



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

## From Invisible to Indispensable!

“On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ...”

(1 Corinthians 12:22)



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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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## From Invisible to Indispensable

by Pastor Michael Salemink

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

Human nature evaluates a person’s worth by age, appearance, or ability. It’s a sinful and selfish assessment: **“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).**

Our culture sometimes finds unborn children to be invisible. They are little, located out of sight, less developed than others, and rely on someone else for survival. We may also treat elderly neighbors as invisible when they do not appear to contribute what we value to society or even care for themselves. And we often overlook those who struggle with surprise pregnancies, post-abortion grief, chronic disability, or terminal diagnosis. We would rather they remain invisible than have their suffering highlight our own unsightly mortality. Indeed, maybe it’s not anything about them but something about us that makes them invisible: our pride, our apathy, our idolatries.

Yet our Heavenly Father sees each of them, just as He beholds all of us. He creates them special. He redeems them precious. He calls them priceless. He enjoys and employs everyone in His plan and reign. Indeed, they are indispensable to His creation and His kingdom, as are all of us. He Himself has taken **“the form of a servant”** (Philippians 2:6-8)—just such an invisible one—to intercede and forgive and save. Jesus Christ has made every human life indispensable.

And He has given them to us as gifts and privileges with whom we may share all of the blessings He abundantly bestows. The human race, and particularly the body of Christ and family of God, is magnificent precisely because we share joys and sorrows. One is strong where another is weak, and we need each other, and we have each other—even (and perhaps especially) when we are the least of these.

What we perceive as defects God may in fact intend as features!





### Indispensable to God's Plan

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

I never cease to be amazed at the whole procreation process. Every human life starts as an invisible—to the naked eye—process, and every minute detail is carefully orchestrated. One little glitch in the development process (e.g. Trisomy 21/Down syndrome), or a traumatic event occurring during the labor and delivery process, can lead to life-long struggles. With all that can happen during a pregnancy, labor, and delivery of a child, only our Designer and Creator God could possibly see it through safely.

An obstetric unit—my area of nursing expertise—can be like an emergency room, as one never knows what emergent problem may arise during a woman's pregnancy. There is not a shift where I do not say a silent prayer for God's presence, guidance, courage, wisdom, strength, discernment, and compassion to help me in my service to the patients in my charge. I also pray for the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus to anyone whose life I may touch. I admit, I am not always the Christian example that I want to be, as people and circumstances can be very challenging. One thing is for sure, every day provides a new story or adventure to live through, observe, and learn from as I try to care for God's precious, created human lives.

One of those emergent times took place when I cared for a woman going through the normal process of labor. She was nearing delivery time, when suddenly the baby's heart rate fell well below the average normal of 110-150 beats per minute. All efforts to return the baby's heart rate to normal parameters failed, resulting in an emergency cesarean section to deliver the obviously distressed baby. The obstetrician soon found the reason as he skillfully cut into the mother's abdomen: the woman's uterus had mysteriously ruptured, shaking the unborn baby's world by cutting off its blood and oxygen supply, endangering both baby's and mother's life. With skilled medical teamwork, the limp, lifeless baby was resuscitated and finally breathing on its own. Meanwhile, the obstetricians spent several hours trying to sew the mother's ruptured uterus back together. Despite the obstetricians' valiant efforts to preserve her uterus and stop the massive bleeding, administering numerous units of blood products and medications to stop the bleeding, the woman needed a hysterectomy to save her life.

Another one of those emergent times occurred when Blaine Liebnow was born four and a half months premature on August 13, 1989, weighing one pound, three ounces and diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy due to a lack of oxygen to his brain at birth. Blaine's family knew he would be born disabled, but the doctor's offer of abortion was not an option for them, for which Blaine is eternally grateful.

Blaine spent most of his childhood going to speech therapy and going through surgeries and physical therapy. Despite these efforts, he requires a wheelchair for mobility. But this has not stopped Blaine; he attended grade school and high school. As a sophomore, he was the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership representative, and, as a junior, was selected by his school to participate in the South Dakota Boys State civics program. He graduated from Wolsey-Wessington High School with honors, and then attended Dakota State University for a semester, but had to leave due to his physical needs.



After being mostly housebound for the first portion of his life and being cared for by his mother and grandmother, who are now both deceased, Blaine now has his own apartment and his own life at Butler House, a Center For Independence of Huron, in Huron, South Dakota. Blaine is grateful for his aunt, Joyce, who is his advocate and emotional caregiver, who helps him with any problem he has.

Blaine spends his time doing a lot of volunteer work in disability awareness and recently applied and has been accepted by Concordia University Texas for online classes during the spring semester of 2021.

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

Just like Blaine’s life was perceived as invisible and weak, every invisible and weak little life is created and ordained for a purpose by God.

**“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb ... Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be”** (Psalm 139:13-16).

And, just like Blaine’s life, every human life, no matter the size, level of development, environment, or degree of dependency, is indispensable in fulfilling God’s plans.

**“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’”** (Jeremiah 29:11).

Blaine is grateful to be alive and states, “I hope one day God will give me the opportunity to write something that will bring glory to Him. To all who may be reading this, I wish you a blessed day in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*(Blaine’s autobiography first appeared in the South Dakota insert of the October 2020 Lutheran Witness. It was revised and used with Blaine’s permission.)*



### Our Embryo Adoption Journey – *Selected Excerpts*

by Rachel Tyler

I never thought in a million years I would be pregnant with an adopted baby. That changed three years ago. My husband and I were struggling to conceive, so we went to an adoption meeting. When we learned about embryo adoption, we both were immediately intrigued ... We underwent educational training on embryo adoption and were eventually told we would be matched with an adopting couple who had donated their embryos. When the day finally came that we were matched, we looked at the donor's profile and burst into tears. They seemed like such a wonderful couple (and surprisingly like us in many ways). We were excited and hopeful to adopt their five embryos, overjoyed by the possibility of our children having siblings!

The embryos were moved to a fertility clinic in our area. The first embryo was transferred—and it implanted! We were pregnant for five weeks until the clinic confirmed I miscarried. A few months later, we transferred another embryo and it too miscarried ... A few months later we transferred another embryo and it implanted.

We went in for our next ultrasound at six weeks, and the doctor confirmed that there was nothing there except an empty sac. We were devastated that we had miscarried again. All these losses began to feel like too much for my body and way too much for our hearts ... Our doctor said the last two embryos were “Day 6” which meant they took a little longer to develop. It also meant a slightly lower chance of implantation. We prayed and prayed for direction for a couple of months ... we still felt drawn to embryo adoption. So, we decided to transfer the other two embryos ... On the day of the last transfer we would ever have, we got this letter from the donor parents:

Dear Dan and Rachel,

Thank you for the beautiful letter. I have read it over and over, and it brings me to tears every time. I am amazed by your strength and your faith. I'm sure you can imagine the discussions and tears that went into choosing to put the embryos up for adoption. We prayed we were doing the right thing. The moment we were notified that y'all had been chosen as the parents, I had a deep sense of calm in my heart. I knew that God had led us to make the right decision.

