



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life



What Makes Us Human?

With new technologies, including stories about babies with three biological parents, how do we know where to look for answers about what makes us human?



Inside this edition of LifeDate ...

page 3

From the Executive Director

Who's on First—What's on Second

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

pages 4-9

Abortion/Post-Abortion/Alternatives

Human, without Exceptions!

by Kim Laube, B.A.

No Matter How Small

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

What Goes 'Round, Comes 'Round

by Dr. Jean Garton

pages 10-13

Family Living

The Wonder of Being Human

by Linda D. Bartlett

Father's Day by Pastor Paul Fleischer

Who Sinned? by Marta Naumann

pages 14-15

End-of-Life

The Physician-assisted Suicide Assault

by Virginia J. Flo

pages 16-17

Lutherans For Life Resources

pages 18-19

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

page 20

World News

pages 21-30

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

Meet Sarah Krueger—The First EVER

Y4Life Intern! by Laura Davis

Onward Christian Soldiers!

by Lynette Auch

To Leave or Not Leave an Estate Gift—10

Things to Consider (Part One of Two)

by John Hawkins

Lutheran Congregational Auxiliaries and

Organizations – 2015 Donor Honor Roll

2016 Lutherans For Life National

Conference

Like and follow us on ...

facebook

twitter



Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
motivated voices For Life.

LifeDate is a free, quarterly publication of Lutherans For Life (LFL). 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.

Lutherans For Life

1101 5th Street

Nevada, IA 50201-1816

888.364.LIFE/515.382.2077

Fax 515.382.3020

info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

National LFL Life Center Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director

Rev. Scott Licht – National Director

John Hawkins – Director of Development

Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications

Laura Davis – Director of Y4Life

Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst

Kim Nessa – Accountant

Debra Freese – Office Clerk

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

Virginia Flo – Regional Director of Minnesota & National Conference Director

Barb Geistfeld – Regional Director of Texas

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 permission. All rights reserved.

GOD'S WORD Scripture quotations are taken from GOD'S WORD®, © 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

Scripture marked NIV is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Who's on First—What's on Second

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

*If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank You, Lord, for giving me wings;
If I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could sing;
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee;
But I just thank You, Father, for making me, me.*

*For You gave me a heart and You gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus and You made me your child!
And I just thank You, Father, for making me, me.*



Sunday School had it right. What makes us human? It's not what we look like. It's not what we can do. It isn't when we were born or where we live. It isn't laws or choices. It isn't research or arguments. It isn't feelings or beliefs. It's not what we interrupted or how we came about. In fact, like we learned from Abbott and Costello, we won't know "What?" until we know "Who?" What makes us human is a Who.

God makes us human. God's Word is what makes us human. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Almighty Maker of the universe and Lord of history, He created us human. **"Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people"** (Psalm 100:3). **"Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created"** (Psalm 148:5). **"Your hands have made and fashioned me"** (Psalm 119:73a). **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus"** (Ephesians 2:10a).

Not only has God made us human, He also makes us holy. His Son's incarnation and His Spirit's forgiveness are what make us holy. **"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things ... For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers ... to make propitiation for the sins of the people"** (Hebrews 2:14-17). **"[Y]ou were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God... Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you ... for you were bought with a price"** (1 Corinthians 6:11, 19-20).

And God makes us heavenly. **"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself"** (Philippians 3:20-21). Created, redeemed, and called; human, holy, and heavenly. Thanks be to God!

The Butterfly Song (If I Were a Butterfly) – Words and Music by Brian M. Howard – Copyright © 1974, 2002 Mission Hills Music – www.ButterflySong.com – All rights reserved. (BMI) International copyright secured. Used by permission.

Human, without Exceptions!

by Kim Laube, B.A.

Subsets of humans have been marginalized throughout human existence, but despite all the efforts for personal freedoms, there is still a group being marginalized, being made to feel less than human, and it's happening in legislatures all over the United States!


The vast majority of “pro-life” legislation comes with a bitter pill to swallow for many who are left to believe that their lives are not worth sparing—those who were conceived in rape and incest. By the measure God provides, these sons and daughters are no doubt human beings that God designed, adores, and sent His Son to die for.

Offering up a rape or incest exception in legislation has become standard protocol with many groups citing the concept that *saving some is better than none*—but is it? By allowing exceptions into our belief, aren't we truly agreeing with our opponents that some human life is worthless? Is that the argument God would have us make?

Consider Matthew 18:10-14 (NIV): **“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.”**

A child conceived in rape or incest is not just “The Child of a Rapist,” he or she is the **Child of a Rape Survivor**, and more importantly, he or she is a **Child of God**. Society, by allowing these exceptions, is telling the rape victim that there is no value in her son or daughter's life, and we expect she will want to have the baby killed! What an incredibly disheartening message to send to the victim of a crime—a crime which by nature leaves many victims doubting their own self-worth in the first place. We compound the wound to the victim by expecting she will want to kill the child she now carries—a child that is a part of her.

To make matters even more pressure-filled, many states allow a rapist to use his parental rights as leverage to get criminal charges dropped. Can you imagine? A rape victim's choices become: kill her baby and pursue a rape charge, give birth to her baby



“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:10).

and attempt to place the child for adoption just to have her rapist intervene and leverage his voluntary termination of parental rights in turn for her dropping any charges, or give birth and parent her child, in which case the rapist could try to trade his visitation and custody rights in exchange for her dropping the rape charge. Is there any justice?

In Iowa, Lutheran Family Service has been working on legislation that would terminate the parental rights of rapists and would not allow them to use their paternity as leverage for dropping criminal charges. Many other states around the nation are enacting similar laws! The Iowa bill unanimously passed the house and senate and was signed by the governor. This law allows a woman both a clear path to choose life for her child without the threat of her rapist having visitation, custody, or any part of their lives and a clear path to seek justice.

We are proud to have been a part of legislation that **protects rather than marginalizes** the sons and daughters of rape victims. They are our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and their lives are not exceptions!

Kim Laube, B.A., is director of pregnancy counseling and adoption at Lutheran Family Service in Urbandale, Iowa. www.LFSiowa.org

Hurting from Abortion?

A Word of Hope can help • 888-217-8679 • Confidential and Caring

www.word-of-hope.org

Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life



Life
360°

We're taking a
360° look at life!



Join LCMS Life Ministry as we proclaim
God's truth that all life is sacred —
from the very beginning
until the natural end.

2017 LIFE CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JAN. 27-29, 2017

LCMS LIFE CONFERENCE
2017
lcms.org/lifeconference

No Matter How Small

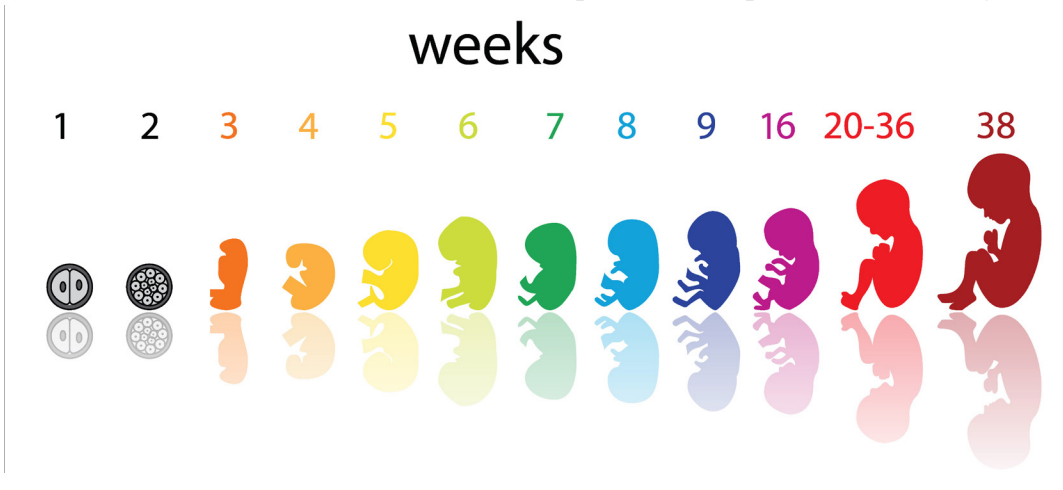
by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

“I’m hiding.” “You can’t see me.” The toddler’s cuteness tickles us when she closes her eyes or covers her eyes and suddenly becomes absent or invisible. Eventually she’ll understand what we already know: object permanence and physical continuity. Just because we don’t see it doesn’t mean it’s missing. Yet neither our Supreme Court nor most American news media have applied this elementary idea to unborn persons. Even after millennia of history and billions of pregnancies, they remain confused about just what’s in an expectant woman’s womb. Surely they’d like to learn, since law has a duty to identify rights and protect people, and media assumes the duty of informing us of facts. Perhaps preschoolers can teach them about object permanence: if “me” comes out, then “me” was carried in there all along.

