News and Notes

- **Lutherans For Life is seeking a Renewal For Life® (RFL) Director.** RFL, in cooperation with local pastors, seeks to identify and develop Life Teams and Life Team Leaders within congregations across the country. Such Life Teams will educate members about all issues related to the value of life from conception to natural death. The director will manage all aspects of Renewal For Life® including recruiting, training, marketing, and supervising. Relocation to central Iowa is required. BA/BS is required along with supervisory experience. Travel up to 25%. Please see the job description at www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-job-board for more information or contact Lutherans For Life at 888.364.LIFE or info@lutheransforlife.org.

- **Fear Not! There is still time to order LFL’s new Christmas bulletin insert!** Go to www.lutheransforlife.org/store to find out more and to order!

- **Life Sunday 2013 is just around the corner.** Your congregation can address some of these very real-life concerns on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 20, 2013—or at any time during the year. Also check out the resources to complement the Living with Dying theme: www.lutheransforlife.org/store.

- **Attention Thrivent Members! LFL is a Thrivent Choice Dollars Grant Funds Recipient Organization**

  Lutherans For Life is now approved as a Thrivent Choice Dollars® Grant Funds Recipient Organization. If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member, you can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutherans For Life in two ways.

  By phone:
  - Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted say, “Thrivent Choice.”
  - Say or enter your Social Security number or your Member ID number (this is a secure site).
  - Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms.
  - A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

  Or, online:
  - Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
  - Click on “log in” at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven’t registered on Thrivent.com, click on “register now” to register for the full access.)
  - Look for your designated Choice Dollars amount on the right side of the screen.
  - Click on “Direct Choice Dollars” in the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.
  - Search the catalog of organizations to find your choice.
  - Click on “Direct Choice Dollars Now” to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit the organization of your choice.

  Thank you for supporting Lutherans For Life by directing Thrivent Choice Dollars!
The Consequences of Roe v. Wade

54,559,615 total USA abortions since 1973

Based on numbers reported by the Guttmacher Institute 1973-2008, with estimates of 1,212,400 for 2009-2011. GI estimates a possible 3% under reporting rate, which is factored into the total.

Source: National Right to Life, 1/12
The Basics of Lutherans For Life

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.

Structure and Relationships
A local chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

A state federation is an organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. in a state where there are at least five chartered chapters. In a state where a state federation exists, the chapters also become affiliated with the state federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the chapter is incorporated. Thus, Lutherans For Life consists of a network of individual entities formally associated with each other.

Membership Information
All officers of State Federations and Chapters and Life Ministry Coordinators must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and members of National Lutherans For Life.

Membership contributions are divided among the national organization, state federation, and local chapter if it is chartered.

Chapters that wish to include a membership form in newsletters or correspondence are asked to maintain the form and information provided by the national office.

Membership Classifications

Annual Membership
- Annual members join by making a membership donation accompanied by a completed copy of the membership form (or by joining online).
- Annual memberships run from July 1 through June 30. New memberships will expire on June 30 of the year following the initial membership donation.
- An annual membership drive will begin in May of each year. Current members will receive renewal information at that time. The membership drive will also encourage new memberships, although they will be accepted at any time of the year.

Sponsor Membership
- Sponsor members pledge to contribute a certain amount each month and to pray regularly for Lutherans For Life.
- Sponsor members receive a monthly letter from the executive director.
- Sponsor members are asked to renew their monthly pledge each year as part of the annual membership drive.

The Remittance Program of LFL
All MEMBERSHIP donations are shared with the chartered state federation and/or local chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

Annual Memberships:
- 20% goes to the local chapter (If there is no local chapter this 20% goes to the state federation.)
- 20% goes to the state federation
- 60% remains at national

Sponsor Memberships:
- 1/12 goes to the local chapter (If there is no local chapter this 1/12 goes to the state federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the state federation
- 10/12 remains at national
Projects and Plans
by Scott Licht, national director of Lutherans For Life

“If you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans.” With that sage advice from Woody Allen rattling around in my head, coupled with the fact that I had only been an employee of Lutherans For Life for two months, I set about formulating a new strategic plan for the next three years. The resulting plan is a testament to the power of prayer and having GREAT people providing assistance.

