

LifeDate

Fall 2014



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

“Comfort, comfort
my people, says
your God ... ” Isaiah 40:1a

Matters of the Heart



Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

page 3

From the Executive Director

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb: LFL's Pan-Lutheran History

pages 4-5

Lutherans For Life Resources

pages 6-7

**Abortion/Post-Abortion/
Alternatives**

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb: Matters of the Heart or Political Issues?

page 8

End-of-Life

Rev. Ken Klaus: Man's Best Schemes

pages 9-13

Family Living

James M. Kushiner: On Marriage
Linda D. Bartlett: If I'm So Normal,
Why Am I So Unhappy?

Ryan C. MacPherson: Turning the
Hearts of the Fathers to Their
Children

page 14

Lutherans For Life Resources

pages 15-18

**2014 Lutherans For Life National
Conference**

page 19

World News

pages 20-27

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

Lori Trinche: Praying for Your Heart
Laura Davis: I'm For Life ... Now what
do I do?

First LFL Executive Director, Dr. Eugene
Linse, Dies at Age 91

Owen's Mission

LFL Receives Development Grant from
LCMS

The Latest from Latvia

Jim Schroeder: IRA Rollover Legislation

pages 28-29

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

pages 29-31

From the President

Lynette Auch: God Speaks to Matters
of the Heart



Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
motivated voices For Life.

LifeDate is a free, quarterly publication of
Lutherans For Life (LFL), 1101 5th Street,
Nevada, IA 50201-1816. Please notify us of
address changes.

Letters to the editor, articles, and photos
may be sent directly to the editor, Lowell
Highby: lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.

888.364.LIFE • Fax 515.382.3020

info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

National LFL Life Center Staff

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb – Executive Director

Rev. Scott Licht – National Director

John Hawkins – Director of Development

Lowell J. Highby – Director of
Communications

Laura Davis – Director of Y4Life

Lori Trinche – Mission & Ministry Coordinator

Trisha Adams – Business Manager and

National Conference Director

Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst

Jean Amundson – Regional Director of Texas

Virginia Flo – Regional Director of Minnesota

Kim Nessa – Administrative Assistant

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

James P. Schroeder – Christian Estate
Planning Counselor

Lutherans For Life is a Recognized
Service Organization of the Lutheran
Church-Missouri Synod. LFL is not
subsidized by the LCMS or any other church
body. It is supported entirely by individual
donations and grants.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations
are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®,
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing
ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permis-
sion. All rights reserved.

GOD'S WORD® is a copyrighted work of God's Word
to the Nations. Quotations are used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from
the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica,
Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights
reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com

LFL's Pan-Lutheran History

by James I. Lamb



Our LFL board of directors asked me to do a series of articles on the pan-Lutheran nature of LFL. As an aside here, the people who make up our board are some of the finest, life-affirming folks you would ever want to work with. They come from a variety of vocations, Lutheran traditions, and geographic areas. I am honored to work with them.

LFL intentionally began as a pan-Lutheran entity. Seventeen people attended a meeting in St. Louis on May 24, 1977, initiated by Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, Rev. Sam Nafzger, and Dr. J.A.O. Preus. As a result, a committee consisting of Jack Eichhorst, ALC theologian; Jean Garton, LCMS laywoman; Leigh Jordahl, LCA professor; and Eugene Linse, LCMS professor, met at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 22, 1978, to consider an organizational structure. A name was chosen; a philosophy was adopted; and officers were selected. Garton became President; Eichhorst, Vice President; Jordahl, Secretary; and Linse, Executive Director.

As its first official act, Lutherans For Life sent letters of announcement to the presidents of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church. A request was made of the presidents to urge their members to observe October 1, 1978, as Respect Life Sunday and “with prayer and meditation express thanks for their own lives and also sad-

ness for the lives of pre-born children that have been terminated because they were unwanted.”

As you can see, of the original four executive officers, three different Lutheran bodies were represented. Obviously, the Lutheran landscape has changed dramatically since then. However, one thing has not changed. In spite of theological differences, the majority of Lutheran bodies share a common desire to acknowledge and uphold the God-given value of human life from the moment of conception. These bodies also desire to educate their members on the life issues from a Gospel-centered, biblical perspective, and to encourage appropriate actions to influence fellow Lutherans and our society.

The Lutheran bodies currently served by LFL include:

- The Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (CLBA)
- The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)
- The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC)
- Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)
- The North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
- The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)
- The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
- The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) (*Note: Our relationship with the WELS and ELS is good, but minimal since they have their own life ministry—Christian Life Resources.*)

The official life statements of these groups may be found at: www.lutheransforlife.org/lutheran-church-body-statements-on-life.

Teaching For Life®

Order Teaching For Life at www.cph.org.

Teaching For Life® teaches nine key pro-life concepts by giving ideas on how to integrate them into religion, math, social studies, etc.

Lesson Plans and CD

Grades PK-K. Item LFL720C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 1-2. Item LFL721C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 3-4. Item LFL723C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 5-6. Item LFL725C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 7-8. Item LFL727C. \$49.99 ea.

Complete package of 45 lesson plans and CD for all grade levels: Item LFL729C. \$199.99 ea.

Teaching For Life® offers lessons for five grade levels (PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8) and provides the teacher with all that is needed to teach a key life concept each month.



Order LFL's **Teaching For Life®** at www.cph.org

Teaching For Life®

Teaching For Life® Online

is LFL's latest means of "equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life"! This self-study, online course is designed for junior high through adult. **And it's FREE!** The course is based on nine key For Life concepts and instructs on all the basic life issues.

Each of the nine lessons contains an engaging Bible study that will help the student apply God's Word of Life to the lesson's topic. The Bible study is followed by "Case Studies" which will help apply what has been learned to practical situations. Then, for those who want even more there is "Digging Deeper," which will allow the student to link to a variety of readings, videos, YouTube clips, and ideas for action.

It's easy, fun, self-paced, and packed full of Word-based and Gospel-centered For Life information. So go to the link below and let the For Life learning begin.

We pray you will enjoy learning and that you will become equipped to help others become Gospel-motivated voices For Life!"

ONLINE

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online

For Life Resources for Confirmation and Sunday School

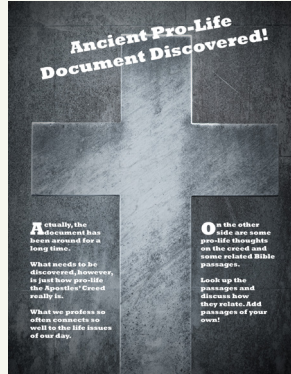


LifeMarks The Catechism and the Value of Life



LifeMarks is a set of seven bookmarks designed to directly apply the Bible's teaching's on life as found in *Luther's Small Catechism*! Item LFL1632. **\$0.25 per set.**

"Very attractive and easy to understand." "Wonderful, perfect for confirmation students."



Ancient Pro-Life Document Discovered!
It is amazing just how pro-life the Apostles' Creed really is. What we profess so

often connects so well to the life issues of our day. This Bible study includes some pro-life thoughts on the creed and some related Bible passages.
Item LFL1630. **\$0.50 ea.**



A Lutheran
Catechism
on
Abortion
and
Life

by David A. Kaufmann, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.M.

A Lutheran Catechism on Abortion and Life – A question and answer primer on abortion and life in the format of Luther's Small Catechism. Written

by David A. Kaufmann, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.M.
Item LFL104. **\$1.00 ea.**



Speak Up For Life takes a look at life issues based on

Luther's Small Catechism—and is sized to insert right into the catechism itself! Does the catechism have anything to say about life? Yes! Item LFL212B. **\$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.

