



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life



**Life Sunday 2023**

[lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023](https://lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023)

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

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# Lutherans For Life

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

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## Blessed For Life

by Pastor Michael Salemink

**W**hat a joyful, hopeful theme! Psalm 41 invites us to delight in one another: **“Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; 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.”**

Our considerations of the sanctity of life don’t need to proceed with fear. Our conversations about abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and other measures that use death as a solution don’t need to operate with anger. We do live in a culture that often treats neighbors and bodies like burdens. And this Psalm does honestly acknowledge the difficulties of life-issue situations like surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, abandonment, and poverty. In fact, it affirms that human sinfulness exposes every one of us—and not just those the public perceives as disposable—to sickness, weakness, discomfort, and death.

But the Gospel telling of our Savior’s last hours explicitly cites this Psalm (**“Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me”** John 13:18ff.). God’s compassionate grace takes on our sufferings as His own. Our Heavenly Father remains active and almighty especially in the difficult circumstances that life issues involve. In joining Himself to us with His incarnation, wisdom, power, atonement, and resurrection, Jesus makes every human life blessed—and a blessing! He lovingly and ably handles decisions about welfare and affliction, life and death, so that we don’t have to do it on our own.

Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let’s partake in the blessing of proclaiming God’s truth and putting Christ’s love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!



### Words Matter

by Rev. Ian Kinney

Because we are saturated with words of various kinds, we don't give them much weight. You have words on your phone, you communicate most often by texting with words, you have to work with words in emails, you are reading words right now, and you probably always have the TV, radio, or Spotify on with words flooding your mind.

Words are everywhere, right? They are not that valuable, and they really don't make a difference, right?

But there is a Word that says otherwise: the Word of God. The Word of God matters, and it teaches that words actually have meaning. The words we use and the words we take in shape how we think and speak. Therefore, when it comes to matters of life, be watchful of the words you take in and the words you use—because they matter. They will influence the way that you talk and think about the sanctity of life and the value of a person.

For example, there is a trend that dehumanizes the human body. There is a genre of shows and movies with plot lines about aliens or transhumanism or technology. In these genres, the human body is often referred to as a “meat bag” or a “meat sack.” Now, in the shows, this language is used by alien characters. But in its own sinister way, it teaches us to hate the body as something that has no value—something that can be used, abused, tossed, and discarded. This is not God's will for how we talk about the bodies He has created, redeemed, sanctified, and will raise again.

Many of us don't take the language too seriously in media because “it's just a show” or “it's just entertainment,” and we fail to realize that words matter. And when we use words that dehumanize us, that is precisely what we learn to do.

So how do we learn to start using humanizing language in our vocabulary as we fight for the rights of the unborn and the aged?

First, use humanizing language when speaking about the unborn. When a woman is pregnant, there isn't a baby “on the way”—the baby is already here. Then, when we refer to unborn children, it is dehumanizing of the unborn's personhood to refer to them as “it.” Would it be respectful to your humanity if I called you an “it”? Probably not. That is dehumanizing, whether you are born or unborn. To use humanizing language is as simple as referring to the unborn child as “baby” before we know baby's gender or as “he” or “she” after we do. Always referring to an unborn child as “baby” may feel awkward when you start, but such language will aid in humanizing God's littlest children.

In addition, use humanizing language with mothers, including those who miscarry. When a woman is pregnant, we need to avoid saying, “Congratulations! You're going to be a mother!” or writing on cards, “Congrats, mother-to-be!” A woman walking down the aisle to become a wife is now a mother-to-be. A woman two months pregnant is already a mother.

The same applies when comforting mothers and fathers who have suffered miscarriages or stillbirths. These are some of the hardest things to go through in life, but it



doesn't help to say things like, "Well, maybe one day you'll be able to be a mother/father." Instead, grieve with them and acknowledge that she is a mother and he is a father who lost their child, even though that child never got to be born.

Words matter. So, as those shaped by the Word of God, let's use words that respect the value God has given to those He has made in His image and redeemed by His Son.

*Rev. Ian Kinney serves as pastor to the four parishes of the Northeast Kansas Partnership and was appointed to serve as Kansas District Life Coordinator (LCMS) in 2022. (Source: LFL of Kansas e-newsletter, September 2022)*



## Abortion: Lessons from the Early Church

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.

*LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison*

*In almost all cases where we hear of murder [in the documents of the church of the first centuries], abortion is meant. There is from the very beginning a really remarkable agreement within the church that abortion in the sense of willful termination of pregnancy is murder. ... This principle contradicts the view expressed in the Roman law: Foetus pars viscerum matris ["The embryo is a part of the body of the mother"]. [In this view] the human person begins to exist with birth, not with conception ... [and] the wrong in abortion is not the wrong to the fetus, but rather to the mother or to the father of the unborn child.*

Read more: [reporter.lcms.org/2022/abortion-lessons-from-the-early-church](https://reporter.lcms.org/2022/abortion-lessons-from-the-early-church)

Also see:

[lutheransforlife.org/article/abortion-and-the-message-of-the-church-sin-or-salvation](https://lutheransforlife.org/article/abortion-and-the-message-of-the-church-sin-or-salvation)

[reporter.lcms.org/2022/resurrection-courage-ours-in-christ](https://reporter.lcms.org/2022/resurrection-courage-ours-in-christ)

## Hear My Prayer, O God!

by Virginia J. Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations

“Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!” (Psalm 4:1)

Repeatedly I have heard the words the “Power of Prayer.” It makes you wonder sometimes because the results of our prayers are not always visible to us, especially in the timeline for which we ask. Are we asking for too much? Is God tired of hearing from us? Why doesn’t He answer us when we think He should?

Often *our* timing is off, not His. We don’t see the big picture as He sees it, and maybe more things need to unfold before He opens the gate and gives us what we really need. Sometimes we can sit back when everything is over and see something happened that we just couldn’t even imagine. Didn’t you feel a little bit that way on June 24 when our Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*? Who would have thought after 49 years that could even have happened? Many people today weren’t even born before abortion on demand was legal in America, so they have no understanding of what it would be like to live in a country without legalized abortion.

Well, it isn’t quite a country without abortion, as there are states which are now becoming tourist spots to travel to and have an abortion. I happen to live in one of those states, so I hear first-hand, especially in the media, the misleading messages going out daily about the need for abortion. I hear everything from the expansion of Planned Parenthood facilities to setting up tents at our border towns or the purchasing of traveling abortion vans to mobilize abortions. Yet, I also know that God can remove abortion as the law of the land, and He certainly can also remove it in my state. I continue to pray that will happen. Won’t you please join me in that prayer?

