# Directions ...

# For LFL's Frontline January-February 2023



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



This edition of Directions includes ...

Bible Study: Blessed in Serving

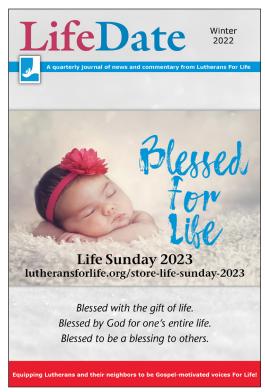
Getting the MOST out of Life Week 2023

"I Don't Agree with What You Said ..."

Reaching Out | The Sanctity of Life

2023 Essay Contest – Just As ... I Am

2023 LFL National Conference



lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

## News and Notes



- Check out word-of-hope.org and y4life.org.
- Be sure to "Like" and follow LFL on social media! See links below:

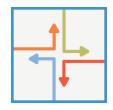
 $www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife \bullet www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL \\ www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts$ 

twitter.com/ForLifers • instagram.com/lfly4life • www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife

- Join our Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and LMCs: www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL. The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other Frontline volunteers.
- LifeDate is a great way to share the For Life message with your congregation. Order LifeDate in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) to order. (lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal)
- *Life News* is available each month to download and print. *Life News* is a free monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more. Go to lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news.
- LFL Job Board: Word of Hope Assistant | lutheransforlife.org/lfl-job-board
- SAVE THE DATE! 2023 Lutherans For Life National Conference | October 11-13 | Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky, with visits to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum | Look for more information in early 2023! SAVE THE DATE!







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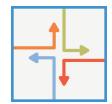
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lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023



# Bible Study: Blessed In Serving



Coming through the annual celebration of Christ's nativity, when the angels declared to all humanity peace through this newborn Savior in our flesh, we land upon a new year. So much unwritten. So much promise. So much opportunity lies before us. How will we spend the next 365 days—not yet written, but laid before us with heavenly expectation?

The Life Sunday 2023 theme is **Blessed For Life**. Psalm 41 (and especially verse 2) are the theme's originating point. God blesses us with Life. He calls us blessed! Through many actions, the Psalmist describes the ways that God is active in protecting and affirming the value of the life He creates in us.

**Blessed in Serving** is a sub-theme that emanates from the knowledge that in Christ, we are **Blessed For Life**. Consider some of the options God places before you this year to serve your neighbor and be for them a Gospel-motivated voice For Life. How might the Lord of Life deliver on His promise of blessing others through you?

**Read aloud Psalm 41.** Pay special attention to verses 1-3. Make a list of all the "action" words of what the Lord is doing or will be doing according to this psalm.

According to Psalm 41:1, who is "blessed"? What does it mean to "consider the poor"?

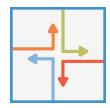
Using your list of action words, brainstorm connections to the various ways that you "consider the poor." You could include making a list of some of these actions. (e.g., What can you do to "protect" and "keep" the life of an unborn child, the poorest and weakest of humanity that is vulnerable in the womb?)

What does it mean "to serve one another"? Consider and list some of the vocations or offices that you interpret as "serving" others.

Read Jesus' words in Luke 2:24-30.

- What dispute arose among the disciples? In what ways can this struggle present itself in your church, your Life Teams or Life Chapters, maybe even in your own family?
- How is Jesus evidencing His humility among the people who call Him Lord and Savior?
- What conclusions might a Gospel-motivated voice For Life draw from Jesus' example?
- According to Jesus, what good things await those servants who remain faithful to the end despite the trials or tribulations they may encounter along the way?





#### Read Luke 10:38-42, Jesus speaking of Martha and Mary.

- Describe how Martha and Mary each spend their time in the presence of Jesus.
- What does Jesus describe as the "good portion" that will not be taken away from Mary?
- Considering your servanthood history, what warnings or blessings might you find in this discussion?
- To maintain a healthy life of servanthood as a Gospel-motivated voice For Life, what might be most important for you to encourage or build up in your life? What actions or steps could you incorporate today toward that goal?

#### Read Romans 12.

- What conclusions might you draw from St. Paul about a life of servanthood?
- What servant gifts would you like to exercise in this new year? Brainstorm some practical steps you might incorporate toward becoming a more Gospel-motivated servant in life issues.
- St. Paul encourages Christians to "Let love be genuine" (v. 9). As you encounter various life issues, what practical steps could help you express a Gospel-motivated love for those you serve?
- Verses 9-16 encourage application of concrete examples of life-affirming service. Make a list of ways you might apply these examples to life issues you encounter. (e.g., Not responding with evil for evil, I will pray for those who have fire-bombed pregnancy resource centers weekly, asking the Lord to open their eyes and bring them to true repentance and allow healing for their hearts.)
- According to verse 20, there are "enemies" that we may encounter in our life of service. How might you define your attitude regarding those you encounter in life issues? If you consider anyone caught in a life issue an "enemy," what are practical steps you might take to change this perception? How could you best begin or continue serving your neighbors with gentleness and respect? (See 1 Peter 3:13-17.)

