

LifeDate

Summer
2020



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

The For Life Generation

A look at how youth are standing up **For Life** now, how they can stand up **For Life** in today's rapidly changing culture—and how parents, teachers, pastors, and friends can help!



“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance”
(Proverbs 1:5)

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

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Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
motivated voices For Life

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Here's Your Paycheck

by Pastor Michael Salemink

“We are the pro-life generation.” That’s what today’s youth are calling themselves. And that’s your paycheck.

God blessed the Salemink household during our sons’ childhood; Mrs. Salemink didn’t need to work outside the home. Whenever one of the kids accomplished something remarkable, reached a milestone, or even just gave hugs and snuggles, I took to telling her, “That’s your paycheck.”

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3). Lutheran students care about the sanctity of human lives. Gospel-motivated veterans have raised them right and taught them well. They prove you have not labored the decades in vain. Your suffering to speak the truth in love has succeeded.

The first parish I served had an average age of over sixty-five. No little ones hollered between the hymns or screamed through the sermon on Sunday morning. The people despaired that the message, the community, and the movement were dying. And when the Lord once more bestowed a few births and a baptism or two upon them, they rejoiced **“before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil”** (Isaiah 9:3).

We need young ones to remind us our ministry has a future. I witnessed it on an airplane, of all places. A mother and father were traveling with their toddler. He wiggled and wailed out his dissatisfaction with the situation and the surroundings. The parents self-consciously struggled to contain and quiet him, obviously apologetic to all adjacent passengers. I felt like telling them, “Don’t you be sorry. Don’t be ashamed. He’s only acting as normal, healthy kids do. And he is the reason the rest of us are here going where we are and doing our work. He represents the tomorrow we’ve all invested in.”

I should have said it, but I didn’t. Maybe you can. I’ll bet you’ve seen them before, and I’m sure you will see them soon, be it Dad, Mom, and youngster; or only one parent; or multiple children. When you do, tell them for me. Tell them for us. And let them see how God’s gracious love for every member of our race will last them into adulthood, old age, and even eternity.



It Is Well

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

Life certainly has its surprises and challenges—some good and perhaps some not so good. We surely have seen our share these past months.

One huge change/blessing for our household has been the unexpected long-term visit of our daughter and three grandchildren while our son-in-law is on COVID-19 assignment with the Navy. For them, the move was bittersweet. Leaving husband and father has been painful, but the freedom from city and house confinement has been a welcome relief as the children soak in the freedom of country life.

As life has changed at my house, I am positive it has also changed at yours. It is simply amazing how fear of a tiny virus has basically changed the face of the whole world! We have clearly seen how fear, especially fear of sickness and death, can have a crippling, and even devastating, effect on human beings—to the point of controlling whole populations.

Sadly, one thing that has not changed is the continued—even heightened—war on the sanctity of life.

“A group of Minnesota doctors filed a lawsuit ... against [Governor Tim Walz, Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm, Planned Parenthood and others] for restricting their constitutional rights while allowing abortion facilities to continue to kill unborn babies in elective abortions during the coronavirus crisis ...

“When it comes to the right to have an abortion, the State has decided that this right is sacrosanct, and that no COVID-19 prevention measure can be allowed to curtail the right to abortion in any way—no matter how minor the burdens that might be imposed on abortion providers or their patients, and no matter how many lives might be saved from requiring abortion providers to switch from surgical abortion to medication abortion in an effort to conserve PPE [personal protective equipment] and increase social distancing,” the lawsuit states.

“Like many other state leaders, Walz and Malcolm restricted elective and non-essential surgeries, religious gatherings and more to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE) and prevent further spread of the virus. However, they allowed elective abortions to continue during the pandemic.” (*www.lifenews.com*, 5/1/20)

As one comment on Facebook said, “A society that kills a million babies a year for convenience has shut itself down to prevent adults from dying. And to make matters worse, the people who celebrate the mass slaughter of children are now preaching about the sacred value of human life. The whole thing is sick.”

Yes, the whole thing is sick and oftentimes causes feelings of fear and hopelessness—but we are not without hope!

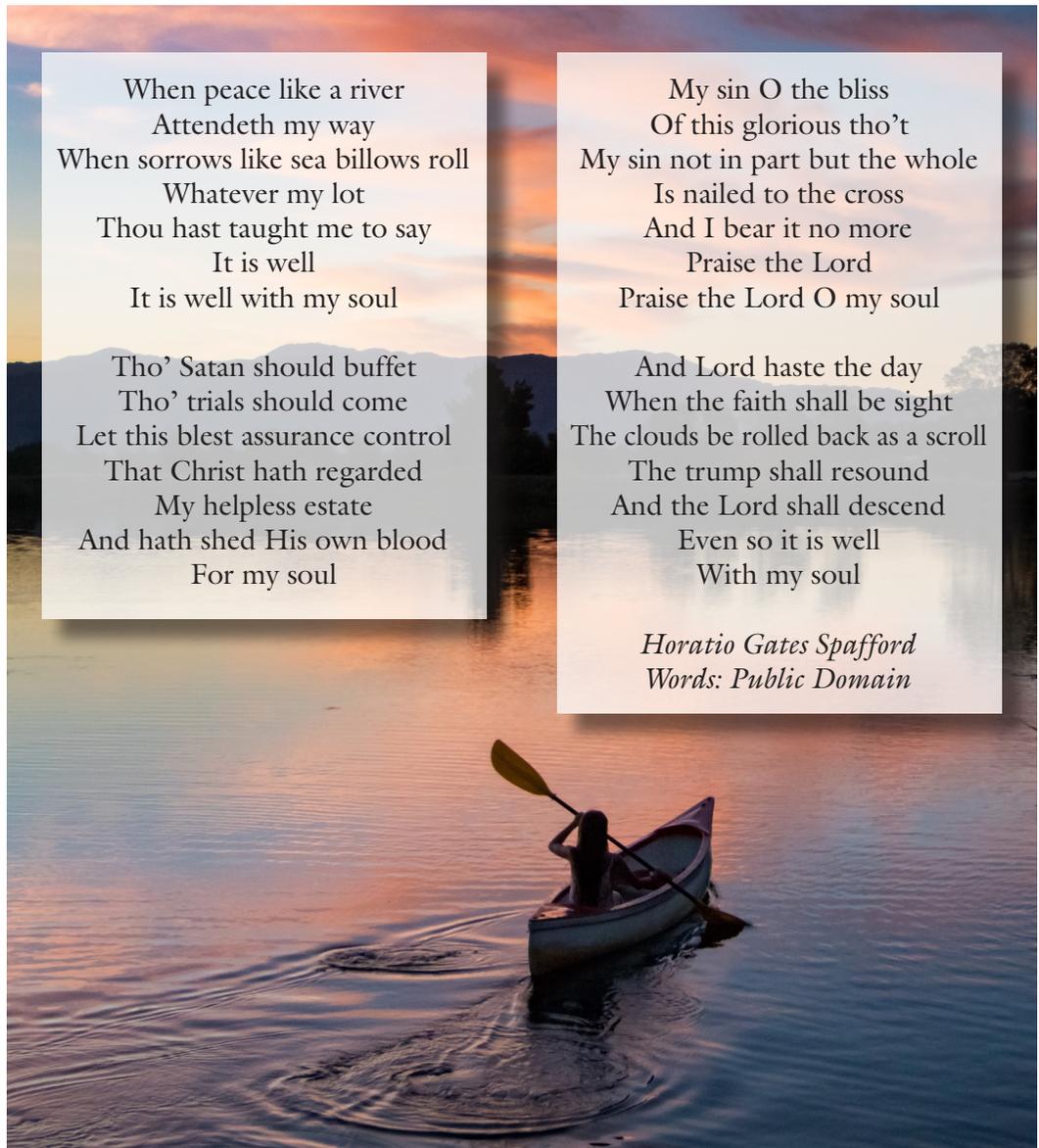
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13 NIV).

