



Lutherans For Life of Illinois

Affirming Life In Illinois

RADICAL GENEROSITY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Radical generosity is the giving of all your time, talents and treasure for the sake of God's kingdom and a heavenly reward, not expecting anything in return. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor so that by His poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). Christ became "poor," a baby born in Bethlehem this Christmas. Then He died on the cross on Good Friday and rose from the dead Easter so that we could have faith in Him and follow Him joyously. Radical generosity is about the heart. It is about being

receptive to using the gifts God has given you to JOYFULLY "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2). PRAYERFULLY consider making your life **one continuous gift to others. Remember everything you have belongs to the Lord. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).** God puts you in places where He wants you to step out in faith and love others and give what He has given you in time, talents and treasure to glorify Him. How can you do all that from a LIFE perspective?... One way is to financially support a new Maternity Home for

pregnant women in crisis that will be starting in northern Illinois in 2021. We are in Secure Phase One funding of \$175,000 for this Maternity Home. We have raised \$1,750.

Contributions to:

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, P.O. Box 1496, Sanford, FL 32773-1496

Put NID Maternity Home in the memo line.

PRAY about and encourage others and other For Life ministries in Illinois to support this much needed ministry for pregnant women in crisis.

Pastor David Bortorff,
LFL of IL President

Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2021

Save the date, Illinois

- ☉ March for Life, Moving the Movement Tour:
- ☉ Jan 17—Mundelein
- ☉ Jan 23—Chicago
- ☉ Jan 29 Washington DC
- ☉ March 6th—St. Louis, MO
- ☉ Jan 23-Jan 30—LFL Life Week, see p 3 for more info
- ☉ Date TBD—LCMS virtual Life Conference
- ☉ Feb 17—Mar 28—40 Days for Life
- ☉ TBD Pro-Life Training Session with Illinois Right to Life, Mahomet Christian Church 908 Lake of the Woods road, call or email Bea for more info at 217-369-7798 or bhilsenhoff@gmail.com

A New Year to Affirm Life in 2021

One thing about Lutherans is that they are well known for their generosity. Because we are so incredibly blessed to have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to know his work in our lives, we are a people highly motivated to share those blessings.

For me, it felt like 2020 reduced some of the opportunities we have to do that. Those with job loss have not had as much to share. Those with essential jobs found themselves working so many hours they were less able to spend time volunteering for fundraisers to support the causes in which they believe. Many traditional

banquet type fundraisers were canceled. And of course, social distancing has made many of the activities in which we engaged in the past unsafe in the present.

**LOVE
AFFIRMS
LIFE**

With that in mind, this issue has some ideas to help us be who we are in the new year...generous lovers of Life who support the cause of Life and honor the Lord of Life in all we do. Thanks to Deaconess Lori Trinche for brainstorming creative fundraising ideas with us!

We will want to continue supporting Lutherans for Life, our local pregnancy help centers, Word of Hope, Lifesong for Orphans, and of course the new maternity home in

Northern Illinois.. One thing many of us have done has not had to stop. A monthly check can be dropped in the mail or an online gift given, regardless of what is going on around us.

Beyond that, you will find several calendar-related articles in this issue with ideas for fundraisers or life-awareness activities. Some reflect our reverent side, others remember the culture in which we live and the need to reach out in ways others understand, and some of them are just for fun. I think some of us are ready to remember how fun feels!

Let's pray that our Father would use us to provide for the saving of lives in the new year! And let's thank Him for His provision in our lives!

—LL

Inside this issue:

Chapter News	2
Report from a District Event	2
Essay Contest	3
Life Team News	4
A Year of Ideas for Life	5
Pregnancy Centers	6
Life Song for Orphans	7
Pray with us!	8

Life Comes in Chapters

They didn't come up with this because of Covid, but the LFL Peoria Area Chapter has an idea that still works in spite of Covid. For 15 years or so they have held a local Life Essay Contest for the Lutheran Schools in their community.

In December, they receive essays from the students in participating schools. In January, those essays will be divided between Chapter members to take home and read. At their February meeting, members will read aloud the essay they thought was best out of all those they read. When each

member has read the essay, the chapter members vote for the one that should be the prize winner. Bob Wenger, the Peoria Area Chapter leader tells me this year they will be looking at about 50 essays from three Lutheran Schools. Given the difficulties Covid has brought this past year with e-learning, hybrid learning, and when possible, face-to-face learning, I think that is quite an excellent response.

