# Directions ...

# For LFL's Frontline September-October 2022



Directions is sent bi-monthly to all of Lutherans For Life's Frontline—State Federations, Life Chapters, Life Teams—with Bible studies and articles on leadership, faith in action, fundraising, news and notes, and facts and stats.

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself." Isaiah 44:24

This edition of Directions includes ...

Bible Study: Hidden Treasures

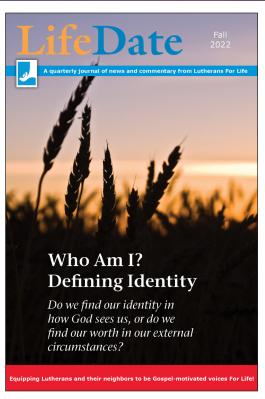
Abortion: Lessons from the Early Church

A Gift for Every Believer

Ideas for Helping Single Moms

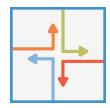
LIFEMARK the Movie

2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference • October 21-22



lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

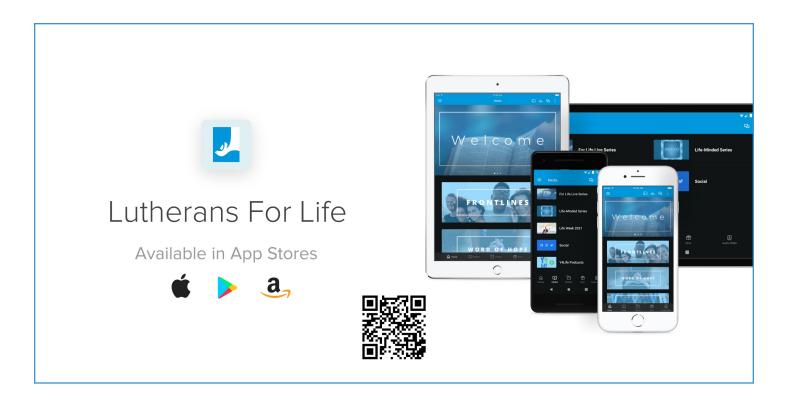
## News and Notes



- Orphan Sunday (11-13-22) is another way to share the For Life message. Find out more at cafo.org/orphansunday2022.
- Check out word-of-hope.org and y4life.org.
- Be sure to "Like" and follow LFL on social media! See links below:

www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife • www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts twitter.com/ForLifers • www.instagram.com/lfly4life • www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife

- Join our Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and LMCs: www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL. The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other Frontline volunteers.
- LifeDate is a great way to share the For Life message with your congregation. Order LifeDate in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) to order. (lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal)
- *Life News* is available each month to download and print. *Life News* is a free monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more. Go to lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news.











# Bible Study: Hidden Treasures



The sanctity of life deals with hidden treasure. A person's worth and purpose do not always appear obvious. God's truth and Christ's love locate and celebrate that value where others often overlook it. In fact, the incarnation of our Savior Lord establishes this pattern. The Almighty Maker disguises His divine majesty and might in human humility and gentle servanthood. Even the parables of Jesus have the same character. A simple and ordinary story smuggles in a profound and powerful Gospel.

Our Heavenly Father delights in hide-and-seek. Camouflaging surprises and burying treasures brings several advantages but also presents certain challenges. With a parable specifically about the experience, He invites us—everyone—into the fun.

Look up Matthew 13:10-17, 34-35. What is a parable? What are some of its benefits, and why do you think Jesus employed them? What can we learn from this practice about sanctity-of-life advocacy and dialogue?

Read Matthew 13:3-9. What do you think He means by "the kingdom of heaven"? (Check also Matthew 3:2.) Does it resemble more a place, a person, a time, a state, or an activity? Why?

Read Matthew 13:18-23. Who takes the initial and primary action and serves as the main character in this "guided practice" example? Consult also Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. How do they correspond? What can this tell us about our relationship with God—and where the sanctity of human life comes from?

What or whom does the ground embody in the parables?

Why do you think Jesus finds illustrations about cultivation so appropriate? (See Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:26-29, Luke 13:6-9, and 1 Corinthians 3:6.) How can this encourage us in our sanctity-of-life speaking and serving?

