



Lutherans For Life of Illinois

Affirming Life In Illinois

Survivor: An Abortion Survivor's Surprising Story...

When I first heard Claire Culwell at the 2019 March for Life Chicago Rally, I wanted to know more about her. She shared these three reasons why she was life-affirming at the MFL Rally: 1) Her mother, 2) Her sister and 3) Her daughter." She went on to say that because she was a twin, "you could see the face of abortion when you looked in her face because it would have looked like her aborted sister's face." In her Survivor book Claire makes it clear that she did not let her pain define her. In March of 2009 at age 21 Claire met her birth mother for the first time. At a future visit with her birth mother she found out that her birth mother tried to abort her and her twin. Her twin died in the abortion. Claire survived. Claire forgave her mother! They became friends in time. In public speaking engagements Claire would also share how God forgave her repentant birth mother for aborting her twin. Claire met Coalition for Life members in front of a Planned Parenthood clinic in College Station, Texas near where she lived. After hearing her life story, they

encouraged her to put together a flyer about her life as a hand-out. When Claire went into the Coalition for Life office, she met Abby Johnson. Abby had resigned from Planned Parenthood the week before and was working with the Coalition for Life. Reserved Claire didn't plan to become an activist. The more she read the Bible and prayed about what God had in mind for Claire in this For Life movement, the more she was moved to get involved. "Some days I prayed alongside my three friends from the coalition: Abby Johnson, Heather and Karen. We grew closer as we spent time on the sidewalk, at meetings, at outreach events, or enjoying lunch together" (page 85). Slowly she shared her story in smaller venues and then larger venues, like the Deaconess Pregnancy and Adoption of Oklahoma City's big banquet to raise funds for its operation. Claire became one of the poster women For Life, along with Abby Johnson. Claire was attached by the pro-abortionist movement. Abby Johnson was not only her good friend, but also her chief supporter when Claire was attacked by pro-abortionist leaders. Abby mentored Claire as a national

speaker For Life. Abby was especially there for Claire after she had an unplanned pregnancy as a single woman before she was married to the father with whom she has four children.

"Whenever someone asks what I think pro-lifers should be doing in their fight against abortion, I always respond with four things:

1. Speak the truth...
2. Offer help instead of insults...
3. Offer to help them through the process of saving babies lives....
4. Encourage them..."

(p.151).

PRAYER: Lord, empower us to keep focused on You and Your mission for us. Move us to take a stand For Life, remaining undistracted, enduring, on-going. Give us perseverance to run the race of life and finish well.

Book Review by
Pastor David Bottorff
President, Lutherans For Life of Illinois

Loving them Both in 2022

Loving mothers and children, loving Fathers and families, loving our neighbors as ourselves, loving as He first loved us...none of these things has become easier with the start of a new year!

This new year and this month of remembering Love, I am praying for each of you our readers, that the endless, overflowing

love of God will abound in your lives to such an extent that you will find real joy in your journey as a Gospel-motivated voice for Life. Even in the face of global anti-life incidents, of continuing disheartening legislation both in our state and country, I pray that the certain knowledge that God is greater than any adversary and that He is for Life and "for" YOU, will overflow into your

life and bless your community with a renewed sense of God's love and power to preserve his gift of Life!



—LL

Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 2022

Save the date, Illinois

- * **February 17.** Give a Little Love, Orland Park, IL
- * **March 2,** 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils, Various Locations

Inside this issue:

Chapter News	2
National Conference	2
Essay Contest	3
Life Team News	4
Ideas to Speak for Life	5
Pregnancy Centers	6
March for Life Chicago	7
Pray with us!	8

Life Comes in Chapters

A **Life Chapter** is a group of committed Lutherans (both laypeople and pastors alike) from a specific region who look for opportunities to equip their churches to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This is done by organizing educational opportunities and outreach events to serve both their churches and the surrounding communities. A Life Chapter is chartered by National Lutherans For Life and, therefore, is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc. Life Chapters receive remittance funds quarterly based on donations that

have been sent to the national office. To find out more about starting a Life Chapter, contact Rev. Jeff Duncan, Mission & Ministry Director at

jduncan@lutheransforlife.org

Or by calling 316.708.0791.

This information comes from the Lutherans for Life website.

Pray for all of our Chapters, as they determine how best to speak for Life. May God guide them in ways that meet the current needs of their own communities for Gospel motivated voices for Life!