When we get to heaven, it will be your face those babies are looking for. They have heard the sound of your heart beating from the inside, and it sang them a sweet lullaby of love.

As y'all prepare for your transfer today, I am praying for y'all, for your doctors, and for your tiny babies. You spoke in your letter about us giving y'all a chance. In truth, we are forever grateful to y'all for giving these embryos a chance.

Matthew 7:7: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” I ask God to give you a baby to love here on Earth.

The letter brought us to tears. We didn't want to let them down or feel another loss. So, we moved forward with the final transfer, knowing God would reveal to us what He wants.

When they tested my numbers several days after the transfer, they weren't going up like they hoped. They hadn't doubled. We had experienced this too many times before: the numbers start to go down and then I miscarry. I continued with all my meds, and they tested again in a few days. When the coordinator called, she was just as surprised as I was to tell me that not only had the numbers gone up, they soared! It had worked once again!

We were so happy and thankful—but at the same time, we had been at this point so many times already. We continued to pray and pray. We tried not to be too hopeful but to just trust in God's plan. We believed that whatever happened, it would be God's will and we would get through it with His help.

We went to our six-week ultrasound nervous with tears as we waited for the doctor. We had never made it through this milestone—the one where we could possibly hear the heartbeat. This time we heard it! We heard the heartbeat! Dan and I were both crying tears of thankfulness. From there we continued to see the doctor each week. Every week, the ultrasound showed a healthy, growing baby. (Sadly, we did lose the other embryo and look forward to meeting that child, too, in heaven.) ...

On January 29, 2020, we finally met our son, Calvin. We continue to thank God every day for this baby. We feel like the luckiest parents in the world. God has blessed us beyond what we deserve, and we pray He will equip us to be the best parents



we can be to this little guy. We will share his story with him right from the start. We pray he not only knows he has so many people that love him—donor and adoptive parents—but that he will, most importantly, grow in his faith, know Jesus as his Savior, and rely on God to lead and direct him—just as we were trying to do in our journey to meet our child.

*To read the complete article go to: [lutheransforlife.org/article/our-embryo-adoption-journey](https://lutheransforlife.org/article/our-embryo-adoption-journey).*



### Redeeming Life

by Diane E. Schroeder, former President of Lutherans For Life

In 1992, Ed and Sheryl DeWitt had a dream. The seminarian and his wife had attended a Lutherans For Life event where they learned about the brutality of abortion and its consequences to both mothers and their unborn children. They dreamed of a place where single pregnant women could go to gain life skills and be loved, supported, and encouraged to choose life for their baby. But life went on and the dreams were put on a shelf. In 2008, Pastor DeWitt received a call to a congregation in Sanford, Florida, and a year later, their daughter, Katie, returned home from college pregnant. The DeWitt family learned firsthand how tempting abortion can be for single women. One secret procedure and no one would know. But they also knew that this child was created in God's image with a specific purpose known by Him. Indispensable! Together they chose life. When Pastor DeWitt's congregation was informed, the response was overwhelming love and support.

### **In 2013, Redeeming Life Maternity Home opened its doors to welcome single pregnant women choosing life.**

Since that time, 58 women have occupied the home. Here are a few stats: 82% were single, 66% were unemployed, many of them have had previous pregnancies, some have living children, some have chosen abortion, and others were fleeing domestic violence. Approximately 90% of these frightened women want to keep and raise their baby but have no stable home setting. Most desire spiritual nurturing. They need to hear God's love and forgiveness.

The reasons for coming to Redeeming Life maternity home are varied: broken relations with family, rejection by the baby's father, poor life skills, insufficient income, fear, loneliness, insecurity. Redeeming Life offers safe housing with a loving family atmosphere. Residents worship together in the weekly church service, share Bible study, work on household chores, and cook meals. The structured study program focuses on parenting, financial and household management, physical and mental health, relationships, and personal faith walk. In addition, each woman is required to attend mental health counseling sessions with an independent licensed clinical counselor. Women may stay in the maternity home for twelve months. During that time, they will experience childbirth and post-partum healing but are expected to obtain employment, continue education, contract childcare, and build supportive community relationships. After that, under the guidance of Redeeming Life's staff, each woman will decide to move out to an independent life in the community or move into Redeeming Life's transition home where they can stay for up to three years. The women and children living in the transition home are not as closely monitored and structured and receive support in areas of career choice, goal setting, and education.

The goal of the program is to strengthen their faith and connection to God while helping them become self-sufficient and independent. (Only one woman out of 58 has asked to return to Redeeming Life's transition home for further support.) But the story does not end here.

Redeeming Life's vision includes planting a maternity home in every state in partnership with Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod districts and churches. The Northern Illinois District is the first LCMS district Redeeming Life contacted for a maternity home location and a host church that will spiritually support its residents. Why start in Illinois? Illinois abortion laws are among the most liberal in the country. The state is known as the abortion capital of the Midwest, as almost all restrictions on abortion were eliminated in 2019. Planned Parenthood has taken advantage of the situation by building three new abortion facilities—each one with quick access for residents from surrounding states. As a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS, Redeeming Life's plan is to reach out to pregnant women who are homeless, abused, or abortion-minded to share the Gospel and save lives.

How can you help? You can make a difference in the lives of women such as Kierlena who came to Redeeming Life pregnant, sexually abused, and abandoned. After two months in the maternity home, she is learning to trust God and the staff and has developed goals to obtain a G.E.D., save money, and buy a car. She wants to become a C.N.A. Her goal is to become a doctor! At Redeeming Life, she has the freedom to dream big and create a new future for herself and her baby.

Financial donations are needed for the Redeeming Life maternity home in northern Illinois! Get the word out to those people interested in supporting this new outreach. Gifts can be made online at [www.rlom.org](http://www.rlom.org) or mailed to:

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries  
PO Box 1496  
Sanford, FL 32772-1496.



### Vaccines Using Aborted Fetal Tissue

by Pastor Michael Salemink

Lutherans For Life's board of directors from time to time issues position statements. Previous issues addressed include capital punishment, embryo adoption, in vitro fertilization, stem cell research, population control, and, of course, abortion and euthanasia. You can access these documents here: [lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/position-statements](http://lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/position-statements).

The directors adopted another official position statement for the organization at their most recent meeting. This one concerns the use of tissue from aborted babies in the development of some vaccines. It does not discourage vaccinations. It does not advocate against receiving a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. It does not find vaccinating or mandating vaccines sinful. It does not insist that Christians must claim religious exemptions to mandatory vaccinations. It does not determine whether vaccines or their excipients (non-medicinal ingredients) cause injury or illness. It does not conclude that vaccines contain remnants of deceased children.

