

LifeDate

Fall 2013



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

November 8-9 • Urbandale, Iowa (Des Moines)



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2013 Lutherans For Life
National Conference**

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Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
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Thank You Owen

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



Many of you know that I do not hesitate to speak about our grandchildren. We have another, Owen James Lamb, son of Heather and Aaron. Unfortunately, Owen only lived for twenty-one weeks in the womb. He developed a tumor nearly as large as he was that required pre-natal surgery. But the tumor was so invasive and vascular that his little heart finally gave out.

We are thankful for the surgical team who cared for Heather and Owen. They always treated him as the little human person he was. They referred to him as the “baby,” and, when they found out his name, as Owen. He received sedation for his surgery through his mom and was given pain medication directly. He was given meds to try and stabilize his heart. Chest compressions were performed for twenty minutes before giving in to the inevitable.

A nurse washed Owen and placed him in a tiny receiving blanket with one of those little preemie stocking caps on his head. He was brought to Aaron as we waited for Heather to arrive in the recovery room. After awhile, he gave our little grandson to me. Owen was as warm as the tears running down our cheeks—and very cute if you don’t mind me saying. I pulled back the blanket a bit and held his little hand. His fingers were very long, slender, and delicate. His legs, too, were quite long. He would have been an NBA star I’m sure.

I have held up the twenty-week Touch of Life fetal model hundreds of times over the years to show high school students

seated in an auditorium or pre-school students sitting on a floor. I will never hold it the same way again. Over the years I know I have grown numb to the reality of who that model represents. Thank you, Owen, for bringing that reality back to me. Thank you, Owen, for restoring in me a sense of urgency about what we do at Lutherans For Life.

As I was tucking Owen back into his blanket, I had to lift one of his arms to position it properly. I suddenly found myself weeping for other “Owens,” those who had such arms torn from his or her tiny body in an abortion because of a culture that says, “It’s good.” “It’s your right.” “You really have no other choice.” Thank you, Owen, for reminding me again of the horribleness of abortion.

Soon after, one of the doctors came in, put his arm around Aaron, and said, “You know, the guy I believe in knows what it’s like to lose a Son.” Yes, He does! And He knows what it is like to receive a son back through resurrection. Because of that we can all face whatever circumstances in our lives with a living hope (1 Peter 1:3).

I am grateful that the Lord allowed me to touch you, Owen. But please know you touched me in ways that perhaps I will be able to share with you someday in the resurrection. Thank you, Owen.

Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His Angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.

(I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb, LSB 740)

My family would like to thank the Lutherans For Life family for their gracious support during this time.

Men and Abortion: Comforting Those Who Cry Alone

by Ryan C. MacPherson



Abortion is a men's issue. Yes, abortion is also a women's issue. And it certainly is a children's issue—a child's life is at stake. But abortion is a men's issue—a fact too readily overlooked these days.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court took men out of the picture by declaring in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* that no state may guarantee a man the right to share in the decision of whether his wife or girlfriend would preserve or abort their child. Every woman would have the “right” to make that choice alone. Even minor girls would, in some instances, be permitted to abort a child without informing their own fathers or mothers.

No matter what the courts say, abortion genuinely remains a men's issue. Human nature can have it no other way—every baby has a dad. God has designed men to care for women and to protect children. When men fail to do so, they suffer guilt. When men are prohibited from doing so, they suffer a loss of masculinity. But so long as abortion is framed as a “woman's right” or as a “women's health issue,” the men who suffer do so largely in silence—struggling with great inner turmoil.

Each man has a unique story, but some basic patterns connect their stories with one another. Men whose children have been aborted need healing, they need redemption, and until they experience these they cry alone. Men whose fatherhood has been cut short struggle over their identities. They feel inadequate as

leaders. They have difficulty with commitment. Abortion drives a wedge between mom and dad, whether married or not. Past abortions also have ongoing significance, as when a man whose child was aborted by his girlfriend later marries and attempts to become a responsible husband and father while memories from the past haunt him.

Some men pressure their girlfriends to have an abortion. Other men hope for their child's life, but feel powerless against the “it's a woman's body” argument that leaves the mother of the child calling all the shots. Guilt and sorrow are universal.

When Michel Sauret (author of *Child, Hold Me*) learned that his girlfriend, Heather, was pregnant, his initial impulse was to seek an abortion—despite his Christian faith. That's how society had programmed him to escape from an “inconvenient” situation. In one breath, Michel “hated the idea of abortion even being available and tempting,” but simultaneously that temptation warped his mind into thinking “it was a choice ... no more threatening than the color of wall paint.”

When Heather miscarried, a whole new set of emotions surfaced. After they married, Michel and Heather struggled against infertility for years. These experiences taught them that God's gift of children is not something to be toyed with. In time, God blessed them with a child; moreover, God's forgiveness in Christ enabled them to come to terms with their past.

Men who have been entangled by the snare of abortion often experience **guilt**, **remorse**, **hopelessness**, and—if Christ is proclaimed—**redemption** (Kevin Burke, et al., *Redeeming A Father's Heart: Men Share Powerful Stories of Abortion Loss and Recovery*):

Guilt: “I murdered a child. Not just any child. My child. This baby did nothing wrong except come to be as a result of my reckless lifestyle. The most innocent of the innocent. No semantics, no excuses, no lies, can define it or describe it as anything other than that. I murdered my son or daughter, then ran.”

Remorse: “She had the abortion. Now her grief was unplanned. Her sadness inconvenient. Her anger at her husband unwanted by both, and a heap more inconvenient to him than another child might have been.”

Hopelessness: “Time may heal some wounds, but I can tell you now from experience, an abortion wound is not one of them.”

Redemption: “God’s love, forgiveness, and mercy are the only things that can truly heal a heart broken by abortion.”

Just as God forgave Saul, the great persecutor of the early church, transforming him into Saint Paul, the great evangelist to the Gentiles, so also God redeems men who have been entangled by the sin of abortion. Some of these men have become, like Saint Paul, powerful spokespersons who proclaim, “**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**” (Romans 8:1). Other men are still waiting to hear comforting words like these—might you be the one to tell them?

Dr. Ryan C. MacPherson, the author of The Culture of Life: Ten Essential Principles for Christian Bioethics and the president of the Hausvater Project (www.hausvater.org), is a member of the LFL Speakers Bureau.

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Political? No.

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



Back in April, a pastor wrote in to express his disagreement with these suggestions featured in our weekly *Life Notes* e-newsletter—excerpted from the “Speaking through Worship” section of our *How You Can “Speak”* booklet (Item LFL100B. \$2.00 ea.):

- Provide altar flowers dedicated to mothers (Mother’s Day) and give them to moms after church service has ended.
- Have your adult and/or children’s choir sing *God Knew Your Name* during the worship service. Have the lyrics printed in the bulletin.
- Place a white flower in chancel/altar when a person is baptized (representing the new life found in Christ).
- During worship services, display banners designed as crib quilts which can later be donated to a pregnancy center.