Find a Chapter

Coles County Chapter LFL

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month
At St. John's Mattoon
Contact: Velma Price,
217-246-2553

Dupage County Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
Contact: Beth Kraegel,
630-279-0041

Four -S Chapter LFL

Meets 2nd Tues of Month
At member homes
Contact: Dale Wetherell,
dwet@hofnetinc.com

Heartbeat Chapter LFL

Meets quarterly
At Trinity, Roanoke
Contact: Trinity, 309-923-5251

Illinois Valley Chapter LFL

Meets via email and as needed
At Salem Lutheran, Jacksonville
Contact: Libby Nobis,
217-491-3026

McHenry County Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
Contact: Genny Hertel,
815-568-8425

Metro East Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
Contact: Ruth Walther,
618-277-5744

New Hope Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
At Faith or Calvary in Watseka
Contact: Lowell or MaryAnn Cluver,
815-383-2339

Northwest Suburban Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
At St. Peter Lutheran, Roselle
Contact: Greg Frey,
630-215-3062

Peoria Area Chapter LFL

Meets 4th Monday of the month
At Bethel, Morton
Contact: Robert Wegner,
309-481-4886

Southwestern Illinois Chapter LFL

Meets via Facebook & email
Contact: Jennifer Roscow,
618-972-5366

Will County Chapter LFL

Meets as needed
At St. Peter's, Joliet
Contact: Kelley, Riley,
815-723-9158

2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference - BLESSED FOR LIFE

- Blessed with the gift of life.
- Blessed by God for one's entire life.
- Blessed to be a blessing to others.
-

Lutherans For Life national and 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference

October 21-22 | All day Friday until
Saturday at noon.

Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities)



Blessed For Life

"... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." Psalm 41:2

LFL Youth Essay Contest—Not just for English Class



State Essay Contest 2022

It's not just abortion, but honoring all life and the giver of life!

Pastors, this would make an incredible exercise for your confirmation classes! Let them choose the life topic about which they are passionate and write a personal essay, incorporating Psalm 41:2. If the rubric is overwhelming, just give them a list of the things on which their essay will be critiqued.

Teachers. If essay-writing was before this came out or after he deadline, consider using the essay with a social studies unit, a science unit on human development, or in your religion class on the commandments, creation, or the first article and the need to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Parents, this might give you a great reason to sit down with your children and discuss life issues. Why not ask them which life issues are most important to your own family? Do we

have an adopted family member? Do we have a family member with a disability or an elderly relative for whom we care? Challenge your kiddos to try their hand at writing out their thoughts about it in the form of an essay. Your pastor can submit the essay for your child.

The LFL State Federation Essay test is for students in Grades 6 through 12. Any student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation (e.g. confirmation class, youth group) when validated by a pastor or teacher.

For 2022, students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme "Blessed for Life" based on Psalm 41:2: "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies."

Attached to the email that brought you this newsletter is an entry form for the Illinois Lutherans for Life Youth Essay Contest. Your child's

English teacher does not need to assign this for them to participate! Any Lutheran student in grades 6-12 may write an essay for the contest. If you have an English teacher who is willing to guide your student in the process, that is great. But if not, they can still take part by following the guidelines attached.

If the student in your life has not yet had instruction in writing an essay, you can find help online at your dictionary.com. Here is the web address:

<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/writing/how-to-write-an-essay.html>

Beyond this help with the mechanics of essay writing, students can talk to parents, Pastor, Youth Group Leader, or their Teacher to get guidance with content. Above all, students will want to write about the life issues that they personally find most compelling.

The deadline for getting your entry submitted is April 1st...no joke!

Let's pray for our young people as they consider the case for Life! May God use the essay writing process to help clarify their thinking and to provide them with a solid Scripture-

Praying for our Supreme Court

In First Corinthians 13: 9-12, we read:

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

There have been many calls to pray as our Supreme Court considers *Hobbs vs. Jackson*. I don't know about you, but I find it more difficult to pray for abstractions than for real, knowable people. We all recognize the picture of our Supreme Court with the pillars and steps, but how do you pray for that version of the Supreme court? Rather, we pray for the 9 Justices who make up the supreme court. These are 9 people made by God,



loved by God, and placed by God to bring their particular gifts to service in the name of justice. Let's pray for them, that God would fulfill His purposes through them and that He would turn their hearts to understand the pleas of the voiceless!

