



# Lutherans For Life of Illinois

## Affirming Life In Illinois

### One Year Post Roe

This comes to you on the tail of the anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade. Celebrations for Life happened in many places on the 24th. There was a Rally for Life in the Federal Plaza in Chicago. The Rockford Walk for Life took place, beginning at the State of Illinois Office Building. Prayer vigils were held around the state.



If there is no "Dobbs Day" Life event in your area, maybe for next year you can sign up to organize one with the Pro Life Action League! Here is the Link: [Celebrate Life](#)

But what about celebrating on a more personal level? How might we celebrate life on June 24th and every day? Other holidays are celebrated with a cook-out and fellowship, why not this one?! Remember to give thanks for the lives of all those in attendance and pray God's protections for Lives at risk. Individually, we could use a method of celebrating life I heard once in a message at church...(Thank you, Pastor

Grieves!) Ask yourself who are the people whose lives bring you joy? Why? What is it about them that brings a smile to your face? Make a list of those people and the reasons. Do they know? Have you told them? We honor our creator when we acknowledge how wonderfully he has made humankind. Let's celebrate their lives and tell them!

Beyond our own state, there was a celebration in Washington, DC at the Lincoln Monument. It is indeed a good time to Celebrate Life!



LOVE  
AFFIRMS  
LIFE



### King Jesus, Our Shelter in the Storm

In Isaiah 25:4 we read, "For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a **shelter** from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall," We are so blessed to be sheltered in Jesus because of God's grace and mercy obtained for us on the Cross of Calvary. As those who would ruthlessly end the lives of others breathe out their hatred, it hits a wall! This is not a gift to keep to ourselves! Even as

we have received the gift of His grace, we offer it to others so they can also take refuge in the Savior, our "Mighty Fortress." This is the Kingdom of God Jesus so often spoke of...a sheltering community of faith. He guards our lives and we protect the lives of others.

It was also described in prophecy: "Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a

great rock in a weary land."

Fulfilled in Jesus, who has made us a "royal priesthood", the princes who shelter!

In this issue many of the articles explore the ways we receive and extend shelter through life-affirming ministry. May the Lord of Life guard each of you and give you what you need to provide shelter in your own unique way to the vulnerable!



### Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

Summer 2023

### Save the date, Illinois

\* **October 11-13**, LFL National Conference, Cincinnati, OH/ Erlanger, KY

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# Coalition Life and a New 40 Days for Life Vigil in Carbondale

"Coalition Life is bringing 40 days of peaceful prayer to Carbondale for the first ever *40 Days for Life* prayer vigil, September 28 - November 6. This southern Illinois city has been free of abortion facilities since 1985, but now the area has been targeted by several abortion providers who plan to open facilities here. Carbondale is now the frontline of the fight for life. The pro-life community is responding with a powerful show of God's healing power and grace.

This is the opportunity for all prayer warriors to publicly show that Car-

bondale stands for life. Coalition Life will hold the first *40 Days for Life* campaign at the future site of an abortion facility at 600 N. Giant City Road. The prayer vigil will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Churches and groups can adopt-a-day and provide prayer volunteers for all six hours or they can adopt a partial day. Individuals can sign up for one or multiple hours to be a witness for life by visiting our Vigil Calendar page. Join us at this critical moment in the fight for life." (from the Coalition Life website.)

They plan to host a kick-off event on September 26th, showing the movie "Unplanned" at the Grand Avenue Christian Church.

Coalition Life is also planning a closing Celebration Event on November 16th.

Since Carbondale is a College town, there is no doubt that students are part of the target. Let's keep Coalition Life, ISU, and the town of Carbondale in our prayers. *May God use the 40 Days of peaceful, prayerful presence to turn hearts from death to life in their choices!*

## Find an LFL 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,  
dalewet51@gmail.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

## Breakfast with Baby

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream, Illinois has found a unique way to affirm Life. The following comes from a brochure they have made available in their newsletter.

