

LifeDate

Spring
2016



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

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“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you ...
‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called
you by name, you are mine’” (Isaiah 43:1).

Created • Redeemed • Called



Our culture says human value comes from looking good, feeling good, and doing good.

Our culture bases human value upon what we are able to do or not do.

But God bases human value upon what He has done!

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

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Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
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Treating the Culture, Curing the People

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

In January, Americans celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. More than commemorating a man, this holiday highlights the honorable ideas enshrined in our Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**” Out of the ashes and horror of World War II, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited any public discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Such principles and laws resonate and reflect God’s Word. **“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”** (Galatians 3:28). Sin’s guilt and our Savior’s grace qualify anyone as human—not class or career or color; not sex or status; not age, ability, affluence, or anatomical features. **“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”** (Romans 3:22b-24). The whole Christian faith operates on humility rather than hierarchy, competition, or even equality. **“[W]hoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”** (Mark 10:43-45).

We have been freely received by the Lord God. We have been unconditionally accepted into the household, family, and kingdom of our Heavenly Father. His compassion and forgiveness entitle us to all the benefits and every privilege of life everlasting. Since He generously extends compassion and forgiveness to each human being, we receive as freely, respect as fully, and defend as fiercely as we have been received, respected, and defended.

Yet the civil rights dream remains unfulfilled. Just five days after MLK Jr. Monday, on Friday of the same week, we marked the 43rd anniversary of the United States Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Since January 22, 1973, over 57,502,263 American citizens—and some 1,320,318,569 children worldwide since 1980—have been discriminated to death by elective abortion.

These staggering statistics, representing one-sixth of the current population of the country and the world, respectively, do not even include embryonic lives exterminated for vaccines, in vitro fertilizations, and other research procedures.

Only one force, only one truth can neutralize and counteract such sin and death. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ is greater than governments, media, public opinion, and personal preference.** The grace of God is more than a message: it’s a Person. It’s not just a movement but relationships. His love given in crucified sacrifice changes minds, claims imaginations, heals hearts, and saves souls. His power shown in resurrected presence assigns infinite value to all bodies and ultimate sanctity to every human life. **Not only will He treat the culture, He will cure the people, because He has defeated the Devil and hell itself.**

Prisoners for Life

by Rev. Thomas Steers

Two Canadian women have given the term “prisoner for life” a new meaning. Christian pro-life witnesses Mary Wagner and Linda Gibbons both currently sit in an Ontario prison.

Mary and Linda have been arrested so many times they’ve lost count. Mary, 41, began her pro-life work in 2000 and has spent some four years incarcerated. Linda, a 67-year old grandmother, has spent eleven years in jail over the last two decades.

Their crimes?

Mary Wagner, a soft spoken, considerate woman, goes into abortion facilities armed with red roses and counsels women to consider not ending the lives of their unborn children. She hands them a rose and offers to pray with them. She provides information on sources of help—physical and spiritual.

Linda Gibbons simply walks silently back and forth carrying a sign on a public sidewalk in front of Toronto abortion mills. The sign has a picture of an infant and reads, “Why, Mom, when I have so much love to give?”

For these acts of witness Mary is charged with mischief, essentially trespass, and with breaking probation orders which ban her from being within 200 metres (656 feet) of places where abortions are performed.

Linda is charged with violating a 1994 “temporary” injunction that created a “bubble zone” of 500 feet around a number of abortion facilities in Ontario. No other group that protests faces this kind of restriction.

Mary is currently facing trial in Toronto on March 10 and 16, 2016, for trespass and breach of probation for entering a Toronto abortion facility this past December 12. She also has a constitutional appeal heading towards the Canadian Supreme court. At a recent preliminary court appearance Mary said, “I am consistently arrested for trying to protect unborn children. I have done nothing wrong.”

Linda Gibbons’s most recent trial concluded January 13, 2016. She was arrested September 2 for carrying her sign while walking in front of the Morgentaler abortion facility in Toronto. Linda is awaiting a verdict. During the trial Linda refused to speak. She explains her silence is to honor the unborn. “The Supreme Court of Canada says the unborn children we’re



Pastor Tom Steers with Linda Gibbons after her recent release from prison.

defending don't exist ... nobody is there until the baby is born."

Despite their years in prison, Mary and Linda have asked during my prison visits with them that the focus not be on what they've endured, but on the unborn children losing their lives in abortion.

For their selfless witness the two women are not without supporters. Last May's Canadian March for Life in Ottawa was dedicated to them. Both Wagner and Gibbons have received Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medals as a result of being nominated by pro-life former Member of Parliament Maurice Vellacott and have been the subject of national news coverage.

There have been other personal acts of appreciation as well over the years. Both women continue their pro-life witness while in prison, encouraging pregnant inmates to keep their babies under difficult life circumstances. In one instance a former cell mate brought her child to visit Mary in jail and thanked Wagner for convincing her to keep the child on her knee she had considered aborting.

When asked recently about her entries into abortion mills Mary said, "People have often asked me if I could not simply stay outside the area I'm forbidden to enter and in that way avoid arrest. But this question forgets something: The children scheduled to be killed will have no one to stand up for them. We will stop being present for them and for their mothers out of obedience to an immorally imposed restriction by those entrusted with authority. If we think in terms of getting arrested or not getting arrested, we lose sight of Christ, hidden in the distressing disguise of the poor—those so poor we cannot even see or hear them. As Jesus said, "[A]s you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Abortion was made legal in Canada when in 1988 the Supreme Court ruled in *Regina v. Morgentaler* that existing abortion laws were unconstitutional. Since then approximately 100,000 abortions have taken place each year according to Statistics Canada, meaning a total of at least 2.7 million unborn children have been killed.

During a past trial a Crown prosecutor argued that releasing Mary would interfere with the administration of justice. Mary replied that she reached out to women in abortion facilities "to uphold justice, even when the letter of the law won't."

Her response echoes Martin Luther King's famous words in his *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* when he wrote, "One may well ask: 'How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?' The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that 'an unjust law is no law at all.'"

Letters can be sent to Mary Wagner and Linda Gibbons at this address:

c/o Vanier Centre for Women
PO Box 1040
655 Martin Street
Milton, Ontario, L9T 5E6 Canada

Rev. Thomas Steers is Pastor of Christ the Saviour Lutheran Church, Toronto.

The Joy of Kissing Toads

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

Sometimes I see monsters. Sometimes I catch sight of savages. Kermit Gosnell's a cold-blooded, child-sacrificing barbarian. School shooters and suicide bombers are animals. Abductors and abusers can hardly be called human. Journalists and entertainers endorsing abortion atop altars of promiscuity, power, and pride have become abominations. Practitioners, activists, and public officials hastening elderly and disabled persons toward physician-assisted suicide have sold their souls. Mad scientists destroying embryos as if research is an excuse are lost causes. Corporate executives disposing of mutilated little ones for profit put bloodsucking leeches to shame. Anyone who even supports this evil or advocates for such ignorance (especially with vicious internet comments!) is worse than a vulture—at least vultures wait until their prey is already dead. Somehow they seem more heartless than the rest, aren't they?

