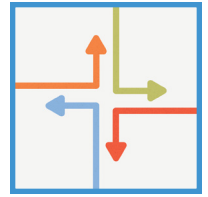


Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline
September-October
2023



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



This edition of Directions includes ...

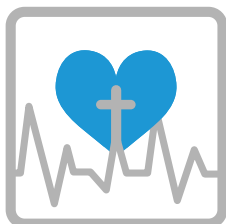
A Foundational Bible Study:
Created—Redeemed—Called

Pro (Every) Life Meets Relational Needs

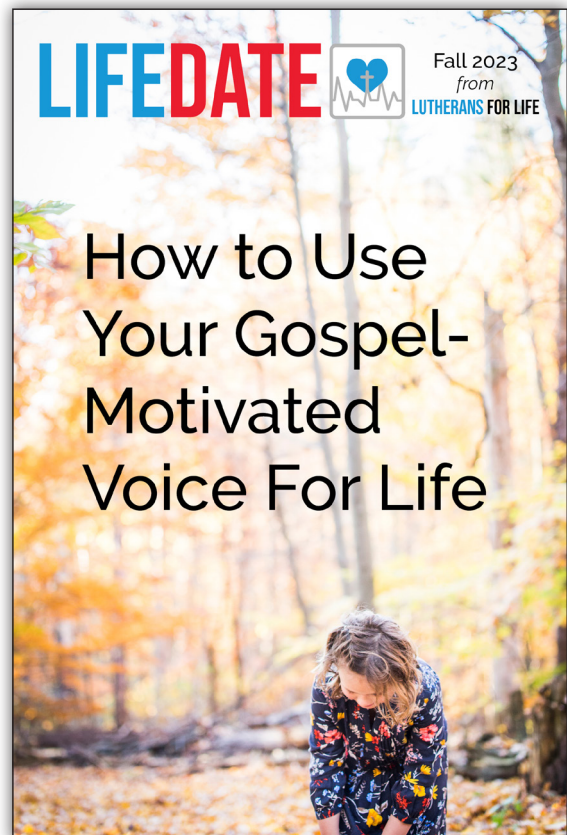
LFL 2023 National Essay Contest Winners

When Two Quarters Are More Than \$0.50

Our Church Baby

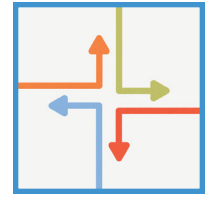


LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE



lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

News and Notes

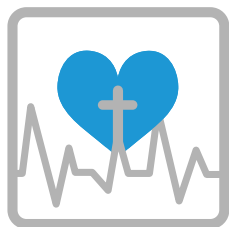


- Check out word-of-hope.org and y4life.org.
- Be sure to “Like” and follow LFL on social media! See links below:

www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife • www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL
www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts

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

- Join our Frontline Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates: 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)
- *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.
- **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!**



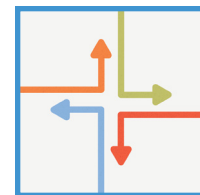
**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Available in App Stores



FRONTLINE CALL

For all Lutherans For Life Frontline Volunteers!



Meeting ID:
844 0972 9052

Passcode:
827727



Monday, October 9, 2023 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CT
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84409729052>

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
651.333.0337
vflo@lutheransforlife.org

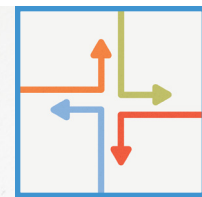
Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM

Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations
830.935.3415 (H) | 830.388.8640 (C)
bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org





LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE



Check out the Store page on the Lutherans For Life website for the latest new resources:

lutheransforlife.org/resources/store

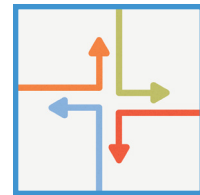


Check out these new resources!

- Here We Stand For Life Resources
- Just As ... I Am Life Sunday Resources
- I Praise You ... (fold-out brochure)
- Hoy me siento ... | Today I'm Feeling ... Prayers for anyone who is involved in a child's life (Spanish)
- Foster Care (fold-out brochure)
- Abortion and Race (fold-out brochure)
- Charitable Conversation: 8 Tips for Redirecting a Hostile Discussion (fold-out brochure)
- Paul's Most Pro-Life Epistle - A Bible Study
- Health Risks of Abortion (fold-out brochure)



A Foundational Bible Study: Created—Redeemed—Called



Introduction

Foundations are important. Things stand or fall based upon foundations. Jesus' "house on the rock" illustration spoke of the importance of the foundation of His Word (Matthew 7:24-27). When it comes to the life issues, the Christian's approach builds upon the Word of Life. Other foundations exist—political, economic, social, moral—but these shift and change. The Word of Life stands forever (1 Peter 1:24-25).

This study will look at the bedrock—the foundational—truth of what *God does* that gives value to human life—with His hands.

Foundational Truth #1 – Human Life Has Value because God Creates Life

"I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them."

From the beginning of time. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 2:22)

From the beginning of life. (Psalm 139)

So, what does this say about the value of life? (Psalm 8:5)

So what? (Discuss some practical applications to the life issues.)

Foundational Truth #2 – Human Life Has Value because God Redeemed Life

"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."

The price (1 Peter 1:18-19; Galatians 3:13; Matthew 27:46)

Why the price? Fill in the blank:

God is above all else holy and perfectly just. Thus, He must punish sin. (Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:20a; Romans 6:23a)

God is above all else holy and perfectly loving. Thus, He desires to save the sinner. (1 John 4:10)

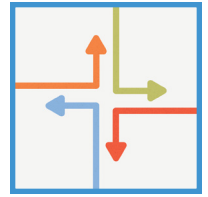
So, what does this say about the value of life? (1 Corinthians 6:20)

So what? (Discuss some practical applications to the life issues.)



