

# LifeDate

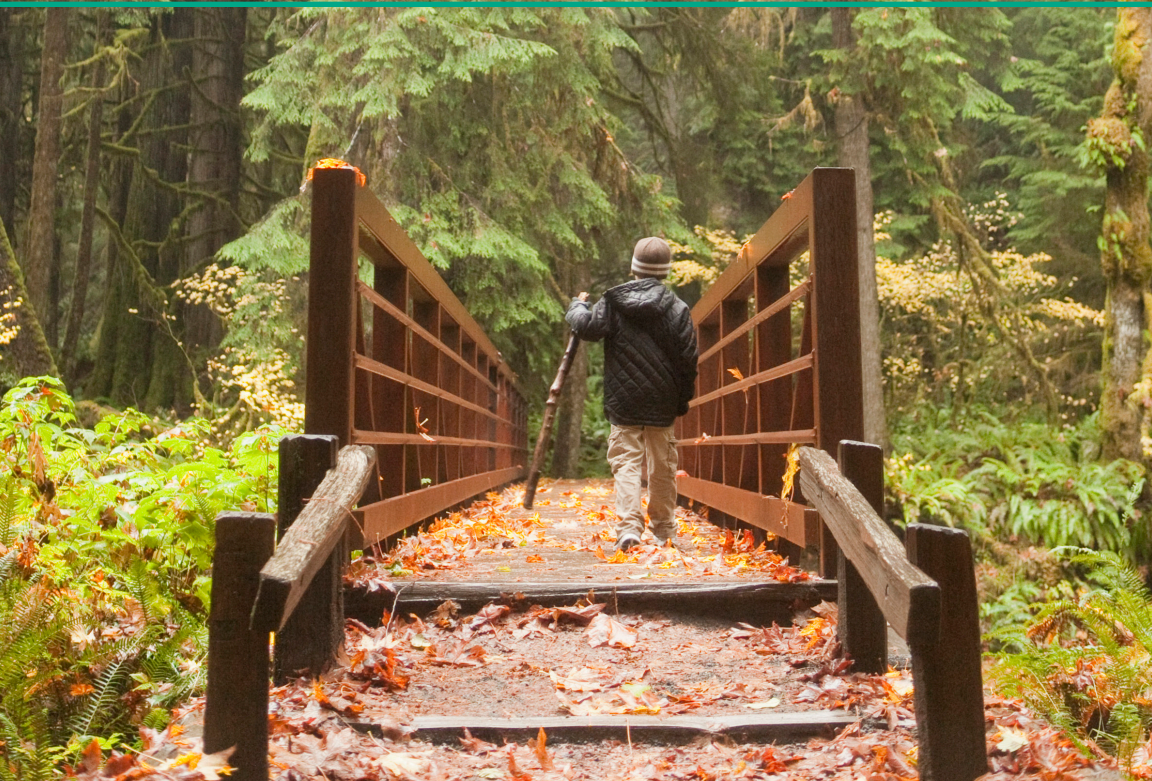
Fall  
2021



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

## THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD

Life is so important to our Heavenly Father that He provides His goodness and mercy throughout all our days—whatever the circumstances. God also promises to be with us always, even until the end of our lives, and as we enter His eternal kingdom.



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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## The Blessing of Belonging

by Pastor Michael Salemink

“My body, my choice” isn’t a creed of freedom. “My body, my choice” is a cry for help.

This supposed motto for autonomy instead smuggles in a satanic deception. The devil intends to divide and isolate people. He misleads us into believing we’re all on our own. “Your body, your choice” means the terminal diagnosis is your problem. No one can save you. You must control this. “Your body, your choice” means the surprise pregnancy is your fault. Nobody loves you. You must correct this. “My body, my choice” doesn’t liberate anyone. It really aims to lay blame. Its façade of power paves the way forward for panic.

The beautiful truth is you are not alone.

Even in our mistakes and moments of crisis, we still belong to something better. Even in our difficulties and afflictions, we still belong to someone else. Even in our shortcomings and shadowed valleys of death, we still belong to somebody greater.

We belong to Father, Son, and Spirit who creates, redeems, and calls us body and life to be precious treasures from fertilization to forever in His heavenly household. We belong—each of us—to the same one human race made in His image inheriting the earth as gifts and privileges for one another. We belong—all of us—to a family woven of a man and a woman come together as father and mother from and for a fabric of loved ones, relatives, flesh, and genetics. We belong—everyone—to the body of Christ, a brotherhood baptized together by a water thicker yet than blood, a mighty communion of saints pushing us ahead and a great cloud of witnesses pulling us on across distance, throughout history, and even beyond death. We belong to a country in this world but not of it and a kingdom of forgiveness, faith, and fellowship, of joy and hope and resurrection everlasting. And we belong to our neighbor, whatever his need, no matter her age, appearance, or ability, by a holy vocation to receive them and serve both their survival and salvation, until we realize the worth and achieve the purpose God Himself has willed into each and works in us all.

Who needs private choices and personal matters? We can do this together, for we have the Lord, and this Savior has us.



## Adoption: God's Beautiful Plan

by Amanda Wesley

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

I have always been a “planner.” I like to set goals, think about the steps I need to take in order to reach those goals, and then work hard to do so. My parents modeled a strong work ethic and stressed the importance of working hard in life and planning for the future. For many things in life, it holds true that hard work and thoughtful planning lead to success. But what happens when we have a goal that, despite our best efforts, seems unattainable? Where do we turn when our deepest desires seem out of reach? How do we respond when our plans don’t work out the way we thought they would? I believe it is at these exact moments in our life that God shows us who is *really* in control. (Hint: it’s not us!)

