

# LifeDate

Summer  
2021



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

## *Fear Not!*



**Churches, believers, and the For Life message are under attack. How do we show faith over fear? How can we as the Church connect God's truth to life issues and help the Church be ready and able to stand firm against the culture of death?**

**Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!**

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# Lutherans For Life

**Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life**

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## Fear Not – Affirming the Sanctity of Human Life

by Pastor Michael Salemink

**“Perfect love casts out fear”** (1 John 4:18). Fear of failure, fear of the future, fear of each other, all from the Evil One. The Gospel proclaims from beginning to end, “Fear not!” The Heavenly Father’s love made perfect in Christ Jesus—unconditional, universal, ultimate—drives away every fear. And love **“rejoices with the truth”** (1 Corinthians 13:5). So here are ten Christian doctrines (beliefs, teachings, truths) that affirm the sanctity of life:

1. **Trinity.** God is love. God is relationship. His eternal love supplies the source of every life. He created humankind in this image, for Himself, for relationship, to be loved and to love.
2. **Creation.** The Lord called all things into being, from the greatest to the least, with His mighty mere Word. But He formed the human bodies with His own fingers and His very breath. He lovingly, intimately, and meticulously knits us together in our mothers’ wombs.
3. **Incarnation.** The Word became flesh and God made Himself man as an embryo. Jesus took the lowliest form of a servant to leave no human life out.
4. **Atonement.** Christ crucified, incapacitated on a cross, offered Himself unto death in the place of our whole race. He suffered punishment in everyone’s place, reconciled the world to Almighty God, and redeemed even the most helpless, hopeless, dark, and desperate ones.
5. **Resurrection.** God raised up not only His spirit but also His body. Jesus defeats the enemy death for us, gives victory over it and liberty from it that our bodies, however broken, may enjoy everlasting life.
6. **Ascension.** Our Savior exalted human flesh and our nature to a heavenly inheritance. Our present predicaments will pass. Whatever our size, skills, or circumstances, we will rise and reign with Him.
7. **Grace.** God’s love, His gifts and labors, work worth and purpose in each human being. No one else’s age, appearance, or ability—not even our own—can impair it or improve upon it.
8. **Sacraments.** Humble, simple things such as water and wafer and wine serve for our Lord to connect Himself to us. He means to dwell Himself in every human body as His temple.
9. **Scripture.** The Word of the Lord prevails and endures forever. Speaking truth in love changes hearts and saves lives, regardless of political issues, public opinion, or personal choice.
10. **Communion of Saints.** We behold one another, every neighbor, as God’s own precious treasures and as gifts and privileges to each other. Therefore, we do not fear!

### Baby Bottle Drive!

by Dr. Barbara Geistfeld

As I write this, we are in the middle of our Mother's Day to Father's Day baby bottle drive at our church in Texas! All over the nation, pregnancy care centers are using baby bottles to raise funds to sustain their life-supporting ministries. What better time to do this than during the time we honor mothers and fathers? We know that *every* child has a mother and a father. *Every* child is created by God, in His image, on purpose—for His purpose! This is the wonderful thing about human babies: ALL of us share this exact same thing in common—each of us is planned! This is family planning at its very best!

In Jeremiah 1:5, God says very plainly:

**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.”**

The Psalmist says in Psalm 139:13-14:

**“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”**

And of course, the final proof of our worth is that Jesus died for us, paid for our sins, and gave us the *gift* of eternal life when we were baptized into His death and resurrection. He affirms this *gift* in John 15:16 when he says:

**“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.”**

Tragically, most of the world does not know any of this. They do not know “who they are and whose they are,” as we like to say in the body of Christ.

So, in this world of sin and death, we need baby bottle drives. We need pregnancy care centers. In 2017, in the United States alone, 862,320 abortions were provided in clinical settings. The total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1973-2018 is now 61.8 million plus and growing by the minute. That's 62 million fellow human beings lost before they even drew a breath.

Now, let's make these numbers a little more personal, shall we? The number of abortions in Texas for 2019 totaled 55,966. That is 153 abortions *per DAY*. Of the abortions, 83% were performed on unmarried women, so there are not too many fathers around for support. And what can we safely assume about the numbers that will come out after the COVID pandemic? Planned Parenthood stepped up the assault on women because of their additional stress and fears, so the number of children lost will surely increase again.



The body of Christ is the answer. Every time we speak up for the sanctity of life, whether for the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, or the marginalized, we speak for hope. Every time we drop some coins or a check into a baby bottle, we stand for hope and healing and life. Every time we personally care for someone or hug someone or talk to someone who is in a crisis pregnancy or is disabled or is elderly or is marginalized, we show them Christ. We show them the common ground that transcends all our differences. We show them that all our lives matter because God made us. He *chose* each of us to be His child, and He will never leave us or forsake us. Let us never give up on baby bottle drives and hugs and smiles. The world needs us!

*Dr. Barb Geistfeld is Life Team Leader at Trinity, Blanco, Texas, and Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Texas.*



Abortions Worldwide in 2021: [www.worldometers.info/abortions](http://www.worldometers.info/abortions)  
19,200,000 as of June 14, 2021  
[lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/abortion](http://lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/abortion)

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

Source: [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/01/roes-legacy-more-than-62-5-million-lives-lost](http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/01/roes-legacy-more-than-62-5-million-lives-lost)

### The Bridge Between the Tables

by Pastor Dan Guagenti, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Shelbyville, Kentucky

A delightful miracle of creation is how the Lord arranged for each human to come into being. The first moment of a life was designed for pleasure and love between that child's parents. We are made in the image of an eternal God who is love; our generation comes from an act of love. No less so, we are made in the image of a God whose three persons include Father and Son, and so none of us is made without parents.