There you have it. That’s our Strategic Plan.

I suppose a little elaboration would help. If you look at the illustration, think of Lutherans For Life as a wheel. Just like any wheel, there are spokes that support the wheel. If any of the spokes is too long or too short, the wheel is out of balance and it won’t run as smoothly as it should. You’ll notice that the “axle” or the center of the wheel is the Bible, representing God—the basis and foundation for everything that we do.

Continuing the explanation, these seven spokes are grouped into two broad categories:

**Methods and Means.**

These categories describe how the spokes work to support the Lutherans For Life mission. The first four spokes that we’ll look at are the “Methods” that LFL uses to equip Lutherans to be
Gospel-motivated voices For Life. They are:

- Teaching For Life® curricula and materials for day school, Sunday school, and Vacation Bible School to give children a solid “life” foundation
- Y4Life—the new name for Generations For Life—will offer training, resources, and fellowship opportunities for high school through young adults in their 20s.
- Frontline: The combination of the traditional grassroots structure with the Renewal For Life® structure. Both of these paths (grassroots and RFL) lead to the same goal, they just have slightly different infrastructures.
- Direct: This includes speaking engagements, conferences, websites, etc.: ways in which people of all ages are touched directly with a message of life.

The next three items are grouped under the “means” category – this is HOW we accomplish the goal of equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. They are:

- Funding: Almost all of the things we do cost money and we are completely dependent upon the generous gifts of our members, sponsors, and donors.
- Property: As good stewards, we must assess the condition, suitability, and condition of our property (land, buildings, computers, office equipment, etc.) to make sure we are getting the maximum utility and value from our assets.
- People: Saving the best for last, God has blessed us with an excellent staff. We need to make sure that we are using their talents in the best possible way, that we provide fairly for their needs, and that we fill any unmet needs within LFL that might be identified.

Using this very broad outline of a Strategic Plan, the staff met to develop their annual operating plans—things that they plan to accomplish over the next year in order to support the strategic plan. These goals will help us to serve you better as you continue to do God’s work in equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Thank you for all that you do in this mission and PLEASE contact me with any questions or comments (slicht@lutheransforlife.org; 888.364.LIFE).
Election Reflection Meditation
by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life

I can’t count the times since November 6 that someone has said to me something akin to, “I suppose you are disappointed in the elections?” or “So, now what? Guess you’ll have to regroup.”

Yes, I’m disappointed, but in terms of the protection of the unborn and the infirm, what would really be different if Mitt Romney were elected? The slaughter would have continued as it has under President Obama.

Regroup? No need. LFL will continue to do what our missions says, “Equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.”

So it’s okay to be disappointed, but please do not be discouraged! Spend some time in God’s Word and be encouraged!

Read Psalm 118:1-9
What important, undergirding, and encouraging truth do we find in verse 1-4? (If you are doing this in a group, you may want to read these verses antiphonally just to say this truth over and over again!)

What does verse 5 assure us of when we pray to the Lord in our distress and disappointment?

What encouraging truth does verse 6 offer?

What is our assurance the above is true? (See Romans 8:31-32.)

Discuss the following question based on verse 7. Is to “look in triumph” necessarily the same as being victorious over our enemies?

What victory enables us to “look in triumph” at any situation involving this culture of death? (1 Corinthians 15: 54-57)

What does to “look in triumph” not involve? (Romans 12:19-21)

Discuss how verses 8-9 relates to changing this culture through elected officials.

Read a similar thought in Psalm 146:3. Who does the “son of man” refer to here?

