

Lutherans For Life of Illinois

Affirming Life In Illinois

Lutherans For Life
of Illinois
Newsletter

HOW DO YOU HAVE A PASSIONATE REFORMATION FOR LIFE?

We celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther translating the New Testament into German this year. Luther had a passion for God's Word and sharing the law and gospel with people in all walks of life, including peasants, housewives, trades people, nobles and even princes.

What is your passion? What energizes you and gives you a purpose for waking up in the morning?

What sets your heart on fire? If you know what that is, great! Set aside time to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2) by carrying out what God has given you a passion for. If you are not certain about what your passion is, PRAY daily for God to guide you as He did Luther. He will lead you to a passion for serving Him in whatever capacity He has shown you have some gifts and receive His joy. And God will help you further develop gifts You may not even know you have to serve Him by serving others in your area of passion.

When God opened my eyes to a passion I had For Life ministry many years ago, I already knew about my interest and support For Life. When I volunteered to become the first District Life Coordinator for the NID for four years and then the LFL of IL President for the past four years, I had no idea of the journey God would lead me on to go much deeper in my passion For Life.

My journey into my ever growing passion For Life ministries has included highlights of going to more than several Marches for Life in Chicago and also the national MFL in Washington D. C. and the two day LCMS Life Conference there.

What has given me the greatest joy is interacting with and serving people like you whom God has placed before me at the first MFL Chicago Convention with 53 For Life ministries represented at their tables and several For Life workshops sponsored by the NID Life Task Force and numerous NID, CID and SID pastoral conferences.

If you are interested in "serving the Lord with gladness" through a For Life ministry, be it a Life Team, Life Chapter or reaching mothers in need by providing food like "Breakfast with Baby" at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream or providing baby clothes like "Swaddling Clothes" ministry at River of Life Lutheran Church in Channahon, Salem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville and Calvary Lutheran Church in Elgin, you can contact any of those ministries. Contact me for the location of the Life Team or Life Chapter nearest you at dmbot7222@comcast.net. If you are interested in serving the Redeeming Life Maternity Home being prepared in East Dundee, contact Deaconess Lori Trinche at ltrinche@yahoo.com.

Have a passionate Reformation For Life!

—Rev. David Bortorff, LFL-Illinois

LOVE
AFFIRMS
LIFE

Volume 4, Issue 3

Harvest 2022

Save the date, Illinois

- November 5—Birthright Quincy Trivia Night—more info or to sign up a trivia team: <https://birthrightquincyil.org/events/>
- December 7 - Peace in the womb Christmas Caroling with Pro Life Action League. Details tba, check in for them at: <https://prolifeaction.org/event/>
- January 15-21, 2023 Lutherans for Life Life Week. More info and sign up at: <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023/>
- April 14-23, 2023, NID LCMS Shine Event. More information at <https://www.nidcms.org/shine/>

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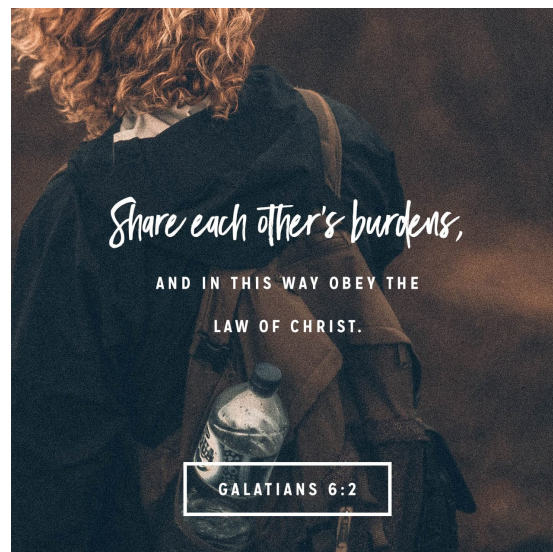
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Life Comes in Chapters

Our chapter, Lutherans for Life--DuPage County, has not chosen any special Bible verse as our own. But as I think about our members, the work they do and their support of one another, Galatians 6:2 came to mind. "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." This has been true for us as a "for life" community and also, I hope, as we have served others in Christ's name. Our words are important, but actually helping one another with THEIR heavy loads speaks even more clearly. I do not have any specific examples to share, but I am thankful to be able to say our little LFL chapter has

served Jesus in many ways. There is always much more we could do. May God grant us sensitivity to His leading and humility to follow the path He has chosen for us.