If you are in the Peoria Area and would like to be involved with Life Ministry, be sure to get in touch with them. Bob tells me that they welcome new members. There are a

number of other ways they affirm Life in the Heart of Illinois and I'm sure you would be blessed by giving them a hand with those!

Pray for all of our Chapters, as they determine how best to speak for Life. May God guide them in ways that meet the current needs of their own communities for Gospel motivated voices for Life!



Find a Chapter

Coles County Chapter LFL

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month
At St. John's Mattoon
Contact: Velma Price,
217-246-2553

Dupage County Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
Contact: Beth Kraegel,
630-279-0041

Four -S Chapter LFL

Meets 2nd Tues of Month
At member homes
Contact: Dale Wetherell,
dwet@hofnetinc.com

Heartbeat Chapter LFL

Meets quarterly
At Trinity, Roanoke
Contact: Trinity, 309-923-5251

Illinois Valley Chapter LFL

Meets via email and as needed
At Salem Lutheran, Jacksonville
Contact: Libby Nobis,
217-491-3026

McHenry County Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
Contact: Genny Hertel,
815-568-8425

Metro East Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
Contact: Ruth Walther,
618-277-5744

New Hope Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
At Faith or Calvary in Watseka
Contact: Lowell or MaryAnn Cluver,
815-383-2339

Northwest Suburban Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
At St. Peter Lutheran, Roselle
Contact: Greg Frey,
630-215-3062

Peoria Area Chapter LFL

Meets 4th Monday of the month
At Bethel, Morton
Contact: Robert Wegner,
309-481-4886

Southwestern Illinois Chapter LFL

Meets via Facebook & email
Contact: Jennifer Roscow,
618-972-5366

Will County Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
At St. Peter's, Joliet
Contact: Kelley, Riley,
815-723-9158

Something New from 40 Days for Life

NEWS FLASH! "Early in the new year, we'll find out about the 18,000th baby saved from abortion as the answer to YOUR prayers! That's because in **January, more than TWO DOZEN cities will launch 40 Days for Life 365 vigils**-praying in front of their local abortion businesses YEAR-ROUND! (I am hoping that this will include cities here in Illinois, although they have not announced which cities are involved.—ed.) That means more lives will be saved at 40 Days for Life locations in 2021 than ever before."
—From the 40 Days for Life newsletter,

Regular Lenten/spring vigils will be held in a number of cities in Illinois, as well. These will begin February 17th and run through March 28th.

Chicago, the vigil will be held on the public right of way outside Planned Parenthood at 4341 N. Milwaukee Avenue.

Downers Grove, the vigil will be held on the public right of way outside Access Health Center at 1700 75th Street.

Fairview Heights the vigil will be held outside Planned Parenthood at 317 Salem Place.

Flossmoor, the vigil will be held outside Planned Parenthood at 19831 Governors Highway.

Granite City, the vigil will be held at 1602 21st street outside the Hope Clinic for Women.

You can sign up for prayer times and get more information at www.40daysforlife.com.

LFL Youth Essay Contest—News

State Essay Contest 2021

The LFL State Federation Essay Contest is for students in Grades 6 through 12. Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation (e.g. confirmation class, youth group) when validated by a pastor or teacher.

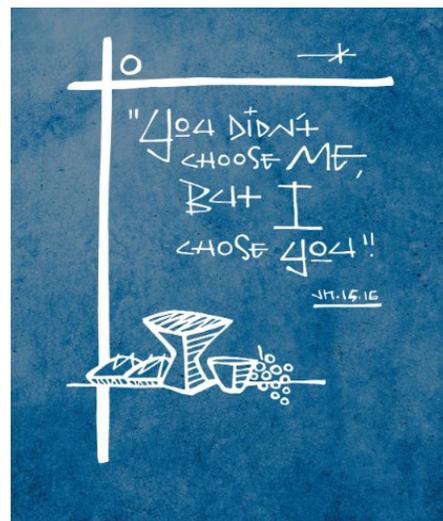
For 2021, students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme "God Chose You" based on John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."

