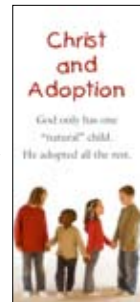


News and Notes

- The Lutherans For Life 2011 National Conference is coming soon! “Adopted in Christ” is the theme and is based on Galatians 4:4-5: **“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”** There is still time to register! Find out more at www.lutheransforlife.org and in the enclosed conference brochure. If you or your chapter is unable to attend this summer, there are other ways to support and be part of the conference. Sponsorship ads are a great way to financially support the conference and share a little bit about your chapter, congregation or family. More information on sponsorship ads is enclosed in this issue of *Directions*.



- Lutherans For Life has a new brochure that ties into our conference theme: *Christ and Adoption*. “Adoption is not always seen in a good light. Pregnant teens who are nervously, but seriously, considering abortion become very adamant when adoption is mentioned. There is a need to shed some good light on adoption. Perhaps looking at it in the light of our adoption in Christ will help. *Christ and Adoption* can be ordered at www.cph.org.
- Lutherans For Life shirts are a great resource you can use at LFL displays, door prizes, church For Life booth etc. Check out the LFL Clothing and Accessories Store for a variety of styles, colors and logo options. Go to www.lutheransforlife.org/store/. If you have a graphic design or logo idea you would like to share with us, please e-mail lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.
- Lutherans For Life is having a summer resource sale! Our remaining stock of selected Life Sunday and *Just For Kids* inserts are on sale for one cent each (plus shipping and handling)! Stock up now and save—and share the For Life message all year long! The *Just For Kids* inserts are a great way to share the For Life message with children. They are a great resource for Sunday school, VBS, children’s coloring bags, and more! To order go to www.cph.org.



Life Sunday Inserts

- LFL810BI – In Life, in Death, Abide with Me
- LFL1604BI – In the Hand of God
- LFL103BI – Jesus Loves Children
- LFL105BI – Just Imagine ... what will this baby be?
- LFL131BI – Cherish the Children
- LFL135BI – Good News For Life
- LFL806BI – Life Under the Cross



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Just For Kids inserts:

LFL701BI – Good News For Life
LFL708BI – Welcome A Little Child
LFL709BI – Life Under the Cross
LFL710BI – Time To Speak
LFL711BI – Just Imagine
LFL712BI – In the Beginning
LFL713BI – Abide With Me
LFL714BI – Cherish the Children
LFL715BI – In the Hand of God

- All of our remaining stock of promotional products are on sale at 50% off! Order today and share this summer at local fairs, events, VBS, and summer Sunday school! Quantities are limited. To order call www.cph.org.

LFLTSP – **Pens** (“God Loves Life”) – This popular and comfortable tri-sided pen has different Lutherans For Life information on each of the three sides including “God Loves Life - John 3:16.” This pen will never roll off the table! Black ink, medium point, blue translucent coloring, black ergonomic grippers, metal tip.

LFLS – **Stickers** – Pass these out for all to wear at an event or service. Dress up an envelope or letter. (1½” x 2¼”)

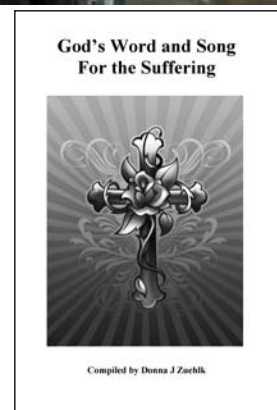
LFL1300 – **LFL Logo Pin** – Simple design on blue enamel.

LFLTBP – **Tote Bags** (Plastic) 11" x 15" – Great for fairs and conventions.

- One idea for promoting the For Life cause is through banner ads! Holtmeier Construction in Mankato, Minnesota, is doing just that.



- Long-time LFL member Donna Zuehlk has produced a wonderful new book called *God's Word and Song For the Suffering*. Believing that our hymnal is a rich source of Lutheran doctrine as well as comfort for all ages, this collection of traditional hymns and the Bible verses that inspired them has been completed. It is small enough to tuck into a Bible or purse for hospital visits and it also includes the Offertory, Nunc Dimittis, and Agnus Dei. (8.5” by 5.5” - 32 pages) To order, contact Donna Zuehlk, 13613 27 Mile Road, Washington, MI 48094; bzuehlk@comcast.net; 586-781-3986. The cost is \$5.00 and includes shipping.



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National Lutherans For Life Staff

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George Munyon – Director of Operations

Lowell J. Highby – Director of
Communications

Kay Meyer – Director of Development

James P. Schroeder – Christian Estate
Planning Counselor

Trisha Adams – Business Manager and
National Conference Director

Amy O’Shaughnessy – Administrative
Assistant

Jerilyn Richard – Renewal For Life
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Kim Nessa – RFL Administrative Assistant

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

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Illinois

Rod Rathmann, Vice-President – Eureka,
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Jean Amundson, Secretary and State
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Lutherans For Life

1120 South G Avenue

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info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

888.364.LIFE or 515.382.2077

Fax 515.382.3020

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**Abortion Statistics for the United States: 3,287 abortions per day
Abortions from 1973-2006 (using the 2003 estimate for 2004-2006):
47,187,00.**

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.