Most High God sees the monsters too. You can be sure the Holy One beholds the barbarians. **"The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man ... They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good"** (Psalm 14:2-3). It turns out jabberwocks live in looking glasses. The most awful monsters appear in the mirror. **"There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:22-23 NIV). **"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ... carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind"** (Ephesians 2:1, 3). They're not monsters any more than we are, and we're no less animals than they. **"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me"** (Psalm 51:5). Even **"all our righteous acts are like filthy rags"** (Isaiah 64:6 NIV).

Our own hearts harbor an equal capacity for evil. We have the same nature within as they do—old Adam, sinful self, monstrous and detestable as they come. The ones we demonize—what they carry out—we've thought about. We abort their value with our attitudes. We euthanize their worth when we insult them. We mutilate their sanctity by writing them off. What they do with poisons and knives, we inflict upon each other with slander. What they are convicted of we have just never been caught for. Where they have violated people with force, we have done it with finesse. **"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer"** (1 John 3:15a), and **"... whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to hell of fire"** (Matthew 5:22b).

No violence, not of word or deed, neither theirs nor ours, will rectify this situation. And our Almighty Maker will not tolerate it. Heavenly Father brings a blessed bandage and applies the only antidote. He has remedy and treatment for all of it. Loving God gives relief and healing to all of us. He became monstrous upon the cross of Jesus Christ so that He could draw near and take hold and abide among all the broken ones. **"[H]is appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance"** (Isaiah 52:14). **"[A]s one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised"** (Isaiah 53:3b). Gouged and gaunt, swollen, blackened, and bloodied, uglier than every other—even the Author of life averted His eyes from His own Son (Matthew 27:46). He owned and atoned for each person's carnage. By grace and not force, with forgiveness instead of dominance,

in resurrection rather than revenge, He serves the salvation we try and fail to extract from each other. Just as surely as Jesus arose, such compassion works.

The same fingers of God that fashioned us also handcrafted “them.” The same Lamb’s blood that covers our horrific also cleanses their hideous. The same spoken Spirit that calls our hearts also claims their souls. **Created • Redeemed • Called**—we have this in common with the death culture’s victims, culprits, and spectators. Father, Son, and Spirit desire them to be saved and know truth (1 Timothy 2:4) as much as us, and He takes no more pleasure in their death than ours (Ezekiel 18:32). In Christ God reconciles the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19), even those who are His enemies, as we once were (Romans 5:6-10). We experience and exercise the For-Life Gospel in its beast-whispering fullness when we extend it to the contemptible the way that our Savior does.

After all, the Father’s love and the Savior’s grace don’t just save lives. The Gospel we believe and live can redeem even a monster’s intellect, behavior, and conversation. Has God not done so unto us? Whatever satisfaction there is in concluding who and how we’re better than, greater is God’s own joy found in being forgiven and in forgiving (Luke 15:7). So let’s track down a toad to kiss. Let’s kiss all the toads until God’s goodness transforms them into royalty. Let us deal with them patiently and treat them with understanding, while settling neither for approving their lies nor excusing their sins. Let us bespeak them as beloved to God as babies. Let us show them as beautiful before heaven as grandmas. We’ve felt their sorrow; let them know our celebration.

Owen’s Mission

Honoring Jesus by presenting a set of Touch of Life fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. Over 16,000 students have now heard about Owen’s Mission!

www.lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission



Check out Y4Life!

www.Y4Life.org



An Open Letter to President Barack Obama

In your speech on January 5, you tearfully recalled the children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary. You said, “Every time I think about those kids it gets me mad.” We are glad it makes you mad. It should make us all mad. Murder is horrible. The murder of children, however, touches the very depths of our souls.

We have a favor to ask you. The next time you think of those children and it makes you mad, we ask that you take just a minute to try to understand people like us a little better. Please know that we are not radical, right-wing extremists. But, it is a matter of fact that since Sandy Hook approximately three million children in this country have lost their lives through abortion. Every time we think about those kids, it gets us mad. Millions like us feel the same way. We do not blow up abortion facilities or shoot abortionists, but like you, we feel compelled to do something. Political fears seem to hold Congress hostage on the issue of abortion, so we do what we can to give unborn children a voice through legal protests, marches, political action, and, most importantly, by reaching out to women in crisis pregnancies and offering them real compassion and help.

You correctly noted how gun violence strips its victims of their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every day, 2,800 innocent and defenseless children are stripped of those same rights as abortion violently rips them from their mothers’ wombs.

Mr. President, we hope against hope that your views on abortion change, though we suspect they are very deeply embedded. But we do ask that you use your deeply felt anger over the children of Sandy Hook and other victims of gun violence to cultivate some empathy for ordinary people like us who have the same deeply felt anger over the tragedy of abortion.

A version of this letter was posted January 6, 2016, on our Facebook page. The response was huge with over 253,602 people reached and 2,376 shares. You can also find the letter at www.lutheransforlife.org/article/an-open-letter-to-president-barack-obama.

Hurting from Abortion?

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www.word-of-hope.org

Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life



Created • Redeemed • Called – A Message for Life Sunday

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life

They can be complicated, confusing, controversial, and uncomfortable. I'm talking about those things we typically address on a Sanctity of Life Sunday—the life issues. They can be complicated—stem cell research, cloning, in vitro fertilization, genetic engineering. It seems like we need to be scientists to figure it all out. They can be confusing—should we or should we not remove that feeding tube, stop that treatment, sign that Living Will, or initiate that Do Not Resuscitate order? It seems like we need to be ethicists to figure it all out. They can be controversial—why do we talk about this in church and bring it up in Bible study? These are political and social issues. Let's stick to the Gospel. It seems like we need to be theologians to figure it all out. They can be uncomfortable—people in our pews have had abortions or pressured a girlfriend or daughter to have an abortion or were unable to stop someone from having an abortion. It seems like we need to be psychologists to figure it all out.

And it's all true. The life issues are complicated, confusing, controversial, and uncomfortable. But today, we are going to talk about something that is, in fact, very simple. It is where we need to start before addressing any of the life issues. We will answer the question: "What has God done that gives value to human life?" The answer is found in three simple words: **Created • Redeemed • Called.**

Every human life has value because God creates every human life. The Bible pictures this pro-creative activity as an intimate and hands-on work. **"Your hands fashioned and made me"** (Job 10:8a). **"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb"** (Psalm 139:13 NIV). We could all have a tag attached to the back of our necks like we see on clothing. Our tag would read, "Hand Made by God!"