It does oppose experimentation on the bodies of aborted babies. It does disagree with performing elective abortions, even with the purpose of procuring research materials. It does contest utilizing cell lines derived from elective abortions in either the recent or the distant past. It does infer that vaccines and their commercialization may be incentivizing elective abortion. It does raise awareness about vaccine origins. It does share information about ethical alternative vaccine formulations. It does support allowing religious or conscientious objections to required immunizations. It does leave the decision about vaccinating to each individual Christian conscience (1 Corinthians 8). And it does celebrate and respect every human life as a precious treasure created, redeemed, and called by God Himself, even before birth.

**We've made more resources available at:  
[lutheransforlife.org/article/vaccine-information-and-commentary](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/vaccine-information-and-commentary)**





**VACCINES AND ABORTED FETAL TISSUE**

WHEREAS, Many vaccines are produced using cell lines derived from the bodies of aborted children; and  
WHEREAS, Each of these cell lines requires refinement involving not just one but multiple abortions; and  
WHEREAS, Some of these abortions did not take place for any medical reason and some happened for the express objective of obtaining tissue for such experimentation; and

WHEREAS, Researchers and manufacturers continue to procure the bodies of aborted children for developing additional cell lines and vaccine formulations; and

WHEREAS, The purchase and use of such vaccines incentivizes the further production of vaccines using cell lines derived from the bodies of aborted children, and some believe it indirectly participates in the previous violence against unborn lives; and

WHEREAS, Desirable ends, no matter how good in themselves, can never justify an evil means (Romans 3:8); and

WHEREAS, Many jurisdictions have revoked religious and philosophical exemptions when mandating vaccines to certain populations, such as children or healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, Many medical professionals do not volunteer this information to their patients at the time of immunization; and

WHEREAS, Almighty God our Heavenly Father has created every human life in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27) from the moment of fertilization (Psalm 139:13); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed every human life by becoming incarnate as an embryo in His mother's womb (John 1:14; Luke 1:43-44; Hebrews 2:15) and by becoming incapacitated by crucifixion in humankind's place; and

WHEREAS, His Holy Spirit calls every human life to His kingdom and family (1 Timothy 2:4) so that His fellowship may dwell in their bodies as holy temples (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

WHEREAS, He has given the human community the responsibility and privilege to receive every human life as a special blessing and treat each one as a precious treasure no matter what age, appearance, or ability (Matthew 25:40); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life affirms the immorality of all complicity with elective abortion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life opposes both the producing of vaccines from aborted fetal tissue and the procuring of aborted fetal tissue for any similar experimentation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life encourages honest and accurate discussion of vaccine ingredients, especially among parents and medical professionals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life opposes compulsory vaccination without a religious or conscience exemption with vaccines developed using aborted fetal tissue and supports the parental right to decline vaccines for these reasons, and supports the development of ethical versions of vaccines that do not come from the bodies of aborted children; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that Lutherans For Life reach out with Christ's forgiveness for the sin of abortion to create vaccines.

### The “Not So Invisible” Michael Luna

by Rev. Jeff Duncan, Director of Mission and Ministry

*“While we have come a long way in improving the living conditions of a developmentally disabled adult, slowly society is becoming more accepting of them, but there is always room for improvement. There are times I can tell you that Jeff and I were so frustrated and so exhausted that we would ask ourselves, ‘Why did we do this?’ It did present a problem ... he took up a lot of our time.”*

**M**arcie and Jeff Luna adopted Michael Ray Luna at 18-months out of the foster care system. Michael, now 26, lives, learns, and works in a neighborhood residential facility (Life Works) for those with intellectual development disabilities/mental illness in Wichita, Kansas. Their Facebook page indicates they “believe in true Christian principles and values, BEING valued, respected, AND successful contributors to our community. We are productive members who are positive about ourselves, and we will not be accepted for less than who we are.” This might not have been Michael’s future.

Born September 30, 1994, at 27-weeks’ gestation, Michael was born to a mother who struggled with alcohol and drug addiction, homelessness, and mental disorders. She tried to self-abort Michael with a coat hanger. Found bleeding in an abandoned building, she was rushed to local St. Francis Hospital. There Michael was delivered. He spent over three months in the NICU. No one gave him more than one year of life expectancy. To his birth mother, Michael remained invisible. We pray she received needed help and support as she relinquished custody of Michael with these words: “Take that thing away from me! I don’t want to have anything to do with it.” But God did and He provided this ward of the state life in foster care.

Phil and Marilyn Ward, Michael’s foster family, were also members of St. Andrews Lutheran Church. The Wards knew of the Lunas desire to adopt a second child. (Carrie was adopted first.) They also knew the Luna struggle through three failed adoption attempts. One day after choir practice Marcie heard a voice in her head: “You have to give that little boy a home!” The voice of an angel or the Holy Spirit? Only this is certain—the once invisible boy with a troubled start would now have a forever home!

It was not easy. Michael suffered an immune compromised system, respiratory struggles, and apnea. He experienced seizures, had a lazy eye, and needed physical therapy and a walker for a gait problem (which he hated). Michael also hated (and threw off) glasses. Eventually, between ages two and three, Michael received surgery for the eye, and his infected tonsils/adenoids were removed. With a clean bill of health came the early childhood development diagnosis of mental retardation (a



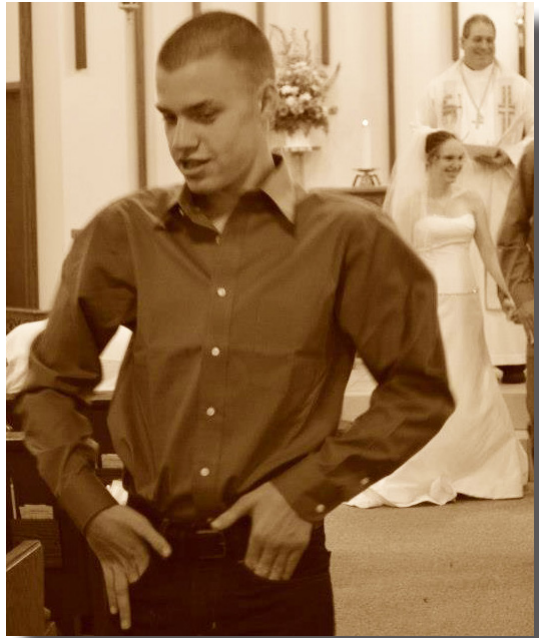


defunct term) at age five. Thankfully, his teacher suggested an autism specialist. Michael was diagnosed and placed in special education integration classes. There Michael thrived through high school. Now a graduate, he will always be intellectually behind, functioning at about a third or fourth grade level.

