News and Notes

- **Director of Operations UPDATE:** Lutherans For Life would like to introduce our new Director of Operations, Dale Olson. Dale joined the staff of LFL in February of 2012. (See Leadership section for more information.)

- **We would like to welcome Jean Amundson as our first Regional Director of Texas!** Jean also serves as president of Texas Lutherans For Life. (See Leadership section for more information)

- **Promotional Ideas:** Promote the Lutherans For Life website (www.lutheransforlife.org), LFL resources available at www.cph.org., the LFL Clothing and Accessories Store, and Give page in chapter and state newsletters. Also, encourage people to visit the LFL site for life issue info, articles, and video—and also to sign-up for LFL e-mail.

- **New DVD!** – Our new *For Life* DVD is here! Each of you will receive a complimentary copy. If you receive *Directions* via mail, it is included with this issue. If you receive *Directions* by e-mail, you will receive your DVD in the mail very soon. This edition of *For Life* includes a wealth of extras and a Bible study guide! To purchase additional copies of *For Life*, go to www.CPH.org for details (Item LFL1705; $5.00 ea.).

- **New DVD!** – *The Handiwork of God* – The value of human life comes from what God has done and continues to do! Life is His *handiwork*! He creates life with His hands. He redeemed life with His hands. He desires to call and hold each life in His hands. Understanding these answers gives us a positive, Trinitarian foundation for dealing with the life issues. Both the brochure (Item LFL1007T; $0.50 ea.) and the new DVD presentation with Dr. Lamb (Item LFL1401DVD; $5.00 ea.) are wonderful resources for congregational, school, and home use! Order at www.cph.org. **Note:** A DVD study guide can be downloaded at both the CPH and LFL websites.
- **New Bulletin Inserts!** – **Reflections on Motherhood** (Item LFL1113BI. $0.10 ea.) encourages us to celebrate motherhood while also asking for prayers that more moms will know of the presence of God in Christ no matter what their circumstances. **A Father’s Responsibility** (Item LFL1114BI. $0.10 ea.) tells dads, “fatherhood is an eternally important and impossible responsibility!” but also that, “Dads can strive to be the best instruments possible, not out of obligation or fear, but out of the joyful and freeing knowledge that God is the one at work!” **Order both inserts at www.cph.org.**

- **Renewal For Life UPDATE:** The RFL online library will be eliminating its password protected feature. Everyone will be able to access the site without needing a password and username. The FORUM will continue to be password protected, and in order to receive the monthly newsletter *Paraclete*, and have access to the Life Advocate Training, congregations will need to sign up for Renewal For Life. Please contact Jeri at the Life Center if you have any questions.

- **If your congregation or pastor has a Life Sunday or life issue-related sermon, CD, or DVD, focused on the life issues that you would be willing to share with us, please let us know.** We may post it on our Facebook, RFL, LFL, YouTube, and Vimeo sites, or as a download on www.cph.org.

- **New Russian Resource:** *Called to Remember*, by Linda D. Bartlett, is now available in a downloadable Russian translation! LFL has been blessed with funds to be used toward producing Spanish and Russian materials. For the Spanish materials go to www.cph.org and click on “Sanctity of Life/Resource Type/Spanish” from the drop down menu. For Russian downloads go to www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international/.

- **If you or your chapter have local events you would like posted on the LFL or RFL sites, please contact Amy at the Life Center (arosenberg@lutheransforlife.org) and she will set that up for you.**
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
And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12).

“Equipping” as translated in Ephesians 4:12 denotes more than just giving the saints needed tools for a particular task. It also includes the idea of moving people to a state of ready willingness to do the task. Lutherans For Life equips Lutheran saints to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. That means more than putting a brochure in their hands. It means moving Lutheran saints to see how powerfully the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaks to the life issues, and then giving them resources to grow in that understanding and share it with others through word and deed.

The 2012 LFL National Conference will be in Itasca, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, on August 3-4 at the beautiful Westin Chicago Northwest hotel! Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour, is our keynote speaker at the Friday evening banquet. Carol Tobias, president, National Right to Life, is a plenary speaker on Saturday.