The Christian Scriptures supply exactly that answer. “[Y]ou knitted *me* together in *my* mother’s womb ... when *I* was being made in secret ... Your eyes saw *my* unformed substance” (Psalm 139:13-16a). “Did you not pour *me* out like milk and curdle *me* like cheese? You clothed *me* with skin and flesh, and knit *me* together with bones and sinews” (Job 10:10-11). “And the angel answered [Mary] ... ‘the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God’” (Luke 1:35).

Science, of course, agrees and confirms it.* It takes less than a quarter of a second for a sperm’s membrane to fuse with an egg’s surface. This mingling of materials produces a new cell and another human being—the zygote. She has a unique genetic identity, distinct from sperm and egg and father and mother. The sperm’s 23 chromosomes added to the egg’s 23 comprise her own full complement of 46. Her individual DNA “signature” or “fingerprint” directs her whole development and does not change at any point through birth and growth to death. She belongs entirely and exclusively to the species *Homo sapiens*. She has never been nor will ever become any other kind of creature.

Already she exhibits all the biological criteria for living. She reacts to external stimuli, metabolizes or manages resources to generate energy for herself, and multiplies her own cells. In fact, from the first moment she operates as a separate and self-integrated



organism. She undergoes development, an orderly sequence and organized pattern progressing toward the mature human form. Her cells do not stagnantly manufacture aimless copies or tangled tumors; they fashion tissues, structures, organs, and systems. She will repair damage to restore and preserve her body's parts and processes. Mere cells will continue to divide and tumors keep multiplying after injury, but even the earliest embryo will replace precisely what it was deprived of and proceed with development. She will adapt to variations in her environment as well. In rare cases, healthy babies have been carried to term and birth even after implanting abnormally in their mother's abdomen, liver, or ovary. And the embryo will also coordinate all her functions. Immediately on day one, her operations start coordinating and her components get cooperating. Though different cells each have particular ways of working, they all serve the single, united, and overall goal of the whole body surviving and thriving.

So microscopic zygotes and embryos may not resemble adult human beings. They may not yet carry out any recognizably human activities. Nevertheless, scientific observations define them as nothing other than human lives, worthy of the same respect the Scriptures assign us all. They look and act exactly like a human being ought to in these beginning stages of her growth. What dwells and develops in pregnant wombs is no clump of cells, product of conception, parasite, piece of mother's body, or potential anything. This little one is a full-fledged human being, made in the image of God and saved by the incarnation of Jesus Christ, to whom the Holy Spirit shows grace and in whom He creates faith. She is our neighbor and, God willing, His beloved child—a dear sister to us.

**I am indebted for this information to an unpublished article, "What Is An Embryo, and Why Does It Merit Respect?" by Dr. Maureen Condic of University of Utah School of Medicine, delivered fall 2015 in a panel discussion convened by LCMS Life Ministry, St. Louis, Missouri. Further support comes from At Every Stage: Abortion, Euthanasia, Embryo Research, and the Right to Life, published 2015 by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, Minneapolis, Minneapolis.*



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 17,000 students have now heard about Owen's Mission!

www.lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission

What Goes ‘Round, Comes ‘Round

by Dr. Jean Garton

There is hardly an action—no matter how revolting, immoral, or violent—that doesn’t have defenders who will say, “But we can’t really judge others unless we’ve walked in their shoes.” These defenders will go even further to charge that those who refuse to agree that all things are relative are guilty of intolerant “judgmentalism.”

Other people go further still! They argue that some behavior that seems unloving to one person may actually be a loving act when someone else commits it.

Amazingly, one of the latest lines in defense of abortion is to go on the offensive: adopt that bizarre notion that the act of taking your unborn child’s life is really an act of love.

Some abortion providers now urge women to write love letters to their children before aborting them, simultaneously an act of co-opting criticism and ennobling the ignoble. One such form letter was published in a city newspaper and began with the words, “Dear Baby”

“Dear Baby: I believe you will be better off in heaven. I am not sure I could provide you with a stable and healthy environment. I do not feel that emotionally or financially I could care for your every need.

“In forecasting my future, a dismal and grim picture is all that I can imagine. I hope you can understand my reasoning and can forgive me. I will see you in heaven. Love, Mom.”

Women are sometimes coerced into having an abortion to maintain the love of the father (who more often than not will abandon her after the child is dead). Others convince themselves that the abortion is done for the good of the baby, another act of love.



One thing is certain, however: It is an instructive act—behavior that sends a message.

For example, what lesson might other children in the family take away from that violent “solution”? As the years go by, what conclusions do they gradually come to, based on a decision made many years before?

Imagine that some 60 years have passed since their mother’s “loving” act of aborting a child. Now a sibling of that aborted child is writing a “love” letter of her own to her mother. It could go something like this:

“Dear Mom: I believe you will be better off in heaven. I am not sure I could provide you with a stable and healthy environment. I do not feel that emotionally or financially I could care for your every need.

“In forecasting my future, a dismal and grim picture is all that I can imagine. I hope you can understand my reasoning and can forgive me. I will see you in heaven. Love, your daughter.”

An impossible scenario? Not when you consider the growing trend to focus on end-of-life issues. Not when the elderly, the infirm, and the “non-productive” are increasingly viewed as living lives that are too costly. Not when our population is living longer and longer. Not when euthanasia is becoming a popular discussion topic. And surely not when you read story after story of spouses and children making the “loving” decision to “assist” grandma to commit suicide.

An abortion decision can be described as “desperate, thoughtless, selfish, or pressured.” But never, ever call it “love.”

Dr. Jean Garton was the first president of Lutherans For Life. She is scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the 2016 Lutherans For Life National Convention. (See pages 27-30.)

This article is from the April 2016 digital edition of National Right to Life News. Used by permission.



The Wonder of Being Human

by Linda D. Bartlett

My dad, at age 93, is still teaching me what it means to be human. In other words, he is teaching me what it means to be a person created in God's image.

Recently, I asked my dad to write his story. Bless his heart. He did it! My promise was to help him create a book for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But my blessing was to learn the reasons why I've always called Dad my hero.

The wonder of my father's life is that he is a common man set apart for uncommon use. His is an ordinary life, but therein is the truth about being human. From ordinary dust of the ground, God formed man to reflect His own extraordinary image.

Dad is the first to admit that he is a poor reflection of God's image. In his poor, sinful condition, he could have chosen to follow the pattern of the world. But he did not because he sees his human identity in light of the fact that he was formed by God's own hands for God's own purpose. My dad's story proves to me that to be human does not mean to be self-defined, but God-defined. And in each ordinary life experience recorded by Dad, I see that his identity affects his attitude and behavior.

A few short months after beginning his task, my dad entrusted to me a precious bundle of typewritten papers. "Here!" he said with a knowing grin. "You have some work to do!"

To be human means to be given work to do. Work was a privilege given to the first man by His Creator. It was God's design that Adam work in the Garden and keep it. As a farmer, my dad has shown me the "thorns and thistles" that sin brought into this world. I've seen the sweat on his brow but also heard his sigh of accomplishment at the end of a long, hard day. My dad has shown me that work is neither punishment nor unpleasant. When done to God's glory, it is a source of contentment.

To be human means to be male or female. My parents did not preach to me when I was a child about the differences between men and women. Rather, the behaviors and interaction of my mom and dad demonstrated to me that male and female are the two eyes of the human race, each needed for their unique perspective. My dad valued my mom's opinion and help. He respected her even when she frustrated him. My dad might not realize it, but he showed me that men and women are more than sexual. God does not say: Be sexual, for I am sexual. He says, **"You shall be holy, for**



I the Lord your God am holy” (Leviticus 19:2b). While men are especially tempted by sensual thoughts and desires, it is women who are doing the tempting--too often unintentionally and often because they are deceived into the wrong identity, believing they were created only to be sexual. It was my dad who showed me that because of Jesus Christ, a man (or woman) is not captive to these temptations.