The following scriptures might broaden your understanding of **Blessed in Service**. Consider meditating upon each section and highlighting the verses you would like to explore deeper. In what ways is God using these scriptures, either calling you to repentance or challenging you to pick up the mantle of service for your neighbors with the Gospel of Christ as your message?

- Luke 10:25-37
- Matthew 25:31-46
- Galatians 6:1-10
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

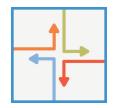
Prayer: Heavenly Father, grant Your mercy and grace to Your people in their many and various callings. Give them patience and strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to their neighbor in Christ's name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(LSB, pg. 311, Christian Vocation)



# Getting the MOST out of Life Week 2023

by Rev. Jeff Duncan



One thing so many of our Life Chapters and Life Teams tell the national office is "Help us with opportunities to equip the church in life issues and provide practical projects for our members to complete." Well, that is exactly what Life Week is all about!

Life Sunday is celebrated annually on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision of January 22, 1973. Life Sunday 2023 coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this infamous decision.

For nearly 50 years abortion on demand has been the law of the land. On June 24, 2022, that came tumbling down when the Supreme Court of the United States returned the power to enact life-affirming laws to the people of each state by overturning *Roe v. Wade* ('73) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* ('92). Thus, a post-Roe world greets this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Life Sunday remembrance.

Many might think that For Life work is complete. That is the farthest from the truth. Your work over the last 40-50 years has been powerful, even as it has also been draining and thankless. However, now is not the time to rest on your laurels. It is not the time to pat yourselves on the back and relax. The work has transitioned into a new phase. Under-funded and under-supported pregnancies are still happening. The media and voices of death will not stop shouting down your work and urging these souls to choose what they call a quick and easy solution to their problems. And their rising voices proclaim new lies such as "You only care that the baby be born; you care nothing for the woman or her struggles." The Lord who creates and sustains life knows the truth! He is faithful to see this truth shared and to give you the necessary strength and means to support all who need His grace, mercy, and peace!

Added to our hearts and our ministry are those with disabilities, the aging, the suffering, the hurting, our youth—our life ministry must support life from *fertilization to forever!* 

"O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?" (Psalm 89:8)

Lutherans For Life has developed new resources for Life Week 2023 that may also be used with those provided in 2021 and 2022. Life issues are all around us. Your neighbors are in need. The Gospel of Life must be proclaimed. The Holy Spirit is ready, willing, and able to bring salvation and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord! The following pages share ideas for life-affirming projects that individuals or groups can accomplish. Get the MOST out of all our Life Week 2023 (and previous years') materials. Begin planning now and use these materials throughout 2023 and beyond!

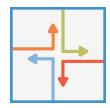


lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023 | lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023



# Activity and Fact Sheets – Life Week 2023

by Rev. Jeff Duncan



"Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false

witness utters deceit." (Proverbs 12:17)

When we deal with life issues, there is already plenty of deceit being freely shared. The enemy loves to sow seeds of discord. He loves to lie. As disciples of Jesus, we must arm ourselves with the truth—the Word of God. Sharing God's Word of life will allow others to recognize that we speak the words of truth. We care. We love. And we are there to support and encourage those struggling with life issues.

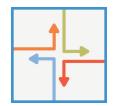
The Fact and Activity Sheets for each day of Life Week 2023 are designed to aid and support Life Teams, Life Chapters, and life-affirming individuals for equipping in truth. They acknowledge that we recognize everyone is Blessed for Life! Here are ideas on how to get the MOST out of their use and distribution in Life Week 2023 and throughout the year.

- Print and assemble packets of all the Life
  Week Fact and Activity Sheets. Hand out to
  every member of your congregation. Encourage
  questions to be sent to a centralized email address
  for further research or comments. Sponsor
  discussion events where you offer commentary and
  question/answer opportunities for these activities.
- Pick one Fact or Activity Sheet to review at each regular meeting or during a special study hour. Ask your pastor or other church members to discuss what they know of this life issue to enrich the study. Commit to trying several activities in one month or one quarter and be sure to organize and publicize these events to encourage others to join in service to your neighbors. Remember, additional Life Fact and Life Activity sheets are available from the Life Week 2022 and 2021 archives.
- Publish one Life Facts or Life Activity Sheet in your church/organization newsletters monthly. Plan out a year of publications in advance. Offer





opportunities to discuss and/or develop responses to what members learn from these sheets.



