



In Holiness and Honor – Sex and Family Life in a Fallen World

Our culture's prevailing view of sexuality has failed.

Let's look at the much more beautiful and fulfilling Christian vision for marriage, procreation, and family.



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Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
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The Gospel According to Sex

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

What does sex have to do with life issues? Why would a ministry dedicated to life issues devote a journal volume to discussing sex?

Every human life happens in a body. Every human body has a sex. Marital sexuality begins life and gives life. Marriage, sexuality, and procreation belong together. Questions about the nature, dignity, and integrity of human life often intersect with questions about sexuality and gender. What does it mean to be a human being? What does it mean to have a body? To whom does this body belong? How ought this body be used? How does sexuality relate to individual identity? What rights and responsibilities does life impart to a human person?

God's Word for sexuality does not amount to simply—or even primarily—“no.” God's “no” always comes with His “yes!” to something better anyway (2 Corinthians 1:19-20). Maleness and femaleness, masculinity and femininity, are good: “[T]he rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:22). Sexual desire and sexual delight are gifts: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Matthew 19:5). Serving and pleasing spouse and offspring with one's body is godly: “And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion’” (Genesis 1:28a). He designed us for relationship and communion and intimacy. We may find comfort, fulfillment, and reward in each other.



Sexuality symbolizes and illustrates the entire Christian life. The complete self-giving and unconditional acceptance of husband and wife toward each other and toward childbearing and childrearing participate in God's own miracle-working activity. This loving sacrifice and service embody the Trinitarian embrace of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26-27). Marriage and family, sexuality and procreation reflect the grace of God in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:32). Therefore, sexuality sought outside of marriage or exercised exclusively to gratify self and flesh's appetites cheaply imitates, poorly substitutes for, and only incompletely apprehends the fullness of God's blessing for it. Celebrating and engaging in the blessings of chastity, modesty, and even celibacy best protect and prepare the heart patiently awaiting His vocation to marriage. And taking one's place within the Christian fellowship, whether as spouse or single, leaves nothing lacking (Mark 10:29-30).

Can we be Lutherans For Life without also being Gospel-motivated voices FOR joyful, courageous, compassionate marriage, sexuality, and procreation? Christians can speak and teach even more enthusiastically about sexuality than the culture does!

60,069,971 Abortions in America Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973

by Steven Ertelt

The United States marks 45 years of legalized abortion in all 50 states, at any time for any reason throughout pregnancy, on January 22, the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision ... A new analysis published by the National Right to Life Committee indicated there have been an estimated 60,069,971 abortions since the Supreme Court handed down its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision allowing virtually unlimited abortions.

“Sixty million unborn children have died as a result of the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions,” said Carol Tobias, National Right to Life President. “However, through the right-to-life movement’s determination to protect mothers and their children, we continue to see evidence that our efforts to educate America about the unborn child’s humanity, and our efforts to enact protective pro-life legislation, are having a tremendous impact in moving our nation away from Roe’s and Doe’s deadly legacy.”

In the document “Abortion Statistics: United States Data and Trends,” NRLC Education Director Dr. Randall K. O’Bannon provides the figures based on data from both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute (GI), a former Planned Parenthood research arm. Guttmacher receives numbers directly from abortion centers themselves and is the prime source for more current figures because the CDC has never tabulated accurate numbers of abortions. The CDC relies on figures from state health departments, some of which rely on voluntary reporting — and it hasn’t had data from some states, such as California and New Hampshire, for more than a decade.

“Because of these different methods of data collection, GI has consistently obtained higher counts than the CDC. CDC researchers have admitted it probably undercounts the total number of abortions because reporting laws vary from state to state, and some abortionists probably do not report or under-report the abortions they perform,” O’Bannon explains.

The number means there are more than 3,657 abortions daily and 152 abortions per hour **every hour** in the United States.

The number of total abortions in the United States overall is higher because some states, such as California, New York, and Colorado, legalized abortions prior to Roe. Those pre-Roe abortion figures are difficult to obtain—though some estimate at least one million abortions may have occurred in these states in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The good news for pro-life advocates is that abortions are on the decline.

Source: www.lifenews.com/2018/01/18/60069971-abortion-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973



Overpopulation?

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

“How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.” *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Poverty remains a perennial problem. It persists even after thousands of years of human civilization addressing it. Despite dramatic advances in agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and communication, some people still do not have access to what they need for survival. This ought to concern us all, especially Christians called to love our neighbors in need.

Can the world's resources support so many bodies? Should we encourage couples to procreate fewer children? May governments intervene if they don't? Such suggestions became popular in the late eighteenth century. One (reverend!) Professor Thomas Malthus hypothesized that population multiplies geometrically while food grows arithmetically. He warned that unless birth rates decreased (by force, if necessary), apocalyptic consequences would occur.

While the catastrophes he forecast never came to pass, subsequent generations revived his ideas. Stanford biologist Paul Ehrlich threatened in 1968 that global population surges were leading to imminent mass starvations. His prophecies have failed as well, and research has repeatedly and thoroughly discredited both Malthus and Ehrlich. Nonetheless, many contemporary environmentalists keep laying the blame for deforestation, fossil-fuel depletion, animal-species extinction, and climate change at the feet of unrestrained human fertility. They insist that lest we selfishly elevate our own desires over the welfare of future generations, we must all take responsibility for limiting childbirths—including via abortions.

Demographic data do not corroborate these conclusions. International authorities indicate that current food production could sustain ten billion people. Freshwater withdrawals have risen seven times over the last hundred years, but population has only gone up four-fold. Presently, fewer than eight billion bodies inhabit the planet. Every individual could have five acres of her own land, a whole half acre of it suitable for farming. An area the size of Texas could house us all, and the population density would still be lower than many cities. If all we needed was space to sleep, we could fit in Connecticut, leaving the rest of the world wide open.

Furthermore, experts are observing that population growth is slowing down. Many developed nations, like the U. S., have more people dying than being born annually. Some European countries already offer financial incentives to have more children, and the Polish and Danish governments have run advertising campaigns urging procreation. In Japan, each woman averages 1.21 children—not enough to replace the parents. Total population will fall 90% in just four generations at this pace. This puts further pressure on industries and economies, as the population gets older with fewer working-age people to support it. One model predicts world population reaching a pinnacle of 8.3 billion by 2050 and then dropping. Once this trend begins, it becomes increasingly difficult to escape, because fewer people have fewer children who have fewer children of their own and so on.

Of course, hunger and homelessness afflict too many among us. Indeed, they have proven problematic since long before anyone complained about overpopulation. Just because overpopulation isn't causing the trouble doesn't mean the trouble doesn't exist. And compassion requires arranging daily bread for those who suffer in these circumstances before engaging them in debates. But For Life author Randy Alcorn maintains that "like most things, the answer to poverty isn't any one simple thing. However, we can say with certainty that every method to alleviate poverty requires one primary ingredient: community."

So, having more people actually turns out to be advantageous for the fight. History has continually confirmed that more minds and more hands equal more solutions. Whenever societies have overcome poverty, they have done so utilizing collective infrastructures. Sometimes certain segments of the public must become more comfortable with a less luxurious standard of living. If inadequate distribution bears more fault than insufficient production for poverty, then it seems beneficial to add more buckets to the brigade. On the other hand, devoting precious resources to "family planning" or "population control" measures only aggravates the predicament, particularly when impoverished people need bodily essentials instead of lectures about sex.

Overpopulation worries make poor warrants for abortion. Financial benefits do not nullify moral objections. Who wants to occupy a culture where innocent blood has bought our comfort? The disagreement about abortion can only be settled in response to one question: "Is the unborn child a human being?" As For Life educator Greg Koukl puts it, "If the unborn is not a human being, no justification for abortion is necessary. If the unborn is a human being, no justification for abortion is sufficient."

From God's perspective, more people means more blessings. Scripture only ever speaks positively of population increase. **"And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it'"** (Genesis 1:28a). **"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a**

For Christians, "too many people" is impossible.

Each additional person affords another opportunity to love and give in the way that brings God Himself the highest joys.

reward ... Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!” (Psalm 127:3, 5a). The promise of Abraham’s stars-outnumbering, sands-exceeding offspring represents the greatest benediction in Israel’s entire Old Testament history. (Scientists estimate seven quintillion grains of sand on earth and one hundred billion stars in our galaxy alone.) Likewise, Job epitomizes God-given righteousness (Job 1:8) and true riches (Job 1:3) with his 20 children (Job 42:12-13). Jesus Himself reinforces it: **“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God’”** (Mark 10:13-14).