This makes the Fourth Commandment unique, a bridge between the two tables of the Ten Commandments. The grouping of the Ten Commandments into two tables normally divides our duties toward God and man. The first several commandments direct our relationship to God, while the last commandments seem to focus on our relationships with one another. **“Honor your father and your mother”** applies both to our relationship with God as our Father and to those He establishes as authorities over us.

This bridge is about humanity being made in the image of God. It is about every one of us being born with parents, just as the Trinity also enjoys the relationship of Father and Son. It is about submission to earthly authority going beyond the person with a crown or badge to God who establishes all authority.

Those who have lived under a fixed chain of authority recognize this. An order from the first lieutenant counts as an order from the captain counts as an order from the admiral and on up the chain. The lower officers have been put into position by the higher officers. Likewise, the Bible teaches, **“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God”** (Romans 13:1). From the moment of your conception, God has given you parents to honor and obey.

From the moment I am conceived, a significant part of who I am is connected to how I honor that relationship. I may have two good parents, two absent parents, an adoptive parent, or several other combinations, none of my choosing. As I mature, I do choose how to honor the people who have sustained and nurtured my life. When that responsibility of parenthood falls on my shoulders, I may not have consciously



chosen this blessing, but my engagement or evasion of that responsibility defines who I am to the people closest to me. The respect I offer those whom God has given me as family is respect paid to my own Creator and Redeemer.

In the *Small Catechism*, Luther applies the Fourth Commandment not only to our parents but also to others who have authority over us: “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.”

Respect for God’s chain of authority holds true with the police, legislators, governors, presidents, and judges who have been placed over me. Some I may have chosen willingly, while others I may have voted against or had no say in. Still, we believe God has given them their authority. I may feel a responsibility to oppose their plans or how they perceive and execute justice, but even then, I owe them respect and honor.

When Daniel was taken captive by the Babylonians, they tried to put him on a diet of unclean foods (Daniel 1). He had reason to hate these invaders who were trying to force him to disobey God. Daniel chose to honor these new authorities and worked with them to find a solution everyone could accept (Daniel 1:8-16). Daniel’s labors of respect brought just what the Commandment promises. We honor those with authority over us **“that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land”** (Deuteronomy 5:16).

The Fourth Commandment is also unique in carrying with it a promise of blessing. That promise is secure precisely because it is the bridge commandment between the first and second tables. God can promise that our honoring of authorities will lead to blessing because He institutes the authorities. He can remove those He has placed, and He can certainly turn to good that which they intended as evil. But His desire is to bless us through the authorities over us, that they may be encompassed in the blessing as well. That was part of the beauty of Daniel’s solution in Babylon. His faith and respect enfolded the authorities within the blessing God was working. Indeed, this is one facet of the act of love that redeems and redefines us all. From the cross, Jesus was keeping the Fourth Commandment, too, not only submitting to Pilate, the centurion, and the Sanhedrin, but also praying, **“Father, into Your hands, I commit my spirit”** (Luke 23:46).





## **“Fear Not! I Am with You”**

by Lynette Auch, President of National Lutherans For Life

**N**OISE! It is deafening and scary! If one gives even a little attention to anything going on in America and in the world today, it is quite evident that the noise is the age old spiritual battle of good versus evil.

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).**

The fight for the sanctity of life has always been a spiritual battle, but it seems the evil forces have “upped the ante” over the last year. Or maybe not. Perhaps our spiritual eyes are being opened wider to see the evil more clearly.

Either way, fear seems to be the result. Fear is a powerful motivator, as we have all witnessed. (Fear, uncertainty, and doubt, wrought by Satan, have caused havoc of disastrous proportions worldwide.)

F.E.A.R. (False Evidence Appearing Real). It seems to be an appropriate acronym, fitting right in line with the “father of lies” (Satan). The “father of lies” is very clever and has been weaving his lies for centuries and accusing God’s children, trying to make us more fearful. The more “NOISE” and “False Evidence” Satan makes and tells, the more fearful we become.

As a nurse, much of my job includes educating the people that I care for. That education may relate to a procedure, medication, proper care and nutrition for the body, or even the process of labor and delivery of a newborn baby. Fear often comes from the unknown. Therefore, education and knowledge are power to help overcome feelings of fear and suffering.

It is no different for the Christian. Our Heavenly Father knows this and sent the Holy Spirit to comfort us in our fears and enlighten us in the truths of God’s Holy Word, which includes donning the whole armor of God to stand as sentries.

**“[B]e strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil ... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm ... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:10-18).**



“As members of God’s holy, priestly people we are soldiers of Christ engaged in spiritual warfare with him on planet earth (cf. 1 Timothy 1:19, 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3-4, 4-7). As Christ’s soldiers our duty is to protect ourselves and others by doing sentry duty, guarding the holy territory which Christ has conquered. Our basic sentry duty task is to stand on guard where Christ has placed us and to stay awake as we watch against surprise attacks from the enemy (Satan and spiritual powers of darkness under his control), by praying for ourselves and others, borrowing Christ’s priestly armor and God’s Word (our only offensive weapon).” *From Australian Lutheran College Course Book for “Lutheran Spirituality” by Rev. Dr. John W. Kleinig.\**

How comforting! We should have no fear! God has got this! All we have to do is keep our armor on and stand as sentries in prayer! God’s Word tells us numerous times, “FEAR NOT”! **“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you”** (Luke 10:19).

Tune out the NOISE of the lies, bury yourself deep into God’s Word of truth, and go forth with the life-affirming message, donned in Christ’s priestly armor and standing as sentry in prayer!

\*[www.johnkleinig.com/files/3013/8984/3619/SpirCourse\\_09.pdf](http://www.johnkleinig.com/files/3013/8984/3619/SpirCourse_09.pdf), pages 53, 54

## How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

LSB 728

Based on Isaiah 28:16; Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 43:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:9  
Great “Fear Not!” verses

H O L Y

### Bad News ... Good News!

by Dr. Barbara Geistfeld, LFL Regional Director of Texas

**“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”**  
(John 15:18-19 NIV)

What happened in your life and in the lives of your dear family and friends in the last year? Illness, loneliness, fear of the future, death of these same family members or dear friends, depression, anxiety, loss of jobs or homes, loss of entire livelihoods, broken relationships, strained relationships? As you watch the news reports even now, do not the problems in the world become magnified until everything our hearts and minds visualize is seen through the lens of fear and uncertainty?