Something else significant happened in the past few years, and I want to share it with you. It is worth sharing as it has everything to do with prayer. In 2016, at our national conference in Bloomington, Minnesota, we did an offsite servant event that included a prayer walk by an abortion facility in Minneapolis. We didn’t stop very long on that walk, but everyone in our two groups stopped and prayed. We surely haven’t been the only ones over the years to stand in front of that abortion facility and pray. Yet, if you were not aware, in November 2018 that facility performed its last abortion two years after we were there praying. That news is worth sharing even a few years later. After many years of performing abortions at that site, **it is closed**. It’s that simple. Our walk may have seemed insignificant that day, but it was part of a much bigger plan God had in mind. And He did it.



I could go on and on about this, but the simple fact is that abortion facility is and has been closed since November 2018. The owner and doctor performing the abortions was renowned for her work in the abortion industry where, in addition to running her own facility, she served as the medical director for Planned Parenthood in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota for nearly thirty years. I am not mentioning her name as she should not be the focus. She was quoted as saying that if *Roe v. Wade* was repealed, she thought she would just continue doing abortions. Well, the Lord had a different plan, and she never had to fulfill that statement as she passed away in 2015. Her daughter, also an abortionist, continued running the abortion facility after her mother's passing. And that lasted three years until the facility was finally closed in November 2018. Praise the Lord!

If closing that facility can happen in a state where abortion is still legal, it can happen anywhere. Please rejoice in knowing prayer works and keep praying for the states who still haven't banned abortions and for those states trying to ward off those who want to bring it back. We are not done praying and never will be. God is on our side, and He has a plan. We need to stand firm and with faith never give up praying. God controls the power of prayer, and He is amazing.



**Blessed For Life**, based on Psalm 41:2, was the theme as over 200 Lutherans and others gathered October 21-22 at Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference! Look for conference audio and video to be posted at [lutheransforlife.org/conference](https://lutheransforlife.org/conference)! Above (l-r): Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life; Melissa Ohden, The Abortion Survivors Network; Lynette Auch, outgoing President of Lutherans For Life; Diane Albers, incoming President of Lutherans For Life; Kim Laube, Lutheran Family Services of Iowa. Melissa Ohden and Kim Laube also received LFL's Dominus Vitae Award for exceptional and meritorious For Life work. A 2023 Lutherans For Life National Conference is in the planning stages. Stay tuned for the date and location to be announced early in 2023.

### Under God the People Rule

by Lynette Auch, former President of Lutherans For Life

**W**e are truly *blessed* in the land. Most of us have an abundance of food, clothing, homes, cars, vocations, medical care, and luxuries beyond compare. At least for the moment, as we don't know what the turbulent future may hold.

Even as we celebrate the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, another great evil afflicts our world and our land. Experts estimate that 800,000 children go missing every year in the United States alone. Many of them become victims of human sex trafficking, and authorities believe this nation serves as a hub for it. Yet many of our public officials and institutions remain inattentive to the dangers, and even some hospitals and religious organizations are complicit in it—or at least negligent about it.

Why are we letting this great evil dwell amongst us?

**“So God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion’” (Genesis 1:27-28).**

God gave US dominion over His creation.

**“... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government ... all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security ....” (Declaration of Independence)**

These words were penned and signed by the God-fearing founding fathers of this Nation of the United States of America (*Historical and Theological Foundation of Law, Volume III*, pg. 1012, 1013). The very foundation of government of the United States of America, was based on the Word of God.

**“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1).**

Who are the governing authorities in this land?

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquility ... secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,*



*do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America* (Preamble of the Constitution).

**We the people** are the governing authorities. We are supposed to have a constitutional republic form of government and be able to elect representatives that do the people's will.

"Luther believed that government is instituted by God to preserve order ... He would have found the United States Constitution, established according to its preamble to 'form a more perfect Union' and 'insure domestic Tranquility,' consistent with his convictions about the role of government. Luther believed government should remain limited and not consume the liberties and resources of the people" (*Historical and Theological Foundation of Law, Volume III*, pg. 1011).

Romans 13 continues: "**Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments ... are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law**" (Romans 13:8-10).

According to America's founding documents, it is *our* right, it is *our* duty, to hold *our* elected representatives accountable and to correct their shortcomings, including electing new and better guards for our future security. We must remember that **Under God the People Rule**.

Heavenly Father, "**the hour has come for (us) to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light**" (Romans 13:11). As the presidency of LFL is now transferred to Diane Albers, I pray that this life-affirming ministry will continue raising awareness of the travesty of these children, being their voices, casting off the works of darkness, and putting on the armor of light. In Jesus' name. Amen.