I find we really do only "know" them in part...usually a long list of schooling, prior service, and decisions they have rendered. Here is a little more to know. I hope it reminds us that they are real people in need of our real prayers!

John G Roberts was raised Catholic, played high school football, and has two adopted children.

Clarence Thomas was raised Catholic, originally considered entering the priesthood, and is a huge NASCAR fan.

Stephen G. Breyer was raised Jewish, has 3 children, and is an Eagle Scout.

Samuel Alito, Jr. was raised Catholic, has 2 children, and is a Philadelphia Phillies baseball fan.



Sonia Sotomayor was only 9 when her father died, was raised Catholic and found her first hero in Nancy Drew.

Elena Kagan is Jewish, loves literature, and has gone hunting with Justice Scalia in order to better understand those who protect 2nd amendment rights.

Neil M. Gorsuch attends the Episcopal church, has two children and enjoys, skiing, fly fishing, and biking.

Brett Kavanaugh was raised Catholic, has two children, and ran the Boston Marathon in 2010 and 2015.

Amy Coney Barrett is Catholic with 7 children, two of whom are adopted from Haiti. She enjoys running and tailgating with family at college football games.

Let's pray God would use these people to bring justice for the unborn! Let's consider each of them and their needs, praying God would meet those needs and turn their hearts to the children and families who will be impacted by their decisions. May each find a strengthening of their faith and belief in God who alone gives the gift of Life!

Go Team!

A **Life Team** is a group of committed Lutherans from an individual church who look for opportunities to equip their congregation to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This is done by organizing educational opportunities and outreach events to serve both their church and the surrounding community. The Life Team becomes part of the congregation's structure, much like a mission team or evangelism committee. Lutherans For Life sells "Life Team Tool Kits"

for \$30 plus shipping and handling to help a congregation start such a team at their church. To find out more about starting a Life Team, contact Rev. Jeff Duncan, Mission & Ministry Director at jduncan@lutheransforlife.org or call 316.708.0791.

Virginia Flo and Dr. Barb Geistfeld serve as the Lutherans For Life **Regional Directors** in the states of Minnesota and Texas, respectively.

By talking to pastors and congregational leaders all over their states, they work to educate Lutherans on a wide variety of life topics. They also serve as the advocates for Life Teams and Life Chapters, helping Lutherans establish these groups and encouraging those groups already in existence.

(From the Lutherans for Life website)

**For the love
of Life!**



Life Team on the go...



Trinity Roselle's LFL team has an event planned after service next Sunday. Our team and the

youth group will be assembling 50 "Mom Care packages". They will be wrapped as a gift for Moms and Dads. The present will be given to them at their first visit to a Care Net baby bank. This event was planned for April 2020 and of course was cancelled.

Our team is excited to finally have this event. Our goal is to welcome parents who chose life and also to share the pro-life message with the youth. We will show the LCMS

video, "Window to the womb", and show short video, S.L.E.D. *size, location, environment, degree of development; here's a link: <https://www.facebook.com/focusonthefamily/videos/the-sled-test-proves-that-preborn-babies-are-humans-too/10154088130263520/>)

Please pray for our group. We pray we will have discussion and are able to share with gospel motivated voices.

—Ginny Milas

40 Days for Life

The next 40 Days for Life Campaign begins with Lent. It takes a bit of sacrifice to show up and pray for Life at a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil. You may wonder if it is worth the effort. With that in mind, here are some of the high points from vigil sites here in Illinois last fall.

Fairview Heights, IL

Just as the mid-point rally was about to begin, a couple approached the group who had gathered for the rally and started talking with the prayer volunteers. This couple had only moments before been in the Planned Parenthood parking lot. But while sitting in their car, the woman looked up and saw a picture of a baby. Her heart sank with what she was about to do, and her mind began to change. The couple then drove out of the parking lot and right over to the pro-life group.

What a beautiful witness to this couple were the beautiful, warm,

and friendly prayer volunteers! They received a free ultrasound at the mobile medical unit and were seen smiling and full of joy all the way out of the parking lot. Rather than going to get an



Pastor Jeffery Nehrt of Our Redeemer, Greenville proclaiming the Gospel as one of the speakers at the 40 Days for Life mid-point rally at Planned Parenthood in Fairview Heights, Illinois on October 16. Pastor Nehrt is part of the Southern Illinois District's Prison Ministry.

abortion, the couple smiled and said they were going to go get lunch!