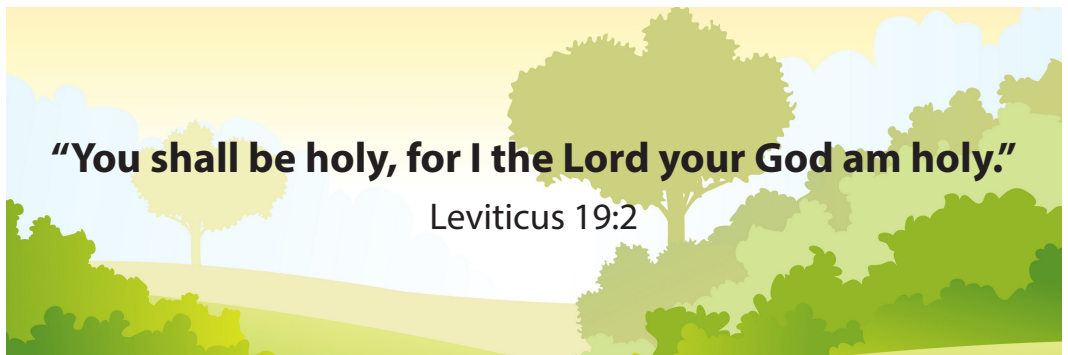
To be human means to have choices. Dad helped me understand that choices are best made in light of our relationship to God and with trust in His Word because to be human means that Satan will surely slither up to us at the moment of decision, asking: **“Did God really say ...?”** (Genesis 3:1 *GOD’S WORD*). Adam was given the instruction for life and the warning against death, but he failed to engage Satan with that Word for the sake of his bride. My dad, being mindful of this, nurtured my respect for men because he’s never stopped trying to lead his family away from harm.

To be human means to be forgiven. My dad knows the consequence of sin. But he also knows that because of Jesus Christ, God’s mercies are new every morning. If I were to thank my dad for one thing, it would be for helping me understand the willing desire of Jesus to be my crucified Lord and Savior. Easter, for a human being, means nothing without the Cross.

To be human means to suffer. The only way for God to save humans from themselves was to become one of them. The Lord Jesus Christ suffered as a human—and He died. In this sinful world, we suffer, too. Because of sin, we will die. But my dad also taught me that to be human means to have hope. Jesus rose from the grave, ascended back to heaven, and will come again to take God’s weary but faithful children home.

To be human means to persevere. Dad has experienced hardship, disappointment, and the loss of his wife, my mom. But he is my model of daily perseverance no matter the circumstance. “Keep calm and carry on” was a phrase first used on a motivational poster produced by the British government during World War II, but it is a way of life for my dad. He has watched this culture change at warp speed, but because he knows that his call to think, act, and live like a Christian changes not, he continues to **“run with endurance the race that is set before”** him (Hebrews 12:1b).

Finally, for the human, **“the greatest of these is love”** (1 Corinthians 13:13b). Just as God defines humans, so also He defines love. So, thank you, Dad, for not loving carelessly. Thank you for your patient, kind, and selfless love. Thank you for showing me **“what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God”** (1 John 3:1).



“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”

Leviticus 19:2

Father's Day

by Pastor Paul Fleischer

It's surely true as various billboards around town are proclaiming these days: "Any man can be a father. It takes someone special to be a dad."

A "Wyoming Marriage and Family News" flyer that recently came across our desk lists the following "7 Tips for Dads."

Each tip had a lengthy paragraph on the thought. We'll reprint here just a sentence or two from that elaboration:

- **Find the time** – Do not underestimate how much your children need you ...
- **Be aware of your kids' lives** – Learn what your kids need emotionally, physically, and financially ...
- **Treat your children as capable** – Childhood is full of many "failed attempts." Treat your children based on their potential ...
- **Hug your child** – Children gain great confidence and security from knowing they are accepted and highly valued for who they are ...
- **Eat together** – Sharing a meal provides structure that kids can count on and also serves as a natural connecting point for conversation ...
- **Respect your child's mother** – Showing respect and kindness toward your children's mother is one of the most powerful statements you can make to your kids ...
- **Say "I love you"** – "I love you" spoken sincerely and backed up by your behavior demonstrates support, encouragement, tenderness, and caring as much as anything else you may do for your children ...

May this pastor add a #8? **Lead your children (family) in home devotions** – Thus the husband/father exercises his God-given role as "priest" in the family in keeping with the Lord's word: "**And you, fathers ... bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord**" (Ephesians 6:4 NKJV). It's never been more important—urgent!—than in our day that children learn of God, His Word and ways, from the Bible! And would not this #8 include attending church—worshiping—with your children?

And how about a #9: **Do not hesitate to discipline your kids** – Sometimes "tough love" is necessary to help children be trained in the admonition of the Lord. Contrary to the humanistic philosophy which shuns any kind of corporal discipline, the saying "**spare the rod and spoil the child**" has a biblical basis (see Proverbs 22:6, 13:24).

And we would top off these good points with a #10: **Pray** – Daily invoke God's guidance both for yourself and for your children.

Pastor Paul Fleischer is editor of The Lutheran Spokesman (lutheranspokesman.org). This article originally appeared in the June 2014 issue. Used by permission.

Who Sinned?

by Marta Naumann

Recently, our toddler has been up nightly, cutting teeth. Who sinned, this boy or his parents that he should wake with teething pain? I jest, but the disciples weren't joking when they asked a similar question in John 9. Jesus replied, **"It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him"** (John 9:3).

The disciples weren't completely incorrect. Sin, death, and Satan, since the Fall of Adam, have corrupted the bodies of every human just as they have corrupted our souls. Children and adults all experience pain and weariness. All human bodies are limited in size and ability. Temptations attack our senses. We trade dependence on our parents for unhealthy addictions. We sin. Many experience severe illness or suffering. Our struggle to mature becomes a futile effort to dodge death. It's no wonder that we look in the mirror scornfully—that our "body image" is poor. While we are created in the image of God, that image has been corrupted by sin, so much so that, in baptism, our old self is crucified with Christ in order that it be brought to nothing (Romans 6:6). Our perception of our flesh reflects a spiritual reality. We bear the "body image" of Adam, through whom sin and death came into the world (Romans 5:12).

Christ also bore Adam's image when He became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). He did not avoid pain and weariness. He was not immune to the constraints of the body. He was tempted in every way—but without sin. Yet, He remained dependent on His heavenly Father. As He forgave sin, healed infirmity, and reversed death, He took these burdens upon His own body to the cross.

His body alone endured the weight of sin and separation from God.

This is because Christ's struggle towards the cross and grave was for our benefit. We who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into His death. So, while our human natures flee from death, Scripture says we have died with Christ. We were buried with Him in our baptism. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

Christ's glory on the cross was revealed in His resurrection. Our bodies share this glory (Romans 6:3-5). Post-crucifixion, post-baptism, our body image is changed. Christ is free from sin; united with Him, we are set free from sin: now we can struggle with sin because our new body image is Christ's. Our crucified-and-resurrected-Christ-body isn't just free from sin, it is free from death: our new body image, received at baptism, lives (Romans 6:7, 8)!

When we comfort our children, frown in the mirror, or struggle with death, we may say with St. Paul (Galatians 2:20): **"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."**



*Marta Naumann is a member of St. David Lutheran Church, Cardiff, Wales (www.stdavidcardiff.webs.com). This article is from *The British Lutheran*, Vol. 58 No. 2 May 2015 (lutheran.co.uk). Used by permission.*

The Physician-assisted Suicide Assault

By Virginia J. Flo, Regional Director of Minnesota

By now you have probably heard about the many states that are being targeted with potential bills to legalize physician-assisted suicide. What you may not have heard is that many of those states have had their bills withdrawn or defeated—at least eight states since January 1 of this year. I want to share this because sometimes things seem inevitable and unstoppable when there is a full-scale assault on our religious beliefs.