The pastor wrote, “How about concentrating on the Divine Service and the Altar where the body and blood of our Sacrificed Savior is placed. Suggestions like this are disruptive to the focus of the Service, and invariably cause discord against a pastor who is trying to be faithful to traditional Lutheran liturgy ... These ideas may have merit in their place, but we have these feelings because of what Jesus does to us in the Divine Service, the Divine Service doesn’t exist to promote our political agendas.”

My response was as follows:

I respect your right to make decisions about what may distract from the Divine Service and our Lord’s Body and Blood. I appreciate your sensitivity to this. I also agree that the Divine Service does not exist to promote anyone’s political agenda.

What I object to is the implication that what we do at LFL promotes a political agenda. Absolutely false. We have no political agenda. We have a mission to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. There is nothing political about striving to uphold the God-given sanctity of human life. There is nothing political about speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. There is nothing political about preaching God’s law into the hearts of those who think the brutal destruction of unborn children created by God and for whom the blood of Christ on our altars was shed is a “choice” or a “right” or a “political issue.” Every child slaughtered in abortion is someone whom God the Holy Spirit desires to call through the waters of holy baptism into an eternal relationship with Him, come to His Divine Service, and eventually come to the altar and receive that body and blood.

There is nothing political about preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the hearts of those men and women crushed by an abortion decision in their past. There is nothing political about proclaiming that the blood of Christ, the blood on our altar, was shed for the sin of abortion. It is the ONLY message that

can possibly bring healing to hearts broken by the sin of making a decision to have their own child killed. Indeed, it is a horrible offense to the Gospel to have this precious news and never apply it to the sin of abortion, never speak it for fear of being “political.”

There is nothing political about warning people about the idolatry of turning to death as a solution to the problems of life. Luther says, that whatever we turn to for “more good and help than from God is an idol, another god.” There is nothing political about pointing people instead to the Lord of Life, the cross of a suffering Savior, and to a God who works His will and good in the midst of suffering.

I could go on, but we pastors do not like long emails! Sorry! Bottom line, LFL is not political, we have no political agenda. We are not For Life because we live in a society that isn’t but because we serve a God who is. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most powerful and positive For Life message in the universe for it changes hearts and lives and gives eternal life. It is tailor made for issues of life and death, pain and suffering, grief and regret.

So if you believe the suggestions made about flowers and such distract from the altar and the Divine Service do not use them. But please do not label them as promoting a political agenda. Their purpose is to promote life, and not just life, but life created, redeemed, and called by God through Jesus Christ.

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View Children the Way God Does

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



I will never forget the mom and professional church worker who told me she hoped her sons and daughters would practice safe sex. We were serving together on a life task force and, during lunch break, she confided, “I raised them to be chaste ... I want them to wait for marriage. But, once they started college, I encouraged them to use protection because, after all, they’re sexual, too, and I’m scared to death they’re going to be like everyone else.”

I remember the grandma who toured our local pregnancy center. She thought the best thing parents could do for their daughters was to get them on The Pill so they wouldn’t need a pregnancy test.

Then there was the single father who raised his daughter to believe in Jesus, but made sure she had the Gardasil shot and was using birth control. “I know what I was like at her age and I know she’s just going to sleep around so I have to look out for her.”

And there was the pastor who told me that he’s taken some girls from his

congregation for abortions because “their parents wouldn’t be supportive of an unplanned pregnancy.” These girls are “just going to do it,” he explained. “They can’t help it ... so I need to be there for them.”

Can’t help it? What does this say about the way adults view children?

Children are sinful human beings born into a love-to-sin-world. Do we say, “My child is a sinner. It’s just who he is, so I’m going to help him lie, cheat, and steal with the least amount of damage.”

Is this how God sees children? Is this how He helps them?

When we don’t see children the way God does, then our mentoring role in their lives is compromised.

Yes, children are sinful—just like their parents and grandparents. But baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God sees us as His adopted sons and daughters in

Christ. Jesus won for God’s children the privilege of becoming heirs of the heavenly kingdom. This not only bestows value but defines purpose.

Identity matters! Our sons and daughters are not “sexual from birth” as Planned Parenthood sees them. They are not captive to instincts and desires. They are persons created more in the image of God than the image of wolves and rabbits. To see children as God does is to realize they are more than flesh and blood but



spirit and, because they are spirit, every choice they make will take them either closer to—or farther from—God.

It is the children who suffer when we fail to see them as God does. Expectations for their purpose and behavior are lowered. Their future appears grim.

Identity matters. And, because it does, my grandchildren need me to remind them of what happened at the baptismal font. Their baptism is “**an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him**” (1 Peter 3:21b-22). I can literally tell my grandchildren that their Lord and Savior rules! This means that someday, when they are teenagers, they won’t have to be subject to raging hormones or made foolish by lack of judgment. In remembering who they are, they will know the source of their wisdom and strength. This will affect their choices and behavior. But that’s not all.

When boys and girls see themselves the way God does, the way they view each other will improve. Relationships will take on new meaning. Think about it. If boys see themselves in light of their baptism as sons of God and girls see themselves as daughters of God, then all baptized people become brothers and sisters in Christ.

Can you imagine? I mean, really! Can you imagine the impact this would have on high school and college campuses, at the beach, in the workplace, around the neighborhood, and for society as a whole?

I can. And it renews my hope.



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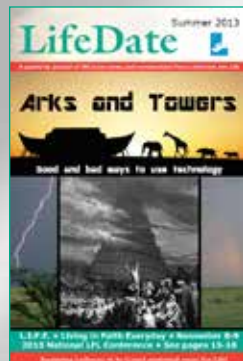
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Life Quotes are quotations on life issues for use in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletter). **Life Quotes** are available at the LFL website and are included in each week's Life Notes.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year are based on the appointed readings for the week. You can find them on pages 28-29, the LFL website, and in **Life Notes**.

Failed Fatherhood

by Rev. Ken Klaus
Speaker Emeritus of
The Lutheran Hour®



“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7a).

Hosea’s words about reaping the whirlwind have found a new application in the 21st century of North America. That calls for an explanation—an explanation which begins with a quiz. And, lest you’re wondering, it most certainly is not a *trivia* quiz. Just fill in the blank:

- According to the U.S. Department of Health, 63 percent of youth suicides come from _____ homes.
- According to the Center for Disease Control, 85 percent of all children with mental or behavioral disorders come from _____ homes.
- According to the National Principals Association 71 percent of high school dropouts come from _____ homes.
- According to *The Christian Post*, teenage girls are 71 percent more likely to have children as a teen, 53 percent less likely

to marry as a teen, and 92 percent more likely to get divorced if they are from a _____ home.

