



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

## God Chose You ... and that changes everything!



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# Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors  
to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

**LifeDate** is a free, quarterly publication of Lutherans For Life (LFL). Please notify us of address changes. Letters to the editor, articles, and photos may be sent directly to the editor, Lowell Highby: [lhighby@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:lhighby@lutheransforlife.org).

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## God Chose You

by Pastor Michael Salemink

Humankind is experiencing an outbreak of isolation.  
The human race is enduring an epidemic of loneliness.  
We've disconnected.  
We've become distant.

Current culture has us taking up sides against each other.  
The way of this age makes us define our  
identity in opposition to one another.

Many suggest more autonomy to solve the problem.

Some suspect multiplying alternatives  
will settle this predicament.

We're trying to "choice" ourselves out of it.

We're striving to "choice" our way into freedom.

But our worship of choice inflicted the captivity upon us.  
Our pursuit of options imprisoned us under individuality.

We've equated license with control.

We've reduced liberty to influence.

Independence has turned into simply another addiction.

Selfishness has grown into the next obsession.

Appreciation for choices deteriorated  
into exaltation of choice.

Appetite for preferences inflated into  
obedience of prerogative's impulse.

The lust after it has enslaved us to death.

Our world believes it better to take life than to receive it.

Abortions happen when people abandon each other.

Assisted suicides result from people  
deserting one another.

Inviting death into any human life  
impoverishes them all.

Disposing of one of us diminishes the rest of us.

The choice you're looking for isn't freedom of choice at all  
but freedom from choice.

The choice we want, we deeply long for, is not to do  
choice but instead to be choice.

The choice we desperately need is  
not choosing but rather chosen.

So God chose you by making your body.

God chose you by taking a body for Himself,  
And God chose you by consecrating the human body,  
yours and your neighbor's, with His own.

God the Almighty Maker chose you into existence.  
His work of creating proclaims every human life special.  
God the Heavenly Father keeps  
choosing you with forgiveness.

His labor of redeeming proves every human life precious.

God the Holy Lord will continue to choose you  
for making a difference.

His activity of calling pronounces  
every human life priceless.

Surprise pregnancy doesn't just happen.

No life is accident or afterthought for Jesus.

God chose you to embody His grace and favor in it.

Terminal diagnosis doesn't merely occur.

No human life is joke or mistake to Jesus.

God chose you to reflect joy and hope in it.

Disability doesn't simply come about.

Nobody's life is coincidence or side-effect with Jesus.

God chose you to display purpose in it.

Infertility doesn't randomly take place.

No one's life is forsaken or forgotten.

God chose you to demonstrate community in it.

Public dialogue and civic duty  
don't just transpire by chance.

No human beings are only irritant or annoyance.

God chose you to speak courage in these situations.

Difficulty and affliction don't just arbitrarily ensue.

No persons are only tolerated or tentative.

God chose you to show compassion  
in these circumstances.

Loss and lack don't just casually arise,

No lives are hand-me-down or half-hearted.

God chose you to share truth, set love in motion, and put  
life in action whenever neighbors need.

### One Word of Truth

by Robert Morrison

I held a lethal weapon in my hands for the first time in March, 1969. The firing range at Coast Guard Boot Camp in Cape May, New Jersey, faced out to sea. I was firing my M-1 rifle at the target. And I was thrilled. I was hitting a bull's eye almost every time I pressed the trigger.

Then, THWACK! I felt the sharp rap of our company commander's swagger stick coming down on the barrel of my M-1. I stopped shooting and looked at his angry face.

The Chief, as we knew him, roared at me over the din. "Cease fahr! Cease fahr! G-d—it. When ah say cease fahr, ah mean it!"

I was puzzled. Boatswain Mate Chief Clarence Ward Hollowell was a North Carolinian who brooked no opposition.

"Don't you see that little white triangle out they-uh? That could be a sailboat. There could be pee-pul in that boat. We don' take a chance with yooman laff. We're the Coast Guard. We're the Laffsavuhs."

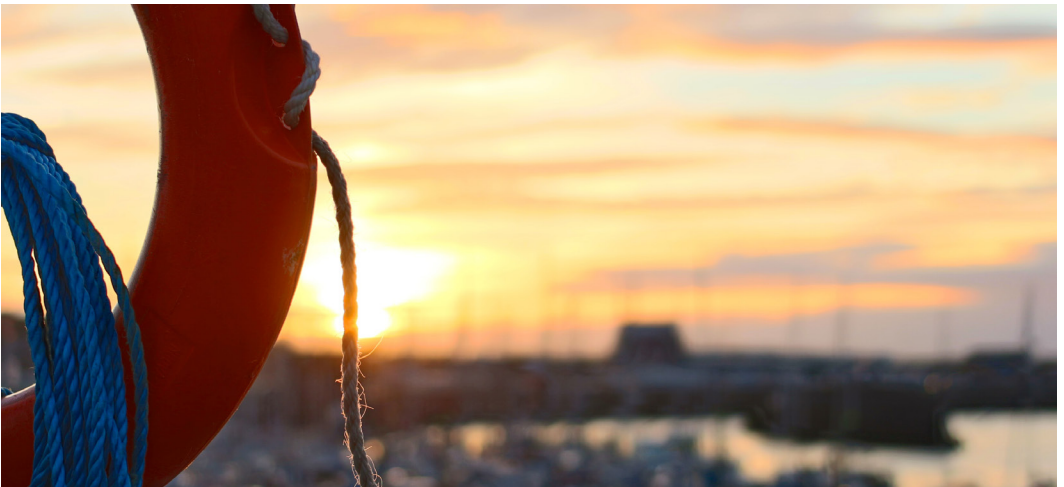
The small white triangle had to be ten miles off shore. All nautical charts clearly marked our firing range as "LIVE FIRE—stay away." And marine radio channels offered repeated warnings to all boats approaching the boot camp. Even so, Chief Hollowell's rage was unabated.

Only after the little white triangle disappeared over the horizon did Chief Hollowell order us to resume firing. I was so happy to score Expert Rifle and earn my ribbon.

I often return to that life incident. Human Life. We are the Coast Guard. The Lifesavers. We don't take a chance.

Four years after Cape May, I was working with the Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in *Roe v. Wade*. I remember that day—dreary, gray, cold.

The newspaper headlines blared the news of former President Lyndon B. Johnson's death. Only beneath the fold did I read about the court's overturning of all state homicide laws relating to unborn children.





