# Directions ...

# For LFL's Frontline March-April 2021



Directions is sent bi-monthly to all of Lutherans For Life's Frontline—State Federations, Life Chapters, Life Teams—with Bible studies and articles on leadership, faith in action, fundraising, news and notes, and facts and stats.



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Frontline Call • April 12, 2021

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lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

# News and Notes



- Walk For Life Stand Up 4 Life 2021 You are invited to Step Up 4 Life in 2021 through LFL's first annual Walk For Life! How can you get involved? Find out more at lutheransforlife.org/walk-for-life-step-up-4-life-2021.
- Life Quotes 2021 are available: lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes.
- Check out word-of-hope.org and y4life.org.
- Be sure to "Like" and follow LFL on social media! See links below:

www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife twitter.com/ForLifers www.instagram.com/lfly4life www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts *Also see:* www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife

- Join our Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and LMCs: www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL. The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other Frontline volunteers.
- LifeDate is a great way to share the For Life message with your congregation. Order LifeDate in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) to order. (lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal)
- *Life News* is available each month to download and print. *Life News* is a free monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more. Go to lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news.





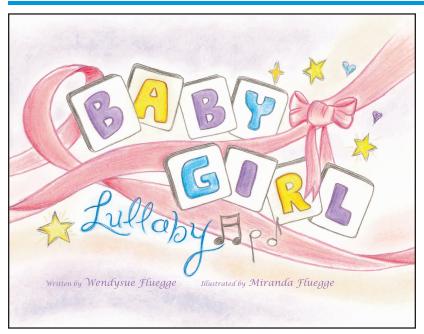


Join in on the Frontline Zoom call to get LFL updates and new project ideas: Monday, April 12, 2021 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81934854560

Meeting ID: 819 3485 4560 / Passcode: 757015

Call: 312.626.6799



# Now available from a friend of Lutherans For Life!

Girls of every age will appreciate the artistry and creativity of this visual journey while searching for hidden names within the illustrations and reading the phrases of the song that comes alive as a darling bedtime story.

Take a second look through the book while listening to the audio recording. A free download is included in the book and with your advanced purchase, and the back cover is the sheet music for your use! Find out more at the link below.

wendysue.com/baby-girl-lullaby-book



# Bible Study: Repentance and Joy in Life Ministry



The Lenten Season is a wonderful time to draw near to the Lord, contemplate your own mortality, recognize and confess your sins and sinful actions that led Jesus to the cross for you, and ultimately prepare yourself to receive the gift of forgiveness and restoration in His crucifixion, death, and the resurrection joy of Easter. This is also a great time for Life Teams, Life Chapters, and congregations to consider their Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Have we "hit the mark" in all that we say and do to support and encourage life to the full? Consider this in light of one of the Penitential Psalms of Scripture: Psalm 32.

Read Psalm 32:1-2 – Four words describe the sad state of the person whose life is lived in opposition and defiance of the Law of God. For a deeper understanding of each, look up the accompanying verses and write out/compare the descriptions of these actions against God or humanity.

- Transgression 1 Kings 12:19 (rebellion); Genesis 31:36 (offense/crime, do wrong); Jeremiah 5:6 (rebel/unfaithful, transgress/backslide, transgress/apostasy, crimes/infidelity)
- Sin Exodus 32:30 (great sin); Numbers 15:24 (unintentional acts); 1 Kings 14:16 (committed, caused others to commit); Genesis 50:17 (did you wrong); 2 Samuel 12:13 (against the Lord)
- Iniquity Psalm 103:3; 2 Samuel 22:24; Genesis 15:16; Genesis 4:13
- Deceit Proverbs 12:24, 27 (slackness/looseness); Proverbs 19:15; Hosea 7:16; Psalm 78:57; Jeremiah 48:10; Micah 6:12

**Note:** The Greek word translated as "deceit" has at its root or strict meaning the concept of "bait for fish" and is thus interpreted as "deceit, treachery, or fraud" in usage. Therefore, the words "... and in whose spirit there is no deceit" could literally be translated "... and in whose mouth there is no bait." What unique perspective does this bring to mind as you consider that living in transgression, sin, and iniquity is like living in shadows and falsehoods?

Consider the "life issues" (abortion, treatment of the disabled, end-of-life decisions, family lifestyles, gender and identity, etc.) that the world faces daily.

- In what ways are these issues direct offenses to the God of life and creation?
- Discuss ways the life-minded may participate in disregard/rebellion toward both God as creator and humanity whom God has given us the command to care for as our neighbor?



# Bible Study: Repentance and Joy in Life Ministry



Why is the "the man" of Psalm 32:1-2 blessed? What is the basis for this blessing? How does one come into the state of blessedness and live in blessing? Consider the following verses:

Matthew 5:1-13; Exodus 34:4-10; Psalm 25:14-22; Psalm 130; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 1:67-80; Luke 23:33-35; Acts 2:36-42; Acts 26:15-23; Ephesians 1:7-10; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 9:19-28; 1 John 1:8-10

What does it mean to have your sins covered? Consider these verses:

Leviticus 16:11-17; Romans 3:19-26 (Hint – consider v. 25 with regard to Leviticus 16:14); Exodus 12:7-14; Hebrews 10:18-23; Exodus 24:1-11 (Note what special gift of presence the elders are given toward the end.)