- Focus on one life issue highlighted with these Fact/Activity sheets. Become a local expert on this life issue. Commit to developing even more sheets of facts on this life issue and brainstorm additional service activities that your organization/church can accomplish throughout the year. Equip your organization or church by sharing the new facts and activities with everyone!
- Use a designated bulletin board to highlight the Fact and Activity sheets. Post pictures of activities and ask for testimonials from participants. Publish events and information in your church newsletters. Offer sign-up sheets for future activities. Ask others for ideas for future activities and add those to your calendar.
- Ask your pastor to provide theological commentary on the Fact/Activity sheets. This affirms the value of your ministry and affirms that God's Word is central to your message. You are equipping others to be *Gospel-motivated* voices For Life. Ask your pastor to affirm the Gospel-motivated message that we are to extend to those struggling with life issues.
- Plan prayer walks or prayer vigils that highlight each life issue. Interview local support agencies and offer to pray for their needs. They may ask you to pray for specific people or situations. Express your desire to serve those specific needs and invite them to share in the prayer activities.
- Use all three years of Life Week Fact/Activity sheets as the basis for a Mission Discovery Process in your church or organization. What life issue is God wanting to bring to your attention? Consider all the life issues represented and seek input from your pastor(s), church staff, membership, community, and organization members to identify areas of possible service. Identify potential needs that you may serve in the future. Develop your own fact and activity sheets about your own unique service area based on your Mission Discovery findings.

Use these links to find the complete offerings for Life Week 2023, 2022, and 2021:

- Life Week 2023 lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023
- Life Week 2022 lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2022
- Life Week 2021 lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2021



# Life Week 2023 – Zoom Presentations

by Rev. Jeff Duncan



Equipping is a learning activity. To equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospelmotivated voices For Life (our LFL mission statement) requires opportunities to learn. Teaching is a godly activity. The Holy Spirit teaches us about Jesus and His salvation obtained for us through suffering and death upon the cross. Hearing of His work on our behalf, learning that we cannot do anything to save ourselves, and receiving the teaching of Scripture that we are all lost and condemned creatures in need of salvation all work together to bring us into the truth. We are saved by grace, through faith, and this is not of our own work.

No fewer than 11 times does Psalm 119 contain the phrase "teach me" in the English Standard Version:

- Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! (Psalm 119:12)
- Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law! (Psalm 119:29)
- Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. (Psalm 119:66)
- Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes. (Psalm 119:135)

From Sunday through Wednesday (January 15-18, 2023) in evening Zoom sessions, staff and friends of LFL want you to assemble in a posture of learning and say, "Teach me!"

#### Here are the details:

Log in to Zoom each evening (7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET) for a Gospel-motivated presentation from the following speakers. (Find topic info and video previews at lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023.)

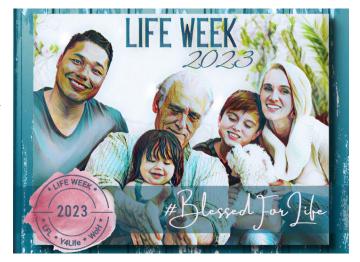
- January 15 Rev. Michael Salemink Blessed as a Gift (Gospel-Motivation/Sanctity of Life)
- January 16 Rev. Steven and Stephanie Cholak **Blessed in Longing** (Infertility)
- January 17 Delores Desemone **Blessed Together** (Adoption/Foster Care)
- January 18 Deaconess Chrissie Gillet **Blessed with Healing** (Forgiveness/Recovery)

Zoom Meeting ID: 845 7061 0394/Passcode: 501680

• January 20 | Special Presentation – Rev. Dr. Greg Schulz, Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University Wisconsin, 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET.

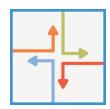
Zoom Meeting ID: 848 3529 5744 | Passcode: 864870

Getting the **MOST** out of these Zoom events includes planning and organizing to maximize their effectiveness. The following are some ideas that can be employed in this effort:





Gather together as church, chapter, team, or circuit and watch the Zoom presentation all together. (Note – if four consecutive nights won't work, choose to watch a recording of these sessions at future events that fit your schedules.)



Have snacks, broadcast on a big screen, get comfortable! Ask your pastor to be available for comments and commentary following the nightly event. Share this opportunity with multiple staff or chapter/circuit pastors.