He who sends the mouths also sends the meat. **“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”** (Romans 8:32). Ubiquitous sparrows provide substantiation: **“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”** (Matthew 6:26). **“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows”** (Matthew 10:29-31). The One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10) will multiply nourishment miraculously when necessary (Matthew 14:17-21, Exodus 16:14-15), enough to satisfy every stomach and then some.

For Christians, then, “too many people” is impossible. Each additional person affords another opportunity to love and give in the way that brings God Himself the highest joys. And in the neediness of every neighbor more we encounter and embrace Christ Jesus (Matthew 25:40). This communion supplies our subsistence even better than bread (Deuteronomy 8:3), until we enter together as innumerable multitude (Revelation 7:9) into the abundance of the everlasting resurrection.



“Jesus Loves Me” and Those with Down Syndrome!

On March 21, 2017, World Down Syndrome Day, we at Lutherans For Life shared that, “While some global government officials boast of abortion rates approaching 100% for Down syndrome pregnancies, Lutherans For Life celebrates these unique human beings as precious blessings created, redeemed, and called by our Lord. We recognize, receive, and respect them and their families as our brothers and sisters, and we enthusiastically commit to sharing with them the sorrows and joys that accompany every life. We ... thank our Heavenly Father for enriching our lives through the individuals we remember on this World Down Syndrome Day.”

Two stories shared last fall by national LFL team members highlight the value of these precious brothers and sisters.

“Normally, picking up items I have had mended at a local sewing shop is not an emotional experience—but today was otherwise. The owner ... asked about my parents, which led to more family talk. She then mentioned how she has a 44-year-old brother with Down syndrome and then shared her frustration with people, including her other siblings, who forget that her brother has feelings too, and how ignored he often is. Then the phone rang, which ended the discussion, but it was obvious how much [she] cares for her brother.” *Lowell Highby*

Responding to this story, Virginia Flo wrote: “Thanks for sharing. Tuesday, I attended a funeral for Susie, who had Down syndrome. She was 52 but a child at heart with a love for Jesus. I think it was the largest funeral in my church in many years. The theme for the day was ‘Jesus Loves Me’ which Susie sang as a solo with my adult and children’s choir in the background a few years ago. When anyone has a childlike faith, that is what Jesus wants. Susie was a special Olympian when she could still do it. There were more medals on display than Carter has pills. Her family was devoted to her. What a



blessing she was to our congregation—and, obviously, the community as well ... How can we not like these kids—they are amazing. God does not make mistakes, so they are in His plan. Too bad everyone doesn’t recognize that ... Susie’s parents are just wonderful, caring, loving Christians who did everything they could to help her lead a life knowing the Lord. She was baptized and confirmed with full knowledge of Jesus. She had a wonderful life as a special Olympian, even becoming the female athlete of the year a number of years ago.”

Susie was featured a few years ago in a wonderful video Virginia produced for her church: www.lutheransforlife.org/article/jesus-loves-me-and-those-with-down-syndrome.

Fear and the Conditioning of Society

by Duane Matz

“Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof” (Genesis 19:8).

What was Lot thinking? Obviously, he wasn't. His thinking had been clouded by fear, and his response was governed by the conditioned response of society. You see, in Lot's world, hospitality was so important that it would be unthinkable to abandon his guests to this mob!

But what father would turn his virgin daughters over to a mob to be gang raped? This just doesn't compute with you or me. What Lot did was wrong! The only explanation is fear. Fear can cause us to do things without thinking through the consequences. (We will see this same kind of fear played out with his daughters later on in a cave outside the city of Zoar.)

We may not understand Lot's misplaced values, but we ought to be able to understand fear. Fear often causes us to react in ungodly ways in accordance with the conditioning of our society. For example, in America, the act of aborting a child has been effectively legal since 1973—and it has become a conditioned response to what can be a fearful situation!

What mother would willingly end the life of her child—a mother who is gripped by fear and has been conditioned by society to believe that it is an acceptable option. That is why we need to support the work of crisis pregnancy centers. The caring people at these centers attempt to remove one element of this deadly equation—the element of fear—as they seek to provide a way out of the situation by seeking to provide whatever help and counsel are necessary to get that young girl or woman to overcome her fears and carry her child to term.

This is why we need to work to overturn the laws that make this act acceptable to many in our society. This is why we need to work to overturn society's conditioned response to an unplanned pregnancy!

And what about those mothers who acted on their fears and aborted their child? We need to be there for them as well, assuring them of a loving, merciful, forgiving God—reminding them that there is no sin that Jesus did not pay for on the cross!

There is one more conditioned response that needs to be addressed and that is the conditioned response of the church. People in the pews need to be conditioned to the heart of God and His concerns about life. This is not to be done in a manipulative way but rather by simply and consistently preaching the Word of God and what He says about life, trusting the Holy Spirit to do His work!

Prayer: Father, You have not given us a spirit of fear, but rather one of power, love, and a sound mind. Help us in our moments of panic to turn to You and trust You for our deliverance.

Duane Matz served as a lay pastor with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) from 1999 to 2009, as well as an announcer on Christian radio station WEMI – The Family in Appleton, Wisconsin, for 25 years. Now retired, he and his wife Joan are members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Greenville, Wisconsin.

Science, Religion, and the HHS Mission Statement

by Jonathan Lange

The US Department of Health and Human Services recently described its mission as “serving and protecting Americans at every stage of life, beginning at conception.” Imagine that. An agency created to protect “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” wants to protect all human life. Sadly, powerful lobbies oppose it.

Their mission statement has since been revised to omit the phrase “beginning at conception.” According to some critics, protecting human life from the moment of conception violates “the separation of church and state.”

First, a point of fact—the phrase “separation of church and state” is not found in the Constitution. Not even the idea is found in the Constitution. The Constitution was designed to allow members of all churches to have full-throated participation in the government without having to deny their faith as the cost of full citizenship.

The non-establishment clause, the free-exercise clause, and explicit prohibitions against a religious test for public office are all designed to let people of faith into the government, not to keep them out.

Second, it is a highly dangerous practice to use labels in place of sound reasoning. If we allow viewpoints to be excluded from the public square just because they are “religious,” without actually considering whether they are true, we will all become fools. Imagine living in a society where those in power could overturn the plain truth simply by calling it “religious.” In fact, you don’t have to imagine it. We are dangerously close to this already.

Progressive ideology is dismantling and marginalizing some of the most basic facts of human well-being by claiming that plain truth is “religious.” If this dangerous trend is not stopped, none of us on either side of the aisle will be able to guess which truths will be overturned next. We will all be hurt in unpredictable ways.

Besides, basic biology is not a distinctly religious belief. It is common knowledge which does not require any divine revelation or ecclesiastical authority to prop it up. The most fundamental fact of modern biology is that your body is in a continual state of change and development from cradle to grave. Yet, through all the changes, your identity remains the same.

The science of embryology has traced this continual development all the way back to a single-cell organism called the zygote. What is most amazing about a zygote is that it is entirely self-contained and self-directed. Your mother’s body didn’t add anything to your being after fertilization; she only sheltered and fed you.

Just as your current body grows and matures as long as you keep it safe and fed, so also a zygote has absolutely everything needed to grow and mature. Keep it sheltered and fed for 20 years, and it’ll be driving off to college.

In fact, while the womb is designed to do this job, it has been done elsewhere. Ectopic pregnancies sometimes come to term. In Ogden, in 1999, Sage Dalton was delivered by C-section when the amazed doctors found her outside her mother’s womb. Worldwide, there have even been four cases of healthy children delivered from their mothers’ livers!

Since there is an undeniable continuity from zygote to grave, some try to confuse the science by blurring the line between egg and zygote. Dr. Richard Paulson, a critic of the HHS Mission Statement, wrote in the *LA Times*, “no new life is formed [when the zygote comes into being] since ‘the egg and the sperm were already alive.’”

But, of course, all life arises from life. Spontaneous generation went out with the flat earth. The real question is this: When does a new life come into being?

Science answers the question by comparing both the makeup and actions of the egg and sperm with those of the zygote that results from their coming together. Do they have the same material makeup, and do they do the same things?

For instance, no one would claim that a sperm cell simply develops into a zygote. Upon entry into the egg, it dissolves. It ceases to be a cell at all, losing both its chemical makeup and its ability to do what all sperm cells do (swim to fertilize eggs).

In the same way, an oocyte (egg) does not smoothly develop into a human being. At the moment of sperm-egg fusion, its entire makeup is changed, and it stops acting like an egg at all.