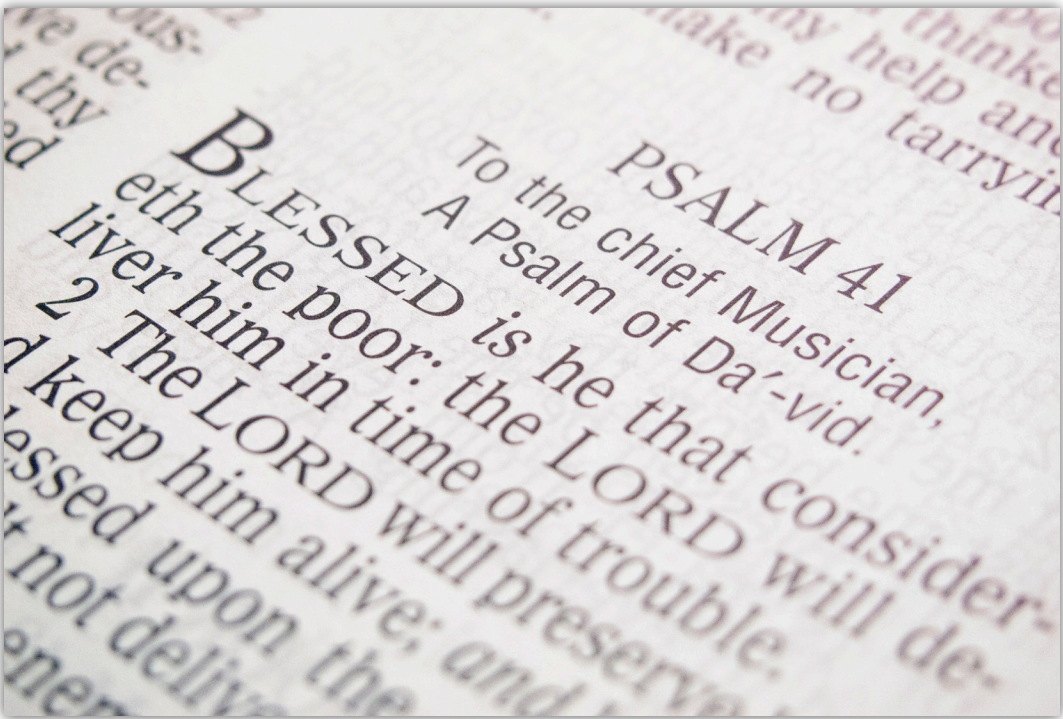
A *Lectio Divina* of Psalm 41

by Pastor Michael Salemink

*Lectio divina* means “divine or heavenly reading.” This devotional practice has a long history among Christians. It involves not just scanning and understanding the words on Scripture’s pages but also contemplating and praying them. *Lectio divina* recalls the familiar petition that our Lord grant us to “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” His Word. This draws us into a sacred conversation with our God who both speaks and listens. Martin Luther offered a unique adaptation of *lectio divina* to a dear friend when instructing how to “pray” the *Small Catechism*. He suggested taking each portion as a teaching, then as a thanksgiving, then as a confession, and then as a request. Our 2022 national conference and 2023 Life Sunday theme—**Blessed For Life**, from Psalm 41—offers an opportunity for us to engage the benefits of *lectio divina*.

Psalm 41:1a: **Blessed is the one who considers the poor!**

*O Lord, Heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You teach us that You remember, visit, and relieve us and our neighbors in our needs and sufferings. You draw near in Jesus Christ and invite us to receive others as gifts and privileges by sharing in their circumstances. For Jesus’ sake, accept our humble and hearty thanks that You involve us in community with Yourself and with each other, giving us occasion to belong to and serve persons other than ourselves. We confess that we have despised our poverties as opportunities for Your blessings and have disregarded those whose differences cause us discomfort. Pardon our iniquities and open our eyes to behold You encountering us through the least*



*of these, especially in their hours of crisis and moments of vulnerability; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**Psalm 41:1b-3: In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; 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. The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.**

*Mighty Deliverer, You teach us that Your relentless grace and gentle mercy protect and provide for even the weakest among us in every danger and adversity from fertilization to forever. Let us thank and praise Your name for so honoring us in the sight of all the forces and agents of evil, especially as You have granted healing from every injury and illness. Forgive us for doubting and despairing of Your power to save and sustain and for reckoning disease or affliction as indication of displeasure on Your part. Lead us to seek health and not death, caring and not killing, for our neighbors' ailments and our own, with sure trust in Your authority over all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**Psalm 41:4: As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"**

*Holy Father, You teach us that our common human condition of sinfulness causes all pain and dying, and if not for Your patience and grace, we would perish entirely and eternally. Thank You for Your Son's atoning sacrifice that imparts Your forgiveness to not only rescue us from everlasting damnation but also to spare us every temporal calamity that we deserve. We acknowledge our transgression in not reflecting and extending the same grace and compassion to the precious lives around us, even though our Savior has reconciled every member of our race. Grant Your Son's resurrection and redemption to restore wholeness and dignity to us and all whom sin has deprived; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**Psalm 41:5-8: My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?" And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."**

*Gracious God, You teach us that death represents the enemy of life, survival, identity, and immortality, and it operates as instrument of the evil one in hardening hearts against Your Gospel. We gratefully celebrate how You continue to befriend and defend those considered disposable by the culture. We also admit our guilt in seeing and treating*



*neighbors of differing ideologies as enemies and wishing or working evil toward them. Inspire us to advocate on behalf of the hearts and lives endangered by abortion, embryocidal experimentation, assisted suicide, and other mindsets and measures that threaten Your dear ones; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**Psalm 41:9-10: Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

*Dear Jesus, You teach us that Your incarnation as an embryo among us has made our sorrows, sicknesses, and other sufferings Your own. Thanks to You undergoing betrayal, abandonment, crucifixion, punishment, and persecution, we never face these anxieties hopeless or alone. Forgive us for having turned our backs on Your Gospel promises and underserved persons because we fear the difficulties they come with. Preserve us during the agony of interpersonal conflicts that arise from speaking Your truth and showing Your love, that we remember and rely on Your comforting presence and keep reaching neighbors whom the world isolates, for Your name's sake.*

**Psalm 41:11-12: By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.**

*Almighty Maker, You create, redeem, and call us and each human life for Your own delight and to dwell in Your presence forever. Thank You for the everlasting assurance that You have subdued our enemies for us and will not permit sin and death to have authority over us. We confess that our integrity and faithfulness wavers because of our selfish hearts and the weakness of our nature, and we regularly give in to and even ally ourselves with pursuits that we ought to avoid. Let us know Your great delight in snatching lives from the jaws of death and upholding them by Your hand; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**Psalm 41:13: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and amen.**

*Blessed Lord God, You teach us that the days and destinies of every living thing come and go at Your good pleasure and under Your watchful eye. Thank You for establishing Your Word and Your will as never-ending, effective, and trustworthy. We confess that we have sought stability in the things of men and the ways of this world rather than assenting to Your voice. Bid us rejoice and delight with those around us as brothers and sisters in all the blessings You promise and provide to those who trust the grace and name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



## Blessed to be a Blessing

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations

**“The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land”** (Psalm 41:2). As a believer, baptized into Jesus to become a child of your heavenly Father, you surely know you have been blessed by God in endless ways. But do you recognize who He may have used to bless you? I do! I became a Geistfeld by marriage in 1972—the last of five to become a child-by-marriage to Victor and Viola Geistfeld of South Branch, Minnesota. They were married in 1932 in the depths of the Great Depression and worked tremendously long, difficult hours to raise their family, grow and harvest their crops, and raise livestock.

Most mornings during their 70-year marriage, they held family devotions. They rarely missed attending church services and Bible class, even during harvest, a time in many farming households when the need to get the crop in, by necessity, sometimes came before worshipping God. Not at the Geistfeld home! Vic always said, “God comes first.” At one point, they took in a foster child and gave room and board to local schoolteachers. They gave generously of their time, talents, and treasure to their church, the local Lutheran parochial school, the Lutheran high school, and to family and friends who needed help.

