Directions • Lutherans For Life • Facts and Stats

News and Notes

• The Life Team would like to thank the following former members of the national LFL Board of Directors for their faithful service to Lutherans For Life:

Pastor Mark Erickson Jeanne Strubbe Elizabeth Valente

Our prayers are with each of you as you serve the Lord of life in other capacities.

- Check out the Lutherans For Life Store page at www.lutheransforlife.org! If your congregation has not held a Life Sunday observance you can still order materials. Lutherans For Life resources on abortion, post-abortion, adoption, bioethics, Creation, end-of-life, family living, fetal development, sexual purity, worship, and more are now handled through our friends at Concordia Publishing House (CPH). Also check out our brand-new clothing and accessories store (find the link at the Store page).
- The National Lutherans For Life Conference is August 5-6 in Irving, Texas. If your church, chapter, or state federation has monthly or quarterly newsletters, we encourage you to use the press release included in this issue of *Directions* to spread the word about the conference. Also included is the Witness Book Sponsorship Form and instructions to guide you through the process. For conference questions and inquiries, please contact Trisha Adams at the Life Center for more information (tadams@lutheransforlife.org; 888.364.5433). We hope to see you in Texas!



• New materials from Lutherans for Life:

Amor Real/Vida Real (*Real Love/Real Life* in Spanish) LFL615T-S **Sugerencias para los jóvenes de cómo decir "No"** (*Tips for Teens on How to say "NO"* in Spanish) LFL602T-S

Christ and Adoption LFL504T





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- We encourage you to seek opportunities to speak on the life issues in your congregation, chapter, state federation, and community. Each issue of *Directions* has a Bible study that is a great tool for a speaking engagement. For more ideas and resources on topics you can use, etc, contact the Life Center.
- **Renewal For Life** members update: If you are part of Renewal For Life you should receive the monthly *Paraclete* newsletter. If you HAVE NOT received it recently, please check your junk e-mail, and add Renewal For Life (jlamb@lutheransforlife.org) to your address list. Contact Jeri Richard at the Life Center for more information. (jrichard@ lutheransforlife.org; 888.364.5433)
- Video Essays For Life: Using YouTube[®] video is a great way to interact with our youth! We have included video essay contest rules, guidelines etc, in this issue of *Directions*.

Enc: Abundant Giving Society Brochure Conference Brochure



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National Lutherans For Life Staff

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb – Executive Director George Munyon – Director of Operations Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications Kay Meyer – Director of Development James P. Schroeder – Christian Estate Planning Counselor Trisha Adams – Business Manager and National Conference Director Amy O'Shaughnessy – Administrative Assistant Jerilyn Richard – Renewal For Life Coordinator Kim Nessa – RFL Administrative Assistant Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

National LFL Board of Directors

Diane Schroeder, President – Lombard, Illinois Rod Rathmann, Vice-President – Eureka, Missouri Jean Amundson, Secretary and State Representative – Cleburne, Texas Rich Greiner, Treasurer – Dansville, Michigan Patricia Ballman - Hico, Texas Connie Davis, State Representative -Macomb, Michigan John Eidsmoe - Pike Road, Alabama Renee Gibbs – Saint Louis, Missouri Rev. Everette E. Greene – Cincinnati, Ohio Gary Mrosko - Faribault, Minnesota Lynette Auch, State Representative – Lesterville, South Dakota

State Federation Presidents

Jeanne Strubbe (Central and Southern) Illinois – Chapin Clarence Zimmer, Indiana – Cambridge City Karen Frohwein, Iowa – State Center Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa Connie Davis, Michigan – Macomb Diane Albers, Missouri – Saint Louis Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls Jolene Richardson, North Dakota – Fargo Lynette Auch, South Dakota – Lesterville Jean Amundson, Texas – Cleburne Rev. David Emmons, Wisconsin – Turtle Lake

Lutherans For Life 1120 South G Avenue Nevada, IA 50201-2774

info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

888.364.LIFE or 515.382.2077

Fax 515.382.3020

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Abortion Statistics for the United States: 3,287 abortions per day Abortions from 1973-2006 (using the 2003 estimate for 2004-2006): 47,187,00.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.



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Opportunity to Help

Some of you may have received the following via e-mail, but we want as many people to see it as possible. Please share it with others.

This is not something we do often. However, one of our own needs help. Rev. Everette Greene is a well-respected member of our National Board of Directors. His wife, Rhonda, was recently diagnosed with cancer. Unfortunately, the diagnosis came while she was between jobs and, therefore, uninsured. She has had one surgery and is now undergoing chemotherapy and then radiation therapy. At this point, they have incurred a medical debt of over \$50,000. We ask three things of you.

