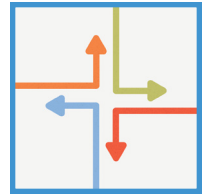


# Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline  
May-June  
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:  
The Sun Rises with the Light of Life

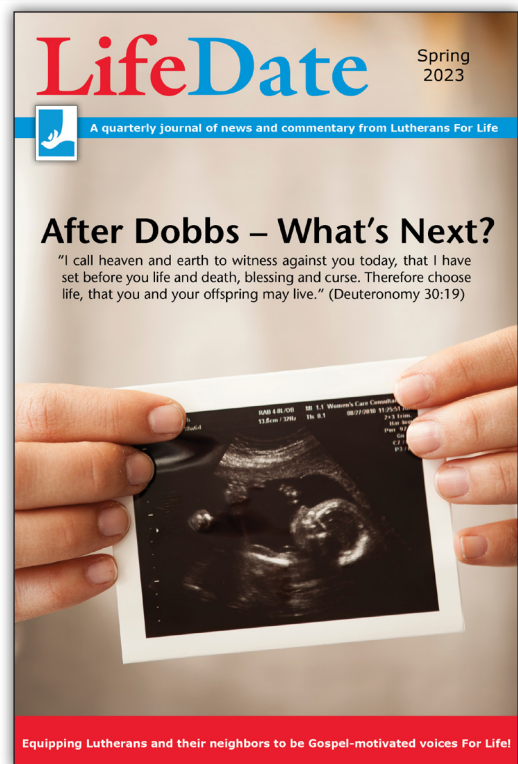
Are You Multifaceted?

Serve the Lord ... with All Your Heart?

Step Up 4 Life 2023

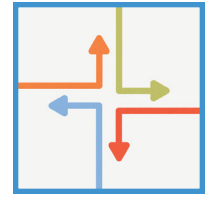
Using Life Week 2023 in May/June

Lutherans and the Tucson March for Life



[lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal](https://lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal)

# News and Notes



- Check out [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org) and [y4life.org](http://y4life.org).
- Be sure to “Like” and follow LFL on social media! See links below:

[www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife](https://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife) • [www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL)  
[www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts](https://www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts)

[twitter.com/ForLifers](https://twitter.com/ForLifers) • [instagram.com/lfly4life](https://www.instagram.com/lfly4life) • [www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life](https://www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life)  
[www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife](https://www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife)

- Join our Frontline Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates: [facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines](https://facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines). 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](http://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](http://lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news).
- **REGISTRATION IS OPEN! 2023 Lutherans For Life National Conference | October 11-13 | Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky, with visits to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum | REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

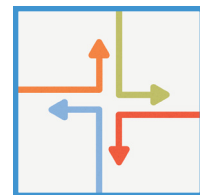


## Lutherans For Life

Available in App Stores







Meeting ID:  
851 5480 3115

Passcode:  
708081

**VOLUNTEER RELATIONS** is a Lutherans For Life team dedicated to serving the Frontlines including Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, State Federations, pastors, and congregations. They assist them in starting and maintaining a strong, healthy, and vibrant life ministry within their congregations and communities.

Our team is here to share ideas, to mentor, and to walk alongside you as a life ministry consultant and partner.

Meet our team:

**Virginia J. Flo**

Director of Volunteer Relations  
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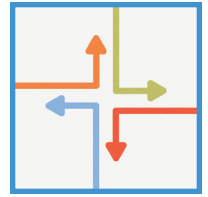
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# Bible Study: The Son Rises with the Light of Life

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The Resurrection of Our Lord proclaims God's love for human life. The Heavenly Father will stop at nothing to rescue and preserve us from death. He delights to bring us His own abundant and everlasting being even in the midst of frailty and suffering. Every beat of a heart, every breath in the chest, every member of our race demonstrates once again how the Almighty Maker wills us here. Easter Jesus makes for the most life-affirming message and festival of all.

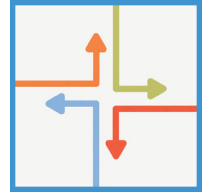
Jesus predicated that He would come back from the dead three days after He died. When He was crucified, His enemies were afraid that His disciples would steal His body. They placed a giant rock over His tomb, sealed it, and posted guards. On the morning of the third day, there was an earthquake and an angel opened the tomb. It was empty. The guards were so afraid, they passed out. The women who went to finish the burial preparations were also afraid. The angel told them Jesus had risen. Jesus appeared to them and instructed them to tell His disciples about it. The guards and Jesus' enemies pretended the disciples stole the body so they wouldn't get in trouble.

1. Read the Easter Gospel in Matthew 28:1-10. Why did these events take place at dawn on the first day of the week (Genesis 1:1-5; John 1:1-5)? How do God's creating, incarnating, and incorporating each highlight the sanctity of every human life?
2. What does it mean that the guards became like dead men? What does this tell us about playing with the power of death (Matthew 26:52; Daniel 3:22; Romans 5:12)?
3. How does the angel greet the women? What is significant about this greeting (Luke 1:30; Luke 5:8-10; 1 John 4:18)?
4. What makes it especially appropriate for the women to witness resurrection first (Genesis 3:15, 20; John 16:21)?