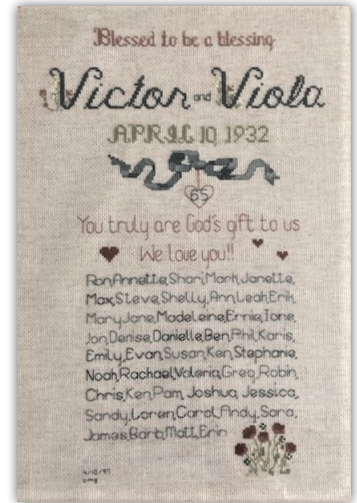
Their daily, lifelong example to everyone who knew them was proof of Deuteronomy 7:9: **“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations ....”** Their example was proof of Proverbs 22:6: **“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”**

When I look at the lives of Vic and Viola’s children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, many carefully named on this beautiful piece of needlework, I see the fruits of their commitment to the Lord. I see the fruits of their faithfulness *personally* in my husband, our children, our grandchildren, and in me. I see faithfulness and true discipleship in so many who were touched by their lives for so many years.

Vic and Viola *always* gave glory to God for all that they had, both materially and spiritually. They truly understood they were deeply blessed that they might be a blessing to others. It was shown in everything they said and did.

I pray that you will recognize and value those people in your life who were blessed by God so they could be a blessing to *you*! I especially pray that you will then use the blessings God has bestowed on *you* to bless those around you and to pass these blessings on to your own descendants to a thousand generations. Now is the time to pass on the gift. Now is the time to pass the baton to the next runner in the race! To God be all the glory!

(*Needlework by Carol M. Geistfeld, 1997*)



## The Sacrifice

by Marie MacPherson

“**To [love God] and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices**” (Mark 12:33).

Remember the good old Golden Rule: “**Do unto others as you would have them do unto you**”? It’s a rule that we like to think we keep as Christians, and keep well. However, when we carefully examine our own thoughts, words, and deeds toward our neighbors—from little neighbors in our homes who keep us from our own agendas to big neighbors in our communities whom we scorn, rather than pity and grieve—we might quickly conclude that a burnt offering and a sacrificial system would be much easier than perfection on this matter of the Golden Rule!

The passage above was asserted by a scribe in response to Jesus summarizing the most important commandment, quoting from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18. Essentially, Jesus condensed all of the Old Testament into a single phrase, “Love God and love your neighbor.” While a goodly bulk of the Old Testament prescribes a sacrificial system we no longer follow in modern times, that system was instituted by God to point believers to Christ, who was to come, and was, in fact, now in their midst. This side of Heaven, we will never perfectly love our neighbors, yet our good God has provided for us, His children. Hebrews 9:13-14 declares, “**For if the blood of goats and bulls ... sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**” In joy for that purification, may God make us all into sacrificial lovers of our neighbors, small and great, beginning in our homes and overflowing into our communities.



*My heart must Thou have solely,  
My Savior and my God!  
Come, Jesus, take it wholly,  
And make it Thine abode!  
Mold it to Thy control,  
That I, Thy Word receiving,  
May find, in Thee believing,  
Salvation for my soul.*

(ELH 259:7; T.H. Kingo, translated by C. Doving)

*For Further Reading: Deuteronomy 6, Mark 12, Hebrews 8-9.*

## BONUS ARTICLES

*Follow the links for  
even more great  
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**B.C.: Pro-Life before Christian** by Robert G. Morrison  
“Still, the Dobbs ruling does not go far enough ...”  
[lutheransforlife.org/article/b-c-pro-life-before-christian](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/b-c-pro-life-before-christian)

**Jesus Is the Fulcrum** by Deaconess Pamela Buhler  
“The Bible teaches us to live in our baptismal identity ...”  
[lutheransforlife.org/article/jesus-the-fulcrum-of-life](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/jesus-the-fulcrum-of-life)

## Our Lutherans For Life Community!

by David A. Probst, Director of Development

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it”**  
(1 Corinthians 12:27).

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the pronoun **YOU** to address the people in his letter, mainly the believers in Corinth. His use of the pronoun **YOU** can also refer to all of us living in 21<sup>st</sup> century. **YOU** are the Body of Christ!

Paul uses the example of the human body to illustrate how Christians with their many and varied gifts can function in harmony with each other. Through our variety and multiplicity, there can be oneness and unity. Through our Baptism, we have been made one. And our oneness is not dependent on our race, nationality, language, wealth, or social class. The unity expressed through Paul's statement, you are the Body of Christ, is advanced when its members realize they need one another, they need to support and encourage one another, they need to share in everyone's joys and sorrows, and they need to pray and serve those in need.

This illustration by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 can also be seen in our Lutherans For Life community. **YOU** are all members of our Lutherans For Life community! And as members:

**YOU** are partners with us!

**YOU** are making an impact alongside us!

**YOU** are irreplaceable and priceless!

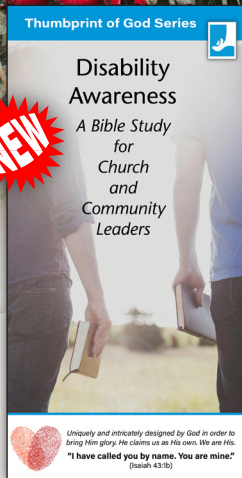
**YOU** are a wonderful blessing to Lutheran For Life, and we are forever grateful for the opportunity to stand side by side with **YOU** and expand our Gospel-motivated voice For Life mission outreach.

God's blessings to our Lutherans For Life community!



2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference • Rock Island, Illinois





## Disability Awareness – A Bible Study for Church and Community Leaders

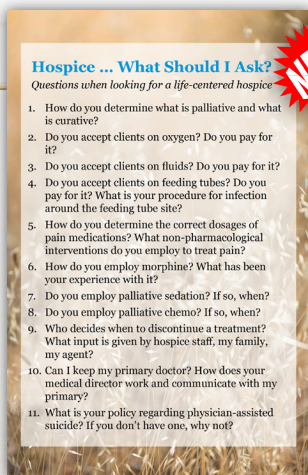
Item LFL148T. \$0.50 ea.

## Congregational Support for People with Disabilities – Discussion questions for ministry teams

Disability awareness and disability ministry should not begin once there is an immediate need. It should begin today! Item LFL145T. \$0.50 ea.