The once “wished to be invisible boy” is now an indispensable part of his family, his church, and his community. Michael teaches his family how to get “used to being around special needs adults.” When Carrie’s children go with Marcie to Life Works, they “go and see children and adults with disabilities, and they are OK with it ... more accepting than even my [Marcie’s] generation was because they have been exposed to it so early.”

For her church’s part, Marcie says, “I think if you had a church that knew they were going to have a family ... that has a special needs child or disabled adult, that they need to make those people feel comfortable ... to accept their family member as an important person instead of demeaning them, ignoring them, (or) being cold toward them.” The Lunas found that acceptance and inclusion through a core group of individuals at St. Andrews. Though they feared Michael “acting out” (and he did), Marcie says, “I got really nervous! That takes a lot of courage to be able to continually come back!”

As for community, Michael shines with his gift of empathy. He senses when staff or residents are sad or having a bad day. He has his own ministry of presence—coming over and sitting quietly, offering hugs, and smiling his big, toothy smiles of appreciation and acceptance of everyone! Thanks be to God for His indispensable creation of Michael, who is never invisible to the heavenly hosts!





## When My Strength Cannot Avail Me: Feeling Weak and Dispensable

by Marie McPherson

**“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4–5 NKJV).**

God demands that I love Him with all of my heart. And with all of my soul. But with all of my strength? Well, that almost seems like an insult to God! With all the needs and demands of my vocations, including motherhood, sometimes I don’t have much strength left. Some days, it’s hard to get out of bed, much less love the Lord my God with all of my strength!

If you feel the same way, you are in good company. Biblical company, in fact. Samson, a man previously known for his strength, prayed for God’s strength to punish his enemies (Judges 16). Nehemiah asked for the Lord to strengthen his hands to rebuild Jerusalem’s wall. Isaiah found his strength and his song in God. Even the patriarch Abraham was strengthened in faith (Romans 4:20). All of these diverse historical figures had one thing in common: They didn’t muster up strength from inside themselves. Rather, they looked to the One True God to supply their strength, day by day.

God’s Son began His life weak and helpless, laid in a feeding trough. He began His ministry weak and tempted, vulnerable in the desert. In a weakened state from the scourging, Jesus died on the cross, making you right with God, filling you with His strength. And when God supplies your strength, you are strong, indeed.

**All that for my soul is needful He with loving care provides,  
Nor of that is He unheedful Which my body needs besides.  
When my strength cannot avail me,  
When my pow’rs can do no more,  
Doth my God His strength outpour;  
In my need He doth not fail me.  
All things else have but their day,  
God’s great love abides for aye.  
(Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary 448:3)**

*For Further Reading: Deuteronomy 6; Psalm 68:35*

*From Meditations on the Vocation of Motherhood, Volume One: Old Testament*

## The Invisibility of Loneliness

by Mona Fuerstenau

Senator Ben Sasse, at the 2019 Q Ideas conference in Nashville, talked about what he calls a national epidemic of loneliness due to a disconnect from community of place, from community of work place, from friendship.

He describes a connection disconnect, if you will, because of the transient nature of life in America and the digital world, now exacerbated by COVID-19. In a digital world, we don't have to be where we are. We can skim the surface. We can be free from people and things, we can move on, we have permission to disengage.

The epidemic of loneliness and isolation is resulting in increased mental health issues, suicide, feelings of desperation, lack of control or choice, and feeling invisible in our loneliness.

The Church can become a place of belonging for everyone. As much as a person feels invisible in their loneliness, the church has a place for them. Your Church can be a place where each person finds they are indispensable to the body of Christ.

It's all about belonging. Dr. Erik Carter of Vanderbilt University researched this idea of belonging, and he found ten dimensions that people described: **Present. Invited. Welcomed. Known. Accepted. Supported. Cared for. Befriended. Needed. Loved.**

May I suggest ways that three of these dimensions can communicate belonging to those who are lonely.

**Welcomed:** It's not enough that the signs or the mugs or the bulletins say "All are welcome." Each person is approached with a "we are so glad you are here" attitude. Introduce them to others. Invite them to share about themselves. Connect them to someone.

**Accepted:** We are all God's children. Each is a part of the Body of Christ. Our differences are created by the Creator. We have unconditional positive regard for each person. We've been waiting for YOU. You are just what we need!

**Needed:** Recognize each person's worth. Identify their gifts early on. Ask them to take on a role. Let them know they are missed when absent. Authentically communicate that we are incomplete without you. We have gaps and holes in our community that only you can fill.

**Belonging:** No special programs are needed, you already know how to do these things. No training required. Maybe some guidance on intentionality. These are universal needs. It's about genuine, authentic relationships.

So, what stops us? To be authentic is to be vulnerable with others—and that may make us fearful. It might be messy, and that makes us uncomfortable. It takes time. Our reminder as we seek to become a place of belonging is 1 Corinthians 12:18: **"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose."**

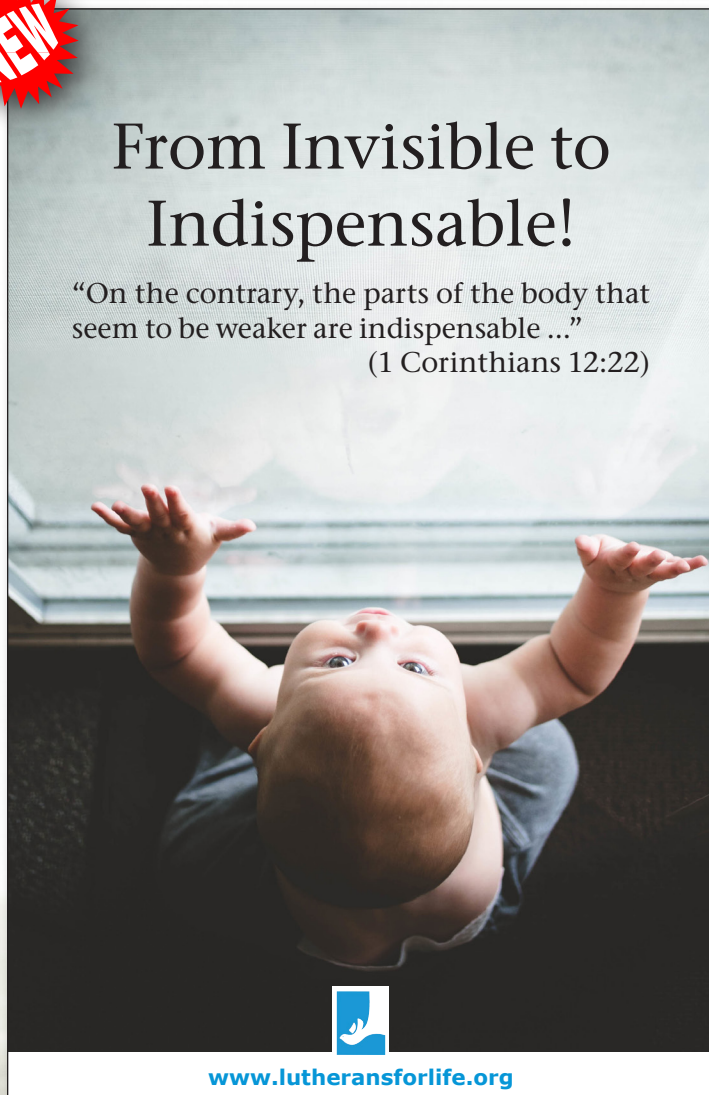


# Life Sunday Resources for 2021



## From Invisible to Indispensable!

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



[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## New for Life Sunday 2021