**“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** (John 16:33 NIV)

You know how someone may say to you, “I have good news and bad news. Which do you want to hear first?” Well, let’s start with the bad news. As bad as things have been in our own private world and the world around us, they are going to get *worse*. Our world will become more and more anti-Christian. Its values are not our values, so the distance between our beliefs and the world’s behaviors will grow exponentially as time passes. Tensions will increase, not decrease. The world *hates* us. It will *always* hate us. We know this because Jesus told us this would happen. Scripture does not paint a rosy picture of the world’s future. Think Armageddon. When we think to ourselves, *If we just work harder or pray more or fast or elect this group or that group, or try this program or that program, everything will turn out fine*, we are being very unwise. Jesus says very plainly, **“In this world you will have trouble.”** Lots of trouble. The Apostle Paul also tells us to expect trouble. Lots of trouble. He tells us to **“glory in our sufferings,”** knowing full well that suffering comes at us continually.



“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access, by faith, into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:1-5 NIV)

So where is the good news? As always, the Good News, capital “G,” capital “N,” is Jesus. He lives in our hearts through His Holy Spirit. He walks with us every minute of our lives when we remain in Him as He remains in us. The vine and the branches, the living water that overflows, the light of the world shining into the darkness through us! His light becomes our light as we live in this troubled world. Jesus gives us the perseverance, the character, the hope. Jesus helps us strengthen our trembling knees, encourages our timid souls, and frees our paralyzed voices. Yes, with Jesus, we can make things better in our world, one small victory at a time. Bad news—good news? Jesus said, **“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** Good news doesn’t get any better than that!





### Wheelchair – The Movie

*While we normally don't promote movies in LifeDate, you may want to check out this new short film produced by Fantasmil Films.*

If one choice could free you from a terrible situation, would you take that chance? That is the approach *Wheelchair* takes as it looks at the pro-life issue from a unique and moving perspective.

The film follows the journey of Stephany, a young mother who is dealing with the pressures and turmoil of life after her three-year-old son is confined to a wheelchair following an incident.

*Wheelchair* was written and directed by Jacob Waldorf, a Minnesota native with a passion for fighting to protect the unborn. The film looks to examine the abortion issue in a new light, with the focus being that the baby in the womb is a real person.

The film was shot in the Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Warren, Minnesota, area in the spring of 2019. It has since gone on to be featured at the 2020 Christian Worldview Film Festival and been reviewed as a “powerful,” “deeply-moving,” and “thought-provoking” short film. The film is currently available digitally through several platforms, including Amazon, Christian Cinema, and Saltflix.

“The film *Wheelchair* presents abortion and all the personal conflicts leading up to it from a different perspective. It picks up on a few things that are very common when someone contemplates an abortion. They view their circumstances and see things they will miss in their life if they have their baby. They don't always get the support they need from friends and family. And, they see the burden they will carry, especially if the baby is disabled, as in this movie. People on both sides of the abortion issue make their case to the mother. Seeing this child as already being born brings out the personhood that is often forgotten as the child in the womb is not physically seen. The act of an abortion clearly depicts the abortionist wanting to keep the child still as it bothered him to see the child moving. The actual act, although not seen on the screen, is depicted vividly by the mother's reaction and seeing the young boy becoming lifeless. What happens in the end is a testament to all the sidewalk counselors and those praying for a woman having an abortion, showing they do touch hearts and change lives with God's help.”

*Virginia Flo, LFL Conference Director & LFL Regional Director of Minnesota*





# Fear Not!

**Fear not!** The God whose love caused Him to become a tiny embryonic speck inside Mary's womb, the God who was knit together in the womb and shaped and formed as a human being, the God who was laid in a manger, the God who was tempted as we are, the God who paid the awful, bloody price for our redemption, the God who rose victoriously from the dead—this God will not forsake those for whom He demonstrated this kind of love.

**Fear not!** Fear of an unknown future drives many young women to the abortion mills where daily 3,000 babies are sacrificed because of fear. Fear of suffering drives many people to feel it is compassionate to hasten death. Fear of not being forgiven drives many who have sinned against life to despair.

- **To the pregnant young woman, we say, "Fear not!"** Jesus was born for you. He loves you and will give you strength. He will help you do what is best for you and your baby, and He will support you through the loving arms of His people.
- **To those who are suffering, we say, "Fear not!"** Jesus was born for you. He knows about suffering. He knows about your suffering. He knows how the love of God works in suffering. He will be with you and care for you through His caring people.
- **To those who have sinned against life, we say "Fear not!"** Jesus was born for you. He demonstrated His love for you and paid for your sins on the cross. He comes to you even in the depths of your grief and guilt to lift you up into His merciful and forgiving arms.

**Fear not!** The message of Christmas changes hearts and lives all year long. After all, we serve a God who works best in weakness—even in poverty—you know, like showing up in a manger!



“[F]or behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

(Luke 2:10b-11)

### Life Thoughts in the Church Year

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

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

**July 4 – Pentecost VI (Proper 9B)** – Many in the world and some in the churches won't listen to the sanctity of human life. It doesn't mean we've failed. Both Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:5) and Jesus (Mark 6:3) experienced rejection. So, we may borrow their boldness. The Lord perfects His power (2 Corinthians 12:9) even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis. His creating, redeeming, and calling grace prevails in our weakness as well. And all ages, appearances, and abilities will know He Himself has been among them.