5. Why does the angel remind them about the crucifixion (1 Corinthians 15:56; Hebrews 10:18; Isaiah 25:8; Matthew 9:6-7)?



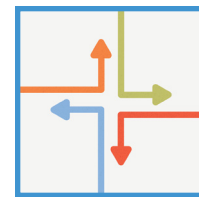
6. How did the women feel about their experience? How were they able to be both at the same time? What does this tell us about Christian faith in general and life issues in particular?
7. What evidences does the story give that the resurrection really happened (see also Luke 24:39-42)? Why does it matter that the resurrection account be factual and literal (1 Corinthians 15:14-17)? What scientific evidences are there for the value of human life in the context of surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis?
8. What excuses did the chief priests give for the empty tomb (Matthew 28:11-15)? What are some popular justifications given for abortion and physician-assisted suicide? What really motivates these arguments and objections?
9. What did Jesus look like after He rose from the dead (John 20:14-16; Luke 24:15-16; Revelation 5:6)? What does this tell us about God's regard for human bodies, however weak or wounded they may appear? Why is this good news for us? How does it affect the way we treat our neighbor's body (and our own)?



# Are You Multifaceted?

## by the Volunteer Relations Team

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Serving in the Lord's life arena as a Life Advocate, or as a Life Team or Life Chapter member, can be very rewarding and bear much fruit. But sometimes your efforts may become too narrow as you focus on *one* life issue—most often abortion. Lutherans For Life encourages all of our Frontline workers to be multifaceted!

What does this mean? Multifaceted, as defined by the Merriam Webster online dictionary, is “having many facets or aspects”—multiple parts making up the whole. Multifaceted, as it applies to life issues, means you are aware of and work with *many* life issues from fertilization to natural death—or as we like to say at LFL: From Fertilization to Forever!

Single-faceted ministries are the opposite of this and are less desirable. You will find greater success and impact in being multifaceted. As a worker in the life ministry of the Body of Christ, you will certainly need to address the horror of abortion, but you may find that people run the other way when you focus *only* on this issue. Somehow, you must be able to open hearts, minds, and ministries to the vast numbers of hurting people that have absolutely no personal association with abortion at all, but still need the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the hope, strength, and peace He can bring to their lives amid *their* life issues. And when you *do* deal with abortion, your heart must be compelled to act as Jesus would act by showing love and compassion to the mom, dad, grandparent, or other persons touched by this tragedy. If you do this, you are already expanding your vision and becoming multifaceted!

How can you equip your church and your community to recognize and care about a variety of life issues? Rest and trust in God. Pray. Become true friends with people in your congregation so you know what life issues they may face. Be aware of the needs in your community. Then research and explore ways to help people with a specific life issue. Involve your pastor(s). **God truly cares about every human heart that hurts, and He will bless your efforts.**

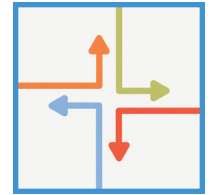
Know that *someone* needs to know the information you are providing on a specific life issue if you have researched local needs and have prayed about it! Life ministry is an ongoing process, and you should keep learning and keep developing your resources. Life issues continually evolve and change, so you should keep current with local laws and trends. Above all, come to Lutherans For Life! Our website, publications, and Volunteer Relations Team can inform and educate you about a vast multitude of life issues that affect all of us. We know this may seem daunting, but the Volunteer Relations Team is here to work with you!

You know the saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” We hope the iceberg graphic in this article will raise your awareness of the multifaceted aspect of life issues. Not every congregation will deal with every life issue. Caution and care must be used when discussing certain sensitive life issues. We suggest you work closely with your pastor(s) and focus on one life issue at a time to maximize your efforts. Did we mention the Volunteer Relations Team is *always* here to help you?

As you minister to those around you, you know in your heart you are to meet people where they hurt. Your role model for ministering to the needs of others is Jesus. Matthew 25:37-40 says it all: **“Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and**



give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

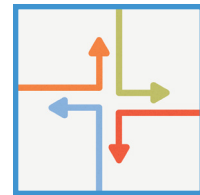




# Ongoing Resources for Your Life Ministry

## by the Volunteer Relations Team

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You may already be very familiar with the following resources, but one aspect of a thriving, successful ministry of any kind is the repetition of important information. Continual reminders of what is available and what have proven to be effective tools will help you succeed in your life ministry.

- **Life Quotes** is a great way to provide regular quotes on life issues. They are just a few short sentences and easily fit into your weekly church bulletin or newsletter. People can read them in a few seconds, and they are impactful. They are dated but may be used at any time. If you use these unique quotes weekly, you might also consider including a standard message for those in need of spiritual guidance due to having had an abortion, for example. Here's what a message could look like:

Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help.  
word-of-hope.org | 888-217-8679

- **Life Thoughts** are statements based on the Three-Year or One-Year Lectionary from *Lutheran Service Book*. They explain the weekly Scripture readings from the perspective of the sanctity of human life. Regularly put these in your bulletin or newsletter, and people will start looking for them.