I am a sinner, and I will never trust God perfectly, but my journey through infertility, heartache, and eventually adoption has helped me come a long way toward fully trusting God with my life.

Ryan (my husband) and I had always wanted kids, but that road was not as easy as we assumed it would be. After struggling with infertility for two and a half years, we were blessed with our daughter, Ellie, in 2016. We were relieved, thankful, and ecstatic with our precious gift from God! We were also told by our doctor that since we were able to get pregnant once, there was a good chance it could and would happen again. But as the months rolled by, we became frustrated once again. We spent a year at a fertility clinic, undergoing tests, procedures, drugs, and injections. Every failed procedure and unsuccessful month brought more heartache. After a final exploratory procedure to look for the cause of our infertility, we still had no answers. We longed for another child, we prayed that our daughter would experience the joy of having a sibling, and we just felt that our family was not yet complete.

Ryan and I had talked about adoption on and off over the years. We signed up for our first orientation before we had Ellie, when we thought we would never get pregnant. We actually found out we were pregnant just before the event but decided to go anyway, “just in case.” I remember the shock when we opened our orientation folder and saw the total estimated cost. We were relieved that we had gotten pregnant, and it seemed we would not need to turn to adoption in order to grow our family.

Three years later, we found ourselves discussing adoption once again. After exhausting our options at the fertility clinic, we felt that adoption was our only chance to find that missing piece of our family. We started looking more closely at the cost, the process itself, and agencies. In August of 2019, we attended another orientation. The cost was still overwhelming, but that wasn’t the only thing holding us back. We had read about “failed adoptions,” heard horror stories about everything that could go wrong, and worried about the impact this would have on our biological daughter. We prayed about it. We talked with family and with some friends who had been through



the adoption process. After countless late-night conversations and prayers, we decided to take a leap of faith and get the process started.

After completing a mountain of paperwork and forms, we were officially “homestudy approved” in November of 2019. We created a profile book for the agency, which they would show to pregnant women considering adoption. We were just waiting to be “chosen” for a possible interview by one of these women. Over the next couple of months, we heard from the social worker occasionally. We were notified whenever our profile book was being shown, and then we waited—waited to see if they liked us enough to talk to us in person, waited to see if we would be blessed with another child, and waited to see if our prayers would be answered. I’ll be honest—I struggled with the waiting. I got my hopes up every time we were told that someone looked at our profile book. I was devastated when we didn’t get any follow-up news. I started to think we had maybe wasted our money coming this far in the adoption process.

As the invoices came in at various points throughout the process, we found that we always had what we needed. Yes, we buckled down a bit and did what we could to save some money, but we were also blessed tremendously through the generosity of others. Whether it was a financial gift or someone reaching out with encouragement at just the right time, God provided exactly what we needed. We continued to wait.

**“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).**

At the end of May 2020, we finally got the call we were waiting for. An expectant mother wanted to meet with us! We would be meeting with her and the social worker at a park mid-June, and she was due on July 10. After waiting for so long, we had hope that this could actually be happening quickly!

The day we met Tara (name changed for privacy) was a day that we’ll never forget. I was so nervous that she would meet us and decide that we weren’t “the ones,” or that I’d say something to scare her away. It turns out that those fears were all for nothing. Within minutes of meeting Tara, we were comfortable and relaxed. We just clicked. About twenty minutes into our conversation, she said the words that I will forever hold in my heart: “I’ve already picked you guys.” I was in shock and holding back tears. Tara proceeded to invite Ellie to talk to her new brother/sister, and to touch him/her if she wanted to. It was incredible. Here we were, meeting this woman for the first time, and she was giving us the gift of a lifetime. As we left the park, Tara told us that we could go ahead and call our family and friends and share the good news. Although it still seemed too good to be true, those words gave us confidence and reassurance that this was really happening.



The next few weeks were a blur of excitement as we made final preparations for Tara's (and our) baby to arrive. Clothes were washed, the nursery was prepared, logistics were figured out (not easy with COVID-19), and we waited once again. On the evening of July 6, we found out that Tara was in labor. We headed downtown to Hutzel Women's Hospital. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we had to wait in the parking garage for several hours. Around midnight, I was allowed to go into the hospital, but Ryan had to remain in the car.

Due to some unforeseen medical issues, Tara had to have a C-section. After a scramble of phone calls between myself, the social worker, Tara, and the hospital, I was able to head up to the operating room to be Tara's support person. At 1:35 a.m. on July 7, she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. The moment the doctor held him up felt like the culmination of all the waiting we had done. Tara and I were both teary-eyed as we talked about how beautiful he was and waited for the doctors to check his vitals. Elijah was a healthy baby boy! Texting my husband a picture from the operating room wasn't exactly how I envisioned things happening, but we were over the moon excited that this precious gift had arrived. After spending a few more minutes together, Tara was taken to recovery, and I was sent to the NICU waiting area.

I was fortunate enough to be with Elijah in the NICU, but it was several more hours before Ryan was allowed in. We talked with doctors and found out that Elijah would need to stay at the hospital for at least ten days for precautionary reasons. We were so thankful that he was healthy but also concerned about the tests and things the doctors were watching for in the coming days.

Elijah ended up being discharged after ten days. Those days were exhausting—the hour drive to and from the hospital, the fact that only one of us could go at a time due to COVID-19 restrictions, not being able to hold our baby boy due to his IV placement and having to leave him every night—but we were incredibly thankful for his health and that the hospital stay wasn't longer.

The day we brought Elijah home was an incredibly special one. Introducing Ellie to her new brother was one of those moments that I will cherish forever. After years of waiting, praying, and wondering, we finally felt that our family was complete.

