

News and Notes

- **The national office of Lutherans For Life is moving!** The new address is 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816. (Membership and other contributions can continue to be sent to PO Box 76, Garden City, IA 50102-0076.) Here are a few comments on the move from Dr. Lamb (taken from his August Sponsor Letter):

“I’m sure you know all the jokes about Lutherans and change. So I will not belabor those ‘light bulb’ quips. However, change is happening at Lutherans For Life. We sold our office building and will be moving to a new office this fall. We will still be located in Nevada, Iowa. The change came about because of stewardship concerns. The former 6700 square foot building served us well when we housed our own inventory and did our own order fulfillment. But, as you know, Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org) has been doing that for us for a number of years. Also, more of our staff works remotely from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas, reducing the need for local office space. Add to this the three acres of property we maintained, and I think you will see the wisdom of downsizing. Money saved on maintenance and utilities is money available for ministry ... We, too, must do renovation to the building we purchased in downtown Nevada. Laborers for Christ will be helping with this.”

- **2014 Lutherans For Life National Conference** – Our 2014 conference is set for October 24-25 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme is **Matters of the Heart**. Online conference registration is open at www.lutheransforlife.org/conference.
- **Matters of the Heart** is also our 2015 Life Sunday theme. This edition of *Directions* includes a preview of the new Life Sunday Bible study, *Speaking to Matters of the Heart*. Watch for more on Life Sunday—including a Sample Pack—in October.
- **Life News is available each month to download and print!** *Life News* is a monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news, great quotes, facts and stats, and an encouraging devotion. *Life News* is a great way to keep your congregation informed on life issues all year long! *Life News* is available as a free, reproducible PDF at www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news. **A sample is included in this edition of *Directions*.**
- Check out our free, downloadable posters at www.lutheransforlife.org/media/posters.
- **Our Mission & Ministry Coordinator, Lori Trinché, would love to hear from you!** Her focus is helping, guiding, and mentoring our frontline (chapters, Life Teams, Life Ministry Coordinators, and state federations). You can contact Lori at ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org or 630.390.3076.



Directions • Lutherans For Life • News and Notes

- **Lutherans For Life Grassroots:** LFL has 11 state federations, 117 local chapters, 134 Life Ministry Coordinators, 86 Life Team Leaders, and 63 Life Teams in the US.
- **AmazonSmile** – Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Lutherans For Life! Check it out through the link on our Store and Give pages at www.lutheransforlife.org and in our weekly *Life Notes* newsletter. (This is not an endorsement of all things Amazon, but it is a free opportunity for Amazon shoppers to support Lutherans For Life. Tell your friends!)

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make
a donation to:

Lutherans For Life

Get started

amazonsmile

**Each year:
Over**

1,120,775

**abortions
in the
United States**

**Since 1973:
Over**

56,662,169

**abortions
in the
United States**

Source: "Abortions Top 56 Million Since Roe v. Wade" by Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D. and Dave Andrusko (LifeDate - Spring 2014)



Published September 2014

Directions • Lutherans For Life • Facts and Stats

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Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb – Executive Director
Scott Licht – National Director
John Hawkins – Director of Development
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications
Lori Trinche – Mission & Ministry Coordinator
Laura Davis – Director of Y4Life
James P. Schroeder – Christian Estate Planning Counselor
Trisha Adams – Business Manager and National Conference Director
Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst
Kim Nessa – Administrative Assistant
Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

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Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington
Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

Lutherans For Life (business office)

1101 5th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-1816

Lutherans For Life (contributions/memberships)

PO Box 76
Garden City, IA 50102-0076

info@lutheransforlife.org
www.lutheransforlife.org
888.364.LIFE or 515.382.2077
Fax 515.382.3020

LFL has 11 state federations, 117 local chapters, 134 Life Ministry Coordinators, 86 Life Team Leaders, and 63 Life Teams in the US.

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Published September 2014

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.

The local chapter may not establish its own membership program since LFL has a “unified membership” program. When sending a membership form to the national office, make sure the chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will assure that the state federation and local chapter receive the proper remittance payment.

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





Start Your Own Life Team!

www.lutheransforlife.org/life-team

NEW! Start Your Own Life Team! – Learn how to start and build a Life Team. Find out more about the newly updated Life Team Tool Boxes.