Workshop leaders include:

- Dr. David Reardon, Director of the Elliott Institute – Equipping a Post-Abortion Society
- Jill Stanek, Illinois columnist and blogger – Equipping to Take a Stand
- JT Eschbach, Pro-life Action League – Saving Lives Today: Equip Yourself for Effective Sidewalk Counseling
- Carl Schroeder, J.D. & Barb Kinast, R.N. – Equipping for the End of Life
- LFL State Presidents panel.
- Doug Merkey, Churches for Life – Equipping with Renewal For Life®
- Dr. Jeff and Renee Gibbs, Concordia Seminary – Making Abortion Unthinkable (Youth Track)

Doug Merkey is also conducting a pre-conference leadership training session for current Renewal For Life® congregations, Life Advocates, and life team members on Friday afternoon. Other pre-conference events include an estate planning workshop with Jim Schroeder and a prayer vigil at an abortion clinic.

LFL’s 2012 conference will provide a variety of ways to become equipped “For Life” personally and also to learn how to participate in the equipping of others. There will be a special emphasis on Renewal For Life®, LFL’s initiative to equip Lutheran congregations to be Gospel-motivated voices for life. So mark your calendars for August 3-4, the Westin Chicago Northwest, Itasca, Illinois. Come ready to be equipped. You will leave ready to equip!
Equipping the Saints For Life • Minute-Man Talk

The following can be adapted for use in your congregation.

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to “ Equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.” Did you hear our motivation? We are not motivated by politics; we are not motivated by anger. We are motivated by the Gospel because we believe that the Gospel of Jesus is the most powerful and positive For Life message in the universe! The Gospel is tailor made for the issues of life and death, pain and suffering, regret and guilt that we face in our society but also in our own congregation and our own families. The Gospel speaks to these issues. The Gospel carries with it the power to change hearts and lives. We want to equip Lutherans to make the connection between His life-changing message and the life issues of our time.

One of the exciting ways we do that is through our national conference. Our theme this year flows right from our mission statement, “Equipping the Saints For Life.” The conference will be held at the Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, August 3-4. Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour, will give the keynote address on Friday evening. Saturday morning we will hear from Carol Tobias the executive director of National Right to Life who is a member of the LCMS. The rest of the day will be filled with other well-known speakers and workshop leaders including Jill Staneck who “blew the whistle” on the live-birth abortions being performed at Christ hospital in Chicago, and Dr. David Reardon, the foremost authority on the struggles of men and women following an abortion. Believe me, there will be something for everyone and every interest, including a special youth track called, “Making Abortion Unthinkable” which will equip young people with skills needed to defend God’s gift of life.

I invite you to consider attending our conference and getting yourself “equipped For Life” in a fun, friendly, Gospel-centered atmosphere. People who attend our conferences are never disappointed!

For more information there are brochures located [give location].

For more information, and to register, go to www.lutheransforlife.org.

Thank you for your time. See you saints in Chicago August 3-4!
CONFERENCE WITNESS BOOK SPONSORSHIP CONTRACT

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☐ I would like to help support the conference through a special gift. Enclosed is $__________.
☐ I would like a copy of the Conference Witness book mailed to me. Enclosed is $15.00 (includes postage).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING YOUR MESSAGE:
Send in electronic format only (PDF or JPEG) to lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.

UPON COMPLETION send this form with check or money order to:

   LFL National Conference Witness Book
   Lutherans For Life
   1120 South G Avenue
   Nevada, IA 50201-2774

Please make your checks payable to: LFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

DEADLINE for receiving sponsorship messages is June 30, 2012. Messages arriving after June 30, 2012, will be included as space permits.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

(PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED.)
Our speakers and workshop leaders include: Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour; Carol Tobias, President of National Right to Life; Dr. David Reardon, Director of the Elliott Institute; Jill Stanek, Illinois columnist and blogger; JT Eschbach, Pro-life Action League; Carl Schroeder, J.D.; Barb Kinast, R.N.; Doug Merkey, Churches For Life; LFL State Presidents panel; Dr. Jeff and Renee Gibbs, Concordia Seminary.