**July 11 – Pentecost VII (Proper 10B)** – Was John's Gospel proclamation about Herod's marriage a political issue (Mark 6:18)? Or was it the Word of the Lord warning a neighbor against danger and pledging a better way? We may feel like neither prophets nor prophets' sons (Amos 7:14-15), but we have heard the Word of truth and the Gospel of everyone's salvation (Ephesians 1:13). However politicized or unpopular the sanctity of life becomes, we have been predestined to proclaim and celebrate it (Ephesians 1:11-12).

**July 18 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 11B)** – Abortion and assisted suicide may appear to be compassionate measures. But while they deaden the culture to some discomforts, they actually deny support to unborn and impaired persons. By contrast, Jesus has compassion on the whole multitude with no exceptions, because He perceives how the world has abandoned them (Mark 6:34). He feeds them instead of forsaking (Mark 6:41). And the Gospel extends abundant life from fertilization to forever.

**July 25 – St. James the Elder, Apostle** – Supporters of physician-assisted suicide might label the martyrdom of St. James as undignified. He did not choose the timing of his death. He had no control over the manner of his passing. But history and heaven celebrate both his life and his last breath. He met his demise with courage and purpose that allowed him to go gracefully with a Savior whose presence and promises to dignify and sanctify even lives death attempts to humiliate.

**August 1 – Pentecost X (Proper 13B)** – What if we can't afford this baby? What if we can't pay for these treatments? Abortion means fewer people in poverty, doesn't it? Assisted suicide leads to less stress on limited resources, right? The Gospel dissolves every panic in sweet promises. He who sends mouths has never failed to supply their meat (Exodus 16:13; Psalm 145:15-16). Ensuring survival poses no trouble for Him who has already engineered salvation (John 6:25).

**August 8 – Pentecost XI (Proper 14B)** – Jesus gave His flesh for the life of the world (John 6:51). For the lives of unborn persons or incapacitated ones? For the life of the world. For neighbors with congenital deformities or chronic disabilities? For the life of the world. For those who can't clothe themselves yet or who can't bathe themselves anymore? For the life of the world. For those who have promoted assisted suicide or participated in abortion? For the life of the world!

**August 15 – St. Mary, Mother of our Lord** – We have no Savior to speak of except Him whom Mary's womb conceived and delivered. We have no Gospel message but the one that begins in



childbearing (Galatians 4:4-5). As helpless and dependent as any embryo, human beings – any of us – only enter immortality by baptismal birth to become beloved children belonging to the Heavenly Father. Pregnancy is never a sin. Every child is a gift!

**August 22 – Pentecost XIII (Proper 16B)** – Abortion frequently runs interference for “sexual freedom.” It often intends to provide cover for adultery. But it ends up a cheap imitation and poor substitute for the self-sacrificing, servanthood love of biblical, biological, binary, and lifelong marriage (Ephesians 5:31-32). Death cannot supply what sin has deprived us of. Our Lord Jesus gives us His whole body and life like husband to wife and parents to children. We will experience real joy when we emulate His way.

**August 29 – Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist** – The devil himself drove Herod to behead the Baptist. Satan sees Jesus in Christians and children. His vengeance attempts to slay anyone connected to the One who escaped the grave. Abortion’s become a spiritual battle, not just a political issue.

Our only hope lies in leaning ourselves and every little one upon the Lord of Life (Psalm 71:6), from fertilization to forever as John did (Luke 1:41).

**September 5 – Pentecost XV (Proper 18B)** – God’s grace shows no partiality (James 2:1). All have sinned, and all have received the mercy of justification for Jesus’ sake. Christians cannot encourage abortion because it discriminates against neighbors based on size, skills, or circumstances. We cannot ignore physician-assisted suicide because it discriminates against neighbors based on age, appearance, or ability. Instead, we rejoice to receive every member of our race as sister and brother.

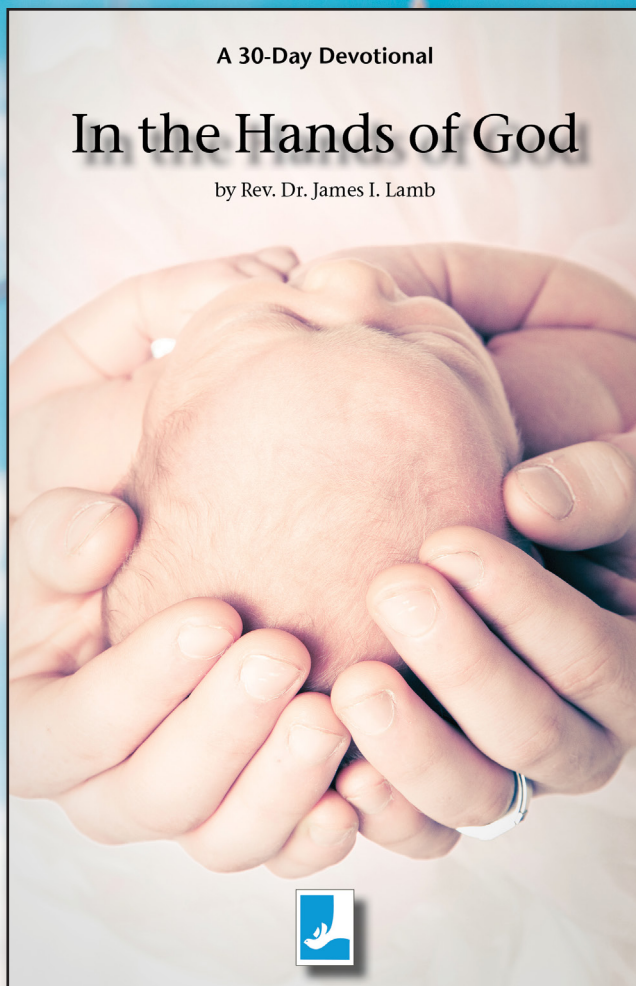
**September 12 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 19B)** – Even Christian lips can dishonor God and endanger neighbors (James 3:9). When we permit assisted suicide or promote abortion, we cause more destruction than forest fires (James 3:5). But words also serve the Lord’s gracious purposes. Gospel promises have delivered us. Even our sinful tongues can become instruments of His miracles. When we proclaim how God treasures every human life, He changes hearts and saves lives more than any laws or elections.