I live in Minnesota, and our bill was recently withdrawn from a senate hearing by the senate author when support seemed insufficient. We know that probably isn't the end of it and it could show up again. Yet, we praise the Lord for the heartfelt testimonies of church leaders, pro-life advocates, doctors, nurses, hospice caregivers, lawyers, educators and, most importantly, people with terminal illnesses who shared their stories and pleaded with the senators to set this proposed bill aside.

I had never before sat in on a senate hearing. I went to see how the process works and better understand why people want to legalize physician-assisted suicide. It was clear who was on what side that day as the people from Compassion & Choices—a successor to The Hemlock Society and the group supporting the bill—all wore yellow, while the people against it wore red as a message to “STOP” it. I stood in line for about a half hour and during that time could see groups of people wearing yellow and red talking amongst themselves. It was uplifting to see so many more people dressed in red than yellow that day.

I thought for a bit and then decided to approach a couple of people in yellow standing just a little way away from me. I introduced myself as being from Lutherans For Life, gave them my card, and asked them why they were there. The man immediately said he was a retired internist and was there to support the bill and give testimony. The lady volunteered that she too was Lutheran. She then shared that she was in the final stages of terminal leukemia, which she stated was beyond treatment. She described what she might go through at the very end of her life, saying she wanted to avoid that.

I continued to listen to the woman's story as she shared that she didn't know if she would actually use the 90 pills required to induce death. She just wanted them in her medicine cabinet to bring her comfort. She then asked that I not tell her pastor she was there that day supporting the bill. That saddened me, as I would hope everyone would turn to God through his or her pastor to receive comfort through God's Word which promises He will be with us to the very end.

I asked both of them why they felt death is the only answer to end-of-life issues. The doctor said he felt it was a right. Later, in his testimony, he described how doctors could be over-medicating terminally ill patients and needed the option of assisted suicide. I have to admit that it gave me a shiver down my spine to hear that a doctor wanted to end lives rather than focus on other treatment or pain-relief options in an effort to do no harm.

Many doctors have said they cannot accurately pinpoint when a life will end and refuse to put a timeline on end of life as that could cause undue distress. Bless them for their position and acknowledgement that diagnosing can be inaccurate. God's timing

is perfect, and only He can predict when life ends.

Each of the people who testified that day on behalf of passing the legislation seemed quite sincere. Yet, as I saw this picture unfold, it was apparent there was something horribly wrong when people wanted to use a law to justify the taking of a life or look to a bottle of pills as security to bring comfort. Where is God in this picture?

It was uplifting to hear the side opposed to the bill testify on a need to focus on providing better palliative and hospice care to avoid suffering. When suicide is the first priority, anything that can be done to avoid suffering takes a back seat. Second priorities generally don't get the same attention as first priorities, and this situation is no different.

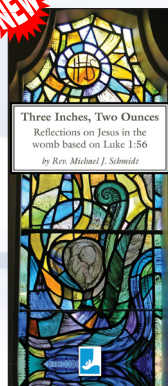
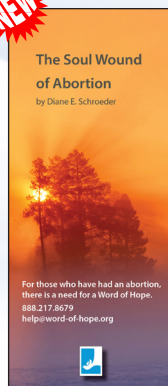
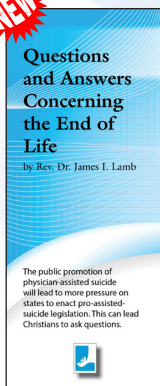
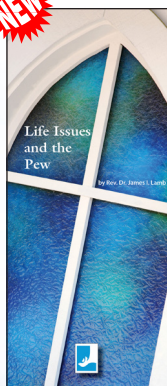
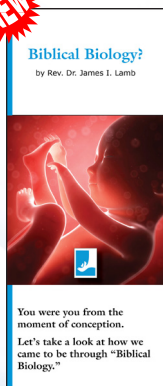
When assisted suicide becomes legal, it is deemed a medical treatment. Since the pills are far less expensive than other medical options, it creates a whole new environment in the world of medicine. Doctors have to weigh the advancement of death as an option to other treatments, as will insurance companies.

I thank the Lord that we still have many faithful state legislators who value life, are not fearful of sharing their beliefs and turning back such incredibly harmful legislation. We need to pray for each and every one of them, including those who support these potentially dangerous laws. I am also thankful for the many medical professionals who have spoken up against assisted suicide and who promise not to prescribe lethal drugs that will harm their patients.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to provide comfort to the sick, as we do not want anyone to suffer. That is why we promote work to improve palliative care so doctors will have better means to relieve suffering at life's end until God calls us home to heaven where there is no suffering.

Let us put our trust in Him.





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.

God Smiles on Fathers - A New Bulletin Insert for Father's Day

“Fathers can do no better work and do nothing more valuable either for God, for Christendom, for all the world, for themselves, and for their children than to bring up their children well ... For bringing up their children properly is their shortest road to heaven.”

“Now you tell me, when a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other menial task for his child ... God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling—not because that father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith.”

Martin Luther



“Lutherans For Life shares God’s own gladness and gratefulness for all our fathers who have embodied to their children His own Gospel-motivated voice For Life. Your faithful fatherhood—your advice and assistance, your affirmation and encouragement, your involvement with us and example to us—makes known God’s fatherly, divine goodness and mercy to all ...” *Item LFL1118BI. \$0.10 ea.*

Together For Good DVD

This movie is loosely based on the adoption story of Pastor Dave Ahlman, Senior Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Arvada, Colorado, 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.*



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.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

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

July 3 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9) – Our God Jesus has set us free from sin, death, and the power of the devil (Luke 10:17-20). He also gives us the gift of dependence, to depend upon Him in faith and upon one another in love and service (Luke 10:1; Galatians 6:2). Rather than diminishing our humanity, mutual dependence dignifies it. Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to depend upon You with Your people and defend those who depend on me. Amen.

July 10 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10) – The compassionate Samaritan does not euthanize or terminate the already half-dead traveler. He treats this stranger and rival not as less human but as a dear neighbor and trades his own convenience, cost, and comfort to gain a brother (Luke 10:33-35). Our Savior showers us with just such grace so that we may share it as well. Prayer: Dear Savior, grant me fully to appreciate Your grace to me and freely to extend it to all in need. Amen.

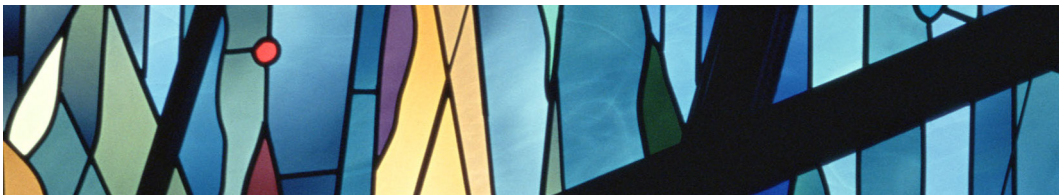
July 17 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11) – The Almighty who made us wills life even in circumstances appearing impossible and otherwise hopeless (Genesis 18:9-14). Jesus miraculously invades our prideful boundaries and interrupts our other priorities with promises and relationship (Luke 10:38-42). Prayer: Holy Trinity, by Your Word bring Your communion life into my strangled selfishness. Amen.

July 24 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12) – Lord God lovingly adopts each of us by baptism into Christ Jesus. Though earthly fathers often fail, He perfectly provides and protects (Luke 11:11-13). Participating in these uplifting labors, even by caring for bodies and spirits that are not our own children, becomes our highest privilege. Prayer: Heavenly Father, let Your fatherly, divine goodness and mercy live in me. Amen.

July 31 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13) – God reserves for Himself both the privilege of providing life and the responsibility for deciding death (Luke 12:20). Life is His gift, even amidst afflictions (Ecclesiastes 2:22-23). It always arrives in His time and on His terms (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25; Colossians 3:2-4), wonderfully better terms than we would outline for ourselves. Prayer: Good Shepherd, lead me to abandon my demands and enjoy life as You deliver it. Amen.