First, pray for Rhonda that the Lord of Life would bring healing through these treatments. Pray that He would be with both Rhonda and Pastor Greene and increase their trust in Him and give them patient endurance.

Second, if you are able, please send a financial gift to help them with their debt. Your gift may be made out to **Lutherans For Life** and sent to the Life Center:

Lutherans For Life 1120 South G Avenue Nevada, IA 50201-2774

Please clearly indicate that your gift is for: Rhonda Greene Assistance.

Third, if you know of any other sources that might be able to lend assistance in this type of situation, please let us know.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).



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The

Abundant Life Giving Society

Abundant Life and More!

by Kay L. Meyer

Abundant Life Giving Society Update

In 2010, Lutherans For Life established the Abundant Life Giving Society (ALGS). We are pleased to announce that 249 supporters donated \$1,000 or more in 2010. Donors gave monthly gifts, quarterly gifts, and annual gifts. Thank you!

The Abundant Life Giving Society is an annual giving society. We again invite LFL supporters, groups, and congregations to consider giving in 2011 at this level. We recognize that all those who support Lutherans For Life give sacrificially and, again, thank you for your support.

LFL Grant Writer

Lutherans For Life would like to find one or two committed volunteers to help research and write grant proposals. The grant writing volunteer will need access to a computer, basic computer skills, and the ability to send and receive documents via the Internet. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, contact Kay Meyer at 515-441-6571 or kmeyer@ lutheransforlife.org.

How Can Congregations Help a Pregnant Teen and Young Single Mom?

Recently when I spoke about offering hope and help to pregnant teens and young women at an event in California, one of the participants asked what a congregation can do to offer support for a pregnant teen or single mom either within their congregation or their community. I thought this was an excellent question and want to share some suggestions that were discussed.

It would be wonderful if every congregation had someone responsible for gathering the names and addresses of community resources for pregnant teens and young moms within their community. For example, in Saint Louis I have a list of resources that I keep handy. It includes a pregnancy resource center—called Thrive, Our Lady's Inn—a maternity home, several Lutherans For Life chapters, the Saint Louis Housing Hotline, Missouri Right to Life, and Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri. Some websites to bookmark include: www.guttmacher. org (run by research arm of Planned Parenthood, but with valuable information), www. lutheransforlife.org, www.word-of-hope.org, www.OurLadysInn.org, optionline.org, and www. HeartbeatInternational.org. (Heartbeat International has resource listings throughout the United States for all pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes.)

If your congregation or group has interested people who are willing to help, they might offer to baby sit once or twice a month while a young mother goes grocery shopping, offer to stay at the home while a pregnant woman takes a one-two hour nap, transport women to a pregnancy resource center for classes (since many may not have their own transportation), and offer to drive them to church services each week.

I also suggested that congregations think about what groups and/or organizations they already



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have in place within their congregation that might help. (Your local Stephan's Ministry could be involved in helping pregnant women and young single moms at the local congregational level.) Lutherans For Life also offers *How You Can "Speak,"* a booklet that shares many more ideas for congregations and individuals who want to help.

Give Generously to Lutherans For Life in 2011

God's Word encourages us as Christians to give generously as we share in the ministry of the saints. **"For as I can testify, they gave voluntarily according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry of the saints"** (2 Corinthians. 8:3-4).

Lutherans For Life invites you, your family, and your congregation to also give generously in 2011. You are special and your gifts allow us to accomplish our mission, vision, and goals. Prayerfully consider what you will give in 2011. Give according to your means—and pray first about what you will give. Would it be possible for you to give a quarterly gift of \$25? How about a monthly gift of \$50 or more? Thank you for caring about life and sharing your time, talents, and treasures!



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Ways to Help Equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated Voices For Life

- Generations For Life This new youth and young-adult initiative includes equipping the younger generation to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We have contracted with Karen Frohwein, president of LFL of Iowa, to begin the process of helping LFL reach youth and young adults through social networking opportunities and more. The cost of this for a year will be \$6,000.
- LifeDate helps equip 35,000 people quarterly to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This complimentary educational journal equips our faithful supporters and also communicates to those who may not yet know us. We receive more positive comments about *LifeDate* than anything else we do. Publication and mailing costs for one edition is \$16,000.
- **Renewal For Life**[®] is focused on equipping pastors and congregations to be Gospelmotivated voices For Life. This is so important to us that LFL covers all expenses for presenting RFL to pastors across the country. We have 250 congregations enrolled to this point with thousands left to go. Travel expenses for a year for presenting RFL are estimated to be \$5,500.
- Life Sunday Resources are used in hundreds of Lutheran congregations on Life Sunday and at other times throughout the year helping many to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. The cost of our Life Sunday sample pack mailing is \$5,095.