**September 19 – Pentecost XVII (Proper 20B)** – Life issues like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis are not morally neutral situations (James 4:4). Intentionally ending life arises from sinful selfishness (James 4:2). But we don’t have to let our neighbors be led like lambs to slaughter. We can encourage and assist them in committing their cause instead to the Lord of hosts (Jeremiah 11:19-20). He has already given Jesus as guarantee that He will lift them up (James 4:10).

**September 26 – Pentecost XVIII (Proper 21B)** – Decisions about manner and timing of death—either our own or anyone else’s—are difficult and dangerous. We cannot anticipate all its effects and consequences. Our Lord relieves us from playing God by reserving for Himself the right to determine how human beings live and when we die (Psalm 104:29-30). And He assures us that we may flee the likes of abortion and assisted suicide by taking refuge in His kingdom of forgiveness and faith (Mark 9:43-47).







**A Classic! – In the Hands of God – A 30-Day Devotional**

*In the Hands of God – A 30-Day Devotional* (updated 2019), by Rev. Dr. James Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, invites you to consider some of the ways God reaches down with His hands and touches His creation. Item LFL1604. **\$1.00 ea.**



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





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Many people say, “Yes, we are For Life. But what can we do?”

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**Life Team** is a Gospel-motivated group of church members that communicates and shares the abundant love of Christ in life issues within the church and outward into the community. A **Life Team** will also help the pastor engage and inform the congregation from the pulpit, through Sunday school, and through youth and adult education about the importance of protecting the sanctity of human life at all stages.



2021 LFL Regional Conferences

**God Chose You**

*John 15:16*

Las Vegas • Sioux Falls • Conover

[lutheransforlife.org/conference](https://lutheransforlife.org/conference)

**For Life Live!** – The first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. These 90-minute events allow speakers to go in-depth with plenty of opportunity for Q & A.

**Chats 4 Life** – Offering high school and college youth an opportunity to learn about contemporary life topics from expert guest speakers. Held every first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET.

**What about ... Mondays?** – On the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 p.m. ET, students gather to talk about life issues they'd like to address and to find hope-filled, Gospel-motivated answers.

**Frontline Call** – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, July 12, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. There will be a devotion, activity update, life project ideas, guest speakers, and Q & A.



JOIN US  
ONLINE

**For topics, speakers, and Zoom links, go to the LFL homepage calendar or our Facebook page.**





## 2021 LFL Regional Conferences

**God Chose You***John 15:16*

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[lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://lutheransforlife.org/conference)**LAMBS – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets**

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Simply by filling out the form at the link below, the Miami Valley Life Chapter will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to this expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States. There are no strings attached. [lutheransforlife.org/article/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets)



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



**Buying or selling a home or commercial property?** You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email [proliferealestate@yahoo.com](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com) for more information.

[www.realestateforlife.org](http://www.realestateforlife.org)[www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life)

Lutherans For Life has earned a **2021 Gold Seal of Transparency!** Learn more about LFL's impact through our #NonprofitProfile on @CandidDotOrg:

[www.guidestar.org/profile/41-1374293](http://www.guidestar.org/profile/41-1374293)

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### Share the Life Message All Through the Year!

**Lutherans For Life** offers several easy ways to keep the life message before your congregation! Go to [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org).

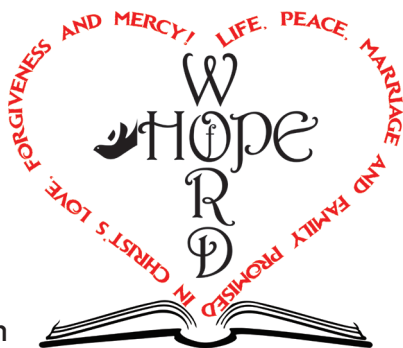
- **LifeDate:** Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433).
- **Life News:** Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!
- **Life Notes:** Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.
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### For Those Who Have Had an Abortion, a Word of Hope

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

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

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## Meet Our TWO Y4Life Interns!

**Y4Life** is excited to announce that we're hiring TWO interns this summer! Thanks to generous donations and grant monies, **Y4Life** will be investing in the next generation of Leaders 4 Life this summer and moving forward with plans for serving more youth in the future. We hope you rejoice with us over this wonderful blessing!



### Meet Bonnie Pool and Katie Reid, our 2021 Y4Life interns:

Bonnie is finishing up her junior year in the nursing program at Concordia University Wisconsin: "I grew up in St. Louis with five rough-and-tumble siblings, whom I love dearly. This past January, I married my husband Eric, and we moved into our first apartment in Cedarburg, Wisconsin! After graduation, I plan to work as a labor and delivery nurse and possibly attend seminary to become a deaconess. My 'dream job,' though, has always been to work for a pro-life organization. I joined CUW's Students for Life group right away as a freshman and have been one of the group's leaders for the past two years. Leading that group has deepened my passion for life issues and strengthened my desire to work in life ministry, which is why I am beyond thrilled to be one of **Y4Life's** summer interns! I cannot wait to work alongside so many Gospel-motivated voices For Life to testify to the God-given value of every person!"



Katie is from Indianapolis, Indiana. She is currently finishing up her freshman year at Hillsdale College, where she is a member of Hillsdale College for Life and the Scott Klusendorf Fellowship, a program run through Protect Life Michigan. Katie has had a passion for pro-life work since her freshman year at Lutheran High School of Indianapolis, where she was a founding member of Saints 4 Life in her senior year. She is very excited for this chance to work with Lutherans For Life and learn how to best spread the love of Christ and share about the sanctity of human life with a gospel-motivated focus.