Wait! Justice Harry Blackmun's majority opinion said: We cannot know when human life begins. And, therefore, we can authorize violence against the being in the womb.

We cannot know? Of course, we cannot *not* know. Everyone who has taken a high school biology course—as I had—knows when human life begins.

The American Medical Association certainly knew when human life begins. Their discovery of conception and embryonic development had led the AMA to lobby for more protective laws on abortion throughout the U.S. And that began in the 1850s.

The older rule of morality was that one invoked by my Boatswain Mate Chief Holowell. Take no chances if it's human life. Or if it may be human life.

That it is human life is incontrovertible. As TIME magazine columnist Joe Klein put it in 2012:

**“Ultrasound has made it impossible to deny that that thing in the womb is a human being.”**

Impossible to deny? There are U.S. administrations, political parties, campaigns, donors, and thousands of activists who base their entire lives on what is impossible to deny.

I was not a Christian believer when I went through Coast Guard Boot Camp. Nor, yet, when *Roe v. Wade* was handed down as I worked in Washington, D.C. But I had read the works of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

My Coast Guard shipmates saw me constantly carrying a paperback versions of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, *First Circle*, or *Cancer Ward*. They quizzed me: What can you possibly find of such interest in a Russian writer?

I told them of one line that struck me:

**One word of Truth can Move the World.**

Solzhenitsyn often quoted that Russian aphorism. He believed that. He convinced me that it was true. And I still believe that.

*Contributor Robert Morrison served in the Coast Guard and the Reagan administration. He says that he was led to faith in Christ reading the works of Solzhenitsyn.*



### Common Ground and a Way Forward

by Pastor Michael Salemink

We rejoice to receive *every* life as a gift and a privilege. This includes those confused about the sanctity of life. Their ideas and positions contradict the Word of the Lord and His will. To be sure, **“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ”** (2 Corinthians 10:5). However, **“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against...spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”** (Ephesians 6:12). So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us.

We do not need to prove them wrong or shut them up. The Eighth Commandment (**“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor”**) invites us to presume the best of them. It means we expect they do not know about the sanctity of every human life rather than that they do not care. If they come across defensive or aggressive, we interpret it as woundedness and not cruelty. We remain humbly aware of our own sinfulness and limitations. Our witness to them proceeds **“with gentleness and respect,”** offering **“an explanation of the reason for the hope that is in you”** (2 Peter 3:15). Our For-Life conversations and interactions avoid snark and sarcasm. Why beat into submission when we may winsomely persuade? We patiently cultivate relationship with dialogue rather than dispute, and we honor the sacred space they’ve shared with us through genuine questions and considerate listening.

Jesus ministered God’s grace by meeting people on their own terrain. He incarnated Himself in our flesh and our world and our concerns and our words. He explored the familiar Law and Prophets, and His parables applied to everyday experience. St. Paul the Apostle copied this posture in engaging the idolatrous Athenians (Acts 17:22-23). So as Gospel-motivated voices, we recognize that even disagreements offer a common ground and a way forward. The Lord Himself only ever says “No” because He says “Yes!” to something better (2 Corinthians 1:19-20). A few examples will undoubtedly inspire your creativity:

**Objection:** “The Bible doesn’t address abortion or physician-assisted suicide.”

**Common Ground:** “I totally agree with you that misinterpreting the Scriptures brings great harm.”

**Way Forward:** “What do you believe the Bible does say about the worth of a person? May we investigate together?”

**Objection:** “Embryos only amount to something subhuman like tissue, tumors, or parasites.”

**Common Ground:** “You’ve insightfully identified the most important matter about abortion—whether we classify the embryo as a living human being.”

**Way Forward:** “Perhaps scientific observations can give us some objective information about this.”

**Objection:** "Abortion poses less threat to a woman's life than childbirth."

**Common Ground:** "Thank you for your sincere concern about women's welfare in our community."

**Way Forward:** "Can we look together into the studies and statistics about the risks to women?"

**Objection:** "My body, my choice."

**Common Ground:** "I share your support for respecting the human body as precious."

**Way Forward:** "Can we consider the ways in which abortion might hurt human bodies and minds?"

**Objection:** "Abortions ensure equality, protect from poverty, and combat abandonment and abuse."

**Common Ground:** "And we absolutely must work toward safe and fair communities for everyone."

**Way Forward:** "Are we perhaps capable of better remedies for these problems?"

**Objection:** "Sexual assault survivors shouldn't have to carry the rapist's baby."

**Common Ground:** "We definitely have to discourage and discipline sexual assault vigorously."

**Way Forward:** "What do the survivors say they need for healing? How can we best allocate resources to serve them?"

**Objection:** "Better an abortion or assisted suicide than lifelong disability or relentless suffering."

**Common Ground:** "You're right that chronic disabilities and terminal diagnoses often come with great difficulties."

**Way Forward:** "Do you think persons with disabilities ever enjoy their lives? Do we have any less extreme or more effective measures than death for alleviating pain?"

**Objection:** "Pro-life people only care about babies before birth and ignore others in need."

**Common Ground:** "It's true that every human life deserves our attention and protection."

**Way Forward:** "Would you like to hear about ways the sanctity of life is motivating churches and charities to show even more compassion than state welfare programs?"

**Objection:** "In vitro fertilization and surrogacy give the gift of children to those suffering infertility."

**Common Ground:** "Infertility can cause intense distress, and every child comes as a tremendous gift and privilege."

**Way Forward:** "Do you think we're at all overlooking the sufferings that in vitro fertilization and surrogacy might be inflicting on the children themselves?"

**Objection:** "Opposing homosexuality and gender fluidity supports bigotry and bullying."

**Common Ground:** "No one should have to endure bigotry or bullying of any kind from anyone for any reason."

**Way Forward:** "Is it possible that someone might actually experience or express discomfort with these lifestyles because they result in or result from mistreatment?"

## God Chose Me

by Lynette Auch, President of National Lutherans For Life

I had never met Robert before the event, but there was something about Robert that drew me to him. I usually try to carry an extra Precious Feet pin with me, and I was moved to give one to Robert. As Robert received the pin in his hand and gazed at it, his eyes glossed over, and he seemed to fight tears. For a long moment, he was completely speechless. Finding his voice, he finally managed to say, "You have no idea how much this means to me," and gave me a big bear-like hug.



As Robert studied the pin and read the attached card, it was obvious that feelings and memories were flooding his heart and mind. I didn't push him for any details, but through his choked back tears, he couldn't find words to thank me enough.

