. To find out more, contact Jeanne Mackay at jmac14430@gmail.com or 913.991.3350. If you find yourself thinking, "this sounds interesting," you might just be who they are looking for!

The Annunciation of our Lord Sunday, March 25, 2012



Sunday, March 25 is a great time to celebrate the Incarnation. God became man at Jesus' conception in Mary.

Bulletin Insert: The Miracle of the Incarnation. Item LFL1106BI. **\$0.07 ea.** (Limited quantities.)

Sermon: Pregnant with God, based on Luke 1:26-38, by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. Item LFL1106S. **\$0.50.** (Downloadable only)

Worship Service: The Annunciation of Our Lord. Item LFL1106WS. **\$0.50.** (Downloadable only)

Brochure: The Annunciation and Abortion. Item LFL202T. **\$0.50 ea.**

Also available for The Ascension on May 17. Item LFL1109BI. **\$0.07 ea.**

Order at
ww.cph.org



You Can Make a Difference For Life!

Please call (515.441.6571) or e-mail (kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org) if you would like to learn more about any of these giving options.



Lutherans For Life does not receive financial support from any church body. Your individual gifts provide for the annual and long-term needs of LFL.



Combined Federal Campaign:

If you are a federal employee or member of the US military (or have family or friends who are) designate "Lutherans For Life" when making your pledge—and let others know about this unique opportunity! **The CFC identification number for LFL is 11508.**

Give online:

www.lutheransforlife.org

Automatic Bank Drafts:

Many banks offer electronic funds transfer from checking/savings accounts.

Matching Gifts:

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Ask them to include LFL as a qualified charity!

Planned Gifts:

LFL can provide info on trusts, annuities, and other plans. Consider including LFL in your will.

Online Shopping Rebate Program:

Check out iGive.com at the LFL web site.

Teaching Our Youth About Life Issues

by Jerilyn Richard
Director of RFL



“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works” (Titus 2:11-14).

As a parent of teenagers, I have come to realize the great responsibility there is to teach the youth about the life issues. Our children and grandchildren are being attacked on every level by peers, the media—and, in many cases, their own family members. The culture of our day glorifies that which is ungodly. After having a conversation with my 16-year-old about the important issues among her peers in relation to the life issues, I realized many of our youth only hear the untruth our culture revels in.

The need to hear how the life issues are connected to God’s Word of life is greater than ever! These topics are discussed among peers, but who is guiding those conversations? Where are the facts coming from? Are we hearing the message of Truth when it comes to the life issues, in our congregations, in our homes? Are our youth hearing this in the pew? We have a responsibility to lead the way for the young—they are the future!

At Lutherans For Life we have recog-

nized how overwhelming and daunting this can be for the local congregation and for parents. Our three initiatives, Teaching For Life®, Renewal For Life®, and Generations For Life are in existence to help equip the Church, Christian schools, and parents educate and fully inform their members, including youth, about the connection between God’s Word of truth and the life issues.

Our desire for your congregation is to use the resources available on a regular basis. The best way to begin is by becoming a part of Renewal For Life®. Once RFL is established in your church, integrating Teaching For Life®, for example, will flow naturally from there. The Renewal For Life® website has numerous resources for parents and youth workers. Our helpful hints and tools, such as the monthly e-newsletter *Paraclete*, will keep you informed of what’s in the news and up to date with For Life information.

Through working with RFL leaders in congregations we have recognized the importance of a mentor to help support, guide, and inform congregations on the life issues. We have developed a new position to help accomplish just that! We would like to congratulate and welcome our first LFL Regional Director, Jean Amundson from Texas! Jean has taken in-depth and rigorous training to prepare for this position. She will focus on helping pastors, Life Advocates, and Life Teams fully implement the life issues that fit their ministries’ unique mission in the Texas area. Please keep Jean in your prayers as she begins this new mission in Texas.

We also have new Life Advocate training to help you become equipped and ready to take on the life issues in your congregation. For more information please call the Life Center at 888.364.5433.



In Bible times, long ago, Moses shared God's Word with his fellow Israelites. These words were very, very important! We need to keep them in mind too—every day. Here are just a few of the words Moses shared:

“Choose life so that you and your descendants will live. Love the Lord your God, obey him, and be loyal to him”
Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a *GOD'S WORD.*

For a simple and short way to remember and share these Bible verses, write the words below on the poster. Try using a different color for each letter.

Trust God – Choose Life



Life Thoughts in the Church Year are designed to help pastors and congregations see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life. **Life Thoughts** are based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*.

April 1 – Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion – Jesus making “himself nothing” and “taking on the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:7) began at His conception. Here is opportunity to point out the extent of Jesus’ humiliation and, subsequently, the value He gives to human life at this moment.