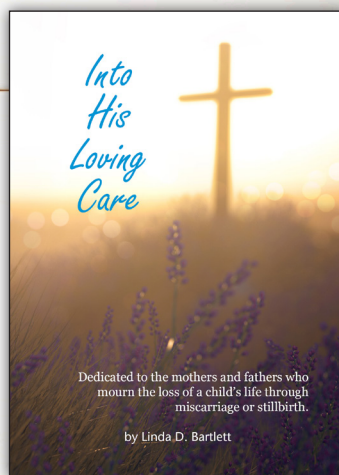
Order LFL Resources at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



### Hospice ... What Should I Ask?

Questions when looking for a life-centered hospice

1. How do you determine what is palliative and what is curative?
2. Do you accept clients on oxygen? Do you pay for it?
3. Do you accept clients on fluids? Do you pay for it?
4. Do you accept clients on feeding tubes? Do you pay for it? What is your procedure for infection around the feeding tube site?
5. How do you determine the correct dosages of pain medications? What non-pharmacological interventions do you employ to treat pain?
6. How do you employ morphine? What has been your experience with it?
7. Do you employ palliative sedation? If so, when?
8. Do you employ palliative chemo? If so, when?
9. Who decides when to discontinue a treatment? What input is given by hospice staff, my family, my agent?
10. Can I keep my primary doctor? How does your medical director work and communicate with my primary?
11. What is your policy regarding physician-assisted suicide? If you don't have one, why not?



**Hospice ... What Should I Ask?** is a bulletin insert/handout that offers helpful questions to ask when looking for a life-centered hospice. Item LFL803BI. \$0.25 ea.

**Into His Loving Care**—updated July 2022—is a unique 32-page devotional booklet by Linda D. Bartlett, dedicated to all the mothers and fathers who mourn the loss of a child's life through miscarriage or stillbirth, and it features suggested Scripture readings, prayers, and beautiful photographs. Item LFL902B. \$2.00 ea.



# Life Sunday / Life Week Resources for 2023

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



## New for Life Sunday 2023

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

[lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023](https://lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023)

[lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023](https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023)

### Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*)

You can find Life Thoughts based on the historic One-Year Lectionary at: [lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts).

**January 1 – Christmas I/Circumcision and Name of Jesus** – Our Lord became incarnate to give all humankind the privileges of His name (Numbers 6:27). He means to make the littlest of us into His sons and daughters (Galatians 3:26). The designation of baby Jesus as divine Child demonstrates the Father’s delight in declaring infants (Psalm 8:2), eight-day-olds, and even unborn ones (Luke 2:21) as infinitely precious. Receiving them as gifts celebrates Him as God!

**January 8 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord** – No conception—human or otherwise—comes about without God’s express will and Word (Psalm 29:9). He intentionally breathes life (Isaiah 42:5) and gives strength (Psalm 29:11) to every member of our race, including those whom others despise (Isaiah 42:3, 7). How could we involve our bodies in death when Jesus has removed us from its dominion (Romans 6:9-11)?

**January 15 – Epiphany II** – Abortion and assisted suicide lead many astray after lies (Psalm 40:4). They promise deliverance but only provide destruction. How much more blessed to trust the Lord to sustain us unto the end (1 Corinthians 1:8)? Can He secure us the life we seek even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis? Come and see (John 1:38-39)—and then courageously proclaim His faithful salvation (Psalm 40:10)!

**January 22 – Epiphany III** – In the day of trouble the people of Christ seek not the finger of death but the face of the Lord (Psalm 27:5, 8). Though carrying surprise pregnancy may appear foolish, though enduring unto natural death may seem senseless, though advocating the sanctity of life may earn us ridicule, the word of the cross preserves us—and our neighbors—in the very power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

**January 29 – Epiphany IV** – The coming of Jesus as Christ shows the way of the Lord: He exalts the lowly instead of abandoning or executing them (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). We ought neither encourage nor invite expectant mothers and fathers to sacrifice the fruit of their bodies for righting their wrongs (Micah 6:7). Christ Jesus has already become that redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30), and such compassion to the neighbor lifts us up to stand alongside God Himself (Micah 6:8).

**February 5 – Epiphany V** – Do abortion and physician-assisted suicide rest our faith in God’s power or men’s wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:5)? Has not Christ crucified proved the beauty of being with one another even in weakness and trembling (1 Corinthians 2:3) rather than hiding from our own flesh (Isaiah 58:7)? And will not what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9) ease fears about surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis (Psalm 112:7)?



**February 12 – Epiphany VI** – Jesus affirms that God forbids both murder and adultery (Matthew 5:21, 27). The Lord categorically says, “No!” to abortion because He emphatically says, “Yes!” to marriage, family, and community. His “Yes!” even extends forgiveness and salvation to those who have aborted their own children. We may advocate the sanctity of human life with the same courage and compassion (Matthew 5:37)—no matter who calls us a fool (Matthew 5:22).

**February 19 – Transfiguration of Our Lord** – The transfigured Jesus came down the mountain. He did not camp His glory in a comfortable status quo but put it to work accompanying His loved ones into adversity. So let us take hold of this Gospel and invite our neighbors to leave behind the seeming ease of abortion or assisted suicide. And let us find the blessed life Jesus reveals even in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis.

**February 26 – Lent I** – The devil suggested Jesus attempt death as a solution (Matthew 4:6). Our Savior rejected the deception and rested Himself in the hands of the Heavenly

Father. Death only delivers oppression because it serves sinfulness (Romans 5:14). But the victory Jesus gives over our ultimate enemies—Satan and the grave—frees us to leave life-and-death decisions to the Lord our God.

**March 5 – Lent II** – Father Abraham was justified (Romans 4:2-3); that is, he had a reason for coming into being and continuing to live. Abraham was not justified by works, that is; this reason arose from elsewhere than his own origin, appearance, or ability. Abraham was justified by grace; that is, God’s creating, redeeming, and calling defined his identity. The Gospel proclaims the sanctity of life to all Abraham’s offspring (Romans 4:16)!

**March 12 – Lent III** – Jesus delights to invite the Samaritan woman into His fellowship and forgiveness for her sordid past (John 4:13-18). So He has received each of us, notwithstanding our mistakes and failures. And so He insists we know the joy and hope of explicitly articulating the same grace to any who suffer the guilt and grief of aborting their own children. He holds their lives as precious as those already lost.