**“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds” (Psalm 9:1).**

Elijah's adoption finalization took a bit longer than expected, largely thanks to the courts being backed up due to COVID-19. However, we were very fortunate that everything went pretty smoothly with that process. The waiting game was much easier now that we had our little boy in our arms. On April 28, 2021, we got the news that his adoption was finalized! It felt like the final step in the adoption journey was complete, and we could breathe a huge sigh of relief, knowing that Elijah was now ours forever!

Tara and I have communicated several times over the past year. Nearly every conversation we have ends with us going back and forth thanking each other. We both feel that God brought us together at just the right time and that this whole adoption was His plan. I cannot fathom life without Elijah, and we owe that to Tara. She chose life for her baby. She chose us to be his parents. We can never possibly thank her enough



for the gift she has given us. I do not know what the future will hold in terms of our relationship with Tara. But I know that she loves Elijah every bit as much as we do, and I know that we love her and will always appreciate the tremendous blessing that she shared with us.

Looking back on our journey, it is easy to see God's hand at work. Had we gotten pregnant when we wanted to, we would not have our sweet Elijah. The heartache and the waiting were absolutely worth it. Would the waiting have been easier if I had been confident that God had a plan for our family all along? Absolutely. Maybe God wanted to give me some practice in patience, maybe He wanted to help me learn how to trust Him more completely, maybe He will use this experience to allow me to help someone else going through a similar situation—whatever it may be, I believe that God uses the trials in our lives for good. In the times when I felt that our prayers were going unanswered, God already had our little boy picked out for us. He knew exactly what our family would look like, and He knew exactly how it would come together.



**“He has made everything beautiful in its time”** (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

I am still a planner. I still like to set goals. Is that a bad thing? No. But I will try to remember that sometimes, when my plans don't seem to work out, it might just be that God has something better in mind. I have read many examples in Scripture of the beauty of God's timing, and I have now experienced it in my own life. Rather than praying for God to fulfill my plans, I will pray for God to help me trust His plans. For those who are struggling with unfulfilled plans, keep praying. Keep trusting. God DOES have a plan for each of us, a purpose for every life, and an answer for every prayer.

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 4:6-7).

*Mandi Wesley is coordinator of the Life Ministry Team at Our Redeemer, Washington Township, Michigan.*



## **When She Says, “I’m Pregnant”**

by Pastor Michael Salemink

**I**t’s your daughter. It’s your girlfriend. It’s your sister or your classmate or your co-worker. It’s a surprise pregnancy. Now what?

What can you say that will keep a surprise from becoming a crisis and prevent a crisis from turning into tragedy? With which words will you bring in God and His Gospel? How will you embody love and truth, courage and compassion?

This moment can make an eternal life-or-death difference.

1. **Take a breath.** Allow yourself to be stunned. It’s a really big deal, and you’re not a robot. But right now it’s not about what you feel or what you need. Don’t interrogate. Don’t accuse. Don’t vent your outrage. Don’t raise your volume. The Father Almighty has prepared you, positioned you, appointed you to minister for Him in service to her.
2. **Say, “Thank you for telling me.”** Appreciate that she’s invited you into a sacred and sensitive space. Affirm she’s done the right thing by sharing her anxiety and vulnerability. Assure her you love her no matter what happens.
3. **Ask, “How are you feeling,” and then listen.** It communicates the sanctity of her life to focus first on her. It also allows her room to reveal what details she feels are especially pressing. And it signals your willingness to come alongside her and carry these crosses with her.
4. **Tell her, “I’m sorry.”** This indicates you acknowledge the difficulties she’s facing. You’re validating her internal sense that some aspects of the situation aren’t ideal. She receives permission to grieve and even to confess what she views as failures.





5. **Ask, “What do you need,” and then listen.** In this way, she can unload all the concerns complicating her circumstances. Identifying them empowers both you and her eventually to address them together. You’re extending a gentle invitation to have hope and envision a way forward.
6. **Promise, “We will get through this.”** She’s come to you looking for community and to know she won’t go it alone. Your fellowship is the most important and powerful aid you can offer. The best way to persuade her that every life’s a precious treasure is to treat hers as a gift and privilege.
7. **Ask, “May we pray?”** Thank the Heavenly Father for sustaining our lives and taking care of our hearts. Ask His forgiveness for our sinful shortcomings. Implore Him to protect, preserve, provide, enlighten, and guide.
8. **Ask, “May we make a plan?”** Would she like to schedule the doctor? Would she like to talk to the pastor? Would she like to connect with the pregnancy resource center? Would she like to inform any one else?
9. **Offer appropriate affection.** Take her hands in yours. Wrap an arm around her shoulder. Hug. Let her cry. Weep with her. Show her the Incarnate God is not afraid to take hold of her, that she need not be ashamed of human bodies, hers or her baby’s.
10. **Say, “Congratulations and thanks be to God!”** Pregnancy is never a sin, and motherhood, even amid afflictions, is always a blessing. Our Lord has honored her with this holy vocation. She and her baby belong to Him from this time forth and forevermore!



## **Going on Offense in Defense of the First Article**

by Rev. Fredric Hinz

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.*

Christians have always made this bold proclamation. But, truth be told, what the Church has had to say in the public square about the creative acts of God has recently been less than bold. For more than 200 years, the Christian witness concerning the creation has had a distinctly defensive quality to it as it has sought to fend off nearly constant assaults from militantly secular science.

Secular science confidently asserts that it has (or is on the verge of having) all the answers to all the questions regarding the origin of the universe and the life contained therein. Indeed, it is a confidence crystalized in the account of the famous French physicist, Pierre Laplace, in his 1802 encounter with emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Asked why his recent writings about the origin of the solar system did not include even a mention of God's creative role, Laplace replied: "Sir, I had no need of that hypothesis."

