News and Notes

Mark your calendars …

2018 LFL National Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
October 12-13

From Age to Age the Same

www.lutheransforlife.org/conference

Immanuel Lutheran Church
9733 Olive Blvd
Olivette, Missouri 63132

You “have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save” (Isaiah 46:3b-4).

Our Lord and Savior remains the same from eternity unto eternity through all changes in human history and individual experiences—including our sinfulness;

Human sanctity and dignity are the same—that is, infinite—from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death, through all states and stages of a person’s life; and

Lutherans For Life, celebrating 40 years of being a voice For Life, is still motivated by the same Gospel courage and compassion to speak truth and show love, respecting and protecting every human being as a treasure and privilege from God our Father.

Find a bulletin insert to promote the conference in this edition of Directions!

July-August 2018
Directions • Lutherans For Life • News and Notes

- **CHECK OUT THE WORD OF HOPE WEBSITE**: www.word-of-hope.org

- **Be sure to “Like” and follow LFL on social media! See links below:**
  
  www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife  
  https://twitter.com/ForLifers  
  www.instagram.com/lfly4life/  
  www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL/  
  www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts/  
  
  *Also see:*  
  
  www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife  
  https://vimeo.com/user4132928

- **Please note that we have a Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and LMCs**: www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL/. The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other Frontline volunteers.

- **LifeDate is another way to share the For Life message with your congregation.** Order LifeDate in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) to order.

- **Life News** is available each month to download and print. Life News is a free monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more. Go to: www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news.

- **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 e-newsletter. (This is not an endorsement of all things Amazon, but it is a free opportunity for Amazon shoppers to support Lutherans For Life.)

- **Real Estate for Life** – “It takes so little to do so much to save the life of a child.” Real Estate for Life makes it easy for you to help Lutherans For Life by using funds a real estate company has already earmarked for commission fees at no extra cost to you. Under real estate law, Real Estate for Life will receive a referral fee. Pro-life organizations will receive 100% of the profits of that fee as a donation. Find out how it works at www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life, 877.543.3871, proliferealestate@yahoo.com.
What Does Scripture Say About Abortion?: A Bible Study

You won’t find “abortion” in your Bible’s concordance. This emboldens some to claim Scripture doesn’t explicitly forbid it. They conclude this permits Christians (and everyone else) to practice and promote abortion. However, no Bible passage explicitly condemns running children over with a vehicle. We (safely and rightly) infer it’s wrong from other statements that obviously imply it. Two of the earliest Christian documents outside of the Scriptures are the Didache of the Apostles and the Epistle of Barnabas. They were written at the same time as or shortly after the New Testament books. Both of these texts specifically prohibit abortion (“You shall not murder a child by abortion”). And, in fact, two Scripture references directly address abortion and its practitioners.


How does it describe God’s feeling about the killing of children? (Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Leviticus 20:2-5, 2 Chronicles 33:6)

Who has special value to the Lord? (Numbers 14:31; Luke 18:15-16; Matthew 18:5-6, 10)

St. Paul the Apostle calls himself “one untimely born.” This word literally means “a miscarriage,” “an aborted child,” or even “a baby violently torn out of the womb.” How does God deal with him? What does this tell us of how our Lord regards children subject to abortion? (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Ancient abortions were induced by ingesting potions. Those who prepared these poisons were known literally as “pharmacists.” Most English translations of the Bible render this word as “sorcerors.” How do the Scriptures assess this practice? (Galatians 5:19-21, Revelation 9:20-21)

The Didache of the Apostles and the Epistle of Barnabas reject a whole list of sins. In this list abortion (and infanticide) comes right after sorceries (pharmacy). What sinful conduct immediately precedes “sorceries” in Revelation 9:21? What evil behavior follows “sorceries”? How are these associated with abortion?

What message does Almighty God want those who participate in abortion to hear? (Ezekiel 18:30-32, 1 John 1:8-9, Romans 8:1-2)

Project Idea: “Worth the Wait” Event
by Karen Freiert, President of the Springfield Life Chapter

“Worth the Wait” events can be held in many different ways. The Springfield Lutherans For Life Chapter chose to plan a dinner gathering. The name was changed from “Chastity Banquet” to “Worth the Wait (WTW) Banquet.” It was felt that the term “chastity” was probably unfamiliar to the parents and especially the students.

**One Year Out:** Gather a coordinating group. Decide when you are holding the “Worth the Wait” event. Decide on your goal for the event and choose a target age group. Contact the churches you want involved, and get the contact name of someone who works with that age group. We chose the seventh and eighth graders in the LCMS churches of the Springfield, Missouri, area.