**March 19 – Lent IV** – Jesus clearly instructs us not to regard physical impairment as reason for condemnation to death (John 9:3). Yet our culture often uses disability as excuse for abortion and euthanasia. The Lord our God works wonders through our neighbors’ brokennesses just as He does through our own. So we may cheerfully, compassionately, courageously persuade our communities to turn away from doctor-assisted deaths.

**March 26 – Lent V** – Almighty God wondrously and abundantly brings forth life where we only behold despair and darkness (Ezekiel 37:3-6). How much more dear does He hold embryonic neighbors, impaired persons, and aging ones than piles of bones? And would we not witness—and deliver!—miracles in voicing it to them and for them, especially amid surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis?



[lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts](https://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts)



**Chats 4 Life** – Offering high school and college youth an opportunity to learn about contemporary life topics from expert guest speakers. Held every first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET.

**What about ... Mondays?** – On the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 p.m. ET, students gather to talk about life issues and to find hope-filled, Gospel-motivated answers.

**For Life Conversations** – Recorded 5-15 minute interviews on life topics shared on our Facebook page and website.

**Frontline Call** – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, January 9, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. There will be a devotion, activity update, life project ideas, guest speakers, and Q & A.

For topics, speakers, and Zoom links, go to the LFL homepage calendar or our Facebook page.

**LFL at the March**  
**January 19-21, 2023**  
**Washington, D.C.**

*Conference and March  
Open to All Adults*



[lutheransforlife.org/event/lfl-at-the-march-in-washington-d-c](https://lutheransforlife.org/event/lfl-at-the-march-in-washington-d-c)





## Lutherans For Life

Available in App Stores



[lutheransforlife.org/lfl-app](http://lutheransforlife.org/lfl-app)



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 staff speakers, based on availability. Whether your event is one hour, a half day, an evening, or something else, LFL will be pleased to assist you in planning.

[lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life](http://lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life)



### LAMBS – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Simply by filling out the form at the link below, the Miami Valley Life Chapter will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to this expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States. There are no strings attached. [lutheransforlife.org/article/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets)



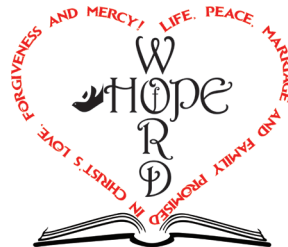
**Buying or selling a home or commercial property?** You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email [proliferalestate@yahoo.com](mailto:proliferalestate@yahoo.com) for more information.

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

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

### For those who have had an abortion, a Word of Hope ...

888.217.8679 • [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org) • [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org)



Find Lutherans For Life on ...



### Even in Darkness

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

It's dark as I write this article, and it will likely be darker still when you read it. The coming of winter means the absence of light, and winter is definitely coming. In southern Indiana, we've felt a chill that's often reserved for weeks, if not months, from now. Winter is at our doorstep; the days are getting shorter and colder as we lean away from the sun.

Despite my love of daylight, I readily admit that darkness and the close of day resonate with good gifts—gifts like the comforts of home and family, freshly bathed children snuggling in for a story, evening devotions and bedtime prayers. Darkness is a gift that gives us the opportunity to rest and reset, a gift that prepares us for a new day and the work to come.

Yet, darkness reminds us of other realities too, of moments that are much less comforting. Perhaps it brings to mind nights spent in fervent prayer over a sick child or elderly loved one. Perhaps it harkens back to restless hours filled with worries and fears, loneliness and nightmares that kept us from the peace we had hoped for.

Darkness often carries with it a negative connotation. This was true in biblical times, and it is still true today. From the idioms and allusions we use in daily conversation to the eerie music playing in the background of movie scenes filmed at night, we know darkness has the potential to bring disorder, destruction, and even death.

And if we've read our Bible, we know that dark days and dark nights are coming.

**“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars,” Jesus declares. “See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you**



**up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake”** (Matthew 24:6-9).

Jesus speaks of dark times to be certain, end times. And we are living in them. Yet, God's Word to us brings comfort and life:

**“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).

*Even more reassuring? Romans 8:39 reminds us that nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

But what about our own lives? Like the transition into winter, we have dark seasons in our lives too—seasons full of sickness and suffering, periods of difficulty, loss, and grief. Sometimes those seasons befall us through no fault of our own; they are simply the result of sin and suffering in the world. And sometimes these seasons come because we, like the earth itself, are leaning away from the Son.

The Psalmist in Psalm 41 is clearly experiencing a dark season of sickness and suffering. Gravely ill, the Psalmist records the reactions of others:

**“My enemies say of me in malice, ‘When will he die, and his name perish?’ ... All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies’”** (41:5,7-8).

To make dark matters even worse, it seems his close friend has also betrayed him. (41:9) Yet, despite these dark times, God's Word speaks life and truth. The Psalmist declares his hope as he clings to the light of Christ.

**“In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive”** (41:1b-2a).

How can he declare this truth so boldly? Because he knows that even in darkness, we are blessed For Life.

The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh are at work to turn us toward the darkness, but we were made for light and life. God's Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation. May we, like the Psalmist, cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons, through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope.

**“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen”** (Psalm 41:13).

**Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life**  
[mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) • 812.350.2732 • **Y4Life.org**





### Meet Our New LFL President

by Diane Albers

I am the new president of the national LFL board of directors! It has not sunk in yet! I've been involved with LFL for about 38 years. I began shortly after my youngest son was born and my daughter was 17 months old. I loved being a stay-at-home mom to three and the wife of a Lutheran high school math teacher, but I wanted more than that—and I wanted it to be meaningful and God-pleasing. That is when I saw a little article about LFL in the *Missouri District Voice*. Soon after that I went to a meeting to form a Life Chapter in South St. Louis and eventually became president. Life Chapter presidents were on the Missouri federation board, and soon I was put in charge of developing Life Chapters. **Jeanne Mackay** was the federation president at the time, and she was an excellent mentor for me. But soon she resigned and began her work in Kansas, and I became the Missouri federation president in 1994 and will continue until I resign on May 6, 2023!



So, you see I have a lot of history with LFL! In the beginning federation presidents were members of the national board, and because of that, I've been on the national board off and on since I began with LFL. **Jean Garton** was the first president of LFL, and I began my LFL journey with her. She was an amazing storyteller. I always remembered her story from each annual conference, but this one is my favorite: Jean was going to speak somewhere and there were a lot of vocal, angry protestors, so she had an escort to help her get through. But one protestor got close enough to wave a sign in her face and yell, "My body. My choice." Jean just looked at her and replied, "You had a choice, and you chose that body?!"