April 8 – The Resurrection of our Lord – We have a risen Savior who defeated death! He gives us this victory! We need not fear death! We have a living Savior. He promises us His presence. We need not fear life!

April 15 – Second Sunday of Easter – “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). Jesus atoned for the sins of every human being whether they know it or not. What value this gives to *every* human being.

April 22 – Third Sunday of Easter – What an “aha” moment it must have been for the disciples when Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45). They realized the connection. The Scriptures were all about Him! What an “aha” moment when we realize that Jesus is all about us! We can trust in

Him no matter what our circumstances.

April 29 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – When the valleys grew dark on the evening journeys back down to the sheep fold, shepherds would beat out a rhythm with their rod and staff (Psalm 23:4). Even though the sheep could not see their shepherd, they knew he was there. No matter how dark things may seem in our lives, the Good Shepherd comforts us with His promises, a constant, resonating reminder that He still leads.

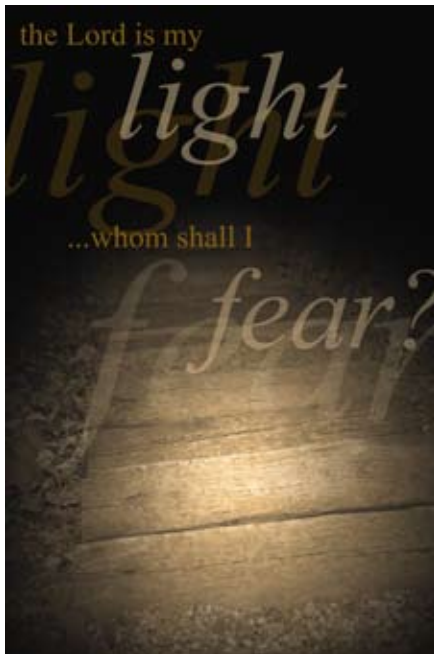
May 6 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – The fruit of love flows from God’s love for us (1 John 4:11). When dealing with those who oppose the truth, even within our congregations, this love motivates our response.

May 13 – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother’s Day) – Mothers often exemplify the sacrificial love of Jesus (John 15:13) in so many ways. Perhaps the greatest love and motherly sacrifice occurs when that unmarried teen mom decides

to do what is best for her and her baby and makes an adoption plan for her child.

May 20 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – Christians are not of the world but in the world and often hated by the world (John 17:14-16). Reason would say avoid the world and worldly controversies. Jesus sanctifies us with the truth of His Word and so equipped, sends us into the world to make a difference (17:17-18).

May 27 – Day of Pentecost – The Spirit



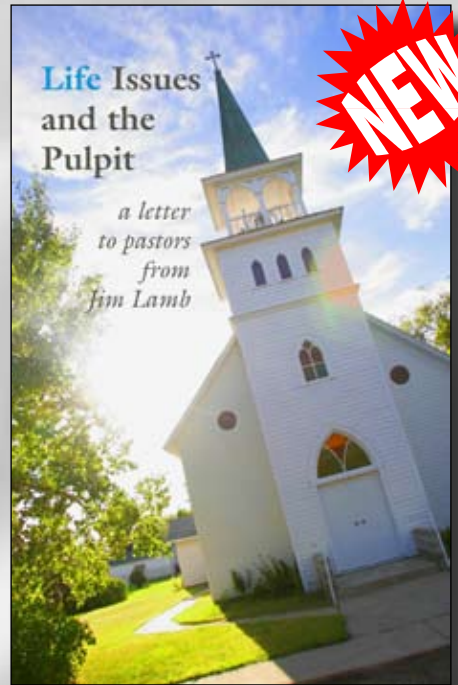
of God who knows all we do and think and from whom we can never hide (Psalm 139:1-12) would be very frightening were it not for the fact that the one who sends this Spirit is the one who created us and “knitted” us together in our mothers’ wombs (139:13). That makes God’s Spirit and His intimate knowledge of us very comforting.

June 3 – The Holy Trinity – God the Father’s love compels Him to give His only begotten Son. Through the water of holy Baptism, His Spirit calls us and gives us new life. What value the Holy Trinity bestows upon human life!

June 10 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost – What a message we have for those facing the end of life and may be “wasting away” (2 Corinthians 4:16). Such “momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (4:17). Therefore, “do not lose heart”! (4:16a)

June 17 – Third Sunday after Pentecost (Father’s Day) – Psalm 1 describes a noble man who “walks not in the counsel of the wicked” but “his delight is in the law of the LORD” (1:1, 2). Such nobility flows not from himself but from the “streams of water” by which he has been planted (1:3). Such nobility could only be surpassed by the father who brings his children to be planted by these streams in baptism and instructs them to delight in the Lord.

