

# Lutherans For Life 2021 Impact Report



## From Invisible to Indispensable

by LFL President Lynette Auch

I never cease to be amazed by the whole procreation process. Every human life starts through an invisible—to the naked eye—process, and every minute detail is carefully orchestrated. One little glitch in the process of human development (e.g., Trisomy 21, Down syndrome) or traumatic event occurring during the labor and delivery process can lead to lifelong struggles. With all that can happen during a pregnancy, labor, and delivery of a child, only our designer and Creator God could possibly see it through safely.

An obstetric unit, my area of nursing expertise, can be similar to an emergency room, as one never knows what emergent problem may arise during a woman's pregnancy. Therefore, there is not a shift when I don't say a silent prayer for God's presence, guidance, courage, wisdom, strength, discernment, and compassion to help me in my service to the patients in my charge. I also pray for the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus to anyone whose life I may touch. I admit, I am not always the Christian example that I want to be as people and circumstances can be very challenging. One thing is for sure, every day provides a new story or adventure to live through and observe and learn from as I try to care for God's precious, created human lives.

Blaine Liebnow is one of those precious, created human lives. He was born four and a half months premature on August 13, 1989, weighing one pound, three ounces and was diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy due to a lack of oxygen to his brain at birth. Blaine's family knew he would be born disabled, but the doctor's offer of abortion was not an option for them, for which Blaine is eternally grateful.

Blaine spent most of his childhood going to speech therapy and going through surgeries and physical therapy. Despite these efforts, he requires a wheelchair for mobility. But this did not stop Blaine. He attended grade school and high school, participating in various activities, and even was selected by his school to participate in the South Dakota Boys State civics program. As an adult, Blaine volunteers work in disability awareness.



**“On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable”  
(1 Corinthians 12:22).**

Just like Blaine's life was invisible and weak, every invisible and weak little life is created and ordained for a purpose by God.

**“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb  
... Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in  
your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:13-16).**

And, just like Blaine's life, every human life—no matter size, level of development, environment, or degree of dependency—is indispensable in fulfilling God's plans.

**“‘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).**

Lutherans For Life exists to help educate Lutherans and their neighbors on the preciousness of every human life from conception to natural death, and to proclaim and demonstrate the love, hope, and saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to all who will hear.

## From Pastor Michael Salemink

Thank you for supporting and celebrating 2021 with us! From the West Coast Walk For Life (January, San Francisco) to the *Dobbs v. JWHO* hearing rally (December, Washington, D.C.), our forty-fourth year of ministry has witnessed a succession of firsts:

- Our first ever Life Week in January leading up to Sanctity of Human Life Sunday—daily devotions, life-issue fact sheets, activity suggestions, personal testimonials, and educational presentations
- Our first ever Word of Hope assistant (Deaconess Pamela Buhler)
- Our first ever Virtual Walk—Step Up 4 Life in May and June with hundreds of participants and over \$27,000 raised
- Our first ever regional conference in Las Vegas (at Faith Community LCMS in Summerlin), along with our two others at Living Word AFLC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and St. John's LCMS in Conover, North Carolina
- Our first ever Life Team in New York as well as new Life Teams in Indiana and Texas, and new Y4Life Teams at Concordia University Texas and Metro East Lutheran High School in Illinois
- Our first ever mobile app—Lutherans For Life resources and events on your smartphone

Also, we produced online resources (Chats4Life, What about ... Mondays?, For Life Live, Life Matters, Life Moments, Life-Minded podcast); Life Sunday congregational worship materials ("From Invisible to Indispensable," 1 Corinthians 12:22); new booklets (*Tips for Instilling Life Values in Children*; *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: A Life Worth Grieving For*; *Today I'm Feeling: Prayers for Anyone Involved in a Child's Life*; *Supporting Families New to Disabilities: Fertilization to Year One*); an updated mission statement ("to equip Lutherans and their neighbors"); and a GuideStar 2021 Gold Seal of Transparency (for financial accountability). We'll see you in 2022!



## 2021 LFL Regional Conferences

The Lord blessed LFL again in 2021 with three regional conferences. We are thankful for the enthusiasm and generosity in allowing us to use their facilities for this purpose.

The first conference was held on August 21 at First Community Lutheran Church in Summerlin (Las Vegas), Nevada. On October 16 we were at Living Word Free Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A third regional conference took place at St. John's Lutheran Church in Conover, North Carolina. Each conference focused on the theme "God Chose You" based on John 15:16: **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."** Live stream recordings are on the LFL website and YouTube. The Lord continues to bless LFL by allowing us to provide uninterrupted conferences during difficult times. Our faithful participants, both in-person and online, demonstrated the dedication to life ministry and our need to continue providing educational and equipping opportunities.