- Choose a different church or location for each night's gathering and share opportunity for serving. Using the same facility is certainly also acceptable.
- Hand out the devotion for each session or have someone lead the devotion.
- Prepare activity and fact sheet packets for each session. Review facts you didn't know; suggest others. Challenge the group to complete one activity. Set a completion date!
- Each session provides ample opportunity to discuss how this life issue presents locally. Discuss available options to address your needs. Experts might be invited (with pastoral approval) to share their life issue work.
- Pick one of these four life issues topics and adopt it for your group throughout the rest of 2023. Investigate how your local community provides support for those experiencing this life issue. Interview agencies. Discover how they operate, what they need to be effective, and where your group may be able to support their efforts in the community. Especially important are questions on how they inject the Gospel into client discussions. Investigate their criteria for providing ongoing support interaction, specifically regarding client's Christian confession and church involvement. Remember, inviting groups to speak at church/chapter/team/circuit events requires preinvestigation, including interviews to determine your connections and theological agreement in practices. Hold "ingathering" events to support agency material needs. Write articles that teach others about opportunities to serve. Pray for agency staff. Provide "support/goodie boxes" at holiday or special times of the year when agency staff may be most harassed and/or pressured.

Join the Zoom session individually at home and take notes to share with each other at your next gathering or meeting. Compare those notes, discuss what you learned, and challenge each other to learn more on this topic throughout the year.

- Write newsletter articles of your reaction to the Zoom session and share with your church/chapter/team/circuit. Consider exploring the full depth of this life issue.
- Adopt one topic individually. Learn as much as you can throughout the year. Identify community support groups working in this life issue. Interview directors and staff. Volunteer and serve. Share how others can support this work. As above, gain pastoral permission and interview speakers prior to invitations to these groups to speak at events of your church/chapter/team/circuit.
- After discussion with your pastor, consider together actions that would teach as well as support this life issue in your community. Organize equipping events or activities.

Life Chapters and Life Teams can reuse these Zoom events throughout the year! If you meet quarterly, choose one session each meeting to watch together and comment on what you learn. If you meet monthly, use these four in any combination or add previous Zoom events from Life Week 2022 and 2021. You can also agree to watch a smaller segment each month of one event and go into greater detail in discussion. Use all the above suggestions to serve!

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# He Comes to Give Life

# from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan



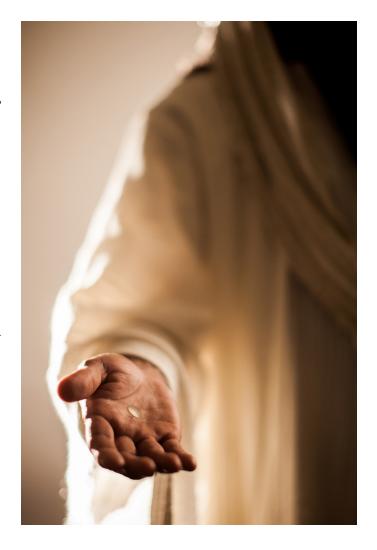
"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Every once in a while, you will hear the expression, "Now this is living!" The person who steps off the plane to begin his Hawaiian vacation or the person who slips into his newly purchased hot tub for the first time might be heard saying, "Now this is living!"

The implication of this expression is that there is ordinary life and then there is the "good life." And how true this is. There really are two kinds of life. Except to find the fuller and better version of life, one should not look to the cares and pleasures that are found in this world.

Sure, it's nice to experience some of the good things that this life has to offer from time to time, but we don't want to let these things become the basis for our highest hope. If this is case, these things will only disappoint us. The vacation will end, the hot tub will become old and will require costly maintenance, and so on and so forth. Even life itself here in this world will soon come to an end.

So, the real "good life" is having a hope and future that surpasses the fleeting pleasures of this world. The real "good life" is knowing that we will be delivered through all the troubles of this world. The real "good life" is knowing that even when we die, we will live—and live eternally in paradise.



The real "good life" cannot come to us through anything that this world has to offer. It can only come to us through the love of God. And in love God sent His Son into this world to pay the price for our sins, so that whoever believes in Him will be saved.

Without Jesus, a person's life becomes emptier and emptier, as he moves closer and closer to death and condemnation. However, by faith in Jesus, and through His merits, a person's life becomes fuller and fuller as every day he moves one step closer to his heavenly home.

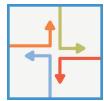
Jesus has come so that we may have life and have it more abundantly.

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)



# "I Don't Agree with What You Said ..."

# by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM



For the last 45 years, Lutherans For Life has been committed to "equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life." By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, we have never turned from the narrow path of speaking God's Word—the truth—in love. Nor have we slackened our pace. In fact, we have expanded our ministry each year to reach more people with the Gospel of hope and healing. I became a part of this ministry seven years ago when I became the Regional Director of Texas. Now I have a new title: Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations, but my mission remains the same—to minister to Lutherans in the name of Jesus wherever the doors open for me.