The next president that I worked with was **Linda Bartlett**, and Linda was the writer. She wrote brochures, booklets, and programs. She was the voice of reason and a calm debater.

After that it was **Diane Schroeder**, and she made the board work! We were forever examining our LFL policy statements and our board policies. I don't think I've ever taken so many psychological surveys, but it all worked! We have strong policies and have developed a strong, cohesive board.

When Diane retired, **Lynette Auch**, with whom I had served on the Council of Federation Presidents, took over. She became president when there was a lot going on: selling one property and buying another and remodeling it, choosing a new executive director, as well as other things. I will remember Lynette as always persevering

through everything that was thrown at her but doing it prayerfully. She is an amazing prayer warrior. Her board meetings *always* ended with prayer for LFL and for each of us board members. And now Lynette has retired!

And who would have thought that I would end up being the new president of the board! The only way that could have happened was through the hand of God because I wasn't looking for a new job! I said "No," but then I prayed, and, when I didn't hear a "No" from God, I let my name stand and was totally surprised that I had been elected. All I can say is that God must have plans for me and LFL. We are in a good place right now. We have an excellent, hard-working staff. Our policy statements are clear and strong. This ministry is diverse (**Y4Life**, **Word of Hope**, our conferences, and more!). We are well regarded by most Lutheran church bodies. Our donor base is strong. Wherever God is leading us, I plan to prayerfully follow. Please join me in praying that we would seek and follow God's plan and that God would continue to bless LFL.



(l-r): Lynette Auch, outgoing President of Lutherans For Life, and Diane Albers, incoming President of Lutherans For Life, at the 2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference!

### Conference Comments

Dear LFL Team,

Thank you for your generous offering to Her Plan [Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network]! It was totally unexpected. It's a privilege for my team to advocate for pregnant and parenting moms, and I am honored by your support. It was wonderful to attend your conference. Thank you for the important work you do!

*For Life Together,*

*Anna Longbons, Manager, State Program*

### Blessed Where We've Been and Blessed Where We're Headed

by Pastor Michael Salemink

Lutherans For Life has enjoyed a very active and effective 2022. Ever-increasing opportunities for educating and serving, along with the generosity of our supporters (especially during the pandemic!), raised our budget to more than \$1.25 million. We restructured our national staff to better meet the needs of our nationwide ministry, including a new Department of Volunteer Relations for equipping our volunteer communities (**Life Chapters**, **Life Teams**, and **State Federations**) as well as engaging unaffiliated individuals interested in activism. (Reach out to Virginia Flo, Director, and she—along with Pastor Jeff Duncan and Dr. Barb Geistfeld, Assistant Directors—will aid you in getting involved and getting organized!)

We also welcomed three new team members: Dave Probst, Director of Development; Cori Meier, **Y4Life** Assistant; and Erika Peterson, Events Coordinator. (*Here I am with Dave and Erika and Wendysue Fluegge at our 2022 national conference!*) In addition to a revised strategic plan for our organization at the board of directors level, we've developed three (!) ambitious operating plans to improve and expand our legacy programming, **Y4Life**, and **Word of Hope** over the next six years.



You made our spring **Step Up 4 Life** virtual walk the biggest ever, with hundreds of participants and donations that exceeded our \$60,000 target by more than \$10,000! This magnificent campaign does more than merely raise funds—it brings together individuals and communities across the country in relationship-building, friendly competition; For Life awareness and advocacy; and celebrating the sanctity of every human life.

We joined the AFLC and AALC at their churchwide conventions over the summer to express our gratitude, offer our ongoing assistance, and invite their continued cooperation. In fact, I heard the June news of the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision vacating *Roe v. Wade* while at the AALC assembly (on the AFLC seminary campus!) and had the privilege of sharing the delightful report during their proceedings.

Our presence at the LCMS triennial National Youth Gathering (Houston) and the Lutheran Education Association convocation (Milwaukee) proved exceptionally fruitful, too. For four days solid at the former and two-and-a-half at the latter, we enjoyed nonstop visits and conversations with students, chaperones, and educators that have already led to multiple follow-ups (and additional invitations to share our Owen's Mission project with schools).



The twenty thousand young people at NYG came in groups at a time and occupied our seven-member crew for over eight hours a day (including **Word of Hope**, whose presence the gathering organizers expressly requested to provide spiritual care for the questions and concerns—"I think I might be pregnant," "I suffered a miscarriage," "I've been sexually abused"—stimulated by the on-site mobile ultrasound unit).

Six years ago, at my first LEA Convocation with LFL, most attendees bypassed our display, avoiding eye contact. This time around, the succession of participants asking questions, offering suggestions, giving thanks, cheering us on, and taking literature didn't end!

And, of course, we've just returned from our first **LFL National Conference** in four years, which featured 200-plus registrants, three nationally-known keynote speakers, sixteen expert informational breakout sessions, award-winning student essay presentations, more than fifteen exhibitors, and a busy abundance of joy and hope.

Now we're turning our attention—and asking for yours—to surpassing it in 2023.

Our third annual **Life Week** (January 15-21) festivities—daily devotions, life-issue fact sheets, life-affirming service activity suggestions and instructions, nightly webinars, LFL apparel, and more—will culminate in a dual-track (youth and adult) conference (**Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**, and **LFL at the March**) in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> March For Life in Washington, D.C., and **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** (January 22), utilizing our familiar and beloved thematic congregational worship materials proclaiming the Gospel-motivated message of "**Blessed For Life.**"

We've already begun the process of chartering several new Life Chapters and Life Teams whom we'll celebrate welcoming in the months to come. We're reviewing and revising classic print booklets and brochures (and making them available online for free download and distribution!) and writing, designing, and producing many new ones (including translation into Spanish) on emerging matters, and you'll have those before your eyes and in your hands this year.

In partnership with the Carolinas District LWML, we've submitted a proposal for \$70,000 in grant funding (vote for us if you're going to LWML's biennial convention this summer!) for a "**Life Connection Events and Kits**" initiative that will engage and train twenty-somethings embarking on first-time families and vocations and bridge the age gap by integrating them into our volunteer communities, many of whom have leaders reaching retirement age and are eagerly seeking strategies for collaborating with successive generations.