Now some might want to interrupt here and say, "So if every human being is the work of God's hands, then how do we explain Down syndrome babies or other babies with various physical or mental challenges?" Here is the simple answer to that question: They are the work of God's hands. And God has a couple of questions for us about His children in Isaiah. **"Do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands?"** (45:11 NIV) and **"Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'You did not make me'? Can the pot say to the potter, 'You know nothing'?"** (29:16 NIV) Anybody want to challenge God about what He makes?

That God makes tiny little human beings *from the moment of conception* is clear in this verse from Psalm 51, **"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me"** (v. 5 NIV). Since sinfulness is a human condition and we are sinful from the moment of conception, we must necessarily be human from the moment of conception. This verse also points us to the next thing God has done that gives value to human life.



Created

Since we are sinful from the moment of conception, we need a Savior from the moment of conception. We have one! Remember the angel's words to Mary? **"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus"** (Luke 1:31 NIV). Note there are two events in Jesus' life described here, His conception and His birth. And it is His conception that is miraculous, not His birth. When the **"power of the Most High"** overshadowed Mary (1:35a), Jesus was conceived without the aid of an earthly father, which is why the angel also refers to Him as **"the Son of God"** (35b) from the moment of His conception. **"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"** (John 1:14a NIV) at Jesus' conception, not His birth. Jesus was not only the "God-man," He was the "God-embryo"! His holiness at conception takes the place of our un-holiness at conception. What value this gives to all embryos from that very moment!

But there is more. Jesus needed to develop in a womb. He needed feet to walk among us. He needed hands to touch and heal the sick. He needed a mouth so He could teach. He needed a heart to be filled with compassion for the lost. He needed a body so He could take little children in His arms and hold them close and bless them.

And there are deeper reasons for Jesus' human development in the womb. He needed those hands and feet to be pierced as He was nailed to the cross in our place. He needed a mouth to utter that forsaken cry so we never have to. He needed a heart to pump the blood that would be shed and bring cleansing for sin, and then be stilled in death. He needed a body to be buried in a tomb, and then to rise again victorious over death and the grave!

Paul says that we were **"bought at a price"** (1 Corinthians 6:20a NIV). All that Jesus did from His conception onward was part of that price. Paul reminds the Ephesian pastors of the magnitude of this price when he tells them, **"Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood"** (Acts 20:28b NIV). God did not purchase us with the blood of a man or the blood of some holy martyr. God purchased us with His *own* blood in the person of Jesus! The price paid for sinful humanity was high. The value it gives to human life is incalculable. Not every human being knows this, of course, and it is the task of the Church to share this message. But the fact remains, Jesus' life and death and resurrection give value to *all* human life. Every human being is created and redeemed.

One simple answer is left. Every human life has value because every person is someone God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him; He **"wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4 NIV). He wants every human life to be splashed with His Holy Spirit in the waters of Baptism. He who created every life with His hands and redeemed every life with His hands wants to call us all as His children and hold us, indeed "engrave" us, in the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16) now and in eternity.

Redeemed

Created • Redeemed • Called—it is not complicated or confusing or controversial or uncomfortable at all. Its simplicity speaks profoundly to all of the life issues. So allow me to end with some quiz questions.

- Why do we strive to protect tiny embryos in Petri dishes or frozen in a fertility clinic? *Because they are created, redeemed, and little ones whom God wants to call.*
- Why do we speak up for those in the womb who cannot speak? *Because they are created, redeemed, and little ones whom God wants to call.*
- What do we teach our little children so that when they are older, sexual promiscuity and abortion will be unthinkable? *They are very special because they are created, redeemed, and called.*
- What do we tell you young people as you struggle with temptations and tough choices, mood swings, and confused feelings about your identity? *We want you to know whose you are and that you can make good choices because you are created, redeemed, and called.*
- What do we share with that unmarried, pregnant college freshman who is ashamed and afraid and sees only one way out? *We share that she is loved and forgiven and not forsaken because she is created, redeemed, and called.*
- What do we say to women and men crushed in the aftermath of an abortion decision? *They are created, redeemed, and called, and therefore NOTHING can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus.*
- What do we share with the infertile couple desperately desiring a child? *They are created, redeemed, and called, and they can trust in the ways and will of their God.*
- What can we say to those who miscarry a child they already know and love? *They are created, redeemed, and called, and God holds them in His hands.*
- What do we have to share with the frail elderly who wonder about God's purpose for their lives? *They are created, redeemed, and called, and as long as God gives them life, He gives their lives meaning and purpose.*

Undoubtedly, this list could be even longer. But the answer will still be the same. Our lives have value.

Every life has value because every life is someone created by God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and someone He either has called or wants to call into an eternal relationship with Him. It doesn't have to be complicated! Amen.



Called

A Life-Altering Event

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

Christmas Eve Day—through the years this day has brought several life-altering events to our family. December 24, 2015, brought one more event—my father-in-law was placed into hospice care. My father-in-law has struggled with various health issues, but none as frustrating as congestive heart failure, which, at this writing, is slowly, yet steadily, stripping the life and energy right out of his frail body.

My husband, Doug, and I have had numerous conversations on the difference between loved ones being ripped away, unexpectedly, out of our life, like both of my parents had been, or for them to be taken slowly, as is now the case with my father-in-law.

For those of us left to mourn a sudden loss, there is the shock of the unexpected and regretful thoughts of: “I didn’t get to ...” or “I wish I would have ...” or “If only I had”

Although these thoughts can come in either situation, during these last days with my father-in-law, many words have been expressed within my husband’s family. Words of love and encouragement, words of apology and forgiveness, words to begin the mending of strained and estranged relationships, and most importantly, words of affirmation of faith.

My father-in-law, like many saints alongside and before him, is familiar with the words of Isaiah, **“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you ... ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine’”** (43:1) and **“Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands”** (49:16a). And Jesus’ words in John 10:28, **“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”**

When the God of the universe, who created and redeemed us, calls us by name, claiming us as His very own and assuring us that nothing can snatch us from His hand, where we are engraved, could there be any more loving and comforting words when we are living life even in the midst of death?

God desires all of His **Created • Redeemed • Called** people to know and have a relationship with Him—and so does Lutherans For Life. Lutherans For Life firmly believes in the importance of speaking the truth about life and applying the message of the Gospel to the life issues at all stages of life—including the end of life. Our goal is making Jesus known as the Son of God and Savior of all who can help and make a real difference in people’s lives.

Even though there is suffering involved in the dying process, there are countless



blessings that come from it. My husband was blessed to hear his dad say, “I just want to go to Jesus.” For a believer in Jesus Christ, there could be no sweeter words to hear. Because God knows my father-in-law’s name, he and our family can rest assured where he will spend eternity: surely, in the arms of Jesus.

