

# Lutherans For Life 2020 Impact Report



## Did God Really Say ... ?

by LFL President Lynette Auch



We hear a lot about “fact checking” these days, especially from the social and mainstream media and the big tech companies. There are those who believe “fact checking” is just another form of censorship, that it squelches, suppresses, or twists information for narrative control. This is a tactic that has been used at least since the beginning of man.

**“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘*Did God really say ... ?*’” (Genesis 3:1 NIV)**

In those four little words, not only was the evil one placing doubt in the mind of God’s human creation, he was also questioning the narrative.

Humankind continually questions or twists God’s narrative.

- Did God really say, **“You shall have no other gods before me”**? (Exodus 20:3)
- Did God really say, **“You shall not kill”**? (Exodus 20:13)
- Did God really say, **“You shall not commit adultery”**? (Exodus 20:14)

This question, **“Did God really say ... ?”** begs the question, **“What is truth?”** We read those very words coming from the mouth of Pontius Pilate when he questioned Jesus about His kingdom (John 18:38). Jesus is **“the way, and the truth, and the life”** (John 14:6), and Jesus promised to send **“the Spirit of truth”** (John 16:3).

**“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you ... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you”** (John 14:16-17, 26).

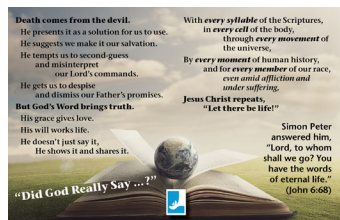
The Spirit of truth teaches us to live as children of light. **“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them”** (Ephesians 5:8-11).

Lutherans For Life, founded on the truth and wisdom of Scripture from the Holy Bible through the **“Helper, the Holy Spirit”** challenges those who would try to change the narrative of God’s inerrant Word. Because the **“days are evil,”** Lutherans For Life strives to **“expose the fruitless deeds of darkness”** and uphold the God-given value of human life while influencing society to do the same.

**“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil ... be filled with the Spirit”** (Ephesians 5:15-18).

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## From Pastor Michael Salemink



You kept us busy in 2020! Here are a few of the ways we were able to amplify your Gospel-motivated voices For Life by God's grace and your encouragement and

support: We offered new print resources, including "Is Abortion an Election Issue," "Real Love, Real Life," "Teaching Children Chastity: Talking Points for Christian Parents," and "Will It Hurt? – Six Facts About Pain Perception in the Developing Human," as well as Life Sunday 2020 congregational worship materials under the theme of "Did God Really Say ...?" We maintained contact with over 50,000 donors and congregations across several church bodies and in all fifty states. (Lutherans For Life has no debt!) Over X,XXX separate gifts were received from generous folks just like you. We were able to integrate technology upgrades that have not only maintained but improved our ministry in this time of travel restrictions, enabling us to work together better (through videoconferencing and project management software) and engage more hearts and minds (with simpler, brighter, more dynamic, mobile-ready websites and live-streaming of our regional conferences). And I've been producing Life Moments (multimedia versions of our Life Thoughts in the Church Year), Life Matters (short videos about life issue concepts and events for social media sharing), and Life-Minded (a podcast or twenty-minute audio program listeners can access anytime). Thank you so much for your fellowship, encouragement, and support.

## 2020 LFL Regional Conferences

We were blessed by and are extremely appreciative and thankful for the four congregations that supported our 2020 regional conferences: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, North Dakota; Ruthfred Free Lutheran Church, Bethel Park (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania; Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Peoria (Phoenix), Arizona; and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Orlando, Florida. The Lord made it possible for us to have the first three regional conferences in-person and live-streamed (with live-stream recordings posted on



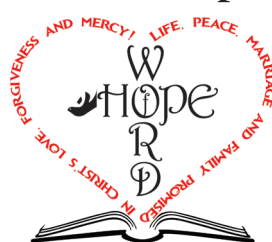
our website). The Orlando conference was cancelled the week before due to slow registrations and our need to be good stewards of our financial resources. Thankfully, we were able to post videos of each Orlando presentation on our website. We are grateful for each of the presenters for taking the time before the scheduled event to do the video recordings. We praise God for the many people who attended all the conferences both in person and online as the work of LFL and the personal engagement of our constituents showed clearly through the enthusiasm of those participating.