You will find both **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts** on the Resource tab at [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

- **Life Notes** is a weekly e-news digest containing the latest LFL news. You will receive notice of upcoming events and quick links to LFL programs and commentaries. **Life Notes** is filled with information you won't want to miss! It will become a regular resource tool for valuable information you can use in your communication efforts. To sign up, go to [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) and click the small purple box in the upper righthand corner of the home page.
- **Frontline Teleconference Calls** are regularly conducted on the second Monday of each quarter (January – April – July – October). Please join this Zoom call and learn about projects LFL is sponsoring or learn about activities being done by Life Teams, Life Chapters, and Life Advocates that you can use in your church! Check the LFL website calendar for the Frontline Teleconference Call details.

If you need help in your life ministry, please reach out to anyone on our Volunteer Relations Team. They look forward to working with you! May the Lord bless you in your For Life ministry as you faithfully and continually serve Him!

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Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations  
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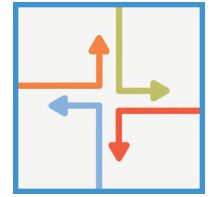
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830.388.8640



# Serve the Lord ... with All Your Heart?

by Virginia Flo



**“Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart.  
For consider what great things he has done for you.”**

(1 Samuel 12:24)

I was reminded the other day as I used the phrase **“Created, Redeemed, Called”** that we at Lutherans For Life have said this repeatedly for years as we describe God’s love For Life. It surely speaks to the progression of how much God has shown us that He loves us without fail and without hesitation. First, He created us, and when man fell into sin, He sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem us by suffering on the cross for our sins, died and then rose triumphant, overcoming death. And, through the waters of Baptism, He calls us into an eternal relationship with Him in heaven. These are the great things He has done for each of us.

What greater motivation might we need to respond with faithful service with all our heart? As you as a Life Advocate, Life Team, or Life Chapter do your life ministry within the churches you serve, be faithful in your life-affirming efforts, as they are so important in keeping our For Life ministry alive and well. If you have run out of ideas, check out some of the new ideas we are publishing in *Directions* every two months. Give them a try and see if they will work for you.

If you aren’t ready to take on a new project because you have something going already, that’s okay. Keep moving forward. If you are tired and can’t seem to get going, try some of the regular offerings LFL provides for you to share with the churches you serve. Although we might come off like a broken record, it’s because some of the routine things we provide are new to those reading this. They may be just what you need to feed your churches with vital For Life information.

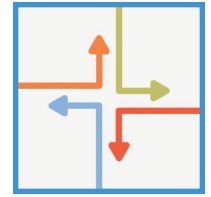
So, if you find us reminding you about *Life Quotes*, *Life Thoughts*, *LifeDate*, *Directions*, *Life Notes*, and much, much more it’s because those useful tools are what is needed in our churches every week. You will find them under the Resource tab on our website. Use them as they are always up to date and provide inspiration as the messages contained within these resources are meaningful and will bring God’s love for life as people read and digest them. It might be a simple approach to life ministry, but it will work. Some churches have set up their church administrators with the links to these sites, and they are the ones who download the information weekly for the church’s bulletins, newsletters, Facebook page, and other forms of communication. Find out from your pastor if that is something you can speak with your church administrators about and then take the time and work with them. This can become an easy task. If that idea doesn’t work, it’s simple to just copy and paste the *Life Quotes* and *Life Thoughts* into an email and forward to your church offices weekly. Pick an article from *Directions*, *LifeDate*, or other LFL resources and provide it to your church for reproduction in their publications. You will feel like you have conquered a huge task in doing so, and your pastor will appreciate your effort. Of course, as in all cases, speak with your pastor first before filling up the church inbox with this information.

May the Lord bless your efforts in your ongoing life ministry.



# Step Up 4 Life 2023!

## by the Volunteer Relations Team

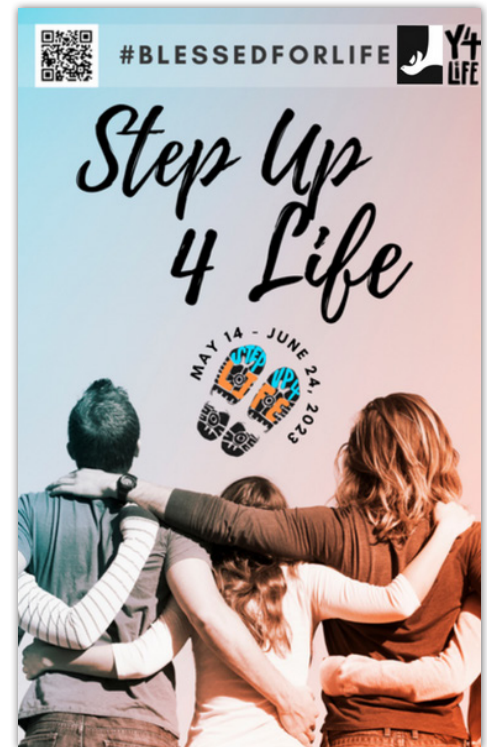


**Step Up 4 Life** is Lutherans For Life's annual Walk for Life campaign, and it provides a novel twist to the traditional Walk for Life. Each participant sets his or her own walking and fundraising goals, then walks to raise awareness about LFL's work and encourages others to donate to his or her campaign.