June 24 – The Nativity of John the Baptist – The “way preparer” (Luke 1:76b) was conceived miraculously but naturally in his mother’s womb. The Way was conceived miraculously and unnaturally in His mother’s womb. Good and miraculous things came from wombs! They still do!



Life Issues and the Pulpit – Author James Lamb, in this letter to fellow pastors, writes, “Addressing the Life Issues is the Responsibility of the Church and Her Pastors for they are spiritual and theological issues. The Church and her pastors have what it takes—the Gospel!!!” *Item LFL1629B. \$1.00 ea.*

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Equipping the Saints for Every Good Work

by Diane E. Schroeder



In 2012, Life Sunday was on January 22. Thirty nine years before, to the day, the Supreme Court handed down its *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions ushering in abortion on demand—for any reason or no reason. Since then, however, equipped saints have done many good works to hold back the abortion tide including:

- Educating others on the impact and extent of the abortion culture.
- Working with legislators to pass protective laws.
- Starting crisis pregnancy centers to help pregnant women.
- Witnessing to their community by standing on street corners and in front of clinics praying and sharing the For Life message.
- Reaching out with love and compassion to women and men who are searching for healing from an abortion experience.

Since 1979, LFL has shared God’s Word, explaining the value that all human life has because of what God has done for us. Have the Supreme Court decisions been overturned? No, but great things have been accomplished with God’s help and provision! For example:

- In 2011, more pro-life legislation was passed by state legislatures than ever before (135 bills and provisions!). Five states enacted abortion bans after 20 weeks based on science showing that the unborn child can feel pain during

an abortion at that gestational age. Five states enacted laws requiring that women at least be offered the opportunity to see ultrasounds of their baby before the abortion. Seven states moved to limit the so-called “teled” abortions (where a woman sits at a screen listening to an abortionist and then pushes a button which opens a drawer with the abortion pill RU486).

- 4,000 pregnancy centers exist across the country offering real help to women in desperate need. Countless lives have been saved and women protected.
- Young Americans are swelling the ranks of pro-lifers—47 percent of voters under age 30 identify themselves as pro-life and they are active! During the 2010 March for Life, Nancy Keenan, of the abortion advocacy group, NARAL, remarked after viewing the estimated 400,000 marchers that, “there are so many of them, and they are so young.”
- Ultrasound has successfully shifted public opinion causing Kate Michelman of NARAL to comment, “the technology has clearly helped to define how people think about a fetus as a full, breathing human being.”
- In many Lutheran congregations, Lutherans For Life is welcomed, well respected, and appreciated. Plus, new life-affirming church bodies, formed out of the ELCA, are giving LFL enormous opportunities to reach congregations that have previously been closed to us. The Church is waking up!
- Post-abortive women and men are speaking out. From the founding of Women Exploited by Abortion

in 1987 to the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, individuals wounded by an abortion decision in the past are being heard. (Ministries such as LFL's Word of Hope have arisen to offer healing and hope to men and women wounded by an abortion decision.)

No, the battle is not won, but the "equipped saints" have made progress.

What about you? Are you ready to be equipped to go out and do



battle? I am firmly convinced that most people don't speak up about this issue because they feel they don't know enough. They feel they will be challenged and not know what to say. But you can do it!

Follow your gifts and serve where God would want you to be—speaking, educating, and serving. Equip yourself with the Word—know your Scripture! Equip yourself with knowledge—know the basics of human development, the risks of abortion, and a few abortion statistics. Equip yourself through acts of compassion—volunteer, donate, be a doer! Be prepared for some challenges. Learn to not let yourself be drawn off topic—refocus the conversation. And Pray! Pray! Pray!

God will be with you as you speak out on life issues. Keep Ephesians 2:10 in mind: **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”**

God has called you to make a difference in the world He created. So follow His leading and go do it!



Our Mission ... Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Our Vision ... Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same.

Our Philosophy ... Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give witness, from a biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living.

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LFL has 12 state federations, 138 local chapters, 158 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 68 Life Advocates in the United States.

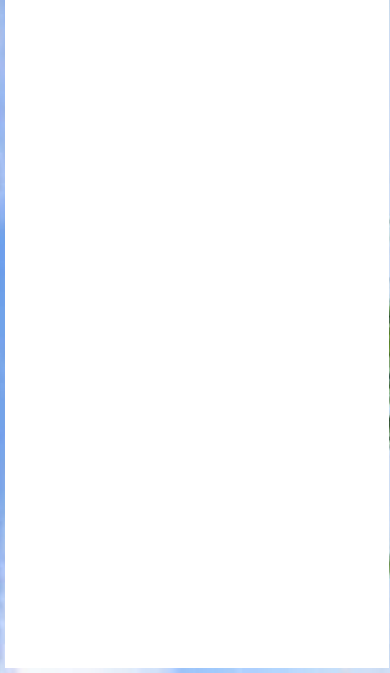


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