



Lutherans For Life of Illinois

Affirming Life In Illinois

When Speaking for Life Costs us...

The first speaker I heard in the workshops at the National LFL Conference in Rock Island, IL on October 21st was Father Frank Pavone. The topic he covered was "Braving Persecution in the Fight for Life." Father Frank Pavone is one of the most prominent pro-life speakers in the world. He was ordained in 1988 by Cardinal John O'Connor and has dedicated his life and ministry to ending abortion. In 1993 he requested and received permission to serve as the National Director of Priests for Life, the largest pro-life ministry in the Roman

Catholic Church. Unfortunately, he was recently removed as a priest by the Roman Catholic Church. He has experienced persecution firsthand.

I'd like to share a few of Father Frank's quotes from his National LFL workshop:

"We think and try to live according to the Beatitudes." "Blessed are those who are persecuted..." (Matthew 5:10).

"We're not just working for victory but from victory—a victory already won in Christ's resurrection."

"We brave persecution by pointing out what's going wrong on the other side but never abandoning the truth—God's truth."

"Let persecution be an examination of our conscience. Is there anything I did wrong or can learn from this?"

Let us PRAY for Father Frank Pavone to still be able to joyfully "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2) as a FOR LIFE leader.

Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2023

Save the date, Illinois

- * January 15-21. LFL Life Week
- * January 22. SID district Life Sunday Service, 3:00 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbia, IL
- * February 22- April 2, 40 Days for Life
- * March 21, Illinois March for Life, Springfield
- * October 11-13, LFL National Conference, Cincinnati, OH/Erlanger, KY

Sing for Life!



From the ancient Psalms of David through our present day, God's people have recognized the effects of Godly speech upon the lives of others. It has spilled over into song!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gfoxzcRNE_k
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr8QoQKmXfk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeBv9r92VQ0>

LOVE
AFFIRMS
LIFE

Speaking Life

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Many good Lutheran sermons have been prefaced with this brief prayer from Psalm 19, verse 14. That is also my prayer for this issue of the newsletter, as we speak for Life in our homes, our congregations, and our communities. In this issue we will be exploring the kind of speech God would have us use as

we apply the Gospel to Life Issues. It is in our nature to want to "do" righteous things more than to "be" righteous people and simultaneously to speak without doing! Scripture addresses both ends of this human dilemma. The only way we can be righteous is by the grace of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who makes us righteous in the eyes of God. That, the Gospel, is the source, the starting point for both our speech

and our action. It is our motivation and our inspiration and our power for carrying out Life-affirming work in this world. The Good News that Jesus heals and forgives, fills us up and spills out in Godly speech and loving kindness. May 2023 be a year of blessing for each of you as His love fills you to overflowing and empowers you to speak for Life! Wishing you all the best in this new year! From, Lutherans For Life of Illinois

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Life Comes in Chapters

Our Chapter worked with about 12 local LCMS congregations to request donations to the LCMS Million Dollar Life Matching Grant program. Approximately 25 individuals contributed along with Chapter #268 members to raise a total of \$7144. We were awarded a \$3500 match from LCMS, and a total of \$10,644 was presented to Living Alternatives of Tazewell County for use in equipping their new satellite PRC in Peoria, Illinois. Plans on how the funds will be used are still being considered, but will likely be used to purchase a new ultrasound machine for the satellite

center.

Our Chapter's annual life essay contest is underway, the essays have been written by the students at three local Lutheran grade schools, and Chapter members will be judging the essays and making awards during the early months of 2023.

About a dozen of our Chapter members sang Christmas carols outside the Peoria Planned Parenthood facility on Thursday evening, December 1st.

Our annual Pennies for Life collection will be held in about twelve local LCMS congregations on January 22, 2023. This is our Chapter's only fundraising effort of the year, and precious feet pins will be offered to interested donors and church members as a "thank you" gift.