Bulletin Inserts • Bible Study • Children's Message  
Worship Service • Sermons • Sunday School Lesson

[lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2021](http://lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2021)



## Life Week 2021: From Invisible to Indispensable

### Calling All For Life Supporters!

Check out a brand new multi-generational online and in-person opportunity: **Life Week 2021: Invisible to Indispensable**. Join

us Saturday, January 23, through Saturday, January 30, 2021, to learn about, share, and build excitement For Life in your home,

church, school, and community! Each themed day will explore a distinct aspect of life ministry through local activities, online educational events, and interviews. Top off the week in person or online with mountaintop experiences like the **March for Life** and **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.** Find more news on our Facebook page and [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)!



**NEW**



### Christian Life for Christian Women

Author Rose Adle: "Throughout this short booklet, let's not lose sight of this: The place for the first lady was designed thoughtfully and with great significance and deep love. It was not an accident. It was not a mistake. There was specific, meaningful purpose infused in every fiber of womankind's created self. The first lady to occupy the woman's place in creation was named Eve. This first lady received her place, rejected it, and was restored to it by grace. We can relate! We're related, after all."

Item LFL305B. \$1.00 ea.



Order LFL Resources at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

### 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](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts).

**January 3 – Christmas II** – Adoption’s not an afterthought for our Almighty God. It delights Him to bring every human life into His family this way (Ephesians 1:5). He even arranged for a human husband to adopt His only-begotten Son (Luke 2:48). This relationship captures the very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His grace has taught us how no child ever goes entirely unwanted. The same heavenly joy awaits all those who open their homes to little ones in need.

**January 10 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord** – Even in a formless, dark, and empty early universe, God made Himself present and powerful (Genesis 1:2). Surprise pregnancies sometimes seem just so uncertain. Terminal diagnoses can feel that desperate. But this Lord buried Himself in our graveyard (Romans 6:4). This Savior sowed life in death’s shadowy valleys. We need not let abortion or assisted suicide root us there as residents. The Heavenly Father always comes close and brings His own new creation to blossom.

**January 17 – Epiphany II** – “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46). Can anything good come from surprise pregnancy? Can anything good come from chronic illness? Jesus is both promise and proof of the wonders that come from just such contexts. Miracles come from Nazareth. Forgiveness comes from Calvary. Almighty God put them there. And He also created, redeemed, and called both worth and purpose into every human body (1 Corinthians 6:19), no matter what size, skills, or circumstances.

**January 24 – Epiphany III** – Love doesn’t just “live and let live.” God has put love and power together (Psalm 62:11-12). Love won’t settle for “personal choice” or “public opinion” or “political controversy.” Remaining silent about sins like abortion and assisted suicide may avoid one kind of offense. But it perpetrates a greater one by refraining from showing love. Real compassion acts with courage. It means words of warning as much as words of winning over.

**January 31 – Epiphany IV** – Anxieties concerning climate change and overpopulation justify abortion for some folks. But for Christians, people matter more than food (1 Corinthians 8:13). And fears about famine turn out unfounded when the God who sends mouths also sends meat (Psalm 111:5). If a picture is worth a thousand words, isn’t a brother or sister worth more than a million hamburgers?

**February 7 – Epiphany V** – “The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3). Didn’t Jesus atone for the sins of abortion and assisted suicide? Doesn’t the Heavenly Father love those who promote or participate in them just as much as the lives they have taken? For their sake, let us not hesitate to directly apply both the diagnosis of sinfulness



and the medicine of forgiveness in our congregations and our conversations.

**February 14 – Transfiguration of Our Lord/St. Valentine’s Day** – “God shines forth out of Zion” (Psalm 50:2), not from outer space or some other dimension. He adorns human faces with His own glory. It isn’t angels, superheroes, or celebrities only that He makes so sacred, but sinners like Moses (Exodus 34:29-30) and peasants like Jesus (Mark 9:2-3). The Almighty Father holds every human life open, no matter how embryonic or elderly, as a window to heaven. Who are we to pull the shades?

**February 21 – Lent I** – “Do not lay your hand on the boy ... the Lord will provide” (Genesis 22:12-14). Don’t mothers and fathers experiencing surprise pregnancies have the need—and the right—to hear this plea from God Himself? And what a privilege we have to repeat the holy prohibition and promise! Jesus Christ has stepped into every sinner’s place (Mark 1:9, 13), and no other death is necessary or sufficient. His alone will atone for all of our shortcomings.

**February 28 – Lent II** – What “rejoicing” (Romans 5:3) can we do when abuse, abandonment, and poverty complicate pregnancy? What “hope” (Romans 5:4) can we have when terminal illness takes a loved one’s faculties, functions, and future? Just this: Through Jesus, God takes up our crosses (Mark 8:34) that we may live under His—and live immediately, abundantly, and eternally (Mark 8:35).

**March 7 – Lent III** – Abortion occupies an entire business industry. Assisted suicide is driven by financial considerations. And Jesus objects to nothing more strongly than making life and death a matter of commerce (John 2:15-16). He sacrificed Himself instead (John 2:19) so that “you shall not kill” (Exodus 20:13). Why? Because Almighty God chose the lowly for His own (1 Corinthians 1:28-30)—unborn, aged, impaired, even you and me.

**March 14 – Lent IV** – Location, origin, and residency can neither improve a person’s worth nor impair it. The Lord God’s worldwide redemption in Jesus (John 3:16) gathers from east and the west, north and the south (Psalm 107:2-

3). How then can the confines of a woman’s womb or the bars of a hospital bed or the walls of a laboratory hold Him back when His great love has redeemed the human lives there as well?

**March 21 – Lent V** – Servanthood supersedes success, says Jesus (Mark 10:42-45). And do not surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses provide irreplaceable opportunities to serve neighbors, whether loved ones or strangers? Our Savior suggests that coming alongside them in courage and compassion may be better than sitting in prominent places hereafter!

**March 28 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord** – God works salvation in meekness (Zechariah 9:9). He brings glory only in weakness (Philippians 2:5-8). Abortion and assisted suicide attempt to avoid what the world perceives as weaknesses. But if we never enter another’s weakness or acknowledge and endure our own, we cannot know or come near to heaven. Better the peace of weakness with Jesus than any strength bought by such bloodshed (Zechariah 9:10).