The egg is designed to receive fertilization. But as soon as it is fertilized, the new cell secretes chemicals and builds barriers against any sperm still outside of it. That’s why embryologists don’t call it a “fertilized egg.” There is no such thing. It is a human zygote, a new single-celled human being who will grow to maturity if fed and sheltered.

None of this is a special revelation from heaven. We can see it with a microscope. Standard textbooks on embryology don’t establish “religion,” just common knowledge. Those that use the “religion” label to set aside plain truth are simultaneously attacking religion and science.

Someone at Health and Human Services wanted their mission statement to reflect the truth. Let’s hope that someday it will.

Rev. Jonathan Lange is the District Life Coordinator for the Wyoming District LCMS.

The most fundamental fact of modern biology is that your body is in a continual state of change and development from cradle to grave.

Yet, through all the changes, your identity remains the same.



Assault in Our Wounds

by James M. Kushiner

The accusations continue. Sexual assault dominates the news. As Nicole King points out in *Salvo* magazine, when it comes to sexual assault, “the safest place for a woman when she is a child is growing up with two married biological parents. And the safest place for her when she is grown is to be married to a man.”

Of course, this observation is not intended to let anyone off the hook for sexual assault, nor is it intended to put the blame on the victims. We should assist the innocent and blame the guilty. But what are the new rules—now that the Sexual Revolution has swept away the very notion of men being gentlemen and women being ladies as repressive and retrograde?

It is because sex is so highly complex on multiple levels—biological, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and even chronological/developmental—that messing with any aspect of it sends ripple effects into other levels, not to mention into broader areas of life, for sex itself creates marital, paternal, maternal, sibling, and other familial relationships, each with its own character and narrative arcs.

In the recently released third season of the BBC series *Broadchurch*, in which police are trying to identify a rapist, a suspect says of a sexual sin, “It’s just sex.” What’s the big deal?

But is sex ever really “just sex”? Sometimes it can be “just sex” when a man reaches a point when sex is merely and only a biological impulse, indulged and gratified, with whomever. When sex is just sex, a man is no longer a man in full. And the object of his sexual congress may also feel the consequences of his debasement, perhaps joining him in sex as just sex. Sex has taken over, his god is now his appetite, and the soul of the man has been repressed, abused, and gone into hiding.

In that sense, the carnal man is worse than a dog, for the dog can do no better than copulate following a designed instinct, but he does himself no harm, which is what we expect. When self-control is not exercised over the sexual faculty with which we’ve been gifted, the sexual impulse will take over, and the manhood will slowly weaken.

Curb your sex, or it will curb your soul. Paul knew as much, enlightened by the grace and light of Jesus, that we are body-soul unities that cannot “just have sex” without it leaching vital energy and life out of our souls.

Sex needs to be put in its place ... Too hard for us? Who then can be saved?

With God, even this is possible and our wounds may be healed.

Many men effectively assume the power to violate a woman through an invasive and violent abortion, often labeled “choice,” implying it is free and un-coerced. But many women undergoing an abortion are doing so “on demand”—of a man.

Such men may assume they may also violate a woman’s body in other less pregnant circumstances. In a culture in which a woman can read *Fifty Shades of Grey* next to a young lad on an airplane without shame, perhaps people should be less surprised by sexual abuse. This is not to excuse the disgusting crimes but to diagnosis the greater disease.

In the wake of the sexual collapse of the sixties which eliminated most sexual sins by redefining them, there are few wise men left who can judge the new sexual offenses coming to light, properly name them, assign them proper penance, and give perpetrators absolution with any moral clarity or authority. It’s a free-for-all in which the loudest voices and those presently in power jockey for position and authority to “address the problem” and punish the wicked of their own choosing and absolve others.

The remedy has always been found in the self-control enjoined upon mankind through the long unfolding of the Judeo-Christian revelation. A God who marks His covenanted people is telling them something important about the power of sex and its control and its proper place within the divine-human economy: It comes to us as a gift, to be used for its purposes and no other, and its abuse will sully the soul of man. Its proper use in marriage is a great mystery, a great gift which was given for the protection of all. It doesn’t always work out that way, sadly, but its imperfect practice is no excuse for throwing it all away for what we see today.

Sex needs to be put in its place ... we are reminded that all our hope hangs on the promise, “**A virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,**” the greatest Gift of all, who has instructed us through the law and the prophets and His teachings on the paths of righteousness and holiness. Too hard for us? Who then can be saved? With God, even this is possible and our wounds may be healed.

James M. Kushiner is executive director of The Fellowship of St. James (www.fsj.org).



Made New

by Lynette Auch, President, National Lutherans For Life

Donna was devastated. Why was this happening? Confused, hurt, and scared, she wondered, “Am I the cause?” “Did one of my parents find someone else?” All she knew was her parents were getting a divorce, and she had no say about it. Time moved on, and Donna’s father remarried. Scars and hurts of divorce still lying fresh within her being, Donna hoped to find love and acceptance from her new stepmother. Instead, Donna was scorned and belittled. Donna hoped her father would listen to the thoughts of her heart. Sadly, he sided with her stepmother. A huge rift developed between Donna and her father. Eventually, Donna found herself kicked out of her own home. Wanting to be loved and accepted by someone, she found herself in one bad, promiscuous relationship after another.

Donna cannot do anything to change the heartbreaking events of the past nor the lifestyle she chose. But, Donna can choose either to let the past cripple her and her relationships or to let God heal the past.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” (Acts 3:19 NIV)

By confessing the hurts and sins and believing in the healing, cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, Donna can be empowered to release the pain of the past and be healed.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5 KJV)

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:7 NIV)

Washed in the blood of the Lamb, Donna can realize a new identity in Christ.

“... [H]e saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:5-7 NIV)

“I have called you by name, you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

“... I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:18 NIV)

Our identity does not come from what we have or have not accomplished. Nor does it come from what others say we are or from the warped view of the culture we live in. It does not even come from our own sinful, carnal choices. Our identity, and who we are, comes from what Christ has done for us. Yes, there are consequences from our choices, but where we end up is not who we are. Who we are is what’s been done for us.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself

through Christ ...that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-19a)

Jesus Christ, whose shed blood covers over our wretchedness, makes us clean and holy. God the Father sees us and our faults and failures through the rose-colored glasses of Jesus Christ. We are a new creation, the sum of the Father's love for us. We have been made new! As we are made new, we are no longer condemned ...

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1-2 NIV)

And we are free to leave a life of sin.

“Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’” (John 8:10-11 NIV)

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1 NIV)

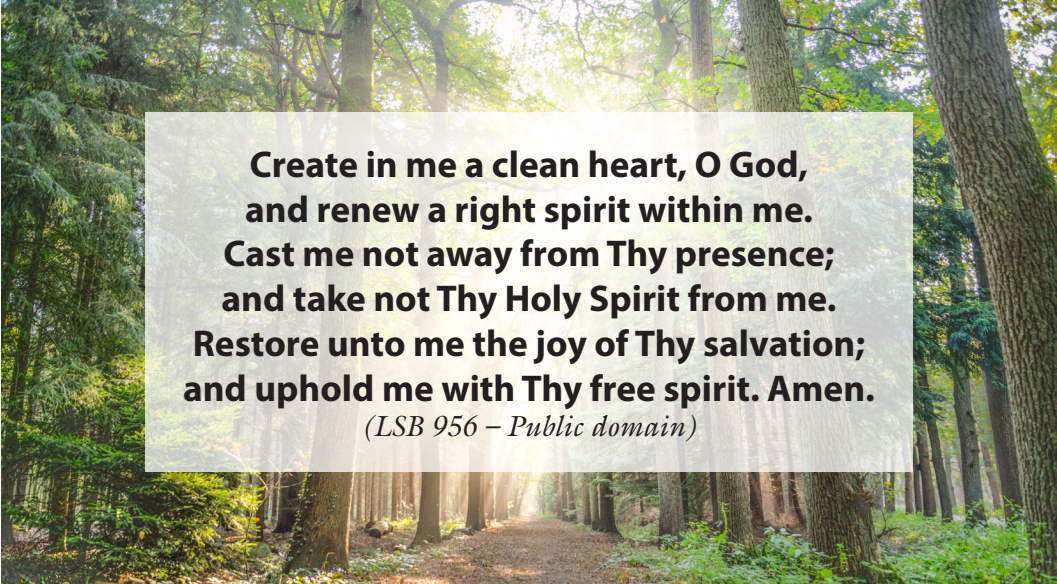
That we may declare the praises of our God!

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9 NIV)

Like Donna, anyone can be made new in Jesus Christ.

“This is grace: the forgiveness of sins for the sake of the Lord Christ, the covering up of all sins” Martin Luther (What Luther Says, Vol. 2 #1839).