What is a Life Team? A Life Team is a congregationally based group. The Life Team becomes part of the congregation's structure, much like a mission team or evangelism committee. The goal is to make addressing the life issues a part of the ongoing Gospel ministry of the congregation.

Teaching For Life® Online is LFL's latest means of "equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life"! This self-study, online course is designed for junior high through adult. **And it's FREE!** The course is based on nine key For Life concepts and instructs on all the basic life issues.

Each of the nine lessons contains an engaging Bible study that will help the student apply God's Word of Life to the lesson's topic. The Bible study is followed by "Case Studies" which will help apply what has been learned to practical situations. Then, for those who want even more, there is "Digging Deeper," which will allow the student to link to a variety of readings, videos, YouTube clips, and ideas for action.

It's easy, fun, self-paced, and packed full of Word-based and Gospel-centered For Life information. So go to the link below and let the For Life learning begin.

We pray you will enjoy learning and that you will become equipped to help others become Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

Teaching For Life®
ONLINE

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online

Equipping Lutherans to be
Gospel-motivated voices For Life



Best Way to Order LFL Resources:
At www.cph.org or 800.325.3040.
Shipping/handling applies to all orders.
Quantity pricing on select resources.

Opportunities, Project Ideas, and Life Team Leader Call!

by Lori Trinche, Mission and Ministry Coordinator

I had the pleasure and privilege of travelling to Wisconsin in August, along with Paula Oldenburg, president of LFL of Wisconsin, to co-present at a first ever leadership workshop for chapters, life teams, and life ministry coordinators. I am always both humbled and awed by the amazing dedication and wealth of both the knowledge and experience of the long-time volunteers as well as the enthusiasm and eagerness to learn of those new to Lutherans For Life leadership.

This summit offered Paula and me a unique opportunity to give important updates on what is new at both the state and national levels as well as an opportunity for folks who might never have met one another to come together for learning, fun, fellowship, and sharing of ideas.

This summit was so encouraging we are changing our plan for the national conference—October 24-25 in Grand Rapids, Michigan—to include a time to bring the chapters and life teams together to learn about and from one another.

I'd encourage you to come join us at the National Conference for the pre-conference Chapter and Life Team Summit, an opportunity to discuss and celebrate what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in "equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life."

www.lutheransforlife.org/conference



Project Ideas

- Fall is often diaper drive season (a time for collecting diapers, wipes, and other needed baby supplies) for many local crisis pregnancy centers. Connect with your local center to see how you can support them!
- Fall is a great time for knitting and blanket-making projects. Connect with your local crisis pregnancy center, maternity home, or senior center and see if they need hats, mittens, blankets, lap blankets, or shawls and engage both families and individuals to help. This can be a wonderful fellowship opportunity! Share treats or offer a meal for shut-ins who would like to help but are unable to otherwise be out and about. Picking up the completed items from shut-ins allows for an additional opportunity to visit and share fellowship and thanks for their important efforts.
- Take part in a Fall Campaign for 40 Days for Life (September 24-November 2). Visit their website (40daysforlife.com) to sign up for updates, find out your nearest prayer vigil location, and sign up for prayer slots. Many churches have sign-up sheets for those willing to commit to a one hour time slot on one or more occasions to pray. If you can't get to a site, organize a remote prayer vigil. Prayer is powerful!
- Have a display reminding people of the importance of voting for life-affirming and Christian ideals in the upcoming election. Proverbs 11:14 reminds us, **"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors, there is safety."**



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Be sure this display does not recommend voting for a specific candidate. It should be non-partisan and include information on where candidates stand on key issues. This link will serve as a useful reminder of acceptable practices: blog.speakupmovement.org/church/churches-and-politics/your-churchs-involvement-in-the-2014-election.

Fundraising Tips of the Month

- Are you a gardener with extra perennials and friends who share your love of gardening? Here is a simple fundraising idea: dig up the extras, pot them up, and sell them at one of your local church fall events. Prices can vary depending on how fancy the plant. All proceeds can be donated to a life ministry of your choice.
- Fall and winter crafts—one of our wonderful chapters in Wisconsin (Northeast Wisconsin Chapter #025) describes how they get together when the weather turns cooler and put together winter greens planters. Most of the materials could be donated from a local nursery (evergreen cuttings and pots). Members and friends have a festive pre-holiday gathering to assemble planters using bows, berries, and other holiday trimmings. Planters are sold at \$10 each and always sell out each year! The chapter chooses a different recipient for the fundraiser proceeds each year, and it is always a blessing!