Iniquity has us consider "activity that is crooked or wrong" as well as the conscious or intentional "offenses" that we commit against God's laws and order of life. Iniquity offends the way we interact with each other as well; this includes how we perceive (or fail to perceive) the needs of our neighbor or care for him. Iniquity bears with it a sense of "guilt" and from that comes the need of "punishment" for a guilty condition.

- God can speak harshly about "iniquity." (See Jeremiah 16:9-21.)
- God can speak of not holding "iniquity" against us. (See Ezekiel 33:7-16.)

What is at the root or what precipitates the Lord to turn from His anger and not count our evils against us? (See especially Ezekiel 33:11.)

- Discuss how all this (God dealing with iniquity and our response) could be an important part of a life ministry in your church or community.
- A portion of our LFL manner for sharing Gospel-motivated voices For Life indicates that we
   "speak the truth in love." Why is this important when discussing life issues?



# Bible Study:

# Repentance and Joy in Life Ministry



- How might we also "turn from our way" in terms of our approach to various life issues? As LFL members and Christians, are there times we may sin, trespass, or find ourselves doing "iniquity" when it comes to our handling (or avoiding) life issues? Why? How?
- Consider what it means for you, your Life Team or Life Chapter, your congregation, and possibly your community to "acknowledge" your sin regarding your responses (or lack of) to life issues. (Use Psalm 32:5 as your guide.)

Compassion and caring are foundational hallmarks of those serving in LFL. Without it, we are without love for our neighbor. As St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:1, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." Consider how those plagued by life issues may be uneasy, in turmoil, and tossed about by the waves of affliction, much like a shipwrecked crew. With that in mind, re-read Psalm 32:3-4 and answer these questions:

- What do I know of the turmoil of someone suffering an abortion decision in silence?
- How have I contributed to the sorrow of those caught in difficult life issues?
- When have I been a friend, helper, or compassionate resource to one who is wasting away from the effects of a life issue?
- Have I been all Law and no Gospel to the one suffering guilt from some life issue decision? What can I do in response to my answer?

As you contemplate Psalm 32:6-11, answer the following questions:

- What hope do you have regarding your future For Life ministries?
- How might these verses inspire and direct you in the coming months and give you hope?
- What are ways you could instruct and teach others regarding life issues?



# Bible Study: Repentance and Joy in Life Ministry



- How could you (your group/community) surround those beset by life issues in prayer?
- In what ways has God equipped you (your group/community) to be a "hiding place" and help to "preserve from trouble" those caught up in the most difficult struggles and sorrows of life issues?
- Consider these other Scripture verses as you contemplate all these questions: Proverbs 22, especially v. 6; 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Psalm 119:9-16; Colossians 3:12-17; Romans 12:4-15.

The years immediately following the start of the Reformation were troubled and trying times. Communities wondered how and what to change? In his "Eight Sermons at Wittenberg" in 1522, Luther pleads that his people move patiently and with eyes focused on education before making changes in their parishes. He uses his Lenten "Invocavit Sermon" series to address many issues. Read this quote from his final sermon in the series and discuss applications (where possible) to incorporate this attitude in your life ministries.

"Second, we need a kind of confession when we go into a comer by ourselves and confess to God himself and pour out before him all our faults. This kind of confession is also commanded. ... As it is written, 'Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times' [Psalm 106:3]. Judgment is nothing else than our knowing and judging and condemning ourselves, and this is true humility and self-abasement. Righteousness is nothing else than our knowing ourselves and praying to God for the mercy and help through which God raises us up again."

Lutherans For Life knows this last year has been both uncertain and often trying for groups to assemble and remain active. Our encouragement—forget the past (where it has been a hindrance) and strive to move forward with the Gospel of peace and joy in your hearts. Christ, who is your life and your salvation, walks with you! He is also the reason and the power behind all you do and sacrifice for others in need of rescue, aid, and support. In confession, speak to God openly of your struggles. In faith, trust the work of Jesus upon the cross to free you from guilt in His absolution of peace! With the Spirit of God in His Word upon your heart, go forth in your continued life affirming work in joy!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Luther, M. (2012). *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*. (W. R. Russell & T. F. Lull, Eds.) (Third Edition, p. 305). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.



# Caring for the Least of These

# by Audrey Daenzer



Christians marvel at God's creation of life in the womb. We believe that unborn babies are human beings, that Jesus died for them, that they can have faith. We strive to protect our smallest neighbors and prevent their murder. Yet when a baby's life ends—not by abortion, but by miscarriage or stillbirth—we aren't so sure how to react. Pregnancy loss is difficult to talk about, and no expectant couple wants to plan for the worst. Unfortunately, this leaves little guidance for grieving parents who are suddenly faced with a number of unexpected and difficult decisions. What do we do now? Should we let the hospital dispose of the remains? Is a funeral even possible?

Every pregnancy loss is unique, and there is no single "right" way to care for the bodies of these precious babies. Sometimes parents do not realize that it is possible to obtain their baby's remains after a medical procedure. Often it is not possible to preserve a body at all. Grieving families need not be burdened with unnecessary guilt or regret if their baby was not given a traditional burial. Christian parents can be comforted that their children are in Christ's care and that He will raise their bodies on the Last Day, no matter their place or manner of burial. However, it is also important for families to know that a Christian burial is both possible and commendable for miscarried and stillborn babies—a clear confession of our hope in the resurrection.