God Knew Your Name

Before the light of day shined on your little face
God knew your name.

When no one else could see how precious you would be,
God knew your name.

And He held you so close in His loving hand
And He wanted all to see, that
Before the light of day shined on your little face,
God knew your name.

As you gracefully grew old you know you had been told
God knew your name.
And one day when you died and your friends and family cried
God knew your name.
And the angels carried your soul to me
And I said, “Welcome home!”
You were one of mine, I loved you for all time,
I knew your name.
You were one of mine, I loved you for all time,
I knew your name.

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www.lutheransforlife.org/media/music-concerts-for-life

End-of-Life Issues

You can find articles, audio, video, teaching tools, worship resources, and links to LFL resources on end-of-life issues at:

www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/end-of-life

Medical Directive Statements/Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare

Our friends at Christian Life Resources have developed a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care – Christian Version document to enable Christians to provide informed, legal, and Christ-centered direction for their medical care in the event they can no longer express their wishes. This is a legal document that allows you to designate a person to serve as your healthcare agent, allows you to make some selections regarding the kind of treatment or care you want provided, and includes a Christian witness to your faith and to the sanctity of human life. Click the link above to find out more.

A proposal to introduce child euthanasia in Canada is a warning to the UK to be vigilant, says SPUC Pro-Life, a leading anti-euthanasia organization. A committee set up to advise Canada's provinces has said that children as young as 12 should be allowed to choose an assisted suicide if they are deemed competent. Dr. Anthony McCarthy of SPUC Pro-Life commented: "There is a logical slippery slope between euthanasia for adults and for children. If death is regarded as a 'benefit' for sick or depressed adults, then it is difficult to see why children should not be given this 'benefit' as well ... Euthanasia and assisted suicide are contrary to the ethos of medicine, which is to care, not kill. The UK must remain vigilant against the introduction of euthanasia by act or by omission. We must also ensure that treatment is only withdrawn from patients of any age for a good medical reason. The motive for withdrawing treatment should never be to end a life." (*SPUC, 12/18/16*)

The Netherlands government has decided to extend euthanasia to people with dementia who are incompetent to request death by lethal injection, if the person requested euthanasia while still competent. The Public Health Ministry also has an updated "guide" giving people suffering from severe dementia the option of euthanasia, even if they are unable to express the wish themselves. The 2014 Netherlands euthanasia statistics state that out of 5306 euthanasia deaths, 81 people were lethally injected for dementia, and 41 people died by euthanasia for psychiatric reasons. To lethally inject a person who is unable to request death undermines the "safeguard" of consent. Even if the person, while competent, requested euthanasia for dementia, now the person is unable to change their mind. (*LifeSiteNews.com, 1/8/16; CLR LifeWire 1/13/16*)

The number of abortions in the nation of Israel continues to decline dramatically, according to the Israeli Health Ministry. The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) reported that there has been more than a twenty-percent drop in abortions from 2000 to 2014. The report explained that of the terminations in 2014 (17,500), half were due to cases of rape or other criminal activity. The CBS report noted that the percentage of pregnant women who appeal for an abortion is diminishing, too. In 2013, 9.6 out of every 1,000 pregnant women appealed for an abortion – down by 50 percent from 1988. (The U.S. rate is 16 out of every 1,000.) (*LifeSiteNews.com, 1/22/16*)

The news that Northern Ireland's attorney general will appeal against last year's High Court ruling on abortion has been welcomed by pro-life campaigners. John Larkin QC, the attorney general, confirmed that his office will be appealing the ruling by Justice Horner last November. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is a notice party to the case. Liam Gibson, SPUC's Northern Ireland development officer, commented: "We welcome the attorney general's appeal against Justice Horner's ruling that Northern Ireland's abortion laws are incompatible with the European Convention of Human Rights ... We will show the Court that international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, demands that States provide 'appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth.'" (*SPUC, 1/26/16*)



**“Conceived by the Holy Spirit ...”
The Miracle of the Incarnation**



Bulletin Insert – “The Miracle of the Incarnation”

\$0.10 ea. *Item LFL1106BI*

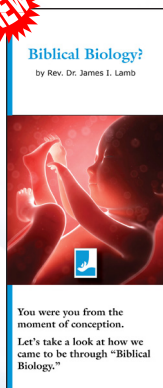
This bulletin insert, focused on the Annunciation, observed on March 25, covers the miracle, purpose, and implications of the Incarnation. “Jesus passing through all the stages of human development gives value to all human life in all stages of that development. Jesus being ‘conceived by the Holy Spirit’ enables us to joyfully proclaim and defend the precious worth of all human life from the moment of conception.”

You can find more resources to observe the Annunciation at www.lutheransforlife.org/article/the-annunciation-of-our-lord-march-25 including a sermon (“Pregnant with God”) and worship service.

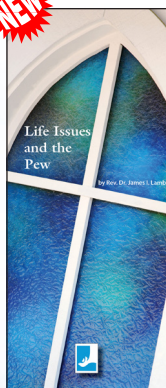


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Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

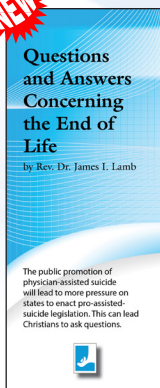
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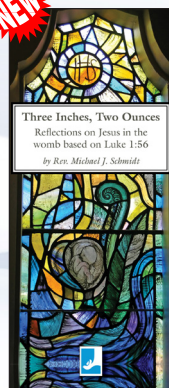
NEW



NEW



NEW



Biblical Biology – You were you from the moment of conception. In this brochure, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb takes a look at how we came to be through “Biblical Biology.” *Item LFL135T. \$0.50 ea.*

Life Issues and the Pew – Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb writes, “When I was active on the National Pro-Life Religious Council, we did a workshop every year at the National Right to Life Convention entitled, ‘Here are the sheep! Where is the shepherd?’ It was an effort to help people in the pew encourage their pastor to address the life issues from the pulpit. Some time ago I authored a brochure with a similar goal called ‘Life Issues and the Pulpit’ ... One year, during the discussion following our workshop, a pastor spoke up. ‘Hey! Here’s a shepherd! Where are the sheep!’ He was expressing his frustration with people in the pew not supporting him when he did address life issues from the pulpit. So as a sequel to ‘Life Issues and the Pulpit,’ I offer ‘Life Issues and the Pew.’” *Item LFL1635T. \$0.50 ea.*

Questions and Answers Concerning the End of Life – The public promotion of physician-assisted suicide will lead to more pressure on states to enact pro-assisted-suicide legislation. This can lead Christians to ask questions. *Item LFL810T. \$0.50 ea.*

The Soul Wound of Abortion – For all the millions of walking wounded in our society, for those who have had an abortion or have been affected by an abortion decision, there is a Word of Hope—Lutherans For Life’s healing ministry. Word of Hope connects men and women “soul wounded” through the act of abortion to the forgiveness and healing that comes only through knowing that God loves you and sent His Son to free you from the guilt of all sin—including abortion. The author, Diane E. Schroeder, is a former president of Lutherans For Life. *Item LFL408T. FREE* (quantities limited)

Three Inches, Two Ounces - Reflections on Jesus in the Womb Based on Luke 1:56 – Jesus, who was formed in the womb of Mary, who began life smaller than a grain of salt, grew to three inches long and weighed two ounces, became a newborn in the Bethlehem manger, and lived a sinless life to become a 33-year-old who hung on a cross outside of Jerusalem. He did this so that you might be saved from the power of the devil, so that you might receive forgiveness of sins, and so that you might spend eternal life with Him in Paradise. The author, Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, is pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma, Kansas, and First Lutheran Church, Plainville, Kansas. *Item LFL110T. \$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.