(Return this portion.)	IF GIVING BY CREDIT CARD:
Yes! I/we want to help!	
Name	VISA Master Card. DUCeVER
Address	Amount \$
City, State, Zip	Credit Card #
Phone:	Exp. Date
E-mail:	Month / Year Signature
My/our gift of: □\$25 □\$50 □\$100 □\$250 □\$is enclosed.	Lutherans For Life 1120 South G Avenue • Nevada, IA 50201-2774
Please use the gift for:	Please note: you may also donate by credit card by calling us toll-free at 888-364-LIFE (5433) or on our web site: www.lutheransforlife.org.
 Generations For Life LifeDate Renewal For Life[®] Life Sunday resources 	Thank you for your prayers and support For Life!



Directions • Lutherans For Life • Bible Studies

Adopted In Christ

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

This study is adopted from LFL's "Christ and Adoption" brochure available through Concordia Publishing House. www.cph.org; Item LFL504T

Adoption is not always seen in a good light. Pregnant teens who are nervously, but seriously, considering abortion become very adamant when adoption is mentioned. "Oh, I could never give my baby up for adoption!" Even well-meaning Christians may contribute to the problem. "What mother would give away her baby?" The perception is that adoption is abandonment, a bad choice that is not very loving. There is a need to shed some good light on adoption. I can't think of a better "light" to shed than the light of Jesus Christ and our adoption in Him.

Adopted as Sons

Read Galatians 4:4-5. When you think of it, God has only one "natural" child, Jesus. All the rest of His children are adopted! Why is it important to note that we are all adopted "as sons"? Isn't that a little sexist? (Hint: Continue on and read vss. 6-7.)

Adopted as "sons" means all of us—men and women, boys and girls—receive the eternal inheritance of eternal life. Only sons received the inheritance in Jewish culture.

Read Galatians 3:23 and 4:3. Were we conceived and born as God's children? (See also Psalm 51:5)

An Adoption Plan

Read Ephesians 1:4-5. God made a plan to adopt us. When was that? This is the language used by adoption agencies today, making an adoption plan. It is much more positive than "giving your baby up." Adoptions can be as open or closed as the birth parents wish. What are some things that could be part of such a plan?

God's Loving Plan

Read 1 John 4:9. Out of love, God wanted what was best for us; so He sent the best for us!

Love does what is best for those we love before doing what is best for us. Making an adoption plan is a difficult, often heart-wrenching task. Nevertheless, it is a grand act of love. Situations vary, but discuss some ways in which a loving adoption plan may be best for all involved.

God's Sacrificial Plan

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 2:8. Lovingly putting others first led to great sacrifice on the part of Jesus. I suppose, if we try, we could all imagine ourselves a dog or a horse or an eagle. But that is still a creature imagining being another creature. We do not have enough gigabytes in our little brains to imagine the Creator becoming a creature. Talk about some of the other sacrifices that Jesus made because of His love for us. What is the ultimate good that resulted from His sacrifices?



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Love leads to sacrifice for the sake of others. Making an adoption plan requires great sacrifice on the part of birth parents. Other plans must be put on hold. Emotions run high. But, as discussed above, great good comes from this sacrifice. In serving her child by making such sacrifices, who is the birth mom also serving? (Matthew 25:40)

God's Expensive Plan

Read 1 Corinthians 6:20. Read through Isaiah 53 where the Holy Spirit speaks of the suffering Servant. Match various verses with the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Unfortunately, adoptions can be very expensive. Parents wanting to adopt may find such expenses prohibitive. Discuss ways congregations can help members seeking to adopt.

God's Glorious Plan

Read again Galatians 4:7 and also John 14:1-3. What is God's desired outcome for His adopted children?

Regardless of the circumstances of conception, a Christian's first concern is for that child's salvation. Subsequent decisions and plans need always bear this in mind. What are some plans that can be made for a adoptive child with his or her salvation in mind?

There are many perspectives from which to view adoption. Perhaps we Christians will find needed strength and encouragement and hope when we view it through our adoption by God in Christ. Apart from Christ, all His children are adopted. He must know something about it!