Join us for a Life Team Leader Conference Call!

WHO: Potential, new, veteran, apprentice, and assistant life team leaders!

WHAT: One-hour national conference call to give leaders “strength for their journey.” The call will be led by Pastor Doug Merkey and will include a biblical devotional, leadership coaching, idea sharing, and prayer.

WHEN: October 21, 2014, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm Central Standard Time

WHY: Every leader needs ongoing strength for the leadership journey.

HOW: Dial 832.551.5516 and enter the Pass Code 100219 followed by # key. If the conference is not in session, you will hear music until the moderator (Pastor Merkey) arrives. He’ll then start the conference. During the call, you can press *3 to exit the conference call, press *6 to mute your phone line so we can’t hear you, and press *6 again to un-mute your line. (Check with your carrier about phone charges.) If you can’t attend this call, please invite someone else from your life team to represent you—perhaps a leader-apprentice.

Questions? Contact our Mission & Ministry Coordinator, Lori Trinche, at ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org.

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



Published September 2014

A Setback from Thrivent Financial

by John Hawkins, Director of Development

As a supporter of Lutherans For Life, you may be aware that the ministry suffered a setback earlier this year when Thrivent Financial decided it would no longer include LFL on its “approved” list of organizations which may receive support directed from its members, chapters, employee matching, etc. This is per a new policy that the fraternal organization have a “neutral” position on life issues. The result is that LFL must “make up” funding well into five figures through December 31 and then annually beyond.

To help accomplish this, LFL is asking congregations if they will conduct a special freewill or plate offering sometime between now and the end of the year.

Additionally, we hope individuals and households might likewise be able to make an added or special gift.

Gifts may be made sent to:

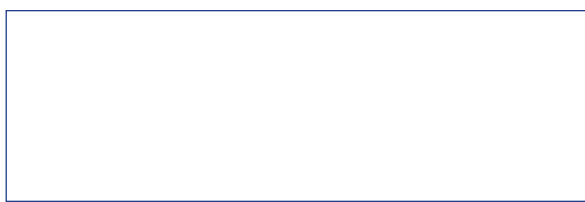
**Lutherans For Life
PO Box 76
Garden City, IA 50102-0076**

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 512.468.9777 or jhawkins@lutherans-forlife.org.

More information is also available by going to the web at www.lutheransforlife.org.

Many thanks for your prayers and support!







Owen's Mission

**"A PERSON'S
A PERSON,
NO MATTER
HOW SMALL"
-DR. SEUSS**

Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), **no matter how small!**

Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. (That's 1078 schools affecting 139,000 students!) We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.



Where did Owen's Mission come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:



"I held my little grandson, Owen, in the palm of my hand. He died at twenty-one weeks during pre-natal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the twenty-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."

As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr. Lamb.

Our Goal:

\$175,000

You can support Owen's Mission by:

- Giving a personal gift
- Encouraging your school to give
- Encouraging your congregation to give
- Encouraging groups within your congregation to give

To give a gift online to Lutherans For Life go to:

www.lutheransforlife.org/give

Please designate your gift to “Owen’s Mission.”

You can also send your check to:

**Lutherans For Life
PO Box 76
Garden City, IA 50102-0076**

Please designate your gift to “Owen’s Mission.”

Lutherans For Life is a 501(c)(3) ministry and contributions are deductible as a charitable donation.

Please keep Lutherans For Life in your prayers.

You can also find out about many other ways to give, including estate planning assistance, at our Give page.

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).



Lutherans For Life is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. We are a non-political ministry whose mission is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We produce a variety of multi-media resources that connect the life issues to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We affirm life at all stages of development and in all conditions of health. We are For Life, not because we live in a society that isn’t, but because we serve a God who is.

www.lutheransforlife.org

Speakers Bureau (www.lutheransforlife.org/about/speakers-bureau-concerts-for-life)

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 a workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available. 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 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)
Kim Hardy (nationwide)
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)
Luke Timm (nationwide)



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 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.

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):	



Rebecca

by Rev. Mark Doecke

(Source: www.facetoface.org.au/facetoface)

Last year, at the beginning of a new term, John, a friend and colleague of mine, told me the following story.