**November 18 marked the somber anniversary of legalized abortion, truly the greatest disgrace of our civilization.** Abortion, first legalized in Soviet Russia 100 years ago, has killed more people than all the wars throughout human history combined. According to conservative estimates, the number of unborn children violently killed by abortion amounts to over 1.5 billion, and that would not include all those who have been killed by abortifacient drugs and IVF procedures. Today this heinous crime against the most innocent of human beings is promoted by powerful governments and international agencies as a human right. Anniversaries such as these offer nothing to celebrate; however, they give an opportunity to consider our responsibility to commit to the stopping of the evil which has been unleashed on such a tremendous scale. Abortion was one of the first lethal attacks launched on the family by the Communist Revolution. On December 17, 1917, a few weeks after Bolsheviks seized power, divorce was introduced; in 1920 abortion was legalized without restriction; in 1922 prostitution and homosexuality were decriminalized. In 1923 Leon Trotsky, one of the leaders of the Bolshevik party, wrote: “The first period of family destruction is still far from being achieved. The disintegration process is in full swing.” My home country Estonia, which was part of the Soviet Union for a long time, represents the effects of this policy to this day, well beyond the period of Soviet occupation. Since 1955 when abortion was legalized in the Estonian territory, there have been over 1.5 million abortions, more than the current population of Estonia, which is 1.3 million. It is a tragic reality of a nation where more children have been aborted than born: virtually every family in Estonia has been affected by abortion in one way or another, shaping the social attitudes today in a hidden but real way. Breakdown of families, dramatically decreasing number of marriages and children born to married couples show only some of the aftermath of the pain and distrust this tragedy has created. Underneath of it all is, of course, the rejection of God. A society that has lost the sense of God, in time, also loses the sense of man, that is, the sense of sacredness of God’s creation ... One hundred years of this tragedy have shown us the full evil of abortion and must be enough to mobilize our efforts and prayers to bring it to an end. (*Maria Madise, blogpost, spuc.org.uk, 11/18/20*)

**Abortions Worldwide in 2020: [www.worldometers.info/abortions](http://www.worldometers.info/abortions)  
38,000,000 as of November 18, 2020  
[lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/abortion](http://lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/abortion)**

## 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](http://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



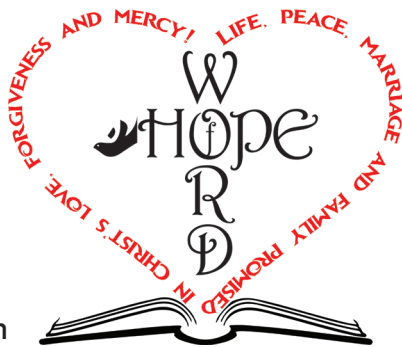
[lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-blog](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-blog)

## 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](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org) • [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org)



**Since 1973: 61,628,584 abortions in America**

Source: [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2020/07/abortion-statistics-united-states-data-and-trends-4](http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2020/07/abortion-statistics-united-states-data-and-trends-4)

## A Need for Clarification

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

I absolutely love to sing.

It's true. It doesn't matter where I am or what I'm doing, I like having a tune in my head. And much to the embarrassment of my sons, I don't always keep that tune on the down-low.

It's not that they don't appreciate my singing. I'm sure they *love* it. (\*Cough\*) It's just that sometimes ... I get the words wrong.

You know how it is—you hear a song on the radio and after a few listens, you begin to sing along. And once you've got it, you belt it out with enthusiasm and gusto because that's what singers do ... until the laughter erupts from the passenger seat, or the locker next to yours, or the sophomore sitting next to you at the basketball game. And suddenly you realize you've written a version of the song the artist never intended.

The truth is, we all need clarification sometimes. We all need someone to fix our misunderstandings, to correct our language, to explain the inexplicable.

So when we at Lutherans For Life and **Y4Life** announce that our theme for the whole year is **From Invisible to Indispensable** and that we're planning the entire **LIFE WEEK 2021** around this theme as well as **Y4Life** in Washington, D.C., we probably have a little clarifying to do. After all, our theme is just a prepositional phrase hanging out there without a subject. Am I right?

Well, you, my friend, have come to the right place. Let the clarification begin!

First, let's start with the word "Invisible." You know what that means. Invisible things are those things we cannot see but we know exist, things like air and radio waves and angels. Gravity, DNA, and oxygen can't be seen with the naked eye either, but we're confident not only of their presence but also their necessity to life. Invisible things are often vital, and we know that God designs and gifts all things necessary for life. In fact, we confess this in the Nicene Creed when we proclaim faith in "God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and *invisible*."

You, also, were once invisible.

Smaller than the tip of your pencil, microscopic and unseeable, you existed days, perhaps weeks even, before your mother or father knew you had come to be.

But God knew you were there because He brought about your beginning. From before the foundations of the world, God intended to make you. And when the right time and place came to be, God set to work. Weaving together some of the genes He gave your mother and some of the DNA He gifted your father, His artistry began and commenced in you. Handpicking the color of your eyes and the shape of your eyebrows, He crafted the genetic code that would set into motion your patterns of growth. God purposely designed how your hair would fall, planned when your first tooth would arrive, and fashioned the shape and swirl of your unique fingerprints. Yes, your gait, your natural gifts, your desire for comfort, and your need for love are all gifts from God Himself.

And being handcrafted by God gives your life worth and meaning. It declares that you are one of a kind. You are a priceless treasure.



But sometimes the world doesn't recognize that. Instead of seeing inherent value in life because all lives are created by God and redeemed by Jesus, the world is tempted to view life as unimportant, accidental, meaningless, and, perhaps most tragically, disposable. Our sinful world works hard to make the visible invisible, to hide the truth behind a screen of falsehoods.

You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God's handcrafted gift to the world.

And that's where the other half of our theme comes in: "Indispensable." You see, being indispensable means being absolutely necessary—essential even. And if you haven't figured out where we're headed yet, let me belt it out with enthusiasm and gusto: **YOU ARE INDISPENSABLE.**

*How can that be? you wonder. How am I absolutely necessary to the world?*

Well, 1 Corinthians 12 has something to say about that, and I'd encourage you to read it. All of it.

In one short chapter, Paul showcases your necessity as he describes the body of Christ. He declares that **"God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose"** (v. 18), giving different gifts to each member so that the body's needs would be met.

Just as God personally created your body, so too He continually designs His body, the Church, bringing together people from all walks of life, all nations, and all abilities, in service to the world. And while it may be true that the world does not appreciate the gifts you have to offer, the body of Christ most certainly needs you.

No matter gift or ability, height or hair color, each member of the body of Christ is vital. Even those of us who sing the wrong words or can't sing at all. 1 Corinthians 12:22 states, **"On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."** So each member of the body of Christ is a gift to the others. Each member provides service to others and opportunities to be served. This is who we are; this is who God has perfectly formed us to be.