From Bob Wegner, Peoria Area Chapter

Find a Chapter

Altamont Area Lutherans for Life
(A new Chapter being organized in Altamont, IL)

Coles County Chapter LFL

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

Dupage County Chapter LFL

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

Four -S Chapter LFL

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

Heartbeat Chapter LFL

Meets quarterly

At Trinity, Roanoke
Contact: Trinity, 309-923-5251
Illinois Valley Chapter LFL

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

McHenry County Chapter LFL

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

Metro East Chapter LFL

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

New Hope Chapter LFL

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

Northwest Suburban Chapter LFL

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

Peoria Area Chapter LFL

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

Southwestern Illinois Chapter LFL

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

Will County Chapter LFL

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

2023 Life Week: January 15-21

Blessed for Life is the theme gathering Lutherans from across the country for Life Week 2023. Daily themes are:

Monday: Blessed in Longing

Tuesday: Blessed Together

Wednesday: Blessed with Healing

Thursday: Blessed with Hope

Friday: Blessed from the Beginning

Saturday: Blessed for Serving

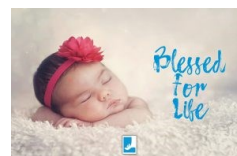
From January 15-18, you can join us for Gospel Motivated presentations each evening. January 15: Rev. Michael Salemink will speak on the topic "Blessed as a Gift". On January 16 we will hear from Rev. Steven and Stephanie Cholak on the topic

"Blessed in Longing". On January 17, the speaker will be Delores Desemone, who will share with us with a presentation on "Blessed Together". On January 18, Decones Chrissie Gillet will address the idea of "Blessed with Healing". If you want to take part in these, use the Zoom Meeting ID: 845 7061 0394 and the Passcode: 501680

Beginning January 19- January 21, you may attend in person in Washington, DC. To register for in-person events, contact epeterson@lutheransforlife.org (email)

In person events are also planned for Y4Life in Washington, DC. if your congregation has youth who want to participate.

The week includes many competitions, and each day has both a Fact Sheet and Activity Sheets. You can print these out for use within your congregation. You can find all these resources and registration links at <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023/>



LFL Youth Essay Contest—an often missed opportunity

The theme for the essay contest for 2023 is "Just As...I Am", with thoughts centered around Ephesians 2:10.

We want to encourage Pastors and Teachers to use this tool to help students think through the commandments, starting with the First and not just the Fifth. This will also give pastors and teachers insight into their students. Encouraging students to choose a life topic with a personal connection will increase their learning and the pastor will gain more insight.

This resource is valuable to them for all life topics whether they submit entries or not. Though of course we hope entries will be submitted!

Here are the rules and deadlines...

Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation, e.g., confirmation class or youth group, when validated by the pastor or teacher, is eligible. Students may also enter through a Lutheran home school, when validated by their Lutheran pastor.

Include the theme verse in your essay!

Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or fos-

ter care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.

Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. All entries submitted by the teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay. Pastors and Teachers, Please consult the rubric to submit qualified entries.

All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words. Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words.

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to cathy.benning.os@gmail.com by April 1, 2023.

You can find an application and a rubric with the criteria for judging attached to the email that brought you this newsletter.

—Russell and Cathy Benning,
LFL—IL Essay Contest Committee

Just As ... I Am

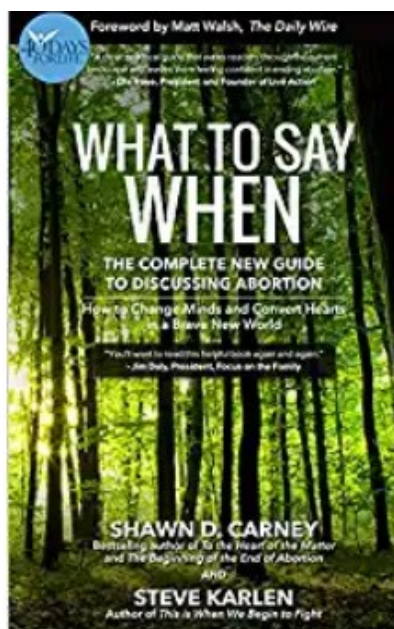
FOR WE ARE GOD'S
workmanship,
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS
to do good works,
WHICH GOD PREPARED IN
advance for us to do

Eph 2:10

From Last Year's Illinois & National Contest Winner, Alyssa Bivens: Words of Encouragement to our Young Writers:

"As a little kid, I loved making up stories in my head, but they never made sense if I attempted to write them down. A blank paper felt so intimidating until I had teachers who helped me understand how to effectively use writing to express my thoughts. This might be the case for many teens, but I would encourage them to give it a shot. Writing takes practice, and in my experience, you learn to enjoy it more and more each time you pick up the pen. Lately, I've been enjoying writing poetry, .. In the future, I hope to major in Language Arts and become an English teacher."