Why should you **Step Up 4 Life**? The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. LFL applies its Gospel-motivated message to the sanctity of life through life-affirming counseling and support, conferences and seminars, programming for high school and college students, Zoom chats and presentations, and so much more! All of LFL's services are free—services that empower those who hear their message to choose life without feeling trapped by their circumstances.

LFL's **Step Up 4 Life** 2023 fundraising campaign will take place from May 14 through June 24, and we hope YOU will be part of it! What can you do now and later to be an active participant of **Step Up 4 Life**?

- First go to our website and review all the materials: [lutheransforlife.org/step-up-4-life-2023](https://lutheransforlife.org/step-up-4-life-2023)
- Watch the video and place it on your social media accounts or on the church website!
- Click the Resources for Church/Life Groups button. Order your Step Up 4 Life 2023 kit and get the basic resources sent to you right away! Download bulletin announcements and inserts. Use the sample email scripts to encourage family and friends to help your team. Most importantly, REGISTER A TEAM! Use the help page and follow the instructions: [lutheransforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Instructions-to-Register.pdf](https://lutheransforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Instructions-to-Register.pdf)
- Click the Resources for Individuals button. Use the Fundraising Tips, Bible Study, and the What You Can Do Now/Later pages as you register your own team of support!
- Finally—most importantly—push the Register – Step Up 4 Life button and get your team on board!



If you or your team can hit the sponsorship levels of support, look at all the fun items of swag and recognition you will immediately receive. **Step Up 4 Life** is our main spring appeal and an ideal way to introduce Lutherans For Life and the wonderful programs and materials we produce to your family, friends, coworkers, and fellow church members. We're providing you all the materials and support your team will need. Enjoy knowing that everything you give goes directly to supporting more Gospel-motivated voices for Life work now and in the years to come! Have fun, encourage life, and **Step Up 4 Life**!

Thanks in advance for your support.

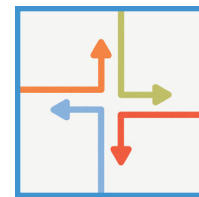




# Using Life Week 2023 in May/June

## by the Volunteer Relations Team

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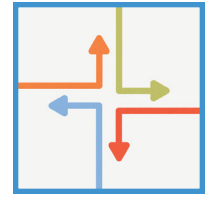


For the last three years, the staff at Lutherans For Life has produced wonderful Life Week materials that speak of the value and sanctity of human life. And, for the last three years, we have encouraged all our Life Teams and Life Chapters to use these materials throughout the year! Now in 2023, we expand our focus with Life Advocates who might be in any church sharing life issue information to equip your neighbors in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the value of all life. But what should that look like? Here is a suggested pattern that you could use for May/June 2023 in your church(es).

1. Go to the Life Week 2023 archive of all our materials: [lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023](https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023).
2. Scroll down and use materials found under **Life Week 2023 – Day 1—Sunday – Blessed as a Gift (Gospel-motivation)**. Please note, while these materials say “Day 1” and were used to kick off our 2023 Life Week celebration in January, they can be used anytime throughout the year. Don’t get caught in the “Day 1” trap! Use any day’s materials now and later as you see fit.
3. Use the devotion, fact sheets, and activity sheets to inspire and encourage support of life issues in your church, your Life Teams, and Life Chapters. We’ve included examples of each that you can download and reprint. Use one set in May and one set in June. Insert these into newsletters, bulletins, or post on doors and bulletin boards throughout the church.
4. Ask your pastor to highlight these materials in a worship service. He might develop a sermon or teach a Bible class specific to these life issues. He might also pray specifically for families experiencing these issues or the groups and support organizations that help by providing aid and material goods for the benefit of others.
5. When sharing the facts about these life issues, read them aloud, then ask others what they have learned. Do they recognize the facts as true? Do these facts challenge and/or inspire anyone to action? In what ways could you pray for those experiencing the facts of these life issues? In what ways could you offer support or render aid to your neighbor in light of the facts they are experiencing?
6. Pick one or two activities and see how excited your church can be to accomplish a good work in support of these life issues. For example, the Blessed as a Gift activity page is focused on celebrating Creation and Identity. One of the activities suggests you can “Celebrate differences God gives in gender, culture, and age.” Since Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are in May and June, celebrate appropriately the gift of each to the family and the Church. Write a story or share the stories of mothers making family life wonderful and fathers providing! Interview several age groups of mothers and fathers and compare the history of how God has continued to bless them even as the culture around them changes. Ask your pastor to bless in worship the gift of family in prayers. Be creative; try anything and ask for feedback from others at the end!
7. Open the meetings of guilds, elders, council, and other committees using the devotion for Day 1 – Blessed as a Gift. Ask people to comment and challenge them to read scripture and come up with their own examples of how God blesses all His Church with our unique and beautiful creation and identity in Him as His baptized children. Use the devotion to challenge all groups



to look for ways to acknowledge, thank, and serve those who struggle with identity or life issues.