"Breakfast with Baby is a faith-based ministry for babies and their families in Carol Stream and surrounding communities. We are the cooperative effort of area churches, non-profit organizations, businesses, scout troops and individuals with a heart for sharing the love of Jesus Christ by caring for the physical and spiritual needs of His children.

Through a volunteer core and donations from our partner organizations, we strive to meet the essential physical and spiritual needs of economically disadvantaged families.

On the third Saturday of each month, we provide these families with breakfast, diapers, baby wipes, clothing, and a faith connection. We believe that by demonstrating Christ's love for all and supporting the well-being of growing families, our community will ultimately be stronger and healthier. Strong families build strong communities, which is why we encourage entire families to participate in this program. We wel-

come expectant moms (7 months along) and dads, single mothers or fathers, families with little ones in diapers and even grandparents to join us!"

If you are in the Carol Stream area and want to help or if you think your community could be blessed for Life through a program like this and want to do something similar, you and your congregation can learn more at

[Breakfast with Baby](#)

*Pray for families in our nation: May God make families a shelter for their members and a blessing to all!*

# Finding Shelter for Moms in Need

There are many situations that can cause a need for physical shelter for a mom facing a surprise pregnancy. According to Human Life Alliance, as many as 74% of women who have suffered a previous abortion say they were pressured into having an abortion. Sometimes that pressure takes the form of threats and physical abuse from a partner who fears the responsibility of fatherhood. Then a woman needs a safe haven. Sometimes it may be a threat of being "thrown out" by an embarrassed parent. And sometimes a woman who is already homeless and living in her car

or "couch surfing" from one friend's house to another's, may find herself pregnant. When these things happen and friends are brought into the situation, they sometimes turn to the church for help. If they turned to you, would you know where they could find shelter?

I recently found a handy list of Illinois maternity homes that might help, should you need to answer that question before our own Lutheran home is open. Illinois Right to Life maintains a list of homes in Illinois that will provide shelter to women

facing surprise pregnancy. Some are associated with a church, some are an outgrowth of a crisis pregnancy center, and some are an outgrowth of a ministry to the homeless. You can check out this list, which they state is not exhaustive, at Illinois Right to Life.

[Illinois Maternity Homes](#)

Let's remember to pray for all those who shelter women in need. May God grant them strength, gentleness, patience, courage, and protection as they serve women in need!

## Danville, Illinois, Sanctuary City for the Unborn

In the last issue, I shared news about a case before the Supreme Court regarding towns in New Mexico that had become Sanctuaries for the Unborn. We now have such a city in Illinois. The following is quoted from an article that came out on May 3, 2023 in Life Action News.

"On Tuesday night the city council of Danville, Illinois (pop. 28,787), considered a "sanctuary city for the unborn" ordinance requiring compliance with federal abortion laws. After over three hours of hearing from public comment by those in attendance, the majority of whom were in favor of the measure, the City Council voted 8-7 to adopt "[An Ordinance Adding Chapter 142 To the Danville, Illinois Code of Ordinances; Requiring Compliance With Federal Abortion Laws.](#)"

Mayor Rickey Williams, Jr. was the tie-breaking vote. The vote made the

City of Danville the 67th city in the nation and the first in Illinois to pass a "sanctuary city for the unborn" ordinance.

Like the "sanctuary for the unborn" ordinances passed in four cities and two counties in New Mexico, the Danville Ordinance does not explicitly ban abortion but simply requires compliance to federal statutes on abortion which prohibit the mailing or receiving of abortion-inducing drugs or abortion paraphernalia. The Danville Ordinance finds that federal law, in 18 U.S.C. §§ 1461-1462, "imposes felony criminal liability on every person who ships or receives abortion pills or abortion-related paraphernalia in interstate or foreign commerce" and that all such acts are "offenses under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act." The ordinance further argues that "the laws of Illinois do not and cannot secure a right,

privilege or immunity to act in violation of federal criminal statutes such as 18 U.S.C. §§ 1461-62, or to engage in criminal or racketeering conduct as defined by federal law."