Turn to Matthew 13:44. Why do you think the man hid the treasure? What about the sanctity of life sometimes seems hidden? What about this actually enhances our appreciation for a person's worth?

Why do you think the man bought the whole field? Would you say he overspent? What can this tell us about the value of a human life?

Following the paradigm revealed the in first two parables (Matthew 13:3-9 and 13:24-30), can you identify the man who sold all he had to obtain the treasure? And can you also identify who or what constitutes the treasure? How does this inspire our love for our Heavenly Father? How does it inform our love for neighbors?



# Homebound Encouragement Program

by Peace Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri



Here is the very simple program we started at Peace Lutheran Church (St. Louis, Missouri) that has been very well received.

#### Peace Lutheran Church Homebound Member Encouragement Card Program

We work with our pastors to make sure each of the new programs has their approval. Our Life Ministry Team does have a small budget to work from for the purchases needed, which are minimal. We purchase inspirational cards with relevant passages from the Bible, postage stamps, and the printing cost for the new materials, like our bookmarks. The pastor provides a list of names and addresses of homebound members who might benefit from the program. Our Life Team addresses each envelope and prepares the card for mailing. We then put the cards and the bookmarks in a larger envelope with instructions for the congregation member who would like to participate in the homebound program.

#### **Instructions:**

- There is a large envelope for each of our homebound members.
- We have provided a card with a pre-addressed postage-paid envelope.
- Please use the card to add a nice note for the church member and sign the card.
- Also, please add the enclosed bookmark from our Life Team.
- Mail the card and touch the heart of a new friend.
- P.S. Please return the large envelope to the church office.
- List the church address.

•	Date of Sign-out	Church Member Name
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Any congregation member can pick up a packet, add a note of their own, and send the card to a homebound member. We hope we can touch the lives of the homebound members but also inspire the congregation to make a difference in someone's life.

Our first iteration of the program, where we included the encouragement card and a very nice uplifting poem, was very well received.

Our second iteration of the program went very well again. The congregation picked up all 25 packets over the first weekend they were available. With this package we added a bookmark that we created with Peace Lutheran Church's contact information and prayers for the homebound member.

Since the second round was again well received, we will continue the program, maybe creating prayer cards for the members.



# Abortion: Lessons from the Early Church

by Rev. Matthew Harrison





With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, which means the limitation of abortion in many states and the increase in others, it is time to increase the Church's understanding of abortion, including how the Early Church viewed it. I invite you to read and consider the following excerpt from an article written in 1968 by the German/Australian Lutheran historian Hermann Sasse (1895–1976), a longtime friend of the LCMS. This essay was published in *The Lonely Way*, Vol. 2 (347–53), which is still available from Concordia Publishing House. It is used with permission. — *President Matthew C. Harrison* 

reporter.lcms.org/2022/abortion-lessons-from-the-early-church

# A Gift for Every Believer

## from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan



"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant" (1 Corinthians 12:1 KJV).

Each and every member of God's Church has been given some kind of a gift to benefit the whole Church. What's your gift? "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another diverse kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues" (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

Have you ever thought about the gift God has given you to benefit the other people of His Church? Are you able to speak a foreign language or two, able to share the Gospel with people from other countries? Maybe you're a doctor or nurse who can travel to distant lands and share the Gospel while bringing physical healing to others. Are you a gifted musician who can add beauty to your congregation's worship services?

If so, praise the Lord! The Bible says your gift is given to you directly by the Holy Spirit of God for the benefit of His people! "But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (1 Corinthians 12:11).

But what if you didn't do so well in your high school Spanish class? Never heard back on that application to Harvard Medical School? Forget singing, are you lucky just to play the radio in tune? Well, guess what? Even if you think you're lacking some of those more "specialized" gifts, God has given every last one of His people the most important gift of all: "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

If you can say that Jesus Christ is your Lord, your Redeemer, who has brought you back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and now keeps you safely there—whether you've been saying it for 80 years or for 80 seconds—then, my dear friend, you have been given the greatest spiritual gift of all!

With that Good News, you can celebrate eternity by sharing that Good News as God leads and guides you, even if you wouldn't feel comfortable addressing the nation on TV!

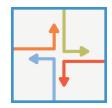
If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.

The Lutheran Hymnal, 496:2

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)



# Ideas for Helping Single Moms



The following ideas have been excerpted from Jill Stanek's email newsletter for September 2022 (jstanek@herplan.org).