Lutherans For Life 2011 National Conference

Lutherans For Life is hosting our 2011 National Conference in Irving, Texas, August 5-6, 2011 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW. The conference theme is **Adopted in Christ**.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).



The conference will focus on helping participants grow in their understanding of what it means to be **Adopted in Christ** and how this action of our heavenly Father affects our relationships with one another and the manner in which we deal with life issues in our congregations. We pray the conference will also equip attendees with knowledge on the positive aspects of earthly adoption and with skills to raise awareness of this in their congregations. The conference will be God's children learning and growing together so they can help others better understand what it means to be a child of God!

This year's keynote speaker is Russell Moore, author of the book *Adopted For Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*. Workshop topics will include a panel with a birth mother, adoptive parent, and adopted child and will also cover embryo adoption, foreign adoption, foster care, and pastors and politics. Workshop speakers are Dr. Kurt Senske, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the South; Lowell Highby, Director of Communications at Lutherans For Life and adoptive father (from Russia); Dr. James I. Lamb, Lutherans For Life's Executive Director; Janette Clausen, Director of Pregnancy Counseling and Adoptions with Lutheran Family Service of Iowa; and Rev. John Eidsmoe, Professor of Law at the Oak Brook College of Law.

The conference has secured permission to show the movie *Bella*! A motion picture masterpiece, Bella became the #1 top-rated movie of 2007 and was one of the most honored films of that year—winning the highly coveted People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival, Best Picture and Best Actor at the 2008 MovieGuide Awards, and the prestigious Legacy Award from the Smithsonian Institute's Latino Center. *Bella* is a powerful and moving, utterly unique story that will lift your spirits and capture your heart!

Christian singer-songwriter, Heather Ruesch from Brainerd, Minnesota, is excited to bring a musical component to our conference. Heather has her own "Bella" story (featured in LifeDate).

You can find out more about our conference, and register online, at www.lutheransforlife.org.



National Conference Witness Sponsorships!

by Trisha M. Adams, National Conference Director

Adopted in Christ is the theme for the 2011 Lutherans For Life National Conference. We're excited to be going to the Dallas, Texas, area to learn more about the ministry of adoption and about our place in God's family as His heirs with all the rights of inheritance! Adopted—in Christ!!!

One way in which funding is raised for our National Conference is by sponsoring a witness message in the conference book. Enclosed is a copy of the 2011 Lutherans For Life Conference Witness Book Sponsorship Contract.

Witness messages are available in the following sizes:

¹/₄ page for \$60
¹/₂ page for \$100
full-page for \$175
and a two-page spread for \$300.

Please take note of the message size listed on the contract. We suggest you include your name, city or county, and state somewhere in your message.

Note: a Witness Book Sponsorship Message can have contact info, etc., but cannot have a "call to action," such as "Call Now!" or descriptive language, such as, "we offer the best …"

Instructions for sending your message:

Please send your message in electronic format only (PDF or JPEG) to lhighby@ lutheransforlife.org.

If you wish to support the conference with a cash donation or purchase a copy of the Conference Witness Book, provisions for that are included on the contract. If you have any questions please contact Trisha Adams at 888.364.5433 or tadams@lutheransforlife.org.

Please join us in Irving, Texas, August 4-5, 2011 as we meet for educational fellowship and grow in the understanding of what it means to be **Adopted in Christ**.

We pray the conference will also equip attendees with knowledge on the positive aspects of earthly adoption and with skills to raise awareness of this in their congregations. The conference will be a bunch of God's children learning and growing together so they can help others better understand what it means to be a child of God!





INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING YOUR MESSAGE:

Send in electronic format only (PDF or JPEG) to lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.

UPON COMPLETION send this form with check or money order to:

LFL National Conference Witness Book Lutherans For Life 1120 South G Avenue Nevada, IA 50201-2774

Please make your checks payable to: LFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

DEADLINE for receiving sponsorship messages is **June 30, 2011**. Messages arriving after June 30, 2011, will be included as space permits.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

(PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED.)

"Minute Man" Script for the LFL 2011 National Conference

Hello, I'm _____. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

I would like to extend to you the opportunity to grow in your understanding of what it means to be Adopted in Christ and how this action of our heavenly Father affects our relationships with one another and the manner in which we affirm God's gift of life in our congregations. Under the theme, Adopted in Christ, Lutherans For Life is hosting their 2011 National Conference in Irving, Texas, August 5-6, 2011 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW. The conference will also equip attendees with knowledge on the positive aspects of earthly adoption and with skills to raise awareness of this in their congregations. The conference will see God's children learning and growing together so they can help others better understand what it means to be a child of God!