Since 1973: 56,662,169 abortions in the United States

Each year over 1,120,775 abortions in the United States

Source: "Abortions Top 56 Million Since Roe v. Wade" by Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D. and Dave Andrusko (LifeDate - Spring 2014)

Matters of the Heart or Political Issues?



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Crisis pregnancies, abortion, post-abortion syndrome, embryonic stem cell research, assisted suicide, and euthanasia—such a list often causes red flags to go up. Words such as “controversial,” “hot-button,” and “political” may come to mind and that leads to the conclusion held by many, “We should not be talking about them in church.”

Such a conclusion would be true if indeed the life issues were only controversial and political. But if these issues were also matters that touch people’s hearts with life and death decisions and challenge their faith, would we not be compelled to speak of them in church? So, are the life issues matters of the heart?

The word “heart” for the Hebrew described someone’s inner being or soul. Various Hebrew idioms reflect this. Joy may be expressed as a “leaping heart.” Grief as “evil of the heart” and guilt as being “struck by the heart.” But my favorite is the idiom used in Isaiah 40:1, where God tells the prophet to comfort His people and “speak tenderly to Jerusalem.” This is literally, “speak to the heart of Jerusalem.”

So, are the life issues matters of the heart or political issues? You be the judge. She is sixteen, pregnant and frightened. She knows she made a big mistake and doesn’t want anyone to know. Abortion seems like a quick and easy solution. But deep down she struggles with such a decision. She is confused and feels so alone. Is this a political issue or a matter of the heart?

Every day in this country such confusion and fear leads to nearly 3,000 babies being brutally destroyed through abortion. These are babies created by God, babies for whom Jesus died, and babies God wants to call into an eternal relationship with Him. Is this a political issue or a matter of the heart?

Another situation: After the abortion she first felt relieved that the problem was gone and she could get on with her life again. But she couldn’t. Thoughts of the abortion haunted her. On the day her child would have been born she was physically ill and could not go to work. The guilt gnawed at her. Sometimes a drink or two helped, but only for a while. As a Christian, she knew of God’s forgiveness in Jesus, but she never heard anyone talk about being forgiven for this sin. Perhaps it is too big to be forgiven. Is that a political issue or a matter of the heart?

At first he panicked when his girlfriend said she was pregnant. This would ruin everything. He would pay for an abortion. But then he realized this was his child. The circumstances were not ideal but how could he pay to have his child killed? He vowed to do what he could to help his girlfriend and protect his child. But then she called and told him the problem was over. She had an abortion. He was crushed, filled with guilt, and wept uncontrollably. Is this a political issue or a matter of the heart?

His beloved wife had a stroke. Recovery seemed so slow. She could eat, but needed assistance doing so. The wheelchair helped with mobility, but with only one usable arm she found it difficult to do much on her own. Her speech was slurred and had not improved for a long time. This was not the quality of life he knew she wanted. Assisted suicide was legal in their state and he wondered if

he should bring it up to her. They were Christians. What would be so wrong with sending her home to be with Jesus? Is this a political issue or a matter of the heart?

My friends, these are matters of the heart. God's people deal with these situations and more. We have what it takes to speak to them. The Gospel of Jesus.

Christ is tailor made for such issues of life and death, pain and suffering, grief and regret, and guilt. The Gospel speaks to the heart of that pregnant teen. It speaks of forgiveness and offers the presence and strength of Jesus. The Gospel speaks to the heart of that post-abortive woman and man. It speaks of forgiveness, a forgiveness big enough for any and all sins. The Gospel speaks to the hearts of those in situations involving disease, pain, and suffering. It speaks of a God who, as long as He gives life, gives life meaning and purpose. It speaks of a God who demonstrated His ability to bring good out of suffering through the cross of His own Son.

How can we possibly label these "political" and withhold the only thing that can speak to such matters of the heart? The Gospel is designed to speak to hearts, your heart, my heart, all hearts. The Gospel calls us to repentance. The Gospel cleanses our hearts and forgives the sins that flow from our hearts.

The Gospel speaks to our hearts and calls us to action. How do you do that? First, be informed about how God's

Word speaks to the life issues. Lutherans For Life can help with resources that are always Word-based and Gospel-centered. Be informed and then speak to people's hearts. Speak through your prayers for those you know who are dealing with matters of the heart. Pray for our country that we might be restored once again to a respect for the inherent dignity of all life.

Speak to fellow Christians and show how these issues are indeed matters of the heart. Speak with your actions. Walk beside those who have made mistakes. Forgive them, love them, and help them in real, practical ways. Support local pregnancy centers. Speak through your compassion for those dealing with end-of-life concerns. Visit the home bound and those in care centers. Help them see the body of Christ cares. Support the families of these people.

The list goes on. Lutherans For Life has a little booklet entitled *How You Can Speak* giving over 200 practical ways

you can speak to these matters of the heart by sharing the Gospel in word and deed. (Item LFL100B/www.lutheransforlife.org/article/how-you-can-speak)

The life issues are more than political issues. They are matters of the heart that touch people deeply. But the good news is, well, the Good News! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is tailor made for matters of the heart. May it speak to all of our hearts.



Man's Best Schemes



by Rev. Ken Klaus

“The Law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:7-9).

It was the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, who wrote, “The best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft agley, An’ lea’e us nought but grief an’ pain, For promis’d joy!” It was his simple way of saying humankind makes grand plans, but the benefits often fall far short of what had been promised.

Burns’ poem also provides an adequate summary of a recent presentation made by Professor Theo Boer to England’s House of Lords. The topic was “the legalization of euthanasia” and the Dutch scholar shared why he had gone from supporting, to opposing, euthanasia.

Boer said that, in 2007, when euthanasia became allowable in the Netherlands, he and his colleagues thought they had crafted a pretty solid plan. Since then, having followed more than 4,000 cases, Boer says their best-laid schemes have gang agley (gone wrong). Some of the major points of Dr. Boer’s speech were the following:

1. Assisted suicides are occurring more frequently among those who are lonely, older, bereaved, who have psychiatric problems

or dementia. Boer added, “Some of these patients could have lived for years or decades.”

2. Public opinion about euthanasia is changing. He says tremendous pressure is being placed on doctors by individuals and family members who seem to think relatives are disposable.
3. The numbers of assisted suicides are rising 15 percent annually.

In conclusion, Dr. Boer observed, “Once the genie is out of the bottle, it is not likely to ever go back in again” and then he urged, “Don’t repeat our mistake.”

The doctor has given some good advice. Although he didn’t speak in theological terms, Dr. Boer recognizes it’s all too easy for one sin to lead to another, and then to another, and to yet another. In America, we removed the religious moral compass from our children and now we are shocked when some sad soul murders his classmates. We removed morality from our youngster’s education, and we are surprised to see high schoolers “sexting.”

It is tragic to see what occurs anytime humankind thinks it knows better than, and can improve upon, the Lord’s directives. Far better for individuals, families, and all who are in authority, to look to the Lord for guidance and direction. Nobody knows what is better for us than the Lord who has created, redeemed, calls, and keeps us.

This is why we say we can do no better than to listen to the Lord. After all, the alternative is “The best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft agley, An’ lea’e us nought but grief an’ pain, For promis’d joy!”

Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion written by Rev. Ken Klaus. Used by permission.