Attached to the email that brought you this newsletter is an entry form for the Illinois Lutherans for Life Youth Essay Contest. Your child's English teacher does not need to assign this for them to participate! Any Lutheran student in grades 6-12 may write an essay for the contest. If you have an English teacher who is willing to guide your student in the process, that is great. But if not, they can still take part by following the guidelines attached.

If the student in your life has not yet had instruction in writing an essay, you can find help online at your dictionary.com. Here is the web address: <https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/writing/how-to-write-an-essay.html>

Beyond this help with the mechanics of essay writing, students can talk to parents, Pastor, Youth Group Leader, or their teacher to get guidance with content. Above all, students will want to write about the life issues that they personally find most compelling.

Last year's Junior Winner in Illinois went on to claim the prize at the national level. All of our Illinois entrants had something to say that was well worth thinking about. Until you try, you don't know what you can do!



Life Conferences 2021

For the fourth year, the **NALC Life Conference** will be held in conjunction with the March for Life in Washington, DC. The conference will begin at noon with a free lunch at Reformation Lutheran Church in Culpeper, Virginia. The event is free and is expected to last until 5:00 p.m. Keynote speaker is Deaconess Chrissy Gillette, director of Word of Hope, the Lutherans for Life ministry for post abortion healing. Although registration is not required, if you would like to attend the lunch, please email Rebecka V.A. Frontz at rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com so they can get a head count and prepare accordingly.

Those marching with NALC members on the 29th will be able to identify their group by the pink or blue proBABY caps they will be wearing. Those are available by contacting Pastor Dennis DiMauro at dennisdimauro@yahoo.com LCMS is planning a first this year in their **Life Conference**. It has in the past been held biennially in conjunction with the National March for

Life in Washington, DC. This year it will be held later and will be a virtual conference.

This holds exciting possibilities for attendance by those of us who might not have been able to manage the distance or get away from work long enough to be physically present in Washington.

Lutherans for Life's Theme for 2021 is based on I Corinthians 12:22: "From Invisible to Indispensable". They will host a week-long online series, 1/23-30. Each day, the LFL team is going to be hosting an online educational event for YOU that will focus on one area of invisibility in modern society. Even better, our guest speakers will highlight how God speaks directly to each life issue. Take a look at this amazing lineup:

- **Day 1: Rev. Michael Salemink**, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, LFL
- **Day 2: Rev. Dr. Michael Eschelbach**, Professor of Theology at Concordia Irvine
- **Day 3: Erin Maggard**, Pro-life

speaker and writer

- **Day 4: Mona Fuerstenau**, Disability Advocate and Ministry Consultant, and **Rev. Scott Licht**, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, LFL
- **Day 5: Deaconess Chrissy Gillet**, [Word of Hope](#) Director, LFL
- **Day 6: Deaconess Pam Nielson**, Associate Executive Director of LCMS Communications
- **Day 7: Panel Discussion** including: **Deaconess Pat Nuffer**, Disability Advocate, and her son, **Carl Nuffer**, who is a vibrant testament to the gift of life with Down syndrome; **Amy Skogerboe**, Jesus-loving Inspirational Christian Speaker; and **Deaconess Chrissy Gillet**, [Word of Hope](#) Director, LFL
- **Day 8: Rev. Hans Fiene**, Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Crestwood, Missouri, and creator of Lutheran Satire (Session 1); **Michelle Bauman**, Director of [Y4Life](#) (Session 2)

(Information taken from each of their websites.)

Go Team!

I checked in with Lynn Cook, a Life Team leader from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville to see what was new on the Life front in Collinsville. Lynn gave me example after example of God bringing something beautiful out of all the difficulties of 2020. You may remember from previous issues that her Life Team has traditionally hosted a Christmas get together for seniors at Good Shepherd. That was out this year, but her team chose to canvass

those seniors about their Christmas memories. They gathered the stories into a Christmas memory book. They were able to share it with at least a hundred people who loved the end result. The team at Collinsville has also encouraged other small groups to take up the challenge and send cards to shut-ins. In the end, they are hearing from more people than ever about what a blessing these efforts have been. One team member developed a Life-affirming power point

for youth ministry. It was such a success that they've been invited to provide a panel discussion for their youth. Now the team is looking forward to a special Service in honor of Life on Wednesday, the 19th. They were also able to fill a whole day with prayer during the last 40 Days for Life Campaign. That was, in part, a response to the unfortunate building of Planned Parenthood in Fairview Heights.

