News and Notes

- **John Hawkins, Director of Development for Lutherans For Life Retires** – From John Hawkins, “After considerable prayer and thought, I have decided to apply for retirement … I am honored and humbled at the opportunity the Lord gave me to serve both the ministry and the greater cause of Gospel-centered life affirmation. It was also a blessing and pleasure to work with a dedicated staff and literally hundreds of volunteers who went out of their way to help me … To God be the Glory!”

  LFL Executive Director Rev. Michael W. Salemink said, “We are going to miss your stories, your humor, your humility, and your industriousness. We have greatly benefitted from your experience and efforts … We look forward to transitioning with you into the future, and may God make the coming years the best of your life.”

  Thank you, John Hawkins, and thanks be to God for you!”

- **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.
Facing death comes with great difficulties. Even Christians naturally fear the future’s uncertainty. We experience grief about time with loved ones running out. We endure guilt over lost opportunities and increasing needs. Age and ailments impair the body and inflict physical suffering. Failing mental faculties, like memory, comprehension, and communication, cause emotional anguish. And the devil tempts us to try to take control of death and use it as a solution to end sorrow. Many in our society advocate for physician-assisted suicide, in which a doctor prescribes a lethal dose of pharmaceuticals. But the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings a much better way.

1. How does God regard the twilight of life (Job 12:12, Isaiah 46:4, Revelation 14:13)?

2. What makes assisted suicide sinful (Ecclesiastes 8:8, Deuteronomy 32:39)?

3. What even greater threat hides behind our pain and dying (Matthew 10:28-31, John 17:14-15)?

4. Why don’t we need to worry about when or how we die (Romans 8:31-32, 38-39; John 11:25)?

5. What if we feel alone in our suffering (Psalm 23:4, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26)?

6. What purpose does God give to our hurting (John 9:2-3; Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7, 11-12)?

7. What invests human life with a value that age and abilities can’t change (Job 10:10-11, John 1:14, Acts 2:17-21)?

8. What does the Word of the Lord say about deaths the culture calls undignified (John 21:17-19, Job 2:9-10, Matthew 26:32-34)?


10. What can we do to support those whose lives are ending (Romans 12:1, Luke 10:33-34, 37)?
Seven Pro-Life Action Steps
by Alan Shlemon

(Source: www.str.org/blog/seven-pro-life-action-steps#.W-2XQehTmUk, 10/9/18)

Being pro-life is not merely an attitude. It’s a behavior—it’s something you do.

Last week, I spoke on the art of pro-life persuasion in San Diego. Towards the end of my presentation, I offered seven action steps pro-lifers could take to make a difference in the lives of the unborn and their mothers who face crisis pregnancies.

1. **Don’t have an abortion yourself.** Planned Parenthood data indicates that a significant percentage of women who have abortions identify themselves as Christian. That means Christians are killing their own children. If we’re going to make abortion unthinkable, it needs to stop with us.

2. **Learn the art of pro-life persuasion.** That’s what I taught last week in San Diego. These are tactics that help you effectively, yet graciously, engage abortion-choice advocates on the most important aspects of the discussion about abortion. I would add that besides studying the material, you should role-play the tactics with a friend.

3. **Engage people who disagree with you.** Once you’ve learned how to graciously engage others, start talking to people who disagree with you. You’ll never learn the art of pro-life persuasion effectively until you get pushback from abortion-choice advocates.

4. **Take your group on a pro-life mission.** This is a multi-day (two days or more) mission trip geared for anyone who wants to learn and practice the tactics of having persuasive, gracious conversations with abortion-choice advocates. You learn how to integrate your pro-life view with multiple areas: moral, theological, legal, practical, etc. The training and role-play prepare participants to effectively share their convictions in actual face-to-face conversations with those who disagree.

5. **Volunteer for a pregnancy resource center.** This is the front line. These centers provide support, resources, counseling, and sometimes even housing for women facing crisis pregnancies. Many women who are abortion-minded decide to keep their child after encountering the loving care provided by these centers and their staff.

6. **Vote for pro-life policies or candidates.** We need to change the laws to protect women and their unborn children. That’s not going to happen if we vote people into office or pass laws that don’t protect the most vulnerable people in our soci-
ety. Besides, laws tend to inform the conscience of a culture. Allowing abortion to remain legal and unrestricted tends to make people believe that abortion is moral. If abortion were made illegal, then eventually people would tend to think it’s immoral. To clarify, I’m not arguing that what’s legal is moral. I’m just saying that behaviors that are legal suggest to some that such behaviors are moral.