What to Say When, a Book Review



"What to Say When" seemed like a good book to read or re-read, in view of the questions we might face in a post Dobbs world. People are beginning to ask questions about abortion itself, rather than Roe vs. Wade, and that is not a bad thing...as long as we have thought through why we believe what we believe. Of course when dealing with believers, Scripture is the basis for our stand and they will "get" that. When dealing with those who are simply parroting pro-choice sound bites, however, this book provides the logic to get them asking real questions, whether they understand the place of God's Word in the life of a believer or not.

It was written while Roe vs. Wade was still the law of the land, so there are a few things that are outdated.

One of my Life Team members who is a retired OB nurse, also has pointed out that some of the situations described as "outlandish hypothetical cases" actually can and do happen, so

we need to be sensitive to those who may be hurting because of them.

However, on the positive side, it is good to be reminded that we should not be on the defensive, when defense of the lives of innocent children is presumed to be a good thing in any situation except abortion. The book also has some very good reminders concerning the "hard cases". Reminders like the hurt and trauma of rape are not taken away by inflicting a second trauma in the form of abortion! Reminders like there are three people involved in rape cases; one of them is a criminal and should be in jail, one is a victim and deserves our compassion and care, and one an innocent "bystander", who should be protected.

Overall, a helpful book. It is good to remember the context. From 40 Days for Life, for those who pray outside abortion facilities and may be challenged or asked questions by total strangers. It provides the means to answer confidently.

—LL

Go Team!

At my home church, we call them "God Moments"; those instances where you suddenly realize that God is doing something and He has graciously allowed you to be a part of it. These moments can sneak up on you when you least expect it. Like when our Life Team at Cross Lutheran, Yorkville, spent one meeting reviewing a little pro-life pamphlet called, "First Words" put out by the American Life League years ago. This pamphlet explored the effects of peo-

ple's reactions to an unplanned pregnancy. Although we chose not to use this particular piece of literature in the tract rack in the Cross Fellowship Hall, good points made were:

1. "Pregnancy is a gift from God. No matter how a child is conceived, we should welcome that child with open arms and open hearts."
2. Labels such as "illegitimate baby, crack baby, test tube baby" are dehumanizing. The only appropriate label is "baby".

And then came that God moment when a week later, a friend informed me her teenager was about to become a parent. And I had the privilege of reassuring her that babies are always a gift from God, even though this wasn't what she had hoped for her child. We could hug and celebrate the new life because just before I needed the right words, He gave them! Yes, Life teams are to equip...even our own team members! God grant each of you the right words just when you need them!
—LL

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt"



Colossians 4:6

40 Days for Life -365

This is unabashedly a call to Prayer! I spoke with Phil Price, the leader of the Aurora, Illinois 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign. According to Phil, prayer support makes a huge difference for those doing sidewalk counseling. With prayer support, more hearts are receptive to the message of Life and thus babies are more likely to be delivered than aborted. Without prayer support, the number of babies saved goes down dramatically.

Last year during the 40 Days for Life campaigns, 2,185 babies were spared from abortion globally. During the past year, 17 abortion workers responded to 40 Days for Life by changing their minds about Life issues and left their jobs! During 2022, 18 abortion facilities where there were 40 Days for Life campaigns closed their doors forever.

Since 2021, 40 Days for Life has begun sponsoring 365 days per

year prayer vigils. You no longer need to wait for just spring and fall. Now you can provide that prayer back up for a sidewalk counselor year round. Not all vigil sites do the year long prayer vigils. Even the 40 Day vigils are a major commitment on the part of the local leadership; this is an even greater undertaking. But it is an undertaking made easier when churches and individuals commit to being that Peaceful, Prayerful, Presence that makes such a difference.