Beth Kraegel
LFL-Dupage



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

First Steps, Marching into a Post-Roe America

At the National Level, March for Life leaders have announced the theme for 2023: **First Steps, Marching into a Post-Roe America.** The overturn of Roe vs. Wade gives some new direction to the effort to end abortion. Though there will be a National March, the Supreme Court will no longer be the end-point of the March in Washington. After all, the Court has done it's work and returned the decision to the states. This also redirects the effort to end legalized abortion to the state level. The National organization

would like to see a March for Life in the State Capital of each state. That is an ambitious undertaking! It also makes it likely that there will be a different location for the March for Life in Illinois in 2023... Springfield! There is no real need to make the March in January, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, either. They are looking at dates in Mid-March, which may allow those who cannot safely go out in the frigid weather of an Illinois January to participate. For those of us from the Christian perspective, this falls closer to the Annunciation, which

is a good time to remember that Jesus came into the world just as we all do, as a preborn child! Stay tuned for the specifics as they are made available. When we have dates, times, and locations, we will let you know!

Speakers at the March for Life Rally have always been a blessing, so I hope the change in season and venue will make it possible for more of you to be likewise blessed!

God's Word to Encourage Pro-Life Hearts

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reads Psalm 119:105. For Christians, there is no doubt that the Bible guides us and illuminates our walk with Jesus. Yet for one who is active on the battlefield for the sanctity of life, God's Word can offer so much more.

"We are all Nehemiah," suggested abortion survivor Melissa Odhen at the 2022 Lutherans for Life National Conference - Blessed for Life. Her story of surviving an abortion intended to kill her is both heart-rending and triumphant (learn more about Melissa at <https://melissaodhen.com/>.)

Nehemiah was a man of prayer who

sought God's will for His people. As a great leader of Israel, he recounts firsthand the powerful story of the rebuilding of ancient Jerusalem's walls after the exile. This rebuilding, in the face of great odds, represented the people's renewal of faith, their overcoming of national shame, and the reforming of their conduct.

Like Nehemiah, we are each called to help lead in a rebuilding, to seek a renewal of faith, a restoration of God-pleasing values, and Lord willing, a repentance across our nation to overcome our national shame for America's culture of death and restore us to the God who created, redeemed, and renews us.

That's a tall task, and a weary one. And it is one that we may not succeed at on this side of heaven. But do not despair, like Nehemiah, we will strive to act as one body of Christ. As Nehemiah, we will confess the sins of the people and beseech God on our knees to forgive and restore all who have forsaken Him.

Even against all odds, in the pattern of Nehemiah, we turn to the Lord Almighty to preserve us and find, like our ancient brother in Christ, that "the Joy of the Lord" is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

—Lori Solyom

An active LFL member, Lori is the Director of Development for Voice of Care, a

An Eye on our Lawmakers and IVF Info

Our Illinois lawmakers are amending again. Now the bill being amended to include a "right" to such things as abortion and IVF is House Bill 5779. You will want to keep an eye on this, contact your state representative, and sign a witness slip when they are open for that. In the event that you are not aware of the Life implications of IVF, I am including the following from a 2017 article by Pastor Salemink of Lutherans for Life:

"The desire for descendants comes from God. He has given within us the holy longing to hold our own offspring. He Himself has bestowed upon us the heavenly blessing of having babies. ...

Pregnancy comes about only in accordance with His will. **"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord"** (Psalm 127:3a). It does not operate as mechanical or automatic "reproduction," as if apart from our Creator. Whatever the circumstances or mechanisms of conception, it constitutes a gift of God. Zygotes, embryos, and fetuses always amount to full-fledged human beings, however they originated. **"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God"** (Mark 10:14b). Even out of sexual assault, infidelity, or other awfulness, children bear no blame for their parents' mistakes. God's grace gets credit for every conception. Indeed, Lord God retains all responsibility for every opened womb (Genesis 20:17, 29:31, 30:22)—and reserves every right to close wombs (Genesis 20:18, 30:2; 1 Samuel 1:5-6). So, unsurprisingly, the devil directly assaults procreation. Sin's intrusion

into human nature significantly impacted the privilege of producing children, making it more difficult and at times impossible. **"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children"** (Genesis 3:16a). Yet Almighty Maker claims even this predicament as occasion to extend His great love. Scripture and its Savior prove sensitive to the sorrows of those struggling with infertility. ...