## 2020 Life Teams/Life Chapters/Mission and Ministry



We were certainly challenged in 2020. Early year shutdowns forced many of our Frontline groups to pivot and develop new ways to continue equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life. You rose to the challenge. You persevered under difficult circumstances. You learned new technologies (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, social media). You prayed, and prayed, and prayed! As Psalm 50:15b states "... call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." Our God is faithful to His promises. New Life Chapters were formed. New Life Teams were birthed. Even more Life Team Tool Kits went forth to potential teams to ensure more future promises For Life. New technologies and offerings for Frontline volunteers were implemented including *For Life Live*. Through it all our Lord God is praised for His steadfast love for all life, from fertilization to natural death. And Lutherans For Life is vibrantly and actively on the way to fulfilling our mission and vision. Our Frontline volunteers remain our biggest blessing toward this end.

## Word of Hope



The Word of Hope hotline experienced an increase in contacts by 284% when comparing 2019 contacts (413) to 2020 contacts (1174). In January 2020, calls averaged five a day, but that number has multiplied to eight a day for January 2021. What might be the cause(s)? The Lord's blessings through promotion, pandemic, and addressing a wider range of life issues. Although in-person promotion was quickly



halted by COVID-19 travel restrictions, Word of Hope adjusted by offering to continue with presentations in an online format. Travel restrictions and prolonged isolation also correlated with a significant rise in unplanned pregnancies, mental illnesses, and suicidal behaviors. By August, contacts rebounded and escalated higher than before, averaging approximately 150 contacts a month the rest of the 2020. Over the last year, women and men called Word of Hope seeking help due to pregnancy or abortion, but substantially more contacted the hotline for other life issues. Therefore, Word of Hope expanded the focus of referrals and direct care services to address life issues from conception to life everlasting. Prayerfully, providing HOPE and proclaiming value in all stages of life will prevent abortion or physician-assisted suicide from occurring. In response to offered hope we received this note: “I want to thank you for the incredible help that I have received over the past few months. Chrissie has been a true light at a very hard and dark time in my life. Chrissie has consistently been there in guiding me along a good path towards Christ ... I am truly blessed and grateful for the help and support that I have received. Thank you and God bless you all.” – Mark

**word-of-hope.org**

## Y4Life

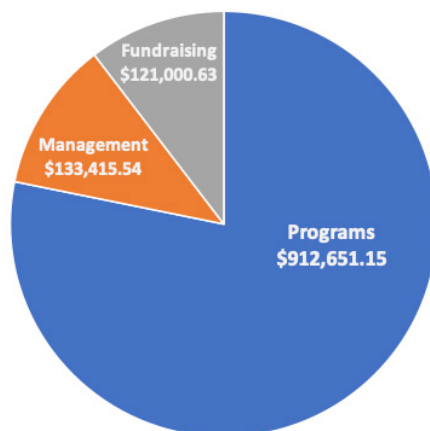
Y4Life had many opportunities to engage youth and prepare them to share a 4Life message in 2020! We began the year with Y4Life in Washington, D.C., a three-day conference centered around the March for Life. Our theme, “Created, Redeemed,



Called,” resonated with the more than 130 high school and college participants as it affirmed their worth and empowered them to support the lives of others. Spring activities included a presentation at Concordia Wisconsin, exhibition at the LEA National Administrator’s Conference, and the creation and implementation of a brand new Y4Life High School Leadership Retreat! Then ... COVID hit. Though a number of presentations and retreats were cancelled, Y4Life’s work was not! The first week of April brought the beginning of *Chats 4 Life*, a new online opportunity for youth from across the nation to learn about life issues from various expert speakers. In addition to new brochures, articles, and opportunities for weekly online engagement, the summer months were used to create a brand-new Y4Life website ([y4life.org](http://y4life.org)) and establish a second online program for youth called *What About ... Mondays?* Through online programs, Y4Life engaged over 100 new youth, many of them on multiple occasions, throughout the summer. Finally, the fall and winter months brought classroom visits and Zoom presentations at a variety of schools as well as participation in Beautiful Feet and other virtual conferences. Michelle spent much time supporting Y4Life team leaders and their youth as well as engaging those who don’t have a local Y4Life Team to join and connecting them to Y4Life’s online community of For Life youth. In addition, Y4Life spearheaded the creation of LIFE WEEK 2021 materials and planning for this week-long event. Despite COVID-19, God has provided a year full of opportunities for Y4Life! Thank you for your prayers, encouraging words, and financial support in 2020. May God bless the work He has planned for 2021!