“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV).

Hope is what the ministry of Lutherans For Life is all about!

Lutherans For Life has also seen numerous changes and challenges of various kinds these past months, but, with the help of your prayers and gifts, it has not stopped the Gospel message of the sanctity of life and hope from being proclaimed.

Even though many of us have experienced sadness, new “normals,” challenges, fears, frustrations, and perhaps even sickness and/or death of a loved one, I pray through Christ’s strength we can say, **“It Is Well with My Soul.”**



When peace like a river
Attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
It is well
It is well with my soul

Tho’ Satan should buffet
Tho’ trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ hath regarded
My helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood
For my soul

My sin O the bliss
Of this glorious tho’t
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross
And I bear it no more
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord O my soul

And Lord haste the day
When the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
Even so it is well
With my soul

Horatio Gates Spafford
Words: Public Domain

Never Stop Until You Win – Facing the Abortion Battle Head-On and How to Defeat It

– A For Life Perspective from the United Kingdom

by Christina Hogan

Every single day we are faced with anti-life rhetoric, whether it's about abortion directly or the overwhelming shift in our culture toward a lack of responsibility and a disregard for the sanctity of life. As time goes on, we can hear the voices of our young people growing louder as we see the destruction of what the anti-life mentality is doing to our families, our men, our teenage girls, and women. There has been an increase in abortion numbers in the United Kingdom, amounting to around 550 a day. With an attempt to cease this increasing push for the death of our unborn children, correspondingly there has been a growth in the life-affirming movement with 60% of the Russell Group Universities starting pro-life societies. Abortion is this generation's genocide. It is the massacre of the holy innocents, and I do not want to sit back and watch this go by.

I am a UK university student, and I attended the University of Southampton for a year. I know that my life must be dedicated to this fight, the plea of the unborn, and the tears of regretful, misled mothers. One afternoon on campus, I walked past an Amnesty International exhibit. I confronted them about their show of human rights, whilst they infiltrate third world countries, supporting abortions even if it is illegal in that country. They returned my defense of the unborn child's bodily autonomy and his or her human right to life with the opinion that women should not be provided with information to help keep their child.

I soon realized that much of society does not care for mothers or the unborn. It is our job to provide a real human rights charity and to establish a For Life society. Bringing such a shift must start with you—in your school, in your workplace, in your universities, and in your home. I decided to create a society at my university, hoping to be one step closer to shifting culture towards love. We have been born into a strange tide where prolife opinion is thought of, by some, as scandalous. We need to turn the tide, learn how the opposition think, and take on the so-called “pro-choice” arguments head on. The pro-choice lobby is often extremely argumentative. One thing I knew my society had to include were sessions on how to be experts at arguing back!

As I set up my society's first event at university, I focused on myth-busting common pro-choice arguments that we face almost all the time. These vary from, “no uterus no opinion,” “my body my choice,” “it's just a clump of cells,” and



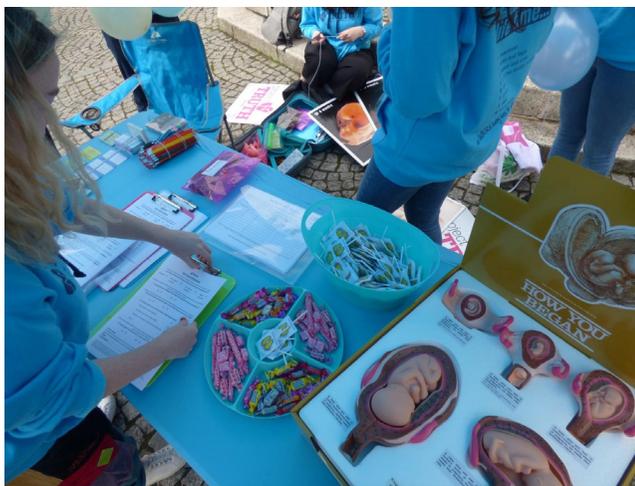
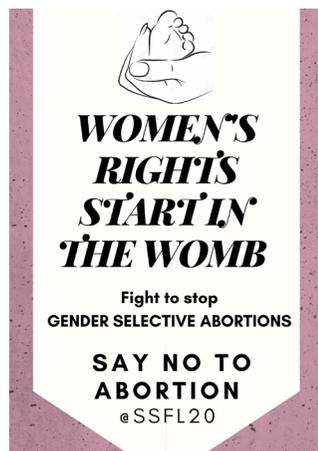
on it goes. Busting pro-choice arguments can be brought into assemblies at school, including details of the development of the unborn or as sessions at your local church.

I found that one of the ways in which we can convince pro-choice supporters is to target our speech to your audience. As I was beginning to train my society members on how to go out into campus and engage with our fellow students, one thing I would tell them to always keep in mind is the stance of the other person. If they are giving you facts, give them facts back. If they are telling you emotional stories of how women need abortions, give them emotive stories about how women have kept their child in their struggling circumstances. If you are battling with the overseeing body that has the power to shut your society down, fight back in a way in which they are familiar. Focus on the destruction of abortion (mentally and physically), gender selective abortions, and the abortion procedure. If you are confronted with a woman on the street, show her kindness and compassion, empower her to believe she has the strength to have children, explain the development of the unborn child, appealing to her maternal side.

If you are not at university, this does not mean you cannot shift culture. Gather a group of people, set up an exhibit, and go out into the town center. Engage with others and educate them on the development of the unborn child. Hearts and minds change best with one conversation at a time.

The final push that all pro-lifers should engage with, especially our youth, is media. Southampton Students For Life now has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SSFL20) that has already attracted some critics, giving us the chance to engage with them. Social media can be used to our advantage. Let's use it and reclaim it as our own. Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram—let's make fighting for the unborn the new craze! But this trend won't ever stop.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God shows us what it is to love every single day. Even the grace He gives us to change people's hearts toward Him is an outpouring of His love. Let us love like Christ and sacrifice our time to save His unborn children. Let us show mothers who have had or are thinking of having an abortion the love we are so beautifully bestowed upon from our Father.



Is Abortion an Election Issue? (2020 Edition)

by Pastor Michael Salemink

So, Chris tells Jamie, “I just couldn’t cast a vote for someone who supports abortion.” And Jamie says, “You know, Chris, abortion’s not the only voting issue. Other things matter to elections and politics too. Seems kind of narrow-minded for you to fixate on just that one.”

Have you ever heard a conversation like this? Have you ever had a conversation like this?

Have you ever met someone like Chris or Jamie? Have you ever felt like Chris? Like Jamie?

Is abortion an election issue? No and Yes.