Well, did you figure out the answer? To get 100 percent on the quiz you can put the word “fatherless” into each of the blanks above.

In spite of those frightening figures, in my lifetime I have seen society “sow the wind,” as fathers have gone from knowing best to knowing nothing at all. The king has been evicted from his castle and is now confined to his man cave. No longer revered and respected, dads are discounted and disregarded.

And where does the whirlwind come in? In this: even as the percentage of women who respect marriage is rising dramatically, the percentage of men who value marriage is dropping—like a stone. And who will pay the price for this shift in society? It will be the children,

of course. You need not be a rocket scientist or brain surgeon to see the downward spiral this situation creates.

Now you may wonder what does all this have to do with a *Daily Devotion*. Simply this: the homes of Christian men and women are to be different. We have a different standard, a different goal, a different direction. Most certainly, in the Savior, we have a different model to follow.

Paul showed us that Model when he wrote, **“Husbands, love your wives,**



as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

That is a concept the world has never understood. The best, the most noble idea it can come up with is "Marriage is a 50-50 proposition." That is not what the Bible says. In Scripture fathers are told to emulate the Savior; they are told to give as Jesus gave.

That means giving when it's not wanted, giving when it's not appreciated, giving when it is not applauded. It means putting the welfare of others above that of yourself. It means giving until it hurts, giving even to the point where you are ready to sacrifice yourself.

We are to give because that is what Jesus has done for us. From start to finish, from beginning to end, Jesus' life was dedicated to us. And we fathers with our families can honor our Lord and impact the future by doing as He did.

A Prayer: Dear Lord, may our homes be blessed by the Savior's presence. May our lives be lived trying to follow His example. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Source: Daily Devotion email, 7/17/13, www.lhm.org. Used by permission.

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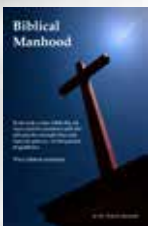
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Human Cloning— Watch the Language

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



An international team of scientists appears to have cloned human embryos for the purpose of embryonic stem cell research. Lutherans For Life (LFL) reiterates its opposition to human cloning. Cloning is not the creation of life by the hands of God, but the production of human life by the hands of man. God creates life so that we might serve Him. Cloning produces life with the intent of destroying it to serve man. As the discussion of this breakthrough ensues in the work place, schools, and churches, be watchful of the language used.

USA Today, on May 13, and a few other news outlets posted headlines such as, “Human embryonic stem cells are cloned.” Others, like *Popular Science*, were more precise: “Scientists Create First Cloned Human Embryo.” Before you can have human embryonic stem cells, you must have a human being. Researchers did not clone a bunch of stem cells. They cloned a human being to be destroyed for his or her stem cells.

The POPSI article quoted above begins the article with, “Scientists have made an embryonic clone of a person ...” Then, in an unsophisticated scien-

tific flip-flop, two sentences later states, “It’s unlikely that this clone could develop into a human ...” That’s bad science. The clone is not developing into a human being. The clone is a developing human being. Although we oppose the method by which this human being comes into existence, he or she is also now our neighbor, someone for whom Jesus shed His blood and who we are to love as ourselves.

A quick review of the cloning process to help us watch our language: The genetic code contained in the nucleus of an ordinary body (soma) cell, such as skin, is transferred into a human egg cell



which has had its genetic material removed. (This cloning process is, therefore, called “**s o m a t i c cell nuclear transfer.**”) Now you have an egg cell that contains the

complete genetic code of the person who donated the skin cell. This cell is stimulated to begin developing just as if the egg had been fertilized. At this point you have a human being who is the genetic twin of the donor of the skin cell.

The intent for the use of this human being in this research is to allow him or her to grow to the blastocyst stage—about five-days-old—and then remove the stem cells contained in the embryo. This destroys that little boy or girl. Researchers often refer to this as “**therapeutic cloning**” as the goal is to use those stem cells for the purpose of treating disease.

“**Reproductive cloning**” is the term used where the end result is implanting the boy or girl embryo into a surrogate womb and eventually resulting in a born baby. That is not the intent of the research in question. Of course, that does not preclude other researchers from pursuing this goal.

So a few points to remember in your discussions:

- The creation of life belongs in the hands of God not man.
- Cloning does not produce a bunch of embryonic stem cells but a human being who contains embryonic stem cells.
- Removing those cells murders a little boy or girl.
- A clone does not develop into a human being. It is a developing human being.
- A human being, regardless of the means of its beginning, is our neighbor for whom Jesus died.
- “Somatic cell nuclear transfer” is cloning.
- The end—seeking the cure of human disease—does not justify the means—intentionally killing human beings.
- We thank God for stem cell research that uses “adult stem cells” or “reprogramed body cells” and does not involve the destruction of human life.

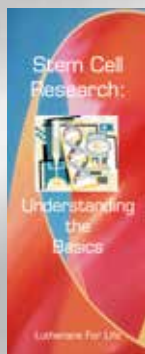
Learn More About Stem Cell Research and Cloning:



Video: Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer is hosted by Dr. Lamb. He says, “Once we understand the basic biology

involved, we will be able to apply God’s Word to these technologies.”

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Public policy researcher Wang Feng slammed the One-Child Policy at an academic conference in Beijing in June. Wang, who works for the Brookings Tsinghua Center for Public Policy Research [said] ... “I believe history will judge the One-Child Policy as worse than the Cultural Revolution” ... “The Cultural Revolution only hurt Chinese people for a short time, but the One-Child Policy will influence more than one generation. We have only seen the beginning” ... When making policies, Wang said, the Chinese government ignores both public opinion and scientific data ... “Policies are only decided by the imaginations of a few government officials.” (*LifeNews.com*, 7/18/13)

Finland’s Interior Minister has sparked an uproar by sharply criticizing the country’s liberal abortion laws.

In a July 6 speech to a Lutheran missions gathering in Kankaanpää ... Päivi Räsänen lamented that animals have more protection in Finland than unborn human babies. Citing Acts 5:29, she also noted that one may face situations “... where we must weigh our actions, whether we are ready to go against public opinion, peer pressure and even law if these contradict the Word of God.” The archbishop and two bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (CoF) wasted no time in declaring that she does not speak for that Church. In her speech, Mrs. Räsänen noted that Finnish law provides that animals being slaughtered must be killed painlessly, but that Finnish politicians will not even discuss the pain that fetuses can feel during abortion. Räsänen, a medical doctor, says that a fetus at the age at which Finland allows abortion is



not a piece of tissue without emotion, but an individual who can feel pain. Räsänen, who is also national chairman of the Christian Democrat Party (Kris-tillisidemokraati), further declared that healthcare workers should have the right to refuse to participate in abortions and euthanasia. She complained that Finland and Sweden are the only two countries in Western Europe in which healthcare workers do not have the right to refuse to assist in an abortion on grounds of personal conscience. (*LifeNews.com*, 7/15/13)