Is there a “Son of Man” in whom we do find salvation? (Mark 10:45)

The above encourages us LFL’ers as it points us to the “Gospel-motivated” part of our mission. It also gives boldness and power to our being “voices For Life.”
Discuss the encouragement you find in the following:

Isaiah 55:11
2 Timothy 3:16
Hebrews 4:12
Ephesians 6:17

The following is an excerpt from LFL’s election response.

“The slaughter will continue until the American people shout, ‘Enough is enough!’ so loudly and consistently that it cannot be ignored. But this will never happen until the American people stop ignoring the shed blood of our children for the sake of their pocketbooks and 401Ks. And this will never happen until the Church stops ignoring the shed blood of our children for the sake of avoiding ‘politics’ or controversy.

“I once asked this rhetorical question in a sermon, ‘If we as God’s people will not stand up and call this wrong thing wrong, who will? If we as God’s people will not stand up and bring the healing Gospel of Jesus to those wounded by this wrong thing, who will?’ A little girl in the front row who obviously did not know or care anything about “rhetorical,” raised her hand and shouted for all to hear, ‘I will! I will!’

“At LFL we are very grateful for those of you who took your Christian values and convictions with you and voted in this election. But now we ask that you trust in the Lord and not in princes. Now we ask that you vote again by a show of hands and a proclamation of the lips, ‘I will! I will!’ That will be the beginning of real and lasting change.”

Discuss this in light of the study above.

My thanks to all of you for your faithful devotion to the Lord of Life and His gift of life. The very fact that you are reading this tells me that your hands are up, and you are shouting, “I will! I will!” Keep them up! There is much to to.

Now go back to the beginning of this study. Repeat the words a few more times, “His steadfast love endures forever.” You can count on that—so, count on that and be encouraged!
Touching Lives and Changing Hearts
by Kay L. Meyer, director of development for Lutherans For Life

As I work on the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) document again this year, I review hundreds of reports that are submitted each year by LFL volunteers. One question on the Annual Activity Report form is this:

“Do you have any personal stories of how LFL has touched lives this year?”

The following are stories that were submitted by Delores Desemone, president of the St. Charles County LIFE LFL chapter.

- A friend overheard a young girl talking on her cell phone about abortion being her only option. My friend asked her for permission to talk to her about adoption. My friend then called to see if I was home, and brought her to my house from Walmart. I was able to share with her what a blessing our five adopted children are. I shared about the variety of involvement the different birth moms have had with our family. I explained the joy of open adoption. We stayed in touch with her and her mother for months after that first visit. Then they moved to Wisconsin. We lost touch with them, but continue to pray for her.

- Danielle, a friend of our local chapter, has received our help through two challenging pregnancies. We gave her showers, and arranged for her to live with a chapter member family for a while. Then we lost touch with her. But, recently she called to invite us to her baby’s first birthday party. She is with the baby’s father and they are going to church.

- Our chapter was hosting an evening to learn about the local Pregnancy Resource Center. Because of the announcements at the end of the worship service, a man contacted us asking if we could help his wife who had recently had a break down. At that breakdown he learned she was 20 years post abortive. They both came to the presentation. I met with her before the presentation and offered her Jesus’ forgiveness, prayed with her, and gave her a GOD’S WORD for Life Bible. She told me two weeks ago she is attending the post-abortive support group classes at the Pregnancy Resource Center and thanked me for my help. Praise God!

LFL is changing hearts and lives. The above stories are examples of people and lives that have been changed because of our work. Please pray for LFL and support us with a gift in 2013. Your gifts make this work possible.

What is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?
The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a government workplace program that allows employees of the government and those in the military to pledge gifts to support eligible and approved non-profit organizations. Lutherans For Life is one of the approved organizations. CFC’s mission is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee...
focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. To request a CFC Charity List and/or a CFC pledge form, contact your local CFC office. The Campaign Locator will assist you in identifying the CFC office where your official duty station is located. Lutherans For Life identification number is 11508.

CFC is the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal, and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. So far in 2012, LFL has received $16,422 from 119 people. If more people knew that LFL is approved as a CFC agency, more who could qualify might give to us. Why not promote the fact that LFL is a Combined Federal Campaign organization in your chapter newsletter? Thank you for your prayers and support.