For the first time in almost 50 years, *Roe v. Wade* will not be the 100-pound gorilla that has dominated and complicated our conversations on Life. Now the Church can return to doing what we do best, which in this case is ministering to pregnant and parenting mothers in need and their young children—our modern-day widows and orphans. [Here are] ideas to ... help these moms.

#### Laundry Love

A church we met with mentioned this, and we love it! Super simple. Have your church rent out a laundromat for an evening, so anyone can wash clothes free. Show some laundry love!

### Mama's Night Out

Gift your single moms with a night off or out. Offer babysitting at the church one October evening, getting double duty from Sunday School classroom space. This is also an excellent outreach tool to acclimate families in your community with your church and people.

#### Change Her Oil

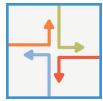
It's one of those things that is easy to put off when short on cash but one of best things one can do to preserve a car and even get better gas mileage. So, get the guys together on a crisp October Saturday to change oil for single moms at your church—or give moms coupons for a free oil change at a local shop.





# Thank You, Jeanne Mackay

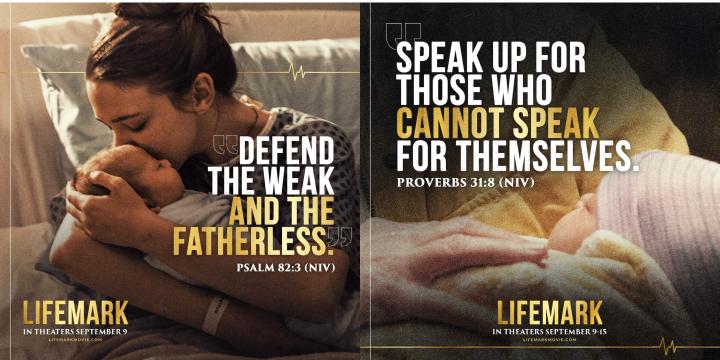
## from Lutherans For Life



Jeanne Mackay was recognized on July 22 at the Lutherans For Life board, state federation presidents, and staff retreat in Ames, Iowa, for her many years of service to LFL. Jeanne recently retired as president of LFL of Kansas. Thank you, Jeanne, for all that you have done For Life!







LIFEMARK is a great movie to see with a group of like-minded friends. Celebrate life in community when the new Kendrick Brothers' movie opens in a theater near you. **lifemarkmovie.com** 

Also see:

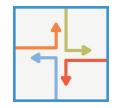
reporter.lcms.org/2022/lifemark-motion-picture





#### **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

# Lutherans For Life NATIONAL Conference October 21-22, 2022 Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities)



Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities) lutheransforlife.org/conference

The LFL National Conference is back! Lutherans For Life national 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!

## Friday, October 21 – 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Saturday, October 22 – 8:30 a.m. to noon

### **Speakers**

Melissa Ohden | Jeanne Mancini | Steve Deace

#### Workshop Leaders

Rev. B. Keith Haney | Father Frank Pavone | Rev. Fred Hinz Col. John Eidsmoe | Rev. Dr. Wade Mobley | Deaconess Pam Nielsen Dr. Roni Grad | Dr. Kim Marxhausen | Deaconess Tiffany Manor Rev. Michael Salemink | Rev. Scott Licht | Michelle Bauman Virginia Flo | Deaconess Chrissie Gillett | Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz

### Special Friday Night Banquet Music

Wendysue Fluegge

## Conference Registration

LFL Members: \$125 | Non-Members: \$150 Students: \$25 | Children 12 and under: FREE





# Spotlight on Life



**Spotlight on Life** (lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life) is a focus on featured life topics that can be presented at a local church or community gathering. Lutherans For Life staff are offering to be featured speakers and extend their expertise on the various life topics (see below).

With **Spotlight on Life**, your event will be equipping many others to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. It's simple! You conduct the event, and LFL will provide the speakers, based on availability. The cost will be minimal as we are excited to bring these life-affirming messages to your area. Whether your event is one hour, a half day, an evening, or something else, LFL will be pleased to assist you in planning.

If you are interested, please email info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org.