Throughout the weekend event Robert, my husband, and I talked small-talk and exchanged contact information. About a week later, Robert called me and shared his story of how, regretfully, he had been involved in two abortions of his own children from a long-gone relationship. The timely Precious Feet gift, given to him at this special Christian event, helped him come to terms with his past, and with repentance, God brought forgiveness and healing into his soul that even allowed him to name his aborted children.

It was true, I did not realize the impact that this simple gesture would have on this precious new friend that God brought into my life. I will be forever humbled that God chose me and my simple gesture to help bring God's healing and peace to this man.

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

Those words are meant for every one of us. We should never cease to be amazed at God's gifts and timing to bear the fruit of God's love.

### Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

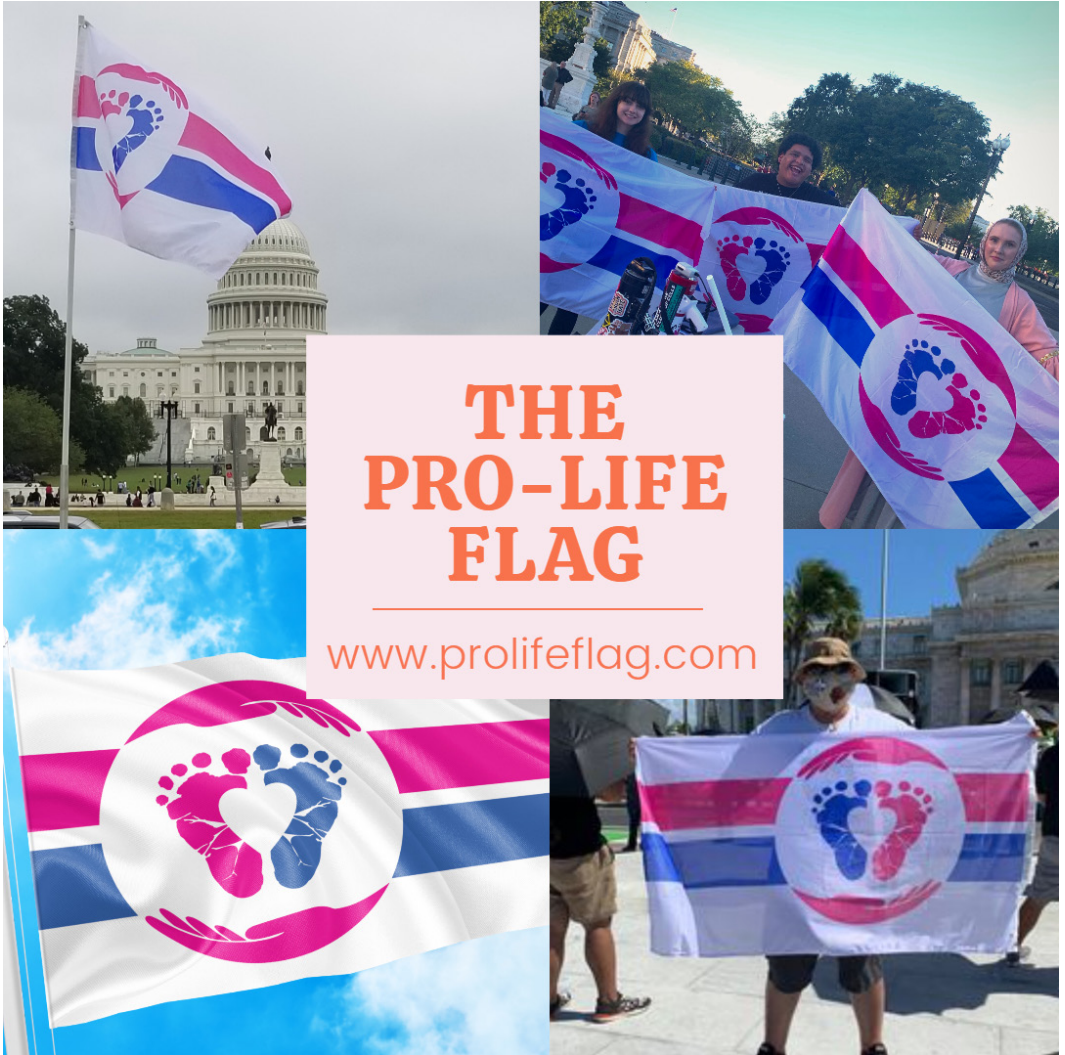
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, pardon,  
Where there is doubt, faith,  
Where there is despair, hope,  
Where there is darkness, light,  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,  
not so much to be understood as to understand,  
not so much to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.



## The Pro-Life Movement Has a New Pro-Life Flag!

In July, the Pro-Life Flag Project revealed the winning design: a mother's hands circled around a baby's footprints with two pink and blue stripes over a white background. Brazilian graphic designer Nanda Gasperini, of Sao Paulo, designed the winning flag. According to organizers, the white background on the flag represents non-violence and the innocence of the unborn child, while the baby's feet are based on the iconic Precious Feet pin, a symbol of the pro-life movement for decades. The pink hands surrounding the feet represent the pregnant mother protecting her child, and the heart between the baby's feet symbolizes the pro-life movement's love for both mother and child. The stripes emphasize that two distinct human lives are present in a pregnancy. They also form an equal sign, symbolizing human rights and equality for every human being. Organizers sought to create a recognizable flag similar to what other movements have done. (*Micaiah Bilger, LifeNews.com, 7/26/21*)



### What I Remember the Most

by Pastor Chris Brademeyer

September 13, 2021 – It was today, two years ago, that I laid my little girl into the cold ground. It wasn't the sleepless nights wherein we were feeding her every two or three hours by syringe pump that I remember most vividly. Nor is it the guttural scream Katherine uttered when Sophia passed away in her arms, the sort of cry of despair that only a mother can make when her baby's life is robbed of its expected fullness. It isn't the funeral that I recall most, even though people came from near and far to support us and to lay her to rest. I must admit, her 34 days are a blur of stress, work, sleeplessness, worry, joy, and thanksgiving. No, the thing I remember the most is the total and utter helplessness I felt when I watched her two grandfathers lower her casket into the ground. Grown, respectable men, holding back tears, faces contorted in pain, lips tightly pursed to keep their emotions in check; it is these stoic, heartbroken men kneeling on the damp earth in their best suits, to lower a small white casket into that merciless, uncompromising grave that sticks in my mind most vividly. They stooped down and, like the great greedy beast it is, that grave swallowed her little body, her little casket, never to give her up again.