**Note:** Pastors are busy. They may not be the best people to receive direct follow-up mailings after the initial announcement has been received. A youth leader or Sunday school teacher may be more effective. Ask each church to put the event on the junior high school group activity calendar.

We encourage the parents to be the judge about the readiness of their seventh or eighth grader to attend. We do this every other year and invite all students who have not previously attended. Students who have moved into the area might not have attended previously and are welcome.

A pastor in our group chose to gather educational materials from the updated edition of *Luther’s Small Catechism* to be used for a review with the students right before the WTW event. We consider the event to be the culmination of all the years of purity education for these students. Many churches plan their educational curriculum one year in advance, so ask the pastors to include this catechetical review in their curriculum plenty of months ahead of time.

**Eight Months Out** – Send a letter to each pastor and youth/Sunday school representative. Include information they can mail or give to the parents explaining the upcoming evening. Decide on your main speaker and a rough idea of your program, and line up those participants. Sometimes we have been able to find some college students or young couples to assist us. We have had skits, warm-up activities, LFL speakers, or high school groups that promote purity before marriage. We always separate the boy and girl students (including those in high school) as part of the program after the main speaker is done talking. We have them go to separate rooms to ask questions of the female or male leaders. Sometimes it is a young married couple; sometimes they are college students. Frequently a youth advisor sits in. Questions are accepted from the youth; questions are also prepared ahead of time to open up the discussion. We had to put a time limit on this segment; it has become very popular.

**Three Months Out** – Send letters out to the pastors/Sunday school teachers/youth leaders. The letters will emphasize how high school students are needed to volunteer at the event as servers and will not need to pay for their meals. A letter is included for parents with information as to the location, time, menu, and price. We chose a Sunday evening. For our event, the parents pay a nominal fee for their meals. We hope that by paying this nominal fee, their reservation will be
kept. Our LFL Chapter paid for everything else.

It is time to start getting volunteers to serve, set up, clean up, etc. Parents are asked to RSVP so enough food can be purchased. We bought Chinese food as it is universally well liked.

**One Month Out** – One of our members kept a spreadsheet of helpers, participants, parents, pastors, and committee participants that were coming to ensure enough food was ordered. We have found that more Chinese food can be added to the order at the last minute. Communication is important. A spreadsheet can be emailed out periodically to keep the committee informed on RSVPs. Youth leaders have, at times, had to strongly encourage participation of their youth. If the social leader of a student group will attend, then usually several more students/parents will also attend.

Make sure to also count how many helpers are coming. Each church representative will count the participants and their parents and turn it in to one of the organizers. This includes the number of high schoolers that will serve as volunteers.

It is time to nail down the program, asking the pastors of participating churches if they want to participate. Program slots include the welcome, opening prayer, dinner prayer, introduction of speakers, summation time, and closing prayer. We had someone design a poster with information the churches could download and hand out at their churches to advertise the dinner.

Someone should purchase door prizes. Gift cards ($5.00) to a local ice cream shop or other small items are popular. One member will decide on a decoration theme, buy tablecloths and centerpieces, and plan the room setup. In the past, we have decorated with rented fabric tablecloths, and students were required to wear church clothes. In recent years, we have relaxed our décor and the dress code. Purity rings/jewelry can be sold or preordered and given out at the dinner. Lutherans For Life pamphlets on sexual purity, abortion, and similar topics are put on each table.

**One Week Out** – Finalize the program and verify what each participant will be doing. Print out the program on pretty paper for the participants and guests. Get a final count of all attendees so that you can order the correct amount of food.

In our experience, there are many last-minute reservations. We chose Chinese food so we could accommodate last-minute guests. Our dessert was brownies (no nuts) and ice cream. We enlisted the help of friends and church members in making the brownies. We made sure there was plenty!

Our program started at 5:30 p.m. with setup at 3:30. All members on our committee helped set up tables in a church’s gym. The high school students were asked to come early for instruction on each of their roles and to help set up if needed.

When serving the food, keeping the choices to a minimum speeds up the serving process. A special table just for the servers and helpers to eat is needed.
After the meal, the main speaker spoke. Then the students were excused to go ask questions of the male or female leader. The parents then gathered and listened to a pastor/other speaker talk about a relevant issue.

Dessert was served to the parents, and the students picked up theirs as they returned to the gym. As dessert was served, door prizes were handed out. This really can be done at any time.

Finally, we had a pastor sum up the Bible’s teaching on purity. This can be done earlier if you wish.