To read the full article go to:

[Live Action News](#)

Since this article came out, Mayor Williams has suffered death threats, and one of the aldermen who voted for this measure has been physically assaulted as a response. We have heard from St. John's Lutheran Church in Danville that they want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this situation. What a challenge!

Pray for and thank God for the city of Danville and all those who valiantly strive to protect the unborn. God grant them protection, courage, and wisdom! May He guide leadership at St. John Lutheran Church as they serve as Gospel Motivated voices for Life in this challenging situation!

## Lutherans For Life National Conference

Save the date! In fact, get online and register! The Lutherans for Life National Conference is set for October 11-13 in Erlanger, Kentucky. This year's conference features presentations by Rebecca Kiessling, President of Save the 1 and Dr. Kaia Kloster, of Answers in Genesis. Beyond the keynote address, will be breakout sessions on a variety of topics.

The additional activities around the 2023 Conference are really exciting. An afternoon at the Creation Museum will allow for a visit to the new "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" exhibit. Another afternoon will be designated for a visit to the Ark Encounter, a museum featuring a life-size duplicate of Noah's Ark. Additionally conference participants will have the opportunity to take part in a service project gathering items for

the Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center there in Kentucky. Really, is there anything more fun than shopping for baby things?

Also new this year, there will be a charter bus leaving from Peoria, IL and another from Des Moines, IA. Bus seats are expected to go fast, so registering early is your best option. Here's the link to register for any & all of these things.:

[Conference Registration](#)



## Shelter in the Storm: Foster Care

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Although the for Life community has long supported foster care, This May, I was made aware of a new means of service to foster families. A foster mom friend shared with me the following little video. The group featured in this video has found a way for those of us who care, but are not ourselves in a position to foster, to express our care and concern for foster families.

If you or your congregation have been searching for a way to serve foster families, I would like to introduce you to some dedicated Christians who are doing just that. Their organization is

"We Are Called to Care" and they have some fantastic ideas for serving children who find themselves in the bewildering situation of just entering foster care. They have also developed some ways to serve those committed parents who have opened their homes to foster children. And their goal is to mobilize churches and individuals to provide this kind of care for those in the foster care system. One of their ideas, gathering items for foster kids at Christmas is something kids in our schools can definitely get into! I'm thinking this effort could

be replicated in other geographic areas of the state, too.

Here is the video:

### [Called To Care](#)

Let's Pray for those whose lives are in a state of turmoil, that they would be given the shelter they need, that Godly foster parents would step up to meet their needs, and that we, the church, would provide assistance and affirm the value of those young lives in the foster care system. May God help those who serve with We are Called to Care and multiply their efforts to minister until the whole state is covered with this loving outreach ministry!

## Sheltering Orphans, a Long Illinois Lutheran History

A funny thing happened on the way to correcting an email address that kept bouncing back! I ran across this information about the history of Lutherans providing shelter for orphans! It is from an old book printed in German, translated and shared online by James Huenink.

The story began in 1873 when 13 Lutheran congregations in Northern Illinois pooled their resources to begin an orphanage in Addison, Illinois. A few highlights of the journey:

39 acres and a small cottage were purchased to house the orphanage.

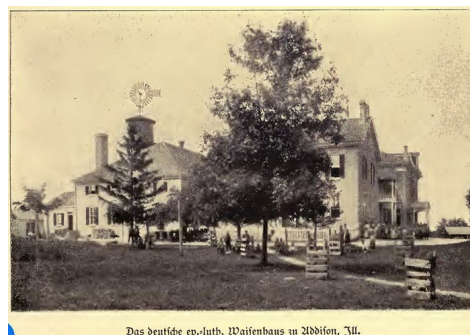
In 1902 The Lutheran Children's Friend Society was begun in Peoria to administer adoptions.

Several agencies merged around care for children in need.

In 1961 the Lutherbrook Children's Home was established to provide residential care. Years of history led to a change of organizational names to what we now know as Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois.

You can read more at:

[Lutheran Orphanage History](#)



Das deutsche ev.-luth. Waisenhaus in Addison, Ill.