Donna's story, and many stories like hers, is exactly why the life-affirming ministry of Lutherans For Life is so very important. We share hope! Hope for Life!



**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**
(LSB 956 – Public domain)



The Annunciation of Our Lord – March 25

The path to the cross did not begin in Bethlehem but in Nazareth! March 25 is the most appropriate time to celebrate the Incarnation. God became man at Jesus' conception in Mary.

To assist pastors and congregations in observing the Annunciation of our Lord—and to teach the great value God in Christ places on all human life—a number of resources are available. Find out more at this link:

www.lutheransforlife.org/article/the-annunciation-of-our-lord-march-25

Mark your calendars ...

2018 Lutherans For Life National
Conference • St. Louis, Missouri
October 12-13



From Age to Age the Same

www.lutheransforlife.org/conference

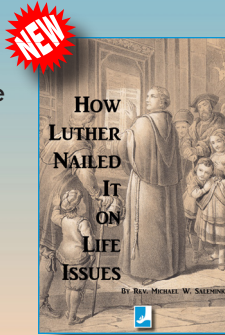
“... I am he,
and to gray
hairs I will
carry you. I
have made,
and I will
bear; I will
carry and
will save.”
Isaiah 46:4

How Luther Nailed It On Life Issues

Author Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life, writes:

“Life issues didn’t arise overnight ... these circumstances have been ... providing opportunities to proclaim the Gospel—since ancient times ... Martin Luther also applied his voice to life issues ... Luther promoted marriage, encouraged childbearing, and praised parenting. He concluded even unborn babies qualified as full-fledged human beings..”

Item LFL207T. **\$0.50 ea.** (This product qualifies for quantity discount pricing.)
Also see: www.lutheransforlife.org/article/how-luther-nailed-it-on-life-issues



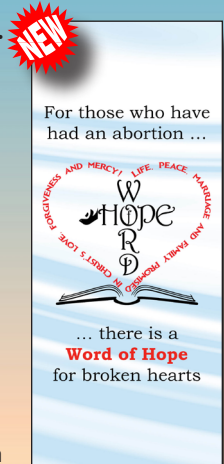
Word of Hope brochure

Abortion. It’s so painful. It’s an experience that goes beyond our physical and emotional being. It penetrates deep into the heart of our spiritual life. The pain just doesn’t go away. This brochure offers information on LFL’s Word of Hope post-abortion ministry, which offers confidential post-abortion referral, counseling, and reconciliation.

Item LFL404T. **FREE**

Check out our new Word of Hope website! If you are in a crisis situation, have had an abortion, are pregnant right now, or have been hurt by someone, here you will find hope. Word of Hope:

**888.217.8679; info@word-of-hope.org
www.word-of-hope.org.**



Be sure to like/follow LFL on social media! See links below:

- www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife
- <https://twitter.com/ForLifers>
- www.instagram.com/lfly4life



Also see:

- www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife
- <https://vimeo.com/user4132928>



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*)

You can find Life Thoughts based on the historic One-Year Lectionary at:

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-thoughts-in-the-church.

April 1 – Resurrection of Our Lord – “Who will roll away the stone for us?” (Mark 16:3). Does abortion solve surprise pregnancies or only add death to sin? Does assisted suicide settle incurable conditions or only pile guilt upon grief? Death offers no answers but only deepens despair with darkness. Christ is risen for just such situations! Jesus brings life and salvation, hope and joy, peace and purpose. His dying and rising rolls back the stone, revealing a forgiving Father and a gracious Savior in this with us! *Lord Jesus Christ, work out Your resurrection within and among us. Amen.*

April 8 – Easter II – Sometimes the unassailable sanctity of life goes unseen (John 20:25). Sometimes age, appearances, inabilities, or errors seem to conceal it. We do not need productivity, popularity, prosperity, or prettiness to prove a person’s worth. By becoming incarnate from conception to crucifixion, Jesus proclaims every one of us precious. By resurrection and forgiveness, Jesus pronounces even the least of these priceless (20:29). *Heavenly Father, enable us to believe and receive Your gifts even without seeing. Amen.*

April 15 – Easter III – Almighty God calls us, even us, His own children (1 John 3:1). He accepts us, adopts us, and adores us as helplessly dependent little ones. Indeed, He made Himself just such a child to show us how special this is! Can we also look upon helpless and dependent persons—like embryos or incapacitated patients—not in pity or competition but with Father-like appreciation? If we see Him as He is, we shall become like Him (3:2)! *Omnipotent and gentle God, let no one deceive us about the value Your love gives all humankind. Amen.*

April 22 – Easter IV – Lord Jesus shepherds such fragile creatures as us with God’s presence and power (John 10:11). He shepherds through the very valley of the shadow of death itself (Psalm 23:4). In low points like terminal diagnoses and dark places like complicated pregnancies, the devil descends to pilfer and plunder life’s God-given abundance from us. We need not fear, for the self-sacrificing Resurrected One (John 10:18) promises to replenish anything evil deprives. He will not allow us to lack as He carries us to glory and honor. *Faithful Guardian, sustain us in danger and make us agents of Your coming kingdom. Amen.*

April 29 – Easter V – “[A]part from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5b). This holds as true of any of us as it does of unborn or elderly individuals inhabiting life’s edges. “In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us” (1 John 4:10a). Rather than our accomplishments or qualifications, His creating, redeeming, and calling our entire race gives human beings significance. If God so loves us, we also get to love one another (4:11). *God of truth and love, grant us so to know Your devotion that we also delight to show it. Amen.*

May 6 – Easter VI – “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34b). His people once misinterpreted His Word and treated Gentiles as less treasured than Jews. Jesus declared and demonstrated that humanity doesn’t come in degrees—there’s no “more human” or “less human.” Everyone who has any “human” at all is infinitely beloved and belongs to the Lord. If He welcomes the wicked with forgiveness, He also welcomes the weak with friendship, and by His Spirit He can make saints of all (10:47). *Son of God, cause us to overcome the world and obey Your commandments. Amen.*



May 13 – Easter VII/Mother’s Day – “[T]he testimony of God is greater” (1 John 5:9a), like a mother’s reassurances counteracting the bully’s ridicule. “[His] Word is truth” (John 17:17), like a mother’s comforting correcting emotional assumptions. The world’s abortive ways say, “You can’t endure.” The Son of God says, “I will undertake for you.” The devil’s suicidal deceptions say, “Take control.” The Son of God says, “Trust me.” The sinful flesh says, “No, the burden’s too heavy.” The Son of God says, “Yes, the blessing is abundant!” *Holy Father, sanctify our lives and our neighbors in the testimony of Your truth. Amen.*

May 20 – Pentecost – “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh” (Acts 2:17a). The Lord embraces sons and daughters, young and old. Every human being, whatever her shape and size, exists to reflect the goodness of God’s will that made her. Every human being, no matter his faculties or functions, witnesses to the authority of God’s Word that brought him forth. May this incontrovertible truth issue also from our lips and our lives! *Lord and Giver of Life, breathe Your Spirit into us. Amen.*

May 27 – Holy Trinity – “Woe is me! ... I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (Isaiah 6:5). Many among us complicit in crimes against life secretly cry Isaiah’s lament. “Behold ... your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for” (6:7). The Gospel of God’s healing holiness speaks especially to them. How can we keep silent about it when the same fierce Spirit of Fatherhood and Sonship so fills us? *Loving Father, Son, and Spirit, send us to prophesy of Your eternal life. Amen.*

June 3 – Pentecost II (Proper 4B) – Human frailty shows God’s greatness. The least and weakest ones among us actually declare His power and praises more clearly than any others (2 Corinthians 4:7). Shall we be embarrassed of what they boast about along with Him? Who are we to interrupt the glad tidings with embryo-destroying experiments or assisted-suicide prescriptions or abortion procedures? Should we not rather beg to carry Christ’s death just so in our own bodies that we may also bear His life (4:10-11)? *Light of Light begotten, shine Your love and life through our brokenness. Amen.*

June 10 – Pentecost III (Proper 5B) – Bearing unintended (at least from Eve’s perspective) offspring was key to God’s magnum opus (Genesis 3:15). A crippled body became heaven’s vehicle for humankind’s salvation. Advocating abortion access, supporting fetal-tissue research, and tolerance of hastening deaths reveal how narrow our imagination can be. Thanks be to God that His creativity exceeds our near-sightedness! *Almighty Maker, open our eyes to Your vision for life until it opens our mouths as well. Amen.*