The event concluded with a prayer, asking for God to guide and strengthen these young people as they face the challenges of life so that they are led to make God-pleasing choices.
Project Idea: LFL of Illinois Adoption Fund
adapted from an email by Valerie Boehne, LFL of Illinois Board of Directors

The Lutherans For Life of Illinois Executive Board is excited to announce a new life-affirming project for Lutheran families in the state of Illinois.

Adoption is an expensive endeavor, and, due to the high costs, many couples do not consider adoption as an option in growing their families. The LFL of Illinois Board would like to work to meet this need for families who have a desire to adopt.

We are partnering with Lifesong for Orphans to create an adoption fund to be made available to LCMS families in Illinois who need financial assistance as they go through the adoption process. As of right now, we have a few LFL Life Teams that are interested in fundraising for this adoption fund. We are asking for more Life Chapters and Life Teams to prayerfully consider helping us financially to build this fund as well.

Once the fund has grown to $8,000, we would open the fund up for LCMS families to use as they go through the adoption process. Families will be able to submit an application for an adoption grant, and Lifesong will review the application. Lifesong will then give LFL of Illinois a recommendation of the amount that could be granted to the adoptive family according to their financial needs. Our hope is to make this fund available by the end of 2018. If you have any questions or are interested in helping in this project, you may contact Valerie Boehne at 309-210-4747.

Here is a video link with more information about Lifesong for Orphans:
https://vimeo.com/139492632 (password is lifesong)

Note: Plans are in development for LFL of Illinois to include Lutheran families outside of the LCMS in the future.
Evangelism Works
by Pastor Mark Jeske
(Source: www.timeofgrace.org)

Nobody is born a believer. Nobody is born a child of God. Nobody is born saved. All of us, every last one in human history, need to be converted to faith.

How does that happen? While I would concede the possibility that someone could carefully research major world religions, read the Bible on her own, and come to faith by herself, it is a thousand times more likely that a caring Christian would bring the Gospel testimony that turns on the lights and then helps the new believer process a new worldview.

The Samaritan woman who found her Savior at the well wasted no time in sharing what she had learned: “Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony” (John 4:39 NIV). You know what? Evangelism works. God has given us everything we need—His Word in language we can understand, gifts and power from the Spirit, and an open-ended commissioning to make disciples of the world. All that’s left to us is to do it.

You don’t have to be a brilliant orator, charismatic organizer, clever writer, or mesmerizing salesperson. You can just be you, telling the hopeless that there’s hope, telling the dying that there’s life in Christ, telling the lonely that their Father misses them and would like to hear from them.

The Holy Spirit will do the rest.
Strength-Training for Faith  
(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18 NIV84).

What’s your exercise routine: a daily walk around the neighborhood, a five-mile bike ride, lifting weights at the gym? We know that regular exercise is important for our muscles. If we don’t use them, they will inevitably become weaker. To stay strong or grow in strength they need to push or pull against some kind of resistance.

Have you thought about how faith in Jesus is much the same? It’s a spiritual “muscle” that needs to be used daily in order to stay strong. Think of how God provided a “workout” for Abraham’s faith when God told him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Faith had to push against the resistance of common sense, emotion, and doubt in order to follow through with the Lord’s instruction. By God’s grace, Abraham met the challenge and his faith came through all the stronger.

Every day our faith encounters resistance from all sides. From within, our old Adam tries to prevent it from even trying to follow God’s will by telling us it’s too hard and not worth the effort. The world sets up one obstacle and hurdle after another in the believer’s path. It flings mud balls of mockery and hatred as we run the race marked out for us. The devil tries to bog us down with temptations and doubts. It’s not easy to constantly push and pull against the resistance. Faith can become fatigued and strained.

When tired and pushed to the limit, muscles in arms and legs need downtime to recuperate and a good diet for fuel. Faith too needs rest and refreshment. God provides an endless supply in His Word. He may not immediately lift a burden of sickness from our bodies or the weight of a trouble from our hearts, but He is always ready to give us the rest and refreshment of His promises. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28 NIV84).

When you’re spiritually drained and you can’t take another step, go to Jesus and His Word. Read again in Scripture how He carried all your sin and griefs to the cross and suffered the death you deserved. As far as God is concerned, your sins are completely gone forever. You’re at peace with Him. That refreshes and builds up faith, and gives you renewed energy for the marathon of life.

Along with exercise for the body, make faith-training a part of your daily schedule. Peter writes: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18 NIV84). St. Paul encourages: “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV84). Feed faith with a steady diet of the Word both at home and in church, and then put it into practice in everything.
Lutherans For Life • Life Team Tools Order Form 2018

NOTE: LIFE TEAM TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE LFL NATIONAL OFFICE.