This confidence—this bluster—has been based on two unsupported assumptions:

1. The universe is eternal and thus its existence has no need of explanation.
2. The structure of life is really quite simple, and therefore, given enough time, it could be reasonably expected to be generated and advanced through a purely chaotic process characterized by random mutation and natural selection with no need for any kind of intelligent or divine input.





Collectively, this is the foundation on which the secular science worldview has rested. Because these scientific assumptions were largely unchallenged until recently, the Church has, at least from a philosophical perspective, been left to fight a “rear-guard defensive action” when it comes to its public profession of the First Article. But, as is powerfully documented in his new book, *The Return of the God Hypothesis*, Stephen Meyer informs us that things have changed substantially in recent years. Specifically, he points us to three new scientific discoveries which together have effectively dismantled the assumptions on which the secular worldview was built.

1. The scientific community now broadly acknowledges that the universe did have a beginning and is therefore not eternal.
2. The scientific community now understands that the physical conditions required for life to exist are so many and so exacting that one cannot reasonably invoke chance to account for them.
3. The scientific community increasingly sees that the construction and function of even the simplest living organisms require such an immense amount of highly specified information, primarily contained within the DNA molecule, that there is no intellectually responsible way to offer Darwinian evolution as its source.

All of which means it is time for people of faith—who confess the First Article—to adopt a much more assertive posture as we enter into public discussions about the origins of the universe and the life with which it teems. To that end, let me highly recommend Stephen Meyer’s book *The Return of the God Hypothesis*. In it, you’ll find what you need to give a confident witness not just to “some generic creative force” but to the personal Creator-God revealed in Holy Scripture.

Whether you are a pastor, teacher, parent, grandparent, or other interested party, this is a resource that will allow you to challenge the often-intimidating forces of radical secularism by tapping into the powerful witness that the natural world gives to its Creator. Written in an easy-to-understand fashion, it can be used either by those less scientifically inclined as a means to skim the evidence or by the science enthusiast who wants to do a deep dive into the overwhelming volume of evidence that is now available to us.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Christians—whether well-versed in the sciences or not—can and should no longer reflexively defer to “the experts,” some of whom have long sought to use science to sow unwarranted doubt in the biblical account of creation. Indeed, as is more obvious than ever, **“The heavens [and the earth do] declare the glory of God, and the sky above [does proclaim] his handiwork. Day to day [they do pour] out speech, and night to night [does reveal] knowledge”** (Psalm 19:1-2, ESV).

*Rev. Fredric Hinz is the Public Policy Advocate for Minnesota South and North Districts (LCMS).*

### Tempting Tyrant

by James M. Kushiner

The story of the world is one of deception. We've been duped. The serpent is wise and man is foolish. While the first serpent needed to nuance God and His Word in order to tempt and deceive the woman, the tempter of today's new man needn't bother with the strategy: There is no God, the fool says, not only in his heart, but in public places, and in his actions. There is no God in government.

Adam and Eve, abandoning communion with God, choosing to see good and evil for themselves apart from Him, became susceptible thereafter to all manner of deception concerning evil: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." I note that other translations use "sick" as in "incurable" for the Hebrew word *anush* instead of KJV's "wicked." The heart of man suffered this grave, incurable injury, given his separation from the God whom he was meant to worship and commune with.

But what man cannot cure on his own, God was able to heal. The text for the Orthodox Feast of Epiphany asserts that God the Son

*"... came upon earth, taking the form of a servant, being found in the likeness of mortals. For you could not bear, Master, in the compassion of your mercy to watch the human race being tyrannized by the devil, but you came and saved us."*

We are thus gifted with the opportunity to put on the mind of Christ and regain spiritual sight. But the Scriptures insist, and Jesus affirms, that the human race has an implacable adversary, the devil, who still seeks to devour us. He is a tyrant. Jesus speaks of him as the father of lies (John 8:44).



We must ever be on guard against lies. Public lies, private lies, lies that we tell ourselves about ourselves and about other people. We should pray always for the enlightenment of our hearts, that he “correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds” (Prayer of the Hours), so we give no quarter to falsehood. This should begin with our own selves so that we may in time see more clearly, not excusing our failures of love, so that we no longer have a beam of falsehood in our eye, so that we may see more clearly.

Today, we face perhaps an unprecedented onslaught of lies. The lies are old, but the delivery systems for them are highly enhanced: ubiquitous media and appeals to consume and buy and eat. One cannot listen to a ballgame on the radio without hearing, even between pitches and plays on the field, commercials. You cannot drive far on the highways without encountering words telling you what you must buy or do. Apparently we can live by bread alone.

These are mild compared to the lies about morality. I won’t make a list. Let’s just say that sexual delusion is in flood stage, while man ignores the carnage and destruction, yet worries about levels of carbon dioxide. Men knowingly promulgate lies and produce propaganda to protect their interests. Do they sometimes even believe their own propaganda? Isaiah described Israel:

**“ ... you have said, ‘We have made a covenant with death,  
and with Sheol we have an agreement,  
when the overwhelming whip passes through  
it will not come to us,  
for we have made lies our refuge,  
and in falsehood we have taken shelter’” (28:15).**

Lies divide. Adam and Eve lost their unity by their acceptance of one. Societies can be divided by lies. We cannot fit in with modern society, for we refuse to say black is white. The Christian who lives true to the teachings of the Lord will suffer from the edge of division that the Lord said He came to bring. This clearly applies:

**“And in all this [sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry], they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you” (1 Peter 4:4).**

Malign (*blasphemeo*)—they denounce as evil not only your refusal to sin with them but your implied disapproval. Either the behavior is sinful or it is not.