8. Do research on what outside organizations or groups in your community support and encourage those experiencing life issues related to creation and identity. If you make a connection, invite these groups to speak at a Bible class or after church in a coffee fellowship. Invite them to your boards and councils to give brief presentations on the good they accomplish in the community and potential ways your church, Life Teams, and Life Chapters could be of material and financial aid in their efforts for the community! Be sure to clear invitations with your pastor(s) and recognize Law/Gospel dynamics and challenges of non-Lutheran groups. Make sure they also are aware of these distinctions as they address Lutheran audiences. They will understand, and together you can still support and encourage good works for your neighbor's benefit.
9. If you have more time, more people talent, and resource networking opportunities, go back to the Life Week 2023 archive and use the other materials from Day 1.
  - a. Preview and show the testimonial videos at meetings or in Bible class.
  - b. Watch the hour-long Day 1 Presentation with Rev. Michael Salemink, our executive director. Then discuss what you learned or where you might want to do more exploratory research to speak effectively in support and concern for this life issue.

These are some of our ideas. What ideas do you have that you want to try? We'd love to hear of them and what you might accomplish! Keep in mind, this is just a start. Next month and the next month you can do this all again for another life issue. As you share these simple "fact and activity sheets," you are equipping all those who read, mark, and inwardly digest their content to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life! You are equipping your friends, family, and fellow church goers to be life-giving and life-supporting voices of the Gospel of life and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord of Life.



# Blessed as a Gift

## Creation and Identity

Celebrate  
baptismal  
birthdays.

Hold congregational  
celebrations of  
birthdays by month.

Mail or email a card to  
someone to remind him  
or her of his or  
her identity.

Affirm the identity of  
teens as they face cancel  
culture.

Celebrate differences  
God gives in gender,  
culture, and age.

Read stories about God's  
creation to young  
children.

Use a Lutherans for Life  
Bible study on identity.

Share life-  
affirming resources on  
the gifts of gender,  
cultural heritage, and  
age.

Place a prayer board in a  
residence hall, school,  
or church and  
encourage individuals  
to post prayers.

Create tie blankets with  
an identity theme at an  
intergenerational  
gathering.

Send an encouraging  
text to a friend or  
family member who is  
struggling and remind  
him or her of Christ's  
love.

Post identity-affirming  
Bible verses around  
your home, school, or  
church and on social  
media.

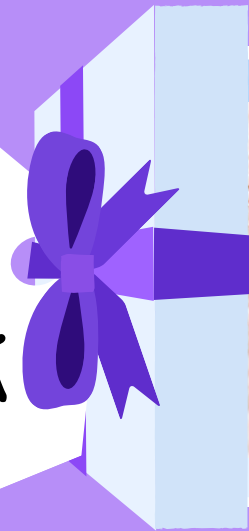
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. -Genesis 1:27

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. -Colossians 3:9-10





Blessed  
as a Gift



LIFE WEEK  
2023

## Life Issues

1



### Creation / Identity

Giving children puberty blockers to delay secondary sex characteristics might not ease gender dysphoria, and delaying puberty beyond one's peers can be stressful and can lower self-esteem.

2



### Surprise Pregnancy

Over 60% of surprise pregnancies and almost 30% of all pregnancies end in abortion.

3



### Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities

About 17% of children aged 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities.

4



### The Unborn

At 15 weeks of pregnancy, the unborn baby has developed every major organ and most are functional, she responds to touch and pain, she has a preference for sweet over bitter flavor, and she demonstrates right or left hand dominance.



## Devotion – Day 1 – Blessed as a Gift – Life Week 2023

Bible readings: Genesis 1: 1, 27, 31; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 8:9

You are a gift! You are a unique creation. As of November 2022, you are 1:8,000,000,000 (that is, one in eight billion people, the estimated population of the world). There has been no one like you since Adam and Eve. There will be no one like you, ever. Unique is an understatement! “Gift” is a blessing of God.

The ESV Study Bible says: “God made this world and all that is in it: **‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them’** (Genesis 1:1, 27). He created human beings to be like Him and to have unhindered fellowship with Him, and when His work of creation was finished, He saw that it was **‘very good’** (Genesis 1:31).”<sup>1</sup>

But you don’t feel “very good”; you have limitations. You are not perfect. You are flawed, sinful. You want but are disappointed when not receiving. Called to live in family and friendship, you often live in isolation, exclusion, and separation. Others hurt you. Sometimes you return the same intentionally. You want a full life—no suffering. Some are disabled. Others do the disabling, especially as you incapacitate your neighbor through neglect, shame, and scorn. You serve others poorly but demand they serve you in perfection.