**Christian Preamble Sample Now on the LFL Website**
Recently one of our donors asked if Lutherans For Life has a sample of a Christian Preamble that they could use when drafting their will. We have added a link to a sample preamble from the LCMS Foundation on the Give page (www.lutheransforlife.org/give). Check it out. Let your loved ones know how much your faith in Christ means to you by putting a message about your faith in Christ into your will or trust.
The Momentum of Our Youth

by Laura Davis, development counselor and director of Y4Life

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to talk to many different people about the younger generation’s role in the For Life movement. One of the questions I am often asked is if youth and young adults are engaged in the debate or if they even think about life issues at all. The answer I give them is an overwhelming YES! Life issues play a significant role in the lives of those of us who are considered youth, even if we don’t realize it!

Whether or not we recognize it as a “life” issue, the struggle with sexual purity is a daily part of life for the younger generation. Teens, college students, and young adults are bombarded with sexual temptation and secular lifestyles that are contrary to God’s wonderful plan for us. I myself personally remember the struggles in high school and college to not only make good choices with my body, but also with my heart and mind. This issue alone is a “life issue”—respecting the life God has given you and using it to honor Him. Respect for life in this capacity is also the foundation for a respect for life in all its forms. Failure to do so may result in having to face another, more recognizable, life issue: unplanned pregnancy and abortion.

The decision of how to confront an unplanned pregnancy is, by nature of the situation, an issue that almost exclusively faces teens, college students, and young adults. Most abortions are done on young, single women. According to the CDC, 50 percent of women who had an abortion in 2009 were under the age of 25. Thirty-three percent of abortions were done on women between the ages of 20-24, and 17 percent on teenagers. Eighty-five percent of abortions were done on women who were unmarried. Even if we are not the ones facing unplanned pregnancy or an abortion decision, youth and young adults are highly likely to know someone who is. At the current rate, nearly one third of women will have an abortion in their lifetime, so it is not crazy to suggest that Lutheran youth are likely to come into contact with someone facing this kind of decision, possibly even a close friend or family member.

Because the decisions and challenges my generation faces are often at the forefront of national social debate, we have developed strong opinions on several of the life issues and these opinions demonstrate a growing momentum for our movement. Recent trends have shown that the upcoming generation is become increasingly prolife and is significantly more opposed to abortion than the generations before it. A national survey commissioned by Students for Life of America and released this summer found that 44 percent of respondents thought that abortions should either be illegal or only legal in cases of rape, incest, or threats to the life of the mother. This supports previous reports that teens are overwhelmingly prolife, with one Gallup poll reporting that 33 percent think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances and 45 percent think it should be legal in only a few circumstances. Even those on the other side of the debate have noticed that our movement is getting younger, as commented on by former NARAL leader Nancy Keenan. Keenan commented on March for Life participants in 2010 by saying “There are so many of them, and they are so young.”

All of this evidence shows that the momentum is in our favor and that we have a great opportunity to turn the tide in this debate by reaching out to youth and young adults like
myself. Lutherans For Life has recognized this opportunity and is addressing it through our new initiative, Y4Life (formerly known as Generations For Life). So what can you do to help? One opportunity you have is to financially support Y4Life programs, especially our March For Life scholarship fund. I would personally love to make Nancy Keenan’s 2010 observation a reality every year that a March For Life is necessary. This year, Y4Life is sponsoring six scholarships to the March for Life and the Students For Life of American Conference. If you are interested in helping a high school or college student attend these inspiring and educational events, please consider donating to this fund.

Starting in St. Louis in April, Y4Life will also be hosting weekend-long servant events for students that combine service and life training. By partnering with local life-affirming ministries, we will give students an opportunity to serve that weekend and after the event is over. In order to have these events happen in a cost-effective manner, we are seeking partnership with LFL chapters, Renewal For Life® congregations, and other Lutheran churches to provide lodging, meals, and chaperone support. Let me know if you are interested in bringing one of these events to your area.