A few months ago, I attended a convention as an exhibitor and speaker. Showing photos of fetal development from zygote to infant and using the Word of God to express the truth of our creation by God, intentionally, by His will and for His purpose, I discussed life issues that may affect people of any age. Responses were positive and uplifting, and I was grateful and very pleased with the feedback.

But the Lord had something else in mind to teach *me*! As I was packing up my materials, a very nice woman came up to me and said, very calmly, "I don't agree with what you said." "Oh," I said. "What part?" "All of it," she replied. I tried to remain calm and spoke the only words that came to mind: "God's Word tells us that life is sacred to Him. We are created by Him on purpose, and our days are in His hands." We did not argue. We did not frown at each other. As she left, I told her that I would pray that God would change her heart as He had changed mine many years before. I am still praying that the power of God's Word, spoken that day, will continue to pursue her.

The promise is in Isaiah 55:11: "... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

I wasn't expecting her response, but I was *not* surprised by it. I have met many Christians who do not see abortion as the evil it is. They believe the lie that life is not sacred—that it belongs to the individual to do with as he or she pleases. As Christians, because we are still sinners, our deepest held beliefs may not be identical to those held by others in the Body of Christ. In fact, the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 11:18-19: "... I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval."

As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be "right" for our own sake so we can boast in our "right-ness." We should want to be "right" because God is revealing *His* truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love.

# 2023 Essay Contest – Just As ... I Am

by Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations



# It's time again for the Lutherans For Life Essay Contest ... how can you help?

Have you been wondering how to reach out in a meaningful way to equip the young people in your Lutheran churches and Lutheran schools to be voices for life? Do you wonder how they personally perceive life issues in their world today? Do you want to find a way to share the Gospel message of life and to get them to dig into scripture to find for themselves the answers to life's questions? Well, please consider getting involved in the LFL Essay Contest in your area.

The Lutherans For Life Essay Contest is a great way to engage students in your churches and schools in the life arena. The only criterion for participating is that the student must be enrolled in a Lutheran school or attend a Lutheran church. When a teacher or pastor validates their entry into the essay contest, they are good to go.

So, how does it work? There are LFL state federations in 11 states, the leaders of which form the Council of Federation Presidents who sponsor this contest. A student living in a state with a federation (or in Minnesota or Texas) enters that state's contest through their school or church. If you do not live in a federation

# Just As ... I Am



Eph 2:10

state, Minnesota, or Texas, your students are eligible to enter through what is called the *Non-Federation Essay Contest*.

Go to lutheransforlife.org/2023-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest to find the contest rules, the link to the listing of the state federations, and contacts for the Minnesota, Texas, and Non-Federation contests. Contact the Federation President in your state to be certain they are running the essay contest this year, to validate the state rules, and to find out where to send completed essays. The rules for Minnesota, Texas, and the Non-Federation essay contests are listed below the State Federation link. If your state's



federation is not running an essay contest in 2023, you may have your students enter through the Non-Federation contest.



There are basically two contests: one for grades 6-8 and one for grades 9-12. Consider promoting this in your area by contacting your local Lutheran schools or asking your pastors to assist in engaging students to participate.

Lutheran school and homeschool teachers often use the essay contest as a classroom assignment. Pastors may use it as a confirmation or youth group project. They may also make their parishioners aware of the contest so member students can write their essay, have their pastor validate it, and then submit it themselves.

Churches, Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Ministry Coordinators can strongly promote the essay contest and thus give these young people a terrific means to share their thoughts on life issues. Each year a theme and related Bible verse are selected and published in the rules. Students must include the theme Bible verse in their essay. The 2023 essay contest theme is **Just As ... I Am** based on Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." As students dig into scripture to support their essay, God's Word will encourage them in their writing.

Please consider supporting this project. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your State Federation President or Virginia Flo, LFL's Director of Volunteer Relations at vflo@lutheransforlife.org or 651-333-0337 for answers.

May God bless your efforts to engage and serve students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 through your encouragement and support.

# Reaching Out | The Sanctity of Life

# by Pastor Michael Salemink



Sanctity of life means precious at the very beginning of each human life. And it also means precious all the way to the very end of every one.

We considered it together in November at a congregation in Illinois. The Life Team hosted an "Issues as We Age" workshop to encourage exploration of end-of-life opportunities and preparations. I've had the privilege of involvement in a few similar events over the last handful of years, and I hope they continue to become more common.