We cannot lie about it. Nor can we affirm it. That’s because we know the goodness of the Lord and His commandments and cannot deny him. Unlike the devil and those who would force you to speak lies, He is no tyrant, but the Liberator. That Truth makes us free to say, “No.”

*James M. Kushiner is the executive director of the Fellowship of St. James (fsj.org).*



### Sheep Need a Shepherd

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., LFL Regional Director of Texas

**W**hat do you know about sheep? Sheep were one of the very first animals domesticated by mankind. (Only dogs have been domesticated longer!) Records show them in Mesopotamia, the northern end of the fertile crescent in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, thousands of years ago. The Patriarch Abraham was from Ur of the Chaldees, a city in that region, and, of course, he was a shepherd, as were his descendants. Isaac, Jacob, and David—perhaps the most famous shepherd of all time—earned their livelihoods herding sheep. The four “Ms” of animal husbandry—Meat, Milk, Manure, Money—sustain the shepherd. With sheep, one can add wool for additional benefits such as clothing and homes (including tents!).

Sheep have some obvious characteristics. They are flock animals and extremely gregarious, and they tend to stay together in their flock. They follow a dominance hierarchy which is why they follow a leader, whether another sheep or the shepherd. They tend to stick close to one another and become stressed if separated from the rest of the flock. When panicked, they scatter and flee. And, like some humans, sheep are food-oriented and can be led back to the flock with a tasty morsel. Who knew?

And finally, sheep are not as unintelligent as they look! Studies show them on a par with cattle, just below pigs. They communicate with each other by various sounds, and sight is also critical. When grazing, they often lift their heads to look around and make sure the others are near. They can recognize both sheep and human faces and remember them for years. And if they recognize faces, you can be sure they recognize the voice of the shepherd. If worked with patiently, sheep will even learn their own names and come to the shepherd when called by name.

Where am I going with all of this? The word “sheep” is in the Bible over 500 times! Shepherding is one of the bedrocks of Hebrew and Jewish culture—and Jesus was part of that culture. Those around him, no matter what their occupation, certainly understood sheep and analogies to sheep. Go back and read again the characteristics of this humble creature.



Over and over in the Scriptures, Jesus compares you and me to sheep—and Jesus Himself is the ultimate Shepherd. John 10 has a beautiful treatise on sheep—both four-legged and two-legged:

“But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep ... The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice ...

“This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep ... If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep ... I know my own and my own know me ... And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

We would do well to remember the words of our Shepherd and to stick together with the true flock and not be panicked into scattering and fleeing. We should raise our heads often and make sure we are still with the right flock and the right Shepherd. We will surely prosper and find good pasture when we remember His face and His voice and follow only the One we know to be our Shepherd—the One who laid down His life for us and calls us by name. Listen to Him!

*(Sources: [www.Sheep101.info](http://www.Sheep101.info), [Wikipedia/sheep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheep))*



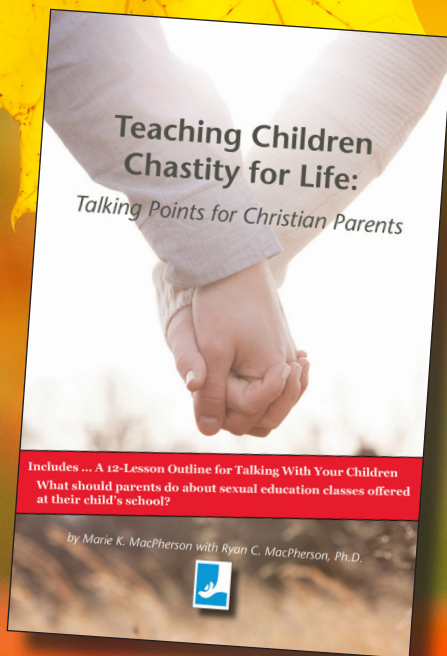




**LIFE TEAM TOOL KITS! CALL THE NATIONAL OFFICE TO FIND OUT MORE! 888.364.LIFE (5433) – A Life Team** is a Gospel-motivated group of church members that communicates and shares the abundant love of Christ in life issues within the church and outward into the community. A **Life Team** will also help 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.

## Teaching Children Chastity for Life: Talking Points for Christian Parents

What's better than sex ed? Mentoring your children for chastity! In this booklet, parents speak frankly to fellow parents on the basis of God's Word, offering practical suggestions for dads and moms to provide their children with the guidance they need to navigate through puberty and into sanctified adulthood. *Item LFL731B. \$3.00 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.



**Abortion  
and the  
Message of the  
Church:  
Sin or Salvation?**



**A Classic! – Abortion and the Message  
of the Church: Sin or Salvation? – Dr.**

James Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, shows that throughout history the Church has called abortion sin. Only recently have some started calling abortion salvation—a way out of a difficult situation. But it is not a way out. It only creates guilt and despair to which the Church must apply its most powerful message, the Gospel of Jesus.

*Item LFL205T. \$0.50 ea.*



There are

**2,300**  
abortions  
**EVERY DAY**

**in the United States.**

**2,300 too many.\***

**#LifeFacts**

\*<https://www.lifeissues.org/abortion-stats/>

**Y4  
LIFE**



### 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).

**October 3 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 22B)** – This world idolizes sexuality so much it sacrifices unborn children in worship. Our Heavenly Father establishes boundaries to protect us from this slavery. He elevates us by connecting sexuality to marriage, intimacy, procreation, and family. Human bodies testify that we're born already belonging to somebody. Where the world sees selves for expressing or enjoying, we celebrate them in sharing and serving!