He gives "them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning..." Isaiah 61:3

Celebrating Life Every Month

JANUARY

CELEBRATE LIFE MONTH

Yes! Balloons, For Life Messages, Marches, & Celebrations!

FEBRUARY

NATIONAL WEDDINGS MONTH

Yes, honor marriage and those who honor God with theirs! Help honor the partner they don't yet know with purity!

MARCH

NATIONAL TRISOMY AWARENESS MONTH

Yes! Honor the lives of those challenged with Down Syndrome! Remember those with other challenges who are devalued by the world's view!

APRIL

NATIONAL MONTH OF HOPE

Yes! Offer the Hope we have in Jesus to all those you meet!

MAY

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Yes! Find ways to honor and assist those who meet the needs of children!

JUNE

NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

Yes! Come along side those hurt by trauma, including those wounded by abortion.

JULY

NATIONAL CORD BLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

Yes! Make sure others know about adult stem cell therapy...because nobody has to die to make it work!

AUGUST

NATIONAL MAKE A WILL MONTH

Yes! Help provide life affirming, practical help to those facing end-of-life decisions.

SEPTEMBER

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Yes! Learn and share with others the preventative factors.

OCTOBER

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Yes, Pray for an end to abortion, euthanasia and infanticide! Be the hands and feet of Jesus to those at risk!

NOVEMBER

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

Yes! Provide your church with information that can help people bring children into their families through adoption!

DECEMBER

NATIONAL GIVING MONTH

Yes! Give to those who stand for life, wherever God leads you to give!

CHECK THE LUTHERANS FOR LIFE WEBSITE FOR LIFE MINISTRY RESOURCES

A Church Year of Life Opportunities

Advent: Your church could host a photo booth set up to look like a manger scene. Let families make appointments to come have their Christmas picture taken by a volunteer from your congregation and while they are at it, drop a "Change for Life" offering into the manger or a "changes for Life" gift of diapers into a "treasure chest" by the wisemen's camel.

Christmas Caroling at the empty manger with Pro-Life Action League. Check out their website to find times and locations. [Sing Christmas carols at your local abortion facility - Pro-Life Action League](#)



Christmas or Epiphany: Lutherans for Life has a lovely Bulletin Insert for Christmas or Epiphany. The image is of the star of Bethlehem. The message is "Fear Not". It is available from Concordia Publishing House.



Lent: Take part in a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil in your area. You will soon be able to sign up at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/> Lutherans for Life has a series of devotions for Lent: "Christ the Life of all the Living". It is available from CPH.

Annunciation : The Miracle of the Incarnation of Our Lord. Again Lutherans for Life has developed a Bulletin insert for this Feast Day that reminds us how Jesus joined us in every aspect of our human experience from conception on.

Also available from CPH



Easter: Celebrate the Resurrection with all your heart! He is Risen! Your sins are forgiven. This is the motivation for all we do!

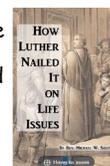
Pentecost: "How You Can Speak" is a booklet published by Lutherans for Life that is packed with ways to speak for the vulnerable...perhaps not in other languages, but clearly and under-

standably to all who hear. Using these ideas or others, may we truly "Speak Life" in a world that desperately needs the Hope of the Gospel.

These are many ways we can take the advice of the old quote often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel always, if necessary, use words!"

Trinity: In the season of Trinity, we remember our Triune God. It is a time to celebrate the life of Christ and to consider Scripture from Creation to Revelation in which all three members of the Godhead are present. We use the color green on our altars at this time, the color of growth and life. As we contemplate our Triune God and consider growth, it is a good time to mention the growth that occurs unseen before birth... a silent testimony to the infinite wisdom of God. It is also a good time for a Creation event.

Reformation Day: Why not share "How Luther Nailed it on Life Issues"? Perhaps it would be good to observe the day by posting a Life Thought in a public forum...with the advent of the internet, you won't even need nails!