I mentioned before that we all need clarification sometimes. We all need someone to fix our misunderstandings, to correct our language, and to explain the inexplicable. The world needs this correction too, especially when it writes a version of life that the Artist never intended. Christians are called to proclaim the truth, and that truth is clear:

All life is valuable. Each member of the human race is vital. All lives are indispensable because of Christ.



**Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life**  
[mbaum@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbaum@lutheransforlife.org) • 812.350.2732 • [Y4Life.org](http://Y4Life.org)

**Attention Youth: It's Time to Sign Up for Y4Life in Washington, D.C.!**

That's right, the annual March for Life scheduled for Friday, January 29, is quickly approaching! While thousands of adults will attend this event, we're also hoping that 4Life youth will walk with us again this year at **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.** All high school and college-aged youth (with chaperones!) and all current Y4Life Teams are invited to march with us. **But that's not all!** Youth who stay in our hotel block at the Hilton Crystal City are also invited to attend a **FREE Y4Life Conference** the same weekend! Join us before the march on Thursday, January 28, for an evening of devotions, sign-making, and opportunities to get to know other 4Life youth. Then attend our conference Friday evening and Saturday morning to explore other 4Life issues. Not sure how to register? Find out more below or email Michelle Bauman at [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org). Don't wait—hotel rooms and conference spots are limited!



**March and Conference**

Open to all high school and college students! Register with Y4Life for free conference and reduced rates on rooms!

**Location**

Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, 2399 Richman Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202; 703.418.6800

**Reservations**

Contact the Hilton and ask for Y4Life group rate! \$120 per night w/breakfast. Up to four people per room. Limited availability; reserve soon!

**Schedule**

*Thursday*

7-9 PM

Gathering - Introduction, Music, Devotions, Sign-Making, Games

*Friday*

9-10 AM

Pre-March Devotion & Directions

10:30 AM

Metro to March for Life

11 AM-4PM

March for Life (Rally, March, and Testimonials)

7-9 PM

Music, Devotion, Post-March Discussion, Life Conference Session

*Saturday*

9 AM-12PM

Life Conference Sessions, Group Discussion, Workshop

## Often “Invisible,” Always Indispensable

by Rev. Jeff Duncan, Director of Mission and Ministry

Struggling and tired. These are sometimes the thoughts of the often “invisible” Life Team/Life Chapter member as reported on several 2019 Annual Activity Reports. Though we pray for strength and a blessing from God for new, energetic, committed For Life recruits, it is often the case that congregations don’t see the Life Chapter activities or hear the Life Team speak out in support of our most vulnerable members of society.

This is understandable! Many of these members of LFL have been working tirelessly since the 1970s or 1980s. They have stood in the gap speaking up for the unborn. They have fought for legislation in state houses, filled baby bottles to support local pregnancy resource centers, and marched on capitol buildings and around street corners praying for an end to abortion. Their voices have echoed through years of LWML Rally presentations and congregational events with important speakers on topics from physician-assisted suicide to post-abortion stress syndrome. Through it all, it may seem that many recipients of their efforts have turned their backs on the For Life message.

For those who feel or experience that loneliness of “invisibility,” take courage, stand, and remember your special vocation as a child of God and citizen of our nation! Yours is the INDISPENSABLE voice that:

**Continues to affirm** the value and worth of every human life, whether inside the womb or in one way or another heading for the tomb.

**Proclaims the Gospel** of forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord to every hurting heart and blood-stained hand desperately making sense of their decision to participate in an abortion.

**Gathers interest and support** for recent legislative advancements providing more and more protection under the law for fetuses and the elderly.

Remember, it is your INDISPENSABLE hands that gather up all the coins from baby bottles, the diapers from diaper drives, and the layettes and baby clothes that keep pregnancy resource center shelves stocked and able to provide much needed support for a pregnant mother and father to choose life!

It is your INDISPENSABLE will and courage that inspire the next generation of For Life voices. You stood strong against the face of evil, against the powers of this dark world and culture of death. They have not prevailed! Through your years of hard effort, new seeds of life are sown. Even now they sprout and flourish on our high school and college campuses with young people ready and eager to join your voice and lend their hands of support for life! Thank you for powering through those days, months, and years of “invisibility” to share the INDISPENSABLE message that God loves life! God bless the days, months, or years He still provides you to continue in this cause for life in His name! You are not invisible to God or to His cause for life, but in Christ, you are the INDISPENSABLE conduit through which the Father distributes His grace, mercy, and peace of eternal life found only in His glorious name!

[lutheransforlife.org/grassroots](http://lutheransforlife.org/grassroots)

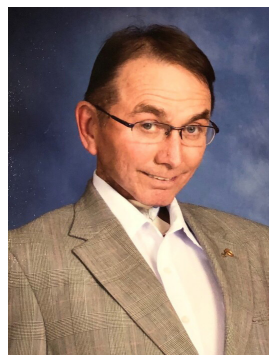


## Serving While Waiting!

by Virginia J. Flo, Regional Director of Minnesota & Conference Director

Each day for years I received a daily devotion called PEARLS, written by Rev. Lyle Kath. In those collections of Real Pearls (*Scripture*) and Cultured Pearls (*man's writings*) you could read many pertinent perspectives on life. The pearls for the day were followed by a prayer and then a witty and humorous note that always brought a smile—and perhaps a little groan—after reading it.

The last Pearl I received was dated October 8, 2020. That is the day that Pastor Kyle Kath was called to be with the Lord. He had emailed it a couple days earlier, as if he anticipated not doing it that day. The Real Pearl for the day was, **“It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation’”** (Isaiah 25:9). The Cultured Pearl for that last devotion was, “What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for,” by John Ortberg. How fitting both of these pearls are for Pastor Kath’s life.



Pastor Kath had throat cancer surgery that removed his ability to speak and eat without external means. Yet he found ways to continue ministering even though he had to resign his Call as full-time pastor. He called himself the Circuit Rider and used his iPad with prerecorded liturgy and sermons that he could play while leading a worship service.

I met him for the first time a few years back, after I began work with Lutherans For Life, when I paid a visit to our Rochester Area Life Chapter. I was setting up a table with my back to the door. All of a sudden, I heard someone speak as if it was a computer saying, “How are you today?” I turned around and there was Pastor Kath with a huge smile on his face—iPad in one hand and a white board in the other. When he had my attention, he started writing on his white board, fast and furious. I don’t think he stopped through the entire meeting. He had lots to share. He was a communicator, and his inability to speak didn’t stop him!