## New Maternity Home...Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry

Those of us who love life are often accused of only caring about babies until they are born. Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry has demonstrated that their care goes way beyond that. Helping Moms with much needed shelter during their surprise pregnancy doesn't begin to cover all that they do! Their care and concern extends to training in child care, job skills, and life skills that will bless for a lifetime. Because their homes are connected to a church family that is committed to providing a supportive community for the moms, they also offer friendships that last a lifetime. As staff at the home care for the women, they help them get connected to services that offer a hand up that can have life long effects. Of course

the spiritual encouragement found through attending that host congregation also bears fruit for a lifetime. But, beyond all the benefits for this lifetime, the Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry Homes provide help in meeting Jesus or returning to a life of faith in Him. That, dear



When Moms and babes are baptized into the family of God, it's time to celebrate!

friends, is something that will bless for an eternity.

So the next time you hear someone say pro-lifers only care about women until their babies are born, just smile a knowing smile and reflect on how much longer eternity is than nine months!

If your church does not yet have an advocate for the home, you or another member could fill that role! Learn more at.

### [RLOM](#)

Pray for RLOM, that God would continue to provide both physical and eternal shelter in Jesus for the women and children they serve! May our new home in Illinois soon be sheltering women and babies here.



# Shelter Under His Wings

In Matthew 23:37, Jesus used a hen as a picture of himself: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings..." That is a picture of love expressed as a fierce protectiveness, patient dedication, and gentle comforting.

In rural areas, where hens are allowed to run loose and forage where they please, you will often see a large dog stop in its tracks and make an unscheduled detour, rather than risk the ire of a hen with chicks. The dogs are not cowardly; they are wise. Once a friend noticed that one of the chicks following his hen was moving with a limp. Wanting to examine the little one more closely, he bent down to pick it up. He missed the scurrying chick, but its cheeping roused the attention of the hen. She immediately prepared to fight a grown man. Calling her chicks behind her, the little banty fluffed out her feathers, stretched up on her toes and did everything in her power to make her six pounds look bigger. Her next move was to make a flying tackle to her "foe's" face, feet first. If a grown man will back away from the children of a protective hen, small as she is, can you imagine what it would

take to touch a child of the loving Savior? Not only does he love us with all the protectiveness of a hen sheltering her chicks from danger, but where the analogy ends, the omnipotence of Almighty God begins! "The Lord will fight for you..." (Ex 14:14)

Then there is the matter of patient dedication. A hen waiting for her clutch of eggs to hatch is immovable. Except for an occasional brief exit to eat and drink, a setting hen cannot be persuaded to leave the nest. Our Lord is patiently waiting for us right now! "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) Having waited for her little ones to hatch, the hen continues with patience, teaching them to find their food and water and all the other things they will need to know if they are to survive. Micah says that in the last days many people will come to the house of God saying, "He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths..." (Micah 4:2) Even after waiting for us to come to repentance, God's patience has only begun! He continues patiently teaching us to

walk in his way.

There are many things that can send a young chick scurrying to the shelter of its mother's wings. A strange sound, the flutter of a blowing leaf, the presence of a larger animal, the falling of rain or sleet, or any number of other things can send that little one pell-mell to the comfort of its mother's safe shelter. A chick can always find comfort and shelter under the wings of its mother. Jesus offers us shelter and comfort on the same unconditional basis. "He that comes to me, I will in no way cast out."



Pray that we might all take shelter in Jesus and offer the same to any in need!

## Walk for Life



Lots of opportunities to put your precious feet to work on behalf of Life!