My husband Sean and I are blessed with three living daughters, Lucia (7), Monica (5), and Renata (2). We also have a daughter and son who await the resurrection of the dead. On Ash Wednesday 2017, we learned at a routine 20-week ultrasound that our unborn baby had died in the womb at about 17 weeks gestation. We named our little girl Perpetua Felicity, after the early Christian martyrs. Our son, Matthias John, was miscarried at about 16 weeks in January 2020, just days before our family planned to move from North Dakota to Illinois. Both babies were delivered in our hospital's birthing center. Kind nurses took their handprints and footprints, recorded their length and weight, and wrapped them in receiving blankets for us to hold. Even in our heartbreak, we marveled at their little faces (Matthias' eyes were already open) and their perfectly formed fingers with tiny fingernails. These were undeniably human beings, created by God, and as such we wanted to care for our children, even in death.

Perpetua was buried near our church in rural North Dakota on a bitterly cold March afternoon. We walked from our home to the cemetery behind the pastor, who read Scripture as we went. "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice!" (Psalm 130). My father built her wooden casket; I crocheted a miniature blanket to place inside. The graveside service included the hymn "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me" (*LSB* 756). Our two older daughters carried pink carnations to place on the grave.

Matthias' burial service was held at the cemetery of our new church in Illinois. Once again, my father built a beautiful casket; I made a tiny blanket; our daughters held flowers in their mittened hands. Our pastor read many of the same psalms and prayers that we had heard at Perpetua's service. We sang "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart" (*LSB* 708). Several family members and friends came to mourn with us.

And so we tucked our children in, for the first and last time, to await the return of their Lord. Perpetua's headstone reads, "In Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22); Matthias' marker will have the same epitaph. "When death comes before Baptism, we trust in [God's] mercy that by His grace He



has received this child to Himself for the sake of the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We take comfort in the confident hope that this child will be raised to life with Christ in the resurrection on the Last Day" (*LSB Agenda*, "Burial for a Stillborn Child or Unbaptized Child").



Audrey Daenzer is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamel, Illinois. She and her husband Sean have five children, two of whom await the resurrection.

Here are some ways in which you can respectfully care for your baby's body, depending on the situation:

- First, call your pastor. His job is to speak Christ's Words of comfort, peace, and forgiveness to you. He may offer to make a home visit. You can also ask him to pray with you before a surgical procedure or visit you in the hospital after delivery. Request his guidance in planning a burial service. (The rite for "Burial for a Stillborn Child or Unbaptized Child" is included in both the LSB Agenda and Pastoral Care Companion.)
- Babies miscarried at home can be refrigerated in a container of water or saline (like contact solution) for a few days. If burial must be delayed, keep the container in the freezer (without liquid).
- Remember you have the right to obtain your baby's remains for burial, even if you experience resistance from medical staff. Inform them of your request before beginning any procedures. You may need to work with a funeral home. (Your pastor can recommend one). State laws may affect requirements for transporting or burying your baby's body.
- Name your baby. It is never too late to give your child a name.
- Hold and spend time with your baby. You can ask a nurse to describe your child's appearance to you first or to bring the baby to you wrapped in a blanket.
- Take photographs, as many as possible. Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep (www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org) provides free photography sessions for stillborn babies nationwide.
- Invite family and friends to attend the burial service. Even if you prefer a smaller gathering, allow your fellow Christians to be present to comfort you in your grief and to hear with you the proclamation that "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).





The ground is prepared for burial of Matthias' casket.



Lucia Daenzer places flowers on her brother's grave.



The Daenzer family at Matthias' burial service. (Photos by River Leaf Photography.)

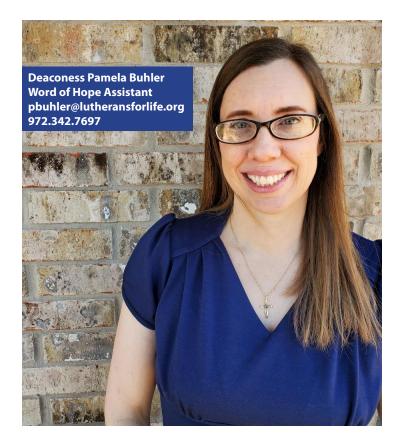


# Welcome Deaconess Pamela Buhler

Deaconess Pamela Buhler joined the Lutherans For Life team as our Word of Hope Assistant on February 1, 2021. Pamela completed her Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2018. Prior to her seminary studies, she earned her BA in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1997.

In addition to her role with Lutherans For Life, Pamela currently serves as deaconess of Messiah Lutheran Church in Keller, Texas, where she cares for members of her congregation by connecting the mercy of Christ to the Church and her people. Pamela's diaconal care ranges as she brings the love of Christ to people through college outreach, elderly and homebound care, hospital visits, hospice assistance, crisis pregnancy, and post abortion healing.

Deaconess Buhler and her husband Buckley Buhler, a software engineer at Lockheed Martin, currently reside in Fort Worth, Texas. They have six living children: Michael, Melinda, Christina, Amanda (spouse: David), Joseph, and James.