On Marriage



by James M. Kushiner

Mr. Kushiner, executive director of The Fellowship of St. James (publisher of "Touchstone" magazine), wrote the following in response to a submission of a pro-gay marriage article. Used by permission.

Your very long essay would not fit in *Touchstone*, even severely shortened. For one thing, it seems premised on not defining marriage as the one-flesh union referenced in Genesis, affirmed by Jesus, and referenced again by St. Paul. In *What Is Marriage?* Robert George et al clearly articulate the biological, human, and social aspects of marriage, a procreational reality with existential substance. Other types of commitments, as "exclusive" as they may be, do not constitute in any meaningful sense the one-flesh union that is marriage in Holy Scripture.



Marriage, and other things, like friendship, have a *definite* shape, definite components. You cannot be my *friend* if you *steal* my money. Take the game of baseball. You can play many variations on baseball (shorthanded, pitcher's hands out, right field foul). But you must at least have two pieces of equipment for baseball: (1) a bat and (2) a baseball. Two people throwing baseballs back and forth to each other are "playing

catch"—they are not playing baseball! God's will for the male-female marital union was explicitly revealed in Genesis and affirmed by Jesus. There may be other 'couplings,' but they are not and cannot ever be marriage, which is the committed, lifelong, one-flesh union of the two sexes, male and female.

There is no future in gay marriage, nor in any sexually permissive culture—not for very long, despite new drugs and technologies. Christians are called to sexual purity. It's there in Genesis, right on through to Revelation (see 22:11,15). Fortunately, God is able to forgive and heal us of our failings when we repent. He is merciful and gracious. No need for despair, but always hope in the Lord!

Also see "Marriage – A Statement by Lutherans For Life" at www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life.



Share the Life Message All Through the Year!

Lutherans For Life offers several easy ways to keep the life message before your congregation!

Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE.

Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!

Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.

Share **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts in the Church Year** in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletters).

www.lutheransforlife.org

If I'm So Normal, Why Am I So Unhappy?

by Linda D. Bartlett
titus2-4life.org



The young women who find their way to the Lighthouse, a pregnancy resource center in Iowa Falls, Iowa, might seem familiar to you. Actually, they could be your neighbor's daughter, your pastor's daughter, or your daughter. They are not "bad" girls; rather, they are "normal" girls.

A negative pregnancy test provides opportunity to talk about their "normal" lives. One young woman, with goals of finishing high school and going on to college, opened the door to that conversation with a heartfelt confession. "I don't understand. I'm not any different from my Facebook friends. I'm not any different from the people on TV. I dress like the models in my favorite magazines and do the things everyone else says they are doing. But if I'm so normal, why am I so unhappy?"

As a campus psychiatrist at UCLA, Dr. Miriam Grossman spent a lot of time with "normal" but "unhappy" young women. These educated women with goals of medical school, performing arts, or corporate law had little in life to complain about. They had active social lives, enough money, and caring families. "Life is good," they would tell Dr. Grossman, "so why do I feel so depressed? So emotionally stressed? So worthless?"

"If I'm so normal, why am I so unhappy?" This question—asked in small town pregnancy centers and on Ivy League campuses—should tug at the heart and soul of every pro-life parent, grandparent, and pastor. "No amount of Prozac or Zoloft," writes Dr. Grossman,

"is going to solve this problem. These young women must, for their physical and emotional well-being, change their lifestyle."

Change their lifestyle? But aren't young women today more liberated than ever before? Haven't the barriers that prevented complete happiness been chipped away? Isn't it true that women can compete with men in sports, the workplace, and the bedroom? It's true, but all the supposed liberation in the world only puts us in conflict with ourselves.

In Genesis 1: 27, we learn that God created humans to be male and female. Later, and with more detail (Genesis 2), we learn that God created male and female at different times, in different ways, and for different purposes. Try to ignore it if you will but a woman is built to bear and nurture children.

Matters of a woman's heart are influenced by her biological design. Yes, my feminist friends, I said biological *design*. "The blurring of differences between male and female," writes Dr. Grossman, "is a radical agenda unsupported by hard science." One of the failures of nearly every kind of sex education, including Christianized sex education, is that we lump boys and girls together as equally "sexual beings" who just need more information and more comfort with their sexuality. But Dr. Marianne Legato, founder and director of the Partnership for Gender Specific Medicine at Columbia University, sees women's health as more than a political or feminist issue because women differ from men in every system of their body.

It would seem that this important piece of biblical and scientific truth has been withheld from the young women who carry the burdens of depression, disease, fear, and broken hearts in the door of the Lighthouse and every other pregnancy

center across this country.

Matters of a woman's heart, by design, are connected to the love of one man, home, and family. At the Lighthouse, however, we see young women who've been disconnected from all that is naturally womanly—most especially anything related to motherhood and childbearing—as something to be managed, minimized, or even overcome. They have been shot up with Gardasil and soon after, like a right of passage, ceremoniously prescribed the Pill. They are prodded onto the football field, wrestling mat, and arena of combat—no “holds barred”—which puts them at odds with their own biological and psychological functions and renders them more vulnerable. In abstinence class, they are reminded over and over again that sex is the most wondrous of all earthly gifts but not to be opened until marriage after first getting their degree, securing a good job, and paying off loans. However, next to their heart is a biological clock that “tick, tick, ticks” the years of fertility away.

Girls have been told that they are no less sexual than any boy and have every right to enjoy the pleasures of intimacy. But most girls have not been told about oxytocin, the neurochemical that floods a woman's brain during a cuddle or a kiss. By design, oxytocin promotes trust and serves to bond a woman to the man she is with. Oxytocin at work in a wife who is sexually intimate with her husband helps produce long-term connectedness which is good for children.

But bonding is like glue. It can't be undone or ripped apart without great emotional pain. Once, I asked a young woman why she was spending nights with her boyfriend. She responded, “Well I was hoping that if I did, he would ask me to marry him.” During another visit, she told me how much she liked tending “their”

garden and decorating “their” house. “But,” I asked, “when it's the end of the day and you sleep over, whose bed do you sleep in? Do you think of it as his... or ‘ours’?” Her eyes dropped. Her shoulders slumped. She whispered, “It's his.”

A great many young women, despite the cultural acceptance of multiple partners, want to be married to one man and make a nest for their children. But a woman's consent to play house without commitment of marriage actually encourages many young men to postpone marriage.

“I'm just doing what everyone else is doing. I'm normal.” So then why is this girl so depressed and unhappy? Because it is simply abnormal for a woman to be in conflict with the design of her own body. **“Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, who frustrates the signs of liars ... who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish’”** (Isaiah 44:24-25).

At the Lighthouse, we take matters of the heart very seriously. We want to guard the physical and spiritual health of a young woman just as we want to guard her right to a childhood, right to girlhood, and right to maidenhood.

Linda Bartlett is the co-founder and president of the Lighthouse Center of Hope and author of “The Failure of Sex Education in the Church: Mistaken Identity, Compromised Purity” (Amazon), www.ouridentitymatters.com. Miriam Grossman, M.D., is the author of “Unprotected.”

Hurting from Abortion?



www.word-of-hope.org

A
Word of Hope
can help.

888-217-8679

Confidential
and Caring

Turning the Hearts of the Fathers to Their Children

by Ryan C. MacPherson



The final chapter of the Old Testament concludes with a prophecy concerning John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for the Messiah: **“And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction”** (Malachi 4:6). This, of course, implied that the hearts of the fathers had not been toward their children, nor the hearts of the children toward their fathers. So what was going on? Is the same thing happening today? What would God like to say to us now?