Two years later, my precious little girl is just as gone as she was on that day. The hole in my heart is still there. The pain is still raw and sharp, though time has helped me to manage it more. Death took my little girl. It tried to steal her from me. If there is no antidote to death, then this life is absurd and meaningless, a farce forced on us by happenstance, cosmic accident, or some demonic god hell-bent on torturing us helpless human beings for its own twisted amusement.

Every year on this day, the memories flood in as fresh and sharp as if it was still that wretched day when I gave her away.

And it is on this day, every year, I remind myself that death has been put to death. The pain still lingers, the loss is still fresh and sore, but death has been put to death. And, through Jesus Christ, who has redeemed my poor little girl, my little Sophia, I know that we will reunite. Until then, this anniversary will wear on my soul like coarse sandpaper on a fresh wound.

But death has been put to death, sin has been destroyed. In their place, she, and all those in Christ, have been given righteousness everlasting.

She was born on August 7, 2019, to live a short, torturous life. She was born again by water and the Spirit in holy Baptism unto eternal salvation a day later. Today hurts. I think it will always hurt. But today doesn't get the last word. Jesus does. And, in Christ, there is no suffering or sorrow or pain anymore.

Until I see you again in the Resurrection, my little Sophia, *requiescat in pace*. Amen.



## A Gentle Whisper

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

**“The LORD said [to Elijah], ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave ...”** 1 Kings 19:11-13 (NIV).

Like Elijah, our lives are full of powerful, rock-shattering winds, earthquakes, and fires in the form of pandemics, political corruption, immorality, and lawlessness. Even the body of Christ has been infiltrated and weakened by apathy, spiritual blindness, and a deafness that tunes us out from God our Father. Can we hear God in all of this? It is very easy to hide in our cave when difficulties surround us. Like Elijah, it is very easy to say to our Lord, “Well, I gave it my best shot and look what happened to me. I give up.”

Praise God, He doesn’t allow us to whine very long! He doesn’t say, “Oh, you poor thing. You just rest here in this cave awhile.” Instead, He says, “Get up. Go stand out there and listen for Me.” What a great relief that is! What a blessing to hear His voice again. What joy to know that we are not the last one standing! He is waiting for us—outside our cave, outside our comfort zone. What an important reminder that we will not hear Him over the noise of the television, nor while texting and emailing, nor while hiding in daily busyness. We will hear His gentle whisper when we stand quietly, in faith, and listen.

Scripture reminds us in Psalm 46:10 to **“Be still, and know that I am God,”** and Mark 9:7 says, **“This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”** It takes a conscious effort to listen to Jesus. But, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can get up and go out to stand on the mountain, knowing His voice will find us.



### Our Mission: Love

by Hannah Nissing

More than once, I've heard the wistful remark: "If only we could all get along, like the animals do!" And on every occasion, I can't help but chuckle. Having grown up with a variety of animals, I can tell you that the animal kingdom is no peaceful utopia. The term "pecking order" is more than a figure of speech for chickens. You can tell who's lowest on the totem pole; they're in the corner, wobbling on skinny legs, shivering against the wind with tufts of feathers missing, left to fend for themselves against any hawks or raccoons that drop by. Just as there is no honor among thieves, there is no mercy among chickens.

These days, we're taught that humans are nothing more than highly developed animals. And when we believe that we exist by chance, that we just happened to evolve from a random microscopic organism, we may inevitably conclude that our life—all that we are and do and believe—doesn't matter. Rather than seeking to understand our purpose in life, we shrug our shoulders and say, "Why not act on my passions? Why not live in the moment? Nothing matters anyway, I might as well have a good time while I'm here." This selfish, nihilistic point of view strips life of value, leaving it devoid of rhyme and reason.

With this outlook, life becomes a game of "every man for himself" as we relentlessly pursue whatever we think will make us happy. Our neighbor becomes an extraneous player. After all, if our life doesn't matter, neither does theirs, right? Convenience is the name of the game. Why not let the elderly woman decide when she dies? She's suffering so much; it'd be kinder to end things. Plus, her family can't handle the bills. And why not get rid of that tiny baby before he's born? He wouldn't have a good life anyway; he'd only be a burden to his mother. Leave the chickens to the raccoons. After all, death is a part of life.

But death isn't a part of the life for which we were created—for we *were* created. You didn't morph from pond scum into an intelligent hairless monkey; you were handcrafted by the Lord of the Universe.

God created humanity to live forever in perfect harmony with Him. And when we messed it up, He didn't abandon us. He sent Jesus to take our punishment and give us the free gift of salvation, no strings attached. But God doesn't leave it at that. He doesn't say, "See ya at the pearly gates!" and go back to the angels' harp concert. He cares for us in this life, too, providing for our needs and giving us a peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Why does He do all this? Because He loves us. He created us in His own image. To make the cosmos, He spoke, and it popped into existence. But our creation was far more intimate. He formed man **"from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"** (Genesis 2:7). We're not sophisticated animals. We are the crown of God's creation, His precious children.

God further draws a line between us and the creatures by making us their caretakers, an authority to be used with good judgment and compassion. Outside of capital punishment (Genesis 9:6), He has given no such authority where human life is concerned;



that power rests with Him. Death is not a convenient option to be considered; it's not our choice to make in the first place. And that's a good thing! Who better to guard and keep our lives than an all-powerful God who loves us? As long as we have breath in our lungs, He has a purpose for us.

You have intrinsic value. And so does your neighbor, no matter how insignificant he or she may be in the eyes of the world. With this knowledge, our worldview shifts from egocentric to Christocentric. Our neighbor isn't a nameless background character in the story of our lives; Christ gave His *life* for that neighbor. We're called to love our neighbor, not leave him behind in the name of "survival of the fittest."

Love is our origin story and our mission. We were created by a loving God, redeemed by His self-sacrificial act of love, and called to love one another. God loves us; therefore, our life has value. God calls us to love; therefore, our life has purpose. And this, dear friend, is the greatest purpose.

*Hannah Nissing is a member of Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia, Nebraska.*



## **Can You Really Trust Such “Local” News?**

by James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James

**M**uch of what people know to be true is not, and much of what is always true they have forgotten. The best songs, writings, art, poetry, and hymnography remind us of what has always been true. Love is stronger than death. Pride goes before the fall. The wages of sin are death. Life needs sustaining graces, and virtue requires cultivation. God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, and his ways not our ways. (This was seen on Golgotha, which is why the Lord invites us to follow Him by carrying the cross, daily. Something we forget, daily.)