August 7 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14) – He who multiplies stars in the sky (Genesis 15:5) and ravens in the air and lilies in the field also supplies everything required to support our body and life (Luke 12:22-30). Our dead-and-resurrected Redeemer sanctifies even compromised lives. We are His precious treasure (Luke 12:33-34), and He is our shield and reward (Genesis 15:1), especially in suffering (Hebrews 11:7-12). Prayer: Almighty Maker, strengthen my faith in Your love and power to meet every need. Amen.

August 14 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15) – The relaxing lies our culture prophesies cannot even approach our Lord's promises (Jeremiah 23:16-18). We speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly and gladly (Jeremiah 23:28-29), though it earns us persecution



(Luke 12:51-53), because He sets great joy before us. In this faith we will sit around His throne with the cloud of witnesses His Word saved (Hebrews 12:1-3). Prayer: Lamb of God, You have given me Your people's crown of life; find in me Your prophets' faith. Amen.

August 21 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16) – God's incarnate Son reveals a meaning to suffering and gives pain purpose. He does what's best, not just what's easiest. He loves us enough to make us get better and not just feel better (Hebrews 12:7-11). In the cross, He shows God with us to save (Hebrews 12:18-24). This strengthens us to choose life in difficult situations. Prayer: Father of mercy, deliver me from evil, and let Thy kingdom come. Amen.

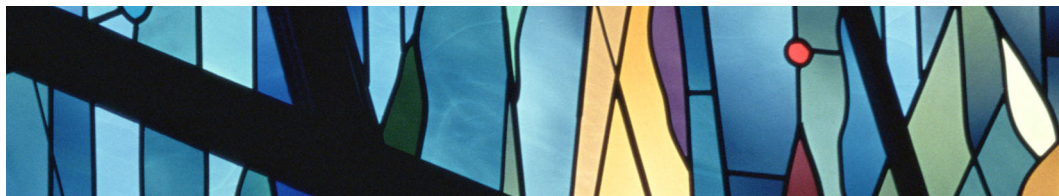
August 28 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17) – In Christ God embraced and befriended hearts and bodies ruined by sin. He allowed neither disabilities nor disobedience to separate anyone from His love (Luke 14:1-4). This forgiveness heals us to share the same gracious kingdom with the ones right in front of us who struggle with impairment and iniquity (Luke 14:12-14). Prayer: Extend Your kingdom, Lord Jesus, through me to those who are broken like I am. Amen.

September 4 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18) – Life chose St. Paul though he was chief of sinners. He accepted Onesimus as his own child and brother, even when society classified this slave as property (Philemon 10-17). The sisters, brothers, fathers, mothers, and children the Lord brings us are better than those we would choose for ourselves (Luke 14:25-27, 31-33). We choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19-20), not for ourselves but from Him and in others. Prayer: Gracious God, choose my life for me. Amen.

September 11 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19) – God's love and Christ's forgiveness come to us and carry us (Ezekiel 34:11-16). Afraid and unable on our own, His words and ways bear us home every time to rejoicing (Luke 15:1-10). Let us seek with Him to rescue His little ones, no matter where they've wandered or how they're wounded (1 Timothy 1:12-17), that we may celebrate together. Prayer: Holy Father, accompany me with Your grace through this collapsing world that no more may be lost. Amen.

September 18 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20) – “God our Savior ... desires all people to be saved” (1 Timothy 2:3-4). This desire burns scars in His hands and heart (1 Timothy 2:5-6), as much for kings (1 Timothy 2:2) as for debtors (Luke 16:1-8; Amos 8:4-7), as much for unborn, elderly, and abortion victims as for apostles (1 Timothy 2:7). He even gives us worldly means to make these ones our friends for eternity (Luke 16:9). Prayer: Precious Jesus, kindle in me Your desire for everlasting salvation. Amen.

September 19 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21) – So much does our Father love us that He sends us angels to assist us in our lowest moments (Luke 16:22). Identify those He has surrounded you with and thank them! Then look for the closest Lazarus God has laid at your gate. Brush off the crumbs, shoo away the dogs (16:21), and set him or her a brother's place (16:27-28) at heaven's feast (16:19). Prayer: Dear Lord God, make me to find my luxuries in sharing life with Your children. Amen.



In Lima, Peru, 750,000 people rallied at the March for Life on March 12, making it the largest pro-life march in Latin American history. The spirit in the crowd was joyful as people marched and sang songs to celebrate life from the moment of conception to natural death. The enormous crowd of joyful pro-lifers was even larger than 2015's record-breaking turnout, which news outlets estimated at approximately 500,000. (*SPUC*, 3/17/16)

At a recent meeting of the British Transplantation Society in Glasgow, Britain's National Health Service disclosed plans to encourage mothers of preborn babies with fatal defects to carry their babies through birth—rather than aborting them—so that the babies' organs can be harvested. When a preborn baby is diagnosed with a fatal defect, such as anencephaly, the mother will be “supported” to go through with the pregnancy and birth, allowing use of the child's vital organs for transplantation. In some cases, the baby may be brain dead, but kept alive artificially during harvesting, in order to keep the body parts “fresh.” The UK *Mirror* reports: “Under the new proposals, mothers would give birth in the normal way and once doctors had certified the infant dead, its vital organs would be removed. However, donation would not be raised when a woman was still deciding whether or not to have an abortion—and nobody would be compelled to donate their baby's organs. In some cases, where donation has been agreed, babies could be certified brain dead but their bodies kept alive by artificial ventilation. Surgeons could then remove organs from these so-called ‘heartbeat babies’ when they are fresh, maximizing what can be used and the chance of successful transplant.” (*Live Action News*, 3/9/16; *LifeWire*, 3/10/16)

One of Northern Ireland's most premature babies was finally able to return home from the hospital with her mother. Fionnuala McArdle was just 23 weeks pregnant when her daughter was born on October 9 last year. Her baby weighed just over a pound (480g), and doctors at the Royal Maternity Hospital's neonatal unit gave her between a zero and one per cent chance of surviving. Fionnuala's daughter was also born with pneumonia and surrounded by toxic fluids. Fionnuala named her daughter Meabh, which is an Irish name meaning the cause of great joy. Appropriately enough, Meabh's name is thought to originate from the great warrior queen, Mabh of Connacht. Little Meabh has certainly proven herself to be a true fighter over the past five months, as she's gone through four operations, including a major heart operation and two on her eyes. But with the help of medics, she's pulled through—and has now been discharged from the hospital to return home with her mother. (*SPUC* 3/30/16)

English actor, Jeremy Irons, currently starring in the blockbuster film *Batman v Superman*, caused quite a stir in March when he admitted freely that abortion is bad for women. In a wide-ranging interview with the *Guardian*, the veteran actor stated that “Abortion harms a woman—it's a tremendous mental attack, and physical, sometimes. But we seem to get that muddled.” While Mr. Irons' most recent remarks might indeed seem like a commonsense statement to most people, it is sadly rare to see a Hollywood actor willing to admit that there are any issues with abortion at all. (*SPUC*, 3/29/16)

To learn about the international outreach of Lutherans For Life, go to www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international.

Meet Sarah Krueger—The First EVER Y4Life Intern!

by Laura Davis, director of Y4Life

We are so excited to have Sarah join our team this summer as the first Y4Life intern. She will be learning all about the ministry of Lutherans For Life, helping us at conferences this summer, and giving valuable input about the future of Y4Life ministries. Read on to learn more about Sarah!



Name: Sarah Krueger

Hometown: New Braunfels, Texas

School: Concordia University Texas

Major: Director of Christian Education

Activities/Hobbies:

I love being outside! Anything that involves hiking, camping, or swimming is my favorite. I also love reading so if you have any good recommendations, be sure to let me know☺.

What are your passions and interests?

I am passionate about children's advocacy. I love working with kids and being in ministry. I want to be a vessel for Christ wherever He places me.

Why are you For Life?

I am For Life because I believe that every life is created by God and is precious. He hand-knit each and every person and gave us a purpose.

What motivated you to get involved with Y4Life?

I have a heart for women who have unexpected pregnancies. I want to be a person people can come to when they are struggling. Y4Life does some amazing work on college campuses that I am blessed to be a part of, and I cannot wait to learn more about!

What are you most excited about this summer?

I am excited for everything! I love traveling and sharing my passion with others. This internship will give me the opportunity to learn more about Y4Life, experience new places, and share my source of joy with kids and adults!