During the holidays John had been waiting at Melbourne Central Station for a train to visit his parents in one of the outer suburbs. As he surveyed the other commuters, he noticed a woman walking along the platform wiping tears from her eyes. He watched her looking around as if lost, or as if she had lost someone. He thought, I hope she's all right. A short while later he noticed her standing right on the edge of the platform. She was looking tentatively over the edge and up the track for the coming train.

Seeing this, John was convinced she was planning to jump in front of the arriving train. He quickly prayed, "Lord, what do I do?" Not wanting to embarrass her and also observing that no one else seemed to be paying attention, he kept an anxious eye on her.

The train was less than a minute away and John noticed her teetering closer to the edge of the platform, and then she crossed herself. That was his cue. Embarrassment or not, he hurried up to her, tapped her on the shoulder, and asked her, "Excuse me, are you all right?" She immediately whipped around, looking at John wide eyed, as if snapped out of a daze. Pausing a moment, with tears streaming, she let the flood gates of her distress go, saying, "No, I'm not all right. I am three months pregnant. I am homeless and haven't eaten for two days and I have no money. I'm here alone. I have no family. I have been to the Salvos and the police, and neither of them could help me. Centerlink requires a wait of two weeks for payments to come through. This shouldn't happen here in Melbourne. I have been given the number of a shelter to ring. It costs \$50 per week, but they require the money up front."

At that point the train arrived, which was John's train, so he invited her to join him. There her story unfolded further. She said that she had only been in Melbourne for one week, that she came from Perth. She had no wallet or ID. Both were in her partner's car.

John then took out his wallet and gave her \$50 for the week's accommodation and \$20 for some food. It was with reluctance that she took the money, but also with gratitude and thanks. She rang the shelter seeking the accommodation. They told her that the room had been taken one hour earlier, but gave her the number of another shelter in a different suburb. The cost of this shelter was \$100 for the week. They had a place for her. She said, "I only have \$70, can I take the room and I'll come up with the other \$30 by the end of the week?" This cost didn't include food either! John thought, No, it can't be this way. He got out another \$50 from his wallet. She took it reluctantly. Her name was Rebecca.

During the encounter with Rebecca, all that was going through John's mind was the need at hand and the best way he could immediately respond. Questions about why she was in Melbourne, where her family were, or even about her ID being in her partner's car and why



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she had no money had nothing to do with the situation. None of that was relevant. John felt his call was for what was immediate.

Why did John respond the way he did? Many would have responded similarly. Perhaps some may have done even more. But for John, his response was what he saw as a Christian response. He later told me that he had to help her. As a follower of Jesus, he wanted to help her. It was as if there was no choice. He said that one particular Bible verse came to mind as this remarkable story was unfolding. In this passage Jesus is commending those of His followers who gave Him food when He was hungry, a drink when He was thirsty, clothes and shelter when He needed them and so on. One of the followers then asked Jesus, “But when did we see You hungry or thirsty or in need of shelter and help You?” To which Jesus replied, “Whenever you helped someone overlooked or ignored, that person was Me—you did it to Me.”

John has no doubt that the quiet, small voice inside his head that told him to go and speak to Rebecca before the train arrived was the voice of God. He hasn’t kept in contact with Rebecca, and he doesn’t know what happened to her. But he still prays for her. And most of all, he knows that God knows her and God loves her.

I don’t know what I would have done if I had been in my colleague’s shoes. How about you? I like to think I would have done something similar. But would I have had the time? Could I have been bothered? Would I have been willing to part with some of my money knowing this person could be deceiving me? What if she needed more help than I was prepared to give?

A more constructive question I have learned to ask over the years is, “What would Jesus of the Bible have done in such circumstances?” That question is easier to answer because the Bible accounts are clear: Jesus would not have judged or lectured her. Jesus would not have ignored her. He would have loved her. He would have helped her in practical ways. He would have urged others to do the same.

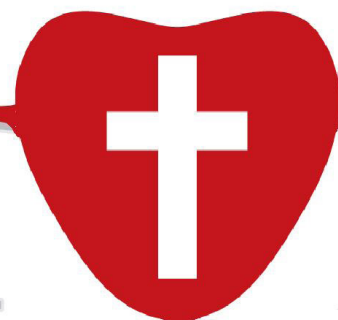
Jesus still relates to us today with the same love and compassion as recorded in the Bible. We see it through people like John, and it can happen through you and me too.