Together For Good DVD



Together for Good is a movie written by Pastor Dave Ahlman, Senior Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Arvada, Colorado.

The movie is loosely based on the adoption story of Pastor Ahlman and his wife, Beth, which took place in 2004.

Also included with the DVD is a Bible study based on the movie.

Item LFL506DVD. \$12.99 ea.

TOGETHER FOR GOOD



A Powerful Story of Christian Adoption

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.

Teaching For Life®

www.lutheransforlife.org/store-teaching-for-life

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

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.

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/45 lesson plans/CD/
all grade levels: Item LFL729C. \$199.99



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.

It's easy, fun, self-paced, and packed full of Word-based and Gospel-centered For Life information. Find it at the link below.

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

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

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*)

April 3 – Second Sunday of Easter – Our bodily life matters so much to God that He incarnated human flesh Himself. Even after accomplishing atonement by His body’s brokenness, He did not discard it but inhabits it by resurrection as His eternal instrument (John 20:27). When we are physically suffering sin’s consequences, our Savior’s words of forgiveness breathe healing (John 20:21-23), and His ways of faith bring peace into our very bodies. Prayer: Lord Jesus, let me take hold of You by faith until Your wounded and resurrected body redeems my own. Amen.

April 10 – Third Sunday of Easter – Heaven’s everlasting hymn proclaims how the Lamb of God by His blood “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:8-10). God’s kingdom incorporates all races, ages, classes, places, sexes, states, and ages—even those as apparently unworthy as Saul the enemy (Acts 9:4-5) and Peter the unfaithful (John 21:11-12, 15-17). Nothing any human being can do (or not do!) will nullify the infinite preciousness Jesus has bestowed upon us. Prayer: Lord, make me behold myself and my fellow sinners as nothing less than You do, as Your beloved brothers and sisters. Amen.

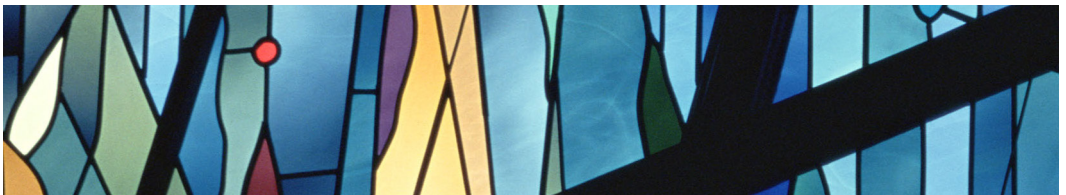
April 17 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Tears and trials (Acts 20:18-19) remain the reality of traveling through a fallen world. Every effort to wipe away our own tears, whether by believing twisted things (Acts 20:29-30) not spoken by Christ’s own voice (John 10:27) or by attempting to manipulate life and death itself, only make for great tribulation (Revelation 7:14). But hearing how the blood of Christ completely determines our destiny, this wraps the strong, gentle hands of our Heavenly Father around us (John 10:28-29; Revelation 7:17). His forgiving love not only wipes away tears, it wipes out sadness altogether. Prayer: Father, we cry to You alone; take our tears as Your own, and take them away in Your time, according to Your good and gracious will. Amen.

April 24 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – We often judge certain situations and particular people as inconvenient, intimidating, and irritating. Sometimes this reflects how ugly and useless we see ourselves to be. But the living water (Revelation 21:6) of baptism into Christ Jesus (Acts 11:16) makes people clean (Acts 11:9) and new (Revelation 21:5) and even beautiful in the sight of God (Revelation 21:2). What seems sorrowful now will soon be revealed as reason for rejoicing (John 16:20-22). Until then, we view ourselves and all others through the lens of the love of Jesus (John 16:16). Prayer: Almighty God, strengthen my faith to approach every circumstance, especially hurting souls, with hope. Amen.

May 1 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – When Paul and his companions arrived in Philippi, they “remained in this city some days” (Acts 16:12). God doesn’t just deliver His fatherly love, he dwells in it with us, all our lives long and into eternity. His grace in Jesus Christ occurs as lifetime and relationship instead of just moment or event. Revelation beholds the Gospel as a city (Revelation 21:10ff.) because salvation is not simply an occurrence but a new identity and family. Prayer: Holy Trinity, save our lives and then take our lives that we may share in Your life. Amen.

May 8 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – Judas’ suicide (Acts 1:15-19) was worse than his betrayal of Jesus. The Savior’s blood suffering already atoned even for the part Judas played in greed, treachery, and murder. Jesus longed just as much for Judas as for any other to be with Him where He is (John 17:24). No further violence or punishment—physical or emotional, against others or against self—was necessary or effective because the Lamb’s cross has become the tree of life that provides peace and healing (Revelation 22:2) even for sins against life. Prayer: Lamb of God, wrap our hearts and words in Your forgiveness, and let love prevent all violence. Amen.

May 15 – Day of Pentecost – When we fail to “understand one another’s speech” (Genesis 11:7) be-



cause of selfish ambition and hunger for control, confusion and conflict result—even if our common cause is advocacy. Conversation filled with the Word of God’s love and the gracious name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:17-21) brings peace to anxieties, hurts, regrets, and relationships (John 14:27). The Gospel proclaimed and performed imparts the uniting, enlivening Spirit of God Himself. Prayer: Heavenly Father, fill our minds and hearts with Your Holy Spirit that we may speak to troubled consciences the peace the world cannot give. Amen.

May 22 – The Holy Trinity – God’s gifts do not always make immediate human sense (John 8:48, 53, 57). What remains certain regardless is that God is good and God gives. The Father who eternally gives Himself to the Son (Proverbs 8:22-25, 30) and the Son who offers Himself to the Father in appreciative obedience (John 8:55) is the Holy Trinity who imparts this life-giving Spirit even where only death appears possible (Acts 2:24). Trusting His Word and work releases from death’s threatening grip (John 8:51). Prayer: Father, Son, and Spirit, guide us to trust Your Gospel that we may share in Your abundant life. Amen.