7. **Financially support a pregnancy resource center, pro-life group, or pro-life leader.** Whether we like it or not, money makes it possible for people to get their pro-life work done and helps pregnancy resource centers to support more women. If you can’t volunteer your time and energy (action step #5), support pro-life work with your finances.

Again, it’s great to be attitudinally pro-life, but we also want to do something to stop the killing. These seven steps are all practical ways to put feet to your convictions.
Evangelizing Points to Ponder in Prayer

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)

Mark 16:15 (NKJV): He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

These that follow are in no way exhaustive of all that we should consider. May they act as stimuli to get us more to thinking and praying:

A. **What greater love can be given to others than to proclaim the precious Good News of a Savior slain and risen again for our deliverance?** And when we talk to people, are we interested in them? Do we seek to have points of commonality and contact that might eventually open doors to share the Gospel? In 2 Corinthians 5:14 we see that Love is the motive that impels, drives, controls, and moves us. It is His love for us that we in turn show to others.

B. **When we proclaim, do we pray before and after speaking?** We do all within our power to convey the saving message to others. Like Paul we seek to persuade (Acts 18:4, 2 Corinthians 5:11). We get personally involved with anguish in our hearts over people (Romans 9:2), and we pray that God would work on their hearts.

C. **Are you concerned about making an intentional effort to win (as Paul says) for Christ?** In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, the very use of the words “win, save, or gain” show us the intentional effort.

D. **In our evangelism, do we expand our opportunities and go on to yet other individuals?** The history of the Church is one of expansion. From Acts on, it continues: “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith” (6:7). “But the word of God grew and multiplied” (12:24). “So the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily” (19:20). When we view the history of the Church, it gives us confidence to move on!

E. **We know that God gives the increase.** This causes us to commit all to the Lord in prayer. While we do all we can, it is God who produces.

F. **We want to be proclaiming His Good News in season and out of season.** There is nothing so great as the Good News of what our Jesus has done. May God allow each of us to do the work of an evangelist.
Celebrate Life – Family Bible Camp
by Lauren Schaidt

St. Luke Lutheran Church and School in Clinton Township, Michigan, held a Family Bible Camp this summer called “Celebrate Life!” The camp was designed to be intergenerational and taught as separate units. Participants could attend one, two, or all of the sessions.

Lasting an hour and a half on Monday evenings, a variety of life themes was presented:

- Celebrate Creation
- Celebrate Babies
- Celebrate Families
- Celebrate Life’s Challenges
- Celebrate the Elderly
- Celebrate Eternal Life.

Much of the material presented was drawn from the Lutherans For Life’s Teaching For Life school curriculum (www.lutheransforlife.org/store-teaching-for-life). Each night included a game, a presentation, a craft, and a snack. The craft throughout the camp was a stained-glass window using coloring pages with a pane for each of the six themes. Crayons were used to color the designs, and the translucent effect was achieved by coating each picture in cooking oil. Six of the coloring pages were chosen to be placed in a six-pained window, which is still on display in the church narthex.

The Family Bible Camp was sponsored by our Life Team in hopes of prompting family discussions about life issues and teaching even the youngest the value of human life as a precious gift from God. Before the event, our Life Team met to brainstorm topics and possible speakers. The pastor presented on four of the topics, and two members of the congregation, both Lutheran school teachers, presented the other two.

We received feedback about the Family Bible Camp, and we plan to do something similar each summer, varying the topics from year to year but continuing to focus on life issues.

It is wonderful to see families engage on these topics and to see the joy of the children who inherently know that life is to be celebrated!
LAMBS – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”
(Psalm 127:3)

Through the craftiness of some LFLers in Ohio, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a new project entitled “LAMBS” (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) has been created. Although our world might tell us otherwise, children truly are a blessing. Therefore, Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children, especially those families with a lot of them!

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Rachel Geraci, our mission and ministry director, at rgeraci@lutheransforlife.org so that she can arrange for this gift to be sent to them. (Alternatively, you can fill out the form below and send it to Carol Houtler of the Miami Valley Life Chapter.)

Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

LAMBS – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Wouldn’t it be nice to gift them with a homemade blanket in celebration of this new life? Simply by filling out this form, Lutherans For Life, the Miami Valley Life Chapter, and other Lutherans from the state of Ohio will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to this expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States. There are no strings attached. As the Body of Christ, we want to use this as an opportunity to share the mercy that our Savior Jesus Christ first showed us on the cross.