As a Christian, a follower of Jesus, that’s the kind of God I believe in—a loving, gracious, accepting, and giving God.



Lutherans For Life National Conference
October 24-25, 2014

MATTERS OF THE HEART



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
5125 Cascade Road SE • Grand Rapids, Michigan

Find out more at
www.lutheransforlife.org/conference

Hotel reservations:

Best Western Hospitality Hotel & Suites • Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512
800.780.7234 or 616.949.8400

bestwesternmichigan.com/hotels/best-western-hospitality-hotel-and-suites



“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1-2).

Speakers include:
Dr. John Patrick
Rev. Bob Fleischmann
Rev. Jonathan Fisk
Katie Schuermann
Rev. Max Phillips



Laura Davis
Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb
Jim Schroeder
Diane Schroeder
Grace Kern
Lori Trinche



Lutherans
For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be
Gospel-motivated voices For Life

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Matters of the Heart • Lutherans For Life National Conference

October 24-25, 2014 • St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1-2).

Sponsorship Donation Form

In lieu of Witness Messages in a conference book and to curb printing costs, we are offering sponsorship opportunities to chapters, federations, Life Teams, LMCs, churches, families, and individuals. Sponsorship gifts will be listed in the conference folder.

Sponsorship levels:

- ☐ Bronze \$50
- ☐ Silver \$100
- ☐ Gold \$250
- ☐ Platinum \$500

If you wish to make this sponsorship in honor or memory of a person or event, please indicate this information below.

____ in honor of ____ in memory of Name: _____

Earn **one complimentary conference registration** with every \$450 of sponsorships and/or donations turned in by an individual, LFL Life Team, chapter, or congregation; \$600 for a state affiliate.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Payment information/total amount enclosed: \$ _____

☐ Check (made payable to Lutherans For Life) or ☐ Credit Card

Please return this form with your check or credit card information in the enclosed envelope to: Lutherans For Life, 1120 South G Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201-2774.



Amount \$ _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Phone: _____

Month / Year

Signature _____



Speaking to Matters of the Heart

(Student Guide)

[This study follows closely the Life Sunday bulletin insert—Item LFL921BI available at www.cph.org. If you used these, you may want to refer to it or even use it in class.]

Introduction

For the Old Testament Hebrew, the word “heart” signified much more than the physical organ. In fact, there are very few uses of heart in this sense. The vast majority of uses refer to a person’s inner being, their essence, their very soul.

Hebrew Idioms

With that in mind, look up the following verses which contain Hebrew idioms using the word “heart.”

Joy – 1 Samuel 2:1 – What does Hannah’s heart do that expresses her joy?

Grief – Nehemiah 2:2 – How does King Artaxerxes describe Nehemiah’s sadness?

Guilt – 2 Samuel 24:10 – David feels guilt over numbering the people. How is that guilt expressed?

Fear – Genesis 42:28 – Joseph’s brothers are trembling in fear at the discovery of the money put back in their sacks. What is the “heart phrase” used to describe that fear?

Comfort – Isaiah 40:1-2 – God wants Isaiah to comfort His people. How is he to speak to them?

The Bad Heart

God’s people in Isaiah’s time needed a message of comfort. They committed detestable sins and chased after other gods. God had just predicted their exile into Babylon (Isaiah 39:5-7).

Genesis 6:5 – Where did such evil come from? But we do better, right? Not really! What did Jesus say about our hearts?

Mark 7:20-23 – What did Jesus say about our hearts?

1 John 3:17 – What else can come from a bad heart according to this verse?



Sanctity of Life Quiz – Check the appropriate answer.

	Political Issue	Matter of the Heart
1. Afraid and confused, the pregnant sixteen-year-old thinks abortion is the only answer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. He would pay for his girl friend's abortion. Then he realized this was their child. But too late, the abortion had taken place. He is filled with guilt and grief.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The abortion haunts her. Her regret seems unbearable. She wonders how Jesus could possibly forgive <i>this</i> sin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. His wife's stroke put her in a wheelchair. Her speech is slurred. She drools. He wonders what would be so wrong with ending her suffering with assisted suicide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Every day in this country nearly 3,000 babies that God created, redeemed, and wants to call die in an abortion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Message of Comfort

What is God's message of comfort to His people in Isaiah 40:2?