No, abortion is never just an election issue. But yes, abortion is always at least an election issue. Here are ten reasons why:

- 1. Abortion isn’t just a political issue.** Abortion has to do with facts and truth about the science of human life—embryos and fetuses are living human beings as much as you and me. Abortion deals with the physical and psychological welfare of the most vulnerable among us—it kills children and makes mothers suffer. Abortion executes the injustice of discriminating against one another—unborn babies face deprivation and dying based only on their age, appearance, experiences, environment, or abilities. And abortion involves moral assessments and enforcements—who has the right to life, who has the authority to take life, when may we limit one’s lifestyle because it infringes upon somebody else’s survival?
- 2. Abortion isn’t just a single issue.** Abortion is a conclusion that comes from a whole set of principles. It relates to economics, medicine and health care, justice and civil rights. It shows how one understands the roles of government and law—shouldn’t we protect the weakest? It affects one’s sense of the community’s commitments to our underprivileged and endangered—wouldn’t we want to make up for what they lack rather than take even the little they have? It informs how one feels about our relationships to each other as citizens in a society—can’t we care instead of discarding? And abortion has long-term consequences and global implications for both individual bodies and entire populations.



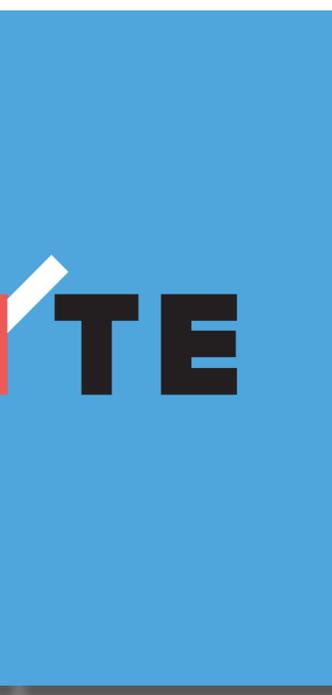
3. **Abortion isn't simply a popular-opinion issue.** Surveys cannot establish rights and wrongs. Polls cannot determine parental duties. Ballots cannot define a human life's worth and purpose. And even majorities cannot undo death. Of course, people have different perspectives and emotional disputes about abortion access. But none of these alters the logical, biological, social, and ethical realities of the matter. Abortion shapes the very nature of our nation and the makeup of our culture, not to mention the very lives of its victims.

4. **Abortion isn't simply a personal issue.** Abortion connects directly to the common good, especially to that of the least of these. It occurs at the juncture between the desires of the one and the requirements of another and the rest. It puts a thumb on the scales that balance corporate priorities with private ones; individual actions with civic impacts; and our limited, shared resources with our legitimate specific needs. As much as we might like to keep the reality of abortion behind closed doors, it infiltrates into our public consciousness, conversation, and collaborating. And given its significant stakes and manifold casualties, this is where it belongs.

5. **Abortion isn't only a women's issue.** Abortion puts an offspring to death—that makes abortion a children's issue. Every offspring descends from both a mother and a father—that makes abortion a man's issue. It also affects the employers and clients, neighbors and acquaintances of mother, father, and child. And it involves physicians and assistants, pharmacists and manufacturers, journalists and ethicists, students and researchers, officials and citizens in similar situations. In fact, abortion demands reckoning from us all, because these are

our neighbors, and this is our nation.

6. **Abortion isn't only a religious issue.** Opposing abortion doesn't impose a doctrine. It acknowledges scientific data—that fertilization brings into being a distinct human life. Opposing abortion doesn't compel a certain faith. It accepts particular facts—that killing judicially innocent human lives makes civilization impossible and renders governments irrelevant. Outlawing abortion doesn't favor a church—it favors safety, freedom, and fairness for all. Outlawing abortion doesn't prefer one tradition over others—it defends every member of the human race.



7. **Abortion isn't merely a Gospel issue.** The Scriptures have much to say about the sanctity of human life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ declares and demonstrates that God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own precious treasure forever. Christianity explores what this means for how we treat them. But even apart from this, the biological laws of nature lay on us the duty to look after our little ones. Prohibiting abortion is a fact of life and a function of humanity. It's a matter of right versus wrong and life versus death. And that's the proper realm of government and regulation.

8. **Abortion isn't merely a Law issue.** Pregnancy means we have responsibilities as a community. This holds true even when we have no hereditary relationship to mother or baby. God the Almighty Maker has made parents and child our neighbors. But it also gives us privileges. We get to speak a truth that changes hearts and show a love that saves lives. Pregnancy's responsibilities come with wonderful opportunities. It invites us to receive every child (and his or her family!) as a gift from our Heavenly Father with whom we can share all the blessings He promises.



9. **Abortion isn't one issue among others.** In fact, abortion itself isn't the issue. Rather, what makes one human and what makes human life worthwhile are fundamental. All of our deliberations, discussions, and decisions about absolutely anything else follow from it. Though we can debate the best "how," we have neither room to negotiate nor right to compromise about "whether" we protect the threatened among us. The inalienable and heaven-given right to life is primary. Liberty and the pursuit of happiness remain greatly important, but secondary.



10. **Abortion isn't somebody else's issue.** It's your business, it's my business, and it's our business. It's our issue as Christians, it's our issue as citizens, and it's our issue as human beings. Abortion and the sanctity of every human life matter very much for elections—more so than anything else. And it matters for much more than elections. It's a whole life issue!

"Is Abortion an Election Issue?" (2020 Edition) is available as a brochure through Concordia Publishing House: www.cph.org/p-17629-is-abortion-an-election-issue.aspx.

The For Life Generation

by Mona Fuerstenau, Director of Ministry Partnerships at Bethesda Lutheran Communities

My first time attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C., in 2019 was a big surprise. I didn't expect to be surprised. But I was. I was so surprised at how many of the thousands in attendance were young. I kept trying to find estimates of the percentage of people under the age of 21. It boggled my mind. I asked them a lot of questions. I watched the young people participate. I puzzled over how surprised I was until I took time, sat down, and thought about it. Really thought about it. It should not have surprised me so much. I have years of data points working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to support the phenomena I was seeing. In my experience, young people care deeply about and value differences among and between people. They are curious. They ask questions. They adapt, accept, support, and champion. It stands to reason they would care deeply about the value of all lives and participate in the March for Life. That day was my introduction to the term "The For Life Generation," and it was filled with AHA! moments.

In the year since that experience, I have explored this For Life Generation through reading, online groups and forums, and YouTube videos. I have admired the passion and energy for all life reflected in those arenas. It is an encouragement to me as I work in the field of advocacy for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I feel hopeful the youth of the For Life Generation will have a positive impact on the life experiences of those they encounter with disabilities.

I was privileged to share about Bethesda on an LFL Frontline call in April. The other speakers that night were college student leaders from the Students for Life group on campus at Concordia University Wisconsin. They expressed interest in reaching out to the Bethesda College students on their campus to invite them to engage in life activities with them. See? It has begun!

I invite you to explore the work we do at Bethesda by visiting our website www.BethesdaLC.org. Check out our new Home Activity Center! It is full of ideas and activities. Use them in your own families and visit our volunteer tab to find ways to connect with the people we support and their staff. You can download, print, and color cards; send a virtual greeting; check out our list of church services online and our music play lists; watch our YouTube videos; do a devotion or Bible activity; and send a video to share with others.

Volunteers and donors are needed all the time but are especially critical now. Click on the volunteer tab for a list of top-ten needed items, make a prayer cloth, provide birthday celebrations, and more.

Come work with us! Caring and committed staff are always needed.

I hope one day soon to be part of a group of people with disabilities Marching for Life alongside and in the midst of the For Life Generation.



Suicide and HOPE

Pastor Michael Salemink

“And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.” (Revelation 12:4)

A beast is eating our children. The suicide rate among youth nearly doubled in the last two decades. Suicide has become the second-leading cause of death for adolescents and twenty-somethings. Only accidents claim more teenage and young adult lives.