Published June 2011

One Year Later

by George Munyon, Director of Operations

It's hard to believe that I have been part of the Lutherans For Life Team for a year already. With God's blessings, we have accomplished so much.

Major accomplishments include team building. Our priority has been to work toward building a great Life Team at LFL. Our goal is to be the best Life Team possible with our eyes always on God and our mission at LFL.

We are moving toward accountability management where clear goals are set and effective measurements are put in place to assure we are successful in achieving those goals.

We partnered with Concordia Publishing House to warehouse, package, and mail the inventory of goods that we make available in our effort to educate about life issues.

We are working on a partnership with Churches For Life to train our Renewal For Life® (RFL) Life Advocates and our future RFL Regional Directors.

We will be expanding Renewal For Life®. We had a pilot Life Advocate Team Leader Training Session in 2011. We learned a lot from that pilot and will be making adjustments toward the goal of having more sessions as soon as possible.

We have the finances in place to hire our first paid part-time RFL Regional Director.

We have been encouraging increased leadership giving. That is increased giving by the LFL Team (up 107 percent through April) and LFL Board of Directors (up 47 percent through April). We want to lead by example in our giving.

Probably our biggest accomplishment was writing a six-year strategic plan. An article about this plan was in the winter 2010 *Directions*. I encourage you to read that article, which is on our website. Many Life Team hours were spent, as a priority, on writing an aggressive yet workable strategic plan. We have completed 93 of the 212 Action Plans to date. Another 16 will be completed as soon as funds are available.

I have had a lot to learn since coming to LFL and have been very busy. I have enjoyed my time here and I am blessed to be part of this great LFL Life Team. The Life Team is excited about the vision of LFL and the effect the strategic plan is going to have on our vision.

I want to thank each of you for your support. Your giving, your prayers, and your love for life issues that God Himself says are so important are greatly appreciated. We could not do this important work if it were not for you.



LFL Partners with Churches for Life (CFL)

We are excited to share with you the partnership we have formed with Churches for Life, to help train and nourish our Renewal For Life® congregations. Churches for Life offers an extensive training and follow-up process to help congregations begin a life ministry or sustain one already in place. Our desire through this partnership is to offer the best support we can, and help further your congregation's mission For Life through ongoing training and guidance.

How will this all work? When a congregation signs up for RFL, the Life Advocate appointed will have the opportunity to go through training to help them get started, and if possible, form a Life Team. Once training is complete, LFL will continue to nourish and guide our Life Advocates and their team through resources on the RFL online library, updated For Life information provided through the monthly e-mail the *Paraclete*, and have opportunities for pastors and Life Advocates to connect with each other through our Forum.

CFL will also serve LFL by training and certifying LFL Regional Directors who will help form Life Teams and nourish Lutheran churches across America as gospel-motivated voices for life. The regional director will mentor the RFL churches in their area, and provide spiritual support and help craft and guide each unique team. We thank God for growing this partnership, and please pray for LFL as we begin the process of selecting the first regional director.

For more information on Churches for Life go to their website at www.getintolife.org.



Update on Rhonda Greene

Rev. Everette Greene recently sent this update on his wife, Rhonda:

The Lord has richly blessed us as He has kept Rhonda secure in the palm of His hand while she went through chemotherapy treatments. Those treatments were not easy to take as the side effects have been drastically painful both physically and emotionally for Rhonda. One cannot begin to know exactly what it is like without actually going through this ordeal.



Along with the fatigue, there was a tremendous amount of pain in her bones and joints that came as a result of the chemotherapy and the steroid shot that followed the next day.

Along with the pain came weight gain and the loss of her hair which was emotionally devastating for Rhonda.

But the Lord has had mercy! In His lovingkindness He brought Rhonda through the chemotherapy and after a three-week break, as I write this note, she is having a CT Scan and being "marked up" in preparation for radiation treatments. She will undergo 30 radiation treatments, which consists of 5 treatments per week for 6 weeks.

The prognosis is that at the end of these treatments she will be cancer free with minimal probability that the cancer will return.

We cannot find the words to adequately express our gratitude to Lutherans for Life for all that you have done for us. Your love and your prayers at the Life Center for us have meant so much to us! Putting out a plea to help our financial crisis has been such a blessing not only in the money we have received but also in knowing that so many people care about our situation and have responded so generously. What a wonderful blessing it is to know we belong to a community that is vastly larger than a congregation or district or even a Synod! We belong to THE Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ have shown us Christian love and charity. We are forever grateful.

To help the Greene's with their medical debt, your gift may be made out to Lutherans For Life and sent to the Life Center: Lutherans For Life, 1120 South G Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201-2774.