Aurora, IL

This is the story from one of the prayer warriors that was praying on the hill: The driver rolled down his window and motioned me to come over... It was an older man in the car with his daughter in the back seat. I went over, and asked him what could I do to help. He asked me if I was there with the others praying. I said yes. He motioned to the young lady with him and said - **when she saw you all there, she couldn't go through with it. He told me - you people out here DO make a difference.** ... I bent down a bit and told her she was doing the right thing and that I will be praying for her.

This prayer warrior also gave her information about where she could get Life-Affirming help. You could do this, too! It is worth it!

(from multiple sources, via Pam Meister & Laura Laesch)

Celebrating Life with Children

If you are planning a Life Event involving children, here is an activity they might enjoy that will also help convey the message that life is valuable in a gentle, child-friendly way.

This is a different twist to the old game "musical chairs". It will require some advance preparation.

Advance preparation:

1. Gather together a number of rocking chairs. Members of your Life Team, Chapter, or Congregation may be willing to lend one for the event, so this needn't be expensive.
2. You will need something to play music that can be started and stopped.
3. Gather together a number of dolls. These should come from second hand shops, thrift stores, or rummage sales.
3. Print some little cards on your computer that read:

Congratulations!

The doll baby you are holding

Is yours to keep!

She was found abandoned and un-cared for in a second hand shop. Now that you are there to care for her, have fun with her! We hope that she will remind you to pray for real live children

Who need safe, loving homes.

Ask God. He will answer!

Set up for the game:

Place the rocking chairs in a circle. Place several of the dolls randomly on rocking chairs. Have someone run the game by explaining the rules, starting and stopping the music. A helper needs to be ready with the cards.

How it works:

When children are seated in the rocking chairs, start the music. When they hear the music, they get up and march around the outside of the circle. Doll babies must re-

main on the chairs where they were originally placed. When the music stops, children rush to a chair and have a seat, picking up and rocking the baby if they have a chair where a baby is. Start and stop the music several times, then ask the children who are holding dolls to leave the game. The helper gives them the card and they discover that the doll is theirs to keep. Children may play multiple times, but may win only once.

Reset and allow any waiting children to join. The game continues until you've run out of dolls, or every child has one. —LL



Honoring the Creator of Life: Creation Fair Ideas

If people don't recognize that God has created Life, they are not as likely to understand that it is His to begin and end.

A speaker is one thing you would probably want to have at your fair. If your pastor would like to present the apologetics of Creation, that would be wonderful. You could also consider having a scientist with a creationist point of view present. You can contact speakers through the Midwest Creation Fellowship, if you would like to locate such a scientist. The link to their website is:

<https://midwestcreationfellowship.org/pages/misc/speakers.php>

Interactive booths can be developed for your Creation Fair. Here is one that our Life Team at Cross Lutheran, Yorkville employed at a Creation Fair:

Materials needed are a laptop computer with a 90 second PowerPoint presentation of trees, nothing but trees; a script for the person running the booth, based on Genesis 2:9, temperature sensitive "dots" and a poster explaining the dots. Here is the script we used:

Trees: "Pleasant to the Sight" Genesis 2:9

We don't need science to prove the Bible, because we know that God never lies. But good science does agree with the Bible. Recently a scientist at the University of Illinois wanted to know what effect landscaping might have on human stress levels. They had people view 6 minutes of video of various neighborhoods and measured their stress levels. People who viewed neighborhoods with 62% tree coverage had their stress drop by 60%!

They discovered the Bible is right: when God created trees, he made them pleasant to our sight. The scientists used several different methods to test stress levels. You can try one of them now. Put the stress dot on your finger tip. What color is it? Now watch the power point presentation with the trees. It takes about one and a half minutes. Did the color of your stress dot change? Check the poster to see what the colors mean. The dot is yours to keep. It should work for about 6 weeks. When you find yourself stressed, look at some trees or think about some trees and remember that God created the trees for your pleasure because He loves you so much.