Still Satan meddles, despite divine compassion, or perhaps precisely because of it. The Ancient Serpent can use infertility as opportune time for transforming desires to idols and twist sinfulness from gifts. Not every strategy or solution for childlessness channels the good and gracious will of God. What about *in vitro* fertilization? Certainly, many Christian couples have succeeded in childbearing utilizing this technique. The process of IVF, however, presents several ethical questions and problems.

... Typically, physicians transfer a few or even several embryos at a time to increase the odds that at least one makes it. ...

Sometimes more than one embryo does implant. Many practitioners then recommend "selective reduction" (aborting the additional babies) to improve the resources and chances available to the desired child. In addition, they either discard the "left over" embryos (as "medical waste"), donate them for experiments that destroy them, or hold them in frozen storage to

preserve them for future transfers. ...

All along the way, IVF risks laying greater weight upon adult desires (and economic concerns?) than the best interests of the child. For these reasons, Lutherans For Life objects to and opposes the use of *in vitro* fertilization.

We also rejoice that God forgives even sins against life. None of our sins (and we all have sinned and are sinful) can lessen His love or undo His grace. ... We encourage compassionate ministry to them, not condemnation, that they may receive the comfort of Christ. Despite discomfort with IVF, Christians ought not to abandon our brothers and sisters who struggle with infertility. Along with the promises of the Gospel and the body of Christ accompanying one another under crosses, we advocate God-given medical treatment options that mediate the healing power of Jesus. Chief among these is NaProTechnology (www.naprotechnology.com). This natural procreative approach seeks to investigate, diagnose, and remedy men's and women's reproductive abnormalities rather than circumventing them.

... **"the One who has begun the good work in us will carry it on to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Philippians 1:6)!"

You can read more Lutheran thought on Illinois legislative decisions at

<http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.html>

Go Team!

Our Life Team at Good Shepherd Collinsville, has been very busy. In July we submitted a request for a grant of 10,000.00 from the Million Dollar Match promoted by synod. We invited 10 churches to join us in collecting 10,000.00 for an ultra sound machine in the mobile unit for Mosaic Health. The response was amazing, to God be the Glory! When we receive the match of 5,000. from synod we will be able to pay for the ultra sound machine.

We participated in the Life Chain and the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil at

both Planned parenthood in Fairview Heights and Hope Clinic in Granite City.

We made 100 blessing bags to be given to each mom that has an ultra sound at Mosaic Health. We entered essays from our grade school in the LFL essay contest and 2 of them won. We attended a planning meeting in Carbon-dale and talked about having a Life Team, with a group that is organizing churches to stand for life as 3 abortion clinics are moving into their town.

Now we are planning our Older Adult Christmas Dinner and making gift bags

for our shut-ins. (this was from an idea in a LFL Directions last year.) We make the bags and put each shut-in's name on the bag and place them in the church for members to pick up and deliver. We made 5 extra that members could take to someone of their choice. It was very successful. We submit life affirming blurbs in the bulletin. Our group is not large (about 15 members of which 5 are from near by churches but we are mighty. **Continue to pray that IL will become a state where abortion is not considered health care and it is not a safe haven for abortion clinics.** by Lynn Cook

Psalm 139

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

PSALM 139:10-14

Beloved of For-Life people everywhere, Psalm 139 speaks to our hearts of the everlasting love of God for us from before our first breath. I had hoped to share it with you from the Living Waters Project, a new project of Lutheran Bible Translators for those of us who speak English. It involves the singing of Scripture from the

ESV translation. Since I personally find this a blessing, I started searching for Psalm 139, thinking it might be a blessing to all of us who love Life. As it turns out, Psalms have not yet been covered in the Living Waters Project. When I was not able to find it, my first thought was that I just wasn't techno-savvy enough to negotiate the LBT website, so I turned to my favorite Lu-

theran Bible Translator, my husband Jim., for help.