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Answering THE question of our generation

## **What Pan-Lutheran Means to Us**

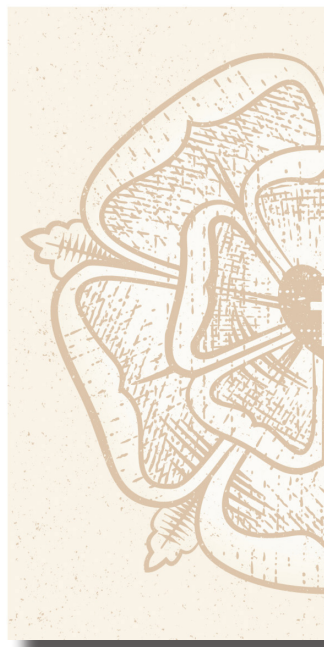
by Pastor Michael Salemink

**W**e believe that Lutherans For Life belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ. This Gospel-motivated ministry is the property, privilege, and responsibility of the whole Church. And we rejoice that it encompasses more than our national staff, or our board of directors, or our Life Teams and Life Chapters, or our state federations, or even any one denominational body. The sanctity of human life by God's grace according to the Holy Scriptures unites us in a common confession of Jesus Christ the Savior and Son of God.

Our founders called our message and mission "pan-Lutheran." Perhaps a synonym like "inter-Lutheran" captures it as well. Jean Garton of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod served as first president, Jack Eichhorst of the American Lutheran Church as first vice-president, Leigh Jordahl of the Lutheran Church in America as first secretary, and Eugene Linse of the LCMS as first executive director. In its first official act, LFL sent letters of announcement and invitation to the presidents of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Today, we still represent this genuine unity. Our national staff consists of members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the North American Lutheran Church, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Likewise, our board of directors currently has constituents from the LCMS, the NALC, and the AFLC. And, of course, we receive support from donors and members (individuals and congregations!) affiliated with the LCMS, the NALC, the AFLC, the LCMC, the American Association of Lutheran Churches, and the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in America. We personally visit their seminaries and their churchwide assemblies to increase awareness, share information, create relationships, and distribute resources.

Almost all Lutherans in North America benefit from LFL! Our activities and materials do not directly engage the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, but only because they have an analogous organization—Christian Life Resources—who serves them, and we consider CLR a friend and coworker. We also have minimal interaction with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as their public statements about sanctity of life matters such as abortion access run contrary to the Scriptures and our convictions. However, occasional ELCA pastors or congregations reach out to us for resources and encouragement to proclaim God's love for every life in courageous contradiction of their hierarchy's positions, and we delight to equip them.



We take our Lutheran identity seriously. On our website you can review a record of official resolutions of endorsement from these church bodies in convention over the course of our entire history: [lutheransforlife.org/article/resolutions-by-pro-life-lutheran-church-bodies](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/resolutions-by-pro-life-lutheran-church-bodies). This includes our designations as an Official Ministry Partner of the NALC and a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. The latter status commits us to ensure our programs operate in harmony with the doctrines and practices of the LCMS so that we do not say or do anything that undermines her mission and confession.

Lutherans For Life acknowledges our limitations. Our association with particular denominations does not imply any affirmation of their doctrinal distinctives. For example, LFL holds no formal position on millennialism or closed communion or the ordination of women. At the same time, we recognize that the church bodies, congregations, and individual Christians we serve do have firm conclusions about such disagreements. As an organization, in our education, activities, or advocacy, we neither confirm nor condemn these or other differences in beliefs and teachings. Testifying definitively on these matters not directly related to the sanctity of life does not belong to our narrow vocation and focus. We make no attempts to breach or broker church fellowship boundaries. Our staff pastors often have opportunity for preaching and teaching in supporting congregations, but they do not do so across their denominational lines.

Lutherans For Life does take positions on ethical issues. We oppose abortion, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, in vitro fertilization, embryo-destroying research, and same-sex marriage, among other practices however legal or popular. We also make confessions about doctrines that concern the sanctity of life, such as the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures, the virgin birth and bodily resurrection of Jesus, salvation by grace alone, six-day creation, and biblical sexuality. And we delight to publish Gospel-motivated submissions and host Gospel-motivated presentations by a variety of Lutheran voices who advance these certainties in our print and digital platforms.

God has given us much to cheer about. We invite the whole LFL community to celebrate whenever any Lutherans speak the truth in love about the sanctity of life. Thanks be to God for this arena where we can stand, speak, and work together in good conscience. **“Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit on them”** (Numbers 11:29), **“for the one who is not against us is for us”** (Mark 9:38-41). **“Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice”** (Philippians 1:18). We eagerly wait, hope, and pray for that promised day when the truth and love, power and presence of our Lord erase all our divisions. Then we will at last proclaim Him in one voice and praise Him with the same heart!



## **Lessons from a Bird's Nest**

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

There's a bird sitting in my herb tower, a robin to be exact. As I write this article, I can see her nestled down and half-hidden between the parsley and dill I planted early last week. Though I admit I'm taken in by the intimacy she's allowed me through her proximity, as a gardener, I am not amused.

It all began four days ago when I found the beginning of a nest being built in my planter. I quickly pulled the dead grass out of the divot she'd hollowed and refilled it with dirt.

"Nope," I said aloud, "you can't nest here." But when I came back a few hours later, I knew she had returned. More grass and a feather had been left behind.

A battle of the wills ensued. For two days we fought over the space—she'd begin building and I'd excavate, pulling out scraps of half-finished nests. On the morning of the third day, her work was more complete, and my concern grew. Her persistence had become alarming.

Deciding to up the ante and end the argument, I untangled my herbs from her weaving and buried a plastic cup upside down on her preferred site. "Find another spot," I told her. "This isn't a safe place."