-LL

Half A Year of For-Life FUN with unlikely holidays

Jan 23rd "National Measure Your Feet Day" Why not promote with Precious Feet Pins as prizes for the longest feet, widest feet, smallest feet, etc. at your church. Let participants purchase a sheet of paper with blanks for name and contact info, to draw around their feet and then drop into a box located at the church doors, proceeds going to a Life Affirming cause your church supports. Collect baby booties, socks, and shoes for your local Crisis Pregnancy Center. Be the hands and feet of Jesus to help the new maternity home get off the ground.

Feb 1st "National Get Up Day" What a time to celebrate serving the God of second chances! Consider an ice skating event and be sure everyone knows that falling happens to all of us, but getting back up is where we help one another! It is also National Dark Chocolate Day, so chocolate hearts might be a nice reminder that when our hearts are down, Jesus lifts us up. Perhaps proceeds could go to a life affirming agency that helps people needing a second chance, whether post abortion healing, crisis pregnancy, or recovery after human trafficking.

Mar 2nd "Dr. Seuss' Birthday" Celebrate with "Horton Hears a Who" Activities. Theme with "A person's a person, no matter how small" projects...Guess the number of Puff-ball "daisies" in a very large jar and remember God has counted even the hairs of your head...you are never lost to Him no matter how many people you're among... & there are never too many!

Apr 7th "National Walking Day" Walking for Life is nothing new, but maybe this year you want to issue banners hung on pool noodles or 6-ft. PVC pipe to assure social distancing and turn it into the longest train for Life in your community! Walkers can still gather pledges to raise funds for life affirming agencies.

May 24th "National Scavenger Hunt Day" Well, why not? Host a scavenger hunt in a park or forest preserve or your church property if there is room. Admission can go to a Life affirming agency in your community. Be creative. Let folks look for tiny things and remember the least of these among us. Or let them look for objects you have hidden along a trail and snap a picture with their phones to collect. Let the objects have a

symbolic meaning related to Life and add a guessing game element.

Jun 3rd "World bicycling Day" Get involved with Biking for Babies and organize a local biking event. Bikingforbabies.com

Jul 20th "National Lollipop Day" Sell lollipops as a fundraiser. Or Hold a lollipop licking contest: either race to finish one lick at a time or find out how many licks it takes to get to the tootsie center of a Tootsie Pop! Even on a zoom chat that might be fun.

Aug 2nd "National Coloring Book Day" Sponsor a Youth Poster Contest promoting Life. Share the for Life Coloring Book from Lutherans for Life's website with kids at an outdoor "coloring festival". Offer color-themed games and crayon prizes. Have booths for alternative crayon projects like wax paper "stained glass" from crayon shavings or melted crayon art made with a hair dryer.

Even with the Covid rules in place, some outdoor activities can be safely enjoyed together. Many of these are naturally outdoor activities. Others can be facilitated online. The Horton event could involve watching the movie as individual families, but zoom discussion and activities, for example.

Holidays we know and Love, Some Repurposed for Life

January 17, 2021 Sanctity of Human Life Day. This one does not need repurposing. Take time to pray for those facing life and death decisions that they might choose life. Pray for healing and hope for those who have chosen otherwise. Take part in March for Life or other activities that have been planned. Be sure your congregation knows both the value of Life and the certainty of Forgiveness.

February 14, Valentines Day. Celebrate the gift of marriage! Or Use a "Love them Both" theme to support your local CPC. Maybe your church would like to celebrate the day by putting together "Love Boxes". There is a cost. You can see a moving video showing their impact

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdHHDmhQOPg>

and get details from Embrace Grace at their site:

www.embracegrace.com

March 17, 2021, St. Patrick's Day. Patrick, not Irish, was a slave in Ireland. He was told in a dream to go to a certain place and catch a ship, which took him across the channel to Europe at a point in time when Christianity had come there. There he met Jesus and found true freedom, which he took back to Ireland and shared with his captors. This might be a good time to raise awareness of the worldwide problem of human trafficking and remind one another that all people have inestimable value in the eyes of God. Nobody should be considered "disposable" as a modern day slave. Here in Illinois the Salvation Army has programs to deal with this issue.

April 15th, Tax Day. Well, it may not be a holiday we love all that much. But perhaps we could use it to remember our elected officials, pray for them, and write letters encouraging them to honor life in the choices they make...and in how they use our tax dollars.