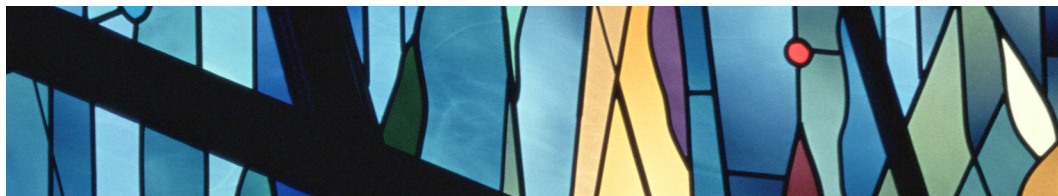
May 29 – Second Sunday after Pentecost – The grace of God—not our own works—gives all human life its value and sanctity. The hero confesses, “I am not worthy” (Luke 7:4-6), and Jesus confirms it (Luke 7:9) because abilities and accomplishments do not qualify one person more than another. And even the enemy has access to forgiveness and favor before God (1 Kings 8:41-43) because neither shortcomings nor sins disqualify anybody from His presence and power. The mighty hand of the Lord is outstretched (1 Kings 8:42) to deliver centurion and slave from the present evil age (Galatians 1:3-4). Prayer: O Lord, we are not worthy to have You come under our roof; but say the word, and let Your people be healed. Amen.

June 5 – Third Sunday after Pentecost – So precious to the Lord was St. Paul the Apostle that God “**set [him] apart before [he] was born**” (Galatians 1:15). The Gospel of Jesus Christ declares that every human being is just as special already in the mother’s womb. The Heavenly Father’s longing to hold each one is greater even than the love of a widow for her only son (1 Kings 17:18). He gave His Son to face death (Luke 7:12-14) so that no sin would be remembered lest any of his little ones be lost. Prayer: O Lord our God, by Your Son’s love fill us with devotion to You and compassion for the guilty and grieving. Amen.

June 12 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Sexual immorality deserves divine punishment (2 Samuel 12:14-15), especially because it harms so many more people than just the participants. However, “**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us**” (Galatians 3:13). Jesus makes clear that this forgiveness applies even to those who have sinned sexually (Luke 7:39, 47-48). No work of the law, particularly not punishment of oneself or death inflicted upon someone else, is able or needed to save anyone (Galatians 2:16), for in Christ all have died to the law and been raised already (Galatians 2:19-21). Prayer: Almighty God and Father, put to death in us every self-righteous desire and bring us to life by faith and forgiveness. Amen.

June 19 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – God does not settle for death, even when a person is possessed by a legion of demons (Luke 8:29-30) or the whole nation is rebellious (Isaiah 65:1-2). Out of the most hopeless situations He brings forth the highest life in His time and His way (Isaiah 65:9, Luke 8:35, 39). The incarnation, conception, gestation, and birth of His own Son (Galatians 4:4) demonstrates how He claims every human life (Galatians 3:28-29) as His beloved child (Galatians 4:5-6). Prayer: Bid us to know You, O Lord God, as Father, and to call our neighbors to be Your children. Amen.

June 26 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Contending for the Gospel in a culture of self-gratification can be lonely (1 Kings 19:10; Luke 9:53). Often our own sinful flesh supplies suggestions to ease the ache (Luke 9:54, 59-61), but these only ultimately intensify our misery (Galatians 5:19-21). Our Lord lovingly supplies encouragement in the family of faith (1 Kings 19:15-18), and Jesus not only accompanies us along the way (Luke 9:51, 57) but also assures our final arrival at His heavenly home. Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, gladden our hearts with Your gracious promises, and grant us to share these words of life with those in need. Amen.



Surviving the March for Life—2016 Blizzard Edition

by Laura Davis, director of Y4Life

This year was supposed to be easy—19 students, 11 adults, two babies, and great rates on hotel and airfare. My fifth trip to the March for Life was on track to be a smooth, stress-free, fun weekend for all. But, as the date on the calendar got closer and closer, the weather report got scarier and scarier. It quickly became clear that this Texas-raised youth leader was about to experience her first blizzard.

Surprisingly, the march was very successful. The Lutheran group led the march with our giant Lutherans For Life banner front and center. The snow was lightly falling throughout the march, and the crowd was smaller than usual, but we were still full of passion and commitment. I told my students it was worth it just to be there marching with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

After the march, plans started to change quickly. Flights were cancelled, hotels were rebooked, and the Students for Life Conference was a no-go for the first time in over a decade. Suddenly, we were faced with at least two extra days of being snowed in at a hotel with 19 teenagers. It would have been easy to think that the devil was trying very hard to keep these students from learning the way we had hoped. I admit that the thought crossed my mind once or twice.

In the middle of the blizzard, however, God started presenting opportunities—opportunities for fellowship, for learning, and for connecting with others. We discovered that the group from Lutheran High School in Parker, Colorado, was staying at a hotel just a couple of blocks from us. We decided to join our two groups together for the first “unofficial” Lutheran Students for Life conference. We spent most of the day Saturday learning from each other about what it means to lead a high school life ministry and how we can better serve those around us. It went better than I could have hoped, and a small part of me is thankful for that blizzard. It gave our students a chance to connect with each other in a way that wouldn’t have been possible at the larger Students for Life conference.

On Sunday the snow had finally stopped, and we went out to enjoy the sunshine with our new friends from Colorado. We had a very “life-affirming” snowball fight, made an “Igloo for Life,” and created memories, friendships, and connections for the future. Seeing these students playing and laughing together after the deep and insightful discussions of the day before filled me with hope for the future of **Y4Life**.

The Washington, D.C. “Snowmageddon” of 2016 could have made this **Y4Life** in Washington, D.C. trip a disaster, but, instead, God taught me a valuable lesson. Even in the midst of devastating storms, God is always with those who are serving Him, and we can trust Him to provide beyond what we can hope or imagine. So, despite my general aversion to frozen precipitation, I am thankful for the snow and even more thankful for my great God!



Y4Life at the 2016 March for Life in Washington D.C.



Y4Life group in Washington D.C. after the 2016 March for Life



At the front of the March for Life under the Lutherans For Life banner



Students marching For Life!



Igloo for Life!



Our own "unofficial" Lutheran Students for Life conference



Students from Missouri, Colorado, and Wisconsin joined together to build an "Igloo for Life!"