This year's keynote speaker is Russell Moore, author of the book Adopted For Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches. Workshop topics will include a panel with a birth mother, adoptive parent, and adopted child and will also cover foreign adoption, foster care, in vitro fertilization, and pastors and politics. There is a servant event opportunity for young people at an area pregnancy center.

The conference has secured permission to show the movie Bella. A motion picture masterpiece, Bella, became the #1 top-rated movie of 2007 and was one of the most honored films of that year—winning, among other awards, the highly coveted People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival.

Christian singer-songwriter, Heather Ruesch is excited to bring a musical component to the con-



ference with a concert Friday afternoon. There will be opportunity for worship, Christian fellowship and lots of fun!

You can find out more about our conference [from the brochure you have been given] [from the brochure in the narthex] and register online, at www.lutheransforlife.org.



Project Idea: YouTube Video Contest

Several LFL state federations and chapters hold essay contests. Here is a basic outline for conducting a For Life YouTube Video Contest.

YouTube Video Contest Student Submission Guidelines Outline

The Basics:

Upload your submission to YouTube. Send your link to (list e-mail address).

First Prize: (Specific dollar amount or other prize) Second Prize: (Specific dollar amount or other prize) Third Prize: (Specific dollar amount or other prize)

The Details:

The contest is open to elementary through high school students under the age of 19 who are members of Lutheran congregations. All submissions are to be received by (time/date). The submitted video is to be pro-life, educational, and never previously publicly viewed on YouTube. Submissions will be judged on strength of pro-life message, biblical application, motivational impact, and artistic merit.

Length: Maximum 5 minutes. Participants agree to grant perpetual license of any submission to Lutherans For Life to use in its work of equipping Lutherans to Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Preferred screen ratio: Widescreen (16:9).

Subject Matter: A life-issue topic witnessing to the sanctity of human life such as the handicapped, abortion, euthanasia, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, etc. Other possible topics include answering questions such as what is life? When does life begin? When does life end? What does the Bible say about the sanctity of human life?

Questions? Call us at (list number) or e-mail (list e-mail address).

Other options: Produce and distribute a bulletin insert and poster to promote the contest.

(Be sure to share the winning videos with national Lutherans For Life!)



Speakers Bureau

Do you need a speaker? Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker at a rally, convention, Bible study, worship service, public or parochial school, college/university, or at a workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available from a single presentation or sermon to a multi-day series of workshops. Dr. Lamb says, "These speakers not only address a variety of life issues, but do so based on the Word of God."

General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- Airfare/Mileage: Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event.
- Lodging: Quiet non-smoking hotel room.
- Honorarium: Affiliated speakers for Lutherans For Life are not in a paid position. Therefore, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium for affiliated speakers. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Honorariums depend on number of events. Honorariums begin at \$200.
- Meals: \$25 per day unless other arrangements are made.
- Other: A lectern will be needed. A TV, video projector, DVD player, and/or an overhead projector and screen may be needed.

Speakers:

James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada) Jean Amundson (nationwide) Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide) Tracy L. Carmack (nationwide) Rev. Paul M. Clark (nationwide) Connie Davis (nationwide) Daniel M. Domke (within five to six hours of Huron, South Dakota) John Eidsmoe (nationwide) Peter B. Greenspan (within two-three hours of Kansas City) Anthony Horvath (nationwide) Kimberly Ketola (nationwide) Sheila Luck (nationwide) Ryan C. MacPherson (within 150 miles of Mankato, Minnesota) Betty McGuire (nationwide) Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa) Russell E. Saltzman (nationwide) Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada) Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide) Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide) Francis W. Szarejko (nationwide) Ed Szeto (nationwide)

Find out more about these speakers at www.lutheransforlife.org.



Speaking Engagement Report Form

We appreciate the many hours our faithful grassroots workers contribute to sharing the For Life message. If you or your State federation/Chapter has the opportunity to speak on the life issues in your community, please let us know! This information will help us as we look at our Strategic plan and determine the resources that are most needed to help you carry forth your mission for life! Please return to the Life Center or e-mail jrichard@lutheransforlife.org.

Speaking Engagement Report Form		
Speaker's Name:		
Location:		
Date:		
Topic of Presentation:		
Audience presented to (teens, adults, children, etc):		
Number of people in attendance:		
Resources used at pre- sentation (DVD, bro- chures, articles etc):		