Suicide is a life issue as much as abortion or euthanasia. And Christ Jesus has given us an effective antidote against the monster’s venom: **HOPE**. His Gospel brings **HOPE** that changes hearts and saves lives. Lutherans For Life’s **Word of Hope** Director, Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD, outlines for us the strategy of **HOPE**.

“H” stands for **“having awareness.”**

Somebody with a history of depression or mental illness or a sense of hopelessness may be in need of our attention. Chronic pain, substance abuse, as well as any previous suicide attempts ought to keep us watchful. Living through a loved one’s suicide or suffering a high-conflict relationship can lead a person to feel suicidal.

We also want to remain mindful of anyone’s lack of social support or sense of isolation, as these contribute to suicide. Especially we’ll look for significant changes in mood or interactions or behavior. Insisting that “I can handle it on my own” or withdrawing from others provides warning signs. Sleeping less or longer, eating much more or much less, significant weight change, lack of energy or activity, and general sadness or apathy also raise flags.

When we hear, “I wish I hadn’t been born,” or “I’d be better off dead,” we need to get involved. Has this someone you know begun seeking lethal means, like guns or knives or pills? Is there talk of a particular plan or method for how they would carry out suicide? Are they becoming preoccupied with speaking, reading, or writing about dying and violence?

Have they expressed feeling worthless or really burdened? Is this person saying ominous goodbyes or giving away possessions? Do you see an increase in alcohol or drug use, or risky behavior like driving recklessly? Even a sudden calm after extended depression could tell us someone we care about may have decided to commit suicide.

“O” in **HOPE** stands for **“open to asking.”**

We embrace this person in a relationship of rapport and trust. Just because they know us doesn’t mean they feel safe talking. We inquire gently and patiently about their well-being, even asking directly whether they’re thinking of taking their life. We listen actively. We invite them to share thoughts and feelings without offering opinions or suggesting solutions. Open-ended questions, ones that encourage more than “yes” or “no” for an answer, work especially well. We express our care and empathy, validating their emotions as real and justified. And we inform them that because we care about them, when we feel they may be endangering themselves, we won’t keep it secret but will seek assistance to save them.

The **“P”** stands for **“present without judgment.”**

We cease all competing activities to listen and attend to that person's feelings and needs. We reschedule other tasks and remove immediate objects that could prove harmful. We interpret their facial expressions, postures, and gestures as well as verbal communication. We can pray with and for them, and always avoid surprise, disgust, or arguing. We offer forgiveness wherever the person acknowledges sinfulness and repentance, even if they don't explicitly ask. We can share the comfort and encouragement of our own faith, including uplifting passages of Scripture. We speak of the hope Jesus Christ has provided for us when we have endured our own tribulations. And we assure them they are not alone; they are not under God's anger; and they are not outside His mercy, compassion, and care.

The "E" of **HOPE** stands for "engage professionals."

We contact first responders if we believe suicide may occur soon. We connect the person to a pastor or deaconess to apply the medicine of preaching, absolution, and the sacraments. We help them consult with a counselor, social worker, or doctor for talk therapy or antidepressant prescriptions. And we escort and accompany the person to as many such appointments as they will let us. We don't bear their burdens by ourselves, but we don't leave them alone either. Start with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800.273.8255, or Lutherans For Life's **Word of Hope** crisis care line, 888.21.STORY. We make sure to follow up, giving them our contact information and scheduling a time to reconnect. Have awareness, be open to asking, present without judgment, and engage professionals—that's Gospel-motivated **HOPE** we can share with someone considering suicide.



A Developmentally Appropriate For Life Message

by Marie K. MacPherson

Parents, pastors, and educators have the responsibility to teach children factual and biblical information about pro-life topics. However, many adults shy away from these discussions, concerned that they may expose children to “too much, too soon,” or even feel paralyzed that they haven’t done enough, “too little, too late.” However, there is a tool that can equip adults to confidently engage young people in life-oriented themes in a developmentally and age-appropriate manner: the three levels of learning. While these levels are used most commonly in classical schools throughout the world, they offer any Christian a glimpse into the minds of young learners which can be applied to any course of study, including a biblical, pro-life worldview! Classical education was developed by ancients like Augustine, accepted by reformers like Luther, and adopted by Walther as he established Lutheran schools in America. Thankfully, you don’t have to be a classically educated teacher in order to make use of this weapon against the culture of death.

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance” (Proverbs 1:5).

The first level of learning is called the “grammar” stage. While we tend to think of “grammar” as part of English class, every subject has its “grammar,” also known as building blocks. The “grammar” stage emphasizes exposure to truth, beauty, and goodness, as well as memorizing factual information. Especially for preschool through early-elementary children, this stage is an excellent time for adults to speak to children about the truth of God’s design for the body, the beauty of marriage and family, and the goodness of His timing for life and death. They can be encouraged to memorize Scripture. Children at this age do not need to be deliberately exposed to evil in our world; in fact, they should be intentionally protected from evil as they shape their conception of “normal.”



“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17).

The second stage of classical education, geared toward middle-school students, is the logic (or dialectic) level. Children at this age are grappling with the world they learned about in their younger years. They desire answers to their questions prior to adopting a pro-life worldview as their own. This group benefits from small, but regular, doses of exposure to evil in the world, scaffolded by discussion filled with reason, Scripture, and grace. Expect and encourage questions about homosexuality, abortion, human trafficking, and faith, even outside of Confirmation class. Don't let students' questions intimidate you; if you don't know the answer, admit it and look for answers together. (Your pastor is probably a great resource!) This is also a wonderful age to introduce children to the study of formal logic as a supplement to their education, allowing them to reflect upon and build logically sound arguments! Jesus, according to His flesh, developed as a normal young man, both physically and intellectually. When He was twelve years old, He was likely passing through the logic stage as He listened to and questioned the teachers in the temple, astounding them with His knowledge (Luke 2:41-52).

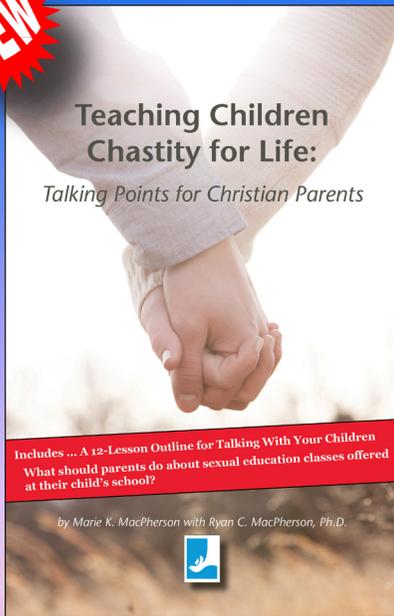
The rhetoric stage, around the high-school years, is the third and final level. Students this age build on the pro-life foundation you have helped them lay in the grammar and logic stages. Through persuasion and apologetics, young adults figure out how to engage the world in a battle for life they've made their own. This is an excellent time to study apologetic tactics, speech and debate, and comparative world religions together. In this way, compassionate young adults will be equipped to bring the message of life to a confused and hurting world, without losing their faith in the process.

“Always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

While there are always exceptions to these stages with individual children, keep these levels in mind as you mentor the children in your life, confident that your words and exposure to the world fit well with whatever age you are teaching, to the glory of God, as we share the good news of forgiveness in Christ.