## 2021 Front Lines

The "two-week-to-flatten-the-curve-shutdown" of 2020 ran throughout 2021 in pandemic uncertainty—but God continues to love life through YOU! Frontline groups did more with less throughout 2021. New Life Teams were formed. New Life Chapters were explored. Existing Frontline groups dug in, got busy, and re-affirmed LIFE through projects and activities sharing the Gospel-motivation of being a Lutheran For Life. Frontline inquiries increased in 2021. Watch as the Lord of the Church blesses these inquiries to fruition in 2022! New initiatives like Life Week 2021 and the first annual Step Up 4 Life fundraiser encouraged increased team and chapter activity. Additionally, hundreds of bottles were filled with change, thousands of diapers were collected and distributed, and scores of pregnancy resource centers and adoption service agencies were supported through your efforts. "For Life Live" continued throughout 2021 on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. CT. This adds to the myriad of life-affirming educational events that LFL offers online and through our web archive! The series continues in 2022. **"May the Lord give strength to His people! May the Lord bless His people with peace!"** (Psalm 29:11)

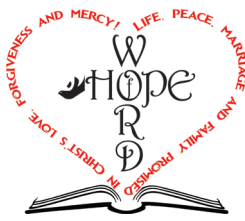




## Word of Hope

The most influential change for Word of Hope in 2021 was the addition of a part-time assistant, Deaconess Pamela Buhler. The process of training and supervising Pamela revealed the need to develop training materials, assessment measures, and a formal process for open communication. Pamela's fresh perspective and enthusiasm greatly contributed to the successful implementation of the operational plan. Word of Hope maintained a busy year on the hotline (888.217.8679) with a slight increase from 2020 (1174 contacts) to 2021 (1209 contacts). (The accurate number of contacts for 2021 is unknown and higher than reported due to data loss in the software program. However, the true number of contacts is unlikely to be a significant increase from 2020 since a portion of data was recovered.) More important than the number of contacts were the range of people and variety life issues addressed through Word of Hope. Both men and women, from children (0-5 years) to older adults (over 65 years) were served by the hotline. Spiritual guidance and referrals were offered for numerous life issues including, but not limited to abortion, suicide, shame and doubt, loneliness and isolation, physical and sexual abuse, forgiveness and reconciliation, marriage, parenting, fear, depression and anxiety, hope, surprise pregnancy, and end of life decisions. The expanding needs of people contacting the hotline further emphasized the necessity for a plan that will guide Word of Hope and focus the use of resources as we continue to serve Lutherans and their neighbors.

[word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org)



## Y4Life

We began the year with Life Week 2021 and an online version of Y4Life in Washington, D.C. Our theme, "You Are Indispensable," provided youth with countless opportunities to affirm life. Our hashtag, #AskMeWhy, resonated deeply with youth. Spring activities included lots of online presentations and engagement including Chats 4 Life, where they learned about life issues from various expert speakers, and on "What about Mondays?," an open forum for discussion and questions about contemporary life issues. Spring also brought the return of the Y4Life College Leadership Retreat. That weekend in Nashville, a brand new Y4Life Team was born! Concordia Texas received training and officially started Tornadoes 4 Life! Summer brought lots of firsts for Y4Life! We hired two part-time interns, finalized our Y4Life operational plan, and developed an eight-week apologetics course that was kicked off during Y4Life Apologetics Bootcamp this summer. Y4Life presented and/or exhibited at three Higher Things conferences, an LCMC gathering in Texas, the National '21 Church Workers' Conference, and the National LWML conference in Kentucky. Finally, the fall and winter months brought even more Y4Life Teams—Concordia Ann Arbor and Wittenberg Academy—and the new C4L initiatives! Classroom visits in Nevada, Nebraska, and South Dakota; participation in Beautiful Feet and the Connections Conference; and a quick trip to D.C. for the Dobbs hearing kept Michelle busy. May God bless the work He has planned for 2022!



[y4life.org](http://y4life.org)

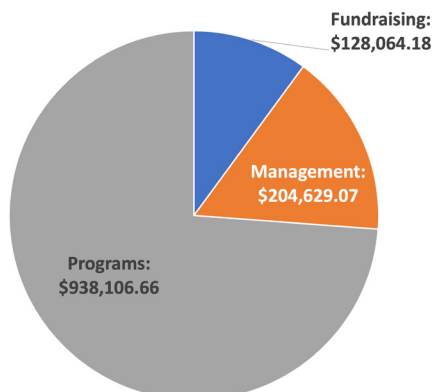
2021 Operational Expenses

### Income – 2018, 2019, 2020

2018 Income	\$1,198,301
2019 Income	\$1,266,752
2020 Income	\$1,160,521

### Expenses – 2018, 2019, 2020

2018 Expenses	\$1,151,871
2019 Expenses	\$1,217,336
2020 Expenses	\$1,167,067



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

Your prayers and financial support are important to us!

[lutheransforlife.org/donate](http://lutheransforlife.org/donate)



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

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Dcs. Pamela Buhler – *Word of Hope Assistant*

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