Please keep Sarah and her ministry in your prayers this summer. Any questions and words of welcome and encouragement can be sent to ldavis@lutheransforlife.org.



Check out
Y4Life!
www.Y4Life.org



Onward Christian Soldiers!

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

I had the blessing and privilege of spending several days in April with some of the most passionate For Life Lutherans one could ever meet. The State Federation Presidents and several Lutherans For Life (LFL) staff members, including our two regional directors, met as they usually do every spring to share what is happening on the Frontlines of their states and regions, to learn and discuss new ideas, and to be refreshed and encouraged by God's Word—and by each other.

These people are dedicated soldiers in the front-line battle of speaking **“up for those who cannot speak for themselves”** (Proverbs 31:8a NIV). They do this through:

- Sharing creative ideas for honoring mothers and fathers on their respective special days
- Funding or participating in the work of crisis pregnancy centers and ultrasound ministries
- Presenting or hosting events addressing life issues, including a focus on our identities as God's sons and daughters being found in Christ versus the worldly teaching that we are identified through our sexuality—and rising human trafficking concerns
- Participating in coalitions to combat the evil forces of physician-assisted suicide legislation and the twisted rhetoric of the Compassion and Choices (the successor to The Hemlock Society, the main group advocating legalization of doctor-assisted suicide)

Along with encouraging For Life Lutherans to team up in their churches and communities to form Life Teams or new Life Chapters, these leaders serve as encouragers to the more matured—and perhaps tired—Life Chapters as well as being a source of support to developed Life Teams in their areas.

These forward-looking leaders, concerned about the future of LFL, developed and sponsor essay contests, with the process starting in their respective states. The state winners compete against each other in two age divisions for national winners and an expense paid trip to the Lutherans For Life National Conference to present their essays. Last year's winners were excited to meet with Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis and tour the Creation Museum.

With what seems like new threats every day by the evil one and the dominion of death, life-affirming work is vast and daunting for anyone and everyone in the trenches.

Under the leadership of Nehemiah, the people of Jerusalem felt the same way as they struggled to rebuild the walls, with the daunting enemy threats and the vast rubble before them. Nehemiah encouraged them, **“Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes”** (Nehemiah 4:14b NIV).

Prayer and God's Word encourage and strengthen these LFL leaders—these soldiers

of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although varying in age from the late 20's to 70, they fearlessly and tirelessly continue their work, knowing that they were not called to be successful, only to be faithful in the work that God has called each one of them to do.

As God called Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, God has called each one of us to be soldiers in His army to repair our portion of the "wall," by affirming life and speaking the truth of the Gospel with love to everyone who will listen, with the weapon of God's Word in one hand and building material, like LFL resources, in the other.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the life-saving work of Your Son who taught us to be life-affirming soldiers of the Gospel. Thank You for the front-line leaders, LFL members, staff, and board of directors of LFL. Bless these Christian soldiers with strength and courage to remain faithful to the tasks You have given them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus going on before
Christ the royal Master leads against the foe
Forward into battle see His banner go

Onward Christian soldiers
Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before



Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt. Public Domain

Join us for a Life Team Leader Conference Call!

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2016 LEADER CALLS: June 21, August 16, October 18, and December 20. This is a one-hour call to give For Life 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. Find out more at this link:



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

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL OF YOUR BILLS—AND LFL, TOO?

There are some things for which it probably just makes more sense to pay via automatic withdrawal.. If this is good enough for a mortgage payment, how about your gift to **Lutherans For Life**? Doing so is easy enough. Just go to www.lutheransforlife.org and click "Give." Then look for "**Automatic Monthly Debit from Your Checking or Savings Account (ACH).**" Right below this is the link: Download ACH Contribution Form. Click on that and follow the instructions, and your automatic gift withdrawal will be in place. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to contact our office at 888.364.LIFE or info@lutheransforlife.org. Many thanks in Christ! — John Hawkins

To Leave or Not Leave an Estate Gift—10 Things to Consider (Part One of Two)

by John Hawkins, Director of Development for Lutherans For Life

Most ministries—and non-profit organizations for that matter—encourage their supporters to remember them in their estate plan or with a planned gift.

This is altogether appropriate. Leaving a gift is one way donors can help make sure that the important work they were dedicated to during their lifetime continues on after they are called home.

Like a current “cash” gift, an estate or planned gift is one that is committed to now. The difference is, of course, that it will be received instead in the future (with the date and the dollar amount usually indeterminate).

Have you thought about leaving something to a ministry? In doing so, there may be 10 things to consider in this process. Here are the first five.

1. Do you have a heart for the organization or cause?

This is probably a good place to start. In short, has the charity or ministry been doing important, vital work that you have been committed to during your life? Do you want its mission and program to remain in place after you are called home? If so, read on ...

2. Do you have discretionary assets?

It goes without saying that you must have something in order to leave something. Whether you have “enough” to in turn leave an estate gift is your judgment call. Right now, about six percent of households are designating a future estate gift in their plan. At the same time, we know that only about one in 500 will owe federal estate taxes (at present rates). So, the vast majority of folks designating future gifts do not have a taxable estate (or likely anything close to it).

Of course, you will want to make sure your family is well taken care of after you are gone. One way to do that and still leave a gift is to designate that a percentage of your estate will go to a ministry and the rest (the vast majority) will go to family. For example, some folks compose their will so that, for example, 2%, 5%, or 10% of whatever remains will go to ministry or charity. That means that 98%, 95%, or 90%, respectively, would still be designated for family. Both purposes are, therefore, achieved.

3. Do you have an encouraging family?

Speaking of family, I have known several during my years in ministry that I think would have been surprised if their loved ones had not left something for a favorite ministry. In short, these family members knew how important the ministry was to their loved ones during their lifetime and how much they wanted to see their work continue after they had departed. Likewise, if they tithed while they lived, it would only be natural for them to leave 10% (or whatever percentage they gave annually) of their worldly possessions behind for worthy causes.

4. Do you understand how estates or planned gifts work?

It's good to have a basic idea of estate or planned giving options that are available. For example, there are four types of bequests (or designations through a living trust) that can be made:

- Specific percentage of the estate (e.g., 5%, 10%, etc.).
- Specific dollar amount (e.g., \$10,000, etc. Note: The dollar amount stays the same if estate size increases or decreases during your lifetime).
- Specific item of property (e.g. real estate, stamp or coin collection, appraised artwork, etc.).
- Contingency (e.g., if in a “worst case scenario” all main beneficiaries should predecease you, this designates how your assets will be distributed).

In addition, you can leave a percentage or specific dollar amount from an IRA or equivalent, life insurance policy, Church Extension Fund, or other account via a Beneficiary Designation. (Feel free to contact me or the holder of your account for more information.)

Last but not least, certain Life Income gifts (irrevocable) can also be put in place which will provide an opportunity to reduce taxes, generate an income for you and/or your loved ones, and leave a future gift to a ministry. For example, Charitable Gift Annuities can be used by those persons who would like to generate an annual income of 5% or more (a significant portion of which is tax free), receive a tax deduction, and leave a cash gift to ministry upon their death.

Likewise, Charitable Remainder Trusts can be established to do basically the same as a Charitable Annuity except there is an option to provide an income stream to loved ones upon your death.

(For more information on any of the above concepts, feel free to contact me.)

5. Do you have supportive legal counsel?

Let me speak just for myself on this subject. I could not have written a personal will without an attorney. The attorneys I utilized practiced specifically in the area of estate planning, and they were supportive of the idea that I wished to include estate gifts in my will. If I needed to write a new will tomorrow, I would do things the same way.

(Part Two will be carried in the Fall 2016 issue. If you are currently planning and would like an advance copy of the second part, or if you have any questions on LFL or remembering the ministry in your estate plan, please contact me at 888-364-LIFE or jhawkins@lutheransforlife.org.)

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.