June 17 – Pentecost IV (Proper 6B)/Father’s Day – Being Gospel-motivated voices for life gets frustrating when we don’t immediately see changed hearts and saved lives. But fathers both know and show that heroes are built over time, not born in a moment. We can take courage from God Himself patiently planting His own kingdom like seeds (Mark 4:26-28) and carefully cultivating it like saplings (Ezekiel 17:22-24). Boys become men, and stems will yield. This Gospel—for us too!—renews our life-affirming enthusiasm and routines. *Ancient of Days, teach us to walk and talk and work by faith and not by sight. Amen.*

June 24 – Pentecost V (Proper 7B) – Though his existence must have seemed pointless, Job refused suicide (Job 2:9-10). And God catalogued a world of testimonies to His enduring dominion and goodness (38:1-11). Paul likewise lists a litany of purposes in pain and hope during hardships (2 Corinthians 6:4-10). Jesus remains gracious Lord both of life and of all threats to it (Mark 4:41). He knows what it takes to save. In this comfort and confidence we may share His rest while life issues rage around us. *Mighty Savior, give us Your peace and Your voice in our dangers. Amen.*



Over one million babies have been killed worldwide by abortion so far in 2018 – A digital counter is illustrating the horrifying scale of abortion around the world ... The Worldometers website [www.worldometers.info/abortions] has real-time counters showing dozens of different statistics, including births, deaths, and public expenditure. It also has one for abortion. [As of January 11, 2018] the number has passed 1.2 million ... The number increases every second or so, each one representing the death of an innocent unborn child. The website uses data from the World Health Organization, which estimates that there are 40-50 million abortions in the world every year, corresponding to approximately 125,000 abortions per day. These figures are disputed, as the WHO's recent worldwide report, produced in consultation with the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, has been accused of "wildly inflating" the number of illegal abortions taking place in developing countries. However, while the statistics may not be completely reliable (and bear in mind that although Guttmacher might exaggerate illegal abortions, it doesn't include those caused by abortifacient contraception), the counter serves as a stark reminder of the vast scale of the slaughter of the innocents happening across the world. Society for the Protection of Unborn Children CEO John Smeaton said: "It is truly staggering to think that already in this year, which has barely begun, over a million lives have been lost to abortion. On this, the 51st anniversary of the founding of SPUC, it spurs us to work harder than ever, in cooperation with all like-minded organizations, to put an end to the evil of abortion, both here in Britain and around the world." (*SPUC*, 1/11/18)

Abortions Worldwide in 2018

www.worldometers.info/abortions

Denmark on Verge of Eradicating All Down Syndrome Births – Denmark is on track to eradicate all Down syndrome births. In 2016, only four Danish children were born with the condition after a prenatal diagnosis; the rest were aborted. Pro-life activist Liz McDermott, speaking before a Danish government committee, noted the high rate of abortions in Denmark on Down syndrome babies. The Danish government, meanwhile, disavows the country's health policies seeking to end Down syndrome. Danish Ambassador to Ireland Carsten Sondergaard wrote an Irish committee scheduled to debate Ireland's legalization of abortion: "In general it should be noted that it is not the policy of the Danish health authorities to eradicate Down syndrome, but it is their duty to provide the pregnant woman with the best possible basis for her to make her own decision about her pregnancy." The ambassador's statement essentially points out that although Denmark does not specifically target Down syndrome babies, it does not prevent mothers from deciding their fates. Denmark has stricter abortion laws than the United States (an abortion is permitted only in the first 12 weeks), yet the country does allow later-term abortions for women whose babies have been diagnosed with certain disabilities. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 12/6/17; *CLR LifeWire*, 12/7/18)

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

Owen's Mission Reaches Fundraising Goal

Good News! Owen's Mission, a special project of Lutherans For Life (LFL) since 2013, recently made its \$175,000 funding goal.

The purpose of Owen's Mission is to present a *Touch of Life* fetal model set to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the U.S. free of charge. This enables students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. Indeed, believing that "one picture is worth a thousand words," it is LFL's hope that it will help students to value themselves and others as intended by God.

Now that all funds have been raised, a fetal model set is available for all 900+ Lutheran day schools across the country who have not yet received one.

"Thanks be to God our Father for how enthusiastically this special project has been received and supported! We humbly and joyfully thank all the generous individuals, congregations, schools, and others whose gifts have made Owen's Mission possible," says LFL Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink. "Hundreds and thousands of students, teachers, and parents are not only hearing but seeing and feeling how God loves life, especially their own, in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior!" he added.

So far, some 33,000 Lutheran school students have had an Owen's Mission program out of some 133,000 nationwide. **That means that there are still many schools out there who haven't yet contacted the ministry for a free fetal model set and program.**



The sets are typically presented during a 15-20 minute program by an LFL staff member or trained volunteer. Most are done as part of a regularly scheduled school chapel service or assembly.

"This heart-changing and life-saving message, that God has created, redeemed, and called every human being as His treasure and our privilege, is the greatest investment in the next generation. The everlasting hope and joy of the Heavenly Father's loving grace insulates and encourages our children at the most impressionable point of their spiritual formation against the lies, temptations, and accusations of sin and Satan. We don't want any Lutheran school to go without it," said Rev. Salemink.

Is your Lutheran school one of those who has not yet had an Owen's Mission presentation and received its fetal model set? Simply contact Lutherans For Life at 888.364.LIFE or via email at info@lutheransforlife.org and arrangements will be made.

One final note: For those who have been donating to Owen's Mission or considering it, we still need your help! Instead of directing your gift to Owen's Mission, however, please **make your gift out to Lutherans For Life**, insert it in the provided envelope, and it will instead be directed to the ministry's most pressing operational need.

May all our youth be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life!

John Hawkins

Aloha, From Y4Life!

by Laura Davis, Y4Life Director

For those of us involved in life ministries, we know that it can be a lot of hard work with long, emotional days. However, we also know it can be the greatest joy and encouragement. My work with **Y4Life** gives me the opportunity to meet all kinds of students and youth from across the country—students who are strong supporters of life, students who are new to the concept of life ministry, and students who have no idea what we are about or what we stand for as Lutherans For Life. I think one of my favorite things to do is to talk to a group of students and see the light bulbs turn on, to see that moment when they realize that ALL life is valuable because God has made it valuable, including their own lives!

Recently, I was invited to Hawaii as the first representative from Lutherans For Life to visit the islands. One of our **Y4Life** college leaders is from Oahu, and she and her father, a local pastor, arranged the entire trip. I spoke at two churches and their affiliated Lutheran schools while I was there: Our Savior Lutheran in Aiea and Emmanuel Lutheran on the island of Maui. Both of these schools are unique in that the large majority of their students are not members of the church, and many do not attend church at all. These schools are truly mission schools, reaching out to their community with the love of Christ. This also meant that, for most of the students, they were hearing about Lutherans For Life, and our mission, for the first time.

I was blown away by the welcome I received from these two congregations. I was housed in two loving host homes, I was shown all around the two islands, and, most importantly, I was able to share our passion for life with a new and eager group of students. You can always tell how interested a group is by the quality of their questions, and these youth asked GREAT questions—some of which I had to stop and think about for a minute!

My prayers and the prayers of Lutheran For Life will continue to be with the churches in Hawaii who are working diligently and with great joy to share the truth of God's love with the people around them. Aloha! And God bless!



LFL Receives Fund Grant for Word of Hope

Lutherans For Life (LFL) was recently blessed to receive a \$10,000 grant for its **Word of Hope** post-abortion healing ministry from The Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund located in Texas.

Word of Hope is the only national post-abortion crisis line that shares the Gospel from the standpoint of Lutheran doctrine, thereby emphasizing Scripture alone, faith alone, and grace alone. Many local and regional hotlines operated by other groups often share that both faith and works are necessary to receive soul-saving grace.

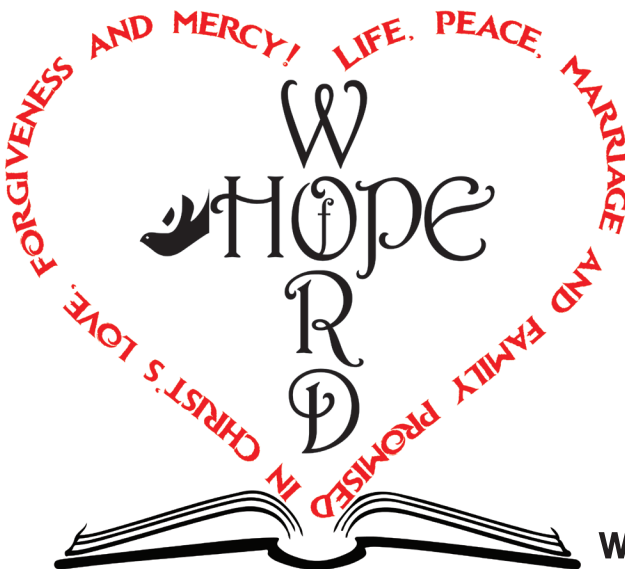
Professionally staffed since 1991, the current hotline director is deaconess intern Christina (Chrissie) Gillet, PsyD, who is an experienced diaconal counselor and expects to graduate from the deaconess program at Concordia Theological Seminary in 2018. She replaced the longtime volunteer director Grace Kern, MSW, who recently retired. Currently, Chrissie works an average of 10 hours per week.