But even with less lofty “truths” that are not true, the above dynamic remains. Progressive people know that ancient and medieval people were not as smart as us moderns, that they thought the earth was flat, that they thought the earth was the center of creation and that made it central and most important, that Galileo was a pure scientist and the Church opposed science (not merely Galileo’s book), and that science liberated man from superstition and ignorance—or is trying to do so.

Progressive people also know that Darwin proved man arose by natural selection working on random changes occurring in organisms. Few know that many scientists of his day disagreed, more scientists after his day disagreed, and that even some agnostics and atheists don’t think his grand theory holds water or has ever been “proven” even in the sense that it is the best possible explanation for the empirical observations that we all agree have been made.

I have finally made a small dive into some of the contra-Darwin literature that explores the larger picture of Darwin’s times, his predecessors, current thought at the time, how his thinking fit into older ideas and prejudices—such as: God can’t possibly be involved in something as messy as “nature red in tooth and claw” or involved in the mundane creation of various species of butterflies, insects, trees, shrubs, and the entire planetary menagerie of animals and conservatory of plants. This was an argument relied upon by Darwin and, today, by Dawkins and company.

“What would God do?” If His ways are not our ways, then how would we know what He would do? As to God’s direct involvement in Creation, let’s go a step further and say that God is still directly involved in Creation:

**“If he should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust” (Job 34:14–15).**

**“For by [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16–17).**



Deism is not true, even if widely assumed to be true by most people who say they “believe in God,” based on the way they live. If God is not involved in the lives of the species, why would He micromanage or give a hoot about my “sexual activities”?

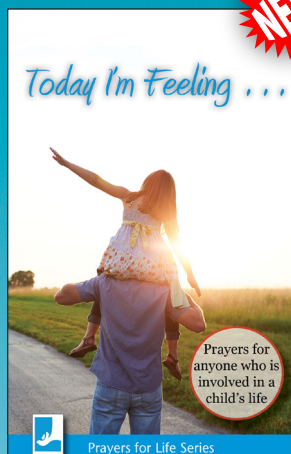
However, not only is God’s eye on the sparrow, His Spirit is the “Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who is everywhere present and fills all things, Treasury of blessings, and giver of life” to whom we pray, “Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every sin, and save our souls, O Good One.”

That’s just wishful thinking to modern man, who knows that God, even if real, is far away, outside the cosmos. He knows something not true. And we forget the truth that He is present, that what we do to the least of these little ones we do unto Christ, who is the Key to it all.

Richard Dawkins, in a “debate” with John Lennox, objected when Lennox spoke of the centrality of the Resurrection of Jesus. This gave the game away to Dawkins, to whom “science” as they had debated it was “grand and wonderful.” Having produced a scientific case using physics and the laws of the universe, Lennox “comes down to the Resurrection of Jesus [Dawkins says with disdain]: It’s so petty, it’s so trivial, it’s so local, it’s so earthbound, it’s so unworthy of the universe.”

He has forgotten what all men should remember, what is true: death is our enemy, not our friend. The Resurrection and re-heading of the Cosmos by Jesus is Good News, and hardly local.





**Today I'm Feeling ... Prayers for anyone who is involved in a child's life** – Please know that no matter how you are feeling today, you are never alone. *Item LFL306B. \$2.00 ea.*

**Is Abortion Allowed in Cases of Rape or Incest?** – Dr. Jean Garton takes a look at abortion in cases of rape and incest. *Item LFL132T. \$0.50 ea.*

Is Abortion Allowed in Cases of Rape or Incest?

by Dr. Jean Garton

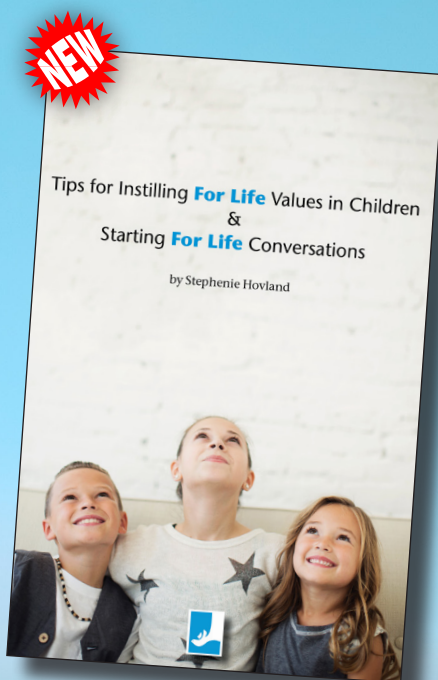


**Order LFL Resources at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040.** Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

## Tips for Instilling For Life Values in Children & Starting For Life Conversations

– So many people want to raise a family that supports life. Let's explore ways we can help our children and grandchildren, students and neighbors, grow up with life-affirming values. This booklet is a practical guide for each age level, from toddlers through middle-school-age children.

*Item LFL114T. \$2.00 ea.*





# New for Life Sunday 2022

Bulletin Inserts • Bible Study • Children's Message  
Worship Service • Sermons

## God Chose You ...

[lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2022](https://lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2022) • [www.cph.org](https://www.cph.org)

**The "official" Life Sunday is January 23, 2022. However, LFL materials may be used any time during the year.**

### Calling All For Life

**Supporters!** LFL is excited to announce a brand new multi-generational online and in-person opportunity: **Life Week 2022:**

**God Chose You.** Plan to join us each day from Sunday, January 16, through Saturday, January 22, 2022, to learn about, share, and build excitement For Life in your

home, church, school, and community! Each themed day will explore a distinct aspect of life ministry through local activities, fact sheets, and interviews. Top off the week in person or online with mountaintop experiences like the **March for Life** and **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**

Watch for more news on our Facebook page and [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)!



### 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).

**January 2 – Christmas II** – King Solomon acknowledged depending upon God like a little child. The Lord recognized it as wisdom and multiplied it (1 Kings 3:7, 10). Only Jesus sanctifying childhood by experiencing it Himself represents greater wisdom (Luke 2:40, 52). He extends this grace to gestating as an embryo – and finds favor with God for it. How delightfully Christian to treasure all little ones!