May 9th, Mother's Day. So many ways to honor the moms who choose life! Ingatherings, Gifts to CPCs in honor of mothers in your congregation, gifts for the mothers in your congregation, change for life bottles. I'm sure you could add to the list!

June 20th, Father's Day. Here's a new idea...why not host a day of disk golf? It's socially distanced, good fun, and lots of dads love it. Let participants collect pledges and give the proceeds to a local agency that helps dads deal with unexpected fatherhood. Or donate to the LFL-IL fund at Lifesong for Orphans so a man who is longing to be a dad can do just that through adoption.



Abigail Women's Center, Mendota

The Abigail Women's Center was begun as a pregnancy resource center in 1997. In 2007, they went medical, allowing them to offer sonograms and other pregnancy related services. Betty Pappas, the Director of Abigail Women's Center has kindly answered many questions for us.

When asked how she came to be involved with the work at Abigail, Betty explained, "In the early 1980's I was working at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria Illinois as a Nurse in High Risk Labor and Delivery Unit. I would see such young pregnant women 12 years and up who would at 13-15 years, be having their second and third babies. I prayed and asked God what I could do to help these women. God spoke to my heart and told me that some-

day, I would be in charge of a clinic for women. I thought it would happen soon, but our timing is not God's. 30 years later, while being on the Board of Directors for Abigail's, God brought that promise back to my mind and heart as I told the Administrator at the Nursing Home I was working in as the Director of Nursing, that I was giving him 9 months notice to find my replacement. He retorted with, "No, you're giving me 9 months to talk you into staying!" With that, God immediately reminded me of this promise from so long before and I knew that Abigail Women's Center was my destiny from God."

I asked Betty about the blessings of 2020 and she mentioned the addition of a gift of a 4-D ultra sound ma-

chine, the help of a tech company to create a "virtual Gala" in lieu of their annual fundraising banquet, and the special speaker God provided for that event.

Among the things Betty and the staff at Abigail are looking forward to in 2021, are more of Jesus in their lives and ministry, reaching and serving more men and women with the compassion and assistance they need, and working toward the opening of a new center in Princeton.

If you are in the area, you can volunteer to help at Abigail. You can give and pray from anywhere!

We pray for the health and safety of the center staff and clients, for the Holy Spirit to be present there, opening eyes and hearts and making women feel safe there, drawing them to God.

Representation

I don't know about you, but there are times I'm tempted to believe that there isn't really anyone to represent me and my world view out there.

My view is for-life. It is for-life when the life in question is small and hidden within its mother's womb and the adults are considering having it snuffed out. It is for-life when the life in question is an 8 year old lying on her living room floor doing homework, but is shot by random gunfire. It is for-life when insurance companies lobby against providing medical care to those who have lived beyond a

certain age. It is for-life when scientists lobby to gain access to little humans in the embryo stage so they can experiment with them. It is for-life in the presence of violence of all sorts. It is for-life when death is promoted as a solution. Death is obscene! Death is the enemy! How could someone representing me promote death? I am, as I said, for-life.

But then that still small voice calls me back to reality.

"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Right-

eous..." (1 John 2:1, ESV)

Where it counts, there is Somebody to represent me!

"God has put all things under subjection under his feet..." Romans 15:27, ESV)

My representative is not powerless, but Lord over all!

"Death is swallowed up in victory!" (Romans 15:55, ESV)

I stand reminded that my help does not come from DC or Springfield and never has. My help is from the Lord, the Lord of Life. —LL

New Maternity Home News

Redeeming Life Ministries, in partnership with the Northern Illinois District of LCMS is working diligently to get the new maternity home off the ground. Redeeming Life Ministries has added a page for the Illinois Expansion to their website. There you read: "In order to redeem the lives of vulnerable pregnant women and their babies, we need local advocates all over Illinois. The local advocates help spread the word about the new maternity home in their churches, organizations and neighborhoods to reach pro-life supporters and ask for support. We have videos and materials to help local advocates build awareness, generate excitement, and share updates about this expansion project."