If you or your congregation want to be involved with the prayer vigil at any time during the year, you can take part in the 365 Day program hosted by 40 Days for Life at either the Aurora, Illinois site, or the Springfield, Illinois site. In Northern Illinois, you can contact the Aurora 40 Days campaign for more information by emailing philprice3@gmail.com In Central Illinois, you can get more information by emailing MJSheetsSRTL@gmail.com

Phil Price, leader of the Aurora Prayer vigil reports that local 40 Days leader-

ship cooperatively with Illinois Family Institute promoted showings of the documentary, "A Matter of Life" during the fall prayer campaign. Evaluation following those showings have led them to attempt once again showing the documentary during the spring campaign. This film is for those who just aren't sure where they stand on the issue of Life. Currently they are looking for congregations willing to host showings of the film at that time. There will be some showings during January, Life Month, as well. You can find information about where those will be held and when and also see a trailer to the documentary at this website:

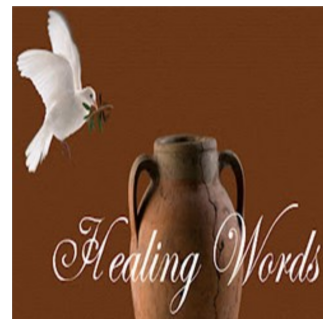
<https://illinoisfamily.org/life/round-ii-the-matter-of-life-documentary-showings/>

If you are not able to physically join those praying for an end to abortion, remember God hears your prayers no matter where you are and to **Pray for the right words for sidewalk counselors to be of help to abortion vulnerable parents that they may choose Life.**

Speak Words of Healing

Even when a surgery is successful, the patient can carry within them scar tissue that causes lingering pain and discomfort. And it's the same in life. Some people around you wear a mask of success, but within, they carry wounds they're unable to talk about. Comedian Jonathan Winters said in an interview that his life was scarred by cruel things his parents said to him as a child. *'I'm no cry-baby, but I remember things with almost total recall - there's a lot of pain there.'* His father said to him, *'You're the dumbest kid I know.'* And when he joined the Marines and travelled to the South Pacific during World War II, he received no support from his mother. When he returned home, he discovered she had given away his special, personal things he had stored in the attic. He

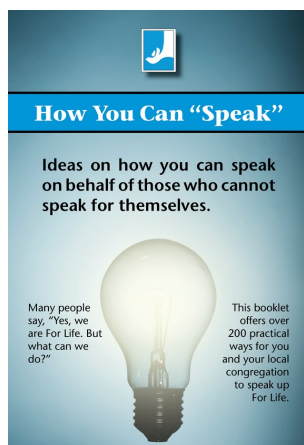
was distressed, but her reaction was, *'How did we know you were going to live?'* Winters went on to become one of the world's most popular entertainers and comedians, but the emotional scar tissue remained. Understand this - **your words can wound or heal.** They can inspire someone or reinforce their sense of failure and worthlessness. Job, who suffered greater loss than most of us will ever know, said, ***'But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief'*** (v. 5). How can you help someone who is hurting? By giving them your opinion? No, by giving them the only opinion that matters - God's! And here is what God says, ***'I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you'*** (Jeremiah 31:3).



Heavenly Father, forgive me when I have spoken words that have hurt someone, help me to speak words of healing. In Jesus' Name, Amen

By Tim Hetzner, Ambassador for Spiritual Growth, Lutheran Church Charities, with permission.

LFL Resources, "How you can Speak"!



If for some reason, you do not have this resource in your tool bag, you will want to add it. "How you can Speak" is an "old reliable"; LFL has made it available to For-Life Lutherans for a long time now. This printing has a new cover and many updates that have joined the timeless ideas of older editions. There are ideas for groups and ideas that individuals can carry out, as well. One of the group ideas is a "Bottle Drive", where baby bottles are filled with coins and returned to be given to

an area crisis pregnancy center. When we did this at our church, we handed out "Thank You Notes" to those returning the bottles. The thank you included a number of quotes from "How You can Speak" for those who wanted to continue affirming Life after our celebration came to an end. We also had copies of the booklet available for those who wanted more than we could quote on a one-page thank you note. "How You Can Speak" is available from CPH. —LL

One Love Language: Words of Affirmation...