The Irish President, on July 30, signed into law the bill that allows direct killing of unborn children, up to the point of full gestation, in cases where the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother, including if she threatens

suicide. Pro-life activists have said that not only does the law violate

the Constitution’s protections for the unborn, but the suicide provision is wide open to abuse and could pave the way for effective abortion on demand

... psychiatric professionals had specifically denounced

the suicide provision, saying abortion can never be considered treatment for mental illness. While President Michael D. Higgins had the power to send the Protection of Life in Pregnancy Act 2013 to the country’s Supreme Court to determine whether it violated the country’s constitutional guarantee of the right to life for the unborn, he chose instead to sign without a legal review. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/30/13)

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Number of abortions worldwide per year: approximately 42 Million; per day: approximately 115,000
Total USA abortions since 1973: 54,559,615 • Source: abortionno.org; National Right to Life

Mark your calendar! Register Now!
**2013 Lutherans For Life National
Conference • November 8-9**



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Urbandale, Iowa
(Des Moines)

Our theme is L.I.F.E. • Living In Faith Everyday.

**“And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation” (Luke 1:50).**

How do we live out our biblically-based, For Life convictions in this culture? Our 2013 Lutherans For Life National Conference will help you do that as we focus on **L.I.F.E.—Living In Faith Everyday.**

Here are some of the wonderful speakers and workshop leaders scheduled to join us in November:

- Steve Deace – Nationally syndicated radio talk show host
- Rev. Matt Harrison – President, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Linda Bartlett – Titus 2 for Life
- Jenny Farrell on post-abortion healing
- Rev. Peter Preus on dealing with suicide
- John Talley on religious freedom
- Chris Lamb on protecting you and your family when dealing with the online world
- Laura Davis on L.I.F.E. with youth
- Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb on end-of-life and L.I.F.E. around the world



How do we live out our biblically-based, For Life convictions in this culture? Our 2013 Lutherans For Life National Conference will help you do that as we focus on **L.I.F.E.**—Living In Faith Everyday.

Pre-Conference Events Friday, November 8!

Luncheon: L.I.F.E. in the Pulpit. This event, open to pastors and their wives, will be a time of fellowship, good food, an encouraging word from LFL board member, Colonel John Eidsome (on "Abortion, the Two Kingdoms, and the IRS") and LFL's executive director, Rev. Dr. James Lamb—and an opportunity to ask questions.

Note: The lunch is free and conference registration is not required. However, please e-mail tadams@lutheransforlife.org or call 888.364.LIFE if you plan to attend.

Life Team Seminar with Rev. Doug Merkey – This workshop will be a time of encouragement, sharing, and education for the "hands and feet" of LFL!

Christian Estate Planning with Jim Schroeder – This seminar will focus on how you can testify to your Christian faith and provide for your family and your favorite ministries.

Y4Life with Laura Davis: Open to all high school and college students. Learn how to answer THE question of our generation—why should we be For Life? Includes practical ways to defend your For Life beliefs in your school and community as well as fun activities to get to know the other students at the conference!

Y4Life Youth Servant Event Saturday, November 9: Continuing from the pre-conference activities, the Y4Life Servant event will give all high school and college student conference participants an opportunity to put what they have learned into action and serve at life-affirming ministries in the Des Moines area.

2013 LFL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013

Workshops A: 1, 6, 7, 4

Workshops B: 1, 6, 2, 3

Workshops C: 4, 7, 5, 3

- Linda Bartlett: L.I.F.E. as male and female** – The world identifies us as sexual beings. But, in light of our baptism, vocation, and sanctification, who does God say we are? Who are we for eternity? What happens if we live under mistaken identity? Our sexuality is God's gift for use within the boundaries of marriage, but living as male and female is not reserved for marriage. What does this mean?
- Laura Davis: L.I.F.E. with youth** – Practical tips on how to engage Generation Y, our high school and college students, in the For Life movement.
- Jenny Farrell: L.I.F.E. after abortion** – Moving beyond the barriers of judgement and shame in order to minister to those suffering from the pain of abortion.
- Chris Lamb: L.I.F.E. with technology** – Focusing on what you need to be aware of to protect yourself and your family when interacting in the online environment.
- Jim Lamb: L.I.F.E. at the end of life** – A look at theological and practical issues regarding the end of life.
- Peter Preus: L.I.F.E. and suicide** – A scriptural, confessional, Lutheran perspective, addressing the paradox of Christians committing suicide.
- John Talley: L.I.F.E. and religious freedom** – A look at increasing attacks on religious freedom in the United States.

REGISTER ONLINE: www.lutheransforlife.org/conference



SCHEDULE: 2013 LFL National Conference

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Registration • Exhibitor set up

11:30 **Pastors' Luncheon**

1:00–4:00 **Pre-Conference Workshops:**

Life Team Seminar with Rev. Doug Merkey

Christian Estate Planning with Jim Schroeder

Y4Life with Laura Davis

5:00 **Opening Worship**

6:15 **Banquet**

7:30–9:00 **Keynote Address – L.I.F.E. in the Church**
– Rev. Matt Harrison

9:00 **Dessert Reception**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 **L.I.F.E. in the World** – Steve Deace

9:30 Announcements and break

10:00 **Workshop Session A**

11:00 Break

11:15 **Workshop Session B**

12:15 Break

12:30 Lunch/Greetings

1:30–5:00 **Youth Servant Event**

2:00 **Workshop Session C**

3:00 Break

3:30 LFL Update

4:00 **L.I.F.E. Around the World –**

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

*Great speakers,
wonderful
workshops, and
life-affirming
fellowship!*



REGISTER ONLINE: www.lutheransforlife.org/conference



REGISTRATION FEES

Individual	\$100
Student	\$50
Child (ages 6-12)	\$30

Note: Children 5 and under are admitted free, but please include them when registering. If there is enough interest, activities and a Saturday program will be available for children ages 6 to 6th grade. Daycare for children five and younger will be available on Saturday.

NOTE: Financial assistance is available for students.

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP has changed!

Instead of placing "ads" in a conference book, sponsorship donations will be listed and acknowledged in the conference information folder.



Sponsorship levels are:

Bronze - \$50 • Silver - \$100 • Gold - \$250 • Platinum - \$500

Sponsorships may be given in honor or memory of someone or event. Download the sponsorship form from the conference page on the website.

CONFERENCE HOTELS:

MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

The **Comfort Suites** at Living History Farms (11167 Hickman Road, Urbandale; 515.276.1126) is the main conference hotel. Rooms are also reserved for Lutherans For Life Conference attendees at the **Sleep Inn** at Living History Farms (11211 Hickman Road, Urbandale; 515.270.2424) and at the **Wildwood Lodge** (11431 Forest Avenue, Clive; 515.222.9876).