The prophet Malachi sounded one final wake up call for God’s people before four hundred silent years preceding the ministries of John the Baptist and Christ. Long ago, the Israelites’ hearts had drifted from the worship of Yahweh, the LORD, the one true God. Their violation of the first and greatest commandment had set them on a course of self-destruction as they violated other commandments along the way. Indeed, their worship of the false gods of the Canaanites actually *required* them to commit fornication, adultery, and child sacrifice. Just as the hearts of the people had turned away from their Heavenly Father, so also the hearts of the fathers had turned away from their earthly children.



Moses had warned them long ago not to sacrifice their children to Molech (Leviticus 18:21, 20:2–5). But Solomon, who had built a temple for the LORD, was influenced by his pagan concubines also to build a high place for Molech (1 Kings 11:7). King Ahaz of Judah burned his own son in a pagan ritual (2 Kings 16:3). During the reign of King Hoshea of Samaria, God cast the northern kingdom into Assyrian captivity specifically because they had been sacrificing their sons and daughters to false gods (2 Kings 17:7). The southern kingdom failed to learn the lesson. King Manasseh of Judah burned his own son to glorify a false god (2 Kings 21:6). At long last, the righteous reformer King Josiah tore down Molech’s altar (2 Kings 23:10).

How could a culture decline so far that parents would kill their own offspring? The prophet Ezekiel explained that God allowed them to replace His righteous laws with their corrupt practices as a self-inflicted punishment for having abandoned the true God (Ezekiel 20:25–26). The progression began with idolatry, continued into adultery, and concluded with child sacrifice: **“And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?”** (Ezekiel 16:20–21) As a judgment against this sinful triad—idolatry, adultery, and child sacrifice—God removed Himself from their presence, turning a deaf ear to their prayers and consigning them to captivity, first the

northern kingdom by Assyria and then the southern kingdom by Babylon (Ezekiel 20:31; Ezekiel 23:37,39).

Even before Ezekiel's ministry began, Isaiah and Jeremiah had already sounded the alarm. **"Are you not children of transgression, the offspring of deceit, you who burn with lust among the oaks, under every green tree, who slaughter your children in the valleys, under the clefts of the rocks?"** (Isaiah 57:4b-5) **"They have filled this place with the blood of innocents, and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind"** (Jeremiah 19:4b-5; cf. Jeremiah 7:31, 32:35).

In Psalm 106:37–38, the sordid history is recounted once more:

"They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood."

This, however, was not the end of the story. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel each proclaimed that God would redeem His people. He would bring them back from captivity (Jeremiah 29:10), give them a new heart (Ezekiel 11:18–20), and send the Messiah—the Anointed One, "the Christ," who would atone for their sins (Isaiah 53). Psalm 106 concluded with the same Gospel comfort (vv. 44–45, 48a):

"Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry. For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abun-

dance of his steadfast love ... Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!"

Even after God restored Jerusalem as a homeland for the Jews, their hearts continued to wander from the One who had shown them such love. Malachi therefore warned of the same evil triad—idolatry, adultery, and child sacrifice. Malachi addressed not only the outward actions, but also the heart. The Jews were sacrificing to the LORD, yes, but without sincerity (Malachi 1:7–8). Jewish men were taking second wives from among the pagans, desecrating their covenant with the first, godly wife (2:11,14,16). These sins of idolatry and adultery violated God's holy will in principle, and they also had a dangerous practical ramification in unraveling the bond God has established between parents, children, and Himself. **"Did he not make them [husband and wife] one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring"** (v. 15a).

So there it is—God's gracious plan for our lives. Sadly, our culture has reverted to the pagan practices of old. Nevertheless, through the Messiah's unfailing love, God turns our hearts to Himself as our Heavenly Father. To preserve this Gospel heritage in future generations, God turns the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. May God in Christ forgive us our failings and preserve us in His saving truth unto life everlasting.

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D., a member of the LFL speakers bureau, teaches at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. He also is the founding president of the Hausvater Project (www.hausvater.org) and the author of "The Culture of Life: Ten Essential Principles for Christian Bioethics."



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 – **ON SALE!**

Paperback: Item LFL1618, \$7.50 each;

Hardcover: Item LFL1619, \$10.00 each;

Leather: Item FL1619C, \$12.50 each

DVDs

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

Hope for Broken Hearts – The Gospel and Post-Abortion Syndrome, with Rev. Dr.

James I. Lamb, examines how the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaks so powerfully to women and men struggling in the aftermath of an abortion. Item LFL1407. **\$5.00 ea.**

The Abundant Life – Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb helps us better understand what Jesus meant when He said in John 10:10 that He came to give us an abundant life. Item LFL1408DVD. **\$5.00 ea.**

Top Ten Suggested Resources to Share with Pastors

A Christian Guide to End-of-Life Decisions

– Insight into end-of-life issues by Rev.

Richard C. Eyer. Item LFL801R. **\$0.50 ea.**

A Lutheran Catechism on Abortion and Life

Item LFL104B. **\$1.00 ea.**

Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or

Salvation? The Church has long called abortion sin. Item LFL205T. **\$0.50 ea.**

Biblical Manhood – By

Dr. Francis Monseth. Item

LFL304B. **\$2.00 ea.**

Implementing a Pro-Life

Theology in a Lutheran

Congregation offers help on speaking up for life.

Item LFL208B. **\$0.75 ea.**

Life Issues and the Pulpit – Dr. Lamb's letter to fellow pastors. "Lutherans For Life truly wants to help you!"

Item LFL1629. **\$1.00 ea.**

Scripture Quotations – Quotes from the English Standard Version.

Item LFL204T. **\$1.50 ea.**

Speak Up For Life – This booklet takes a look at life issues based on Luther's Small Catechism—and is sized to insert right into the catechism itself! Item LFL212B. **\$0.50 ea.**

The 3 Bs of When Life Begins – Biology, Bible, and Baptism. Item LFL1004T. **\$0.50 ea.**

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

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

WOH – Abuse. Item LFL909T. **FREE**

More Resources

Marriage – A Statement by Lutherans

For Life – God is clear about what He still intends marriage to be.

Item LFL905T. **\$0.50 ea.**

Educational Resource Manual – Digital

Edition – A credit-card sized USB drive featuring PDFs and video files of many of

LFL's resources. Item LFL1607USB. **\$15.00 ea.**

Tips for Teens On How to Say "No"

– Item LFL602T. **\$0.50 ea.**

Posters

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

Free Downloadable Posters:

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/posters



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.

Lutherans For Life
National Conference
October 24-25, 2014

St. Matthew
Lutheran Church
Grand Rapids, Michigan

H MATTERS OF THE HEART

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1-2).

Here are the wonderful speakers scheduled to join us in October:

Dr. John Patrick on “life issues are not political issues, but spiritual issues that have been politicized”

Rev. Robert Fleischmann on “sharing the matters of the heart message in our congregations” and “issues in the family”

Laura Davis on singleness – “Relationship Status: Content in Christ”

Rev. Jonathan Fisk on “What’s Life Worth?” and a sexual purity workshop for youth: “Not Until I Say ‘I Do’”

Rev. Max Phillips on caring for the infirm and the elderly

Diane Schroeder and Grace Kern on “Reaching Those Wounded by Abortion”

Rev. Dr. James Lamb on “stillbirth and miscarriage” and “matters of the heart—in action”

Katie Scheuermann with an intimate discussion on infertility and its effect on all of us

REGISTER NOW!