With the help of the Randolph Fund and other donors, LFL hopes to achieve its vision and goal which are to increase staffing hours and eventually institute a full-time program to better serve all who call in crisis.

“Hearts broken by the guilt and grief of abortion are receiving Gospel relief and healing through Chrissie and **Word of Hope**. Lives, marriages, families, and souls are being saved as **Word of Hope** declares and demonstrates our Lord’s grace and forgiveness,” says LFL Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink. “We cannot overestimate how the message that God treasures every life—regardless of age, appearance, ability, or history—will positively impact relationships, communities, and nations! And we can’t thank the Randolph Fund enough for their support and partnership in this ministry of miracles,” he added.

Word of Hope’s mission area is the entire United States and can be reached by calling 888.217.8679 or emailing info@word-of-hope.org.

John Hawkins



www.word-of-hope.org

Y4Life in Washington, D.C., 2018

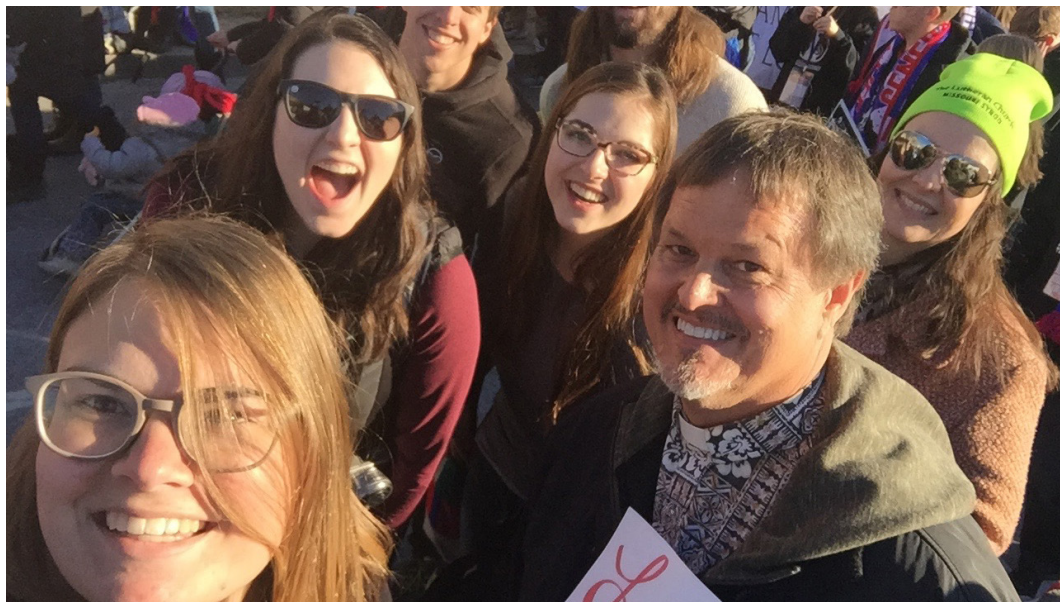
by Laura Davis, Y4Life Director

Since **Y4Life** officially launched five years ago, we have tried to encourage youth and young adults to attend the annual March For Life in Washington, D.C., through our **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**, program. I have always seen the March for Life as a great encouragement for students, a way for them to realize that they are not alone in their beliefs, that there are literally hundreds of thousands of people willing to march, rain or shine, snow or sun, for the rights of the unborn.

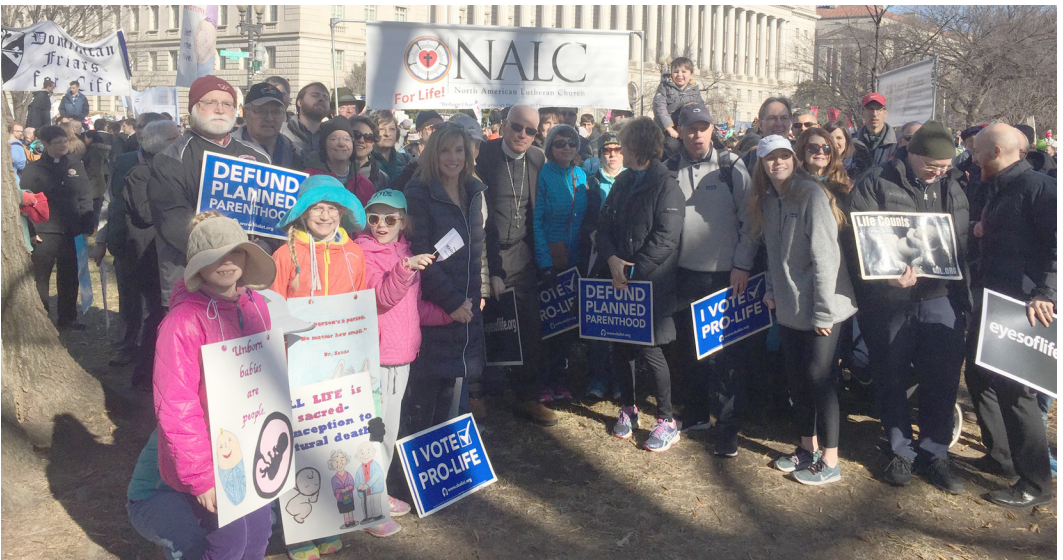
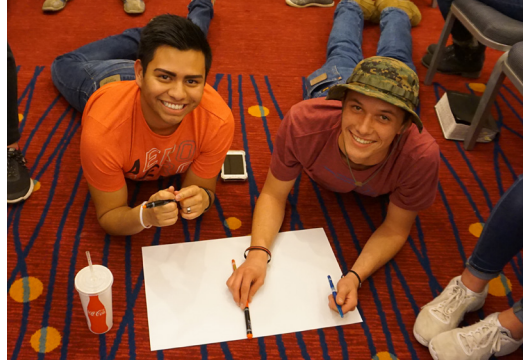
We have enjoyed our small, annual **Y4Life** trips to D.C., but last year we noticed an exciting opportunity. There are so many Lutheran student groups that attend the March for Life, students from high schools and college groups from across the country. Wouldn't it be great to create an opportunity for all of those students to get together, to get to know each other and learn from each other? From this idea was born the new **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**, three-day event, provided free of charge to any Lutheran student or student at a Lutheran school.

The first new and improved **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**, took place this January in conjunction with the 45th annual March for Life. It included daily Bible studies and devotions, music, opportunities for fun and fellowship, guidance on using the Metro and sightseeing, and, most importantly, attending the March together as one big Lutheran student group. The weekend culminated in a "mini-conference" where student groups could learn more about **Y4Life** and Gospel-motivated life ministry.

The weekend was a great success! We had over 75 students, representing three Lutheran high schools and two Lutheran universities, as well as other students and families. All of these youth and young adults brought great energy and joy and were a huge encouragement to me and the Lutherans For Life staff. We pray that the weekend was an encouragement to them, and we look forward to seeing them all again in 2019!



Lutherans For Life at the 2018 March for Life



The New 2018 Tax Law – A Few Thoughts

by John Hawkins, Director of Development

After much drama and speculation, Congress finally passed a revised tax code which President Donald Trump signed into law on December 22. All provisions therein took effect on January 1. As was expected, the vote was along party lines, with Republicans voting for it and Democrats against.

When the bill was being debated, many non-profit organizations and associations lobbied hard against it, saying it would cost charities billions since fewer people would be itemizing their deductions. Such predictions remain in place now that the law has passed, with one study predicting that donations will fall by \$13 billion or 4.5% of what was given in the most recent year.

Is this prediction correct? More on that in a moment, but let's first selectively review how the law will affect individuals and households.

What's Changed

Probably the biggest change in 2018 is the nearly doubling of the standard deduction from \$6,350 for single filers to \$12,000 and \$12,700 to \$24,000 for joint filers. For the middle class especially, this is a tremendous tax break.