You can sign up to do this on their website, www.rlom.org/expansion

Advocates let their own congregations know about the new home. They can make members aware of the home's existence and needs, encourage support, organize fundraisers, and be sure that those involved in human care ministry know it is out there, should they find themselves ministering to somebody who needs such a safe haven. An advocate might want to use creative, new ideas and technologies to spark interest and support for the maternity home.

If you choose to take on the role of advocate for the new maternity home, you will also want to be sure the crisis pregnancy centers in your

area have information about the home. Our hard-working pregnancy center workers are often so busy that keeping up with new resources may be difficult to do.

On the same page where you sign up to be an advocate, you can find resources for getting the word out in your area. You can also donate online from that page.

Pray with us that this special safe haven for moms-to-be will soon be up and running! May Father God use each of us to make it happen!



Precious Feet Prayer Thoughts

When we think of precious feet, our first thought is of the lovely little pins that are exact-size replicas of a baby's feet 10 weeks from conception. I would like to consider lots of precious feet this quarter...

Consider the precious feet of parents who lead the way! *May God grant our parents loving, faithful marriages so they can say with integrity, "Follow us as we follow Jesus!"*

Consider the precious feet of the elderly, often tired feet that ache at the end of the day! *May God demonstrate His very Presence among*

those who have lived long and suffered much in our broken world! May He make them valued as a shining testimony to His steadfast love!

Consider the cartwheeling, ball-chasing, energetic precious feet of our teenagers! *May God guard their hearts and the paths they walk in a world where deceptive ideas assail them daily! May the love of Jesus hold them up and keep them growing in faith!*

Consider the precious feet of those facing life and death decisions! *May their feet stand firm on the side of*

life! May God give them the strength and courage to maintain that stand even when it is not comfortable or convenient.

And yes, consider the precious feet of babies, both born and unborn! *May the value of those little lives be recognized and held dear, whether they can toddle yet or not!*

Above all, consider the precious feet of Jesus, pierced by nails at Calvary to purchase our forgiveness. *Thank you, Lord!*

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news..." Isaiah 52:7



Lifesong for Orphans

We have another opportunity to help an LCMS family in Illinois adopt a child through the LFL-IL fund set up at Lifesong for Orphans!

The Traxel family is hoping to add a child to their family from the Dominican Republic. The Board of LFL-IL has voted to offer a matching grant to help them make it happen.

Currently, Pastor Joshua Traxel is the pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Springfield. His wife, Abby is involved in the school at Our Savior as a part time aide, but is primarily at home caring for their preschooler.

The Traxels discussed the possibility of adoption even before their marriage, believing that at some

point in the future they would pursue adoption even if they were blessed with biological children. The time has come!

The Traxels are drawn to the Dominican Republic in part because of the mission presence of the Lutheran Church in that country. They find themselves in a unique position of also being able to devote time to the lengthy stay in that nation that will be required to adopt.

To quote Pastor and Mrs. Traxel, "We know the road we are on can be a difficult one. But we are likewise aware of the tremendous gift that adoption can be as we have an opportunity to share love with a child who will become part of our family. ...So we continue to pray for God's guidance and direction for our fami-

ly, trusting his ways are always best, ever sure he is walking with us as we prepare to receive an orphan into our home, and confident his grace will see us through."

If you would like to contribute to the fund that helps couples like the Traxels in their pursuit of adoption, you can do so by sending your contributions to:

Lifesong for Orphans

P.O. Box 9

Gridley, IL 61744

Be sure to note in the memo line:

Lutherans for Life, IL #P576

Since Lifesong manages accounts for other groups, too, this assures that your contribution goes to the one for LFL-IL.

Pray for the Traxels that God would prepare everything needed for their adoption!

March for Life/Moving the Movement Diaper Drive

At this year's March for Life Chicago's Moving the Movement Tour, they are going to advocate for the rights of the unborn and actively support them by providing diapers for babies throughout the first year of life.

They hope to collect 130,094 packages of diapers. That is enough for one for every child lost to abortion each year in the Midwest.

A pack or two of diapers in any size will make a big difference for new parents and their babies.

You have two options for giving diapers!

1. Bring Diapers to a Tour Stop:

Purchase diapers of any size and bring them with you to one of the 6 Moving

the Movement tour stops or March for Life Chicago.

We'll take them from there to the local pregnancy resource centers!