[www.lutheransforlife.org/
conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)

Exhibitors: Go to www.lutheansforlife.org and download this year’s exhibitor application.

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Pre-Conference Events Friday, October 24

Pastors' Luncheon: Matters of the Heart in Pastoral Ministry with Dr. Lamb.
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.

Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood
1:00–3:00 p.m.

Chapter and Life Team Summit with Lori Trinche – This workshop will be a time of encouragement, sharing, and education for the “hands and feet” of LFL!
1:15–3:00 p.m.

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.
1:15–3:00 p.m.

What's a Life Worth – The Human Soul in the (kind of) Infinite Cosmos with Rev. Jonathan Fisk
3:15–4:45 p.m.

2014 LFL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2014

Workshop Session A: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Workshop Session B: 1, 2, 3, 6

Workshop Session C: 1, 2, 4, 5

Workshop Leader/Sessions

1. Rev. Robert Fleischmann/B & C
2. Rev. Max Phillips/B & C
3. Katie Schuermann/A & B
4. Diane Schroeder/A & C
5. Laura Davis/A & C
6. Rev. Dr. James Lamb/A & B
7. Rev Jonathan Fisk/A (youth)

Workshop Leader and Topic

1. Rev. Robert Fleischmann: *Matters of the Heart and Issues in the Family – Wearing My Heart on My Sleeve*
2. Rev. Max Phillips: *Matters of the Heart – Caring for the Infirm and Elderly*
3. Katie Schuermann: *Matters of the Heart – Facing Infertility*
4. Diane Schroeder and Grace Kern: *Matters of the Heart – Reaching Those Wounded by Abortion*
5. Laura Davis: *Relationship Status: Content in Christ* (a workshop on singleness)
6. Rev. Dr. Jim Lamb: *Matters of the Heart – Stillbirth and Miscarriage*
7. Rev. Jonathan Fisk: *Matters of the Heart – Not Until I Say “I Do”* (a sexual purity workshop for youth)

REGISTER NOW!

**[www.lutheransforlife.org/
conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)**

Lutherans For Life National Conference

October 24-25, 2014

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
5125 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546



Lutherans For Life National Conference • October 24-25, 2014

St. Matthew Lutheran Church • 5125 Cascade Road SE • Grand Rapids, MI 49546

SCHEDULE: 2014 LFL National Conference

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

11:30 Pastors' Luncheon

Pre-Conference Workshops:

1:00-3:00 Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood

1:15-3:00 Chapter and Life Team Summit with Lori Trinche

1:15-3:00 Christian Estate Planning with Jim Schroeder

3:15-4:45 Rev. Jonathan Fisk

5:00 Opening Worship

6:15 Banquet

7:30-9:00 Keynote Address – Dr. John Patrick

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 Plenary 1 – Why It Matters to Me! – Matters of the Heart are often compelling but often for different reasons for different people – Rev. Bob Fleischmann

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

2:00 Workshop Session C

3:00 Break

3:30 Meet Your State Leaders

4:00 Plenary 2 – Matters of the Heart: Ways to Speak to the Heart – Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Our conference offers great speakers, wonderful workshops, and life-affirming fellowship! We hope to see you in October!

Lutherans For Life National Conference
October 24-25, 2014 • Grand Rapids, MI 49546



REGISTRATION FEES

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

Notes: Children 5 and under are admitted free, but please include them when registering. Financial assistance is available for students.

REGISTER NOW!
[www.lutheransforlife.org/
conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)

MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

Best Western Hospitality
Hotel & Suites
5500 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-2052
800.780.7234 or 616.949.8400



bestwesternmichigan.com/hotels/best-western-hospitality-hotel-and-suites

Conference room rate: \$85.00

Reserve your rooms early! *To obtain the group rate, mention you will be attending the Lutherans For Life National Conference.*

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP!

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

**Conference
Sponsorship!**

Sponsorships may be given in honor or memory of someone or event. Download the sponsorship form from the conference page on the website (www.lutheransforlife.org/conference).

Trisha Adams • National Conference Director • tadams@lutheransforlife.org

Australia's "Dr. Death," Philip Nitschke, has lost his medical license after the Australian Medical Board decided in July to suspend Nitschke from practicing medicine. He had come under scrutiny from the Australian Medical Association (AMA) following an investigation by the organization's regulation agency into the euthanasia advocate's questionable activities. Nitschke had admitted he provided advice to Nigel Brayley, a Perth man who was depressed but not terminally ill, to end his own life. Nitschke did not refer Mr. Brayley to a psychologist or a psychiatrist for counseling. Brayley later committed suicide. AMA President Brian Owler stated, "To suggest a patient with suicidal ideation has a rational or cogent reason for their wish to commit suicide and that means there is no obligation to help them is completely false and it is immoral." Euthanasia, voluntary euthanasia, and assisted suicide are illegal in South Australia. (*National Right to Life's "News Today," CLR Life News, 7/24*)



An assisted suicide law appeal was rejected by the British Supreme Court. The justices said the question before the court involved moral judgments rather than points of law—and the matter should be addressed by the British Parliament. The UK's highest court on a 7-2 majority dismissed appeals brought forth by Paul Lamb, Jane Nicklinson, and two other families in what is described as a landmark ruling over doctor-prescribed suicide to end a person's life. A third man, known only as "Martin," also lost his attempt to change the law involving prosecution of individuals who assist those travel-

ing abroad to end their lives. The court unanimously ruled against Martin's claim. The Supreme Court ruled on whether the assisted suicide ban, set out in the 1961 Suicide Act, goes against the European Convention on Human Rights. After the ruling, Liberal Democrat peer Lord Carlile stated there was no case for a law allowing assisted suicide because the United Kingdom offers "the best palliative care in the world." (*International Business Times, CLR Life News, 6/25*)

In Great Britain, two mothers who rejected abortion have spoken of their gladness in an article from the Christian Institute. Vicky Davies's son, Samuel, was born with his stomach and intestines developing in his chest. Jacky Robson's daughter, Faith, was diagnosed with part of an artery missing. Vicky Davies said she "couldn't even imagine" having an abortion, while Jackie Robson explained that "No matter what, she was our baby and we were keeping her." The entire article can be found at www.christian.org.uk/news/joyful-mums-so-glad-they-refused-an-abortion. (*Christian Institute, SPUC, 8/8*)

Lutherans For Life has assisted in the development of Lutherans For Life of Australia, Lutherans For Life of Canada, and Lutherans For Life – Latvia. Learn more at www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international. Dr. Lamb's presentation, "L.I.F.E. Around the World," about his October 2012 trip to England, Latvia, and Russia, is available through links on our 2013 LFL National Conference page (www.lutheransforlife.org/2013-national-lfl-conference).

Praying for Your Heart

by Lori Trinche



Serving in life ministry in any way requires a broken heart for the things that break God's heart. It requires a virtual heart transplant in so many ways—and is certainly not for the faint of heart. Each day I earnestly pray for all of those whom we at Lutherans For Life serve:

our pastors, our congregations, our front-line leaders from the chapters, Life Teams and Life Ministry Coordinators, and especially for those in peril that God calls us to serve faithfully, humbly, persistently, and consistently.

Each day Satan throws fiery darts all day at me and at all those for whom I pray. The demons of despair and discouragement can be particularly persistent. Pastors reluctant to speak for fear of offending or losing members; leaders who face opposition from pro-choice constituents within the church; apathy toward following God's commands because we are too busy with everyday life; complacency by those who have willingly or unwillingly bought into the deception of non-biblical worldview or who lack strength of conviction for and by God's Word.