Rockford Family Institute Walk for Life, Rockford IL June 24, 2023  
More Info and register to walk:  
<https://www.proliferockford.com/walk>

Pregnancy Resources East Moline, Walk for Life Saturday, September 9th.  
<https://qcpregnancypartners.org/walk/>

Witney's Walk for Life July 29, 2023 raises funds for suicide prevention programs. Brimfield Illinois. To register or for info <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/67616/whitneys-walk-for-life>

Pregnancy Aid Illinois/Pregnancy Assistance South Suburbs Hike for Life, June 10, 2023  
<https://passpregnancycarecenters.org/support-pass/hike4life/>

Fundraiser for Lighthouse Pregnancy Center, 5K/2.5 Mile Walk November date to be determined  
Call 618-283-8750 for more details

Life:Story Suicide Prevention 5K walk/run September 9th, Marion, Illinois for more information or to sign up:  
<https://www.hsidn.org/community-health-calendar/marion-life-story-5k-runwalk>

## 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](mailto:laeschfamily@gmail.com)

*Let your love  
affirm Life  
with Lutherans For Life*

### \_\_\_ Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select membership category

\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\$35 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$75 \_\_\_ Other

Any amount is welcome!

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

\_\_\_ **Sponsor:** I commit to a monthly gift of \_\_\_.

\_\_\_ I'm not interested in membership,  
but am enclosing a contribution of \_\_\_  
to support the work of LFL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Church body \_\_\_AALC \_\_\_AFLC \_\_\_CLBA \_\_\_ELCA \_\_\_LCMS \_\_\_Other

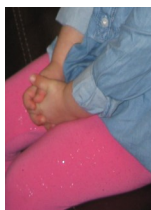
Send to: Lutherans for Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Or donate online at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Pray with us!

- 1) Pray for our nation; for every single citizen to have their eyes opened to the value of life, the need to protect life, and to honor the Lord of Life! May the Spirit stir up conviction and repentance and move the church to offer grace and forgiveness for Jesus' sake!
- 2) Pray for our state, for her leadership, and her citizens. May God send His Spirit to awaken those who are dead to His leading and bring them New Life in Jesus! May He move their hearts to gratitude for the gift of Life and an understanding of the value of that gift!
- 3) Pray for those in the city of Danville. Pray God's blessings on their city council and hold them steadfast in the decision to protect life in their city. Pray for the leadership and members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Danville, as well as Trinity and Immanuel. May God grant them courage, wisdom and an overflow of love for their neighbors as they represent Jesus in the midst of this conflict. May the church be the shelter His people can run to in their time of need!
- 4) Pray for Lutherans for Life and all Life-affirming agencies. May God continually refresh those who serve and help them in the mission of helping Lutherans and their neighbors to become Gospel motivated voices for Life!

- 5) Pray for our Pregnancy Resource Centers here in Illinois. May God protect them and cause their work to flourish! May He grant their workers quiet strength and keep their focus on Jesus, the hope of their clients! May He grant them assurance of His strong presence so they can continue to serve women, men and babies in need!
- 6) Pray for those who offer alternatives to death near abortion centers! May God protect them from violence, from intimidation, and protect their freedom of speech. May God give great wisdom in speaking, providing the right words in



"O you who hear  
prayer, to you shall  
all flesh come."  
Ps.65:2

- each case to encourage a fearful mother that there is help available.
- 7) Pray for foster parents as they affirm the value of the young lives they shelter! May God grant them

strength for the journey, gentleness, self-control, love, peace, kindness, goodness and righteousness, as they care for His hurting children! May we, the church, reach out to help with the Love of God!

- 8) Pray for parents who long for children but have not been so blessed! May God yet grant them families through loving adoption! Pray that we might be of help to them as they step up to the challenges of parenthood. Bless those at Life-Song for Orphans, as they help provide funding and other orphan care!
- 9) Pray for the Life Teams and Chapters that serve Illinois Congregations! May they have clear vision and guidance in the best ways to serve their churches and communities and may they have untiring hope and confidence in the Savior who leads them! May their ministries bless to overflowing those whose lives are vulnerable and those who need help to affirm Life!
- 10) Pray for our churches! May God grant them committed leadership that loves God and His people, in a time when many congregations are without pastors! May we faithfully rise to the challenges of loving our neighbors. May the church bravely reach out with the love of Jesus to her community, so that all people will acknowledge the Lord of Life!