There’s also a prayer vigil at a Planned Parenthood site and a visit to a local CareNet pregnancy center on Friday.

**Find out more and register at www.lutheransforlife.org.**

www.lutheransforlife.org • 888.364.LIFE • info@lutheransforlife.org
www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife • twitter.com/forlifers
Hello!

by Dale Olson

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Dale Olson. I joined The Life Center team on February 14th as the Director of Operations. I grew up in Lake Mills, Iowa, where I married my wife Kris. We have been blessed with two sons and three grandchildren.

After earning a B.A. degree in accounting from Buena Vista College, I worked for Cummins Engine Company for 37 years in many different managerial positions and locations. I was able to travel internationally for several years in my last assignment with Cummins, which provided opportunities to learn about many new cultures—and I continue to enjoy friendships from these travels around the world. I retired from Cummins at the end of 2008 and within seven weeks was led to work for Fender Guitar in California. I worked for Fender for two years and retired a second time! I spent 2011 enjoying my family in Ames, Iowa, where we now reside. I serve as chairman of Bethany Lutheran Church in Ames. I also lead Bethany’s Sunday morning adult Bible study.

The Lord has blessed me richly and He poured out another blessing on me when He led me to Lutherans For Life this year. I am so excited to work with this fine group of Christians here at the Life Center who have a zeal to carry on the Mission of Lutherans For Life “Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.”

I would ask that you continue to pray for the success of the ministry of Lutherans For Life. I hope to meet many of you at the Lutherans For Life conference in August. Please contact me at Lutherans For Life if I may help you in any way.
Renewal For Life® in Texas!

Are you aware of the new regional director position in Texas? Jean Amundson, president of Lutherans for Life of Texas and state representative on the Lutherans For Life board of directors, and a part-time secretary at an Anglican Episcopal church, is married to Robert, a router for Walmart, “Me-Ma” to seven grandchildren, and mom to four grown children. She was hired as the first part-time regional director of Texas in January 2012. Since then she has been very busy. Here is a short update from her:

Howdy! from the regional director of Texas. Great things are happening with forming Life Teams in the churches which have signed onto to Renewal For Life®. Currently, there are two churches that wish to be trained to be Life Teams and two Life Team leaders who are anxious to be trained.

One of the Life Team leaders informed me that what he likes best about the new program is that he will not be alone, someone is there to encourage him and of whom he can ask questions, as well as assistance.

As with any new program, there is a financial cost. The training manuals are $35.00 a person. To help offset this cost to the participants, I am asking you, or your LFL chapter, to prayerfully consider a Gospel-motivated donation toward the cost of the training manuals.

God has truly blessed Lutherans For Life and we continue to “Equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!”
Not Alone
by Connie Davis, president of LFL of Michigan (From “Lifelines,” February-March-April 2012)

It began as a pretty normal Christmas celebration, but one phone call changed everything. We were visiting our youngest son in Nebraska when we received the news that our middle son had been taken to the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle where they had discovered a large mass on his brain. There were a lot of unknowns and uncertainties, but, by the time we arrived in Seattle, brain surgery had been scheduled. During the next week, Chris underwent a second brain surgery and suffered a stroke which affected his eyesight. The tumor was large, intrusive, and cancerous—and they were not able to remove all of it safely. Fear and anxiety were our daily companions. Within the following week, my husband’s mother passed away, our brother-in-law suffered a ‘widow maker’ heart attack (he’s doing fine now), and my cousin died. Satan was on the attack!

During this stressful time, thousands of people around the world were holding us up in prayer. How blest we are to belong to God’s family of faith. It is the support and encouragement we received, and continue to receive, from these prayer warriors that comfort and strengthen us—and give us hope.

Walking through this time of trial impressed upon me, once again, how important it is for us, as the body of Christ, to hold each other in prayer—to remind each other that, no matter what our earthly circumstances, our God is ever-present and faithful. We must trust Him completely, for He is the One who loves us the most.

Do you understand how important YOUR prayers and YOUR presence are for those who are struggling through the storms of life?