The cup seemed to work. All morning I caught her flying from fence to planter with dry grass in her beak trying to figure out what to do next. When no new nest was begun by the end of the day, I went to bed certain I had won.

But the next morning, it was apparent she hadn't listened. A new divot beside the cup showcased a single bright blue egg.

There are certainly many applications for this story; I could talk about how nature always wins or how silly and unobservant birds, and humans, can be. I could also talk about the creative order, the authority we humans have over nature. After all, I could have removed that egg, refilled the hole, and walked away justified. The planter





is mine. The herbs would benefit my family. A bird and her baby are not of greater import than human beings.

On the other hand, I could also argue that the order established at creation not only gives humans dominion over nature, but it also makes them husbands of the land. And good husbandry means protecting resources, nurturing growth, and managing nature in a beneficial way. Does purposely destroying a robin's egg depict husbandry at its finest? Probably not.

Whether or not to remove the egg is certainly a topic up for debate, and we all might end up with different but equally valid conclusions based on our experiences and Christian conscience. What isn't up for debate, though, is the reality that two lives exist in my planter now, and even though I have the right to do so, I'm loath to end one of them.

This internal debate, this recognition that new life exists and that I have the opportunity, perhaps even the obligation, to protect it, has niggled at the back of my thoughts for the last two days. *It's a bird after all, not a human baby*, I remind myself.

But it's still a life. And we know that all life is good; all life is a gift. God affirms again and again that He loves life, even the birds He created. And if birds are valuable to Him, then they should also be valuable to us. Yet even as He points out that He cares for the birds, God proves He loves humans much more. Matthew 6:26 states, **"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"** No, Jesus didn't come to die for the birds; He came to die for you and me. God's creative work and Christ's redemptive work give human life great value, and that is a message we are called to share in every way possible.

We can even use robins nesting in herb towers to do it.

Though it's true, most high school and college students have outgrown tree climbing and nest-peeping, youth still have an innate and intrinsic awe of new life. Don't believe me? Hand a puppy to a high schooler and watch him grin; place a kitten in the palms of a college student and watch the two of them cuddle.

In fact, reflecting on the joy of new life with youth can create a path for important conversations about human life, conversations that include our natural propensities for protecting and providing for the unborn or newly born. Noting the birth and development of animals when children are young can help teens later verbalize and recognize the continuum of growth and developmental stages that occur both inside the womb and after birth. Even the appearance of a robin's egg can open the door for a conversation about when human life begins and how it should be preserved. The more we speak the truths of life with youth today, the more we help them build a faith-based, logical, foundation for discussing life issues with others tomorrow.

So go ahead, let the silly bird roost. Marvel over the bright blue egg once more. And invite the youth in your circle to contemplate and revel in the miracle of life once again.

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

### Student Writers Give Us Hope

by Virginia Flo, Conference Director and LFL Regional Director of Minnesota

**A**cross the country many of our states have completed the first phase of our national Essay contest sponsored by our Council of Federation Presidents. The winners in phase one are now moving on to the national contest for the final phase of this event. The students who participate are in grades 6-8 and 9-12. I continue to be amazed at their maturity when it comes to understanding God's love for life.

This year has been an exceptional one for my state, as in many others, as more students from our Lutheran schools, churches, and homes have entered our contest, and it has been a touching sight. For whatever reason, 2021 has proven to be a banner year, and there is more to this story than just the numbers. Each year we ask our students to write on a life issue they choose using a theme and Bible verse we select. Generally, the theme is a foretaste of our upcoming LFL conferences and next year's Life Sunday theme. This year our theme is **"God Chose You."** The Bible verse is John 15:16: **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."**

Each year the essays and heartfelt stories support the theme. Are all the essays written with perfect sentence structure, good grammar, correct spelling, and appropriate facts with a supporting bibliography? No, they are not, and unfortunately, they do lose points in these areas during the evaluation process. However, that does not discount what they have written. What a joy to read and observe their thoughts. Everyone is a winner in God's eyes as they stand up in support of life at all stages and circumstances.

Here are a few thoughts from various students across the country. These are just a sentence or two, but you can imagine the entire story they shared with these short clips:

- "I believe God has called me to join the effort to end abortion."
- "I have lived with my mom and dad since I was five days old ... That's God himself telling my birth mom to let me live and have a wonderful life."
- "We all have a purpose in this world, and God created people with disabilities for a purpose, not a mistake."
- "As chosen children of God, our value comes from the cross of Christ."
- "God's love encourages us to choose life. Life's not always easy, but there's always beauty in the ugliness."
- "A person's disease does not lessen his value or purpose since Jesus already conquered their illness."
- "It wasn't an accident; it was part of God's master plan."
- "Not dying in an attempted suicide is a way that you could say that God chose to keep you."

These students take their essays very seriously. This year I heard from Mrs. Becky Lewis, a teacher at St. Martin's Lutheran School and Hope Lutheran High School in Winona, Minnesota. Here is what she shared with her first essay submissions:

"The 7th and 8th grade classroom at St. Martin's Lutheran School is proud to enter into the Lutherans for Life 2021 essay contest. I have never seen them so engaged and interested in their writing topic. This essay contest opened their eyes to the outside world and the critical, Biblical need to preserve life."

Not much more can be added as she just described the goal of the essay contest the Council of Federation Presidents hopes to achieve each year. These youth are the future of our churches, families, and all of society. They will be the parents of tomorrow, the teachers and pastors who educate and minister, the leaders in our communities, and the citizens of our precious country and the world. We can be assured there is hope for the future in the youth in our schools, churches, and families.

If you are a teacher in a Lutheran school or you home school your child or are a pastor with students in confirmation or a youth group, please consider having your students participate in our essay contest next year. The program generally runs after the first of the year with April 1 being the date they need to be submitted to the states. If you live in a state where we have a federation or regional director managing the contest, you will find those contacts on our LFL website on the Frontlines tab under State Federations.