Please clearly indicate that your gift is for: Rhonda Greene Assistance. **“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith”** (Galatians 6:10).



Sharing the Abundant Life

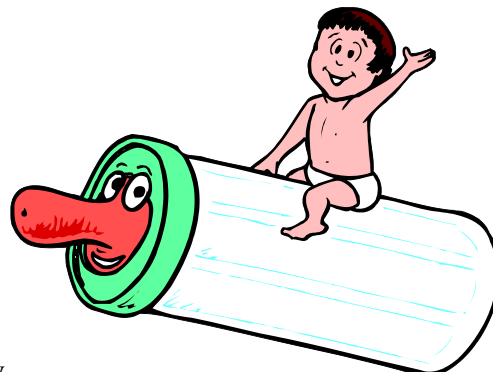
by Kay L. Meyer

St. Charles County Lutherans For Life Chapter Raises \$31,000+ for Thrive Pregnancy Resource Center Mobile Unit of St. Louis

What are local LFL chapters doing to promote life and be Gospel motivated voices For Life? Some of them are raising funds for local Pregnancy Resource Centers, maternity homes, and other Gospel-focused ministries that are For Life. I recently visited with Delores Desemone, president of the St. Charles County Lutherans For Life Chapter. Their chapter extended an invitation to all the Lutheran churches in their circuit to raise support for the Thrive Pregnancy Resource Center's new Mobile Center that offers complimentary ultrasounds and free pregnancy testing to women. They organized a Baby Bottle Drive and raised over \$31,000.

The project began after the chapter leaders were approached by Rev. Scott Schmieding, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Missouri. Rev. Schmieding has battled cancer, losing his tongue through the process. He has a real appreciation for the gift of life. This is one reason why he wanted to do something exciting in support of life. As they discussed various options, they decided to raise funds to support the Pregnancy Mobile Unit of Thrive Pregnancy Resource Center. Rev. Schmieding personally contacted each pastor at the churches in his circuit and invited them to get their congregations involved.

Mrs. Desemone stated that their LFL chapter began with prayer, as they do with all their programs and projects. They also organized a group of prayer partners, most of whom were confined to their homes due to illness. They obtained 1000 empty baby bottles from Thrive, included instructions in each bottle, and displayed the bottles in high traffic areas at each church. Members were invited to pick up a baby bottle and fill it with change. Then they were to return the baby bottles to the church. The 1000 baby bottles were gone at the end of the first week, so they rush ordered another 500 of them. Those 1500 bottles were in constant circulation for the next four weeks. The project started the first week in January and was to run all that month. But due to bad weather, many churches extended the project through February 14th or Valentine's Day.



Each church had a church liaison. These individuals were very important to the link between LFL and the congregation. Delores stated that she and other LFL leaders spent many hours on the phone encouraging the church leaders, telling the prayer partners what was happening, telling those involved how much money had been raised, collecting baby bottles that were filled with coins, counting the funds, and delivering more baby bottles to the churches. Of course, they also promoted the project in the bulletin and church newsletters.

Who was involved? Those involved included: Ten churches, six elementary schools, the high school, and the Lutheran retirement center. There were also five families who heard about it and wanted to collect from friends and neighbors, none of them were Lutheran.



Directions • Lutherans For Life • Development

We are thankful for all the work that our local chapters do in their communities. Lives are being changed and transformed because of the work of LFL Chapters and Lutheran members at many congregations and schools. Thank you. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you in His care.

Encourage and Pray For One Another

A few days after my meeting with Delores Desemone about the exciting and successful fundraising project her chapter organized in St. Charles, Missouri, I heard from two other LFL chapter leaders. Both were disappointed in the lack of activity in their chapter. One said, “No one wants to do anything anymore.”

Is your chapter having inactivity problems? What can you do? Begin with prayer and ask others to join you in praying for your LFL chapter and the important work of being Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Have you spent time recently asking the Lord what He would want your chapter to do recently? Be specific as you pray. Ask the Lord to help you find new volunteers. Pray that the Lord would bring not only new people but some new ideas that will help motivate and excite others about its mission and goals. Encourage each other in the Lord! **“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing”** (1 Thessalonians 5:11). **“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Romans 15:5-6).

Also, personally call and invite people to join you to discuss ways your chapter can accomplish the mission. Consider new ways and new ideas. Maybe doing a service project would be received better than having a meeting. Although personal invitations are always best, also remember to put information into your bulletin or newsletter. You are not always aware of everyone who is interested in promoting life.

Endowment Funds and Planned Gifts

Lutherans For Life is thankful to friends of the ministry who are making a difference by putting LFL into their will and/or trust through bequests, trust agreements, life insurance, retirement accounts, and the LFL Endowment Fund. Lutherans For Life would like to invite you and your family to prayerfully consider a planned gift.

LFL partners with the LCMS Foundation through the services of Jim Schroeder, a financial counselor for the LCMS Foundation. The foundation is staffed with a professional team of attorneys, accountants, para legals, and other staff who are responsible for stewardship and accounting for planned gifts on behalf of Lutherans for Life across the nation.