## **Presentation Topics**

#### FACTORS AFFECTING LIFE AND DEATH

- Fetal development
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Mental health
- Physical & mental disabilities

#### LIFE AND DEATH

- Abortion
- Suicide
- Assisted suicide & euthanasia
- Fertilization to natural death

#### FACTORS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

- For-Life apologetics
- Human-trafficking
- Sexuality & gender
- Family



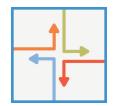
# Lutherans For Life

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





# LAMBs - Mercy Blankets



Although our world might tell us otherwise, children are truly a blessing. Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children—especially those families with a lot of them! Through the skillfulness of some LFLers in Ohio and elsewhere, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project called "LAMBs" (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) was established.

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Rev. Jeff Duncan, our assistant director of volunteer relations, at jduncan@lutheransforlife.org so that he can arrange for this gift to be sent to them. (Alternatively, you can fill out the form below and send it to Kim Merritt of the Miami Valley Life Chapter.)

Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

## LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Wouldn't it be nice to give them a homemade blanket in celebration of this new life? Simply fill out this form and the Miami Valley Lutherans For Life Chapter, and other Lutherans from the state of Ohio, will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to the expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States. There are no strings attached. As the Body of Christ, we want to use this as an opportunity to share the mercy that our Savior Jesus Christ first showed us on the cross.

Your Name:								
Your Congregation:								
City, State, Zip:								
Mother's & Father's Names:								
Baby's Gender: Boy Girl								
Mother's Address:								
City, State, Zip:								
	Kim Merritt Miami Valley Life Chapter 3055 Vale Drive							

"He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms" (Isaiah 40:11a).

Kettering OH 45420-3920





## Lutherans For Life • Life Team Tools Order Form 2022

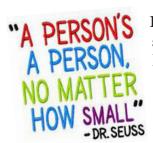
NOTE: LIFE TEAM TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE LFL NATIONAL OFFICE.

Lutherans For Life • 1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • 888.364.LIFE (5433)

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## Owen's Mission

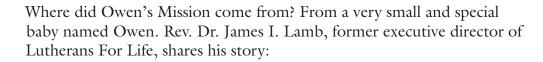


Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), no matter how small!



Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus

by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.



"I held my little grandson Owen in the palm of my hand. He died at 21 weeks during prenatal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the 20-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."





As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr. Lamb.

You can support Owen's Mission by encouraging your Lutheran elementary or high school to have an Owen's Mission presentation! Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) or email info@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission



# Need a Speaker?

Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker at a rally, convention, Bible study, worship service, public or parochial school, college/university, or workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available.

#### General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- Airfare/Mileage: Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event.
- Lodging: Quiet, nonsmoking hotel room.
- Honorarium: Affiliated speakers for Lutherans For Life are not in a paid position. Therefore, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium for affiliated speakers. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Honorariums depend on number of events. Honorariums begin at \$200.
- Meals: \$25 per day unless other arrangements are made.
- Other: A lectern will be needed. A TV, video projector, DVD player, and screen may be needed.

#### Speakers:

Jean Amundson (nationwide – based in Cleburne, Texas)

Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide – based in Iowa Falls, Iowa)

Rev. Paul M. Clark (nationwide – based in Fowler, Michigan)

John Eidsmoe (nationwide – based in Pike Road, Alabama)

Kim Hardy (nationwide – based in Grand Haven, Michigan)

Kristi Hofferber (nationwide – based in Bethalto, Illinois)

Kimberly Ketola (nationwide – based in Peachtree City, Georgia)

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada – based in Marshalltown, Iowa)

Sheila Luck (nationwide – based in Scandinavia, Wisconsin)

Marie K. MacPherson (Minnesota and border states – based in Mankato, Minnesota)

Ryan C. MacPherson (nationwide – based in Mankato, Minnesota)

Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa – based in St. Peter, Minnesota)

Rev. Michael W. Salemink (nationwide and Canada – based in St. Louis, Missouri)

Andrew Schatkin (nationwide – based in the New York/Long Island area)

Rev. Caleb Schewe (nationwide – based in Monticello, Iowa)

Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada – based in St. Louis, Missouri)

Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide – based in Lombard, Illinois)

Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide – based in Lombard, Illinois)

Patti Smith (nationwide – based in Huntington Beach, California)

Francis W. Szarejko (nationwide – based in the Kansas City, Missouri, area)