Most importantly, you can help youth and young adults maintain their momentum and develop their passions by praying for them and continuing to support the educational and service efforts of Lutherans For Life. Your work in your communities and congregations provides an ongoing role model for the younger generation. Consider inviting your youth group to participate in a service project or host a For Life movie night for them. By simply exposing them to opportunities to put their beliefs into action, we can continue to cultivate a strong, For Life generation.

1 CDC and AGI statistics can be found at http://www.abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/
2 http://studentsforlife.org/2012/06/22/sfla-releases-poll-results-on-young-people-abortion-and-the-2012-election/
Wish List

We want to share with you our “Wish List.” Most of these items are not included in our annual budget. Please prayerfully consider how you could support one of the projects. A gift of any amount is welcome. We also encourage you to organize a fund-raising project with your Bible study, state federation, chapter, Life Team, or another group from your congregation to assist us.

Repaving the LFL National Life Center Parking Lot
   Estimated cost: $25,000
   *This is not a “glamorous” project, but the parking lot definitely needs attention!*

Educational Resource Manuals
Each year, Dr. James Lamb travels to Lutheran seminaries and presents the life message. At the same time, each student is given an *Educational Resource Manual* full of information on life issues for pastors and seminary students. Estimated cost for the travel and binders for two years: **$5,000**

LFL Teaching For Life® Expansion

*Teaching For Life®*

LFL is in the process of expanding the Teaching For Life® resources to include life studies for youth, an online course, and Sunday school curriculum. We currently have an amazing group of educators working on this project. Your designated financial support for this project is very much needed!
   Estimated cost: **$10,000**

LFL National Conference Scholarships
LFL offers scholarships to youth and church workers so that they can attend our annual LFL conference. Your gift can support this project.
   Estimated cost: **$250 per person**

When you send your donation, please let us know which of the above projects you are giving a gift to support. Let us know if you need more information. We would welcome the opportunity to visit with you.
Speakers Bureau

Do you need a speaker? Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker at a rally, convention, Bible study, worship service, public or parochial school, college/university, or at a workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available from a single presentation or sermon to a multi-day series of workshops. Dr. Lamb says, “These speakers not only address a variety of life issues, but do so based on the Word of God.”

General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- Airfare/Mileage: Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event.
- Lodging: Quiet, non-smoking hotel room.
- Honorarium: Affiliated speakers for Lutherans For Life are not in a paid position. Therefore, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium for affiliated speakers. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Honorariums depend on number of events. Honorariums begin at $200.
- Meals: $25 per day unless other arrangements are made.
- Other: A lectern will be needed. A TV, video projector, DVD player, and/or an overhead projector and screen may be needed.

Speakers:
- James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada)
- Jean Amundson (nationwide)
- Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide)
- Tracy L. Carmack (nationwide)
- Rev. Paul M. Clark (nationwide)
- Connie Davis (nationwide)
- Daniel M. Domke (within five to six hours of Huron, South Dakota)
- John Eidsmoe (nationwide)
- Peter B. Greenspan (within two-three hours of Kansas City)
- Anthony Horvath (nationwide)
- Kimberly Ketola (nationwide)
- Sheila Luck (nationwide)
- Ryan C. MacPherson (within 150 miles of Mankato, Minnesota)
- Betty McGuire (nationwide)
- Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa)
- Russell E. Saltzman (nationwide)
- Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada)
- Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide)
- Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide)
- Francis W. Szarejko (nationwide)
- Ed Szeto (nationwide)

Find out more about these speakers at www.lutheransforlife.org.
We appreciate the many hours our faithful grassroots workers contribute to sharing the For Life message. If you or your state federation/chapter have the opportunity to speak on the life issues in your community, please let us know! This information will help us as we look at our strategic plan and determine the resources that are most needed to help you carry forth your mission for life! Please return to the Life Center or e-mail jrichard@lutheransforlife.org.

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