Created • Redeemed • Called – A New Year Reflection for Frontline Volunteers

by Lori Trinche, Mission & Ministry Coordinator

New Year's greetings and prayers for a blessed year ahead in 2016! For LFL leaders, this is a great time for prayer and planning and reaching out to other leaders and Life Team and Life Chapter members to reconnect after the holidays. Take the opportunity to invite someone you haven't spoken to in a while to come to your next meeting. The message of **Created • Redeemed • Called** is one of great comfort and encouragement. It reminds us that each one of us is handcrafted by God. No two individuals are exactly alike. Each of us was created with a purpose—no matter if we are man or woman, rich or poor, black or white, young or old, single, married, have a family, or are considered “beautiful” by the world's standards.

It is comforting in a culture dominated by hyper-sexuality, money, power, influence, intrigue, materialism, and just plain “shock value” to know that we don't have to go along with the crowd to matter to God. He loves us no matter what. He sent Jesus to redeem us no matter what our past looks like. Jesus paid the price for all of humanity and also for each of us uniquely on the cross. Through Him, we have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. That is Good News!

We are called through our Baptism into relationship with Him and into relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. I thought about that as I recently drove through a poor and somewhat chancy area of Chicago to get to an **Owen's Mission** presentation at one of our Lutheran schools. It was a day of spring-like weather and, as such, a sea of humanity was eager to get outside. I found myself praying for folks on the street as I drove along, encouraged by the many small churches in an area where folks were clearly worried about crime. In some neighborhoods, barred windows and doors and abandoned buildings were at every turn. I thought about those who might be the perpetrators of crimes and wondered if they had ever had anyone tell them they were special—uniquely handmade by God to be in relationship with Him and that, because of that, their lives matter. I prayed that I could somehow make a difference for them. It was a humbling reminder that as people called into relationship with Christ we are also called to share that Good news with others—especially in our families and



Father, help us to remember
what it means to be
Created
Redeemed
Called ...

out into a community that, like us, desperately needs a Savior. Please take a moment to ponder this and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you reflect on what this means for each of you in 2016.

Once I arrived at the school, I was further convicted by the young aide who thanked me so much for our ministry and how we share the message that all life is precious to God. She shared with me how touched she personally has become visiting schools where young girls aged 12-17 routinely become pregnant and face what can seem like insurmountable challenges. She talked about how our presence at the school encouraged her to recommit to helping serve by teaching them about caring for themselves and their babies, encouraging them in any way that they could to finish school and to have the fathers stay present in the lives of their children. She said they were “too young” and often in seemingly hopeless situations. Where to even start? Yet it is so important that we do and not get caught up in difficult circumstances and give up. Imagine if Jesus had given up on us in the difficulties He faced.

Prayer: Father, help us to remember what it means to be **Created • Redeemed • Called**, and daily to reflect Your love, mercy, and compassion for others in all that we say and do. Help us to pray without ceasing for Your wisdom and strength in all circumstances and to persevere For Life. May Your holy name be honored and glorified. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

To learn more about how you can start a Life Team or for help with your Life Chapter, please contact me at 708.839.1200 ext. 225 or ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org.

Join us for a Life Team Leader Conference Call!

SAVE THE DATES FOR ALL OUR 2016 LEADER CALLS: February 16, April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, and December 20.

WHO: Potential, new, veteran, apprentice, and assistant Life Team leaders!

WHAT: One-hour national conference to give leaders “strength for their journey.” The call will be led by Pastor Doug Merkey and will include a biblical devotional, leadership coaching, idea sharing, and prayer.

WHEN: See dates above from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

WHY: Every leader needs ongoing strength for the leadership journey.

HOW: Dial 832.551.5516 and enter the Pass Code 100219 followed by # key. During the call, press *6 to mute your phone line so we can’t hear you and press *6 again to un-mute your line.

If you can’t attend this call, please invite someone else from your Life Team to represent you.



Start Your Own Life Team!

www.lutheransforlife.org/about/chapters-and-life-teams

The IRA Charitable Rollover Is Back! (And This Time It's Permanent)

by John Hawkins, Director of Development for Lutherans For Life

On December 18 of last year, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law a permanent “IRA Charitable Rollover” provision, which has been available on a temporary basis in different years in the past.

With this, an IRA owner over age 70½ may make a transfer of up to \$100,000 per year to a qualified charity or ministry. These IRA charitable rollovers will be tax-free and not included in adjusted gross income.

We are pleased to say that Lutherans For Life qualifies for an IRA rollover gift!

An IRA Charitable Rollover may fulfill part or all of your minimum distribution (RMD), which IRA owners who are at that age or older are required to take each year. In nearly all cases, this distribution from a traditional IRA produces ordinary income for the recipient. Under the extension of the law, the donor pays no income tax since their distribution is going to ministry instead of to them personally.

Because the distribution is not included in taxable income, there will be no charitable deduction. Thus, this form of donation is beneficial for high-income taxpayers who itemize deductions because itemized deductions for these individuals are subject to a “cutback” provision which reduces the tax benefit. It is also beneficial for those taxpayers who do not itemize deductions (the majority of taxpayers do not itemize deductions).

While a gift of up to \$100,000 will qualify, it does not need to be at that level. An IRA gift to a ministry or ministries anywhere from \$1-100,000 is allowed.

The IRA Charitable Rollover has proven to be very popular with taxpayers and beneficial to charities. It was first enacted as a temporary charitable giving measure, originally set to expire on December 31, 2007. Both at that time and in following years when it was set to end, Congress has extended the provision. Most recently, this was through December 31, 2014. No action was taken in 2015, however, until the last month of the year.

Of course, charitable agencies and associations have been lobbying continuously to have the provision made permanent, but it never has been.

Until now.

Since it is now available, how do you go about making a gift from your IRA of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, or any amount to (for example) Lutherans For Life?

To do so, the donor must make their gift directly from their IRA to Lutherans For Life (or any charity). If you ask that it be sent to you first, and then you write a check to the ministry, you will still owe ordinary income tax (and alternative minimum tax if applicable to you) as if the charitable rollover were not in place.

There are also some other limitations in the provision:



**IRA
Charitable
Rollover**

- Gifts must be from an IRA. Those from another tax-deferred account, such as a 401k, 403b, deferred annuity, etc., are not permitted.
- Distributions from an IRA to set up or fund a life-income gift, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) or Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), do not qualify.
- Also not permitted are gifts to donor-advised funds (e.g., established at a Lutheran church foundation) or a private foundation.
- And, as stated earlier, a donor must be at least 70½ and the maximum that can be given in any one year is \$100,000.

There is some hope that in the future some or all of the limitations will be eliminated. Charitable groups continue to educate policymakers on the benefits that would be provided by dropping the donor age threshold, allowing qualifying distributions to come from other deferred accounts such as 401k accounts, permitting gifts to fund CGAs or CRTs, etc. We will certainly notify you on any future changes.

Any consideration to making a gift via your IRA to LFL in 2016 is most welcome (and these donations are needed)! If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at 512.468.9777 or jhawkins@lutheransforlife.org.