I asked God to show me how I can pray for strength and purity within my

heart and He brought me to this suggestion by author Jon Bloom*:

I begin each prayer with the phrase “whatever it takes, Lord” because the Bible teaches us to be bold and wholehearted in our praying, not reticent. I also use the phrase because it tests my heart. How much do I want God and all He promises to be for me in Jesus? Do I really want true joy enough to ask for my Father's loving discipline

to wean me from joy-stealing sin? And how much do I trust Him? Do I really believe that He will only give me what is good when I ask in faith (Luke 11:11-13)? “Whatever it takes” prayers help me press toward and express childlike trust in the Father.

Delight: Whatever it takes, Lord, give me *delight* in You as the greatest treasure of my heart.

“Delight yourself

in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”** (Matthew 6:21).

Desires: Whatever it takes, Lord, align the *desires* of my heart with Yours. **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”** (Matthew 6:9-10).



Dependence: Whatever it takes, Lord, increase my awareness of my *dependence* on You in everything so that I will live continually by faith. **“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”** (John 15:5).

Discernment: Whatever it takes, Lord, teach me to *discern* good from evil through the rigorous exercise of constant practice. **“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil”** (Hebrews 5:14).

Desperation: Whatever it takes, Lord, keep me *desperate* for you because I tend to wander when I stop feeling my need for You. **“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word”** (Psalm 119:67).

Discipline: Whatever it takes, Lord, *discipline* me for my good that I may share Your holiness and bear the peaceful fruit of righteousness. **“For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it”** (Hebrews 12:10-11).

Diligence: Whatever it takes, Lord, increase my resolve to do Your will with all *diligence*. **“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best**

use of the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Perhaps, pray a “D” a day along with me,

1. for delight in the Lord;
2. that my desires would be in perfect alignment with God’s will;
3. that I would be totally and fully dependent upon God’s strength alone;
4. that I would consistently be equipped to discern good from evil and never tire of striving my best to do good for the glory of God;
5. that I would be absolutely and totally desperate for God and never stray from Him, thinking myself capable of doing anything without Him;
6. that I would be disciplined by God quickly if I start to think I can go it without His love, help, and constant mercy;
7. that I would be faithfully diligent, remembering with great urgency the absolute precious value that God places on all human life and never grow tired or weary in speaking up for and defending life in every circumstance. In doing so, I am sure to face persecution and trials, but must never lose heart.

**www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/seven-ways-to-pray-for-your-heart*

Lori Trinche is the Mission & Ministry Coordinator for Lutherans For Life.

630.390.3076/ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org

I'm For Life ... Now what do I do?

by Laura Davis



Since I began working for Lutherans For Life, I have had many opportunities to share my “story”—how I got involved and what inspired me to do what I do. My story started out probably similar to many of you. I was raised Lutheran and so I was raised to respect life. I always knew that abortion was wrong but it was never more than just an opinion—something I believed but didn’t really think about that much.

As I got older, my inaction started pressing on my conscience. I began to feel more and more strongly that my view about the sanctity of life was more than just an opinion, but rather something that I was being called to act upon. I found myself longing to do something more but struggling to figure out what that meant. I knew I needed to act, but I didn’t know how.

Many of the students I work with have expressed similar feelings to me. They have a desire to change things and a passion for life, but struggle with how to make a difference and feel ill equipped to answer the tough questions. It can be a very scary thing as a teenager or young adult to make a stand that much of the world deems “radical.”

Y4Life programs are here to help students who are wrestling with these feelings. I was talking with a friend recently who shared with me how difficult it was to share her faith and her beliefs with her peers, but that after attending a **Y4Life**

presentation, she felt encouraged and equipped to keep trying.

I have seen this many times. With a little bit of knowledge and a lot of encouragement from the Holy Spirit, our students have the gifts it takes to share the message of life on their campus, in their communities, and where ever life may take them.

If you are a student who feels this way, or if you work with students, I have a few pieces of advice for you, a mix of guidance and encouragement as you consider getting more involved in life issues.

Educate yourself.

It is amazing what a little bit of knowledge can do for your confidence. Just like playing a sport requires practice and repetition, standing for life involves “brain exercise.” The more you know, the more prepared you will be to make a stand. A great place to start your For Life education is right here at Lutherans For Life. We have a wonderful online library full of resources that you can use in your church, school, and community. We also have an

online training course that answers some of the toughest questions about life issues. You can also consider attending our annual conference. There you will hear from wonderful speakers and have the opportunity to connect with other For Life Lutherans. There are special rates and activities for students, so please contact me for more information. Lastly, I am always happy to do in-person trainings at your church or school.

Connect with local ministries.

Chances are, there are already life-affirming ministries in your community that would love to welcome the energy and passion that youth bring to the table.



Connecting with one of these ministries will help you find practical ways that you can serve. **Y4Life** servant events specifically help Lutheran high school students make these connections. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, I would love to speak with you. Finally ...

Remember who is ultimately in charge of ALL life. While God calls us to serve others and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, ultimately He is the Lord of Life who has already won the victory over death. I cannot tell you how many times I have spoken to someone about life issues, whether as a sidewalk counselor, in a classroom, or on social media, and had no idea what decision that person made or if what I said impacted them at all. I have learned that, in those instances, my job was simply to plant the seed, to share the message. I trust that the Holy Spirit does the work of changing their hearts and revealing the truth to them. You will not always know the fruits of your labors, but you can be confident in the victory Christ won for us on the cross.

I remember the uncertainty I felt when I first got involved in life ministries. I know it can seem like a scary and overwhelming vocation. But I have seen first hand the wonderful work God is doing through students and I pray that **Y4Life** can continue be a resource and a support our Lutheran students turn to in order to find the courage and the knowledge they need to be voices for Life.

For more information about Y4Life and how it can help you speak for life in your community, contact Laura Davis at ldavis@lutheransforlife.org. Laura Davis is the director of Y4Life (Y4Life.org).

Follow us on ...

facebook 

First LFL Executive Director, Dr. Eugene Linse, Dies at Age 91

Lutherans For Life joins with the family and friends of Dr. Eugene Linse in grieving his death on May 30, but also in rejoicing in and celebrating all that God did through his life. Here is an excerpt from LFL's history.

"Seventeen people attended a meeting in St. Louis on May 24, 1977, initiated by Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, Rev. Sam Nafzger, and Dr. J.A.O. Preus. As a result, a committee consisting of Jack Eichhorst, ALC theologian; Jean Garton, LCMS laywoman; Leigh Jordahl, LCA professor; and Eugene Linse, LCMS professor, met at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 22, 1978, to consider an organizational structure.

A name was chosen; a philosophy was adopted; and officers were selected. Garton became President; Eichhorst, Vice President; Jordahl, Secretary; and Linse, Executive Director."

Photo: Jean Garton with Eugene Linse

Go to the website below to read Dr. Linse's obituary and send your condolences.



www.talbotfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Eugene-Linse

Owen's Mission

Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4) *no matter how small!*

Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models

to every

Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. (That's 1078 schools affecting 139,000 students!) We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.

Where did Owen's Mission come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:



**"A PERSON'S
A PERSON,
NO MATTER
HOW SMALL"
-DR. SEUSS**

Owen's Mission



"I held my little grandson, Owen, in the palm of my hand. He died at twenty-one weeks during pre-natal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the twenty-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to

seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."

As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr. Lamb.