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

Lutheran Congregational Auxiliaries and Organizations 2015 Donor Honor Roll

LFL is very grateful to the following congregational auxiliaries and organizations for their financial support in 2015. To God be the Glory! (Please note that contributing congregations themselves were previously listed in the Spring 2016 issue of *Life&Date*.) While every effort was made to include all contributing groups, we regret any that may have been omitted by oversight.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church LWML, Annandale, MN; Bethlehem Lutheran Ladies, Fall Creek, WI; Bethlehem Lutheran Ladies Aid, Morristown, MN; Bethlehem Lutheran Women's Guild, Dundee, IL; Calvary Lutheran Church Sarah Circle LWML, Kansas City, MO; Christ Lutheran Church LWML, Peoria, IL; Christ Lutheran LWML, Elbow Lake, MN; Christ Lutheran LWML, Rawlins, WY; Christ Lutheran LWML Martha Society, Noblesville, IN; Christ Lutheran Sunday School, Columbus, NE; Christ Lutheran Women's Guild, Mantua, OH; Community Lutheran Church Women, Wausaukee, WI; Concordia Church Women, Hagerstown, MD; Concordia Ladies Aid, Clearwater, NE; Concordia Lutheran LWML, Oak Harbor, WA; Dorcas Circle Christ Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN; Dorcas Society Zion Lutheran, Taylor Ridge, IL; Drummond Island Lutheran Women, Drummond Island, MI; Ebenezer Lutheran Johanna Jacobs Circle, Greensboro, NC; Ebenezer Mission Society, Leslie, MO; Emanuel Lutheran LWML, Santa Barbara, CA; Emmanuel Lutheran Church LWML, York, NE; Faith Lutheran Church Women, Dannebrog, NE; Faith Lutheran Ladies Society, Early, IA; Faith LWML, Marinette, WI; First Lutheran Guild, Phillipsburg, KS; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Life Team, Collinsville, IL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Sunday School, Rogers, AR; Grace Lutheran Church Sunday School, Elgin, TX; Grace Lutheran LWML, Visalia, CA; Holy Ghost Lutheran School, Niagara Falls, NY; Immanuel Lutheran Church Ladies, Iowa Falls, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, Tilden, NE; Immanuel Lutheran Church LWML, Livermore, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church Women, Plainview, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church Women's Group, Washington, MO; Immanuel Lutheran Church-Mission Club, Davenport, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Evening Guild, Hewitt, WI; Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid, Logan, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid, Clarinda, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid of Potsdam, Elgin, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Society, Decatur, IN; Immanuel Lutheran LWML, Tuscola, IL; Immanuel LWML, Lone Rock, IA; Immanuel LWML, Powell, WY; LCMS Wyoming District, Casper, WY; Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Ladies, North Mankato, MN; Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg, IA; Lutheran Laymen's League, Pocahontas, IA; Lutheran Priscilla Guild, Manilla, IA; Lutheran Women's Guild, Madison, CT; LWML Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Salinas, CA; LWML Fountain of Life Lutheran, Tucson, AZ; LCMS Iowa District East, Marion, IA; LWML / Fort Dodge Zone, Eagle Grove, IA; LWML Daughters of Zion, Vassar, KS; LWML Lamplighters, Hooker, OK; LWML Nebraska District South, Lexington, NE; LWML Ruth Fellowship, Hazen, ND; Mary Martha Guild Trinity Lutheran, Coal Valley, IL; Mary Martha Guild Trinity Lutheran, Columbia, MO; Mary Martha Society Grace Lutheran, Paris, TX; Messiah Lutheran Women's Guild, Ripon, WI; Mount Calvary Lutheran LWML, Sundance, WY; Munising Christian Men's Group, Munising, MI; North American Lutheran Church, New Brighton, MN; Northern Illinois District Lutheran Teachers Association, Hillside, IL; Our Savior Lutheran Ladies, Centerville, TX; Our Savior's Afternoon Guild, Crookston, MN; Our Savior's Ladies' Guild, Fort Madison, IA; Our Savior's Lutheran Women's Guild, Hutchinson, MN; Peace Lutheran Ladies Aid, Wall Lake, IA; Peace Lutheran Ladies Aid, Wilmot, WI; Peace Lutheran Women's Guild, Columbus, NE; Peace Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Rockport, TX; Pella Lutheran Ladies Aid, Waupun, WI; Philathea Society, Panora, IA; Prince of Peace Lutheran School, Saint Cloud, MN; Redeemer Lutheran Church Ladies Guild, Mountain Home, AR; Redeemer LWML, Marshalltown, IA; Rock of Ages Child Care Center, Colorado Springs, CO; Saint John Lutheran Ladies Guild, Motley, MN; Saint John LWML, Melcher, IA; Saint Matthews Evangelical LWML, Max, ND; Saint Paul Dorcus Circle, Falls City, NE; Saint Paul Ladies Aid, Lester Prairie, MN; Saint Paul Ladies Aid, Fulda, MN; Saint Paul Lutheran Ladies, Janesville, WI; Saint Paul LWML, Lewistown, MT; Saint Paul LWML, Bridgeport, NE; Saint Peter's Ladies Aid, Scribner, NE; Salem Lutheran Church Sunday Morning Bible Class, Salem, MO; South Shore Trinity Lutheran Guild, White Bear Lake, MN; St John Ladies Aid, Kiron, IA; St John Lutheran School, Lombard, IL; St John Lutheran Women's Guild, Oskaloosa, IA; St John LWML, Alta, IA; St Johns Evangelical Lutheran Ladies Aid, Arnold, MO; St John's Fellowship Club, Pekin, IL; St John's Lutheran Church LWML, Wilcox, NE; St John's Lutheran Church Mission Guild, Racine, WI; St John's Lutheran Ladies Aid, Victor, IA; St Luke Lutheran Church Sunday School, Schleswig, IA; St Luke's Missionary League, Worland, WY; St Mark Lutheran School, Kentwood, MI; St Paul Dorcas Society, Fairview, KS; St Paul Ladies Aid, Bonduel, WI; St Paul Ladies Aid-Whitehall, Strum, WI; St Paul LLL, Altamont, IL; St Paul Lutheran LWML, Ogden, UT; St Paul Lutheran Church LWML, Minot, ND; St Paul Lutheran Ladies Aid, Indianola, IA; St Paul Lutheran School, Sioux City, IA; LCMS Minnesota North District, Brainerd, MN; St Paul Lutheran School, Concordia, MO; St Paul LWML, Garner, IA; St Paul LWML, Latimer, IA; St Paul LWML, Wauneta, NE; St Paul Women of Life, Tripoli, IA; St Paul's Church Cotta Guild, Waseca, MN; St Paul's High School, Concordia, MO; St Paul's Lutheran Adult Bible Class, Webster City, IA; St Paul's Lutheran Church Women, Wenatchee, WA; St Paul's Lutheran Ladies League, Manito, IL; St Paul's Lutheran School, Latimer, IA; St Paul's LWML, Park City, MT; St Paul's Men's Club, Concordia, MO; St Peter Lutheran Church LWML, Elma, IA; St Peter Lutheran Church Women, Westgate, IA; St Peter Lutheran School, Saint Peter, IL; St Peter LWML, Midland, SD; St Peter's Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, St Paul, MN; St Peter's Lutheran Church LWML, Riceville, IA; St John Ev. Lutheran Ladies Aid, Merrill, WI; St John Lutheran Church LWML, Clarinda, IA; St John's LWML, Denver, IA; St John's LWML, Buffalo, MN; St Johns Women Society, Luverne, MN; St Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church Ladies Guild, Milwaukee, WI; St Paul Library Fund, Brookfield, IL; St Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, Alta, IA; St Paul Lutheran Guild, Red Bluff, CA; St Paul's Lutheran Church Sunday School, Manito, IL; St Paul's Lutheran Sunday School, Havana, IL; St Peter's Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, Forestville, WI; Tabitha Society, Manito, IL; Trinity All Circle Guild, Mallard, IA; Trinity Ladies Aid, State Center, IA; Trinity Ladies Aid, Guttenberg, IA; Trinity Ladies Aid, New Haven, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church LWML, Knoxville, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church LWML, Hartford, SD; Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday School, Roanoke, IL; Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid, Millersburg, IA; Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid, Willowbrook, IL; Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid, Elmore, MN; Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid, Packwaukee, WI; Trinity Lutheran Ladies Society, Hampton, IA; Trinity Lutheran Mission Circle/LWML, Glidden, WI; Trinity Lutheran Missionary Society, Jefferson City, MO; Trinity Lutheran School, Hobart, IN; Trinity Lutheran Women's Guild, Boone, IA; Trinity Lutheran Women's League, Fort Dodge, IA; Trinity LWML, Glenwood, IA; Trinity Missionary League, Copperas Cove, TX; Trinity South Divide Ladies Aid, Sidney, NE; Trinity South Divide LWML, Peetz, CO; Lutheran Foundation of Texas, Austin, TX; Village Lutheran Ladies Guild, Lanoka Harbor, NJ; The Bowen Living Trust, Renton, WA; Women of Holy Trinity, Lakeview, MI; Women of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Festus, MO; Women of Life, Williston, ND; Women of St Paul, Fort Dodge, IA; Zion Lutheran Church Bible Class, Grant Park, IL; Zion Lutheran Church Ladies Guild, Manning, IA; Zion Lutheran Church LWML, Hiawatha, IA; Zion Lutheran Church LWML, Fairmont, OK; Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School, Poplar Bluff, MO; Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid, Danvers, IL; Zion Lutheran LWML, Hillsboro, OR; Zion Lutheran Missionary Women's League, Poplar Bluff, MO; Zion Lutheran School, Marengo, IL; Zion Lutheran School, Beecher, IL; Zion Lutheran School, Matteson, IL; Zion Lutheran School, Staunton, IL; Zion Lutheran Women, Terra Bella, CA; Zion Lutheran Women's Society, Sauk Centre, MN; Zion LWML, Ogden, IA; Zion LWML, LuVerne, IA; Zion LWML, Cologne, MN