Let's look at these three aspects of God's "Good News" of comfort that were fulfilled in Jesus.

Warfare ended – Colossians 1:19-23 – What "warfare" is ended according to these verses?

Iniquity pardoned – Isaiah 53:6; Romans 8:15-17 – What has happened to our iniquity? When someone is pardoned for a crime, do they remain guilty of that crime? According to the Romans passage, how did God see us and how does He see us now?

Double for all our sins – John 1:15-17 – How much grace do we get in Jesus?

Conclusion

Like the ancient Hebrews, we also deal with "Matters of the Heart." We experience sorrow, "evil of the heart." Our hearts sometimes "strike us" with guilt and regret. Our hearts can "leave us" when we face fearful situations. But the Gospel "speaks to the heart" as nothing else can. Through the forgiveness and hope of the Gospel, our hearts can "leap" once again!



Leaders's Guide follows



Speaking to Matters of the Heart

(Leader's Guide)

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Introduction

For the Old Testament Hebrew, the word “heart” signified much more than the physical organ. In fact, there are very few uses of heart in this sense. The vast majority of uses refer to a person’s inner being, their essence, their very soul.

Hebrew Idioms

With that in mind, look up the following verses which contain Hebrew idioms using the word “heart.”

Joy – 1 Samuel 2:1 – What does Hannah’s heart do that expresses her joy?

Her heart “exults” (ESV). The Hebrew here is “aw-lats” to leap or jump. Thus the Hebrew idiom for joy is a “leaping heart.”

Grief – Nehemiah 2:2 – How does King Artaxerxes describe Nehemiah’s sadness?

“Sadness of the heart.” The Hebrew here is “ro’-ah,” evil. The Hebrew idiom for grief and sadness is “evil of the heart.”

Guilt – 2 Samuel 24:10 – David feels guilt over numbering the people. How is that guilt expressed?

David’s “heart struck him.” The Hebrew idiom for guilt is to be “struck [naw-kaw] by the heart.” Point out how this gives insight into the practice of “smiting the heart” with your fist as a gesture of guilt and penitence.

Fear – Genesis 42:28 – Joseph’s brothers are trembling in fear at the discovery of the money put back in their sacks. What is the “heart phrase” used to describe that fear?

Their “hearts failed them.” Literally, it is “their hearts left [yaw-tsaw’] them.” So the Hebrew idiom for fear is “the heart leaves.”

Comfort – Isaiah 40:1-2 – God wants Isaiah to comfort His people. How is he to speak to them?

“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.” Literally, this is “daveru al-leb,” speak to the heart. To speak comfort, to speak Good News, is to “speak to the heart.”

The Bad Heart

God’s people in Isaiah’s time needed a message of comfort. They committed detestable sins and chased after other gods. God had just predicted their exile into Babylon (Isaiah 39:5-7). Where did such evil come from?

Genesis 6:5 – Where did such evil come from? But we do better, right? Not really! What did Jesus say about our hearts?

Bad deeds come from a bad heart which, by nature, is “only evil continually.”



Mark 7:20-23 –What did Jesus say about our hearts?

Our hearts, too, are by nature corrupt. Since this study focuses on the sanctity of human life, you may want to have some brief discussion about sins against life. Abortion is the obvious one. But sometimes others are complicit in an abortion; the father of the child or the parents of the pregnant girl often apply pressure for an abortion to avoid shame and “scandal.” Assisted suicide and euthanasia are sins against life, but closer to home may be people who have made wrong decisions regarding removal of treatment or not starting treatment.

The intent is not to get into a long discussion but to point out that although such sins against life may seem like “big” sins, we all find our sins on Jesus’ list some place! No one has a pure heart and, therefore, no one has pure behavior.

1 John 3:17 – What else can come from a bad heart according to this verse?

Nothing! This points us to sins of omission. When we know someone has a need and we have the capacity and opportunity to help and do not, we sin. The most famous biblical example would be the priest and Levite passing by the injured man in the story of the Good Samaritan.

Sanctity of life focus: If the life issues are “matters of the heart,” things that affect people deeply and challenge their faith, then we have what it takes to address such issues—the Gospel of Jesus. Have the group discuss this question: Do we sin if we are silent about these issues and do not apply the Gospel to them?