Conference room rate at all conference hotels: \$89.00

Reserve your rooms early!

To obtain the group rate, mention you will be attending the Lutherans For Life National Conference.



Lutherans For Life offers Word-based resources on abortion, adoption, bioethics, Creation, end-of-life, family living, fetal development, Life Sunday, sexual purity, and more! Here is a sampling of what is available!

GOD's WORD for Life Bible

A ONE-OF-A-KIND RESOURCE!

Paperback: Item LFL1618, \$15.00 each;

Hardcover: Item LFL1619, \$20.00 each;

Leather: Item FL1619C, \$25.00 each

DVDs

In **The Abundant Life**, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb helps us better understand what Jesus meant in John 10:10. Item LFL1408DVD. \$5.00 ea.

The Other End of Life takes a look at end-of-life issues. Item LFL1409DVD. \$5.00 ea.

The Handiwork of God shares how the value of human life comes from what God has done. Item LFL1401DVD. \$5.00 ea.

Brochures

Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation? The Church has long called abortion sin. Item LFL205T. \$0.50 ea.

Real Love/Real Life – A unique fold-out for teens. **English:** Item LFL615T. \$1.00 ea.

Spanish: Item LFL615T-S. \$1.00 ea.

A Christian Guide for End-of-Life Decisions – Item LFL 801R. \$0.50 ea.



Marriage – A Statement by Lutherans For Life – God is clear about what He still intends marriage to be. Item LFL905T. \$0.50 ea.

Word of Hope offers information on LFL's post-abortion ministry.

WOH – Abortion. Item LFL404T. **FREE;**

WOH – Abuse. Item LFL909T. **FREE**

Booklets

Adoption: Finding a Family for a Child – Adoption options. Item LFL503B. \$0.50 ea.

Implementing a Pro-Life Theology in a Lutheran Congregation offers help on speaking up for life. Item LFL208B. \$0.75 ea.

Defending the Right to Choose? / Know the Facts – Item LFL124T. \$0.75 ea.

A Lutheran Catechism on Abortion and Life – Item LFL104B. \$1.00 ea.

God's Word for an Unplanned Pregnancy – **English:** Item LFL912B. \$1.00 ea.; **Spanish:** Item LFL912B-S. \$1.00 ea.

How You Can "Speak" offers practical ways to speak up For Life. Item LFL100B. \$0.75 ea.

Bookmarks

LifeMarks fit right into *Luther's Small Catechism*! Item LFL1632. \$0.25 ea.

Posters

Watch Me Grow Posters beautifully illustrate the growth stages of a baby in the womb. Several options available.

Spanish/Russian Resources!

Lutherans For Life offers several resources in Spanish and Russian (funded by designated gifts)—and more are on the way! Check the CPH and LFL websites.



Best Way to Order LFL Resources:

At www.cph.org or 800.325.3040.

Shipping/handling applies to all orders.

Quantity pricing on select resources.

Many more resources www.cph.org!

A Caregiver's Story

by Christine McMahon Sutton

People who doubt God's existence say that, despite the well-known adage, there have been plenty of atheists in fox holes. Ernest Hemingway is often cited as an example. History tells us that Hemingway was on the frontline of several wars. However, history also tells us he committed suicide because he was unable to face his declining health, so he may not be a legitimate example of godless bravery.

My time in a fox-hole came in October of 2007, a few months after my husband and I moved back to our hometown. Gery—a 56 year-old family physician—was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. For the first time, I faced a challenge I couldn't handle alone. In sheer desperation, I reached out for the Lord. I had pretty much ignored Him for years, but He was still there.

When we learned Gery had Alzheimer's, I knew it was important to let him choose which church we joined. We began attending Gery's childhood church and, when his diagnosis was confirmed by a second neurologist, we asked our minister to announce it to the congrega-

tion.

Our openness greatly expanded our support network, and our church family was a true blessing in our lives. We tried to "give back"—we served as deacons and I joined the choir—but we got far more than we gave. I will be forever grateful for the emotional and spiritual support we received. As his illness progressed, Gery was increasingly comforted by long-familiar people and places, including his church.

Gery was always happy when Sunday rolled around. I suspect the atmosphere of warm and loving acceptance was a refuge for him in a world that didn't always show forbearance to people with dementia. For me, attending church each Sunday renewed my spirit and brought a welcome sense of normalcy into our relentlessly abnormal world.

During Sunday services, I tried to pray, but I was so terrified of what lay ahead that all pretense at eloquence deserted me. I shut my eyes,

folded my hands and begged for help. "Please God, help me to be a better caregiver. Please God, give me the strength to deal with this."

During the first year Gery was ill, I had difficulty sleeping and frequently found myself wide awake at 3 a.m. While



My husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at age 56.

I was his caregiver at home for three years.

I discovered that living in faith every day was the only way to survive.

the rest of the world slept, I lay wondering where I would find the strength to meet the terrible challenges of Alzheimer's caregiving. I've never felt so alone and frightened or so humbled.

Over and over, I repeated my simple plea. At first I wondered if I deserved for God to hear me. Eventually, I believed He was listening. It was an indescribable relief to put myself in God's hands.

Every Sunday at the conclusion of the church service, we recite a charge: "Wherever we go, God has sent us. Wherever we are, God has put us there. He has a purpose in our being there. He has something He wants to do through us, wherever we are."

I taped this passage to our refrigerator and, during Gerry's illness, I thought often about its meaning in my life. My wonderful friend Jane, who prayed faithfully for us throughout Gerry's illness, was the first to suggest there was a divine purpose at work in my life. With God's help, I stopped asking why such a good man met such a terrible fate. Instead, I began to consider the possibility that the Lord brought us together later in life for a reason other than our love for each other.

It's never made sense to me that life as we know it is the beginning and the end. After Gerry's brother died in 2003, we discussed our faith for the first time. The knowledge that Gerry believed in heaven helped me face the last stage of his illness. I could barely look at him without crying, but I knew we would see each other again, only Gerry wouldn't be ill and we wouldn't be sad.

Sometimes I prayed as I sat with him during the terrible final weeks of his life. My prayer was still a plea, but this time I asked God to fold Gerry in His arms and carry him away. I was able to ask this because I believed to the depths of my

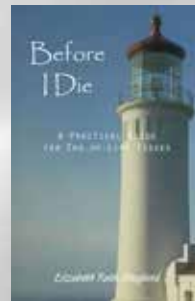
soul that Gerry was on his way to a better place. Without faith, I don't know how I would have thrown off the utter despair that threatened to sink me so many times during Gerry's illness.

Through God's grace, I've survived the illness and premature death of my husband, the most traumatic event of my life. Many people suffer similar or worse tragedies, but how do any of them persevere without a belief in God? I have no idea, and I'm glad I didn't have to find out. As one of Gerry's childhood friends said, "We were raised with faith, and sometimes it's all we have."