Dr. Gary Chapman has helped many married couples remember the love that brought them together in the first place and learn how to express it to one another in meaningful ways. His books and conferences use the concept of speaking a foreign language to help people understand why it sometimes happens that two people can try so hard to express their love for one another and fail so miserably! One of the "languages" we might use to express our love is "words of Affirmation". In his resource, "Gateway to the 5 Love Languages", Dr. Chapman describes it like this: "Words of Affirmation—Actions don't always speak louder than words. If this is

your love language, unsolicited compliments mean the world to you. Hearing the words, "I love you," are important, hearing the reasons behind that love sends your spirits skyward. Insults can leave you shattered and are not easily forgotten."

This is a good reminder that we begin our ministry closest to where we are! May our homes be places where we speak lovingly to one another! And like the pebble dropped in water, may the wavelets of love flow out from there!

The other languages for expressing love? Quality Time, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, and Physical Touch. You can get more information at

<https://5lovelanguages.com/>

There is no Christian witness quite as powerful as a truly loving home, where the family loves because they were first loved and that love from God flows freely.



Pray with us that God would bless His Church with Loving marriages and Christian Homes! May we remember to pray for and encourage every married couple in our congregations & in our community. —LL

A Silent Witness

Renee Mullen, volunteer pro-life advocate from central Illinois puts out frequent reminders of ministry opportunities for those who affirm Life. She recently shared the following:

PRO-LIFE BILLBOARD PROJECT

WHEN: Ongoing

WHERE: on private land in central Illinois (i.e., farmland, outside a church or business, can attach to an already existing sign or on a building)

WHAT: Past generous donations funded the materials to install 17 Pro-Life Billboards (4' tall x 8' wide) over the past two years, to help foster a stronger Culture of Life, and for wom-

en and men facing an unplanned pregnancy to know where to find help. Different designs and both one-sided and double-sided Pro-Life Billboards are available. Volunteer laborers from area churches do all the-work! Additional landowners are needed to simply allow Billboards on their property. Additional donations are also needed as prior donations that have been funding the materials will be depleted soon. Donations of any amount are much appreciated. Please contact Renée for how to make a tax-deductible donation.

CONTACT: Renée at 217-607-0811 or reneemullen1@comcast.net

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/Pro-Life-Billboard-Project-117883802931580/>

You can also get information about contributing to putting up billboards for Life from Heroic Media. Not only are they trying to reach people for Life through billboards on our nations highways, but also on the internet superhighway. I have enjoyed their newsletters, which often share stories of those who have chosen Life because when they were in need of help, the message was out there. Getting out the message that Life is a viable choice and that there are those who will stand with you in your time of need is one of the most important kinds of speech we can foster. More info at

<https://heroicmedia.org/>

District Life News from our State

SID Life Advocates Team is making available a handy card for helping you speak for life. Designed to encourage those with a surprise pregnancy to choose life, the card has QR codes that lead to life affirming resources. It would be a simple thing to print out a few of these and carry them with you... a simple thing that just might save a life! You can find the card by clicking on the words "crisis pregnancy resources" at their website:

<https://sidadvocatesforlife.com/>

In another great idea from SID, if

you've ever wanted to do a "special service" just for Life Sunday, you know it can be a challenge. But, what if a number of churches worked together to make it happen? That is exactly what the SID Life Advocates Team is doing at a District Level. The District Life Service will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 227 North Good Haven Drive, Columbia, Illinois and is hosted by the Mon Claire Circuit. Pastor Michael Salemink will be the speaker at this service and will answer the question, "What does Jesus have to do with Life Issues?"

The service begins at 3:00 and refreshments will be served following the service. (information from the SID website)

CID Life Ministry is busily preparing for the March for Life at the State Capital on March 22nd. Yes, there will be a service at Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield! Worshipers will hear a message from the President of the Central Illinois District, Rev. Michael W. Mohr. Lectors will be from the Northern and Southern Illinois Districts.

New Maternity Home News

We love moms. We love babies. We want to help those in need. So, of course we are all excited to see the new Maternity Home in the Northern Illinois District open. And the question on all of our minds is, "When?"

I spoke with Deaconess Lori Trinché about that. She was quick to tell me that Lutherans in Illinois have been phenomenal in their support of the home. The outpouring of financial gifts, prayer support, volunteer support and expressions of encouragement has been such a blessing to everyone involved in getting the home up and running.