**“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich”** (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Christ emptied Himself for you! Though you are poor in spirit and afflicted, Christ became poorer for you. He endured your shame, your suffering, and your penalty of death on the cross in your place. In this you are redeemed—His poverty buys your richness. His death and His suffering of God’s wrath buy your freedom. Your sin costs His life. His satisfaction freely restores your life. **“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 6:23).

This Gospel truth frames every message from Lutherans For Life. Your life’s value and worth are beyond measure. Silver or gold cannot buy it. Christ’s body and blood secure it. God Himself provided the Lamb. By His stripes you are healed.

Whatever days of trouble confound you, God turns to you with His favor and grace! The enemies—sin, death, and the power of the devil—cannot overcome you. In Christ, they are overcome! The Lord protects you. By faith you trust His loving care and providential support. By faith you live in His peace and joy even when, by sight, life often doesn’t look “very good.”

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”** (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

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<sup>1</sup> Crossway Bibles. (2008). [\*The ESV Study Bible\*](#) (p. 2501).



We live in a complicated and confusing world, one where sin abounds all around us. Christians who value the sanctity of all human life may experience times of frustration, maybe even despair. Will it ever turn out better? Are the actions and activities through which we are engaging the culture effective? Are we winning hearts and minds for life?

Times like this call for a reminder that faith triumphs. God has already won! He will not give us over to the will of our enemies (Psalm 41:2). God does consider the poor estate in which we live and congregate. He even delivers us in our own days of trouble (Psalm 41:1). As Lutherans For Life, we trust in the guidance of God's Word and the power of the Gospel to change hearts and minds, not our own actions. Death is not the solution to life problems. It might seem like a little thing, even an unimportant thing, but staying in God's Word and following His commands for our life matters. God declares, in Him, that we are "Blessed For Life" (Life Sunday 2023 Theme).

Scripture encourages and informs your walk of faith. Your efforts are important, even when they seem obscure or ineffective. There is great importance in staying the course, continuing the race, holding fast to your beliefs when all around you is shifting sand. That you may remain encouraged as you strive to serve others, recognizing that in Christ we are all 'Blessed For Life':

Read Joshua 6.

- Describe what the young nation of Israel is facing. What is their challenge? Knowing their history, their unfaithfulness to listening and doing that which God commands, what difficulties might this episode uncover? What if you were the one receiving these commands, how might you respond? What might you question? Where might you struggle to be faithful?

Exegesis is a bible study technique of reading/pulling information "out of" the text. Read Joshua 2 and especially pay attention to what you can pull from the text to learn about the wall that surrounds the city of Jericho.

- What was built into the city wall? What does that tell you about the size of the space?
- Where did Rahab hide the men who were spying on the city? What does that tell you about the size of the space?
- How were the men spying on the city to leave and head into the hills? What does that tell you about the size of the space?
- Putting all the exegetical information gleaned from Joshua 2 together, what can you conclude about the size of the wall that surrounds the city of Jericho?

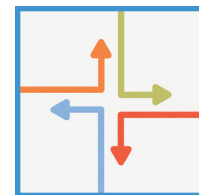
Eisegesis is a bible study technique in which you "read into" the text that which isn't specifically said or indicated but may be a possible conclusion. Eisegesis is an opinion and shouldn't be taken as fact. However, it can be useful in helping describe a situation based on the opinions and experiences of your own life as example.

Pretend you were one of the Israelites crossing the Jordan and looking at the huge fortress wall of Jericho. Now, using eisegesis (your own opinions or experience), what might you be thinking? Consider the Word of God and instructions from Joshua 6; what might your response have been to such instructions considering the enormity of the task that lay before you? In what ways may your own faith in God's Word and promises be challenged today, especially considering the full scope of challenges facing the sanctity of life?



# Lutherans and the Tucson March for Life

by Roni Grad



Each year on the Saturday of Sanctity of Life weekend, the day following the National March for Life, approximately 80 LCMS Lutherans from around the area join in the Tucson March for Life. I am delighted to share some details on how we organize our participation.

## Our Local Context

I am a lay member at Catalina Lutheran Church, where I chair the Life Team. Catalina is a member congregation of the Arizona South Circuit (ASC) of the English District (ED), LCMS, as are nine other congregations in our area. Additionally, there are four in the Pacific Southwest District (PSD). Of note, three of our congregations have Life Teams. Our ASC pastors meet most months at their circuit winkels, and our circuit forum meets twice a year. Finally, I meet regularly with the Tucson for Life coalition, as have others from our LCMS congregations over the years—and learn well in advance of upcoming events.

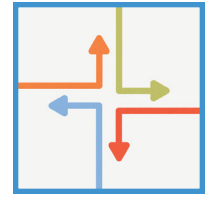
The Tucson March is sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson. The day begins with a mass at the St. Augustine Cathedral. Following the mass, the participants march from there to Holy Hope Cemetery (a distance of 4.1 miles—to my knowledge one of the longest life marches in the country!). The day ends with a rose ceremony at the cemetery, remembering the lives of those lost to abortion.