Keep in mind that part of “applying the Gospel” is the need for the law in preparation for the Gospel. We need to call wrong things wrong. Then we can speak of what God in Christ has done about wrong things.

Some may think or even say that issues like abortion are political issues and we should not be talking about them. Lead a discussion on this. If you are using the Lutherans For Life bulletin insert (recommended!), refer to that for this discussion. If not, the text is below. Put it on a white board or just read the statements.



Sanctity of Life Quiz – Check the appropriate answer.

	Political Issue	Matter of the Heart
1. Afraid and confused, the pregnant sixteen-year-old thinks abortion is the only answer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Every day in this country nearly 3,000 babies that God created, redeemed, and wants to call die in an abortion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The desired outcome is to help everyone understand that by their very nature the life issues are spiritual issues. They are matters of the heart, and we have a message that people dealing with them need to hear!

The Message of Comfort

What is God's message of comfort to His people in Isaiah 40:2?

Three things: Warfare ended, iniquity pardoned, and double for all her sins.

Let's look at these three aspects of God's "Good News" of comfort that were fulfilled in Jesus.

Warfare ended – Colossians 1:19-23 – What "warfare" is ended according to these verses? **Our warfare with God. We were "alienated and hostile" toward Him, but in Christ, we are presented as "holy and blameless and above reproach before Him." This peace with God was made possible by the blood of Christ's cross.**

Iniquity pardoned – Isaiah 53:6; Romans 8:15-17 – What has happened to our iniquity? **The Lord laid it upon Jesus. It is taken from us and given to Him.**



When someone is pardoned for a crime, do they remain guilty of that crime?

Yes, but now they are looked upon as if they are not guilty. The word for "pardoned" here is "raw-tsah." It carries the idea of being pleased with. Because of Christ, God is now pleased with us. We are seen in a new light, as if we had never committed the crime.

According to the Romans passage, how did God see us and how does He see us now?

We were slaves to sin, but now, being pardoned in Christ, we are His children!

Double for all our sins – John 1:15-17 – How much grace do we get in Jesus?

The picture here is that if they deserved X amount of punishment because of their sins, they will receive 2X the amount of God's grace! In other words, they would not get what they deserved. Instead, they would get twice as much of what they did not deserve! God's grace in Jesus is endless, "grace upon grace." It surrounds us. We live in it. Nothing can touch our lives without passing through this immeasurable fountain of grace.

Discuss how this Message of Comfort applies to the life issues mentioned earlier or those mentioned in the "quiz."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is tailor made for such issues of life and death, pain and suffering, grief and regret and guilt. The Gospel speaks to the heart of that pregnant teen. It speaks of forgiveness and offers the presence and strength of Jesus. The Gospel speaks to the heart of that post-abortive woman and man. It speaks of forgiveness, forgiveness big enough for any and all sins. The Gospel speaks to the hearts of those in situations involving disease, pain, and suffering. It speaks of a God who, as long as He gives life, gives life meaning and purpose. It speaks of a God who demonstrated His ability to bring good out of suffering through the cross of His own Son. You may expand on the above as you desire.

Be sure to mention LFL's *Word of Hope* ministry that provides a toll-free number (888.217.8679) for those struggling with a crisis pregnancy or those whose hearts have been wounded by abortion. Brochures are available free from Concordia Publishing House (Items LFL404T and LFL909T).

LFL also has brochures that address end-of-life issues and the problems of pain and suffering. You can order them at www.cph.org. Look under the Sanctity of Life tab.

Conclusion

Like the ancient Hebrews, we also deal with "Matters of the Heart." We experience sorrow, "evil of the heart." Our hearts sometimes "strike us" with guilt and regret. Our hearts can "leave us" when we face fearful situations. But the Gospel "speaks to the heart" as nothing else can. Through the forgiveness and hope of the Gospel, our hearts can "leap" once again!