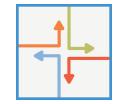
Ed Szeto (nationwide – based in Virginia)

Rev. Luke Timm (nationwide – based in Des Moines, Iowa)



## The Basics of Lutherans For Life

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



**Our Vision:** Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

#### Structure and Relationships

A local Life Chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The Life Chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

A State Federation is an organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc., in a state where there are at least five chartered Life Chapters. In a state where a State Federation exists, the Life Chapters also become affiliated with the State Federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a Life Chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the Life Chapter is incorporated. Thus, Lutherans For Life consists of a network of individual entities formally associated with each other.

#### Membership Information

All officers of State Federations and Life Chapters and Life Ministry Coordinators must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and members of National Lutherans For Life.

Membership contributions are divided among the national organization, State Federation, and local Life Chapter if it is chartered.

Life Chapters that wish to include a membership form in newsletters or correspondence are asked to maintain the form and information provided by the national office.

The local Life Chapter may not establish its own membership program since LFL has a "unified membership" program. When sending a membership form to the national office, make sure the Life Chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will ensure that the State Federation and local Life Chapter receive the proper remittance payment.

#### **Membership Classifications**

#### Annual Membership

 Annual members join by making a membership donation accompanied by a completed copy of the membership form (or by joining online).

#### Sponsor Membership

- Sponsor members pledge to contribute a certain amount each month and to pray regularly for Lutherans For Life.
- Sponsor members receive a monthly letter from the executive director.
- Sponsor members are asked to renew their monthly pledge each year as part of the annual membership drive.

#### The Remittance Program of LFL

All MEMBERSHIP donations are shared with the chartered State Federation and/or local Life Chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

#### Annual Memberships:

- 20% goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 20% goes to the State Federation.)
- 20% goes to the State Federation
- 60% remains at national

#### Sponsor Memberships:

- 1/12 goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 1/12 goes to the State Federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the State Federation
- 10/12 remains at national



#### **National Lutherans For Life Staff**

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director of Mission and Ministry

Rev. Scott Licht – Executive Director of

Finance and Operations

Lowell J. Highby – Director of

Communications

Michelle Bauman – Director of Y4Life

Cori Meier - Y4Life Assistant

Virginia Flo - Director of Volunteer Relations

Rev. Jeff Duncan – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations

Dr. Barb Geistfeld – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations

Jerilyn Richard - Donor Relations Director

Kim Nessa – Accountant | Conference Director

Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant

Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD -

Director of Word of Hope

Deaconess Pamela Buhler – Word of Hope Assistant

Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist

Julie Kyrola – Data Assistant

Erika Peterson – Events Coordinator

#### **National LFL Board of Directors**

Lynette Auch, President – Lesterville, South Dakota

Stephenie Hovland, Vice President – Portage, Wisconsin

Diana Vaughn, Secretary – Ponca City, Oklahoma

Ronald L. Soule, Treasurer – Mason, Michigan

Diane Albers, State Representative – St. Louis, Missouri

Karen Borchers - Garner, Iowa

Rev. Paul Clark, State Representative – Fowler, Michigan

Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro - Herndon, Virginia

Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama

Roni Grad – Tucson, Arizona

Rev. Byrene K. Haney – Fort Dodge, Iowa Pamela Nielsen – Ballwin, Missouri

Rev. Dennis Norby, State Representative – Valley City, North Dakota

Katherine Pietrantonio – Cedarburg, Wisconsin Alice Steljes – Pawnee, Illinois Ed Szeto – Locust Grove, Virginia

John Talley - Newark, Illinois

#### **State Federation Presidents**

Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais

Katie Willman, Indiana - Marion

Rev. Richard Salcido, Iowa –

Ida Grove

Shari Weber, Kansas – Vassar

Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler

Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis

Berniece Stulc, Montana – Belgrade

Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco

Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota –

Valley City

Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington Wisconsin – The position is open.

# Lutherans For Life 1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street Nevada, IA 50201-1816

info@lutheransforlife.org lutheransforlife.org 888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

LFL Business Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT. Hours subject to staff availability.

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

Source: www.national right to life news.org/2021/01/roes-legacy-more-than-62-5-million-lives-lost and the sum of the control of the control

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