—LL

Life Quotes and Life Thoughts...A simple way to speak for Life

Does your church have a newsletter that goes out to congregation members on a regular basis? Most of our churches do have some regular form of communication already set up. One of the easiest ways I can think of to encourage one another in a "For Life" world view is to include a Life Quote or Life Thought in each issue. You don't have to do the legwork, as Lutherans for Life has done it for you,

compiling a list of Life Quotes and a list of Life Thoughts for the whole year. You can download a list (or your church secretary can, if that is who puts together the church newsletter) and have those quotes saved right where they would be handy for use. If your publication has gone paperless, you can copy and paste from the list.



If you have not been all that involved in church communications, why not go to your pastor and ask if this might be something that could bless your church? If you are the pastor or in a leadership position, and have been wanting to speak for Life in a simple way, this might be it.

The lists are available from LFL at <https://lutheransforlife.org> under the "resources" tab.

40 Days for Life Downers Grove...Help Wanted!

Dear Friends in Life,

The Spring 40 Days for Life will begin on Wednesday, March 2nd. I am looking for a volunteer to be a co-leader with me. Some of the duties include: contacting churches to see if they would reserve a whole day to pray at Access, sending out e-mails and bulletin announcements, helping with the 'Opening' and 'Closing' ceremonies, and helping to fill the daily schedule.

Please let me know if this is something you feel moved to help with.

Thank you so much and may God bless you,

Caron, 40 Days

Downers Grove Leader

40daysDG@gmail.com

"Speak Up For Those Who Cannot Speak
For Themselves"
-Proverbs 31:8



"Because you were there, I changed my mind. I was looking for a sign from God"... and Baby David was born!

You can be that sign from God! Join us to pray for moms and their babies during a 40 day prayer vigil. Select the same hour to pray each week or different hours whenever you can. Another option would be to sign up your church for an entire day or even half a day to pray. Or if you can't join us, pray from home.

When: Wednesday, March 2nd to Sunday, April 10th
7AM to 7PM daily
Location: Access Health Center 1700 W. 75th St., Downers Grove

Sign up anytime online at: www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove

Upcoming Life-Affirming Events around the State

Living Alternatives, Bloomington:
Walk for Life, April 30, 2022. More info at:

[Bloomington Donor Events - Living Alternatives](http://pregnancyresourcecenter.org/Bloomington-Donor-Events-Living-Alternatives)
pregnancyresourcecenter.org

Living Alternatives, Champaign.
Walk for Life April 23, 2022. More info at:

[Champaign Donor Events - Living Alternatives](http://pregnancyresourcecenter.org/Champaign-Donor-Events-Living-Alternatives)
pregnancyresourcecenter.org

Living Alternatives Jacksonville:

Walk for Life and Open House,
April 30, 2022 More info at:

[Jacksonville Donor Events - Living Alternatives](http://pregnancyresourcecenter.org/Jacksonville-Donor-Events-Living-Alternatives)
pregnancyresourcecenter.org

**Loving Arms Pregnancy Center,
Taylorville,** Baby Bottle Boomer-
ang from May-June 2022. More
info at:

217-824-7200

**Springfield Right to Life, Spring-
field,** Prayers from the Sidewalk,
February 17, 24, and March 3, at
Planned Parenthood. See the sched-
ule for Springfield Right to Life
events at:

[https://www.springfieldrtl.org/
category/timeline/](https://www.springfieldrtl.org/category/timeline/)

—LL



New Maternity Home News

Taken from the "LCMS Life, Health,
& Family Newsletter" regarding Re-
deeming Life Outreach Ministries:

the wider vision for
this ministry is now a
Redeeming Life ma-
ternity home in every
district. "I know we'll
find like-minded peo-
ple across the Synod,"
Sheryl DeWitt said.

Plans are currently
progressing for the
establishment of a
home in the LCMS
Northern Illinois Dis-
trict. Lutherans are

blessed with a clear picture of the
work that God has prepared for His
people: to serve the needs of the
neighbor not only in body but in soul,

attaching mercy care to Word and
Sacrament ministry.

*"By this we know love, that he laid
down*

*his life for us, and we
ought to lay down our
lives for the brothers.
But if anyone has the
world's goods and sees his
brother in need,
yet closes his heart
against him, how does
God's love abide in him?
Little children, let
us not love in word or talk
but in deed and
in truth" (1 John 3:16-
18).*

You can read the [LCMS Life Health, &
Family Newsletter](#) by clicking here, if
you would like to see more about RLOM,
how they began, what they are current-

ly doing in
Florida and hope to replicate here in
Illinois.