The Saturday morning gathering welcomed participants from both church and community. After a stop at the registration table to receive helpful information (and enter names to win the Thanksgiving-themed table centerpieces as attendance door prizes), volunteers served the guests breakfast sweets and coffee (perfectly timed to coincide with the season's first snowfall!). Pastor followed the brief time of fellowship with an opening prayer.

A local funeral director associated with the parish offered the first presentation. For fifteen minutes he overviewed what Christians might want to know as they contemplate advance arrangements for their own burial services. His handout, "15 Things a Funeral Director Won't Tell You," included the surprising





suggestions, "Never pay in advance," "Consider renting a casket," "Embalming is optional," and "Bring someone with you to make final arrangements."

Then, for about 45 minutes, we heard from a representative of the LCMS Foundation.

This synodical organization provides estate planning and gift counseling assistance at no cost to congregations and their members. He stressed the importance of drafting a will no matter your age, financial situation, or family configuration. He also surveyed the best ways to minimize how much of an inheritance gets subjected to taxes and how to maximize both bequests to loved ones and charitable legacies.

Pastor next shared fifteen minutes of thoughts on funeral worship practices. This particular church provides a standardized thirty-page booklet of "Funeral Guidelines" for its members. It includes the purpose of Christian funerals, outlines of the standard service orders, hymn options, what care to expect from pastor and people, reflections on grieving, and a form for recording relevant information. A question about cremation stimulated spirited dialogue. Pastor encouraged making known funeral and burial preferences to loved ones.

We enjoyed a brief break to stretch legs and refresh plates and reconvened for my presentation. I covered the substance of our resource entitled, "Going Gracefully: How the Christian Gospel Invites Us to Share in Suffering Instead of Settling for Assisted Suicide." We examined the definitions and risks involved in physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. And we identified the blessings of community, purpose, sanctity, and faith that demonstrate dignity in dying so that we may leave decisions about its timing and manner in our Savior's capable and caring hands.

A Life Team member with decades of experience in the medical profession concluded the seminar with an explanation of advance directives. She supplied documents for attendees to complete that would meet legal requirements in the state. She especially advocated for designating a durable power of attorney for health care and for engaging in the difficult conversations with loved ones sooner rather than later.

Our LFL national staff would love to advise or assist you and your congregation in replicating an event like this. It makes an amazing occasion for raising awareness within the church, connecting with those outside, and proclaiming the sanctity of life. Thank you for making these mind-broadening and life-affirming undertakings possible, and God bless your Gospel-motivated voice For Life!

# Conference and March Open to all high school and college students!

## **Blessed with Hope @6PMET**

#### **Thursday**

- · Registration and Exhibits
- Opening Devotions: Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller
- Introductions and Icebreakers
  - Y4Life Conference Session 1: Blessed with Hope Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller
  - Music, Sign-making, Exhibits, and Social Time

# Blessed from the Beginning

## Friday

- Y4Life Conference Session 2: Pre-natal 
   Development with Dr. Donna Harrison
- Pre-March Devotion: Rev. Harrison Goodman
- . March for Life: Rally, March, and Testimonials
- Dinner on own
- Exhibits, Social Time
- Exhibits, Social Time
   Devotion and Post-March Discussion
- Y4Life Conference Session 3: Panel
   Discussion on CRT and Cultural Marxism

## Blessed for Serving @ 9 AM ET

# Saturday

21

**January** 

- Y4Life Conference Session 3: Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution with Chaplain Craig Muehler
- Y4Life Conference Session 4: Shining Light in the Darkness - Human Trafficking Survivor with Keeya Vawar
- Closing Devotion: Rev. Michael Salemink

#### **Ends @ Noon ET**

Location:

Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airport 2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202

Cost:

Conference is FREE for registered youth. Rooms cost \$120 per night with group rate, up to 4 people per room. Breakfast included. Limited availability.

Registration: Register with QR code or at y4life.org

Conference regis<mark>tration clos</mark>es

Dec. 15, 2022

For more information, visit: Y4life.org

Or email Director of Y4Life, Michelle Bauman, at: michelle@y4life.org





# **SAVE THE DATE!**

# 2023 Lutherans For Life National Conference October 11-13

Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky with visits to the

# **Ark Encounter and Creation Museum**

Look for more information in early 2023!

**SAVE THE DATE!** 







# Spotlight on Life



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

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

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

# **Presentation Topics**

#### FACTORS AFFECTING LIFE AND DEATH

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

#### LIFE AND DEATH

- Abortion
- Suicide
- Assisted suicide & euthanasia
- Fertilization to forever

#### FACTORS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

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

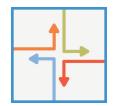


# Lutherans For Life

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



# LAMBs - Mercy Blankets



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

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

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

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

# LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

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

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

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

Kettering OH 45420-3920





# Lutherans For Life • Life Team Tools Order Form 2023

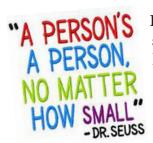
NOTE: LIFE TEAM TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE LFL NATIONAL OFFICE.