Watch for the 2022 contest rules for your state late summer or early fall as they become available. If you do not live in one of those states, we also run a program for non-federation states with Rev. Jeff Duncan, who is listed under Regional Directors. Please help your students stay grounded in God's Word and support the sanctity of human life, as they are the future voices For Life. To God be the glory!





## God's Nevertheless

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

I don't know about you, but I'm a big fan of conjunctive adverbs. Words like *therefore*, *consequently*, *furthermore*, and *likewise* get my adrenaline flowing. They're bold and flashy sports car words—the five-cylinder, rev-your-engine type. A solid conjunctive adverb can instantly transform a list of bland statements into a cohesive, driven argument.

This is especially true of conjunctive adverbs like *however* or *instead*, those that compare, contrast, and undo what's just been done. Like a sleek Lamborghini or a classy Mustang, a single conjunctive adverb can turn a sentence on a dime, changing its direction and argument instantly.

And the most grandiose grandfather of them all? *Nevertheless*.

Now, I admit my pronouncement might seem a little hasty. After all, *nevertheless* is just three words smooshed together. But the cool-factor inherent in this adverb doesn't rely on its looks; instead, it rests squarely on what happens under the hood.

*Nevertheless* admits everything and concedes nothing. It turns reality on its head. Instead of disproving all that came before, it simply unveils a greater claim. Here's an example:

*Sure, I stayed up until 3:00 a.m. the night before my final; nevertheless, I'm going to ace the exam*, it declares. And it does.

*True, we're down by 12 points with 30 seconds left on the clock; nevertheless, we're going to win*, it promises. And sure enough, we do.

*Nevertheless* is a Tesla in a sea of minivans. It's not just smart; it completely out-classes the competition. And when God uses *nevertheless*, we should be prepared for the extraordinary because He almost always uses it for our benefit.

For example, take a look at Nehemiah 9. Go ahead and read the whole chapter. It records the history of God's people—how they turned away from Him again and again—and it recounts how He continued to forgive. Pay close attention to verses 17-21 and 27-31. Could there be a more rebellious people?

Yet verse 31 declares, **“Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”** They deserved to be forsaken; *nevertheless*, God showed mercy to His people.

Still not convinced of the prowess of *nevertheless*? Read Psalm 73:22-23: **“I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.”** Despite the psalmist's anger and impatience with God, God *nevertheless* drew the psalmist close and led him by his hand.

Perhaps no passage proves the power of God's *nevertheless* more poignantly than Luke 22:39-42: **“And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him ... And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’”** God's *nevertheless* sent Jesus to the cross; God's *nevertheless* means we live.

God's *nevertheless* is powerful enough to leave burnouts on the pavement of destiny. Though we were headed to hell, Christ changed our course, redeeming us for

heaven. And this reality, God's *nevertheless*, not only gives us reason to rejoice, but it also becomes the only real antidote to fear.

Our theme for this edition of *LifeDate* is "Fear Not!" and it's a poignant one. We are entering a time in American history when being a Christian and holding to conservative, Biblical values will be difficult. Christ reminds us that the cost of discipleship will be great: **"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God"** (John 16:1-2).

Despite this foreboding statement, Christ didn't leave His disciples in a state of hopelessness and fear. Nor does He do so today. Instead, Christ employs His *nevertheless*: **"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me ... But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you"** (John 16:4-7).

Christ followed through on His promise. We have the helper, the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and among us. The Holy Spirit is, even now, strengthening us unto salvation. It is the Holy Spirit who will give us the courage to stand firm in the face of trials and profess Christ and LIFE to the world.

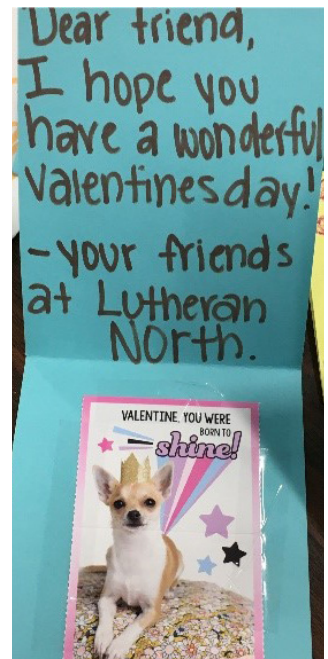
Christ Jesus, our great *nevertheless*, has paved the way for salvation and LIFE. Because of Him we have nothing to fear. We may face persecution and hardship; *nevertheless*, Christ is greater than the suffering we may meet. He is our certain hope during times of uncertainty.

May we rejoice in the *nevertheless* Christ guarantees, and may it make us bold confessors of LIFE.

## Happy Valentine's Day!

Inspired by the **Chats4Life** presentation on the elderly by Virginia Flo, the **Y4Life** group at Lutheran North in Macomb, Michigan, hosted an event to make valentines for residents of a local nursing home. We wanted to remind our elderly neighbors that they are loved and valued, especially since, at the time, many may not have had visitors in several months.

Students and faculty stopped by to create cards combining boxed valentines and personal messages of encouragement. Favorite Bible verses were John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"), 1 John 4:19 ("We love because he first loved us"), and 1 John 4:9 ("This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him"). We pray that they were a blessing and brought Valentine love and joy to the recipients!



## **Let the Little Children Come to Me**

**M**eet Arlo, born March 9, 2021, grandson of Rev. Scott Licht, Lutherans For Life Executive Director of Finance and Operations.



**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5)**

**“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matthew 19:14)**

**“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)**



## Lutherans For Life ...

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

## Lutherans For Life ...

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

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

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

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

## Lutherans For Life ...

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

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

Is not subsidized by any church body.

Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



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

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

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

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2021 LFL Regional Conferences

## God Chose You

*John 15:16*

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"The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand  
forever." (Isaiah 40:8)