## Planning and Organization

The planning for our participation begins with our circuit visitor and pastors as we discuss the march at the winkels and the forum meetings. From there, with the permission of the circuit visitor, we send



reminder emails to the pastors, including the men serving the PSD congregations. The pastors then get word out to their congregations. Additionally, we list the march on the ED page of the LCMS Life Ministry Volunteer Portal. The LCMS sends us signs and hats based on the number who have signed up on the site to participate. Since the march is a one-way 4.1-mile walk, we arrange for some to leave their cars at each end and shuttle others from or to their vehicles.



## Event

While the mass is taking place, we meet across the street in an outdoor area for a time of prayer, led by our circuit visitor. We pray the *Lutheran Service Book* litany and have a time of corporate confession and absolution, remembering that we too are sinners in need of God's grace and mercy. We then join the march, grouping ourselves behind a large banner reading, "Tucson Area LCMS Congregations," which was funded by LWML and includes artwork by area children. Once we reach the end of the march, we receive a closing benediction, led by one of our pastors. Some then stay for the rose ceremony.

## Why We March

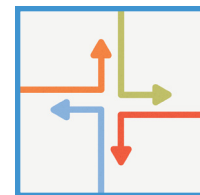
Having received God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in His divine services to us in our congregations, we jointly put on His armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) in the public square, proclaiming Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, even those of babies still in the womb. In so doing, we advocate for the sanctity of life from the moment of fertilization and pray that God will use us to change the hearts of the abortion-minded in our community.

*Roni Grad is a Catalina Lutheran Church Life Team member.*





# New Lutherans For Life Resources!



Check out our new Mother's and Father's Day bulletin inserts, human development brochures, and much more at [lutheransforlife.org/resources/store](https://lutheransforlife.org/resources/store).



[lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)



[lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)





**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**  
**2023 Lutherans For Life**  
**National Conference • October 11-13**

Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky, *with visits to the*  
**Ark Encounter and Creation Museum**

Find more information at the link below!

**REGISTER TODAY!**



**[lutheransforlife.org/conference](https://lutheransforlife.org/conference)**

*Come and see the new "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" exhibit at the Creation Museum!*



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2023 Lutherans For Life  
National Conference  
October 11-13**

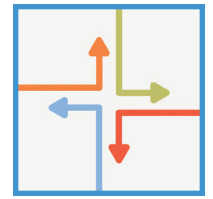


 **[lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)**





# Spotlight on Life



**Spotlight on Life** ([lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life](http://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](mailto:info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org).

## Presentation Topics

### FACTORS AFFECTING LIFE AND DEATH

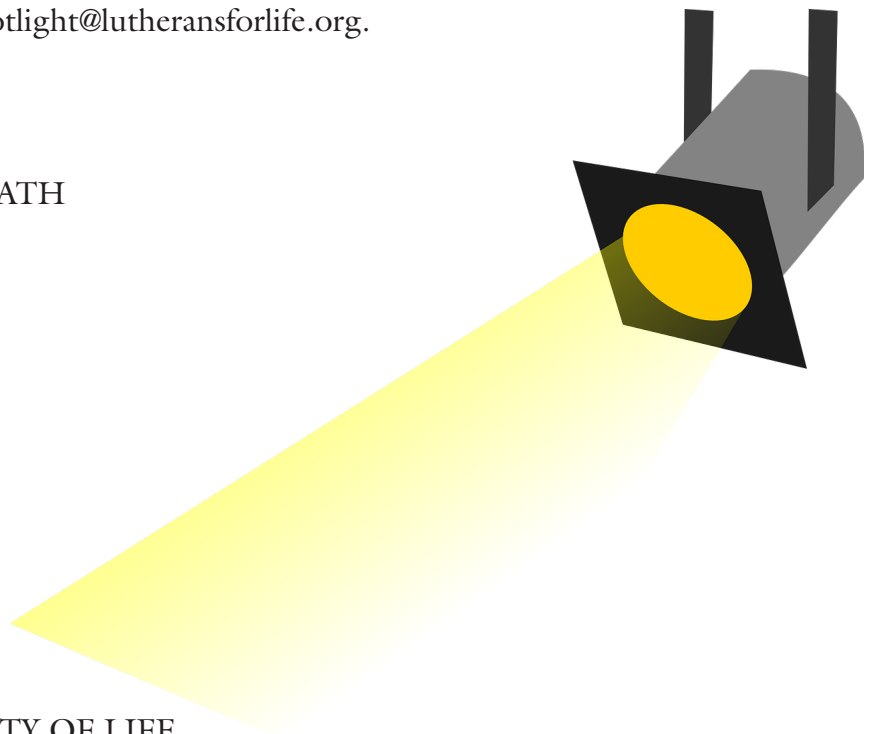
- Fetal development
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Mental health
- Physical & mental disabilities