# LCMS Life Conference MARCH 19-20, 2021





# Making > VALUING LIFE Disciples

# lutheransforlife.org/event/lcms-life-ministry-conference-virtual

LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19–20, under the theme "Making Disciples: Valuing Life," and Lutherans For Life is a sponsor! Find out more at the link above. Join us!

- Be equipped to speak up for the sanctity of life within your community and our society
- Gain ideas on how to care for all human life

Dozens of experts in Life Ministry will present throughout the conference with multiple video presentations available for immediate on-demand viewing as soon as you login. Engage in live question and answer sessions with experts in life ministry.



# Reaching Senior Care Community Residents during COVID-19 Pandemic

by Rev. Max Phillips



One of the advantages of leading a senior care community is the opportunity to minister to the residents each day, rain or shine, wellness or pandemic. For most pastors, the ministry of visiting their shut-in members or leading Bible classes or worship services for the elderly in their local care center has been stopped.

Recently, a well-respected veteran pastor asked me what he could be doing. He expressed frustration about not knowing how to reach his members and shared that pastors in his circuit felt the same way. I would suggest that there is plenty to do, albeit differently!

If you are like my pastor friend who felt frustrated by not being able to serve in the traditional way, be un-traditional! Not sure how to do that? Read further for ten practical and meaningful ideas!



Last, consider turning your ministry focus from just your shut-ins to the senior care community's entire community of residents and staff. These men and women love each other and are working hard during a critical time to be safe. Be patient, in prayer and in contact, and persistent. Involve your members. Residents and staff there are your neighbors all year round and are a mission field in your own community!

# 10 Ways to Reach Senior Care Community Residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic

During this COVID-19 pandemic, it can be a challenge to visit face to face. Please know that the senior care community staff are doing best to protect those elder souls they care for and that much of what they do is not optional but legally mandated. So, we need to be patient in whatever interactions we have with the staff who serve and care for our members each day.

#### **Scheduled Visits**

Reach out to the activity director to see if you are able to schedule an in-person visit. If an in-person visit is not allowed, ask to schedule a window visit where you can see one another, but communicate via telephone. Or, you can ask to schedule a video chat visit, with staff helping to connect you via technology.

#### **Phone Calls**

Work with the activity director to see how communicating via phone would be possible. If the resident has a cellphone, this may work better than calling someone without one. Encourage members of the congregation to take turns making calls. Ask a staff member if there is any resident particularly lonely for



whom a call might be helpful. Your phone call, prayer, and love wrapped with Scripture and words of Jesus' love will make a huge difference.

#### **Available Services**

Write up the various ways that members are able to tune in to your worship service or another worship service through radio, local cable access channel, Facebook, YouTube, etc. Work with the activity director to print and give residents a list of worship services available. Ask if they will be able to help the resident access the services each week.



#### Pen Pals

Invite members of the congregation to be pen-pals by providing resident names and mailing addresses. This could be youth, older adults, families, or anyone in your congregation willing to take the time. Be sure to include a return envelope that is addressed and stamped with note paper inside so that the resident is able to write back.

## **Drawings**

Invite children in your congregation and community to draw or color pictures and mail to residents and staff at your local senior care community.

#### Prayer

Prayer is always our most powerful tool. Start or utilize a prayer group or chain to pray daily or weekly for residents living in care communities. Take and send the resident a photo of the prayer group people with a note letting them know they are loved, thought about, and prayed for!

Ask the activity director to take and send a photo of the resident (if the resident gives permission) that can be shared with the prayer group and your congregation to help make the connection more personal. Include your local care center's other residents and staff in your prayers of the church.

# Food and Encouragement

Arrange for food to be delivered to staff and residents for a special treat (pizza, McDonalds, ice cream). Include a note of appreciation and encouragement to the staff members for all their hard work to care for and keep residents safe.

## **Technology**

When you look at your local senior care community as a mission field, lots of ideas sure come to mind about opportunities to impact residents (and staff) with no church connection. Tablets have become a great way to communicate using the many video chatting applications such as Zoom, Skype, Facebook Messenger, and more. Find a way to purchase, set up, and supply tablets to residents who could use it to connect with their family, you, and your members as well as watch your services regularly online.

# Engage

See if there is a mission project designed to help someone else that the resident could be a part of such as putting kits together, rolling bandages, and more. Helping others promotes a sense of purposeful living that is important for those living in care communities.

#### Care Packs!

Invite members of your congregation and community to donate items, put together, and deliver care packs! Include with the care packs a signed card from the congregation, a handwritten letter, or a personal note just for them!



# Spiritual Care Pack:

- Large print Portals of Prayer®
- Prayer journal
- Bible (ask activity director if they need one)
- CD with Christian hymns (make sure they have access to CD player)
- Notes from Sunday School children
- Notes from organizations that the member belonged to such as choir, ladies aid, church committees
- List of Scripture passages to read when ... lonely, afraid, worried, not feeling well, etc.
- Church newsletter and/or bulletin

# **Favorite Things Care Pack:**

- Snacks
- Books
- Movies
- Magazines

# **Clothing Care Pack:**

- Comfy shirt
- Comfy pants
- Socks (with bottom grips)
- Pajamas
- Slippers (with bottom grips)

## **Engagement Care Pack:**

- Puzzle books with crossword, word search, find the ..., etc.
- Adult coloring book with colored pencils or pens

#### Personal Items Care Pack:

- Lip balm
- Lotion
- Essential oils
- Comb or brush
- Nail file (no glass, metal or sharp points)
- Electric razor (for men—no other razor types with sharp blades)

Rev. Max Phillips is Executive Director for Lutheran Family Service and Chief Executive Officer for Perry Lutheran Homes.

lutheranfamilyservice.org/2021/02/reaching-senior-care-community-residents-covid-19-pandemic





# No Oracular Science

# by James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James



When we started *Salvo* [magazine] in 2006, I was convinced that no source of authority in western civilization in the 21st century infallibly trumped that of "science." Every day in the news we heard results of a new study or recent research, telling us what foods to eat more (or less) of, the kinds of exercise to do or to avoid, the neurology of depression or the genetic cause of a disease, how to improve fuel efficiency or air quality, or the benefits of a new treatment or new device.