2. Sponsor Diaper Purchases On the March for Life Website.

[MTM Diaper Drive \(givingfuel.com\)](http://MTM Diaper Drive (givingfuel.com))

Thank you for gathering together as a community who raises their voices and offers support for young lives. Your generosity goes a long way!

Diapers will be donated to the following organizations:

Chicago, IL

Diapers will be donated to Southside Pregnancy Center, the Women's Center of Greater Chicago-land, and other local Pregnancy Resource Centers

Mundelein, IL

Diapers will be donated to Aid for Women

Madison, WI

Diapers will be donated to CareNet and other local pregnancy resource centers

Omaha, NE

Diapers will be donated to the Pregnancy Centers of Grand Island Diocese, Birthright of Norfolk, EPS (Essential Pregnancy Services), and Assure Women's Center

Fort Wayne, IN

Diapers will be donated to Compassion Pregnancy Center, Life and Family Services, A Mother's Hope, A Hope Center, and The Hope Clinic

Indianapolis, IN

•Diapers will be donated to the Life Center, the Women's Care Center, and Birthline (from the flyer put out by March for Life Chicago)

THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS!

We really appreciate your support! Let's keep the Life-affirming attitude and share the love God has for us and all people. Let's gently give the word of forgiveness to those who are hurting and those who have hurt us...because love affirms life!

Lutherans in our state are disappointed and upset that so many in our society are continuing to cast fragile humans aside ... May God make us into Gospel-motivated voices for life!

Thanks be to God that He has paved the way through Christ for the gift of forgiveness and for us to belong to Him!

(Inspired by LFL-Kansas Newsletter)

Lutherans For Life of Illinois is a State Federation of Lutherans For Life, a 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to equipping Lutherans for becoming Gospel Motivated Voices for Life. We are on the web at <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-of-illinois/>

Send news items and prayer requests to the editor at: laeschfamily@gmail.com

Let your love affirm Life with Lutherans For Life

Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select membership category

Annual \$35 \$50 \$75 Other

Any amount is welcome!

Note: Membership Contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.

Sponsor: I commit to a monthly gift of ____.

I'm not interested in membership, but am

enclosing a contribution of ____ to support the work of LFL.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Congregation _____

Church body AALC AFLC CLBA ELCA LCMS Other

Send to: Lutherans for Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Or donate online at www.lutheransforlife.org

Prayer and Praise...

1. We pray for all the organizations mentioned in this issue to have the financial support they need to carry on their work. God grant us the joy of giving both financially and of our time and energy.

2. Let's pray for congregations and their encouragement as they find new and creative ways to share the Gospel of Life in their communities. May God give each of them the leadership they need and raise up servants from among them who answer the call to ministry.

3. Let us pray that as people are taking time to think deeply during the pandemic, we will as a state and a nation realize anew how much we need our Savior and how precious is all life so we take action to love and protect those in need.

4. Pray for those who serve in Pregnancy Resource Centers. May God guide them as they try to bring hope and the light of His love into the darkness of fearful times for those facing surprise pregnancies. May God renew their strength as they deal with so many new chal-

lenges!

5. Pray for those who serve at the other end of life in long term care facilities. May God grant them the fruit of His Spirit: gentleness, kindness, and love as they serve their clients. May He protect both the care givers and those cared for, as the virus continues to plague us.

6. Pray for Lutheran schools in our state. In fact, pray for all schools in our state. As administrators and teachers labor to help children develop to their God-given potential, they are dealing with a multitude of additional safety and health concerns this year.

7. Pray for citizens of our nation and for our state, that we the people will value Life, even the lives of those who disagree with us and that we will find ways to communicate

the love for Life, the love for God, and the love for liberty in ways that respect and encourage those around us.

8. Pray for our state and national leadership. May those in authority care more about the greater good than their own reelection. May they value life and use their positions to protect it.

9. Pray for those who face life and death decisions this very day. May they have the courage to accept the gift of Life with joy and to face the future unafraid because of God's grace and enablement.

10. Pray for those who have lost loved ones whether to Covid or other causes. May God comfort them with the hope of the resurrection that is ours through Jesus Christ. May they be encouraged to remember that He won the victory over death.



"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."
—Romans 12:12