Lutherans For Life • 1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • 888.364.LIFE (5433)

Name ________________________________
Title ________________________________
Address ______________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________
Daytime phone ________________________
Email ________________________________

Ship to (if different):
Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________
Telephone ___________________________

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TOTAL SHIPPING $15

GRAND TOTAL ______________________$

Are you purchasing this for a church? Please list name and address:

______________________________

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:

Â □ VISA Â □ MasterCard Â □ American Express

Amount $ ______________________

Credit Card # ______________________

Exp. Date _____ Phone _____
Month / Year

Signature ______________________

You may also purchase Life Team Tools by credit card by calling 888.364.LIFE (5433).

www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams
Owen’s Mission

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 970 schools affecting 133,000 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, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

“I held my little grandson Owen in the palm of my hand. He died at 21 weeks during prenatal 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 20-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.

You can support Owen’s Mission by encouraging your Lutheran elementary or high school to have an Owen’s Mission presentation! Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) or email info@lutheransforlife.org.
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 workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available.

General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- **Airfare/Mileage:** Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event
- **Lodging:** Quiet, nonsmoking 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:

Jean Amundson (nationwide – based in Cleburne, Texas)
Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide – based in Iowa Falls, Iowa)
Paul M. Clark (nationwide – based in Fowler, Michigan)
Connie Davis (nationwide – based in Macomb, Michigan)
Daniel M. Domke (within five to six hours of Huron, South Dakota)
John Eidsmoe (nationwide – based in Pike Road, Alabama)
Kim Hardy (nationwide – based in Grand Haven, Michigan)
Kristi Hoffner (nationwide - based in Bethalto, Illinois)
Kimberly Ketola (nationwide – based in Peachtree City, Georgia)
Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada – based in Marshalltown, Iowa)
Sheila Luck (nationwide – based in Scandinavia, Wisconsin)
Ryan C. MacPherson (nationwide – based in Mankato, Minnesota)
Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa – based in St. Peter, Minnesota)
Rev. Michael W. Salemink (nationwide and Canada – based in St. Louis, Missouri)
Andrew Schatkin (nationwide – based in the New York/Long Island area)
Rev. Caleb Schewe (nationwide – based in Corona, South Dakota)
Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada – based in St. Louis, Missouri)
Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide – based in Lombard, Illinois)
Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide – based in Lombard, Illinois)
Patti Smith (nationwide – based in Huntington Beach, California)
Francis W. Szarejko (nationwide – based in the Kansas City, Kansas, area)
Ed Szeto (nationwide – based in Virginia)
Luke Timm (nationwide – based in Des Moines, Iowa)
**Speaking Engagement Report Form**

We appreciate the many hours our faithful Frontline workers contribute to sharing the For Life message. If you or your State Federation/Life Chapter have the opportunity to speak on 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 national office or email info@lutheransforlife.org.

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National Lutherans For Life Staff

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Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

Lutherans For Life

1101 5th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-1816

info@lutheransforlife.org
www.lutheransforlife.org
888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

Since Roe v. Wade in 1973: 60,069,971 abortions in America
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 Life Chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The Life 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 Life Chapters. In a state where a State Federation exists, the Life Chapters also become affiliated with the State Federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a Life Chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the Life 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 Life 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 Life Chapter if it is chartered.

Life 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 Life 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 Life Chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will ensure that the State Federation and local Life 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 Life Chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

**Annual Memberships:**
- 20% goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life 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 Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 1/12 goes to the State Federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the State Federation
- 10/12 remains at national
Mark your calendars …
2018 Lutherans For Life National Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
October 12-13
“… I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.”
Isaiah 46:4

From Age to Age the Same
Immanuel Lutheran Church • 9733 Olive Blvd • Olivette, Missouri 63132
Join us in St. Louis!

Our Lord and Savior remains the same from eternity unto eternity through all changes in human history and individual experiences—including our sinfulness; human sanctity and dignity are the same—that is, infinite—from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death, through all states and stages of a person’s life; and Lutherans For Life, celebrating 40 years of being a voice for Life, is still motivated by the same Gospel courage and compassion to speak truth and show love, respecting and protecting every human being as a treasure and privilege from God our Father. Speakers include:

- Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer
- Rev. Dr. Sam Nafzger
- Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb
- Rev. Ed Fehskens III
- Rev. Michael Newman
- Rev. Chris Wheatley
- Laura Davis
- Deaconess Rachel Geraci
- Brian Young
- Rev. Michael Salemink
- Rev. Rory Karg
- Rev. Fredric Hinz
- Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD
- Lynette Auch
- Dr. Cara Buskmiller
- Rev. Michael Dobler
- Rev. Todd Kollbaum
- Mona Fuerstenau

Online Registration is Open!