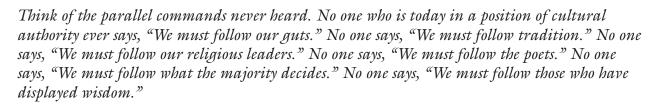
Science brought us the nuclear bomb, lunar landings, microchips, Wi-Fi networks, gene therapy, and, especially, increased longevity. While the human species does not actually have longer life spans than it did in 1800, average life-expectancy has climbed dramatically; many more of us reach our 80s, 90s, and beyond—but not very far.

For human mortality has not been erased. All must cross that finish line. But for the man or woman entering adulthood today, it seems so far away because the average distance from them is so much greater now. Experience confirms the impression that we can take many decades of life for granted: few of our peers cross the line early, unlike so many in previous generations.

Science has secured this longer life expectancy and longer retirement. We like what science has done, and we trust it. Jeremy Beers makes an interesting point about the authority of "science" in an essay in *Local Culture*, "Limits, Risk Aversion, and Technocracy":

Let's begin by considering the sentence, "We must follow the science." It is one we have heard, in various forms, repeatedly since about the middle of March 2020 via the

various propaganda platforms that saturate our lives.... No sentence better captures the core convictions and commitments of our well-educated, well-heeled, and well-regarded.



.... No, the widely held, seemingly unchallengeable cultural belief is: We must follow the science.

There is much meaning packed inside this simple command. Note that it has a comprehensive application: the "we" to which its utterer refers—during a pandemic and at virtually all other





times—is global in scope. It excludes no one. Then there is the imperative mood. This is not a mere suggestion: we must do it. There is the charge to bow to the one source of instruction, Science, that looms above all others as if a god. And there is the implicit reminder that we who are not this god's high priests have a moral obligation to bend our wills and ways to the dictates of those blessed persons who are able to hear and interpret the god's sayings.



But there is no pure science that speaks like an oracle. "Science" is mute and never speaks or commands anything. Only its interpreters do, either scientists themselves or leaders who wrap themselves in the lab-coats of science as a warrant for their agendas and a shield against their critics.

What did those who appealed to "Science" do when they knew at the outset of the 2020 pandemic that the ones most at risk were the elderly—living now in greater numbers than ever before because of Science? What priority was given to the protection of so many residents of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities? What provisions were made for their much-needed access to family members? What did "Science" tell Gov. Cuomo of New York and other governors?

Scientists are fallible, and politicians even more so, wind-driven skiffs that they often are. Conclusions do not spring out of a pool of facts like life supposedly emerged out of a "warm little pond," as still imagined by some.

Want a good society? Any knowledge gained from science must be processed by virtuous minds and hearts and in dialogue with the wise. Science has no compassion. Only the merciful do.

# Who Cares What Others Think

Would you paint your house bright purple? What would the neighbors think? You might argue that it doesn't matter. "It's my house and I like purple. Who cares what others think?" The truth, however, is that we do care what others think, a great deal! Most of us like to be liked and accepted. We want to be in the mainstream of life and not labeled as "weird" or "out of touch with reality."

But that's not always compatible with following Jesus. Paul writes: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2 NIV84).

The unbelieving world and the follower of Christ are going in two very different directions. The world is intent on living for self and fulfilling the desires of the sinful nature. It doesn't care what God says about sin and its wages of eternal death in hell. It ignores the warning of God's law written on their hearts. It drowns out the voice of conscience. It doesn't care who died on the cross. Paul sadly notes: "Their destiny is destruction, and their god is their stomach" (Philippians 3:19).

We sin too. We are just as guilty as anyone. But by His grace God has called us out of unbelief to faith in Jesus as the all-sufficient sacrifice for sin. In Christ's horrific suffering we see the penalty we deserved. But we also see the divine love of the Lord which caused Him to stay on the cross until every sin was paid for in full. "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).



We have been rescued from sin and death and brought into Jesus' kingdom. How could we go on living as though we are no different than the world around us? "We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (Romans 6:2). We don't have to paint our homes purple, but we do want to let the light of the Savior shine out in our words and behavior, no matter how others may see it or what they might say. After all, we care far more about what our Lord thinks than what others do.

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)



# Why Bother?

Ever have one of those days when you wondered, "Why bother?" A young student tries all week to grasp the concept of multiplication, and by Friday it's still as much a mystery as ever. Back at school Monday morning, he wonders, "Why bother?" After sending out dozens of resumes without a single job offer to show for it, a frustrated, discouraged woman texts a friend: "Why bother?" We've all been there. One problem piles on top of another like a chain reaction accident on the freeway. Climb over one obstacle in your path and all you see are more and bigger ones ahead. Why bother?