It also means that the number of people who itemize their returns will be greatly reduced. As a result, the number of people who qualify for charitable deductions is expected to fall from 30% of filers to possibly only 5%. Therefore, from strictly a tax deduction standpoint, there will be no incentive for many folks to give. Of course, by lowering taxes, this change also means people will have more disposable income which can be spent, saved, and donated (or a combination of all three).

Additionally, with the exception of the lowest level of 10%, marginal tax rates have



been reduced. For example, a household earning roughly \$90,000 jointly was in a 25% tax bracket in 2017. In 2018, it will be 22%. Likewise, joint taxpayers earning \$165,000 in 2017 were in a 28% bracket but now will be in a 24% one (and so forth).

Granted, from exclusively a tax standpoint, if someone who itemizes gives \$100 to charity, they will be able to deduct \$3 or \$4 less now than before. However, it's not as if it was \$25 or \$30 less. Is this really going to keep people from giving?

Another area to highlight is the estate tax. In 2017, federal estate tax could be incurred if gross assets remaining exceeded \$5.49 million individually or \$10.98 million for a married couple. In 2018, this has more than doubled to \$12.2 million for individuals and \$24.4 million for married couples. Question: Will this impact a lot of folks? The answer is not many at all. Before the change, only one tenth of 1% of households had a taxable estate. This presumably now will fall into the one hundredths of 1%. In short, the estate tax as it applies generally in society has been effectively eliminated.

What Hasn't Changed

Not everything was changed by Congress. For example, qualified charitable distributions from IRAs remain unchanged. So, individuals 70½ and older subject to required minimum distribution from their IRA can still donate up to \$100,000 to public charities (and ministries) without paying income tax on the same. Of course, avoidance of income tax is the benefit. There is and has not been any income-tax deduction available in this case. Likewise, long-term capital gains rates are unchanged. So, a couple earning \$100,000 who donates appreciated stock to a ministry instead of selling it may avoid paying 15% capital gains tax.

Will Giving Decrease?

I'm always concerned about being a false prophet, especially knowing what happened to them in ancient times as told in the Old Testament! With gifts to religious organizations accounting for between two-thirds and three-fourths of charitable giving each year, however, I don't believe that most ministries will be affected. I believe this will especially be the case for those that people are dedicated to and passionate about. Knowing souls are being saved is the strongest incentive I can think of to give. In the case of Lutherans For Life, it is not only souls **but lives also** that are being saved. To God be the glory!

We certainly hope LFL can count on your continued support this year. In the end, lives and souls aren't something that involve a deduction, tax break, marginal rate, itemization, exemption, etc. They are priceless gifts of God.

May we extend all our best in Jesus Christ to you and yours for the remainder of 2018.



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

2017 Congregational Donor Honor Roll

Lutherans For Life is very grateful to the following congregations for their financial support in 2017. To God be the Glory! *Please note that space does not permit us to list contributing auxiliaries and organizations from supporting churches. A separate roll of these groups will be included within the summer 2018 issue of LifeDate.*

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Anderson, SC; Abiding Word Free Lutheran Church, Deshler, NE; Amazing Grace Free Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD; Apostolic Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, Moses Lake, WA; Ascension Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN; Ascension Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI; Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA; Ascension Lutheran Church, Cleburne, TX; Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO; Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, North Platte, NE; Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Broomfield, CO; Bethany Lutheran Church, Salisbury, MD; Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach, CA; Bethany Lutheran Church - NALC, Laurens, IA; Bethany-Trinity Lutheran Church, Waynesboro, VA; Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Minot, ND; Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church, Forest City, IA; Bethel Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NC; Bethesda Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL; Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, SD; Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, IL; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ridgewood, NJ; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Standish, MI; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lewiston, MI; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kennewick, WA; Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Parma, Parma, OH; Blessed Savior Lutheran Church, New Berlin, WI; Brookfield Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI; Calvary Lutheran Church, Verona, NJ; Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Eben Junction, MI; Canoga Park Lutheran Church, Canoga Park, CA; Catalina Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ; Chapel of The Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Christ Lutheran Church, Mantua, OH; Christ Lutheran Church, Shingletown, MI; Christ Lutheran Church, Clinton, WI; Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, KS; Christ of The Bay Lutheran Church, Green Bay, WI; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia, MI; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lago Vista, TX; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lambertville, MI; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Spencer, IA; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Redlands, CA; Christ the Life Lutheran Church, Waukesha, WI; Church of The Good Shepherd - Lcms, Clayton, IL; Community Lutheran Church, South Burlington, VT; Concordia Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD; Concordia Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN; Concordia Lutheran Church, Lake Park, IA; Concordia Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA; Concordia Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL; 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 Free Lutheran Church-AFLC, Northwood, ND; Ebenezer Lutheran Church-Manheim, Paige, TX; Emanuel Lutheran Church, Sisseton, SD; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton, IN; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tell City, IN; Emmaus Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI; Ev. Lutheran Emanuel Church of Patchogue, Patchogue, NY; Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Overland, MO; Evangelical Lutheran Church of St Michael, Chicago, IL; Fairlawn Lutheran Church, Fairlawn, OH; Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV; Faith Ev Lutheran Church OT, Mount Pleasant, IA; Faith Lutheran Church, Easton, PA; Faith Lutheran Church, Eustis, FL; Faith Lutheran Church, Naples, FL; Faith Lutheran Church, Madison, IN; Faith Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, MI; Faith Lutheran Church, Orange City, IA; Faith Lutheran Church, Marinette, WI; Faith Lutheran Church, Humboldt, SD; Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD; Faith Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, MO; Faith Lutheran Church, Warsaw, MO; Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS; Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Prairie, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, Sweetwater, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, La Grande, OR; Faith 'Viera' Lutheran Church, Rockledge, FL; Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN; First English Lutheran Church, Spencer, IA; First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, MN; First Ev. Lutheran Church, Torrance, CA; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Manchester, IA; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; First Lutheran Church, Charlotte, MI; First Lutheran Church, Missoula, MT; Genesis Lutheran Church, Buchanan Dam, TX; Gift of Grace Lutheran Church, Holmen, WI; Gloria Dei Ev. Lutheran Church of Escondido, Escondido, CA; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Central Point, OR; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Peterborough, NH; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Warwick, NY; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, York, PA; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Herndon, VA; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Shalimar, FL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Middleville, MI; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines, MN; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Morris, MN; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sherman, IL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Arnold, MO; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Azle, TX; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cedar Park, TX; Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Mcpherson, KS; Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND; Grace Lutheran Church, Nashua, NH; Grace Lutheran Church, Lakewood, OH; Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, MI; Grace Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI; Grace Lutheran Church, Le Mars, IA; Grace Lutheran Church, Blairstown, IA; Grace Lutheran Church, Kewaunee, WI; Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND; Grace Lutheran Church, Streamwood, IL; Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs, IL; Grace Lutheran Church, Aurora, MO; Grace Lutheran Church, Wayne, NE; Grace Lutheran Church, Denison, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, Paris, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, Elgin, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, San Marcos, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, Hobbs, NM; Grace Lutheran Church, Banning, CA; Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster, CA; Grace Lutheran Church, Blaine, WA; Guardian Lutheran Church, Dearborn, MI; Holy Cross Ev Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warren, MI; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, SD; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Highlands Ranch, CO; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Concord, CA; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Terryville, CT; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Island, NY; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Belgrade, MT; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mound City, MO; Holy Trinity Lutheran