Jim was reminded that on a recent trip to Scotland a friend there took him to his church. There they have all of the Psalms set to music and that is what they sing on a Sunday morning. He said that it was very moving. But in Europe, the music sung in church typically isn't written, only the words. Jim wasn't sure he would remember the tune, so he began searching for a You Tube of this so he could share it with us at home. In the process, he ran across this one, "Too Wonderful for Words.". It does not claim to be a "translation" of Scripture, but does follow the Psalm fairly closely. It is sung by Shane and Shane. Here is the link so you too, can enjoy it.

[Psalm139](#)

—LL

God's Word for Life

God's Word for Life is a New International Version translation of the Bible that includes "For Life" commentary on pages with a blue background at various points where Life Issues are addressed in Scripture.. Other of its features are Dates from January 1 through December 31 throughout the Bible to help those who want to read through the Bible in a year. There are also brief summaries and occasional challenges in the margins throughout.

For example the reading for October 31 includes Romans 12—16.

This passage includes the following

words: "I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back, says the Lord." But, "If your enemy is hungry feed him, if he is thirsty, give him a drink. If you do this, you will make him feel guilty and ashamed." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil with good."

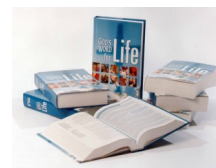
The summary of the 4 chapters reads "Paul reminded Christians that God has blessed us. Because of this, we should please him by trying to keep his commands, to pursue unity in the church, to love one another, to pray for enemies, to submit to authority and to watch out for the interests of others."

The challenge for the day reads as fol-

lows: Today: **Ask God to help you accept a fellow Christian who is difficult for you to love. Pray for that person, and pray about your relationship with him or her."**

I wonder what a difference it would make for Life, if we all took up that challenge? Is it not the essence of "a Gospel Motivated voice for Life" to remember that God has blessed us and to let that fact motivate our prayers and actions with regard to others?

This is a read you might enjoy!



—LL

Luther's Reformation Work, Continued (editorial)



One of Martin Luther's greatest achievements was the translation of

Scripture into the language of the common man. 2022 is the 500th anniversary of that event. As I have pondered the gift of Scripture in a language I can understand, I am intensely grateful.

How would we know that God loves life, if we could not read things like, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly..." (John 10:10, ESV)?

Or how would we know that he loves each of us wayward humans, if we could not read Romans 5:8 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us..."

I find great comfort in God's Word. We live in troubling times and face daily challenges to our faith, but He knew all about it before time began and assures us: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, ESV)

The Word of God Has many metaphorical descriptions for itself. In one, it is described as the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). I pray that each of us will enjoy daily practice with the "sword", daily feeding from the "bread of Life" (Matt. 4:4), daily cleansing in the word of Truth (John 17:17) and daily find our way by the light of Scripture. (Ps. 119:105)

He has a plan laid out showing us how we are to operate as we carry out

Life ministry, how we serve as Gospel-motivated voices for Life. We find our guidance in this and many other Scriptures: "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,"¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, Phil. 2:14-16, ESV

God's word continues the reformation, reforming our hearts and minds by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our privilege to translate it into daily living, shine as a light, and thank God for the gift!

—LL

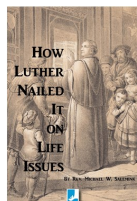
LFL Reformation Resources

How Luther Nailed It on Life Issues

Life issues didn't arise overnight. Their frequent connection to medical technology can make them seem like recent developments, and advances in understanding physiology and pharmaceuticals have made abortion and euthanasia more efficient and available of late. But these circumstances have been causing society's difficulties and providing opportunities to proclaim the Gospel—since ancient times...

Martin Luther also applied his voice to life issues. As we celebrate the Reformation's quincentennial, listening to him can still enlighten us. His view of family matters proved revolutionary in its time. Luther promoted marriage, encouraged childbearing and praised parenting. He concluded even unborn babies qualified as full-fledged human beings.

(From LFL publication 10/7/2022)



LifeMarks is a set of seven book-marks designed to directly apply the Bible's teachings on life as found in *Luther's Small Catechism*—and fit right into the catechism itself! This is a wonderful resource for confirmation, congregational, Sunday school, and home use!