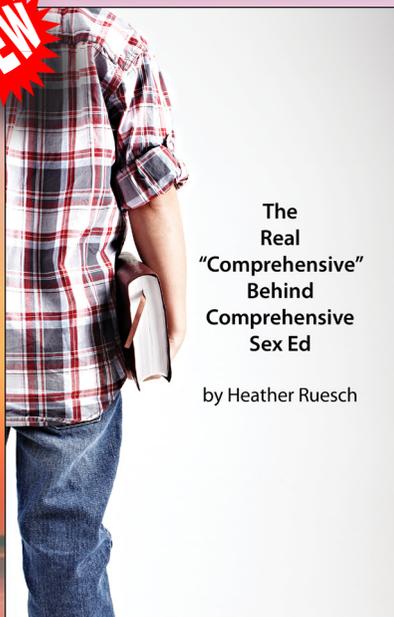
“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go” (Psalm 32:8a).

*This article is excerpted from the Lutheran Education Association's journal *Shaping the Future*, Winter 2020, entitled “The Frontlines of Spiritual Warfare: Creating a Culture of Life in Your Classroom and School.” Read the full article, including footnotes, at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y8joc7wq>. Mrs. Marie K. MacPherson lives in Mankato, Minnesota, with her husband, Ryan, and their six children whom she homeschools. She is author of *The Story of Baby Shalom*, *Meditations on the Vocation of Motherhood* (2018) and *Teaching Children Chastity for Life: Talking Points for Christian Parents*, editor of *Mothering Many: Sanity-Saving Strategies from Moms of Four or More* (2016), and a certified classical Lutheran educator from the Consortium of Classical Lutheran Educators (CCLE).*



Teaching Children Chastity for Life: Talking Points for Christian Parents

What's better than sex ed? Mentoring your children for chastity! In this booklet, parents speak frankly to fellow parents on the basis of God's Word, offering practical suggestions for dads and moms to provide their children with the guidance they need to navigate through puberty and into sanctified adulthood. *Item LFL731B. \$3.00 ea.*



The Real "Comprehensive" Behind Comprehensive Sex Ed

Biblical sexual integrity comes from being taught biblical integrity. Biblical integrity comes from knowing and receiving Jesus over and over and over. And what's more, when they fail, when we fail, it's not all over for us! God's grace, all we receive in Jesus, is sufficient for every hard lesson we go through in this life. *Item LFL732B. \$2.00 ea.*



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

Father's Day Bulletin Inserts



A Prayer for Fathers – This bulletin insert offers a wonderful prayer for fathers. *Item LFL1115BI. \$0.10 ea.*

Faithful Fathers – This classic bulletin insert is back! (Limited quantities are available.) “Faithful Fathers” says to fathers, “Daily seek to be faithful to your vocation as father. You are important! Daily seek your faithful God’s forgiveness. You are important to Him! He will bless and uphold you.” *Item LFL1107BI. \$0.10 ea.*



Is Abortion an Election Issue?

by Pastor Michael Saleminck



Is Abortion an Election Issue? (2020 Edition)

So, Chris tells Jamie, “I just couldn’t cast a vote for someone who supports abortion.” And Jamie says, “You know, Chris, abortion’s not the only voting issue. Other things matter to elections and politics too. Seems kind of narrow-minded for you to fixate on just that one.” Have you ever heard a conversation like this? Have you ever had a conversation like this? Have you ever met someone like Chris or Jamie? Have you ever felt like Chris? Like Jamie? Is abortion an election issue? No and yes. No, abortion is never just an election issue. But yes, abortion is always at least an election issue. “Is Abortion an Election Issue?” outlines ten reasons why. *Item LFL118T. \$0.50 ea.*

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*)

You can find Life Thoughts based on the historic One-Year Lectionary at: lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts.

July 5 – Pentecost V (Proper 9A) – Generations of citizens before us have sacrificed to secure a safe, free, and fair land for us. And Christians of ages past also loved us enough to guard and deliver the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What great works of the Lord shall we gratefully commend to our descendants (Psalm 145:4)? We can't do any better than declaring and demonstrating how God creates, redeems, and calls every human life as His own precious treasure forever!

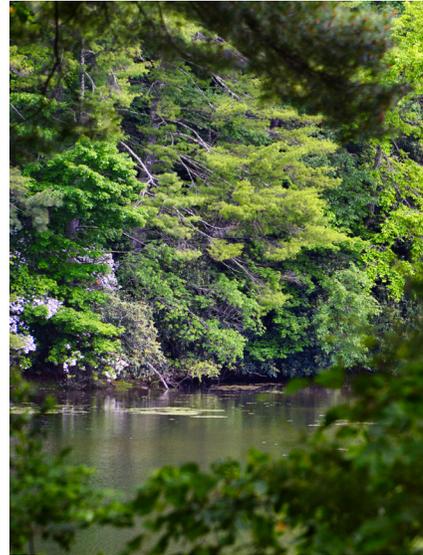
July 12 – Pentecost VI (Proper 10A) – The Word of the Lord never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11). And He has clearly proclaimed His lavish love for human lives of all ages, appearances, and abilities, the way that a farmer extravagantly scatters seeds anywhere the soil shows (Matthew 13:3). So, we may speak the sanctity of life with courage and show it with compassion. The Heavenly Father remains responsible for its results, whether reception or rejection.

July 19 – Pentecost VII (Proper 11A) – Surprise pregnancies often come with many burdens. Terminal diagnoses may mean intense suffering. But our Lord and Savior promises these circumstances also bring returns that far exceed the costs (Romans 8:18). He draws near and dwells with us in all our afflictions (Romans 8:26) and cultivates a life that's greater than physical comforts – like resurrection smuggled under cover of crucifixion and a harvest of wheat safely hidden to blossom behind weeds (Matthew 13:30).

July 26 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 12A) – Measuring a field's dimensions cannot diminish the value of a treasure buried there (Matthew 13:44). So however pretty, popular, or productive, however controversial the politics and however personal the choices, do the rest of us amount to any more than embryos or incapacitated hospital patients when compared to the Almighty Maker of heavens and earth? The Lord God actually has a preference for small (Deuteronomy 7:7). The less we have, the more He gets to give. And since He will have us, He wants every member of our race.

August 2 – Pentecost IX (Proper 13A) – “I can't afford this baby.” None of us can. Only He Who sends the mouths sends their meat. And He has shown both ability and willingness to conjure it out of thin air when necessary (Matthew 14:20). If He doesn't use our profound poverties as excuse for executions, how can we allow it for anyone else? Christians have better ideas than abortion. Fund food pantries. Staff pregnancy help centers. We take it seriously when Jesus says, “You give them something to eat” (Matthew 14:16).

August 9 – Pentecost X (Proper 14A) – The Lord of Life intimately and meticulously attends to His creation (Job 38:4-18). He even gently but relentlessly looks after the inanimate objects. But did His devotion to mountains and oceans drive Him to order our world from within and not just from outside (Matthew 14:32)? No. He has put on the universe He put together so that He may love and save and have humankind. And He has not spared the smallest detail. So why would we exclude any, whatever their size, skills, or circumstances?



August 16 – Pentecost XI (Proper 15A) – Jesus didn’t really see the Canaanite woman as less than human (Matthew 15:21-28). He compared her to a dog but also called all the Israelites sheep. Many Jews did treat Gentiles like animals, though. No doubt they took close note when He included her and her little girl among the children of God. It’s like someone today saying fetuses count as human beings or elderly lives matter as much as the rest of us.