Our goal is to provide you with whatever assistance you require as you prayerfully consider distribution of your gifts to LFL. In order for us to provide you with a timely response, please notify LFL of your thoughtful gift.



Many Companies Match Employee's Donations

Thousands of companies, both large and small, will match donations made by their employees to non-profit organizations. The following are a few of the thousands of companies that will match funds for their employees. If you work for a company, ask if they will match donations to non-profits. Then include their special form when you send your donation. LFL will verify the donation and return the form to the company.

Boeing Company, Budget Rent A Car, Dow Jones, Hallmark Cards, Home Depot, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Keebler Company, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Allstate Insurance, American Express, AT&T, Bankers Life & Casualty, Charles Schwab, Conoco Phillips, Emerson Electric, Goodyear Tire, H&R Block, Lowes, Delta Air Lines, Enterprise Rent a Car, Farmers Group, John Hancock, JP Morgan Chase.

Abundant Life Giving Society Update

In 2010, Lutherans For Life established the Abundant Life Giving Society (ALGS). We are pleased to announce that 249 supporters donated \$1,000 or more in 2010. Donors gave monthly gifts, quarterly gifts, and annual gifts. Thank you!

The Abundant Life Giving Society is an annual giving society. We again invite LFL supporters, groups, and congregations to consider giving in 2011 at this level. We recognize that all those who support Lutherans For Life give sacrificially and, again, thank you for your support.

Give Generously to Lutherans For Life in 2011

God's Word encourages us as Christians to give generously as we share in the ministry of the saints. **"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints"** (2 Corinthians. 8:3-4).

Lutherans For Life invites you, your family, and your congregation to also give generously in 2011. You are special and your gifts allow us to accomplish our mission, vision, and goals. Prayerfully consider what you will give in 2011. Give according to your means—and pray first about what you will give. Would it be possible for you to give a quarterly gift of \$25? How about a monthly gift of \$50 or more? Thank you for caring about life and sharing your time, talents, and treasures!



Ways to Help Equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated Voices For Life

- **Generations For Life** – This new youth and young-adult initiative includes equipping the younger generation to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We have contracted with Karen Frohwein, president of LFL of Iowa, to begin the process of helping LFL reach youth and young adults through social networking opportunities and more. The cost of this for a year will be \$6,000.
- **LifeDate** helps equip 35,000 people quarterly to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This complimentary educational journal equips our faithful supporters and also communicates to those who may not yet know us. We receive more positive comments about *LifeDate* than anything else we do. Publication and mailing costs for one edition is \$16,000.
- **Renewal For Life®** is focused on equipping pastors and congregations to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This is so important to us that LFL covers all expenses for presenting RFL to pastors across the country. We have 250 congregations enrolled to this point with thousands left to go. Travel expenses for a year for presenting RFL are estimated to be \$5,500.
- **Life Sunday Resources** are used in hundreds of Lutheran congregations on Life Sunday and at other times throughout the year helping many to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. The cost of our Life Sunday sample pack mailing is \$5,095.

(Return this portion.)

Yes! I/we want to help!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

My/our gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100
\$250 \$_____ is enclosed.

Please use the gift for:

- Generations For Life
- LifeDate
- Renewal For Life®
- Life Sunday resources

IF GIVING BY CREDIT CARD:



Amount \$ _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____
Month / Year

Signature _____

Lutherans For Life
1120 South G Avenue • Nevada, IA 50201-2774

Please note: you may also donate by credit card by calling us toll-free at 888-364-LIFE (5433) or on our web site: www.lutheransforlife.org.

*Thank you for your prayers
and support For Life!*



Annual Activity Reports

by Kim Nessa, Administrative Assistant

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34).

I was reminded of this verse as I was compiling some of the personal stories, comments, and suggestions that were returned on your LMC and LFL Chapter Reports from this past year. As I read report after report, one thing that stood out to me was LOVE ... love for others, Love For Life. Thank you again for all you do and for your great love for Jesus and others.