A current need for the Maternity
Home, according to RLOM's web page is
for "Advocates" from all over Illinois:
"In order to redeem the lives of vul-
nerable pregnant women in Chicago-
land, we need local advocates all over
Illinois. Advocates are passionate
about maternity home ministry and
help spread the word about the new
Redeeming Life maternity home in
their churches, organizations and
neighborhoods to reach pro-life sup-
porters and ask for support."

Pray with us that this
special safe haven for
moms-to-be will soon
be up and running!



Some Life Affirming videos worth sharing

Over the years, Some beautiful work has been done in the area of short film art to affirm Life. I'd like to take this opportunity to share a few of those...

The first and most recent came my way from my local CPC, entitled "Choose" and simply shares beautiful pictures of babies with life-affirming words; their gift for Life Sunday. You can enjoy it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqXyhiFquu4>

Initially I learned of the next one,

Give a Little Love

"Give a Little Love" is February 17, 2022 at the Palos Country Club, 113100 SW Hwy, Orland Park, IL. This will be an evening with Coalition Life, a life-affirming organization that helps mentor sidewalk counselors who can reach out in a meaningful way to abortion bound families and help them make a choice for Life.

The evening will feature Tony Melen-dez, a motivational speaker and talented musician. Tony plays the guitar . . . With his feet! Tony was born without arms, but is blessed with an

"Dear Future Mom", from Lutherans for Life as they mentioned that it had been banned in the country of France! This one deals with the precious lives of those with Down Syndrome from all around the world. There is an annual contest for production of a video for World Down Syndrome Day (March 21) and in 2014 this was the winner:

[\(1\) World Down Syndrome Day spot... Dear Futur mom! - Bing video](#)

On the creation front, Illustra Media has done an incredible short film

abundance of hope, which he freely shares with the world through his public speaking and through his gift of music.

You can be blessed through Tony's ministry, learn more about the mentoring program, and be a blessing to Coalition for Life by attending this fundraiser.

If you would like more information or to RSVP, call or email: (314)827-4039 or Maggie@CoalitionLife.com

called "18 trillion feet of You" This is not a touchy feely piece, but is based on facts and figures from science that leave us standing in awe of our creator. You can view this portion of Illustra Media's John 10:10 Project here:

18 TRILLION FEET OF YOU

He loves all 18 trillion feet of each of you! God has created each human being for purpose...that their life would bring him glory. As we remember that and honor our creator by loving one another as He has loved us, have a happy Valentine's Day! Here's hoping you are blessed by these as much as I have been! —LL



March for Life Chicago

"This is the time to be pro-life in Illinois!" proclaimed President Matthew Harrison, at the Illinois March for Life, held on Saturday, January 8th. The LCMS was one of the three main sponsors of the event and President Harrison gave the opening remarks and prayer. "Legal abortion did not begin with Roe and it will not end with Roe. The fact is that this state, Illinois, has passed the most draconian anti-life legislation in the history of the world.This state has shredded any protection for the unborn whatsoever. And so when Roe falls this year, people are going to be flocking to this state [Illinois] to have abortions." he stated.

President Harrison was referring to the court case that the Supreme Court is now deliberating - Dobbs vs Jackson's Women Health,

which many think will overturn Roe vs Wade. If that happens, abortion regulation will be decided by each state. Most of the states surrounding Illinois currently have restrictive abortion laws and are thought to likely tighten their abortion laws once Roe falls. Some media are already deeming Illinois, "An Abortion Oasis".



LCMS President Harrison, addressing Marchers

January 8 was my first time at the March. I knew it would be a new experience for me, but I had no idea how inspiring it would be. It was intensely powerful to walk down Michigan Ave with a group of other Lutherans reciting the creed, praying the Lord's prayer, and singing hymns I had only sang inside a church. I couldn't help but tear up and have a few of them spill over down my cheeks. If you ever have a chance to go on the

March, I highly recommend you give it a try.