Church, Rogers, AR; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond, OK; Hope Lutheran Church, Granite City, IL; Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, KS; Hope Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO; Immanuel Ev Lutheran Church, Steger, IL; Immanuel Ev Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM; Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Manchester, NH; Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Bristol, CT; Immanuel Evan. Lutheran Church, Ironwood, MI; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sumter, SC; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pensacola, FL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Michigan City, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Iowa Falls, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waukeg, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Livermore, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mayville, WI; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairmont, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Albany, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, ND; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Glenview, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hinckley, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Belvidere, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lindenwood, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sweet Springs, MO; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, KS; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hoxie, KS; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle, NE; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tilden, NE; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giddings, TX; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Roswell, NM; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pasadena, CA; Immanuel Lutheran Church (Lotts Creek), Lone Rock, IA; King of Glory Lutheran Church, Blaine, MN; Kongsvinger Lutheran Church, Oslo, MN; Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Humble, TX; Living Faith Free Lutheran Church, Larimore, ND; Living Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Shore, MN; Living Word Free Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD; Living Word Lutheran Church, Orland Park, IL; Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, TX; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, MO; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood, WI; Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Mount Pocono, PA; Lutheran Church of The Cross, Kent, WA; Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd, Biloxi, MS; Lutheran Church of The Redeemer, Columbus, GA; Lutheran Church of The Resurrection, Waterville, ME; Lutheran Church of The Resurrection, Pensacola, FL; Messiah Ev Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL; Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle, IL; Messiah Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Messiah Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Greenville, MI; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Franklin Park, IL; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Wamego, KS; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Watonga, OK; Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO; Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD; Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, SD; Mt. Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, Peoria, IL; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Suring, WI; Mt. Union Church, Westminster, MD; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City, IA; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Eureka, IL; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley, KS; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Emmett, ID; Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Williston, ND; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Topsfield, MA; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach, NY; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lynchburg, VA; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Union City, MI; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, IA; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Austin, TX; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lovington, NM; Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Ridgecrest, CA; Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Owensboro, KY; Peace Lutheran Church, Chardon, OH; Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, IN; Peace Lutheran Church, West Bend, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Wall Lake, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Neenah, WI; Peace Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN; Peace Lutheran Church, Columbus, NE; Peace Lutheran Church, McCook, NE; Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, TX; Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis, WA; Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI; Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Quimby, IA; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Southaven, MS; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Martinsville, IN; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Goshen, IN; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, IA; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, San Diego, CA; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont, PA; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cuyahoga Falls, OH; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sidney, OH; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Highland, IN; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Saint Cloud, MN; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, SD; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wickenburg, AZ; Renewed Hope Church, North Riverside, IL; Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, NC; Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS; Ruthfred Lutheran Church AFLC, Bethel Park, PA; Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Axtell, KS; Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, IA; Shepherd Hills Lutheran Church, Georgetown, IN; Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church, Lead, SD; Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church, Yuma, AZ; Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Perrysburg, OH; St Athanasius Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA; St James Lutheran Church, Archbold, OH; St James Lutheran Church, Reynolds, IN; St James Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL; St John Ev Lutheran Church, Darien, IL; St John Ev Lutheran Church, Milford, IL; St John Ev. Lutheran Church, Strongsville, OH; St John Ev. Lutheran Church, Aurora, IN; St John Lutheran Church, Evanston, IN; St John Lutheran Church, Fraser, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Ray, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Port Hope, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Au Gres, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Rogers City, MI; St John Lutheran Church, State Center, IA; St John Lutheran Church, Waverly, IA; St John Lutheran Church, Alta, IA; St John Lutheran Church, Newhall, IA; St John Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, IA; St John Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN; St John Lutheran Church, Champaign, IL; St John Lutheran Church, Alma, KS; St John Lutheran Church, Lincoln, KS; St John Lutheran Church, Meade, KS; St John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE; St John Lutheran Church, Covina, CA; St John's Ev Lutheran Church, Union, IL; St John's Ev. Lutheran Church, College Point, NY; St John's Ev. Lutheran Church of Lake Township, Fort Wayne, IN; St John's Evangel Lutheran Church, Waterbury, CT; St John's Lutheran Church, Wapakoneta, OH; St John's Lutheran Church, Sioux Center, IA; St John's Lutheran Church, Homestead, IA; St John's Lutheran Church, Fallon, NV; St John's Lutheran Church, Adrian, MI; St John's Lutheran Church, Center Point, IA; St John's Lutheran Church, Corcoran, MN; St John's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN; St John's Lutheran Church, Sherburn, MN; St John's Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN; St John's Lutheran Church, Wolsey, SD; St John's Lutheran Church, Pekin, IL; St John's Lutheran Church, Effingham, IL; St John's Lutheran Church, Chatham, IL; St John's Lutheran Church, Mexico, MO; St John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS; St John's Lutheran

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

Church, Pilger, NE; St John's Lutheran Church, Wilcox, NE; St John's Lutheran Church, Ogallala, NE; St John's Lutheran Church, Moore, OK; St John's Lutheran Church, Wharton, TX; St John's Lutheran Church, AFLC, Ambridge, PA; St John's Lutheran Church-Spring Fountain, Sumner, IA; St Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth, MI; St Luke Lutheran Church, Winamac, IN; St Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI; St Luke Lutheran Church, Harrison, MI; St Luke Lutheran Church, Elcho, WI; St Luke the Evangelist Lutheran Church, Riverside, CA; St Luke's Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; St Luke's Lutheran Church, New Richmond, WI; St Luke's Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; St Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS; St Mark Lutheran Church, Kentwood, MI; St Mark Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; St Mark Lutheran Church, Edmond, OK; St Mark Lutheran Church, Waco, TX; St Mark Lutheran Church, Conroe, TX; St Mark's Lutheran Church, Benson, MN; St Martin Lutheran Church, Chilton, WI; St Matthew Lutheran Church, Holt, MI; St Matthew's Lutheran Church, New Milford, NJ; St Michaels Lutheran Church, Richville, MI; St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN; St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Thornton, IL; St Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, OH; St Paul Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH; St Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, IN; St Paul Lutheran Church, Colon, MI; St Paul Lutheran Church, Ames, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Eldora, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Aurelia, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Ute, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Mc Gregor, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, WI; St Paul Lutheran Church, Harvard, IL; St Paul Lutheran Church, Skokie, IL; St Paul Lutheran Church, Saint Joseph, MO; St Paul Lutheran Church, Leavenworth, KS; St Paul Lutheran Church, Falls City, NE; St Paul Lutheran Church, Hammond, LA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Worth, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Waco, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Edna, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Bulverde, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Wilson, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Big Spring, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Thermopolis, WY; St Paul Lutheran Church, Wenatchee, WA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Kodiak, AK; St Paul Lutheran Church, Gatesville, TX; St Paul Lutheran Church, Inc., Miami, FL; St Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Oconomowoc, WI; St Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lockport, IL; St Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Of Wildwood, Wildwood, MO; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Webster City, IA; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Potter, NE; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Bremen, IN; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Milan, MI; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Centerville, MI; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Boone, IA; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Readlyn, IA; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Sumner, IA; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Marion, IA; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Ceylon, MN; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Kensington, MN; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Manito, IL; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres, MO; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Cuba, MO; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Arlington, NE; St Peter Lutheran Church, Bowie, TX; St Peter Lutheran Church (Waymansville), Columbus, IN; St Peter's Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD; St Peter's Lutheran Church, Monte Vista, CO; St Stephen Lutheran Church, Waterford, MI; St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Atkins, IA; St Timothy Ev Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, IA; St Timothy Lutheran Church, Huber Heights, OH; St Timothy Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; Stavanger Lutheran Church, Garden City, IA; The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Evansville, IN; The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR; Timothy Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, IA; Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Timothy Lutheran Church, Blue Springs, MO; Trinity Ev Lutheran Church, Spencer, WI; Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Roselle, IL; Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church, Eagan, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lockport, NY; Trinity Lutheran Church, Tryon, NC; Trinity Lutheran Church, Utica, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reese, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Conklin, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Boone, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Creston, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Odebolt, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Packwaukee, WI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Bear Creek, WI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Saint Francis, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Elgin, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Norden, SD; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lombard, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Roanoke, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, El Paso, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Arenzville, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Bridgeton, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Jackson, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS; Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby, KS; Trinity Lutheran Church, Murdock, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Walton, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Ponca, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR; Trinity Lutheran Church, Broken Arrow, OK; Trinity Lutheran Church, San Angelo, TX; Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring, TX; Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanco, TX; Trinity Lutheran Church, Sterling, CO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield Park, AZ; Trinity Lutheran Church, San Pedro, CA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, WA; Trinity Lutheran Church (Sioux Valley Township), Lakefield, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church Freistadt, Mequon, WI; Victory in Christ Lutheran Church, Newark, TX; Village Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Wanskana Lutheran Parish NALC, Wanskana, MN; West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA; Zion Ev Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH; Zion Ev Lutheran Church, New Holstein, WI; Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, MO; Zion Lutheran Church, Willshire, OH; Zion Lutheran Church, Tawas City, MI; Zion Lutheran Church, Marshall, MI; Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Paulina, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Annandale, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Mayer, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Morris, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Alexandria, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Waubay, SD; Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD; Zion Lutheran Church, Bensenville, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Beecher, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Chebanse, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Danvers, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, MO; Zion Lutheran Church, Poplar Bluff, MO; Zion Lutheran Church, Hampton, NE; Zion Lutheran Church, London, AR; Zion Lutheran Church, Georgetown, TX; Zion Lutheran Church, Pampa, TX; Zion Lutheran Church, Nampa, ID; Zion-Penn Ridge Lutheran Church, Glasford, IL.

While every effort was made to include all contributing churches, we regret any that may have been omitted by oversight.

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.

Lutherans For Life ...

Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.

Is not subsidized by any church body.

Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



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

Our Vision ... Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, 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 a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues, such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. We will call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations.

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LFL was at the March for Life. See pages 24-25.