Among those expressions of encouragement was one that stood out in Lori's mind. It came during the season of Advent, when she was visiting

Immanuel, Batavia on behalf of the home. One of the very committed supporters she spoke with shared from an Advent devotional that had been meaningful to her. That thought was that Jesus had come "in the fullness of time", but that it was God's fullness of time, not necessarily ours. Lori was encouraged that the home would be open in God's fullness of time.

In the meantime, work continues on the permitting process in order for the home to be properly licensed to care for moms and their babies.

Redeeming Life Ministries is also offering to help you celebrate Life on Life Sunday. New materials have been added to their website that can be used in your congregation. These

include a sample Life Sunday Message written by Pastor Geaschei of Trinity Lutheran, Burr Ridge that may be adapted for use in your congregation, a devotional piece written by Deaconess Lori Trinché, A children's message created by Julia Heinz of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, and some children's activity pages designed to help youngsters celebrate Life in an age appropriate way.

And now we rest in the assurance of those encouraging words: In God's fullness of time, the New Maternity Home will open.

Pray with us that this special safe haven for moms-to-be will soon be up and running! May Father God use each of us to make it happen!



Words Fitly Spoken...

Proverbs 25:11 says, **A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.** The Lutherans for Life National Conference in Rock Island was an occasion for so many inspiring words! Here are just a few brief quotes that brought that verse to mind.

Regarding the cost of raising a child, a statistic that frequently comes out updated, **"What did you have to spend that money on that was better?"**, Pastor Saleminck, LFL, Executive Director

"It is a joy to be a Biblical voice

of sanity in a world that's lost its mind.", Lowell Highby upon being recognized for 25 years of service to LFL



Regarding putting our majority effort into being the hands and feet of

Jesus, **"No good decisions are based on fear; We represent the perfect Love that casts out fear,"** Steve Deace, TV Host, Blaze TV

Regarding the 23rd Psalm: **"The Greek word for 'follow' means to pursue. God's goodness and mercy actively pursue us!"** Rev. Steve Licht, LFL, COO/CFO

Regarding our purpose as For Life people, **"We're not just working for victory but from victory—a victory already won in Christ's resurrection,"** — Father Frank Pavone, head of Priests for Life.

Her PLAN (Pregnancy & Life Assistance Network)

Seven days in a week...seven dog years to one people year... and did you know another big "Seven" is that there are seven reasons most often leading a woman to consider abortion? I learned this from Anna Stephens of Her PLAN. The mission of Her PLAN is to connect service providers to give care for women based around those 7 reasons. Her Plan provides 3 main tools that Anna wanted our readers to know about:

1. a directory of service providers that is available on their website.
2. The Pathways to Life Guide, also available on their website. It in-

cludes over 100 models for ways churches can help meet needs for moms and babies. I found this almost overwhelming in the abundance of resources that are provided. One of the most profound is the 7 testimonies of women who went for abortions and what led them to that drastic decision. Understanding this seems crucial to speaking words that resonate and help in a time of personal crisis.

3. Church questionnaires, also available on their website. These were developed to help church

leadership assess their own congregation's degree of loving service for life and to arrive at possible enhancements to life ministry.

Anna has always been passionate for helping moms and their babies. She says she has been blessed to be a part of Her PLAN, and able to help them every day.

Anna also noted, "Post Dobbs we have a beautiful & exciting opportunity to serve as the hands and feet of Christ, being that support system that helps her not just survive, but thrive."

Learn more at <https://herplan.org/>

Illinois March for Life

Throughout 2022, We Dignify led active discernment for the March for Life Chicago's direction in consultation with partner organizations including Illinois Right to Life, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Wisconsin Right to Life, and Illinois Knights of Columbus and conversations with Catholic Respect Life Ministries at the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Springfield.

Together, We Dignify is thrilled to share with you the outcome: the March for Life Chicago is moving to Illinois' state capitol: Springfield

The same mission continues - save Midwestern lives by marching in the public square.

Because of state laws, 10,000 lives were saved from abortion in just 2 months after Roe was overturned.*

Now, in a Post-Roe era, it is crucial

to march where state laws are made and in front of the elected lawmakers.

The March for Life Chicago is moving to Illinois' capitol: Springfield.