At that Life Chapter meeting, they elected to send him to our LFL national conference in Des Moines, Iowa, that took place a few weeks later. He not only attended but enthusiastically participated. He sat next to me a couple times and, when he wanted to say something to the speaker, he frantically wrote on his white board and either had me read it aloud or he showed it to the presenter. He would quickly wipe the white board clean with a white towel so he could write more. When the towel got too full of black from the erasable pen, he used his shirt sleeve for expediency. After a bit, I finally asked him who did his laundry? We both got a quiet laugh out of that question! (I’m pretty sure it was his faithful wife, Jody.)

At that time, he and his wife lived in Eyota, Minnesota. I didn’t know him before his surgeries, when he was a full-time pastor. I can only imagine that he would have been loved and respected by the congregations he served. There is an entire litany

of achievements he has received during his ministry. Other than the obvious physical signs, one would not immediately know he had a handicap. When he was present, he lit up the room with his smile.

When he moved back to Wahpeton, North Dakota, his hometown, I introduced him to our Fargo-Moorhead Area Life Chapter, and within a short time, I saw pictures of him holding signs on the sidewalk with Life Chapter members. He soon became their executive board pastoral counselor and became engaged with planning events. In 2018 he was honored as the recipient of their prestigious Dr. Jean Garton Life Award. Gail Waagen, the Life Chapter president, shared, “Pastor Lyle has been a faithful sidewalk prayer advocate at the abortion facility in Fargo during the 40 Days for Life Campaign. He faithfully attended our meetings, bringing with him, not only wisdom and spiritual guidance, but a quick wit to lighten up many meetings.” (It was encouraging to learn in 2018 he was called as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton, fulfilling his passion for ministry.)

I last saw him in August at our West Fargo regional conference. He still was an inspiration with his participation and love For Life. We will miss this champion For Life as he not only advocated For Life, but lived his life as a living witness of what a child of God can do despite what some would view as impossible circumstances. We praise and give thanks to God for the gift of Pastor Lyle Kath.

## Saints 4 Life at Lutheran High

by Ella Wiegand, member of Saints 4 Life



In the month of September, the Saints 4 Life Group at Lutheran High School decided to hold a collection drive for homeless people in Indianapolis. The drive was part of the school's homecoming week festivities. Students were asked to bring in a variety of items—mostly personal hygiene products and food. The care packages they created with these items were designed to serve the immediate needs of someone who is homeless and to travel easily.

Classes competed to bring in the most items. Together they amounted to over 4,000 items—exceeding our expectations! These items were assembled into 125 care package kits which are being donated to Wheeler Mission and Outreach Indiana to be distributed to those who need them. Additionally, surplus items were donated to the food pantry at Emmaus Lutheran Church in downtown Indianapolis.



This is the inaugural year of the Saints 4 Life group at Lutheran High School. The team is comprised of approximately 20 students throughout all grades. The group plans more collection drives throughout the year, as well as raising awareness about additional life issues, fundraising, and attending the March For Life in Washington, D.C., in January. The student-led group also attended the Y4Life High School leadership training in March and met remotely for planning throughout the summer.

### Zoom Event: Chats 4Life

Are you interested in discussing contemporary life issues with other high school and college-aged youth from a Gospel-motivated perspective? If so, **Chats 4 Life** is for you! During these Zoom sessions, youth are invited to network, ask questions, and engage in discussion about contemporary life issues. So far we've covered abortion, euthanasia, vaccines, healthcare rationing, birth control, homelessness, human trafficking, serving those with disabilities, and much more! Watch our Instagram page for the next **Chats 4 Life** opportunity, and contact [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) for the latest meeting code and password!



## FRONTLINE CALL

### For all Lutherans For Frontline Volunteers!

**When:** Monday, January 11, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. PT, 6:00 p.m. MT, 7:00 p.m. CT, 8:00 p.m. ET

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

**CONNECT:** Dial: 646-876-9923, Meeting ID: 868 2321 1980, Passcode: 355706

**Online:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86823211980>

[lutheransforlife.org/frontlines](http://lutheransforlife.org/frontlines)

### Zoom Event: For Life Live

*For Life Live* is on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. These Zoom presentations are informative, impactful, and insightful and will inspire you to know and to act in accordance with your For Life values and beliefs. These 90-minute events allow speakers to go in-depth with plenty of opportunity for Q & A. To participate, email Rev. Jeff Duncan at [jduncan@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:jduncan@lutheransforlife.org) and ask for the required unique Zoom ID and Passcode. For topics, check the LFL homepage calendar.







*The next March for Life ...*  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021**  
*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](http://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 [jim@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:jim@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](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com) for more information.  
[www.realestateforlife.org](http://www.realestateforlife.org)  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life)

- [www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife](https://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife)
- [twitter.com/ForLifers](https://twitter.com/ForLifers)
- [www.instagram.com/lfl4life](https://www.instagram.com/lfl4life)

### Also see:

- [www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife](https://www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife)
- [vimeo.com/user4132928](https://vimeo.com/user4132928)





## The Lost Child – About the Painting ...

“**I**n the same way, your Father in heaven does not want one of these little ones to be lost.” Matthew 18:14 (*GOD’S WORD*)

“Where is my child?” There is unseen, unspoken heartache in families when a child is lost. The Bible teaches that the soul is present at conception. This is a teaching worth picturing—that the soul is eternal.

*The Lost Child* validates a woman’s discernment that a life is missed. This discernment and distress can lead to spiritual guidance and healing.

Mothers are not wrong to have troubling thoughts and feelings of guilt over their lost child ... but they need not carry this burden and grief alone.

Word of Hope ([word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org)) and other Christian counselors are ready to listen and help every woman (and man) dealing with misgivings, pain, and grief.

Painting and photography have a long tradition of capturing unseen and avoided realities by depicting the invisible and unmentionable. Healing art can bring us all to the rending of our hearts—and then the mending of our hearts by the Lord.

The purpose of *The Lost Child* is to give hope, healing, and peace to women (and men) grieving for a lost child.

Lutherans For Life is offering *The Lost Child*, by artist Shannon Wirrenga, as an 11" x 14" matte-ready print. Please call 888-364-5433 (LIFE) or email [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) if you are interested in purchasing a print.

## 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](http://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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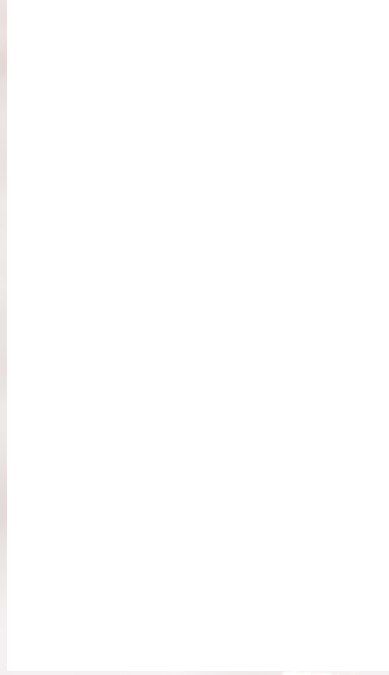


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