Satan suggests we should blame God. But far from being the problem, God is the answer. He sent His Son to be the Light of this dark world to shine into our hearts with life and hope. Paul knew more personal tragedy and trials than most of us ever will. Yet he wrote: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Why bother going on in the face of so many trials? Paul knew life was not a hopeless trudge to death. He knew his Savior. "We have this treasure in



jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Paul kept his eyes on Christ who came and faced all the same heartaches, burdens, and sadness we do, and came through victorious. He shouldered our guilt and punishment on the cross and died that we might have life to the full.

Why bother living today as a child of God, striving to follow the Lord's will in words and actions in spite of trials? Why bother showing love and forgiveness toward those who hurt you? Why share the news of a Savior when it seems to have little effect? Because we live in the light of Jesus' love. Our sins are paid for and gone. Jesus' victory is ours. He promises: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). In His light every difficulty, no matter how intimidating in our eyes, fades away. Problems become opportunities for His glory to shine all the more!

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)



# 2021 LFL Regional Conferences

# Our 2021 Theme: God Chose You

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

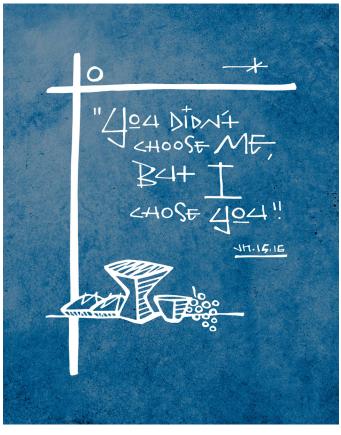
Please check the schedule below to see which of our 2021 conference locations is near you. We're excited to see you there!

- AUGUST 21 Faith Community Lutheran Church, Summerlin (Las Vegas), Nevada
- OCTOBER 16 Living Word Free Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- NOVEMBER 13 St. John's Lutheran Church, Conover, North Carolina

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." (John 15:16)

Watch for more info later in 2021.









# 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.

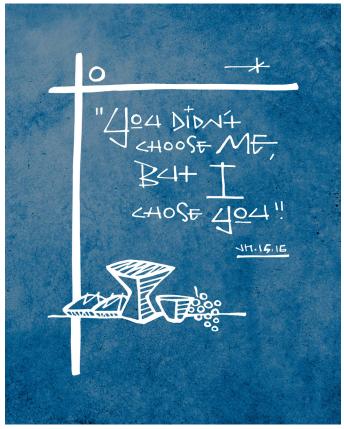
For 2021, students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme God Chose You based on John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."

For specific state guidelines and rubrics, contact the State Federation President or Regional Director for your state. These can be found at this link on the Lutherans For Life website: lutheransforlife.org/frontlines/state-federation.

If you do not see your state, or you discover your state is not running the contest this year, please contact Rev. Jeffrey Duncan (jduncan@ lutheransforlife.org), LFL Mission & Ministry Director, for information on how to enter the non-federation contest that covers the rest of the country.

Thank you for your participation!

The Council of Federation Presidents





# Lutherans For Life 2021 Non-Federation States Essay Contest

**Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents** 

# 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.

# **Contest Guidelines**

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **God Chose You** with the Bible verse: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit". (John 15:16)

- 1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
- 2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but not limited to: abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician-assisted suicide, or euthanasia, etc.
- 3. Essays should include student's name, grade (identify school or church), and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
- 4. All sources for references, statistics, and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to <a href="mailto:jduncan@lutheransforlife.org">jduncan@lutheransforlife.org</a> by April 1, 2021.

- 5. There will be a \$100 first place-award and \$50 second-place award for each of the two. The two first-place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email <a href="mailto:jduncan@lutheransforlife.org">jduncan@lutheransforlife.org</a> with any questions.
- 6. Grand Prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to a 2021 Regional Conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.
- 7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
- 8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see: <u>lutheransforlife.org</u>



# Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay (maximum of 21 points for each essay)