### LIFE AND DEATH

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

### FACTORS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

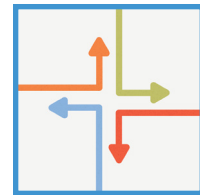
- For-Life apologetics
- Human-trafficking
- Sexuality & gender
- Family



**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**” (**L**utherans **A**ssembling **M**ercy **B**lankets) 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](mailto: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 Belén Fry 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: Belén Fry  
Miami Valley Life Chapter  
1505 Tipperary Court  
Middletown, OH 45042-3038



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





## 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)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Ship to (if different):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM #	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
LTTDVDR		Life Team Tool DVD Replacement: (Circle) 1 2 3 4	\$10	
LTTBN		<b>LIFE TEAM TOOL BUNDLE</b> (Includes tools 1-4 and field manuals)	\$30	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	
			<b>SHIPPING</b>	\$15
			<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

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

### Are you purchasing this for a church? Please list name and address:

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:

☐  ☐  ☐  ☐ 

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Year

Signature \_\_\_\_\_


**You may also purchase Life Team Tools by credit card by calling 888.364.LIFE (5433).**



**What is a LifeTeam?**




**TOOL 1**  
Life Team  
Introduction  
and Roadmap



**TOOL 2**  
Life Team  
Leader  
Training



**TOOL 3**  
Life Team  
101



**TOOL 4**  
Resource  
Disc



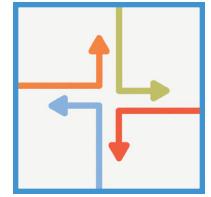
### OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Transaction #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Emailed: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Director of Volunteer Relations

☐ Mail  
☐ Email  
☐ Phone  
☐ Conference  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Owen's Mission



**"A PERSON'S  
A PERSON,  
NO MATTER  
HOW SMALL"  
-DR. SEUSS**

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.



Where did Owen's Mission come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

"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](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).**

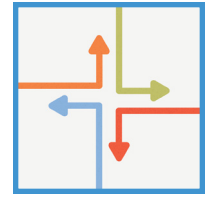
[lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission](http://lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission)





# Need a Speaker?

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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.



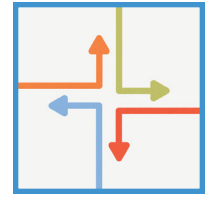
## Speakers:

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

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**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 Advocates 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



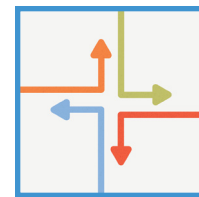
## National Lutherans For Life Staff

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  
Bonnie Pool – Y4Life Media Resource 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 – Business Director/Accountant  
Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant  
Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – Director of Word of Hope  
Deaconess Janet Nicol – Phone Counselor  
Lorelei Humphrey – Word of Hope Assistant  
Erika Peterson – Events Coordinator  
Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist  
Julie Kyrola – Data Assistant

## National LFL Board of Directors

Diane Albers, President – St. Louis, Missouri  
Rev. Byrene K. Haney, Vice President – Fort Dodge, Iowa  
Dr. Roni Grad, Secretary – Tucson, Arizona  
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  
Deaconess 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  
Diana Vaughn – Ponca City, Oklahoma



## State Federation Presidents

Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais  
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, Wisconsin – Clintonville

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

[info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)  
888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

### LFL Business Hours:

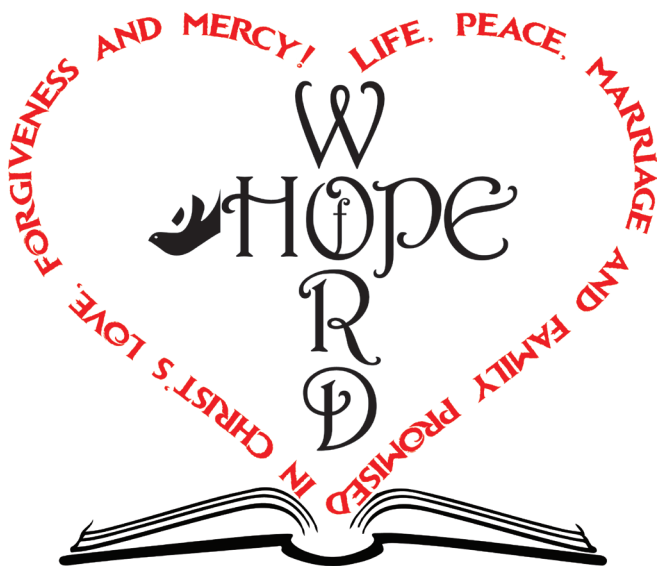
**Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.**  
**Hours subject to staff availability.**

**Since 1973: 64,443,118 abortions in America**

Source: [www.lifenews.com/2023/01/09/64443118-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortion-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973](http://www.lifenews.com/2023/01/09/64443118-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortion-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973)

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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](http://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](http://y4life.org)