**January 9 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord** – The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth (Psalm 29:9). And does not His Word likewise will the conception of every child (Genesis 30:22)? He creates, redeems, and calls each one (Isaiah 43:1) even more precious than the other creatures. His incarnate Son displays His desire to claim every human life as His beloved son or daughter (Luke 3:22). That includes you, me, and all other neighbors!

**January 16 – Epiphany II** – God chose humankind in Christ Jesus. God chose you with the celebration of a wedding (John 2:11). God chose you with the love a husband has for his bride (Isaiah 62:4-5). God chose you and all offspring of Adam and Eve (Psalm 128:3). God chose you and every variety of human being, chose us into existence, chose us with forgiveness, chose us for making a difference (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

**January 23 – Epiphany III** – Did Nehemiah's people weep for gladness or grief at the Word of the Lord (8:9)? Were they ashamed or excited to hear how He values even the seemingly weakest among us (1 Corinthians 12:22)? Did they resist or insist on acclaiming and proclaiming His favor unto people of whatever abilities or impairments (Luke 4:18-19)? Will we let these gracious words of good news fall silent before the altars of abortion and assisted suicide?

**January 30 – Epiphany IV** – Physician-assisted suicide prizes autonomy. Abortion prioritizes “my body, my choice.” But Christlike love “endures all things” and “does not insist on its own way” (1 Corinthians 13:5, 7). Only this love, which speaks truth, shows hope, and shares joy, can unshackle hearts from the demonic deception of using death as a solution (Luke 4:35). The Gospel love of Him who knows all before any are born (Jeremiah 1:5) changes minds and saves lives.

**February 6 – Epiphany V** – Arguments for abortion or assisted suicide often appeal to emotion. Pity, pride, anxiety, anger, and embarrassment abound, but the logic is lacking. Discriminating against some human lives based on ages, appearance, or abilities just doesn't make sense. Engaging our brain instead of going with our gut (1 Corinthians 14:15) finds that all qualify equally as the work of the Lord's hands (Psalm 138:8). God set our lips loose to say so (Isaiah 6:7-8)!





**February 13 – Epiphany VI** – “Cursed is the one who makes flesh his strength” (Jeremiah 17:5) – don’t abortion and assisted suicide do exactly that? Humankind’s hope lies not in the skills or comforts of this life but in the Savior who imparts everlasting life to everybody (1 Corinthians 15:19, 22). Blessed indeed are those who heed not worldly counsels but hearken to the Lord’s words (Psalm 1:1) about human worth!

**February 20 – Epiphany VII** – The Lord Jesus Christ means to destroy all that threatens any human life (1 Corinthians 15:26). This absolutely includes those who participate in abortion. Almighty God finds their lives just as precious as the ones that were lost. His Fatherly love removes their transgressions just as far as ours (Psalm 103:12-13). What better way to bless them (Luke 6:27-31) than to speak of it courageously and compassionately?

**February 27 – Transfiguration of Our Lord** – In carefully creating every member of our race (Hebrews 3:4), God has given great grace and glory to the human body. The transfiguration of our Lord unveils and affirms it. Peter attempted to reserve it for himself (Luke 6:33), and abortion and assisted suicide share these unholy motivations. But Jesus showed the sanctity of life is for sharing with others – in fact, it’s the only hope worth boasting about (Hebrews 3:6)!



**March 6 – Lent I** – The fruits of the ground belong to the Lord (Deuteronomy 26:10); how much more the fruit of the womb! Children aren’t ours to do with as we wish. We must treat them even before birth as the Father Almighty wills. He holds every human life precious enough (Romans 10:12) to meet the needs of all our bodies (Psalm 91:5-6, 12). It’s an invitation for us to do the same.

**March 13 – Lent II** – The Savior who would “gather your children together” into His embrace (Luke 13:34) is the same Lord who “hears when I call to him” (Psalm 4:3). Can abortion really serve anyone better than this? Who needs to make a god of her own body (Philippians

3:19) when she may rest securely in the peace our Heavenly Father promises (Psalm 4:8)? Surely the Lord has sent us to speak these words (Jeremiah 26:15)!

**March 20 – Lent III** – No death, not even in physician-assisted suicide or embryo destruction, pleases the Lord God (Ezekiel 33:11). And these practices pose spiritual dangers as well as physical ones. So, He has commissioned each of us to warn our neighbors—and especially our brothers and sisters—against them (Ezekiel 33:7-8). We have not only the responsibility but the privilege of ushering them to a sacred escape (1 Corinthians 10:13)!

**March 27 – Lent IV** – Psalm 32 speaks to the relief, the healing, and the outright glee in having sins forgiven. When we neglect to address abortion, we deny that delight to consciences guilty and grieving over their part in it. And we deny ourselves the exhilaration of serving as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Let our advocacy for the sanctity of life be invitation to celebrate for the prodigal – and his brother (Luke 15:32)!

[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, January 10, 2022 – 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)



# Apex

LEGACY CONSULTANTS

Lutherans For Life partners with Apex Legacy Consulting to offer select supporters a comprehensive legacy planning program, which includes putting together an intentional plan that cares for heirs while also supporting charitable causes in the most tax-efficient way as well as the best ways to give here and now! Learn more at [apexlegacyconsultants.com](https://apexlegacyconsultants.com).

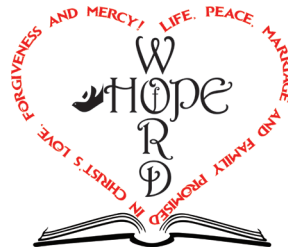


**Buying or selling a home or commercial property?** You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email [proliferealestate@yahoo.com](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com) for more information.

[www.realestateforlife.org](https://www.realestateforlife.org)

[lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](https://lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life)

**For those who have had an abortion, a Word of Hope ...**  
888.217.8679 • [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org) • [word-of-hope.org](https://word-of-hope.org)



Find Lutherans For Life on ...



### Are You 70 ½? Support Life Through an IRA Rollover!

by Monique Kleinhuizen, Apex Legacy Consulting

*Put down the checkbook and consider a more tax-efficient way of giving. Through an IRA rollover, you can give pre-tax dollars and make your donation go farther.*

I have a lot of fond memories of our first years as a married couple. My husband and I bought a fixer-upper that we renovated together as I began my career and he finished his degree. I remember my grandma taking one look at our new home and saying, without an ounce of irony, “Just burn it down!”

We traded in my husband’s SUV for a cheaper, more fuel-efficient beater of a car. We got really good at coupons and cheap dates and figuring out how to make ends meet.