**y4life.org**

**2020 Operational and Restricted Expenses**



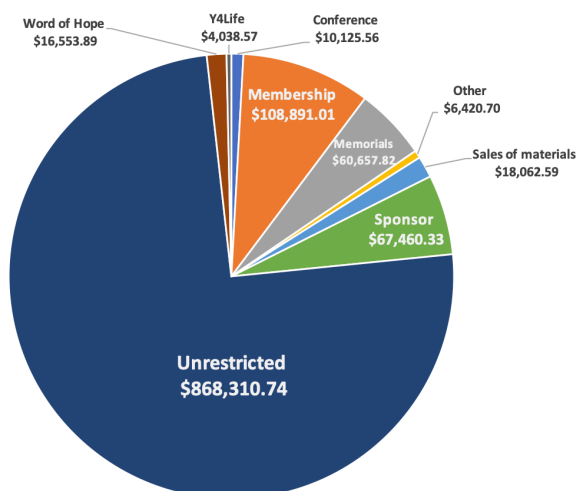
### Income – 2017, 2018, 2019

2017 Income	\$1,042,808
2018 Income	\$1,198,301
2019 Income	\$1,266,752

### Expenses – 2017, 2018, 2019

2017 Expenses	\$1,187,229
2018 Expenses	\$1,151,871
2019 Expenses	\$1,217,336

**2020 Revenue Chart**







**Lutherans For Life**

1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Nevada, IA 50201-1816

lutheransforlife.org  
info@lutheransforlife.org  
888.364.LIFE (5433)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ames, IA  
Permit No. 14



## 2020 Impact Report

Find out how your much-appreciated gifts and support helped  
LFL equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Your prayers and financial support are important to us!  
[lutheransforlife.org/donate](https://lutheransforlife.org/donate)

Lutherans For Life is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and does not receive funds from a specific church body. LFL strives to network pastors and laypeople to make a positive difference in people's lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit, LFL seeks to change hearts and minds through the Word of God.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture marked NIV is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

### National Lutherans For Life

#### LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

Rev. David M. Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais  
Katie Willman, Indiana – Marion  
Rev. Rich Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove  
Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa  
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler  
Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis  
Bernice Stulc, Montana – Belgrade  
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco  
Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City  
Kimberlea Lessman, South Dakota – Plankinton  
Rev. Doug Reinders, Wisconsin – Fremont

#### National LFL Board of Directors

Lynette Auch, *President* – Lesterville, South Dakota  
Stephenie Hovland, *Vice President* – Portage, Wisconsin  
Sheila Page, DO, *Secretary* – Aledo, Texas  
Ronald L. Soule, *Treasurer* – Mason, Michigan  
Diane Albers, *State Representative* – St. Louis, Missouri

Bethany Campbell – Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro, *National Pro-Life Religious  
Council Representative* – Herndon, Virginia  
Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama  
Rev. Everette Greene – Cincinnati, Ohio  
Hilary Haak – St. Louis, Missouri  
Kristi Hofferber – Hoffman, Illinois  
Kimberlea Lessman, *State Representative*, Plankinton,  
South Dakota  
Rev. Dennis Norby, *State Representative*, Valley City,  
North Dakota  
Diana Vaughn – Ponca City, Oklahoma

#### National LFL Office Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – *Executive Director of Mission  
and Ministry*  
Rev. Scott Licht – *Executive Director of Finance and  
Operations*  
Lowell J. Highby – *Director of Communications*  
Rev. Jeff Duncan – *Mission and Ministry Director*

Michelle Bauman - *Director of Y4Life*  
Jerilyn Richard – *Data Analyst*  
Kim Nessa – *Accountant*  
Debra Freese – *Office Clerk*  
Katie Friedrich – *Office Assistant*  
Virginia Flo – *Regional Director (Minnesota) & National  
Conference Director*  
Dr. Barbara Geistfeld – *Regional Director (Texas)*  
Dcs. Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – *Director of Word of Hope*  
Dcs. Pamela Buhler – *Word of Hope Assistant*

**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.