Of course, whether we receive the mission grant award or not, we'll remain excited to roll out the four national pilot events and subsequent field-tested "activities-in-a-box" (supplies, instructions, publicity materials, apparel, and all you'll need to locally replicate young-adult-friendly, life-affirming service projects) and revolutionize a hands-on approach to sanctity-of-life education and action.

It'll take an even bolder budget—more than \$1.6 million—to make it all happen—a genuine stretch into uncertainty, especially since contributions have tapered in the last three quarters—but we believe our God and our people will meet the challenge.

And we'll welcome you to celebrate it all at ANOTHER NATIONAL CONFERENCE in 2023!

### Bracelets

by Grace MacPherson

Four hundred ninety-eight, four hundred ninety-nine, five hundred! I laid aside the most recent bundle of twenty-five bracelets, finally one-sixth of the way to reaching my goal—making three thousand bracelets to represent the three thousand babies who lose their lives to abortion each day in the United States alone. Like every baby, each bracelet made in this project is unique. The bracelets are handwoven out of raffia by volunteers—so far, twenty volunteers from four states. Each bracelet has a single bead, which is the size of a baby seven weeks after conception. Tiny though the beads are, a baby this size already has a brain, a spinal cord, facial features, arms, and legs.

But how did I end up on this journey? Sometime last October, when we were lying awake in our room, my sister said to me, “Three thousand babies are aborted each day.” We hadn’t been talking about abortion or prolife issues before that, but she had paged through our homeschool history textbook earlier that day and had seen the statistic. I had heard that number before, but it struck me in a new way to hear it late at night as I was beginning to fall asleep. Suddenly, I was wide awake, and ideas were churning through my head. There are things in the world that I know I can’t fix, but I felt compelled to at least try to do something about this: I could make and distribute simple bracelets. The next morning, I told my mom about my idea. She was supportive but pointed out that my sister and I were preparing to volunteer at our local historical reenactment festival later that week. A big project like this was going to have to wait, and it wasn’t until the following spring that I really began work on it.

There is a lot that I hope to accomplish with this project. One of my main goals is simply to create more awareness about the magnitude of abortion. While people may have heard the statistic that three thousand babies are aborted each day, they might not realize what a huge number that actually is. (I didn’t until I started making that many bracelets by hand!) The bracelets are distributed with postcards that explain this project and request a donation to our local prolife clinic. These postcards are numbered 1 to 3,000, making this number more personal to the people who receive these bracelets.

Another goal I have with this project is to offer people a practical way to help. While someone may want to help prevent abortion, he or she might not know how to go about doing so. Those who are able to can help make the bracelets. For those receiving the bracelets, the postcards offer an easy way to donate to the prolife cause. I also hope that the bracelets will be able to start many conversations about the sanctity of life.



My final—and highest—goal is to share the message of forgiveness we all have in Christ, even those who have participated in the deaths of the unborn. I don't just believe that life is precious—I believe it is precious for a very specific reason. God created life and made humans in His own image. We have fallen from this image, but He sent His own Son as a baby—yes, who once was the size of that bead when He was in Mary's womb—to live and die for our forgiveness. This message is included on the postcards that will be distributed with the bracelets. I hope and pray that all who see it will come to believe that their sins are forgiven by Jesus' death and resurrection.

I still have a long way to go on this project, but I haven't lost enthusiasm yet. There have been moments when I found myself frustrated at the prospect of having to measure out and cut raffia ... 2,500 more times ... but I have never regretted beginning, and I look forward to the day when I can see this project through to its end: two thousand nine hundred ninety-eight, two thousand nine hundred ninety-nine, three thousand!

For more information or to support this project, please visit:  
[www.intoyourhandsllc.com/bracelets-for-life](http://www.intoyourhandsllc.com/bracelets-for-life)



## 2022 LFL National Essay Contest Winners



**Alyssa Bivens**  
**Winner – Grades 6-8**  
 Collinsville, Illinois



**Grace MacPherson**  
**Winner – Grades 9-12**  
 Mankato, Minnesota

[lutheransforlife.org/article/2022-lfl-national-essay-contest-winners](http://lutheransforlife.org/article/2022-lfl-national-essay-contest-winners)



### You Can Make an Impact

by David A. Probst, Director of Development

You can make an impact on our Gospel-motivated voice For Life mission by becoming an LFL monthly recurring gift donor. Your recurring monthly stewardship offering could be a tremendous blessing to Lutherans For Life, providing financial stability during times of uncertainty. Here are some additional benefits:

- Monthly donations allow supporters to spread the financial impact of their giving across the entire year, making the commitment more manageable.
- Monthly donations can improve our long-range planning, budgeting, decision making, and goal-setting.
- Monthly donations are easy—they're the most convenient way to make sure your donation is being made each month.
- Monthly donations can be increased, decreased, or withheld for a month at any time. The process is easy, convenient, and hassle-free.

Please consider becoming a monthly recurring gift champion today and assure our For Life message, printed resources, and professional staff are serving and supporting Lutherans and their neighbors with our Gospel-motivated voice For Life mission.

If you have any questions about monthly recurring giving, would like further information about monthly recurring giving, or would like to sign up for monthly recurring donations, please call 515-382-2077 or email [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).

"I support Lutherans For Life and its mission to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life because ... I love the Lord and all of His creation, and I want everyone to feel the same way. I want to help others learn how to support the life of each person."

*Diane Albers*

"I support Lutherans For Life and its mission to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life because ... I am a Lutheran, and I know the need for an organization in my church that promotes and equips 'US' to know, learn, and share the many reasons that LIFE must be held high in the ministry of all churches."

*Mike Albers*



## Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, chastity, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and bio-technology.
- **Assists For Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to: women with an untimely pregnancy; women, men, and families suffering under the guilt of an abortion; young people with questions and concerns about sexuality; and the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**

## Lutherans For Life ...

- **Witnesses** to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.
- **Serves** through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.
- **Educates and Encourages** through conferences and workshops, printed resources (including our *LifeDate* journal, *Life News*, *Life Quotes*, and *Directions*), Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula, video, and through [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org).
- **Equips** local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life State Federations, Life Chapters, and Life Teams also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.

## Lutherans For Life ...

- Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.
- Is not subsidized by any church body.
- Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.

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

**Our Vision ...** Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

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

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[lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023/](http://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023/)

**63,459,781 babies have been killed in  
abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973**  
[www.lifenews.com/2022/01/07/63459781-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973/](http://www.lifenews.com/2022/01/07/63459781-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973/)