I remember one month, money was particularly tight, and I told my husband the exact amount that we would be short on funds after paying our bills and tuition. The next day, a check arrived out of the blue from an older family member. The amount was within a few dollars of what we needed.

When we asked her about it, she happily told us that she didn’t need her retirement fund income that month, so it became her “blessing fund.” Here was a faithful woman who planned and saved and worked hard her entire life. She was in a unique position to ensure that people she loved, and causes she cared about, would be well-supported. And that day, the Lord showed us just one more amazing way that He provides: through faithful people that love Him and use all their resources to bless others.

People don’t know what they don’t know. In our work as legacy planning consultants, our first bit of advice to new clients is to consider *all* the ways there are to give charitably and to make the best selection for their age and stage of life. Anyone can write a check, but there are unique, more tax-efficient giving options available, too, especially for older donors!

Consider giving through an IRA Rollover, and you’ll decrease your tax liability while maximizing your gift to a charity like Lutherans For Life.

#### Why Give Through an IRA Rollover?

- If you’re over 70 ½, you’ll avoid income tax on transfers of any amount, up to \$100,000 per year per person, from your IRA to LFL.
- If you’re over 72, the gift may help satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- It reduces your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions!
- The gift is not subject to charitable deduction limits.
- Help further the mission of Lutherans For Life without using liquid funds.

#### How to Set Up an IRA Rollover Gift

- 1) Reach out to your IRA administrator to initiate a “rollover” gift. You’ll just need your account number, as well as LFL’s tax ID number (41-1374293).
- 2) Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to the Lutherans For Life ministry to help continue our important work.
- 3) Please contact LFL at 515-382-2077 or [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) if you’d like your gift to be used for a specific purpose.

## Our Neighbors

by Pastor Michael Salemink

For forty-three years we've equipped Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Our organization exists to help Lutheran individuals and congregations find motivation, get education, and take action to proclaim the sanctity of human life and put it into practice.

And it's making a difference.

As we engage Lutherans, we're encountering others also. Our Lutheran brothers and sisters are informing, inviting, and involving those around them. We're visiting Lutheran schools where non-Lutheran students also attend. We're exhibiting at conferences that involve both Lutheran and non-Lutheran participants. We are hosting online events that non-Lutherans are watching alongside Lutherans. We're fielding inquiries from non-Lutherans interested in our ministry's unique character. We're finding opportunities to collaborate with non-Lutheran national pro-life organizations. God's blessings are aligning our mission even more closely with 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 principles and approaches are not changing. Never will we dilute our doctrine or drift from our history. In fact, we believe we've actually honed our focus like a laser. And we remain committed to Lutherans as our primary target audience. We have many Lutheran leaders, members, and parishes to motivate, educate, and activate. But we rejoice that we are coming into contact with non-Lutherans through them and alongside them. We want to acknowledge this responsibility as integral to respecting, protecting, and celebrating every member of our race. We need our constituents to know they may collaborate with life-affirming acquaintances, organizations, and initiatives where they live. And with significant enthusiasm and unity, we've updated our mission statement for the first time in over a decade.

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans *and their neighbors* to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

We treasure our vocation and responsibility to serve Lutherans. We've witnessed you devoting yourselves to the vocation of serving all those our Lord causes to cross your paths. We pledge to not only continue but to intensify our serving and equipping you to serve and equip them.

**And we invite you to join in our delight at further dedicating ourselves to changing hearts and saving lives!**

### Long-Term Love

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

Our kitchen is under construction. As I write this, the company we're purchasing our countertops from has an employee measuring the tops of our lower cabinets. He's taking his time, making sure he's accurate, and asking questions about finish and overhang.

Two other men are present as well. Both are members of our church, and their expertise resides in interior design and construction. We've hired them to design and complete the massive overhaul of our kitchen, and I'm so thankful we did.

The truth is, I am woefully unprepared for this type of work. Not only am I physically incapable of lifting heavy cabinets into place, but I am also green and inexperienced when it comes to remodeling and construction. The men in my kitchen are experts. They're discussing  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch supports, dovetailing, and notching out trim. They're talking about bulkheads and toenailing, ledger boards and undermounted sinks. I'm embarrassed to admit it, but they're speaking a language I barely understand.

My naivete is profound; there is much learning and, as I'm discovering, much waiting to be done. Our kitchen remodel was scheduled for July, but because of supply shortages and unforeseen setbacks, we're still remodeling at the end of October. Today I was told to anticipate an additional eight weeks before the countertops are in. And then there's the matter of installing our backsplash and repainting. Merry Christmas? Maybe.

I've had lots of time to think about construction the last few months—to experience firsthand the planning and waiting, the destruction and rebuilding, the fine-tuning and craftsmanship. I am learning and relearning that remodeling is a long endeavor full of anticipation, setbacks, and joy in little things—like a kitchen sink, baseboards, and handles on cupboards.



"You did not choose me ...



The same is true of God's construction in my life. Leading a sanctified, holy, and God-pleasing life is yet another long endeavor that I am woefully incapable of carrying out. Yet God's labor of patience and love is not only constant, but fruitful. In my Baptism, He daily reshapes and refines me, mends my broken parts and dovetails me, once again, perfectly to HIM. There are setbacks for sure—all my doing—but His sanding smooths my rough edges. His flawless workmanship prepares and sustains me in all my vocations.

John 15:16 reminds us of what this molding and shaping is for. **"You did not choose me,"** Jesus says, **"but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide."** In our Baptisms, Christ reconstructs us into fruit-bearers; we are a chosen people sent to share sustenance that lasts. Because He fulfilled the law, we are freed to serve without fear, to uphold lives unabashedly because we have nothing to lose.

And it's happening. As director of **Y4Life**, I am often inspired by God's handiwork in our youth. Though still under construction like us, they are bearing much fruit, fruit that will last. I've included some of their stories in this edition of *LifeDate*—their service projects, their musings, and their joy in little things like diapers, and pumpkins, and walks through cemeteries. I hope they inspire you, too.

God has always been in the long-term business of saving His people and upholding their lives. And as He upholds, He remodels and reforms and refines for our good. **"Behold, I am doing a new thing,"** God speaks to us, His people; **"now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"** (Isaiah 43:19).

Waiting is difficult; in Christ, we have the now and not yet. But as we learn and relearn to wait on Him, we find joy in His good work and patient craftsmanship in our lives. Though under construction, God works through us to bless the world. May you find great joy in fruit-bearing as you faithfully wait on HIM.