Personal Stories

- A friend and I visited a young woman who was addicted to drugs. She had just given birth to a baby boy who was also addicted. We witnessed to her about how precious her life is as well as her baby's. We gave her a gift of the Life Bible and we prayed with her. The baby has since been adopted by a Christian family.
- In April, we highlighted Jonathan's Place which is serving the abused, abandoned, and neglected children of North Texas as an emergency shelter, providing temporary residential and treatment services. They also have a Foster & Adoptive Family Program—recruiting, training, and verifying foster, foster-to-adopt, and foster families. This year we hope to collect more items they may need at the shelters.
- A young neighbor gal with two children came up to me in the grocery store one day. She began to cry as she told me she'd been forced to have an abortion in her teens. I was able to visit in her home, share info and pamphlets, and pray with her. We chat occasionally.
- A young girl in our congregation decided against abortion and now has a beautiful daughter. Her family and the congregation are very supportive. I don't know if this was the result of LFL or our very pro-life pastor.
- Our congregation continues to send representatives from each of our churches to the Pro-Life rallies in St. Paul, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota. Our youth groups are particularly involved as they serve the pregnancy center in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.
- My husband, daughter, and I helped work the Lutherans For Life booth at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans last summer. What an experience! The youth were amazed at the four Life Touch Fetal Models which ranged from 12 weeks to 30 weeks. The boys were especially interested and wanted to hold them. They all said they believed “in life.”
- One of our chapter members is a sidewalk counselor at our Planned Parenthood clinic and several babies and mothers have been saved.
- This past year we had the opportunity to help a young girl going through her second crisis pregnancy. She actually called me from an abortion clinic. I talked with her and told her



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to leave, which she did. We stood alongside her through the pregnancy and gave her a baby shower. We have since lost contact with her, but continue to pray for her and her children's well being.

Speaking Opportunities

- Arlo Peterson of the Lake Superior Chapter spoke at a fundraiser for Chip Cravaack at the Duluth, Minnesota, airport on the topic of what Christians can do to end abortion in our country. He also shared a poem, *A Little Girl's Prayer*. There were 110 people in attendance.
- Pastor Terry Forke had the opportunity to speak before the Montana Legislature, in Helena, Montana, concerning a Personhood Amendment that went before the senate and house. He also spoke at three Montana Pro-Life Coalition rallies across the state. Obviously as LFL, this direction of outreach is not our focus but our chapters across the state have taken an active stand in getting this referendum passed.
- LaWana Castanes, president of Northern Louisiana LFL, spoke at an open house at Immanuel Lutheran Church to represent and speak to the group about the work and goals of Lutherans For Life. There were a few visitors along with mission representatives for Providence House and Grace Home.
- In January I was able to speak to three different age groups at our church's day school. I used the LFL chapel materials, Word document, and PowerPoint presentation on the topic of "God's knitting room." I altered them somewhat to speak to different age groups. Our school asked me to speak because they knew I was the Life Ministry Coordinator for our church.
- I spoke to around 450 people at our church on Life Sunday. My focus was the unborn, but also all life issues. We had a great Life Sunday Service. My pastor dedicated both services to life issues.
- Each spring I spend about five hours with our day school 8th graders, dealing with the issues of sanctity of life, abstinence, abortion, and adoption. Each student also receives a take-home packet folder loaded with related literature carefully chosen for them.
- The National Down Syndrome Day in March was celebrated by the Pittsburg Area LFL as keynote speaker Becky Rinehart, along with her son Noah, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation of Noah's life. This presentation was not only Christ-centered, but it was very informative and entertaining. Noah, a quadriplegic with Down syndrome, has a great sense of humor and will be graduating from high school in June. Becky pointed out that people with Down syndrome are "more like us than not like us." It is a very sad fact that over 90 percent of Down syndrome babies are now aborted. If you would like information on this PowerPoint presentation, please contact us at the National Office.



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Comments, Suggestions, or Concerns

- We dispatch a cross display for view around Nebraska at county fairs, etc. The 3,200 crosses make an impressive display. We need help promoting them in Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota, etc. They travel on our trailer easily pulled with a pickup truck. Any publicity would help. You can contact me at lbloemker@neb.rr.com.
- We displayed the *Watch Me Grow* posters during the month of January. They caught the attention of many people. People's hearts were touched by the truths clearly shown in these posters.
- We have placed *Teaching For Life* in the two Christian day schools in our area. A suggestion was made that since most school children have computer abilities that something like distance learning might be worth pursuing.
- Continue to publicize what others are doing. We copied one idea for Life Sunday when our regular program was no longer attracting many participants. We made a quilt out of quilt blocks decorated by our Sunday school children. The children brought the three quilts along with baby items up to the altar during the offering and gave them to a LFCS representative who was there to accept them.
- Our chapter arranged for speakers at eight public schools. We have done this every 2-3 years since 1988. The subjects range from abstinence, making choices, dating games, responding to conflict among students. We have been invited back by several schools. The speakers do a lot of interaction with the students ranging from 7th through 12th grades.
- Our congregation collected clothing, strollers, toys, and over 6,000 diapers for the Alpha Center lending closet.
- We have distributed over 100 Lutherans For Life informational tracts within our congregation.
- Two years ago, the Lord opened a door for our local CPC to begin a Prison Ministry. Forty-nine women at the Bossier Maximum Security Facility completed the Abortion Recovery Bible Study last year. Based on their answers to questions on an exit form:

69 percent say that the abortion started a downward spiral the led to their incarceration.

78 percent say that substance abuse began or increased after the abortion.

But the great news is:

92 percent say that after completing the Bible study, they feel better equipped to remain drug free and sober!

When women are healed from the effects of abortion, they can help others by sharing the truth about how abortion hurts women.