Sometimes, it's all we really need.

Christine McMahon Sutton is a former medical journal editor and author of "Stop and Smell the Garbage: A Caregiver's Story of Survival." She lives in Iowa and frequently speaks on the subject of Alzheimer's caregiving. stopandsmellthegarbage.net; caregiver822@gmail.com

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.



Best Way to Order LFL Resources:

At www.cph.org or 800.325.3040.

Shipping/handling applies to all orders.

Quantity pricing on select resources.

Moving Forward – An Update

by Lori Trinché
Mission & Ministry
Coordinator



I have been captivated and awestruck by the opportunities God has placed in my path during my short tenure here at LFL as a fellow servant in His Kingdom, for His Glory. First and foremost, I've spent time studying and praying about LFL's mission statement. It is critical that our wonderful frontline volunteers be equipped to be Gospel motivated—reflecting the joy of salvation we have from an awesome and extravagantly generous God to rescue others in peril as we have been rescued in Christ. I am striving to move forward in the way I believe you'd intend in the definition of equipping—educating through our wonderful LFL materials, motivating, encouraging, supporting, and connecting others with opportunities to grow in faith and serve in response to God's extravagant love and grace.

My leadership training with Pastor Doug Merkey from Churches for Life centered in freely receiving and living out the Gospel message! I was blessed to meet with, share ideas, and learn from many local Life Team and LFL chapter leaders and Life Team members in the St. Louis area this past June.

For those who have gone through Life Team Leader and Life Team 101 training, there are many additional resource articles on the CFL website at www.getintolife.org.

org. Work continues on a Life Team Toolkit that should be available in the later fall. Training is appropriate for all frontline volunteers—participants have commented that this training is not only valuable for life ministry, but in building relational teams that work in unity together.

One of the most valuable things I learned is that **“ministry flows from relationships”** and relationships can grow and be strengthened in a variety of ways. I saw examples of LFL chapters long in existence working together in cooperation and collaboratively with newly forming

Life Teams in individual congregations. There are no barriers based on circumstances where we listen to and follow God at work. We have an awesome and extravagant God! With each of my updates, I'd be blessed to include a **Tale from the Frontlines**. If you have a story or prayer request specific to your life ministry group you would like to share, please send it to me at ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org or 888.364.LIFE. Thank you!

If you are interested in learning more about Life Teams or chapters, please see our frequently asked question section at www.lutheransforlife.org/life-ministry-faqs.

In closing, I wanted to extend a special thank you to Genny Hertel of the McHenry County (IL) LFL Chapter #155. Genny will be retiring on September 1 after 26 years as a Life Coordinator. Thank you from the heart for your service, Genny—and God be with you, protect, and keep you.



Tale from the Frontlines

Peace Lutheran Church – St. Louis

Sandi Akers, Life Team Leader

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled” (Titus 2:3-5).

This past June, God led the Life Ministry Team of Peace Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri, to host a Titus 2-4 Life Retreat for Women led by founder, Linda Bartlett. Mrs. Bartlett helped attendees recognize the ways that we, like Eve, have been deceived and how to contrast the ideas of a sinful world with the unchanging Word of God—carefully considering our identity as daughters of God in Christ.

This identity is unchanging with physical appearance, age, health, or life circumstances and is not defined by sensuality. One young woman observed that “the women of my generation are not happy ... they are discontent ... at odds with themselves.” Another admitted that, “she’d felt more encouraged to be like the boys, rather than finding joy in womanhood.” When the vocation of womanhood is not mentored, there is a void. The culture suffers.



But trusting the order of God’s creation, women do not have to compete with men; instead, they can embrace their differences. It has been said that male and female are the two eyes of the human race. Both are needed for the benefit of all. The women who attended the retreat left encouraged in the truth that our Heavenly Father made us and does not forget His own.

Even in a sinful world, God’s different yet complementary design for men and women is a blessing. While we anticipate Jesus’ return, we can choose to build up rather than tear down; to encourage rather than to discourage, to celebrate

manhood and womanhood rather than to mourn. What a difference this makes for ourselves and for others on life’s journey.

For more information about hosting a Titus 2-4 Life retreat for your

team, church, or as an outreach event, please visit www.titus2-4life.org.

titus2-4life.org



Helping Christians make godly choices and to know that mistakes of the past do not have dominion over Christ’s people.

Equipping Student Leaders For Life

by Laura Davis,
Director of Y4Life



Adults frequently ask me “how do we get young people more involved in our life team/chapter, etc.?” As I learn more about youth life teams and student life groups, I have learned that this may be the wrong question. Intergenerational life ministry is needed, but a better question may be “how do we equip young people to be leaders in their own context?”

In my own life, the things that were most important to my development as a leader were the people in my life, in particular, the mentors who took the time to encourage me in my growth in Christ and in the life movement.

Mentorship was a key component in my leadership development. Any student (or adult) can go to a workshop and learn about the top ten characteristics of a leader or whatever new leadership fad is being promoted these days. From my experience, however, I learned to be a leader by learning *from* leaders. It started with the leadership in my home—my parents. Both my mother and father were wonderful examples of Christian leadership and they were active in teaching my siblings and me about Christ’s love for us and how we can show that love to others.

I was also blessed to have strong mentors at church, men and women who invested time in building a relationship with me, teaching me, and praying for me. I remember my youth leader in high

school going above and beyond to help me through my difficult teenage years. I am now blessed to have him as my pastor. I also became so close with a woman who was my mother’s best friend and a leader in our congregation that I now consider her a second mother to me. I have gone to her more times than I can remember with questions about life, faith, and family.

When I first got involved with Lutherans For Life, it was the relationships I developed with staff and fellow board members that made coming to work for LFL the easiest decision I have ever made. And all throughout this first year, it has

been those relationships, those mentors, who have taught me more than I could imagine and encouraged me through the good and the bad times. I thank God every day to have such people in my life.

If you are a parent, you are probably already mentoring with your children. But, beyond your own home, this is something that you as a life team or chapter or even an individual can be involved in. Is there a student life team at your local university or high

school? How can you mentor their leaders? What services can you provide them? These students may know how to reach their peers, but you can provide them with resources and ideas they hadn’t thought of. Is there a young person at your church who seems passionate about life? Take the time to personally invite them to activities, or to the LFL National Conference, or even just to lunch. It is amazing what a personal invitation will do.

By doing this, you will prepare leaders who will continue to work for life in the future. My generation learns and grows through relationships. I know I did.



An Adoption Initiative

In the summer edition of our *Directions* newsletters (available on our website), Delores Desemone, chapter president of LFL of St. Charles County, Missouri, #337, wrote about the amazing work of God through a special adoption initiative they sponsored. Here is an excerpt from that article. The first part of the article told about a wonderful baby bottle fundraising project for a local St. Louis pregnancy center that had raised \$33,000!