August 23 – Pentecost XII (Proper 16A) – Christians do not hide behind personal choice. We rejoice in community rather than autonomy (Romans 12:4-5). Our Heavenly Father has given us the privilege of receiving the unborn and the aged as neighbors. Our Lord and Savior gives us the responsibility of serving as brothers and sisters to those experiencing surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses. Instead of “my body, my choice,” we get to delight in “my body, my gift!” (Romans 12:1).

August 30 – Pentecost XIII (Proper 17A) – One Gospel-motivated voice For Life said, “No one wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a new car. She wants an abortion as an animal, caught in a trap, wants to gnaw off its own leg.” Poverty and pain, disability and disease, abuse and abandonment take away a lot. But incarnate, crucified, and risen-again Lord Jesus guarantees suffering cannot take everything. Even amid afflictions we overcome these evils not with death but with His joy and hope, courage and compassion (Romans 12:21).



September 6 – Pentecost XIV (Proper 18A) – This world needs watchmen (Ezekiel 33:7). Our brothers and sisters need keepers (Matthew 18:15). Almighty God has set us here for such a time as this. He doesn’t promise we’ll find speaking truth in love easy. But He does assure us it changes hearts and saves lives. We don’t warn against abortion and assisted suicide to show our own superiority. We tell of these sins to show every human life their dear Savior and to share with them in His kingdom forever.

September 13 – Pentecost XV (Proper 19A) – Today the good Lord has a good Word for those of us who have participated in abortion. He forgives that. He forgives you. “[A]s far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). What’s more, He redeems every sinner. He redeems all our failures. “[Y]ou

meant evil ... but God meant it for good” (Genesis 50:20). Who could you counsel or comfort with what you’ve learned from this mistake (Romans 14:7)?

September 20 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 20A) – The Apostle St. Paul must have felt like a burden and better off dead (Philippians 1:21). Persecution caused him almost constant pain. Imprisoned in Rome, perhaps awaiting execution, he only ate, bathed, and was clothed at someone else’s pleasure. Yet though he couldn’t work, God made him a witness who blessed untold multitudes throughout history (Philippians 1:24). And what great worth and purpose likewise shines in our lives even when confined to hospital beds or completely incapacitated!

September 27 – Pentecost XVII (Proper 21A) – The Lord God Almighty never views death as a solution or even a necessary evil. “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God” (Ezekiel 18:32). This certainly includes—and plainly prohibits—abortions and physician-assisted suicides. What alternative do we have in the face of surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses? “Count others more significant than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3b)—the way God Himself regards you.

Police say a Nigerian woman admitted to drowning her one-year-old daughter in May because the child was getting in the way of her education. Kelv's World Concept reports Adisa Funmilola, 22, of Lagos, turned herself in, telling police that she killed her child out of frustration.

"I did it for three reasons," Funmilola said, according to the report. "First, I didn't have the financial might to take care of her. Second, I was tired and frustrated. But the most painful reason is that she deprived me of actualizing my dream of becoming a lawyer." Police suspect the woman may have mental health problems based on her family medical history, the report states ... Asked why she didn't take the child to an orphanage home or put the child up for adoption and if she was aware of the magnitude of her offense, Adisa said: "I wanted to drop her at the church but I realized that it was only death that will free me from that child. I am not in school because of her and even if I tell my father, he will also force me to stay and take care of the baby. My life will be ruined ... If they kill me no problem. The most important thing is that I have killed the baby and I am free from that baby. I don't care," she said. (Source: *Micaiah Bilger, www.lifenews.com, 5/13/20*)

Wesley J Smith: More than 20 years ago, the Dutch Supreme Court approved the assisted suicide of a woman in despair because her children had died. So we shouldn't be surprised that it has now explicitly approved the forced euthanasia of patients with dementia if they asked to be killed before becoming incompetent. From Reuters: "The Dutch Supreme Court ... ruled that doctors could legally carry out euthanasia on people with advanced dementia who had earlier put their wishes in writing even if they could no longer confirm them because of their illness" What the Reuters story failed to mention—and apparently the Supreme Court found to be irrelevant—is that the case in question involved a woman who fought against being killed. Nor does the story mention that the doctor had drugged the woman before starting to euthanize her and that the doctor instructed the family to hold the struggling woman down so that she could administer the lethal injection. Moreover, the patient had also stated in her instructions that she wanted to decide "when" the time for death had come—which she never did. The termination "choice" was made by the doctor and/or family in violation of the patient's advance directive. But why would the Dutch Supreme Court let inconvenient facts get in the way of furthering the Netherlands's ever-expanding national killing policy that already permits infanticide, joint geriatric euthanasia of married couples, termination of the mentally ill, conjoining euthanasia with organ harvesting, and the lethal injections of people with disabilities? (Source: *Wesley J. Smith, nationalreview.com, 4.21.20*)

Abortions Worldwide in 2020
www.worldometers.info/abortions



To learn about the international outreach of Lutherans For Life, go to lutheransforlife.org.

Share the Life Message All Through the Year!

Lutherans For Life offers several easy ways to keep the life message before your congregation! Go to lutheransforlife.org.

- **LifeDate:** Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433).
- **Life News:** Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!
- **Life Notes:** Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.
- **Life Quotes/Life Thoughts:** Share **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts in the Church Year** in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletters).

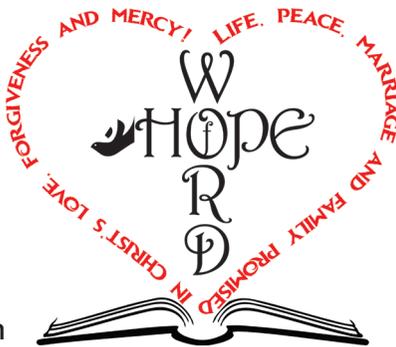
Check out “Life on the Web” on our Life Blog



lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-blog

For Those Who Have Had an Abortion, a Word of Hope

We all have grieved the loss of someone at some point in our lives ... But those who have lost a child because they had an abortion, or were part of an abortion decision, often



do not allow themselves to grieve or don't know how to grieve.

888-217-8679 or info@word-of-hope.org • word-of-hope.org

Since 1973: 60,754,254 abortions in America

Source: www.nationalrighttolifeneeds.org/2019/11/abortion-statistics-united-states-data-and-trends-3

Y4Life: Sharing Your Life Legacy with Youth

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

Many of today's youth are actively standing up For Life in a culture that embraces death—and they are uniquely equipped to speak God's truth in areas where adults are less likely to tread.

Youth serve as witnesses to life in high school and college classrooms, on athletic fields and choir tours, and while working part-time jobs or full-time internships. And because they are often on the Frontlines, 4Life youth are able to offer physical, spiritual, and emotional support to those struggling with life decisions.

Yet youth need to be supported through educational opportunities, 4Life experiences, and purposeful mentorship. That is one of the reasons creating a **Y4Life Team** at church or school is so important. Not only do **Y4Life Teams** give students opportunities to learn about life issues, but they also provide powerful life-changing experiences.

Audrey Sparling, a senior at Lutheran High School in Parker, Colorado, and a member of the Lions For Life team, was one of many students who attended **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**, this year. Her reflection on the experience indicates just how impactful **Y4Life** opportunities can be:

The March for Life 2020 was an incredible experience. This was my very first year attending the March, and it has definitely changed my life. Standing side by side with hundreds of thousands of people to support life was surreal. It was inspiring that so many people from various backgrounds and experiences gathered to stand up for life. At the March, there were old and young people, Democrats and Republicans, and men and women from all over the world. All of these people shared one thing in common—the belief that life has value.



The March for Life plays such a vital role in bringing awareness to the importance of humans in the womb and out of the womb. Not only was I able to march to share the message that life has value but also that our value is found in God.