The move includes:

1. New Name: The March for Life Chicago is now the **Illinois March for Life.**
2. New Location: move from Chicago to **Springfield, IL**
3. New Date: move from a weekend to a weekday - **Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

Now in a Post-Roe era, it is crucial to march where state laws are made and in front of the elected lawmakers

The 2023 Illinois March for Life is on Tuesday, March 21, 2023

To prepare, here's what you can do right now:

Commit to coming - [RSVP here](#)



Spread the word - [share this FB post](#)

Lead others - [Bring a Group](#)

Details, including FAQs, are now posted at www.IllinoisMarchforLife.org

(from We Dignify bulletin)

And let's pray that elected leaders would lead in God-pleasing ways: selflessly, with wisdom, and with respect for human life.

Students for Life in Illinois goes by the name "We Dignify" Besides organizing the March for Life, they are busily working on college campuses here in Illinois, training students in how to speak out for Life. Their website is

<https://wedignify.org/>

THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS!

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

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

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

(Inspired by LFL-Kansas Newsletter)

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

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

*Let your love
affirm Life
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Or donate online at www.lutheransforlife.org

Thy Will Be Done...Praying Scripture for Life

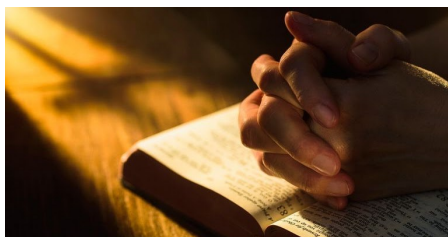
1. According to Titus 2:7, we pray for all those who love Life and work daily to protect it. May each of us show ourselves in all respects to be models of good works, and in our teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that all our opponents may be put to shame, finding no evil for which to condemn us. We ask this, Lord, for our churches as they stand on your Word, for workers in pregnancy resource centers and medical facilities, as they come alongside the vulnerable, and for each of us as individuals who are known as your people.

2. According to Philippians 4:8, we pray for the heart of our nation: for the youth who are growing into a new day, for the leaders of our state and federal government, we ask you to fill their hearts with truth, with honorable things, with justice, with purity, with loveliness, with commendable ideas, with a desire for excellence, and with praiseworthy ambition. You alone, dear Lord, are able to change the hardened heart and we ask you to do this for our country. May the love of God enter in and drive out the destructive darkness that is so pervasive!

3. According to Psalm 34: 12-14, we pray for the elderly. Dear Father let those of advanced years desire life and love every day they are given to serve you. Please grant them as many days as you have planned for them and protect them from those who would shorten their days. When we begin to

lose our verbal filter, grant your guardianship of our tongues that we would continue to speak the truth in love and without deceit. As others speak on behalf of those of advanced years, cause them to turn away from the evils of assisted suicide and euthanasia and to do good, sustaining life, seeking peace, and serving You, the Lord of Life!

4. According to First Corinthians 13, we pray for marriages in 2023, both



"Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

those that are newly wed, and those who have spent years as husband and wife. May the love that brought them together never end! May they have patience with one another and with the difficult circumstances of life. Help them to avoid arrogance, rudeness, irritability, resentment, and envy, lest these evils gnaw away at their love and diminish it. Grant them grace to dwell in truth, belief, hope, forgiveness, and endurance. Let your perfect love flow through them to

bless their families, their churches, and their communities!

5. According to Ps. 68:5-6, we pray for the isolated, whether through widowhood, divorce, fatherlessness, or other evidence of our fallen world. We ask You, oh Father of the fatherless to care tenderly this day for those who feel alone, abandoned, or forgotten. Please do protect the widowed, the orphaned, the lonely and settle them with home and family out of your abundant kindness to your own dear children. Show us this day how You are setting people free from the prison of loneliness and surrounding them with loving relationships. Father, please graciously use us in this good gift you want for your people.
6. According to Psalm 82:3&4, we pray for those who are weak, the preborn, the aged, those with physical or mental challenges. Father, bring justice to the voiceless, who are weak and cannot speak for themselves. Maintain the rights of these afflicted and needy ones. Please rescue them and deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Help us, Oh, Lord to speak Life and deliverance for those who are unable...speak through us when our words are inadequate and move us when our courage fails, please use us to bring glory to You, the Lord of Life!
7. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer!"