- Young, unmarried women who are pregnant and seemingly alone
- Couples experiencing infertility
- Individuals suffering through the pain and uncertainty of a terminal illness
- People dealing with the guilt from an abortion decision
- Adult children caring for their infirmed and elderly parents

None of us are alone. We all suffer the consequences of a fallen world. We all have our storms to weather. We all need a message of hope. Thanks be to God who has called us into a relationship with Him (our Rock) and into relationships with one another (the body of Christ).

Even though Chris had difficulty connecting his thoughts with his words, he was able to sing very well! I was comforted by the words he sang just hours after surgery:

    God, You are my God and I will ever praise You.
    I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways.
    Step by step You’ll lead me and I will follow You all of my days.

God encourages us to “pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and assures us that “the prayer
of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16b).

Therefore, dear ones, pray earnestly and continually for one another--especially for those who are experiencing a testing of their faith. It is a powerful testimony of the hope that we have in Christ alone.

“There’s advantage in our weakness. There is blessing in our pain. It is when we’re feeling helpless that God’s grace and strength sustain.” (Source: Fitzhugh, Our Daily Bread, January 20, 2012)

Thank you to so many of you who have kept, and continue to keep, Chris, his wife Heather, and their children Eli (age 7) and Rosie (age 5) in your prayers.

Standing on Christ—the solid Rock.
Spring Miracles
by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Within a two-week span this spring, Christendom will observe three miracles—The Annunciation of our Lord (March 25), the Crucifixion of our Lord (April 6), and the Resurrection of our Lord (April 8). The prayer for the Annunciation ties them all together.

“We implore You, O Lord, to pour forth Your grace on us that, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel, so by His cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of His resurrection; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”

We will study each of the three miracles briefly, connecting them to the value of human life.

The Annunciation
What does “in the sixth month” refer to? (1:24-25, 36).

Do not overlook Joseph in this narrative. What kind of man was he? (Matthew 1:18-25) He would have had to endure a lot taking a wife who was pregnant by “someone” else. What important Messianic connection is mentioned about Joseph?

What two events are described in the first half of v. 31?

Which one gets the most “press”?

Discuss the importance of the first event, Jesus’ conception, in light of Psalm 51:5.

Verses 32-33 make it clear that this child was the long-expected Messiah. In answer to Mary’s legitimate concern in 34, what else is abundantly clear as to who this Messiah would be?

Let’s take a quick trip. Read Luke 1:39-45. Considering Mary left to see Elizabeth immediately after Jesus’ conception and that she had about an eight to ten day journey, how big would Jesus have been?

How does Elizabeth refer to Jesus? (1:43) What does this say about this speck of an embryo to be named Jesus?

How does “cousin” John react in the presence of his Lord? (42 & 44)

Do non-human, non-person entities express joy?

Now take some time to discuss what all of the above says about the value of human life from the moment of conception.
The Crucifixion
So what is so miraculous about this horrible method of execution? (Acts 20:28 Read this carefully! The antecedent of “blood” is very important.)

Also have someone read (or sing) verses 1 and 3 of the Hymn “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed.” (Lutheran Service Book 437) Isaac Watts understood Acts 20:28!

What else is a bit on the miraculous side of the crucifixion? (Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:1-5)

What is the scope of this miraculous, horrible event? (John 3:16; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 9:26)

Does this mean all are saved? (Romans 10:14)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Now discuss the value this miracle gives to all human life from the moment of conception.

The Resurrection
We do not doubt that the resurrection was a miracle, but other people were raised from the dead in the Bible. What’s so extraordinary about Jesus’ resurrection? (Romans 6:9)

Based on the following, discuss what the Resurrection of Jesus does or gives.

1. Romans 4:24
2. Romans 8:11
3. 1 Corinthians 15:14
4. 1 Corinthians 15:42
5. 1 Peter 1:3

How do we receive the benefits of Jesus resurrection? (Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:4)

Who does God want to have these benefits? (1 Timothy 2:4)

Now discuss the value this miracle gives to all human life from the moment of conception.