During this trip, I had the privilege of gathering with **Y4Life** to talk over important life issues with people from all over the country. This made me and many other people feel even more confident in our cause. During **Y4Life** discussions before the March, we looked deeper into what God says about our lives. At one of our meetings, we looked at Genesis 1:27 which says, **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”** This verse reminded me that our lives are so special because only humans were created in God's image, and nothing else on earth was. Because God made us in His image, our lives have value.

The March for Life 2020 and the **Y4Life** conference gave me the amazing opportunity to stand up for life and share God's message that we are valued by Him.

Proverbs 1:5 says, “**Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.**” As a child of God, especially one who supports life, you, reader, are one of the wise. You know the truth about the value of life, and you continue to educate yourself on life issues. You support national organizations like LFL, as well as other 4Life organizations in your community, and you speak for life when you are able while simultaneously praying for atrocities like abortion to end. The Lord certainly hears your prayers and commends your good work, and He will continue to bless others through them.

But today I encourage you to extend your legacy of life support even further. I ask you to consider investing in today’s youth. And though it may not be the most comfortable topic to discuss right now, I’d like to use the analogy of an investment portfolio to do so. (Don’t worry; I think you’ll like how this one ends!)

Investment portfolios, as you know, look different for everyone. Uniquely formulated for the individual, each one has distinct strengths, assets, and benefits. Despite suffering temporary short-term losses, portfolios are purposely built for long-term rewards; despite being unsure of what’s to come, they help us prepare for the future we hope for.

As the people of God, we have portfolios, too—investment portfolios that were created by God Himself. He has filled them with a variety of strengths and an abundance of assets, but unlike our earthly portfolios, they are guaranteed to produce a profusion of fruit!

In 2 Corinthians 9:10-11a it states, “**He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way ...**” God supplies the seed we sow, and He supplies the bread. Our churches and communities are blessed with the gifts we need to carry out God’s work; our investment portfolios are burgeoning with blessings from God.

Even better than our earthly investment portfolios, God has perfectly and uniquely formed each individual in His kingdom, providing inherent and inexhaustible talents and abilities alongside worldly goods. And all these gifts He intends for our good and for the good of our neighbor. *Who are some of those neighbors?* **Today’s youth.**

I encourage you to take stock of your portfolio this week, to look honestly at the gifts God has given you and to reflect on how those gifts might benefit the youth in your life. Can you mentor, provide insight, or work alongside young people as they volunteer? Are you enthusiastic about getting youth involved in life ministries or supporting a **Y4Life Team**? Has God provided you with the financial gifts to support **Y4Life** ministry?

Though we can’t predict the future, we can prepare for the future we hope for. May our life legacy enable today’s youth to reach the communities they are part of, sharing the life-saving and life-valuing news of Christ for generations to come. And may the sacrificial gifts given from our investment portfolios reap bountiful dividends in Christ, increasing the harvest of righteousness!

Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life
mbauman@lutheransforlife.org • 812.350.2732 • Y4Life.org

Mentor Your Youth For Life

by Rev. Jeff Duncan, Mission and Ministry Director

In my short tenure at LFL, there has been a recurring thought from the Frontlines: “We’re not so young anymore, and, frankly, it’s so hard to get new volunteers.”

NONSENSE! Invite your youth—and not just to stuff envelopes and serve dessert after the Life Chapter meeting! Talk with them. Get their input on life issues. Engage them in discussions on how they see the world. Seek out their opinion. Invite them to study an issue with you—together. Find out what scares them about the future. Ask them about death, fetal-tissue research, in vitro fertilization, embryonic stem cell research, gender dysphoria, suicide (both self-inflicted and physician assisted), and of course abortion and post-abortion syndrome. If you start asking, they will talk with you and gladly “Stand Up for Life!”

In the events I have attended—national March for Life, national and regional conferences, local Life Chapter/Life Team events, sidewalk counseling, youth gatherings, Chat4Life talks, and Life Sundays—I’ve noticed that youth have a real heart to serve the Lord and be a voice For Life!

Now, you may find it challenging. They are sensitive issues you once thought everyone agreed were taboo and illicit. Three words of advice: listen, listen, listen! Engaging your youth in life issues will require patience and tact. Listen to what is important to them. Be careful of condemning their initial thoughts. Remember, they don’t have the wisdom of your age and experience. Yet they are just as compassionate and concerned about what is happening with their friends and family as you! They are teachable. Most haven’t

developed dogmatic opinions or entrenched themselves in bad theology and factual untruths beyond redirection and affirmation in God-pleasing expressions For Life. This is your vocation—to bring up the next generation of Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

Remember their innate cultural strengths. They have command over media and technology some of you wish you could develop! Utilize their strengths. Develop their thoughtful understanding of life issues. Capitalize on their abilities to focus on directed projects. Use their creativity to inspire new Life Chapter or Life Team projects. It might not be the way you’ve always done it. Good! Our youth are a gift of God—our future voice and our For Life voice, now!

Take a moment and read Titus 2 and ponder Paul’s teaching in light of Proverbs 1:5: “**Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.**” Then invite, encourage, and mentor youth in your circle today.



Remembering Refugees

Though abortion may serve as the initial introduction to life issues for many young people, today's youth are looking for ways to support life in other arenas as well. Concordia Chicago's **Y4Life Team**, CUC4Life, has had much success engaging students on campus by offering opportunities to learn about the issues facing their community. One particular educational event turned out to be eye-opening, thought-provoking, and life-affirming!



“CUC4Life decided to diversify a little this semester, and we took the opportunity to learn more about the refugee crisis and how we can support those individuals in the context of life issues,” Jesse Muehler, co-leader of CUC4Life said. “We were able to partner with Exodus World Service to bring a refugee simulation to campus so our students had the opportunity to gain insight into the lives of those individuals who are affected by war, persecution, and the other trials and tribulations of our sinful world.”

Nicole Chappell, CUC4Life's other co-leader, believes the experience was worthwhile. In addition to the simulation, the college students were given facts about life as a refugee and time to reflect on how they might handle the same trials. “I learned so much about the different things that refugees might experience as they run for their lives, and it made me realize how much of my life I truly take for granted,” Nicole said. “Something that really hit hard was learning how long the average stay was in a refugee camp and how little help they had.”

Not only did the students involved in the simulation learn a great deal, but they were also given opportunities to empathize with refugees, creating compassion for those suffering the loss of their homes; countries; and, in many cases, families.

Mackenzie Jean-Marcoux, a freshman at CUC who played the role of a smuggler in the simulation, agreed that the simulation and opportunity for reflection were powerful. “After volunteering at the refugee simulation at CUC, my entire perception of refugees has changed Being able to see just a portion of what refugees go through was heartbreaking ... [and] the idea of children having to endure the hardship and fear that goes along with being forced to flee their homes is devastating.”

The topic of refugees certainly carries with it political undertones—and polarizing opinions in the media—but the CUC4Life Team recognized that the deeper issue was really an issue of LIFE. “The refugee simulation provided us with an opportunity to talk about life issues with students from all walks of life, and it allowed us to open up a conversation that might not have been otherwise possible,” Jesse said. “We were able to discuss the intrinsic value and sanctity of life, knowing that regardless of the circumstances or context a person finds themselves in, he or she is worthy of love and protection.”

It is exciting to hear about the life-affirming success CUC4Life is having, and we pray God's continued blessing on their service. If you would like more information about how to start a **Y4Life Team**, or if you have a story to share, please contact Michelle Bauman, Director of **Y4Life**, at mbauman@lutheransforlife.org.