All seven come on a single sheet, perforated for easy separation.

"Very attractive and easy to understand."

"Wonderful, perfect for confirmation students."

(From LFL publication 10/7/2022)

These resources are created for your use by Lutherans for Life and are available from Concordia Publishing House. The Link to order "How Luther Nailed it.." is <https://www.cph.org/p-32359-how-luther-nailed-it-on-life-issues.aspx>

For the Life Marks set the link is: <https://www.cph.org/p-22242-lifemarks-set-of-7.aspx>

New Maternity Home Thoughts for Reformation

If I had to sum up quickly what does Reformation have to do with the sanctity of human life and the maternity home? I'd go back to Martin Luther and sola Scriptura - by scripture alone... and the truth is that the Bible is the very Word of God - authoritative, sufficient and very clear; foundational to our faith and living out our faith as Christians. What does God say about human life? In Genesis 1:27, we hear "so God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." That means that every mom and unborn baby that comes to the maternity home has intrinsic value as God's creation made in the image of God, and as such is worthy because Jesus loves them and died for them, just as he does us! She may not feel worthy or loved. We have the opportunity as a reflection of the love and forgiveness we've received to introduce her to Jesus through a direct connection to Word and sacrament ministry at Immanuel Lutheran church in East Dundee and to the love and care she'll receive in a Christ-centered home through our prayers, gifts, and acts of service as she works towards completing her education and life skills training to provide better opportunities for them for a brighter future.

-Lori Trinche, Director of Program Ministries, RLOM



Spoon River Pregnancy Center, Canton

You will know when you have found the Spoon River Pregnancy Center by the display in their front window: I Corinthians 13! Brenda Potts, Client Services Coordinator for the Center tells me "It is always to keep in mind how love in action should look"

At Spoon River Pregnancy Center, love in action looks like: pregnancy tests and sonograms up to about 20 weeks; educational classes on pregnancy, childbirth, infant care, toddler parenting, general parenting, court-ordered parenting, fatherhood, life skills, co-parenting, and Bible studies. They also provide material help with the Earn While You Learn program. The clients come in for educational classes. Each class taken gives the client points to use to shop in their baby store (clothing, sizes Newborn - 4T, bottles, breast pumps, wipes, blankets, bibs, baby wash, dia-

per rash cream, baby lotion, pacifiers, etc.). After finishing a 12 course curriculum an expecting client can earn a new crib or a new car seat.

Their staff of four carry out that love in action free of charge to their clients, depending on donors who support the work. I know it is short notice, but if you are there in the Canton area, they do have a fundraising event scheduled for November 3rd, so you could still be involved that way, although monthly donations are also welcome.

Brenda tells me that they also receive donations of personal care items that are shared at every visit apart from the earn while you learn program.

The Spoon River Pregnancy Center has partnered with Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank in Galesburg, for about 5 years.. They provide diapers on a

monthly basis for their clients. It doesn't supply all the diapers they need, but it helps a lot! Brenda speaks very highly of the diaper bank.

A big need is for Advocates to work with clients. Training is provided for that. The primary qualifications would include being pro-life, Christian, and with a passion to help others. They see all kinds of situations, so compassion and confidentiality are vitally important. Anyone interested could contact them for more specifics about working as an Advocate volunteer. Reach them at PO Box 62, Canton, IL 61520, 309-435-7130

Brenda says, "If we can help our client know that they are not alone, that they can choose life because they have someone who cares and who helps, then that is why we are here!"

-Pray that Spoon River Pregnancy Center will have the Advocates and finances they need! -LL

"God is a God of Life"... God's Word at Work

"God is a God of Life; that's His character, that's His heart," declared Patti Giebink. This was her response to reading Scripture with understanding for the first time. I heard Patti speak on a Focus on the Family You Tube interview. She was a former abortion doctor for Planned Parenthood in South Dakota.. A neighbor invited Patti to church because they had a new pastor. Patti said she wasn't really looking for a church, but decided to go with her neighbor. She was intrigued by the message and was inspired to open the Bible when she got home and start

reading. I'm reminded of Isaiah 55:11, which reads, "*so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;*

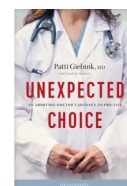
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (ESV)

God turned Patti around and gave her a heart for Life! Patti has written a book entitled, Unexpected Choice. Her book is available from many sources and chronicles her journey from being

an abortion doctor to being pro-life.