	3	2	1	0
ORGANIZATION Structure Transitions	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis.Transitions are mature and graceful. The essay has a nice smooth flow between ideas.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. The essay has a flow of ideas.	Organization is clear.Transitions are present in some places but may be missing in others. In places flow is interrupted or doesn't exist.	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present. Connections between ideas seem confusing or incomplete.
INTRODUCTION Background/History Thesis Statement CONCLUSION	Well-developed introduction engages the reader-creates interest. Contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position or belief. Conclusion effectively wraps up & goes beyond restating the thesis.	Introduction creates interest. Sufficient background information is provided. Thesis clearly states the position or belief. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position or belief. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs, Bibliography	The main idea or thesis statement is clearly defined. There may be more than one key point. Appropriate relevant information and details are shared from a variety of sources including personal experiences, observations, feelings and prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate, relevant, and helpful in clarifying the main idea(s). Statistics or research are used effectively. A simple bibliography givs the references for the resources used.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares relevant information, facts and experiences. There is a clear distinction between general observations and specifics. Supporting details are relevant and explain the main idea. Research is evident and statistics are used. Missing information in bibliography.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares some information, facts and experiences, but may express feelings without much to substantiate it. There may be problems going from general observations to specifics. Stronger support and greater attention to details would strengthen this paper. Statistics and research do little to help support the main idea. Incomplete bibliography.	More than one of the following problems may be evident: The main idea is not identifiable. The writer shares some information, but it is limited or unclear. Details are missing or repetitious. Statistics are missing. No bibliography.
FOCUS LFL Mission, Conference theme verse	The paper is in complete agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper is in agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and somewhat focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper doesn't completely agree with the mission of Lutherans For Life and touches on the conference theme verse.	Little or no effort has been made to address the mission of Lutherans For Life and doesn't focus on the conference theme verse.
BIBLICAL ACCURACY	Several Biblical references give strong support for the main idea and are a natural part of the essay. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	Biblical references are used to support the main idea. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	There are places where a Biblical reference would have helped support the main idea. There are some problems with interpretation of the verses used. Citations are accurate.	Little effort is given to use Biblical references to support the main idea. Problems exist in the interpretation of the verses and their citations.
STYLE Writer's Voice, Audience Awareness	The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural yet thought-provoking. It brings the topic to life. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure.	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure.	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety.	Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Language is vague. No audience awareness. No variety in sentence structure.
MECHANICS Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are correct. No errors.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2)	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization

	POINTS
ORGANIZATION	
INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION	
MAIN POINTS	
FOCUS	
BIBLICAL ACCURACY	
STYLE	
MECHANICS	
TOTAL POINTS	

Students Name			
Church/School	Grade		
Address			
City	State Zip		
Student Email Address			
Phone Number			
Teacher/Pastor	Email		

# LAMBs - Mercy Blankets



Although our world might tell us otherwise, children are truly a blessing. Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children—especially those families with a lot of them! Through the skillfulness of some LFLers in Ohio and elsewhere, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project called "LAMBs" (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) was established.

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

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

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

# LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

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

Your Name:		
Your Congregation:		
City, State, Zip:		
Baby's Gender: Boy Girl		
Mother's Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Please send completed forms to:	Angela Jones/Miami Valley Life Chapter 7163 Pugliese Place	

"He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms" (Isaiah 40:11a).

Dayton, OH 45415-1207





# Lutherans For Life • Life Team Tools Order Form 2021

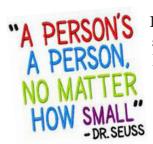
NOTE: LIFE TEAM TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE LFL NATIONAL OFFICE.

Lutherans For Life • 1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • 888.364.LIFE (5433)

L	utnera	ins For Life • 1	101 5th Street •	Nevada	, IA 50201-1810 • 888.304	E.LIFE (5433)
Name						
Title				Ship	to (if different):	
Address				Name		
			Addre	ess		
Daytime phone	<u></u>			City/S	State/Zip	
Email				Teleph	none	
ITEM #	QTY.		DESC	CRIPTIO	N	PRICE TOTAL
LTTDVDR		Life Team Tool	DVD Replacemen	t: (Circle	2) 1 2 3 4	\$10
LTTBN		LIFE TEAM T	OOL BUNDLE	(Includes	s tools 1-4 and field manuals)	\$30
						TOTAL
					S	HIPPING \$15
					GRAN	ID TOTAL
LFL Business Hours subject to staff availa		y-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to	o 3:00 p.m. CST/CDT	. Hours	IF PAYING BY CR	EDIT CARD:
			ist name and address		Wisk MasterCard	MOTUS CONTRACTOR
Pastor:					Amount \$	
Church Address:				Credit Card #		
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	n #:		OFFICE  Emailed:  Rev. Jeff Dunc  Virginia Flo (M	N)	ILY □ Mail □ Email □ Phone □ Conference	

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Owen's Mission

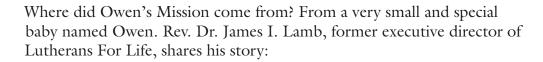


Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), no matter how small!



Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus

by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.



"I held my little grandson Owen in the palm of my hand. He died at 21 weeks during prenatal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the 20-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."





As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr. Lamb.

You can support Owen's Mission by encouraging your Lutheran elementary or high school to have an Owen's Mission presentation! Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) or email info@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission



# Need a Speaker?

Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker at a rally, convention, Bible study, worship service, public or parochial school, college/university, or workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available.

# General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- Airfare/Mileage: Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event.
- Lodging: Quiet, nonsmoking hotel room.
- Honorarium: Affiliated speakers for Lutherans For Life are not in a paid position. Therefore, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium for affiliated speakers. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Honorariums depend on number of events. Honorariums begin at \$200.
- Meals: \$25 per day unless other arrangements are made.
- Other: A lectern will be needed. A TV, video projector, DVD player, and screen may be needed.