Close by praying the prayer given at the beginning of this study.
Impact the Faith of Your Children and Grandchildren

by Kay L. Meyer, director of development for Lutherans For Life

Recently I again interviewed Dr. Richard Hardel about how parents and grandparents can impact the faith of their children and grandchildren. I thought LFL chapter volunteers and members would like to learn more about this topic. One of my questions was, “What can we do to help parents and grandparents pass on their faith to the next generation?” He talked about the four keys for nurturing faith in the home. They include:

- Caring conversations
- Family devotions
- Family service projects
- Family rituals and traditions

So, what are caring conversations? This is when your family overhears you talking about God in your daily life. Dr. Hardel shared, “I was at my daughter’s and my four-and-a-half year old granddaughter asked, ‘Now, grandpa, the angels helped Jesus when he was in the Garden, didn’t they? What else do angels do, grandpa?’” He responded, “What a good question. You have obviously heard your parents having a conversation about this topic. Let’s take a walk and talk about angels some more.”

Remember that we don’t have to have all the answers. Just talk with your children and grandchildren and help them see that the Lord is important to you. One of the things that is important to us is Life from the womb to the tomb. So, we should have caring conversations about life with our children and grandchildren.

The second key for nurturing faith in the home is having family devotions. During over 30 years of doing presentations on parenting and devotions within the home, I have discovered that many Christian families don’t ever have devotions. Sometimes it’s because they don’t know how. Others have tried devotions and found them difficult. Dr. Hardel stated, “Families and family devotions can be messy. That is life! Life can be messy. So if little Jimmy runs and jumps during devotions and doesn’t seem to listen, that’s OK. In the middle of our messy devotions God is with us!

Congregations need to come alongside parents and teach them how to have a devotional life in the home. Hardel recommended that families build a faith chest. It is intended to hold important paperwork and items related to our faith journey. It can also be used as a family worship center. Use it as the home altar. Place the Bible, candles, and a colorful scarf on it. Then create holy moments together.

Devotions should be short and age appropriate. Grandparents and parents can model devotions. Read a Bible story or a devotional. Act out a Bible story together. Confess your sins to one another and offer forgiveness to each other. Teach your children and grandchildren how to pray. Use a prayer from God’s word like the Lord’s Prayer and memorize a Bible verse together.
Another key to nurturing faith is family service. This is when the entire family does a service activity or project together. In this way they are saying “thank you” to God. It doesn’t need to be a major project, simple projects are best. Here are some ideas:

- Shovel snow for an elderly neighbor and pray for her.
- Travel to grandma’s and help with home repair projects and pray as a family for those you serve.
- Cut your neighbor’s grass while they are on vacation and pray for them.
- Make a pot of soup together as a family, make a card, then deliver it together. Then pray with them.
- Take care of a neighbor’s dog while they are on vacation and pray for them.

The final key to nurturing faith is family rituals and traditions. They show children what and who is important to you. They define who you are. In *What is a Family?* by Edith Scheffer, the author talks about the home being a Museum of Memories. The concept is that a museum has a selection of things worth preserving. A family is to be a museum of memories—collections of carefully preserved memories. She suggests that someone in the family needs to be conscious of the fact that memories are important so they plan memories just as someone might plan a museum. This involves taking lots of pictures and organizing them. Remember that what you do today will become tomorrow’s memories and traditions.

**Life Legacy—Proclaiming Life with Future Generations**

**What is the Life Legacy Society?**

The Life Legacy Society, established by Lutherans For Life in 2011, is made up of many dedicated Lutheran Christians who have been led by the Lord to provide financial support for Lutherans For Life beyond their lifetimes. Through your will or living trust, IRA or life insurance, charitable remainder unitrust, or gift annuity, you are supporting the Lord’s work and Life.

Giving beyond your lifetime shows a commitment to the Lord’s work and the proclamation of Christ without compromise. If you have already included LFL in your estate plans, please let us know by calling 888.364.LIFE.

We would be happy to explain these and other estate planning options. To learn more contact me at kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org or Jim Schroeder at jschroeder@lutheransforlife.org.
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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