After that wonderful opportunity to watch God's people respond to a real "LIFE" need, Pastor Schmied-ing suggested we take a year off and then do another similar fundraiser ... within our local churches promoting adoption.

In 2012 we started planning that event. Our chapter established an adoption initiative committee to work under the board. We had many meetings and researched adoption and all the helps here in our community ... We also worked with [a] local ministry trying to promote adoption and foster care within churches. They allowed us to borrow portraits of children who were available for adoption within our state. We displayed those portraits in our churches for several weeks while we introduced the adoption initiative plan and suggested people gather their change. We worked with the church contact—a lay person who works closely with LFL as we do each



project, to be sure it is followed up on in their congregation. We visited each pastor along with the church contact from his congregation and asked for their support. We spoke to each principal at the Lutheran elementary schools and the high school. We talked to the deaconess at the Lutheran Senior Center—all were excited. We passed out 1,500 baby bottles on Life Sunday and watched God work in His people!!

We had stories of children going home and emptying their piggy banks into baby bottles so a child could have a "Forever Family." The people at the senior center were all

putting their bingo money in the bottles. One little girl told all her friends not to bring birthday gifts but to bring the money they would spend on a gift for her. She put it in a baby bottle and gave

it to us. It was nearly \$100 ... One bottle had a check for \$600 ... As I write this, we have raised over \$30,000. On April 10th, we hosted a praise and informational dinner to thank the church contacts for all their labors and to invite people interested in learning more about adoption/foster care ... We had five couples attend who wanted to learn more about adoption ... We got them connected with people ... so they would have support as they walk the long adoption path. We had people who have adopted speak briefly about their experiences. It was a very positive encouraging evening!!

Gifts of Non-Cash Assets

*by Jim Schroeder,
Christian Estate
Planning Counselor*



As a supporter of Lutherans For Life you may be interested in making a gift to support the mission of Lutherans For Life that is not a cash gift. The following are samples of these types of gifts.

Charitable IRA Distribution

The IRA charitable rollover allows individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers of any amount up to \$100,000 per year to Lutherans For Life, without having to count the transfers as income for federal income tax purposes.

Life Insurance

If you have a life insurance policy that has served its original purpose—providing for your children, protecting your mortgage, or securing your retirement funds—you may use this policy as a gift to Lutherans For Life. You can do this by naming Lutherans For Life as the owner or beneficiary, and possibly experience some tax benefits as well.

Payable on Death Accounts

Payable on death accounts designations are a simple way to designate who will receive funds upon your death. This designation can be done with banks, brokerage firms, retirement funds, and more. Since you are considered the owner of your account, you can cancel or change it as you wish. At your death, unlike wills, payable on death accounts do not involve probate, allowing for quicker distribution and privacy.

Real Estate

Any type of real estate you own can be donated to Lutherans For Life: house, farm, rental property, business property, land, vacation home, and more. Real estate donations, however, must be readily marketable and without environmental contaminants. You gain significant tax advantages and your charitable contribution deduction is for the appraised value of your property.

Retirement Assets

Retirement assets are tax-deferred retirement savings accounts, including profit-sharing, IRAs, 401(k), 403(b), and Keogh and pension plans. Gifts from these accounts while you are still living may have withdrawal penalties and will certainly have income tax liabilities. However, a gift from your retirement assets at your death to Lutherans For Life would help avoid income taxes for your heirs.

Securities

Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are the most common types of securities in a person's portfolio. By making a gift of securities to Lutherans For Life, you can claim the full appreciated value of the securities as a charitable contribution deduction and avoid the capital gains tax.

Wills

Consider Lutherans For Life in your will and estate planning. A will is a legal document that insures your estate is distributed and your family is cared for as you choose. In addition to caring for your family, you can also support the mission of Lutherans For Life.

If you would like more information about making a gift to LFL with non-cash assets, please contact me at jschroeder@lutheransforlife.org or 515.490.7371.

L.I.F.E. – Living in Faith Everyday

by Kay L. Meyer
Director of Development



How do we live in faith every day? **Living In Faith Everyday** means we keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and preserver of our faith. It means knowing our Savior, Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. He is perfect. **We are not!**

Thankfully, we have a Savior who forgives us for **all** our sins. He gives us physical **life**, an abundant **life**, and eternal **life** as gifts. We recognize that the forgiveness that Christ offers us didn't come easily. Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Soldiers spit on Him, mocked Him, beat Him, and stripped Him of His clothes. His disciples and friends deserted Him. Peter denied Him three times. Even His Father turned away as Jesus cried from the cross, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** (Mark 15:34) Jesus suffered in our place. His blood covers ours sins. He died. His body was placed in the tomb. It was sealed and guarded. Thankfully, three days later, as He had promised, He rose from the dead. He showed His glorified risen body to the disciples, the women, and to 500 believers at once during the 40 days He remained on earth after His resurrection. Because He rose from the dead, we can be confident that we will also rise and live with Him forever.

Living In Faith Everyday means we understand that we are saved by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), not by our works. But, we also understand that Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has prepared works for us to do in advance. What work God has prepared for you? Is it helping a woman who is pregnant and alone? Is it ministering to someone who

has had an abortion and can't believe that God would forgive her? Is it feeding the hungry? Is it ministering to the sick? Is it helping those who have lost their home in a tornado? Is it sharing God's Word with someone who doesn't know the Lord? Is it offering encouragement and help to those who are Christians, but struggle with drugs, alcohol, pornography, or a myriad of other issues of life? Whatever God has called you to do, do it with joy.

Living In Faith Everyday means we attend worship services, partake of communion, study God's Word, and pray. We grow spiritually and learn to discern truth from error. With God's help, we grow into the person God wants us to be.

Living In Faith Everyday means learning to say, "I'm sorry, will you forgive me" to the Lord, and to our family and friends. We also learn to say "I'm sorry" in the workplace, to neighbors, and those we meet in the community.

Living In Faith Everyday means we are confident that He is risen! He is risen indeed! And it means we know that when we die, because of our faith in Christ, we will go to live with Him forever.

Living In Faith Everyday means we are shining lights for Christ and tell others about the great things that the Lord has done. We tell them about His forgiveness and the grace that He gives us every day.

Living In Faith Everyday means we share the Law and Gospel with those within the Church and those outside of it and speak up for Life! And we remember that it is God who gives us life as a gift.

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior'" (Isaiah 43:10-11).

Life Thoughts in the Church Year are based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*.

October 6 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Habakkuk presented God with a very contemporary sounding complaint, “For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted” (Habakkuk 1:4b). Easy for us today to feel surrounded by perversion wondering what God is going to do about it. God presented to Habakkuk—and us—a profoundly simple answer, “the righteous shall live by his faith” (2:4b).

October 13 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – “Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?” (Ruth 1:11b) Ruth’s words to her daughters-in-law provide another small but Scripturally consistent testimony to the fact that God’s Word makes no distinction between the born and unborn.