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

Lu	itnerans	for Life • 1	101 5th Street •	Nevada	, 1A 50201-1810 • 888.304	E.LIFE (5433)	
Name							
			to (if different):				
			ess				
Daytime phone_				City/S	State/Zip		
Email				Teleph	hone		
ITEM#	QTY.		DESC	CRIPTIO	)N	PRICE TOTAL	
LTTDVDR	Lif	Life Team Tool DVD Replacement: (Circle) 1 2 3 4 \$10			\$10		
LTTBN	LI	LIFE TEAM TOOL BUNDLE (Includes tools 1-4 and field manuals) \$30			\$30		
						TOTAL	
					S	HIPPING \$15	
					GRAN	ID TOTAL	
LFL Business Hours: subject to staff availab		day, 9:00 a.m. t	o 3:00 p.m. CST/CDT.	. Hours	IF PAYING BY CR	EDIT CARD:	
			ist name and address		WISA MasterCard	AMBRICAN NOTYUS	
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## Owen's Mission

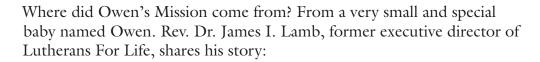


Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), no matter how small!



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

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



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





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

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

lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission



# Need a Speaker?

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

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

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

### Speakers:

Jean Amundson (nationwide – based in Cleburne, Texas)

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

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

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

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

Kristi Hofferber (nationwide – based in Bethalto, Illinois)

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

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

Sheila Luck (nationwide – based in Scandinavia, Wisconsin)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

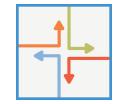
Ed Szeto (nationwide – based in Virginia)

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



# The Basics of Lutherans For Life

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



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

#### Structure and Relationships

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

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

#### Membership Information

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

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

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

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

#### **Membership Classifications**

#### Annual Membership

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

#### Sponsor Membership

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

#### The Remittance Program of LFL

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

#### Annual Memberships:

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

#### Sponsor Memberships:

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



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

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director

Rev. Scott Licht – CFO/COO

Lowell J. Highby – Director of

Communications

Michelle Bauman - Director of Y4Life

Cori Meier - Y4Life Assistant

Virginia Flo - Director of Volunteer Relations

Rev. Jeff Duncan – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations

Dr. Barb Geistfeld – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations

Dave Probst – Director of Development

Kevin Nessa – Development Assistant

Jerilyn Richard - Donor Relations Director

Kim Nessa – Accountant

Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant

Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD -

Director of Word of Hope

Erika Peterson – Events Coordinator

Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist

Julie Kyrola – Data Assistant

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

Diane Albers, President – St. Louis, Missouri Diana Vaughn, Secretary – Ponca City, Oklahoma

Ronald L. Soule, Treasurer – Mason, Michigan

Rev. Paul Clark, State Representative – Fowler, Michigan

Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro - Herndon, Virginia

Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama

Roni Grad – Tucson, Arizona

Rev. Byrene K. Haney – Fort Dodge, Iowa

Pamela Nielsen – Ballwin, Missouri

Rev. Dennis Norby, State

Representative – Valley City, North Dakota

Katherine Pietrantonio -

Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Alice Steljes – Pawnee, Illinois Ed Szeto – Locust Grove, Virginia John Talley – Newark, Illinois



#### **State Federation Presidents**

Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais

Indiana – The position is open.

Rev. Richard Salcido, Iowa - Ida Grove

Shari Weber, Kansas - Vassar

Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler

Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis

Berniece Stulc, Montana – Belgrade

Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco

Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City

Jill Johnsen, South Dakota - Wessington

Brenda Hansen (Pro Tem), Wisconsin –

Clintonville

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

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

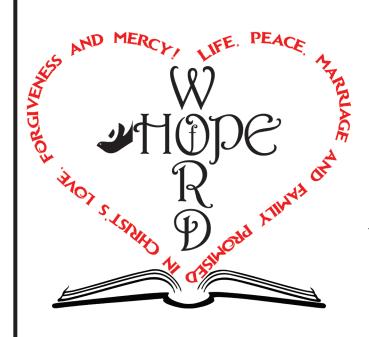
LFL Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT. Hours subject to staff availability.

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

Source: www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/01/roes-legacy-more-than-62-5-million-lives-lost

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For those who have had an abortion— there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts.

Call 888.217.8679 or go to www.word-of-hope.org.

**Word of Hope** is confidential and caring.

Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life.