Adoption – God’s Way

Student Guide

We live in a world of growing numbers of unplanned pregnancies, birth control abortion, child abuse on the rise, children living in poverty, and young men and women for whom the assumption of parental responsibilities for the babies they bring into the world presents a crisis.

A Bible study about adoption serves a much needed purpose by focusing on adoption as an honorable, positive, and productive choice—a choice that can be a blessed and satisfying solution for both birth parents and adoptive parents, the adoptee, and society.

Adoption has a prominent place in Scripture, with examples of God’s Word revealing adoption as a life-affirming and enhancing decision for many individuals.

The Greek word used in Scripture for adoption is *huiiothesia*. *Huiio* means “son.” *Thesia* is a “placing to one to whom it does not naturally belong.” For the Greek in Bible times, adoption was used for the continuation of the family. Adoption was highly honored, with the adoptee guaranteed sonship to the end of his life—a true heir of the father.

This clarifies Paul’s use of the concept of believers as adopted children of God. Paul states that “we receive the spirit of adoption.” As we are born anew into the family of God, the Holy Spirit is given as God’s gift to enlighten us to the realization that we are truly His children! As heirs with Christ, we inherit all the riches of our Father God. We are no longer slaves. Freedom to call God *Abba* (Daddy), comes with our adoption as God’s children.

1. What does Jesus teach us about sonship? See Luke 11:11-13 for the answer.
2. Using the meaning of the Greek word *thesia*, discuss how believers become heirs of God’s Kingdom.
3. Adoption is the work of the _____. See John 14:16 to help you with the answer.
4. “In love He (chose us and) predestined us to be _____ as His children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His _____” (Ephesians 1:5,11).

Using God’s Word for birth parents working through the decision-making process of relinquishment gives them stability, comfort, and direction. This approach enables them to maintain the dignity of self respect and self esteem.

Many birth parents live with guilt feelings and unresolved grief. A cause of untold suffering is the misperception that a caring birth mother or father would never consider placing their baby for adoption. Even more damaging is the misunderstanding that the birth parents will forget about



the pregnancy and the baby after the adoption process is completed. Adoptive parents need to be aware of the importance of their sensitivity toward the pain of relinquishment by birth parents. Birth parents also need to understand the pain and grief of an infertile couple. Examples of adoption in Scripture can be very helpful to both.

Examples of Adoption in God's Word

1. What famous king in the Old Testament presided over two women arguing about the "right to parent" a child? 1 Kings 3:16-27.
2. This story illustrates:
 - a. The struggle for a birth mother to "give up" her baby.
 - b. That some women will do *anything* to become a mother.
 - c. The birth mother's depth of love for her child.
3. Who was the beloved son of Jacob, separated from his parents and adopted by Pharaoh? Genesis 41:41. What was God's plan for him? Genesis 45:8; Genesis 50:19-20.
4. Name a well known Old Testament baby whose mother *arranged* for his adoption by placing him where Pharaoh's daughter would see him? What was God's plan for his life? Exodus 2:10.
5. Who was the young boy in the Old Testament who was adopted by a priest named Eli? 1 Samuel 1:21-28. What was God's purpose for his life? 1 Samuel 2:27-35; 3:1-20; 7:15.
6. Name a beautiful girl in the Old Testament who was adopted by her cousin Mordecai? Esther 2:5-7f. What was God's purpose for her life? Esther 4:12-17.
7. Name a baby in the New Testament who was "adopted" and raised by a carpenter. What was God's incredible purpose for His life? John 10:10; Hebrews 4:14-16.
8. State a promise and a principle that each of these examples have in common. Psalm 139:16; Romans 8:14-17.
9. How can these preceding Bible references be applied to satisfy those involved in the adoption process?
 - The birth parents?
 - The adopting parents?
 - The adoptee?
 - Society?

Read Titus 3:5b-8 and John 1:12-13. Write down your thoughts.



Adoption – God’s Way

Leader’s Guide

[Answers to questions and other comments for the teacher are in brackets and italics.]

We live in a world of growing numbers of unplanned pregnancies, birth control abortion, child abuse on the rise, children living in poverty, and young men and women for whom the assumption of parental responsibilities for the babies they bring into the world presents a crisis.

A Bible study about adoption serves a much needed purpose by focusing on adoption as an honorable, positive, and productive choice—a choice that can be a blessed and satisfying solution for both birth parents and adoptive parents, the adoptee, and society.

Adoption has a prominent place in Scripture, with examples of God’s Word revealing adoption as a life-affirming and enhancing decision for many individuals.

The Greek word used in Scripture for adoption is *huiiothesia*. *Huio* means “son.” *Thesia* is a “placing to one to whom it does not naturally belong.” For the Greek in Bible times, adoption was used for the continuation of the family. Adoption was highly honored, with the adoptee guaranteed sonship to the end of his life—a true heir of the father.