2016 Lutherans For Life National Conference
Here We Stand • October 21-22, 2016
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Bloomington, Minnesota

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

Frank Runyeon on "Hollywood vs. Faith"

Dr. Jean Garton, co-founder and President Emeritus of Lutherans For Life

Col. John Eidsmoe on "Preachers, Politics, and the Two Kingdoms: What Does the IRS Allow?"

John Hawkins on "Giving 'Unusual' Gifts to Ministry"

Rev. Doug Merkey on "Helping Your Church Stand For Life"

Allen Quist on "Creation and What You May Not Know"

Barbara Lyons on "Threats to Lives of the Vulnerable from Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia"

Stephenie Hovland on "Family For Life"

Laura Davis on "Defusing the Tension: Revealing the Heart of the Abortion Debate"

Rev. Don Richman on "Eastern Europe and Russia – The Next Generation: To Kill or to Keep?"

Rev. Fredric Hinz on "Advocating For Life: Lutherans in the Public Square"

Dr. Sheila Page on "Legislation & Medical Perspectives on End of Life—How We Can Make a Difference"

Dr. Sheila Page on "Pain Perception in the Developing Human"

Deaconess Kimberly Trombley on "Here We Stand: Welcoming People of All Abilities into the Church"

Jānis Diekonts with an update on Lutherans For Life of Latvia

Rev. Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life Executive Director

Heather Salemink with a workshop on children's life activities, games, stories, and more

Betty McGuire with a tour of the City Life Center in Minneapolis, which will include a prayer walk past a nearby abortion facility and through the neighborhood

REGISTER NOW!

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

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13).

Pre-Conference Events Friday, October 21



Pastor's Luncheon with Col. John Eidsmoe

– “Yes, I know Luther spoke of Two Kingdoms and I need to educate my people on their responsibilities to the Kingdom of the Left. But if I mention politics, the IRS will yank our tax exemption—won’t they?” May we influence elections? May we influence legislation? What does the IRS allow, and what does the IRS prohibit? And is there a time when we must obey God rather than men?

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Workshop: Helping Your Church Stand for Life with Rev. Doug Merkey – How do I equip my congregation to get more involved in life issues? What is a “Life Team,” and how can I form one? How can Life Team training help my Life Chapter? How do we keep going when the going gets tough in life ministry? Get extremely practical, field-tested, Gospel-centered answers to these and similar questions at this valuable workshop. It’s ideal for anyone who wants to see their church more consistently and robustly enjoying and expressing the Gospel in the life arena.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshop: Giving “Unusual” Gifts to Ministry with John Hawkins – When it comes to making either a current or planned gift to ministry, donating cash usually comes to mind first followed by other common assets, such as securities, real estate, etc. But are there some “other” things that can be contributed—especially through your estate—that would prove to be beneficial to a donor and/or the receiving ministry? In this session, John will look at some different types of assets which aren’t donated every day but which, nevertheless, ministry friends may want to consider as part of their giving plans.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tour: City Life Center with Betty McGuire, Executive Director – The City Life Center is a multi-faceted, pro-life ministry located in Minneapolis in the most diverse neighborhood in the United States, with over 100 different languages spoken in a two-mile radius. We will tour the City Life Center’s turn-of-the-century, converted three-story brick home and the two-story brick carriage house. After touring the center and learning about their ministry, staff will guide us on a square-block prayer walk past a local abortion facility and through the neighborhood where many live who regularly meet at the City Life Center for prayer and Bible study.

Leave church 1:30 p.m./Return 4:00 p.m.





2016 Lutherans For Life National Conference
Here We Stand • October 21-22, 2016
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Bloomington, Minnesota

SCHEDULE: 2016 LFL National Conference

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm.	Registration – Exhibitor set up
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Pastor's Luncheon with Col. John Eidsmoe "Preachers, Politics, and the Two Kingdoms: What Does the IRS Allow?"

Pre-Conference Tour & Workshops:

1:30 p.m.	City Life Center Tour leaves from church
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	"Helping Your Church Stand For Life" with Rev. Doug Merkey
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	"Giving 'Unusual' Gifts to Ministry" with John Hawkins
5:00 p.m.	Opening Worship Service
6:30 p.m.	Banquet
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Keynote Address – Frank Runyeon – "Hollywood vs. Faith"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Opening Devotion
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Workshop I
8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Children's Workshop
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Workshop II
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	BREAK
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Workshop III
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	LUNCH
12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Exhibits and Development and Life Ministry hospitality room visits
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Workshop IV
1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Children's Workshop
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	BREAK
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Dr. Jean Garton, co-founder and LFL President Emeritus
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	LFL International Update – Jānis Diekonts/Rev. Don Richman
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	LFL Closing & Devotions



REGISTRATION FEES

Adult registration (Early Bird) – \$100
Adult registration (after 9/15/16) – \$125
Friday only – \$40
Saturday only – \$75
Student registration* – \$50
Child registration (6-12) – \$30
Child 5 and under** – no charge

*Student financial assistance available

**Children 5 and under are admitted free, but please include them when registering.

MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

La Quinta Inn – Minneapolis
Bloomington W
5151 American Blvd. West
Bloomington, MN 55437

How: Call 952.830.1300 or 800.SLEEPLO by September 28, 2016, to reserve and guarantee your guest room. You will need to guarantee your room with a credit card. **Be sure to ask for the Lutherans For Life National Conference discount.** The room rate is \$79 per night plus taxes.



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

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

**Conference
Sponsorship!**

Virginia Flo • National Conference Director • vflo@lutheransforlife.org

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 Life 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.

National LFL Board of Directors

Lynette Auch, President – Lesterville, South Dakota

Rev. Everette Greene, Vice-President – Cincinnati, Ohio

Henry A. Gallmeyer, Secretary – Decatur, Indiana

Ronald L. Soule, Treasurer – Mason, Michigan
Keith Alabach, State Representative – Marion, Indiana

Diane Albers, State Representative – St. Louis, Missouri

Jamilyn Clausing – Garden Prairie, Illinois

Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama

Renee Gibbs – St. Louis, Missouri

Stephenie Hovland – Portage, Wisconsin

Deaconess Tiffany Manor – New Hartford, Connecticut

Paula Oldenburg, State Representative – Rhinelander, Wisconsin

Sheila Page, DO – Aledo, Texas

Rev. Charles St-Onge – Deux-Montagnes, Quebec, Canada

LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

Deb Lakamp, Illinois – East Peoria

Keith Alabach, Indiana – Marion

Rev. Rich Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove

Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa

Connie Davis, Michigan – Macomb

Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis

Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls

Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco

Rev. Chris Brademeyer, North Dakota – Buffalo

Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington

Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

LFL has 11 State Federations, 97 local Life Chapters, 118 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 104 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

2016 Lutherans For Life National Conference Here We Stand • October 21-22, 2016 Bloomington, Minnesota