You can support Owen's Mission by:

- Giving a personal gift
- Encouraging your school to give
- Encouraging your congregation to give
- Encouraging groups within your congregation to give

Our Goal: \$175,000

To give a gift online to Lutherans For Life go to:

www.lutheransforlife.org/give

Please designate your gift to
"Owen's Mission."

You can also send your check to:

Lutherans For Life
PO Box 76
Garden City, IA 50102-0076

Please designate your gift to
"Owen's Mission."

Lutherans For Life is a 501(c)(3) ministry and contributions are deductible as a charitable donation. Please keep Lutherans For Life in your prayers. You can also find out about many other ways to give, including estate planning assistance, at our Give page.

LFL Receives Development Grant from LCMS

As a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), LFL is eligible to apply for domestic grants through the LCMS Office of National Missions. We are happy to report that we received a grant for \$20,000. The purpose of the grant is to help recoup funds lost by being dropped from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Choice Dollars and Employee Gift Multiplier programs. We are grateful to the Lord of Life and to the LCMS for this gracious gift. The funds will be used to enhance our outreach to congregations and equipping them to make addressing the life issues a part of their ongoing Gospel ministry.

For more information and commentary on Thrivent, go to www.lutheransforlife.org/article/thrivent.

Hurting from Abortion?



www.word-of-hope.org

A
Word of Hope
can help.

888-217-8679

Confidential
and Caring

THIS
is the year.

This is
YOUR
time to stand!

**EVERY LIFE
MATTERS!**

Won't you join us?



Where:
Washington, D.C.
When:
Jan. 22-24, 2015

lcms.org/events/lifeconference

Life News

Monthly Bulletin Inserts



**Life News is available as
a free download at:**

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news

The Latest from Latvia

In May, Dr. Lamb received this update from Jānis Diekonts of Lutherans For Life of Latvia. Dr. Lamb wrote, “I wanted you all to be ‘up to speed’ with our work in Latvia ... We sent some funds with [Pastor] Don Richman [LFL’s International Representative] to help with his financial situation. He is a fine young man dedicated—as you can tell—to serving Christ, His Church, and His gift of life. Remember him occasionally in your prayers.” Here are excerpts from Jānis’s email:

“Dear Jim, I would like to thank you and Don for your help you have sent us. It came just in the right time. We were in a financial struggle due the car accident last year—when our car was destroyed—and my sickness the first two months of this year ... There was a concern that we will completely run out of money soon and we didn’t know what to do. So we just prayed to God in Jesus’ name, because He is the only one who could help us in this situation. In a Skype call with Don Richman he asked what we

would like him to pray for and I mentioned our financial situation ... It was a great surprise when he came and gave us the money. It was just the right amount to get us out of the debt we had. So we would like to say thanks to God who provided for us and to you and Don who made it possible ...

“We had a great week together with Don. This was a great opportunity to speak about life issues in the Lutheran seminary in Riga and in three Lutheran congregations. The Gospel was proclaimed in a clear and simple way. I’m really thankful for that. I include a photo of us standing in front of two oaks which were planted by a German Lutheran pastor—Ernest Glik—who translated the Bible into Latvian in the 17th century. They are still green and in good condition now. He planted God’s word in our nation and created Latvian writing from nothing to do

that. One oak was planted by him when he translated the New Testament and other one when he translated the Old Testament. This is the place where the Latvian nation got God’s word in our native language. May God bless you and your ministry for life.”



IRA Rollover Legislation



by Jim Schroeder

Congress is expected to approve the Charitable IRA Rollover provisions again for 2014. In the tax code these distributions are referred to as “Qualified Charitable Distributions.” Contact me if you have any questions about this form of giving to Lutherans For Life and any of your other favorite ministries. This is a tax-wise way of giving that will increase your gift to ministry. Here are the general rules related to Qualified Charitable Distributions:

Basic Requirements: Who can do this? The individual must be at least 70½ years of age. This should not be confused with the IRA distribution requirements that start in the year following the year in which an individual turns 70½. They must be 70½ now.

What Kinds of Retirement Plans are Included? The rollover must be from an IRA or a Roth IRA. It **cannot** be done from a 401(k), 403(b), Keogh, or other qualified plan. Typically, an individual can roll over amounts from these plans to an IRA, and that step will be necessary if they wish to do this.

What is the Maximum Amount? The amount cannot exceed \$100,000.

What about the Minimum Required Distributions? A Qualified Charitable Distribution can include the Minimum Required Distribu-

tion (MRD). So, for example, if Joe has to take a MRD of \$20,000, and instead makes a Qualified Charitable Distribution of \$20,000 to Lutherans For Life, he has fulfilled the MRD requirement and does not need to take that distribution as well.

How Should these Gifts be Made?

The administrator or custodian of the IRA should make the check payable to the charity and deliver the check directly to the charity. They should not make the distribution to the IRA holder and let the holder deliver funds to the charity. If they do, this cannot be treated as a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

What Kind of Organization can Receive this Rollover and What Kind of Restrictions are Involved?

It must be an outright gift—it cannot be to a charitable remainder trust, gift annuity, pooled income fund, donor advised fund, or supporting organization. (*Note: Lutherans For Life can receive IRA rollover distributions.*)

Procedure for Making this Type of Gift: You must contact your IRA custodian in order to make arrangements to do this. There is no universal format, but they will want something in writing from you to authorize the Qualified Charitable Distribution. Please send the information to Lutherans For Life noting the identity of your custodian, the amount you are giving from the IRA, and any designation you wish to make on the use of your gift.

If you would like more information on how this type of gift could work for you contact me at 515.490.7371 or jschroeder@lutheransforlife.org.

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

October 5 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Both Isaiah (Isaiah 5:1-7) and Jesus (Matthew 21:33-46) speak judgment against those God called to be His own people. We err when we apply these judgments to our nation. Yes, our country denies justice to the unborn and replaces it with bloodshed (Isaiah 5:7b), but the silence of the Church in the presence of such bloodshed deserves the greater judgment. Prayer: Lord have mercy upon Your people and restore in us a love for You and for life that You created and redeemed. Amen.

October 12 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – The world offers a “can’t” message. You can’t be sexually pure. You can’t have a baby at your age. You can’t endure this pain and suffering. We offer a “can” message. “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Prayer: For whatever I face, Lord, give me Your strength. Amen.

October 19 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Like Cyrus of old (Isaiah 45:1-7), rulers and nations are but instruments in God’s hands whether they know Him or not. We give “Caesar” his due allegiance (Matthew 22:21). But our true allegiance belongs first and foremost to God who, through Jesus, “delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:10b). Prayer: Enable us to respect the government You have given us without ever compromising Your truth. Amen.

October 26 – Reformation Day (observed) – Luther helped us see in Scripture

the freeing truth of the objective justification of the sinner by God for the sake of Jesus (Romans 3:19-28). This truth is particularly freeing to those who, because of the nature of their sin, may not “feel” forgiven or who may not be able to “forgive themselves.” Prayer: Lord, give to us and help us share with others a forgiveness that depends wholly upon Your mercy and grace and not upon our feelings or actions. Amen.

November 2 – All Saints Day (observed) – God declares us all to be saints through the cleansing blood of Jesus. Thus, no matter what difficulty, pain, or suffering brings tears to our eyes, we turn not to the sinful solutions offered by the world, but to the promises of God who “will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17b). Prayer: Jesus, help us focus, not so much upon what is happening to us as Your saints but upon what You have in store for Your saints. Amen.