This clarifies Paul’s use of the concept of believers as adopted children of God. Paul states that “we receive the spirit of adoption.” As we are born anew into the family of God, the Holy Spirit is given as God’s gift to enlighten us to the realization that we are truly His children! As heirs with Christ, we inherit all the riches of our Father God. We are no longer slaves. Freedom to call God *Abba* (Daddy), comes with our adoption as God’s children.

1. What does Jesus teach us about sonship? See Luke 11:11-13 for the answer.

[No earthly parent can care for us like our Father God. His is the perfect role model for parenting!]

2. Using the meaning of the Greek word *thesia*, discuss how believers become heirs of God’s Kingdom.

[Because of our sin we do not “naturally” belong to God. In Christ He declares that we are all, both male and female, “sons” through adoption. All have the full rights of an eternal inheritance.]

3. Adoption is the work of the *[Holy Spirit]*. See John 14:16 to help you with the answer.

4. “In love He (chose us and) predestined us to be *[adopted]* as His children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His *[pleasure]*” (Ephesians 1: 5,11).

Using God’s Word for birth parents working through the decision-making process of



relinquishment gives them stability, comfort, and direction. This approach enables them to maintain the dignity of self respect and self esteem.

Many birth parents live with guilt feelings and unresolved grief. A cause of untold suffering is the misperception that a caring birth mother or father would never consider placing their baby for adoption. Even more damaging is the misunderstanding that the birth parents will forget about the pregnancy and the baby after the adoption process is completed. Adoptive parents need to be aware of the importance of their sensitivity toward the pain of relinquishment by birth parents. Birth parents also need to understand the pain and grief of an infertile couple. Examples of adoption in Scripture can be very helpful to both.

Examples of Adoption in God's Word

1. What famous king in the Old Testament presided over two women arguing about the "right to parent" a child? [*King Solomon*].

Read 1 Kings 3:16-27.

2. This story illustrates:
 - a. The struggle for a birth mother to "give up" her baby.
 - b. That some women will do *anything* to become a mother.
 - c. The birth mother's depth of love for her child.
3. Who was the beloved son of Jacob, separated from his parents and adopted by Pharaoh? Genesis 41:41. [*Joseph*]. What was God's plan for him? [*Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." This type of leadership, normally given to and inherited by a son, was given to Joseph by Pharaoh. Consequently, he was able to save his family from famine, telling his brothers who had long before sold him as a slave, "So, then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me Father to Pharaoh, Lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt."*] Genesis 45:8; Genesis 50:19-20.
4. Name a well-known Old Testament baby whose mother arranged for his adoption by placing him where Pharaoh's daughter would see him? [*Moses*.] What was God's plan for his life? [*God planned for the future of an entire nation through the adoption of Moses into Pharaoh's family.*] Exodus 2:10.
5. Who was the young boy in the Old Testament who was adopted by a priest named Eli? [*Samuel*.]
1 Samuel 1:21-28. [*What was God's purpose for his life? Samuel served both God and man. "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and He let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord." It was Eli's biological sons who became great, but it was Samuel, the given son, who became Judge over Israel.*] 1 Samuel 2:27-35; 3:1-20; 7:15.



6. Name a beautiful girl in the Old Testament who was adopted by her cousin Mordecai?
[Esther.] Esther 2:5-7f. [What was God's purpose for her life? Esther's story is exciting and recommended reading for those in the adoption process. Her courage and boldness is tempered with a humble and obedient spirit. God used this lovely girl to save His people from an evil plot that would have destroyed the Jewish people.] Esther 4:12-17.
7. Name a baby in the New Testament who was "adopted" and raised by a carpenter.
[Jesus.] What was God's incredible purpose for His life? [The pinnacle of all Scriptural adoption is the giving of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to Man. His adoptive father, Joseph the Carpenter, took Jesus to raise as his son, risking the shame of His birth mother's "out-of-wedlock" pregnancy. This adoption plan of Almighty God gave us a "High Priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin." This Jesus, born of a woman, parented by Joseph and Mary—at the same time the Divine Son of God—was given that all people everywhere could have forgiveness, love, and life abundant.] John 10:10; Hebrews 4:14-16.
8. State a promise and a principle that each of these examples have in common. *[God has a plan for each life. Each example involves the principle of servanthood.] Psalm 139:16; Romans 8:14-17.*
9. How can these preceding Bible references be applied to satisfy those involved in the adoption process?

The birth parents?

[Assurance is offered as their act of love and obedience will place the child according to God's Will and not man's plan. It frees them for a fresh start to live their life under God's loving rules and in His care. It also frees them from the welfare mentality or dependence on others and raises their self-esteem. It is often the means that leads them to a new, or renewed, life in Christ.]

The adopting parents?

[The sense of crisis is lessened for the adoption parents. They, too, know that this baby is being "put into place" by God's plan. It helps to give them "ownership" of the parenting role and offers them a Biblical role model.]

The adoptee?