October 20 – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – Abandoning the God-breathed Word of God leads to myths (2 Timothy 4:4). We should be saddened by this all too present reality. But we need not despair. For the same Word of truth makes us “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (3:15). We are to encourage our pastors and one another to remain true to this inerrant Word.

October 27 – Reformation Sunday – Like the Jews of Jesus’ day, many Chris-

tians today can be fooled into thinking they are not slaves (John 8:33). But when we sanction death as a solution to life’s problems, then death, not the Lord of Life, becomes our master. Our freedom from sin and death has been secured in Jesus’ victory. We live free when we trust Him alone in the midst of our difficulties.

November 3 – All Saints Day – Here is something to think about as you hear the depictions of eternal glory in today’s readings. God desires this for everyone, yes, even that embryo in a Petri dish or that child in the womb. Does this not bestow value upon them? Does this not compel us to speak up for them?

November 10 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – “I know their sufferings” (Exodus 3:7). That’s why God came to His people in Egypt and, according to His plan, set them free. “I know their sufferings.” We can be assured of that even more so today for God Himself stepped into our suffering and assumed it in the person of Jesus to set us free. “I know

their sufferings.” Assured of this, we live confidently in the midst of suffering knowing He will come again, according to His plan, to set us free forever!

November 17 – Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Much in today’s readings remind us that “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble” (Malachi 4:1a). I suppose we



could spend our time rejoicing in their imminent downfall. But Paul gives us a better option, “As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good” (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Who knows, perhaps God’s Spirit will save some of those evildoers through our doing good!

November 24 – Last Sunday of the Church Year – How very contemporary are those Malachi quotes. “And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape” (Malachi 3:15). Where is our solace in the midst of such blatant injustice? We remember *whose* we are. “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).

December 1 – First Sunday in Advent – Living in anticipation of the coming Lord is to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14) and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (13:9c). Remember to include in “neighbor” those little boys and girls not yet born.

December 8 – Second Sunday in Advent – John the Baptist was not afraid to call sin, sin and to call sinners to repentance (Matthew 3:1-12). Hearts cannot be prepared for the Savior nor comforted by the Savior by ignoring sin or avoiding those “controversial” sins.

December 15 – Third Sunday in Advent – It can be frustrating waiting for the Lord to return to deal with our messed up world. It can be frustrating waiting for the Lord to reveal His purpose in our sometimes messed up lives. But His promise is, “Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast” (James 5:11a). Our hope is, “the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (5:11c).

December 22 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – It seems such an ordinary phrase we often overlook it, “his mother Mary” (Matthew 1:18b). Jesus had a flesh and blood mother just like us. But there was also the extraordinary, “she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit” (18c). This flesh and blood virgin mother carried a flesh and blood Jesus who was God. We readily speak of the concept that Jesus was the “God/Man” and necessarily so in order to secure our salvation. But remember, before He was the “God/Man,” He was the “God/Embryo.” Now that’s something that gives value to all embryos!

December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas – The Gospel today, Matthew 2:13-23, reveals two tragic events, the murder of the babies of Bethlehem and Rachel weeping. With great sorrow we focus on the former and often overlook the latter. The parallel tragedies in our culture are the murder of 3,000 babies each day through abortion and the weeping Rachels, the mothers and fathers of these babies eventually crushed when the reality of their “choice” strikes their hearts. Their hope, and our hope, can only come from the Baby who escaped Herod’s sword, Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus, the Savior of sinners.



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Living in Faith Everyday – How?

by Diane E. Schroeder



L.I.F.E. – Living In Faith Everyday!
How do you do it? Let's reverse things and find out how:

Educate! Education begins with you! You cannot speak with confidence and authority unless you are educated. Most people won't speak out on an issue they care about because they are afraid of being challenged and unable to answer a question that is thrown at them. So read and get all the information you can on the issues in the public square. Don't be intimidated if you can't answer a question. Issues are numerous and complicated. It's okay to say, "I don't think you are right about that. Let's get together and talk about this next week." And then do your homework and get the answer. When you are equipped with knowledge, you can bring truth to others. (Matthew 10:16)

L.I.F.E.

E.F.I.L.

Feel It! Knowledge is not enough. Compassion brings credibility to your words. Do you demonstrate compassion in your life and care for people who find themselves struck down by the weight of an abortion or unplanned pregnancy? What about the pregnancy resource center in your area? Do you get your church involved by collecting needed diapers and other baby supplies? Do you help neighbors who are caring for elderly parents

or a sick child? What about your words? Are they harsh and judgmental or do people come to you and share their secrets because you are known as a person who is forgiving and understanding. Care!!!! (Galatians 6:1)

Immersed! Maintain a constant connection to the Lord of Life through Scripture and prayer. You are a warrior engaged in a spiritual battle with the Father of Lies. He is the one who tells a young girl that her Christian parents will never forgive her for being pregnant. He is the one who accuses her after the abortion, telling her that she can never be forgiven

for what she has done. He is the one who whispers words of frustration to a tired caregiver overwhelmed by caring for an elderly relative. Know what your God has to say about life, it's value, and the great love He has for all people. The battle is long and our adversary relentless; we need to be equipped by the Holy Spirit to be

strong and resolute. Stay in the Word and talk to your God—remain in the Vine! Put on the Armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-16)

Live it! What testimony have you given by your life? What decisions are you making when confronted with hard choices? Does your life demonstrate trust in God? I think of the young couple in my church who gave birth to a Down Syndrome child because they knew that abortion was not an option. They knew that their Madi was a child created by God and given to them as a gift to care for. I think about Rebecca, a young dancer I

know who became pregnant. A Christian, she was so afraid of telling her parents and what her church would think that she scheduled an abortion. Through the help of her friend she got the courage to tell her parents and bear the consequences of her actions. Thankfully, her parents loved her and she cancelled the abortion appointment to give birth months later to a little girl. I think of my adopted cousin Jennifer, who cared for my uncle, crippled from a series of strokes. How she loved her father, feeding and attending to his physical and emotional needs. I think of the young Lutheran woman who over 31 years ago, when faced with a pregnancy made an adoption plan for her child. Sure, abortion was available, but that young woman knew it was wrong so she and her family decided that adoption was a God-honoring choice. To this young, pregnant woman I am forever grateful. Her sacrificial love and obedience to God's Word has made a huge difference in my life. When her baby boy was born, I became a mother through adoption. Live It! Let your life be a witness to God's power and you will strengthen others. (Hebrews 12:1)

So stand up where you are and **L.I.F.E.** (Live In Faith Everyday) by **E. F. I. L.** (Educating, Feeling, Immersing and Living it) Be a voice in your family, church and community and let your life and actions testify to the transformational power of the Gospel. **"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will"** (Romans 12:2 NIV).



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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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