... but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." (John 15:16)

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



### Created for Good Works

by Macy Froetschner, an Indiana high school student

Several months ago, God called me to take on an excellent project! He did so through my grandma. I was talking to her about the For Life movement when she mentioned how she wished she was more involved. I suggested that she buy a bag of diapers and donate it to her local pregnancy center. Then I had an idea! What if I collected supplies through my church and then donated them to a pregnancy center once a month? I found a center near me—Life Centers—and then created a proposal for my church's board—and waited.

As humans we like to believe that these things are in our control. We think that we are the ones who make service projects come to life, but we are wrong. It is God who works these miracles. As Ephesians 2:10 says, God created good works for us to do.

After I got approval from our church board, I decided to have a baby shower. I asked my congregation to bring in baby and toddler supplies. The generosity of my congregation reflected God's grace in our lives—one hundred and thirty-four items and one hundred dollars in cash! The next day we hurried the donations to our pregnancy center. The ladies there were extremely grateful. Now, donations from a small church in Indiana will show scared women the love and mercy of God and help them to choose life for their babies.

Protecting and valuing life is possible at any age or in any situation. The joy that radiates from the people who benefit from the service is unlike anything I could have imagined. I am so grateful for all the people who helped me, my congregation, and my pastor along the way. Above all I am grateful that God has chosen our little church to serve the women and families in our community. I did not do anything to make these things possible, but rather followed as God led the way. To God be all the glory.



## Pumpkins for a Purpose: Fall Fun For Life

In the spring, some students at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, approached Dr. Charles Schulz of the theology department about starting a Life Team on campus. This fall, while hosting a table on central campus, a number of other students came forward who were eager to support the For Life cause. The group settled on the name Cards4Life to connect it to the Y4Life movement among the other Concordia schools. They also decided to debut their organization with a pumpkin carving contest to raise funds for a worthy cause. God blessed their creativity with good success and good connections with the campus.

As they moved toward organizing the event, they found that the student services staff had already planned a pumpkin carving contest. However, they welcomed the student initiative and were glad to have Cards4Life take over the activity. Student Services then provided all the pumpkin carving tools and the reserved space on campus, as well as help with coordinating the logistics of storing and displaying the pumpkins. One of the Cards4Life students who commutes to campus from rural Michigan also asked local farmers for donations of pumpkins. Hearing of the cause, they were glad to contribute, and thirty pumpkins were soon tucked away for the event.

On October 5, students were invited to carve pumpkins for free and to select from a number of pro-life causes. From Wednesday through Friday, faculty, students, and staff on campus were then invited to vote for their favorite pumpkin, at a cost of \$.50 per vote. The pumpkin and the cause with the greatest votes would take the total of the contributions. Donations were also taken via Venmo.

In the end, \$382.50 was raised. Winning carvers, Ellie Fritch and Luke Neuhaus, were celebrated at the break between the first two quarters of the homecoming game that Saturday. The winning charity was Family Life Services of Ypsilanti, Michigan, a pro-life pregnancy counseling and resource center. With such a great beginning, Cards4Life is looking forward to the next work God will do through them For Life!





## Finding Hope in a Graveyard

by Bonnie Pool, former Y4Life intern

When I was in elementary school, my dad would often take me to visit Concordia Cemetery on Sundays while the rest of my family was in church choir rehearsal. C.F.W. Walther is buried there, along with many other Lutherans. We would walk down the rows, and my dad would point out names on headstones that he knew from LCMS history. Since then, I have loved taking time to walk through graveyards, especially those that belong to a parish. Recently, while on a walk with my husband, I made us ditch our paved trail to walk through a graveyard we were passing.

It may seem strange and a little morbid to enjoy walking among so many rows of headstones, under which so many rows of bodies lie. And of course, it is undeniable that there is something eerie and sobering about needing large plots of land set aside just to place our dead. Perhaps that's because, in our heart of hearts, we know death is wrong. Humans were created for immortality. And to stare death—that is, our obvious *loss* of that immortality—in the face is difficult, as it should be. But while cemeteries testify to our inescapable fragility and mortality, they also shake their fist at death, at sin, and at the power of the devil. It is like a big protest, each headstone a sign that says “Death doesn’t have the last word. Here is my baptized name, the name by which God knows me. He is coming back for me.” Or, if that is too much to fit on one sign, “Asleep in Christ” is a concise alternative.



The practice of a Christian is an expression of faith. It expresses our belief in the dignity of the human person, in eternal life, and most of all, in the resurrection of the body. Christians confess faith in the bodily resurrection, of which Christ was the first fruit, and our burial practice reflects that.

This is why I find cemeteries so comforting and encouraging. Walking through a graveyard is participating in a communion of saints, of a sort. To walk among Christian graves is to be among the bodies of people who, like you, believe they will be raised again. They believe their body matters. Each Christian grave is a testimony of a life of faith. You have more than only the witness of those you know today; you have more, even, than just the *words* of those who have died to strengthen your faith. You can go today and lay your hand on the headstones of Christians who have gone before you and see their faith for yourself. 150 years later, I can see with my own eyes C. F. W. Walther’s belief in the resurrection. This man, and all men and women who have died in the faith, are not simply people of the past. Their graves are right here, in our neighborhoods and on our church plots. Consider paying them a visit sometime, and let their faith strengthen your own.



## 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!*



**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=e6cfwdwab&oeidk=a07e1aaawg94d916590>

**Location:**

Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airport,  
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**

6-7PM: Registration and exhibits  
7-8PM: Gathering - Introductions, Devotions, Games,  
8-9PM: Life Conference Session  
9-10PM: Music, Sign-making, Exhibits and Social Time

**Friday**

8-9AM: Exhibits  
9-10AM: Pre-March Devotion & Directions  
10:30AM: Metro to March for Life  
11AM-4PM: March for Life (Rally, March, and Testimonials)

6-7PM: Exhibits, Social Time  
7-8PM: Music, Devotion, Post-March Discussion  
8-9PM: Life Conference Session

**Saturday**

8-9AM: Exhibits  
9-10AM: Y4Life Conference Session  
10-10:15AM: Break  
10:15 - 12PM: Y4Life Conference Sessions and Closing Worship

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)





## 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, 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 and their neighbors 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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**LifeDate**

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1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • ISSN 1098-5859

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# God Chose You ... Life Sunday 2022!

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