[The adoptee will grow up knowing the love of his birth parents, the love of his adoptive parents, and the love of his Savior. He can realize that God has a very special plan for his life. His security will lead to positive self-esteem.]

Society?

[Society will certainly benefit from the values of this new family, from the new



Directions • Lutherans For Life • Bible Studies

start of the birth parents, and eventually from the future good citizenship of the child.]

10. Read Titus 3:5b-8 and John 1:12-13. Write down your thoughts.

[TEACHER'S CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: *When Adam and Eve were deceived into believing they could decide what is good and what is evil they began to worship the god of self. As God said would happen, they died spiritually (Genesis 3:2-5). God knew the only way back to a right relationship with Him was 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 (through adoption) having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that all those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone" (Titus 3:5b-8). "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:12-13).]*



Lutherans For Life 2011 National Conference

Lutherans For Life is hosting our 2011 National Conference in Irving, Texas, August 5-6, 2011 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW. The conference theme is **Adopted in Christ**.



“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

The conference will focus on helping participants grow in their understanding of what it means to be **Adopted in Christ** and how this action of our heavenly Father affects our relationships with one another and the manner in which we deal with life issues in our congregations. We pray the conference will also equip attendees with knowledge on the positive aspects of earthly adoption and with skills to raise awareness of this in their congregations. The conference will be God’s children learning and growing together so they can help others better understand what it means to be a child of God!

This year’s keynote speaker is Russell Moore, author of the book *Adopted For Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*. Workshop topics will include a panel with a birth mother, adoptive parent, and adopted child and will also cover embryo adoption, foreign adoption, foster care, and pastors and politics. Workshop speakers are Dr. Kurt Senske, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the South; Lowell Highby, Director of Communications at Lutherans For Life and adoptive father; Dr. James I. Lamb, Lutherans For Life’s Executive Director; Janette Clausen, Director of Pregnancy Counseling and Adoptions with Lutheran Family Service of Iowa; and Rev. John Eidsmoe, Professor of Law at the Oak Brook College of Law.

The conference has secured permission to show the movie *Bella!* A motion picture masterpiece, *Bella* became the #1 top-rated movie of 2007 and was one of the most honored films of that year—winning the highly coveted People’s Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival, Best Picture and Best Actor at the 2008 MovieGuide Awards, and the prestigious Legacy Award from the Smithsonian Institute’s Latino Center. *Bella* is a powerful and moving, utterly unique story that will lift your spirits and capture your heart!

Christian singer-songwriter, Heather Ruesch from Brainerd, Minnesota, is excited to bring a musical component to our conference. Heather has her own “Bella” story (featured in *LifeDate*).

You can find out more about our conference, and register online, at www.lutheransforlife.org.



National Conference Witness Sponsorships!

by Trisha M. Adams, National Conference Director

Adopted in Christ is the theme for the 2011 Lutherans For Life National Conference. We're excited to be going to the Dallas, Texas, area to learn more about the ministry of adoption and about our place in God's family as His heirs with all the rights of inheritance! **Adopted—in Christ!!!**

One way in which funding is raised for our National Conference is by sponsoring a witness message in the conference book. Enclosed is a copy of the 2011 Lutherans For Life Conference Witness Book Sponsorship Contract.

Witness messages are available in the following sizes:

¼ page for \$60
½ page for \$100
full-page for \$175
and a two-page spread for \$300.

Please take note of the message size listed on the contract. We suggest you include your name, city or county, and state somewhere in your message.

Note: a Witness Book Sponsorship Message can have contact info, etc., but cannot have a “call to action,” such as “Call Now!” or descriptive language, such as, “we offer the best ...”

Instructions for sending your message:

Please send your message in electronic format only (PDF or JPEG) to lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.

If you wish to support the conference with a cash donation or purchase a copy of the Conference Witness Book, provisions for that are included on the contract. If you have any questions please contact Trisha Adams at 888.364.5433 or tadams@lutheransforlife.org.

Please join us in Irving, Texas, August 4-5, 2011, as we meet for educational fellowship and grow in the understanding of what it means to be **Adopted in Christ**.

We pray the conference will also equip attendees with knowledge on the positive aspects of earthly adoption and with skills to raise awareness of this in their congregations. The conference will be a bunch of God's children learning and growing together so they can help others better understand what it means to be a child of God!





Adopted in Christ

National Lutherans For Life Conference

August 5-6, 2011

Irving, Texas

Trisha Adams, *National Conference Director*

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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, 2011**. Messages arriving after June 30, 2011, will be included as space permits.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

(PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED.)

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.



Speaking Engagement Report Form

We appreciate the many hours our faithful grassroots workers contribute to sharing the For Life message. If you or your state federation/chapter has 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.

Speaking Engagement Report Form	
Speaker's Name:	
Location:	
Date:	
Topic of Presentation:	
Audience presented to (teens, adults, children, etc):	
Number of people in attendance:	
Resources used at pre- sentation (DVD, bro- chures, articles etc):	