Praise God that His Word has the power to change hearts! Pray for others who have been hurt by abortion choices, that they might be drawn to Scripture and have the eyes of their hearts opened to understand they are loved by the Lord of Life! Pray we'll be the friends who invite, no matter what a person's stand may be on Life...God can use even such a small gesture!



Chapter and Verse: The verses that move us

The Theme verse this year for the Lutherans for Life National Conference was 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." We were reminded that we are "Blessed with the gift of Life, blessed for the entirety of Life, and Blessed to be a blessing." One of the blessings I enjoyed while at the conference was speaking with other Lutherans and asking about verses that had been impactful for them in Life ministry. Here are a few of the treasures in my new collection: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." from Jeri Richard of Stavanger Lutheran Church, Garden City, IA



"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." from Kim Laube, Hope, Des Moines, IA

"¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." Ps. 139 from Carol Eckardt, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kewanee, IL

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own," from Rebecka Frontz, St. Stephen, Pittsburg, PA

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ

as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. Romans 3:23-25 from Lynn Cook, Good Shepherd Collinsville, IL.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." from Truby Szewczyk, Cross Lutheran, Yorkville, IL

Others Shared Luke 1 and Luke 24, Jesus' prebirth story and the resurrection.. By all means take a minute to read them both...Remembering that Jesus came as a preborn baby and that he live, died, and rose again to save us is a great start to Advent!



40 Days for Life

The Daily Scripture reading and prayer thought from 40 Days for Life on Day 19 (October 16, 2022) read as follows:

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

--Psalm 19:1-2

Heavenly Father, thank You that creation itself proclaims Your existence and points to Your truth. With the explicit testimony of Your Word as our foundation, may we also help those around us understand that the sciences of conception and gestation reveal profound and immutable truths about You and about what it means to be created in Your image. "

I've never made the connection between the verses from Psalm 19: 1-2 and that fearfully and wonderfully made part of creation known as the human body before! Often we think of nature revealing the Creator in the mighty power of the crashing waves of the sea, the lofty grandeur of mountains, or the beauty of a towering forest. But when you stop to consider the "crown of creation" (Hebrews 2:6-7), awe of the Creator is the only response to: an immune system that works, the nervous system with its lightning-quick responses to stimuli, the system that allows us to get all the nutrients we need and transforms them into a usable form to fuel the functioning of the whole body, or the intricacies of the inner workings of even a single cell! Life is not just a gift, it is an awe-inspiring gift!

When you officially sign up to take part in 40 Days for Life, you will be asked to sign off on a promise to be a peaceful prayerful presence. You can also sign up for the daily prayer/meditations that they send out during the prayer campaigns. These come from a variety of perspectives, but all include a Scripture passage and a brief "prayer thought" to guide our prayers for Life that day. Many of the local campaign leaders also put out updates to keep you in the loop on your local 40 Days for Life events. This comes from such an update written by Phil Price, leader for the 40 Days for Life Campaign in Aurora, IL:

"A passerby coming from Mariano's stopped, rolled down the window and asked the Sidewalk Counselors if they were protesting for or against abortion. The sidewalk counselors said they were Pro Life reaching out to offer Hope and Help to those that are waiting to go into Planned Parenthood. She responded, **"I wish you were here when I was in that parking lot years ago waiting to go in for an Abortion".** I feel your presence would have made a difference and I would have chosen life for my baby rather than having the abortion. " She went on to say that she would like to join us and offer that hope and help through peaceful prayer. She plans to take part in the vigil this Saturday!!"

And this comes to us from the Down-

ers Grove 40 Days for Life Campaign, from Sharon, one of the co-leaders:

"We saw evidence of that effective power [of prayer] last week at Access when a young woman and her friend tried to enter Access, but found the doors locked. This was quite unusual, because it was well into the facility's operating hours, and right after they walked away to speak to a counselor, another woman walked right in those same doors unimpeded.

The young woman and her friend took literature from the counselor and left Access without entering as they headed for a nearby pregnancy resource center!

A few 40 Day's praying volunteers watching the activity called it a miracle. We agree."