# Speakers:

Jean Amundson (nationwide – based in Cleburne, Texas)

Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide – based in Iowa Falls, Iowa)

Rev. Paul M. Clark (nationwide - based in Fowler, Michigan)

Connie Davis (nationwide – based in Macomb, Michigan)

John Eidsmoe (nationwide – based in Pike Road, Alabama)

Kim Hardy (nationwide – based in Grand Haven, Michigan)

Kristi Hofferber (nationwide - based in Bethalto, Illinois)

Kimberly Ketola (nationwide – based in Peachtree City, Georgia)

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada - based in Marshalltown, Iowa)

Sheila Luck (nationwide – based in Scandinavia, Wisconsin)

Marie K. MacPherson (Minnesota and border states – based in Mankato, Minnesota)

Ryan C. MacPherson (nationwide – based in Mankato, Minnesota)

Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa – based in St. Peter, Minnesota)

Rev. Michael W. Salemink (nationwide and Canada – based in St. Louis, Missouri)

Andrew Schatkin (nationwide – based in the New York/Long Island area)

Rev. Caleb Schewe (nationwide – based in Monticello, Iowa)

Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada – based in St. Louis, Missouri)

Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide – based in Lombard, Illinois)

Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide – based in Lombard, Illinois)

Patti Smith (nationwide – based in Huntington Beach, California)

Francis W. Szarejko (nationwide – based in the Kansas City, Missouri, area)

Ed Szeto (nationwide – based in Virginia)

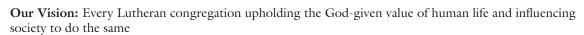
Rev. Luke Timm (nationwide – based in Des Moines, Iowa)

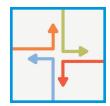




# The Basics of Lutherans For Life

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





#### Structure and Relationships

A local Life Chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The Life Chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

A State Federation is an organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc., in a state where there are at least five chartered Life Chapters. In a state where a State Federation exists, the Life Chapters also become affiliated with the State Federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a Life Chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the Life Chapter is incorporated. Thus, Lutherans For Life consists of a network of individual entities formally associated with each other.

#### **Membership Information**

All officers of State Federations and Life Chapters and Life Ministry Coordinators must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and members of National Lutherans For Life.

Membership contributions are divided among the national organization, State Federation, and local Life Chapter if it is chartered.

Life Chapters that wish to include a membership form in newsletters or correspondence are asked to maintain the form and information provided by the national office.

The local Life Chapter may not establish its own membership program since LFL has a "unified membership" program. When sending a membership form to the national office, make sure the Life Chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will ensure that the State Federation and local Life Chapter receive the proper remittance payment.

#### **Membership Classifications**

#### Annual Membership

 Annual members join by making a membership donation accompanied by a completed copy of the membership form (or by joining online).

#### Sponsor Membership

- Sponsor members pledge to contribute a certain amount each month and to pray regularly for Lutherans For Life.
- Sponsor members receive a monthly letter from the executive director.
- Sponsor members are asked to renew their monthly pledge each year as part of the annual membership drive.

#### The Remittance Program of LFL

All MEMBERSHIP donations are shared with the chartered State Federation and/or local Life Chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

#### Annual Memberships:

- 20% goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 20% goes to the State Federation.)
- 20% goes to the State Federation
- 60% remains at national

#### Sponsor Memberships:

- 1/12 goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 1/12 goes to the State Federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the State Federation
- 10/12 remains at national



#### **National Lutherans For Life 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

Jan Nessa – Office Clerk

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD -

Director of Word of Hope

Deaconess Pamela Buhler – Word of Hope Assistant

Virginia Flo – Regional Director of Minnesota and National Conference Director

Dr. Barb Geistfeld – Regional Director of Texas

# **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 - 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



#### **State Federation Presidents**

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

Plankinton

# Lutherans For Life 1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street Nevada, IA 50201-1816

Rev. Doug Reinders, Wisconsin - Fremont

info@lutheransforlife.org lutheransforlife.org 888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

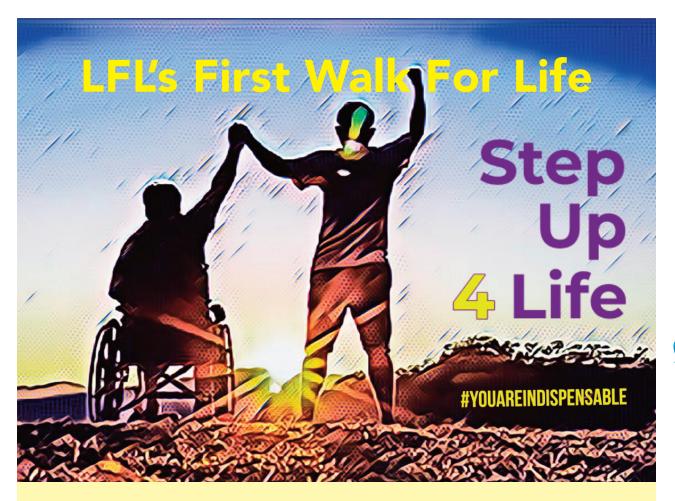
LFL Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST. Hours subject to staff availability.

# Since 1973: 62,502,904 abortions in America

Source: www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/01/roes-legacy-more-than-62-5-million-lives-losi

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YOU are invited to Step Up 4 Life in 2021 through LFL's first annual Walk For Life! How can you get involved? Choose to participate in Step Up 4 Life as an individual, team, family, congregation, school, or community to raise awareness and funds for Lutherans For Life. As you walk, run, roll, stroll, bike, or rock your way to your goal, you'll be actively raising awareness, funds, and enthusiasm.

What if walking and rolling aren't for you? Don't worry, you can still be involved! Become a sponsor and supporter of our LIFE efforts through your donations, encouragement, and prayers. Get ready to gather your support, have some fun, and show you are 4 LIFE!

More details coming soon!