Essays For Life

by Rev. Jeff Duncan, Mission and Ministry Director

Do you have something to say? Help increase the understanding and wisdom of others by sharing it!

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance” (Proverbs 1:5)

This sounds like a project all grades 6-12 Lutheran youth can join in on. This sounds like the Lutherans For Life Essay Contest!

Every year a verse guides the contest and content, and a discussion is proposed. With guidance from teachers, pastors, counselors, and parents, students form their expression as opinions with paper and ink. Wisdom grows even deeper when one forms arguments by exercising reason and sound logic to convince others how to act, think, believe, and speak. Standing up for life and caring for the most vulnerable in society as an adult often begins by formulating sound and reasonable thoughts about life issues as a youth. The one who understands well buys good counsel along the way!

The 2020 Essay Contest submission deadline ended May 1. It was extended from April 1 due to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme was **From Invisible to Indispensable**, based on 1 Corinthians 12:22: **“On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.”**

Youth from federation and non-federation states competed by grade level. Winners go on to compete at the national level for a chance at a \$250 prize plus free registra-



From Invisible to Indispensable



2020 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest

tion and one-night hotel fare at a national or regional conference. Even better, they obtain the satisfaction of sharing well-reasoned and beneficial argumentation on an important life issue that gives counsel and wisdom to others!

Parents, pastors, teachers—you want your youth to grow in wisdom and stature. You want them to seek good, sage, and factual counsel on life issues. You want them to form opinions backed by sound doctrine and biblical acumen. You want them to be able to speak up in the public square, winning more and more to the For Life movement—for generations to come. You want them to stand strong and faithful against the culture of death. You want them to obtain this knowledge with the ability to communicate their wisdom winsomely to their contemporaries.

Engage them in learning toward understanding! Challenge them to listen to other wise Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Encourage them to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest all they can on the topic and to compassionately act. Help them form their own voice. Teach them well-reasoned arguments and let them form their own responses. Increase their knowledge through exposure to others with wisdom, those who have gone through the crucible of experience. Then watch as the flower of understanding blooms into a beautiful expression that all may see and give glory to the Lord in heaven.

Turn this into a Confirmation project. Teach your English composition, grammar, social studies, or science using the theme. Bring it home and involve parents, grandparents, extended family, and friends. Take a field trip. Start a journal. Make a reading list. Invite a speaker to address the topic. Post the theme and Bible verse in multiple formats. Use them in various productions throughout the year. Make an effort to focus on wise hearing and increased learning in life issues. Encourage their understanding. Inspire youth to obtain guidance and acquire wisdom that will follow them all the days of their lives—for their benefit and the good of their neighbors who are all loved by God equally.

Prepare now to involve your youth in the 2021 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest this fall!



Attention all LFL Volunteers!

Join in on the Frontline call to get LFL updates and new project ideas.

When: Monday, July 13, 2020 – 5:00 p.m. PDT, 6:00 p.m. MDT, 7:00 p.m. CDT, 8:00 p.m. EDT

What: There will be a devotion, LFL activity update, life project ideas, and Q & A.

CONNECT: Dial: 646-876-9923. Meeting code: 879 6079 1204.

Online: us02web.zoom.us/j/87960791204.

lutheransforlife.org/grassroots

Chats 4Life

Are you interested in discussing contemporary life issues with other high school and college-aged youth? Would you like to learn how to address those issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective? If so, **Chats 4 Life** is for you! **Chats 4 Life** offers young adults opportunities to connect via Zoom with other 4Life youth from across the nation. During these sessions, youth are invited to network, ask questions, and engage in discussion about contemporary life issues. Watch our Instagram page for the next **Chats 4 Life** opportunity, and contact [mbaumam@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) for the latest meeting code and password!



Y4Life High School Leadership Retreat – March 2020

Preparation—that was the theme of the weekend. And that’s exactly what students from Lutheran High School in Indianapolis, Indiana; Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, Indiana; and Lutheran North in St. Louis, Missouri, came to do: **Propose. Plan. Prepare.**

Twenty participants arrived at Camp Lakeview in Seymour, Indiana, on Friday, March 6. Some were excited. Some were shy. And some were a little bit nervous. But they were clearly ready. *Ready for what?* To learn about how to start a **Y4Life** Team.

The **Y4Life** High School Leadership Retreat was specifically designed to aid schools in developing new **Y4Life** Teams and help them set a foundation for successful life ministry in their high schools.

Throughout the weekend, students learned and accomplished much. They discovered the attributes of godly leadership, learned what a healthy **Y4Life** Team looks like, created Gospel-motivated mission statements, planned a year’s worth of **Y4Life** activities, and engaged in a project-building workshop. Some groups began creating logos, others made a list of friends they wanted to recruit, and all of them received training on how to handle hardship. The room buzzed with enthusiasm, focus, and inspiration; excitement could be felt everywhere.

Learning, planning, and focusing on life issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective is exactly what the **Y4Life** High School Leadership Retreat was designed for. And it happened. Our preparations played out perfectly.

But God had clearly prepared for much more.

Read about the “more” in the online version of this article! If you would like more information about starting a Y4Life Team at your church or high school, or if your team would like to participate in a Y4Life High School Leadership Retreat, please contact Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life, at [mbaumam@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org).





The next March for Life ...

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

MARCH *for* LIFE *Lutherans For Life will be there!*

marchforlife.org

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 the form at the link below, the Miami Valley Life Chapter 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.



lutheransforlife.org/article/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets



For advice on **ESTATE PLANNING** that can help you and Lutherans For Life, contact Jim Schroeder, Christian Estate Planning Counselor. Jim can provide you with personal assistance in working with your attorney and your other financial advisors in planning your estate. Contact Jim at 515.490.7371 or jjim@iowadistrictwest.org.



Buying or selling a home or commercial property? You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email proliferealestate@yahoo.com for more information.
www.realestateforlife.org
www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life

- www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife
- twitter.com/ForLifers
- www.instagram.com/lfl4life

Also see:

- www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife
- vimeo.com/user4132928





2020 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

Our 2020 theme is ...

From Invisible to Indispensable!

“On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ...” (1 Corinthians 12:22 ESV)

Join us as we unpack this theme and what it means for the For Life movement, both nationally and in your community.

The regional conferences for Lutherans For Life allows our team to come directly to you with the For Life Gospel message. These gatherings are wonderful times spent together where we can provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in.

Please check the schedule below to see which of our 2020 conference locations is near you. We're excited to see you there!

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church
West Fargo, North Dakota – August 29**

**Ruthfred Free Lutheran Church
Bethel Park (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania – September 26**

**Life in Christ Lutheran Church
Peoria (Phoenix), Arizona – October 24**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Orlando, Florida – November 14**

lutheransforlife.org/conference

Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, chastity, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and bio-technology.
- **Assists For Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to: women with an untimely pregnancy; women, men, and families suffering under the guilt of an abortion; young people with questions and concerns about sexuality; and the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**

Lutherans For Life ...

Witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.

Serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.

Educates and Encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources (including our *LifeDate* journal, *Life News*, *Life Quotes*, and *Directions*), Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula (including *Teaching For Life*®), video, and through www.lutheransforlife.org.

Equips local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life State Federations, Life Chapters, and Life Teams also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.

Lutherans For Life ...

Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.

Is not subsidized by any church body.

Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



Our Mission ... Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

Our Vision ... Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

Our Philosophy ... Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues, such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. We will call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations.

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