Your Name: _____________________________________________________________

Your Congregation: _______________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________

Mother’s & Father’s Names: ________________________________________________

Baby’s Gender: Boy ___ Girl ___

Mother’s Address: _________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________

Please send completed forms to: Carol Houtler
Miami Valley Life Chapter
7163 Pugliese Place
Dayton, OH 45415-1207

“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms” (Isaiah 40:11a).
The Family of Christ
(Source: Our Northern Illinois District – Summer 2018)

Over the past four years, eleven different children have lived with Angela, Jeff, and Lily Vernhoff. The youngest came to live with them when he was only nine days old; the oldest was seven. Some children stay just a few weeks; some stayed off and on for two years.

The Vernhoffs are a Safe Family: volunteers with an organization which “provides hope and support for families and children in crisis.”

Four years ago, Angela was volunteering at a faith-based, life-affirming pregnancy resource center in Kankakee. Through the pregnancy resource center, Angela learned about another Christian organization, Safe Families for Children.

At the state level, most child welfare agencies can only legally rescue children who have suffered blatant abuse or neglect. This leaves a gap between families in need and the organizations which can help them. Safe Families for Children fills the gap. When families find themselves unable to provide a healthy environment for their children, they can voluntarily give their children to a registered Safe Family for a short period of time while they get back on their feet. This way, parents are able to heal, and children are not at risk.
When Angela and her husband, Jeff, learned about the ministry of Safe Families for Children, the Lord moved their hearts to open their home. With support from their church, they began the process of becoming a Safe Family. Four years later while sitting in Pastor Cory Estby’s office at Zion, Grant Park, with a four-month old they’ve known nearly all of his life asleep beside them, Angela and Jeff spoke about some of the things they’ve learned as a Safe Family. Above all they responded: you learn to trust God. You trust He is in control. You trust the child is ok. You trust where He is leading you. Jeff and Angela say it has been their privilege to show the love of Jesus to people, saying, ”You never know what fruits will be received.”

With a unique opportunity to maintain a relationship with the child’s family after they return home, the Vernhoff’s church, Zion, Grant Park, has been able to join them, together as the Body of Christ, using every gift they have to serve others. When one child was able to return home but his home did not have any furniture, Zion’s congregation rallied together and filled a Penske truck full of furniture to furnish an apartment for this mom and her children.

One child at a time, from kind greetings with congregation members on a Sunday to day-to-day care as a Safe Family, the members of Zion, Grant Park, are boldly sharing Jesus with their community through radical compassion fueled by the mercy and grace of Jesus. Praise be to God!
God Knit Me Together – A Poem

God knit me together
and formed my inward parts.
He saw me in my mother’s womb
and held me in His heart.

I should have been secure and safe,
protected in my mother’s womb,
but unwanted was God’s precious gift,
and so a fearful shadow loomed.
It was not time for my arrival;
twas not my time to be born,
but heart and voice were cruelly stilled as I
from Mommy’s womb was torn.

I did not have a chance to see
or know what life for me would be.
I never felt a mother’s hug
or the kisses she’d have given me.
Undone are my good acts and deeds.
Why did my value you not see?
Wondrous things might have been.
Why, Mommy, did you not want me?

Forgiveness

Thank you, Father, for forgiveness
when worldly battles we don’t win,
when we despair a flawed decision
and feel the consequence of sin.

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,
who from sin’s bondage set us free,
as He suffered, bled, and died
on the cross of Calvary.

Thank you, Father, for forgiveness;
through dark clouds Your light I see.
Thank you, God, for grace and mercy
and unfailing love for me.

Dorothy Schuler – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
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 ________________________________
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TOTAL SHIPING $15

GRAND TOTAL

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

________________________________________________________

LFL Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST/CDT. Hours subject to change without notice.

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Cash

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 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 Hofferber (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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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
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)

From Age to Age the Same...

Bulletin insert front/back

Every human being is different. Each one of us is unique.
Different sizes. Different skills. All are special. All are precious.
Different circumstances. All of us made in the image of God.
Different experiences. All of us redeemed by His Son’s incarnation.
Different identities. All of us embraced with His Spirit for everlasting family.
Different needs. Our differences and failings can’t change God’s grace.
Death never makes our differences or difficulties go away.

The Heavenly Father’s truth and love make human lives sacred. Across all generations He gives every member of our race immeasurable significance.

For forty years Lutherans For Life has declared it and demonstrated it. You are beloved, no matter how young. You belong, no matter how old.

Let’s share this Gospel message with courage and compassion. Let us help you receive individual differences with rejoicing, not rejecting.

Our Savior says “Yes!” to life. We say “Amen!” – FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME

Scripture Quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

New for Life Sunday 2019!
Bulletin Inserts • Bible Study • Children’s Message
Worship Service • Sermons • Sunday School Lesson

www.lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2019