NOTES

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Life News

October
2014



www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Professor Richard Dawkins, the prominent atheist scientist, has said that it is “immoral” not to abort unborn children with Down syndrome. He made the comments in a discussion on Twitter. The professor argued that fetuses should not be given the same legal rights as older human beings. Anthony Ozimic, communications manager for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, told the BBC: “All unborn children, whether disabled or not, are equal members of the human family, and therefore have an equal right to life with the rest of humanity. As a scientist, Dawkins should know better than to deny that human life begins at conception. As a former fetus, I am against abortion in all circumstances.” (BBC, 8/21; *SPUC*, 8/22)



Since 1973 over 56,662,169 abortions in the United States

Each year over 1,120,775 abortions in the United States

Source: National Right to Life

Speaking Up For Life

“The Church cannot just be against abortion, it must be FOR LIFE! Sharing the truth of the immeasurable value God gives to life not only exposes the heresy of abortion, it also prevents Christians from falling prey to this heresy. For those who have been seduced by the heresy of abortion, the truth offers The Way back—Jesus Christ and His grace.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“We are to obey government except when it tells us to disobey God. Then, we must speak up and resist evil. We must use God’s Word to defend life, marriage, and family—the very foundation for civil society. When we are told to keep God’s Word ‘private’ and not share it in the marketplace of ideas, then we have lost our freedom of religion. How, then, can we be ‘salt and light?’” (Matthew 5:13-16) *Linda D. Bartlett, www.titus2-4life.org*

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes

Join us at our LFL National Conference! **HEART MATTERS OF THE**

Lutherans For Life National Conference
October 24-25, 2014 • Grand Rapids, Michigan
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Laura Davis • Rev. Jonathan Fisk • Rev. Max Phillips
Diane Schroeder • Grace Kern • Rev. Dr. James Lamb
Katie Schuermann

Order LFL resources for yourself, your congregation, and school at www.cph.org.

Expert Language by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Last October, I found myself smiling in a sad sort of way as I read a guest editorial in the *Des Moines Register* by a physician and self-proclaimed “expert on abortion care.” (“Abortion care,” I believe, is your quintessential oxy-moron.) She was commenting negatively on our Iowa Medical Board’s recent decision to ban Telemed Abortions in Planned Parenthood facilities in Iowa. This procedure allowed an abortionist in Des Moines to deliver the RU-486 abortion drug to patients in remote locations by entering a code in his computer that opened a drawer underneath the patient’s computer.

This “expert” doctor had an interesting vocabulary. In her attempt to justify the Telemed Abortion protocol, she wrote about determining the “gestational age of the pregnancy,” and measuring the “size of the pregnancy,” and of “passing the pregnancy.”

Let’s superimpose this expert’s language on non-experts in ordinary life. “Honey, the test was positive. We’re going to have a pregnancy!” “Mom, we had our first ultrasound today and we saw our little pregnancy.” “Feel this. Our pregnancy is kicking!” “Oh, look, our pregnancy is a boy.” “Great news, Dad! Sally just delivered our pregnancy!” “We can’t wait to parent this darling pregnancy.”

Paul tells Pastor Timothy, “**Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths**” (1 Timothy 4:7a). Our “expert’s” language is “irreverent.” It not only dehumanizes a truly new and unique human life, it dehumanizes the very handiwork of God. It dehumanizes a child for whom Jesus shed His blood. It dehumanizes a real, little someone whom God wants to call in baptism and for whom He has a plan and purpose.

Our “expert’s” language is “silly.” It makes no embryological sense. Even we non-physician types can see the total lack of logic and reason and proper terminology. It’s silly! I doubt our good doctor would write this way in a paper on Telemed Abortions submitted to a peer reviewed journal. I can imagine it coming back with “SILLY” scrawled across the top in big red letters! Or would it?

Such silly myths to dehumanize humans in order to justify destroying humans in such inhumane ways are so deeply imbedded even in medical professionals that the silly becomes sacrosanct. “[S]licing they do not see” (Jesus – Matthew 13:13). They turn light into darkness (Job 17:12). They become “blind guides” who “lead the blind” (Matthew 15:14). Many follow. Some are Christians.

We need truth and light. We have Him! Jesus came to “**give light to those who sit in darkness**” (Luke 1:79). He came and said, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life**” (John 14:6). We have truth and light in the person of Jesus who saves us. From the vantage point of saved ones, we strive to share His light and truth in our churches and in our world.

Thank you for helping Lutherans For Life equip fellow Lutherans to do so. The more we shine the Light in the darkness and apply the Truth to the myths, the more people will come to respect, not only life, but the Creator and Redeemer and Sanctifier of life. Thank you!



Hurting from abortion?
A Word of Hope can help.
888-217-8679 • www.word-of-hope.org



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