I believe most Illinoisans, and certainly Lutherans, love children and families. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Life Ministry comes alongside Lutherans who are passionate about and engaged in sanctity-of-life efforts by providing networking opportunities and resources. As Lutherans, we speak for human life by witnessing to our Lord's creation of life and His design for marriage and the family, and by advocating for the God-given value of all human life — from conception to natural death. In December 2021, the LCMS announced the Million Dollar Life Match, an exciting new matching grant opportunity to help LCMS congregations provide spiritual, emotional and physical care to strengthen families in communities across the United States. As the name suggests, this program offers a total of \$1 million in matching grants to LCMS congregations in 2022 and 2023. —Pam Meister

THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS!

We really appreciate your support! Let's keep the Life-affirming attitude and share the love God has for us and all people. Let's gently give the word of forgiveness to those who are hurting and those who have hurt us...because love affirms life!

Lutherans in our state are disappointed and upset that so many in our society are continuing to cast fragile humans aside ... May God make us into Gospel-motivated voices for life!

Thanks be to God that He has paved the way through Christ for the gift of forgiveness and for us to belong to Him!

(Inspired by LFL-Kansas Newsletter)

Lutherans For Life of Illinois is a State Federation of Lutherans For Life, a 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to equipping Lutherans for becoming Gospel Motivated Voices for Life. We are on the web at <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-of-illinois/>

Send news items and prayer requests to the editor at: laeschfamily@gmail.com

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A Litany for Life... based on 1 Corinthians 12:31-13 (usccb prayers)

Lord, love is patient.

Give to the mother who is tempted to abort her child the patience to endure the suffering that will bring forth new life.

Lord, love is kind.

Give to the new father whose friends tell him to abort the child, the gentleness, compassion, and courage to support his wife and child, to protect them from all that could harm them, and sustain them against selfishness and hate.

Lord, love is not jealous.

Remove from all human hearts the temptation to trade human life for advantage, convenience, or personal gain and pleasure over the dignity of human life.

Lord, love is not pompous.

Deliver us from the arrogance that sees our needs or wants as superior to the rights of others. Help us to see all our brothers and sisters as worthy of all of our love.

Lord, love is not inflated.

Grant us a share in the humility of your Son, who sought not to be served, but to serve. Help us to see in every human life, rich or poor, young or old, guilty or innocent, a reflection of your image and likeness.

Lord, love is not rude.

Implant a spirit of gentle compassion in the hearts of each of your sons and daughters, Lord, that no person may ever be treated as less than the child of God which you have made them, through the...death and resurrection of your only

begotten Son.

Lord, love does not seek its own interests.

Give to all who govern us, Lord, a generous spirit, that sacrificial love by which your Son died for us on the Cross, that all men and women might know your kindness and willingness to love them unto death ...

Lord, love is not quick-tempered.

Grant that by your. . . patience we might learn to live that sacrificial love by which your Son died for us on the Cross, that all men and women might know your kindness and willingness to love them unto death . . .

Love does not rejoice over wrongdoing.

Help us to seek only the redemption of wrongdoers, Lord, and remove from our hearts all desire for vengeance and hate. Help us to desire not revenge, even for the horrors of abortion, but the repentance and happiness of all your children.

Lord, love rejoices with the truth.

Implant deep within our hearts a sense of the joy of the Gospel of Life, and make us joy-filled evangelists of your great gift of life.

Lord, love bears all things.

When we are insulted or reviled for the sake of the Gospel of Life, give us the courage and the innocence of the children of God. Help us, Lord, to suffer for the sake of your truth, and never to seek our own good, . . .

Lord, love believes all things.

Deliver us from every temptation to despair, Lord. When we are discouraged, give us the grace to trust in your mercy and to know that your love is ever victorious, even in the face of darkness, death and hate.

Love hopes all things.

As we trust in your infinite love, O Lord, give us the trust that comes from the Gospel, and help us to cling to that sure and certain hope that for those who love God all things come to good.

Love endures all things.

In the face of death, destruction, and a culture of death, never let us lose sight of the beauty of the face of your only begotten Son, Our Lord, who suffered the torments of his passion and death for the sake of our sins. Let us trust that through His passion we will have the strength to do your will and to carry each cross that comes our way for the glory of God and the love of his little ones.

Lord, Love never fails.

When the crusade for life seems unending and our latest initiatives have failed, when our hearts are filled with sadness or anger or fear, come to our aid, O Lord, and give us the assurance that you are ever with us, that your mercies will not end, and that you, our Creator and our God, will bring victory to all who seek to love as you have commanded them.