# I'm 4Life ... Now what?







Become a Y4Life Messenger • y4life.org



# Life Sunday Resources for 2023

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



# **New for Life Sunday 2023**

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

Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org • www.cph.org



#### **NEW 2023 RESOURCES!**

**Bulletin Insert: Blessed For Life** (2023 Life Sunday theme) Item LFL1643BI. \$0.10 ea.

Other new resources: Blessed For Life Downloads (Find them at the link below.)

lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023

Available downloads include our 2023 bulletin inserts, Bible study, worship service formats, children's message, several sermons (including one PowerPoint® sermon), and additional resources. Downloads are reproducible.

#### Also available:

A Memorial Service for the Pre-born Killed Since 1973 – Best suited as a separate service apart from Sunday morning worship—perhaps on the eve of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Item LFL1830. \$0.50 ea.

LFL Membership Form/Informational Insert - Become a Gospel-motivated Voice For Life is the perfect supplement to the other Life Sunday materials, providing a wonderful opportunity to help encourage support and membership in Lutherans For Life! Item LFL1600. FREE!

The "official" Life Sunday is January 22, 2023. However, LFL materials may be used any time during the year.



Order LFL Resources: cph.org or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on Concordia select resources.

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

Quantity pricing is available on select brochures and booklets.



## **Lutherans For Life 2023 Life Sunday Resources**

Where to order: www.cph.org • Call 800.325.3040 • Fax 800.490.9889 or by mail: Concordia Publishing House, 3558 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118



Name								
Title Address				Ship to (if different):				
					ess			
					/State/Zip			
					phone			
ITEM #	QTY.			DESCRIPTI	ON	PRICE	TOTAL	
LFL1643		Bulleti	n Insert: Blessed F	\$0.10				
LFL1830		A Men	norial Service for t	\$0.50				
LFL1600		LFL Membership Form/Informational Insert				FREE		
LFL1602		LFL Memorial/Thanksgiving Card				FREE		
LFL1601LG		LFL O	LFL Offering Envelopes					
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phone, fax, or on v			arges will be added to	or or delib placed by	*Please add applicable local and state tax for orders shipped to CA, FL, GA, IA,	SHIPPING		
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\$25.00 or less		8.95	\$100.01-\$150.00	\$16.95	GRAND TOTAL			
\$25.01-\$50.00	\$1	13.95	\$150.01-\$200.00	\$17.95				
\$50.01-\$75.00	\$1	14.95	\$200.01 or more	Call CPH Customer Service				
\$75.01-\$100.00	<b>¢</b> 1	5 95	Prices subject to ch	ange without notice				

NOTE: If all items on the order are free, please send \$8.95 for shipping.

#### **Lutherans For Life and CPH:**

All Lutherans For Life resources are warehoused, invoiced, and shipped through Concordia Publishing House. See ordering information on this form. If you have questions or need advice on what LFL resources to order, you can still call LFL at 888.364. LIFE (5433).

#### **CPH Business Hours:**

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST/CDT. You may also use the CPH website or send a fax. See info above.

#### Shipping:

On prepaid orders (check or money order), use the chart above to figure and include your shipping.

**Expedited Shipping or International Ordering:**Contact CPH for more information. To view
Canadian pricing, visit canada.cph.org.

#### **Terms of Sale:**

Pay by check, money order, MasterCard, VISA, or Discover. Churches and schools can request to be billed by Concordia Publishing House if current balance is maintained. All invoices are due and payable within 30 days from invoice. A charge of 1.5% per month (18% annual rate) is added to any past-due balance.

#### **Order Inquiries, Problems, and Returns:**

Phone or email the Concordia Publishing House Customer Service Center with any question or problem. If there is a problem, or if you have received a damaged order, please save all packing materials and call CPH right away at 800.325.3040.

#### **Returns:**

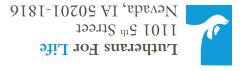
To make a return, please reference the consumer returns section of your packing slip.

# Life Sunday 2023

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



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



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# Life Sunday, Life Week, and More! A few suggestions on sharing the For Life message ...

**Calling All For Life Supporters! Life Week 2023: Blessed For Life** is a great multi-generational online and in-person opportunity. Plan to join us each day from Sunday, January 15, through Saturday, January 21, 2023, to learn about, share, and build excitement For Life in your home, church, school, and community! Each themed day will explore a distinct aspect of life ministry through local activities, online educational events, and interviews. Top off the week in person or online with mountaintop experiences like the **March for Life** and **Y4Life in Washington**, **D.C.** Watch for more news on our Facebook page and lutheransforlife.org!

Find other ways to share the For Life message at:

lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2023