**October 10 – Pentecost XX (Proper 23B)** – “I would never choose it for myself, but I’m not comfortable telling anyone else how to act.” Our neighbors need more from us than lukewarm. The Lord God invites the same courage and compassion His salvation has shown us. “Hate evil, and love good” (Amos 5:15). Real love proclaims both the Law and the Gospel directly (Mark 10:19-21). Jesus makes us nothing less than gentle but relentless!

**October 17 – Pentecost XXI (Proper 24B)** – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can indeed make anyone feel vulnerable (Ecclesiastes 5:15). Our Incarnate Almighty knows (Hebrews 4:15), and so He arranges better solutions than intentional death. His promises have power even over problems of the body (Hebrews 4:12), and whatever losses we may suffer, He more than compensates (Mark 10:29-30). Jesus the Savior makes all things possible—even joy amid suffering (Ecclesiastes 5:18).

**October 24 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 25B)** – Disabilities do not deserve death, either at life’s beginning or near its end. The Lord our God loves to save us in all our brokennesses (Jeremiah 31:8-9). May we learn something even greater than comfort from our limitations—may we learn in our disabilities to cry out to Jesus and follow Him (Mark 10:48, 52), through affliction to life everlasting.

**October 31 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26B)** – The grace of God doesn’t prevail only in private. His life-giving words belong in bedrooms and on bodies (Deuteronomy 6:6-8), brought before congregations and into conversations for the sanctity of every human life. So, we do not keep these life-affirming convictions to ourselves because His blessings become even better when celebrating them with others (Deuteronomy 6:3).

**November 7 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 27B)** – We need neither trust in princes nor fear public opinion (Psalm 146:3-4), as all these things operate and end under our Heavenly Father’s authority. When we cannot care for a child or keep ourselves alive (1 Kings 17:12), we don’t have to surrender to pressures, politics, verdicts, or laws. Instead, we entrust ourselves to Him whose abundance even our afflictions cannot exhaust (1 Kings 17:14-16)—and we invite our neighbors to do the same.





**November 14 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 28B)** – Little time remains for repentance now that fathers deliver children to death and children rise up against parents (Mark 13:12). We have the assurance that the Holy Spirit speaks salvation through our witness to the sanctity of life (Mark 13:11). Let us stir up one another to love (Hebrews 10:24) by declaring that Jesus saves from the sin of abortion (Hebrews 10:17-18).

**November 21 – Last Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 29B)** – The sanctity of every human life involves far more than personal choices or political issues. We have the chance to snatch sisters and brothers from destruction (Jude 23) in the epic battle between good and evil. And the Lord's Words do not require our anger to prevail (Psalm 93:4), so let us engage every neighbor with mercy to untangle their confusion (Jude 22). Receive them as gifts and treat them as privileges just like our Father treasures us.

**November 28 – Advent I** – A human being's dignity doesn't come from her age, her appearance, or her abilities. Rather, "the Lord is our righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16), as He creates, redeems, and calls worth and purpose into every life from fertilization to forever. Even those who have undergone abortions may know His salvation because He remembers not the sins of our youth (Psalm 25:3) for Jesus' sake. Trusting Him, nobody has to feel ashamed about surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis (Psalm 25:3).



**December 5 – Advent II** – God's deeds give every member of our race a right to life (Psalm 66:5, 9). He creates us in our mother's womb. He redeems us even as embryos. He calls us all into His everlasting family. Our life is a masterpiece He Himself commences and completes (Philippians 1:6). No sizes, skills, or circumstances on our part can impair or improve the value He has invested in us and our neighbors.

**December 12 – Advent III** – Our Savior embodies a God who does not just tolerate us in our physical weaknesses. He favors those who need Him the most (Luke 7:22), and that makes the Gospel the opposite of abortion and physician-assisted suicide. Is there any reality in which we may rejoice more than this (Philippians 4:4)? Why would we find this message offensive (Luke 7:23)? And why should we deny anyone else the delight by staying silent about it?

**December 19 – Advent IV** – The Scriptures clearly declare the liveliness our Lord brings even when unborn (Luke 1:41). Not only does He bestow this love explicitly upon every embryo, but He makes it a reason for rejoicing (Luke 1:44). Let the whole world think us fools (Psalm 80:6) – only let us still leap, delight, and speak loudly in celebration of the sanctity of life!

**December 26 – St. Stephen, Martyr** – Any message that only placates the culture cannot lay claim to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:34). The power of His Word will have consequences for us and stir up passionate reactions in those who hear it (Acts 6:54, 57). But our insistence that they know of His grace and forgiveness (Acts 6:60)—especially applied to life issues—will capture attention to how He loves and saves every human being.

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



**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, October 11, 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.**

# 2022 MARCH FOR LIFE

JANUARY 21, 2022 | WASHINGTON DC

[lutheransforlife.org/event/march-for-life-washington-d-c-2](https://lutheransforlife.org/event/march-for-life-washington-d-c-2)

## 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](https://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)

[lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](https://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](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/41-1374293).

Find Lutherans For Life on ...







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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).

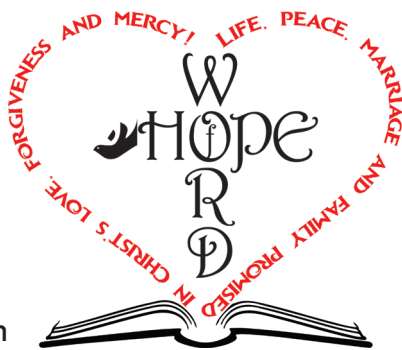
- **LifeDate:** Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433).
- **Life News:** Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!
- **Life Notes:** Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.
- **Life Quotes/Life Thoughts:** Share **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts in the Church Year** in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletters).