Many thanks in Christ for your interest and consideration.

Please note this article is not intended as legal or financial advice. For assistance with specific cases, you are encouraged to seek the advice of an attorney or other professional advisor.

Get Involved Today!

- As a Lutherans For Life supporter, you decide how you can help! It might be through an **annual membership gift** or a **monthly or quarterly sponsor gift**.
- **Volunteers** can become involved locally. (Start a Life Team in your congregation!)
- **Because of you, LFL is impacting thousands of people annually through the Gospel of Christ.**
- Contact us—or go to the LFL website—to find out more ways to help, including: **Combined Federal Campaign** – (LFL ID# 11508), **Automatic Bank Drafts**, **Employer Matching Gifts**, **Planned Gifts**, **Online Shopping Rebates through iGive.com**, www.goodsearch.com.



Buying or selling a home or commercial property?

You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email proliferealestate@yahoo.com for more information.

www.realestateforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life

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2015 Memorials and Honorariums can be found on the *LifeDate* and *Give* pages at www.lutheransforlife.org.

2015 Abundant Life Giving Society

"A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

The Abundant Life Giving Society (ALGS) was introduced in 2010. We are pleased to announce that the following LFL supporters (individuals, families, LFL state federations and chapters, and congregations) donated \$1,000 or more last year. Thank you for your gifts!

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Calvary Lutheran Church, Verona, NJ; Calvary Lutheran Church, Princeton, WI; Chapel Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, St. Peters, MO; Christ Lutheran Church, Mantua, OH; Christ Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH; Christ Lutheran Church, Shingleton, MI; Christ Lutheran Church, Bouton, IA; Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS; Christ Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE; Christ Lutheran Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Augustine, FL; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia, MI; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lago Vista, TX; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, CO; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Redlands, CA; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lambertville, MI; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Spencer, IA; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Billings, MT; Church of the Good Shepherd - LCMS, Clayton, IL; Community of Joy Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN; Concordia Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD; Concordia Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN; Concordia Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL; Cross Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; Cross Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, TX; Crown of Life Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX; Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Hartford, WI; Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook, IL; Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Northwood, ND; Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Rolette, ND; Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Paige, TX; Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lancaster, OH; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton, IN; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tell City, IN; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dwight, IL; Emmaus Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI; Emmaus Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ, Rosedale, NY; Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, St. Louis, MO; Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV; Faith Lutheran Church, Butler, PA; Faith Lutheran Church, Easton, PA; Faith Lutheran Church, North Palm Beach, FL; Faith Lutheran Church, Columbus, IN; Faith Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, MI; 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Lutheran Church, Manchester, NH; Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gowanda, NY; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sumter, SC; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler, OH; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Michigan City, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ironwood, MI; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Iowa Falls, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lone Rock, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rockwell City, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairfield, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mayville, WI; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Courtland, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Albany, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Des Plaines, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Steger, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hinckley, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Freeport, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lindenwood, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville, MO; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Perryville, MO; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, KS; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle, NE; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giddings, TX; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Roswell, NM; King of Glory Lutheran Church, Blaine, MN; Kongsvinger Lutheran Church, Oslo, MN; Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Humble, TX; Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Battle Lake, MN; Living Word Free Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD; Living Word Lutheran Church, Orland Park, IL; Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, TX; Lord of Glory Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Mount Pocono, PA; Lutheran Church of the Cross, Kent, WA; Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Pensacola, FL; Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle, IL; Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Messiah Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Messiah Lutheran Church, Corpus Christi, TX; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Franklin Park, IL; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Estes Park, CO; Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO; Mt. 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While every effort was made to include all contributing churches, we regret any that may have been omitted by oversight.

Become a Member of LFL’s “Life Legacy Society”

by John Hawkins, Director of Development for Lutherans For Life

It’s no secret that our Lutheran church bodies are declining in membership. Since Lutherans For Life is made up of Lutherans, it’s possible that we may have fewer supporters to call upon in upcoming years also. Yet, the battle For Life will continue on life and death issues from abortion to euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

So, should we be in despair over how Gospel-centered, Lutheran life advocacy will be maintained and funded in the future? The answer is no! (Or at least it can be.)

How so? Because you and other dedicated friends can continue to financially support LFL by leaving a gift through your will or estate plan. This can be done by designating the ministry to receive a percentage of your church extension account, IRA, life insurance policy, or other account. You can also leave a bequest via your will.

The result will be that LFL can continue to receive the financial help it needs after you are in Heaven. May His will be done!

To help foster estate gifts, LFL created the **Life Legacy Society**. In doing so, LFL was looking to:

- Encourage additional supporters to consider leaving an estate gift to the ministry
- Help take “inventory” of gifts that can be expected in the future
- Thank those who have indicated to us that they intend to leave a gift

If are already a member of the **Life Legacy Society**, our heartfelt thanks in Christ! If you are not a member but have designated a future gift, you can download a form to complete and send back by going to www.lutheransforlife.org/life-legacy-society. If it’s easier, feel free to request a brochure and form by contacting me at 512.468.9777 or jhawkins@lutheransforlife.org.

Last but not least, if you would like information on leaving an estate gift to LFL or the **Life Legacy Society**, feel free to contact me also. (**Note:** all inquiries are kept confidential. You also have the option to keep your membership anonymous by so indicating on the enrollment form.)

Many thanks in Jesus Christ!


Include a Lutherans For Life Envelope in your CPH Offering Boxes

Did you know that when you order CPH offering boxes for members of your church, you can include an envelope for Lutherans For Life?

While boxes can be ordered anytime for 2017, the best rate is available through March 31, 2016. Price increases take effect periodically on April 1, July 1, and October 1.

For more information, contact Concordia Publishing House at 800.325.3040 ext. 8103.

MY GIFT
for



**Lutherans
For Life**
Equipping Lutherans to be
Gospel-motivated voices For Life

1101 5th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-1816
888.364.LIFE
515.382.2077

“I came that they may
have life and have it
abundantly.”
John 10:10 (ESV)

info@lutheransforlife.org • www.lutheransforlife.org

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City, State, Zip
Address
Name

Lutherans For Life
Nevada, IA 50201-1816
1101 5th Street

Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, chastity, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and bio-technology.
- **Assists For-Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to: women with an untimely pregnancy; women, men, and families suffering under the guilt of an abortion; young people with questions and concerns about sexuality; and the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**

Lutherans For Life ...

Witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.

Serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.

Educates and Encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources (including our *LifeDate* journal, *Life News*, *Life Quotes*, and *Directions*), Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula (including Teaching For Life®), video, and through www.lutheransforlife.org.

Equips local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life state federations and chapters also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.

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).



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

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

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

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LFL has 11 state federations, 100 Life Chapters, 122 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 102 Life Teams in the US.

LifeDate

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www.lutheransforlife.org/about/chapters-and-life-teams