There are life affirming stories coming out of your local 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil, too. Why not pray with them and for them? The fall campaign runs through November 6th, so there is still time!

Let's pray the gift of Human Life might "declare the glory of God to many today! May many little ones be allowed to live and fulfill the purposes of their Creator! May God bring healing and forgiveness to those who have been hurt by an abortion choice. And may God bless the witness for Life of 40 Days for Life! —LL

LOVE
AFFIRMS
LIFE

Lifesong for Orphans

God hears and answers prayers! Thank you so much for praying with us that the Traxel family would be able to see the desires of their hearts answered through adoption. God was listening and has added to their family a daughter from Dominican Republic!

Thanks for your contributions to the LFL-IL fund in Illinois that helped them as they raised funds to complete the adoptions process, too We will continue to maintain that fund in order to help other LCMS families in Illinois who wish

to bring children into their homes through adoption. **Now let's pray that God raises up others from among us who will commit to this lifelong service of parenthood for children in need! And pray for adoptive families that God will help them smooth the transitions as they welcome those children. May the joy of the Lord surround them all!**

You can contribute to the LFL-IL fund at: Lifesong for Orphans

P.O. Box 9

Gridley, IL 61744

Be sure to note in the memo line:

Lutherans for Life, IL #P576

While we rejoice in the gift of adoption and this year remember the gift of God's Word, we thank him for our own adoption...it is our Gospel motivation:

"In love ⁵ he predestined us⁴ for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. " Ephesians 1:4-6

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

*Let your love
affirm Life
with Lutherans For Life*

Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select membership category

___ Annual ___\$35 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___Other

Any amount is welcome!

Note: Membership Contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.

___ Sponsor: I commit to a monthly gift of ___.

___I'm not interested in membership, but am

enclosing a contribution of ___ to support the work of LFL.

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Congregation_____

Church body ___AALC ___AFLC ___CLBA ___ELCA ___LCMS ___Other

Send to: Lutherans for Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Or donate online at www.lutheransforlife.org

Prayer and Praise...

1. We pray for all the Life Teams and Life Chapters in our state and across the nation. May God grant them courage, guidance, and encouragement!

2. Let's pray for all For-Life people: May we live in Jesus' victory! Our enemy, the Devil, wishes to divide us, destroy faith, and bring death before faith can grow. May we recognize him as a defeated enemy and call upon our Father to bring us together in harmony that reflects the power of His love!

3. We pray for the Spoon River Pregnancy Center in Canton and for all of the pregnancy resource centers in our state. May God grant them the funding and the volunteers they need to carry on their work! May He protect them from any who would do them harm! May He grant them the daily wisdom, strength, and gentleness they need to demonstrate God's love in action!

4. Pray for the people of our country as they go to the polls. May God guide their votes, may we all have grace to accept the outcome,

and may we continue to have the blessings of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the freedom to elect our officials! Thank you Father for these freedoms! They are so rare in our world and truly a gift from you, the giver of all good things, including Life and Liberty.

5. We pray for those who are suffering today, whether physically, mentally, or spiritually. May our Father grant healing and bless those who deliver that healing, as well as those who receive it!

6. Let's pray for those who are this very day making life and death decisions...God grant the wisdom, courage, and if need be, someone to come alongside and help to choose Life!

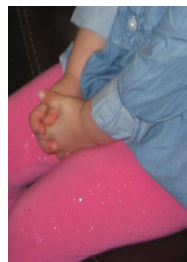
7. We pray for our churches today! Father, these are the ones you've called out to reflect your love and

carry your Gospel to the world. Please enable them, motivate them, and shore them up as they carry out Your mission for Life in this world!

8. Let's pray for those in authority, leadership in our country, in our state, in our communities, and in our homes! From the president to the parents, you have put authority in place for your purposes. May each leader fulfill your plan for him or her and serve as you would have them serve.

9. We pray for the youth of our land, Lord. As they are faced with challenges that nobody had even thought of a generation ago, Lord, please guide and direct them. Make your Word powerful in their lives, and guide them to affirm Life.

10. Thank you, Lord for the gift of your Word! May it guide our every decision, remind us daily of your love, and keep us in your way!



"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy to and find grace to help in time of