## For Those Who Have Had an Abortion, a Word of Hope

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

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

888-217-8679 or [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org) • [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org)







## 2021 LFL Regional Conferences

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

Las Vegas • Sioux Falls • Conover

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

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Registration 8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m. | Conference 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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

*Speakers Include Dr. Kim Marxhausen, Rev. Scott Licht, Patti Smith, Rev. B. Keith Haney, Dr. Donna Harrison, Rev. Michael Salemin*



**WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CONFERENCES:**

“So much practical, inspiring information we can use to provide confidence in sharing the pro-life message.”

“This conference was excellent ... Thanks for all the planning and thought put into this conference. Well done.”

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

## My Cup Runneth Over

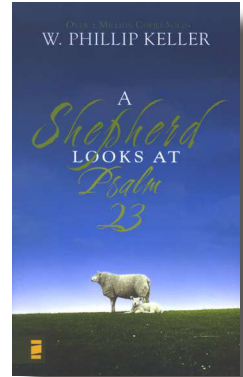
by Michelle Bauman

One of my favorite devotional books, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by W. Phillip Keller, resides on the top shelf of the bookcase near my desk. I don't remember how I came to own it, but based on its location, I know I must have received the book during our baby and toddler years—the years when all things precious needed to be placed high enough to protect them from chocolate-covered fingers, Nerf guns, and occasional wrestling matches.

The version I have isn't Keller's complete work. Rather, it's a collection of excerpts from his original text transposed on and around pastoral paintings depicting sheep and the Good Shepherd. It is a beauty to behold.

More important than its physical beauty, though, are the invaluable observations Keller makes about the relationship between shepherd and sheep. His reflections shed light on how the Good Shepherd loves and provides for His sheep just as they unabashedly depict how utterly incapable sheep are of caring for themselves. When we recognize that we are those sheep, the implications provide a stark reality. Though we believe we are independent, capable beings, the truth is the opposite. We are completely dependent—in body and soul—on the good and gracious care of our Good Shepherd, Christ Himself.

The theme for this quarter's *LifeDate*, **The Lord Is Our Shepherd**, gave me an excuse to pull Keller's book off the top shelf again. As usual, I wasn't disappointed, especially as I reread his musings on the phrase "My cup runneth over."



Typically, when I think of an overflowing cup, I envision a cup filled with blessing. I picture a cup so full of goodness that it cascades down, spilling over in abundance. And that image reflects reality. God certainly provides cups of blessing for us. He not only gives us daily bread, but He often fills our pantries to bursting, offering us both variety and pleasure. His cup of blessing provides many other things we need as well: home and shelter, health and community, family and friends, and so much more. As Christians, we know that all good things come from God; they are gifts meant for our good and for the good of our neighbor.

But Keller points out that some cups aren't filled with blessing; instead, some are filled with sorrow. Sometimes the cup placed in our hand runneth over with hardship; sometimes we drink from pools of suffering.

And that's difficult to swallow.

It's clear Jesus feels the same way. Matthew 26:39 records how Christ responds to the cup prepared for Him in the Garden of Gethsemane:

**“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.’”**

Jesus knows that the coming hours will be filled with hardship and pain; He knows He will be mocked, beaten, and whipped. More than that, Christ knows He will be tortured to death. It is a deep cup full of intense suffering, and Christ prays that He might not have to swallow it.

But that's not where Christ's prayer ends. His final words, hard as they may have been to speak, model for us how we are to approach suffering. **“Nevertheless,”** Jesus says, **“not as I will, but as you will.”** Christ submits to the suffering in store because through it those He loves might be saved; through it, He might redeem not only our lives but also our suffering.

This too is a difficult reality to embrace. We want to be self-sufficient; we want to believe that Christ would never give us more than we can handle. But we forget that as sheep, we really can't handle anything on our own.

Like a sheep cast on its back, we are incapable of righting ourselves. We need a Savior to intervene on our behalf, One who will carry the weight of our worry and suffering on His shoulders. Christ didn't die to prevent us from suffering, nor did He die to give us the power to handle it. He died to handle it for us. Washed in the blood of the sacrificial Lamb and wearing the clothes our Good Shepherd has dressed us in, our suffering is made holy in Christ.

Whether drinking from cups of blessing or sorrow, we are called to live as sheep, ever dependent on the mercies of our Good Shepherd. As we wait on His salvation, we rely on His promise to work through His Word, His Sacraments, and His people for our good, and we draw closer to Him.

**Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life**  
**mbaum@lutheransforlife.org • 812.350.2732 • Y4Life.org**





## Create in Me a Clean Heart, O Lord

by Dr. Barbara Geistfeld, D.V.M., LFL Regional Director of Texas

Psalm 51:10-12 is a familiar and beloved King James text found in the old *Lutheran Hymnal*—known to many of you as the Offertory. (I love to sing it from the 1941 edition, specifically my husband Jim’s confirmation hymnal, which has his name and the year 1961 embossed in gold on the front cover!)

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”**

Now, we always end here and move on to the offering. But wait! Verse 13, which we do not sing, nor even mention, summarizes the whole point of this text: **“Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee”** or as stated in the ESV, **“... and sinners will return to you.”**

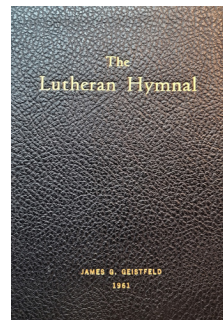
“Then *I* will teach ....” That personal pronoun “I” identifies each one of us who reads that text as the person who will teach transgressors God’s ways so that they will return to the Lord! Scary! Humbling! The whole point of God creating a clean heart and a right spirit within us is so we may be cleansed and strengthened to go out and do the job He created us to do—to teach others His ways so they can return to Him.