November 9 – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – For many the “day of the Lord,” the day the Lord returns, will be “darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it” (Amos 5:20). But for those who have been called out of the

darkness of sin and death through Jesus Christ, it will be eternal light and “we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17b). When times are difficult and trying for our fellow Christian, we follow Paul’s advice, “Therefore encourage one another with these words” (4:18). Prayer: Lord, help us encourage one another. Amen.

November 16 – Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – “Faithful” is the key word in Matthew 25:14-30. “Faithful” is the key



word as we live trusting in God who united us with Christ's death and resurrection in our baptism. He calls us to remain faithful to His truth, and we dare not "bury" any of it—such as truths about life and marriage—simply because they are controversial. While avoiding such issues may bring praises from people, we desire to hear our God say, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21a). Father, give us courage to be faithful to all aspects of Your truth. Amen.

November 23 – Last Sunday of the Church Year – How blessed we are to have a picture of the last day before that day comes! (Matthew 25:31-46) It reminds us sheep of our daily task—to serve Jesus by serving the vulnerable. It reminds the vulnerable of their grand purpose, they are Jesus to those who serve them. Prayer: Jesus, help us be Your compassionate hands as we serve others in need. Help us be You as others serve us in our need. Amen.

November 30 – First Sunday in Advent – Two weeks ago Jesus reminded us of the importance of faithfulness. Today we hear of something even more important—"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). Thus He promises He "will sustain you to the end" (1:8a). Why is God so faithful to sinners? One huge reason: the value He gives to human life—"you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:8b). Prayer: Father Potter, thank You for Your faithfulness and sustaining us to the end. Amen.

December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent – "Speak tenderly" in Isaiah 40:1-2 is literally, "speak to the heart." More than nice-sounding words, all of the good news encapsulated in the first and second coming of Jesus speaks powerfully to those with struggling and burdened hearts. The life issues give us opportunity to speak this good news to matters of the heart, especially those considered "controversial" and "divisive." Prayer: Thank You for touching our heart with the Good News! Help us share it with

all who deal with matters of the heart. Amen.

December 14 – Third Sunday in Advent – If there are words in Scripture that describe women and men burdened with post-abortion syndrome, we find them in Isaiah 61:1—poor, brokenhearted, captive. If there are words in Scripture filled with hope for those so burdened, we find them in Isaiah 61:1—good news, bind up, liberty, opening the prison. Jesus came for *all* sinners. May *all* sinners hear His Good News applied to them and be renewed with joy. Prayer: Lord Jesus, may all hear Your joyful Good News of healing and hope spoken to their hearts. Amen.

December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus" (Luke 1:31). Although read at Christmas time, we often forget that Luke speaks also of Jesus' conception. Here we see God's majestic humility in emptying Himself to become a speck in a womb. Here we see the incalculable value He gives to all specks in all wombs. Prayer: Jesus, because You were once a speck in a womb, help us value and speak up for all specks in wombs. Amen.

December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs – Today's Gospel gives opportunity to speak to the modern day slaughter of the innocents, nearly 3,000 in the U.S. struck down by abortion's sword every day. But it also gives opportunity to speak to the modern day "Rachels," the mothers and fathers of these aborted babies burdened with grief and refusing to be comforted. We have a message of hope for them—one Baby escaped Herod's sword that night! Jesus! Prayer: Father, may we never forget the horribleness of abortion and our need to speak. May we never forget the burden carried by those who make this decision and our need to love and share the forgiveness of the Christ Child. Amen.

Follow us on ...

facebook 

God Speaks to Matters of the Heart



By Lynette Auch

Matters of the Heart can take many paths. Some can bring great joy, others great sadness. I recall several encounters I had with a mom who I had cared for in my obstetrics unit.

As the labor-delivery nurse, I had the first real contact to assess this new baby girl. By appearance, there was something significantly different about this child. A fear gripped my mind as there was strong evidence for Down syndrome. Of course, genetic testing would give the final results, but deep in my heart, I knew my diagnosis was accurate. The baby was physically stable, so I continued with my newborn admission duties and neatly swaddled the baby. Expressing how beautiful her baby was, I joyfully presented this little girl to her mother's anxiously awaiting arms. The parents did not appear to suspect anything out of the ordinary.

After delivery, a day had passed before

I had anymore contact with the mother. By this time, the pediatrician had also assessed the child, and, having his own suspicions, ordered genetic testing. He then conveyed his concerns to the parents. The mom greeted me with gladness as I entered her room. Following some small talk, she said, "You knew something was wrong with her, didn't you?" I acknowledged that I had my suspicions. She continued, "But you treated her as if she was perfect and nothing was wrong?" I reas-

sured her that she is perfect for who she was created to be. Being a Christian helped this mom understand. She expressed finding comfort and reassurance in my words of affirmation for this child created by God.

Several years later, I met this same mom in the store. She recognized me and excitedly introduced her

daughter, now about 3-4 years old, to me saying, "Do you remember her?" She enthusiastically said, "She is such a joy! If I could be guaranteed another child exactly like her, I would have another (child) in a heartbeat!"

This was a matter of the heart which could have caused great sadness, and I am sure this family did experience many times of sadness as they raised their daughter and, perhaps, still do. But, by the grace of God, they were able to ex-



perience great joy as well.

God's grace is evident in His Word to us, **"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"** (Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV).

Though the rain and snow of tribulation in this life is allowed to come upon us, God's Word is profoundly refreshing, life-giving, and powerful enough to accomplish His will for our lives. As we speak words of life in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to this culture of death, God's purpose will be achieved.

If God speaks His Word to your heart through music, like He does mine, I encourage you to listen to the song *Thy Word* by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith. In this song the comforting words of Psalm 119:105-112 (NIV) are beautifully set to music:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path ... I have suffered much; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word ... Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. Your statutes are ... the joy of my heart."

Our days are filled with matters of the heart to which God's Word speaks. God's Word always accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent and stands as the only certain guide that we have as we journey on the paths of this life.

Please join me on the path to the annual life conference which will address various **Matters of the Heart**. (See pages 15-18.) I hope to see you there!



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.

National LFL Board of Directors

Lynette Auch, President – Lesterville, South Dakota
 Rodney Rathmann, Vice-President – Eureka, Missouri
 Richard A. Greiner, Treasurer – Dansville, Michigan
 Keith Alabach, State Representative – Marion, Indiana
 Diane Albers, State Representative – Saint Louis, Missouri
 Jamilyn Clausung – Garden Prairie, Illinois
 Col. John Eidsmoe – Pikes Road, Alabama
 Renee Gibbs – Saint Louis, Missouri
 Rev. Everette E. Greene – Cincinnati, Ohio
 Stephenie Hovland – Green Bay, Wisconsin
 Gary Mrosko – Faribault, Minnesota
 Rev. David Patterson – Toronto, South Dakota

LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

Deb Lakamp, Illinois – East Peoria
 Keith Alabach, Indiana – Marion
 Karen Frohwein, Iowa – State Center
 Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa
 Connie Davis, Michigan – Macomb
 Diane Albers, Missouri – Saint Louis
 Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls
 Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco
 Jolene Richardson, North Dakota – Fargo
 Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington
 Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

LFL has 11 state federations, 117 local chapters, 137 Life Ministry Coordinators, 86 Life Team Leaders, and 48 Life Teams in the US.


LifeDate

Lutherans
For Life

1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • ISSN 1098-5859

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 589

2014 LFL National Conference!
October 24-25, 2014 • Grand Rapids, Michigan
See pages 15-18 for all the info!

MATTERS OF THE
HEART 



Start Your Own Life Team!
www.lutheransforlife.org/life-team