This should come as no surprise, of course, as another favorite text that we Lutherans are very fond of quoting is Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV): **“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”**

“This is most certainly true,” Dr. Martin Luther would say, but, here again, we often beam with joy at the gift and slide off into the day without hearing the especially important words that follow. Verse 10 clearly states the sole purpose of this amazing gift from God: **“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

It is so easy to hold tight to our personal salvation and our personal gift of forgiveness and forget why we are holding it. It is so easy to forget that we are born with a to-do list. It is so easy to be thankful for this forgiveness and forget that we are to be the lights in a dark world and the salt of the earth. We can barely comprehend the truth that, as believers in Jesus, **“streams of living water will flow from within [us]”** (John 7:38 NIV). What an incredible gift we have been given!

As we daily give thanks for this great gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins, let us ask God to remind us often that this gift is given to us to share. We have words that can help others. We can act in a manner that shows others the truth of a Spirit-filled life. As Lutherans, we have a rich liturgy that expresses our faith. Let us go out and live this liturgy to the fullest so that others may see the truth and return to the Lord.



## A Call to Action

by Katie Reid

One of the most profound experiences I had during my freshman year at Hillsdale College was when Rebecca Punches, the high school and young professionals coordinator for Protect Life Michigan, gave a presentation on the many different professions we could pursue in the pro-life movement. While the content of her presentation was interesting and helpful, it was this story she told that left an imprint on my mind and still inspires me in my work today:

*There was a church in Nazi Germany that sat next to a train track. The parishioners of this church would gather together in worship each Sunday, only to be interrupted by terrible screams coming from the passing trains. These screams didn't come from any ordinary passengers but from captive Jews being transported to one of the Nazi concentration camps. The pastor was aware of the effect this was having on his congregation, so one Sunday when he heard the train approach, he decided he had to do something—and told his organist to play louder in order to drown out the screaming.*

I was shocked. At the beginning of the story, I had begun to smile as I anticipated an inspirational story about a group of remarkable Christians who did their part to help their fellow man. But as she continued, my face fell. Tears came to my eyes as I realized that this lukewarm version of Christian love was something of which I too was guilty. Proverbs 31:8-9 bids us, **“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”** As followers of Christ, we are called to stand up for those who can't speak for themselves. We are called to protect the needy and the helpless and not remain silent when we hear their cries, but I knew there were times that I hadn't. I had ignored the suffering of those around me for the sake of my own comfort and avoided conflict with those who have sought to undermine this injustice.

The law is certainly heavy, but God comforts and removes our sin **“as far as the east is from the west”** (Psalm 103:12). It's important to recognize when we've fallen short of God's plan for our lives, but we can't let that discourage or distract us from the work we have ahead of us.

Paul teaches us in Romans 5:3-5 that we can **“rejoice in our sufferings,”** we can rejoice in our failures, knowing that we can find hope in God's love and forgiveness where we expect to find shame and judgment.

We've fallen short of His glory and ignored the cries of the broken, but we find hope in His forgiveness and strength in His love. There's so much work to be done, so many lives to protect. The unborn, the mentally ill, the hungry, the broken, and many others still need to hear about our hope in Christ and the love He has for us, and it's our duty to bring it to them.

*Katie Reid is a 2021 Y4Life intern (y4life.org).*



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

That's right, the annual March for Life scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2022, is quickly approaching! While thousands of adults will attend this event, we're also hoping that 4Life youth will walk with us again this year at **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.** All high school and college-aged youth (with chaperones!) and all current Y4Life Teams are invited to march with us.

But that's not all! Youth who stay in our hotel block at the Hilton Crystal City are also invited to attend a **FREE Y4Life conference** the same weekend! Join us before the march on Thursday, January 20, 2022, for an evening of devotions, sign-making, and opportunities to get to know other 4Life youth. Then attend our conference Friday evening and Saturday morning to explore other 4Life issues.

Not sure how to register? See our flier on the next page of this issue of *LifeDate* for more information or you can email Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life, at [Michelle@y4life.org](mailto:Michelle@y4life.org). Don't wait; hotel rooms and conference spots are limited! *Michelle is looking forward to seeing you there!*







# Y4Life in Washington D.C.

January 20-22, 2022

## March and Conference:

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

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=e6jfwdwab&ocidk=a07e1aaaawg94d91659d>

## Location:

Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airt.  
2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 418-6800

## Reservations:

Register for conference and Hilton at link above. Y4Life group rate is \$120 per night w/ breakfast. Up to 4 people per room. Limited availability; reserve soon!

## Schedule:

### Thursday

7-9PM: Gathering – Introductions, Music, Devotions, Games, Sign-Making

### Friday

9-10AM: Pre-March Devotion & Directions

10:30AM: Metro to March for Life

11AM-4PM: March for Life (Rally, March, and Testimonials)

7-9PM: Music, Devotion, Post-March Discussion, Life Conference Session

### Saturday

9AM-12PM: Life Conference Sessions, Group Discussions, and more!

To register for the conference or for more information, contact Michelle Bauman by January 1: [mbaumana@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbaumana@lutheransforlife.org) or 812.350.2732 | [y4life.org](http://y4life.org)



**“Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.” (Isaiah 40:10-11)**

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**“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:14-15)**

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**“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)**



## 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 [lutheransforlife.org](http://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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Wisconsin – The position is open.



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## God Chose You

*John 15:16*

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“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)