Foundational Truth #3 – Human Life Has Value because God Desires to Calls us and Hold Us Forever

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”



Holding or held? (Isaiah 42:6a)

Where held? (Isaiah 49:14-16)

When did the holding begin? (Romans 6:3-4)

How long held? (John 10:28-30)

So, what does this say about the value of life? (Romans 8:37-39)

So, what? (Discuss some practical applications to the life issues.)

Conclusion

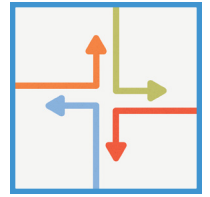
Foundations are important. *For Life* Lutherans base their message of life, not upon political or economic or social or moral foundations, but upon the foundation laid with God's hands. He created us with His hands. He redeemed us with His hands. He holds us in His hands. This message is one of power and love and forgiveness and hope. This message changes hearts. This message leads to influencing our culture.

So, what does this say about our actions? (1 John 4:11; Luke 10:27; Matthew 5:13-16; Proverbs 31:8-9)



Pro (Every) Life Meets Relational Needs

by Pastor Mike Novotny (Time of Grace)



If the Christian church is passionate about protecting every life, then we will need to learn how to meet relational needs. When an unplanned pregnancy happens, the baby's parents often have massive needs to help them grow as people and, perhaps, as a couple. Could you be God's way of meeting such needs?

Moms, that scared young woman might need to learn how to be a mom because she hasn't had years to plan and research and read *What to Expect When You're Expecting*. Guys, that wide-eyed dude might need to learn how to step up, how to grow up, and how real men put down the Xbox controller and pick up a box of wipes. That couple might need mentors, babysitters, or counselors to help them figure out their lives together.

Or, if there's not a dad in the picture, that child will need some men to model the faith for him, to take him under his wing, to remind him who he is and whose he is. Or, if the couple chooses adoption (a great option!), they will need support, love, prayers, and resources. They might even need you to step forward and personally open your own arms and home to their developing baby.

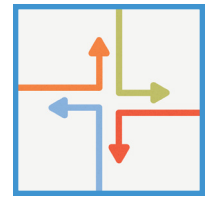
Paul wrote, **"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"** (Galatians 6:10). Unplanned pregnancies give the church plenty of "opportunity" to do good to others. With God's help and strength, let's do it!

(Source: Time of Grace | timeofgrace.org | August 3, 2023)



LFL 2023 National Essay Contest Winners

by Dr. Barbara Lane Geistfeld



The annual Lutherans For Life National Essay Contest continues to afford our Lutheran students the opportunity to affirm and express their belief in the sanctity of life each year, and 2023 was no different! The theme this year was “**Just As ... I Am,**” based on Ephesians 2:10.

Our first place winners from each participating state advanced to the national level contest, and we are now very pleased to announce the four national winners. We received some wonderful essays, so these students should be commended for this achievement!

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

National Essay Contest: Ninth through Twelfth Grade Division

First Place: Samuel Jopp, Mayer, Minnesota, won first place at the national level in the ninth through twelfth grade division. Sam won his award while in the tenth grade at Mayer Lutheran High School in Mayer, Minnesota, and is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Mayer. He has three older siblings—one sister and two brothers. Samuel enjoys participating in football, basketball, and golf. When not participating in extracurricular activities at school, Sam enjoys going to the lake, helping his friends on their farms, and hanging out with his family.



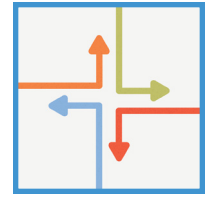
Sam's essay is titled “**Perfect—Just As I Am.**”

Have you ever been told you are a mistake and that you will never amount to anything? I was told that many times in my young life, but I am here to tell you that you are not a mistake, even with all your imperfections, and that God has a tremendous plan for your life. The Bible says, “**For (you) are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for (you) to do**” (Ephesians 2:10). I am a living example of how I am God's handiwork, and I am loved by Christ just as I am.

When I was born, it was discovered that I was deaf/hard of hearing. After many doctor appointments and tests, I was diagnosed with bilateral conductive hearing loss. I could not hear from either ear and there was no cure. I didn't qualify for hearing aids because of all the fluid in my ears. I had nine surgeries to put tubes in my ears to help with drainage and one surgery to reconstruct my right eardrum all before I was eight years old. I looked normal and spoke like other kids my age, so people thought I was “normal,” but I am not normal. I am extraordinary! I didn't know what I was missing in school from lack of hearing, and I appeared to be like my classmates, so teachers thought I was lazy or unmotivated to do the school work. My classmates teased me because I couldn't hear and because of my poor grades, but I was told every day at home that I was loved by my parents, three siblings, and extended family. They accepted me just as I am and helped me to say words correctly and to speak clearly. They worked hard to help me be successful.



When I was in fourth grade, the fluid in my ears decreased, and I received hearing aids. There were so many sounds I was experiencing for the first time. Cars driving on the street, coffee dripping in the coffee maker, and the refrigerator humming were all the sounds I was hearing for the first time as a ten-year-old. I had no idea the world was full of so many sounds! I could now hear my teachers with my new hearing aids, but it also made all the other noises around me louder. No one understood what a struggle it was to be hard of hearing, and I was still teased and told I needed to pay attention in class. I had to learn how to focus on the speaker and block out all the background noises. It was very difficult to do all this and try to focus on what was being said. God knew all the obstacles I would have to overcome to succeed in life, but He placed people in my life to help me be successful in school and with my peers just as I am.



I am God's workmanship created with His hands to be perfectly made. He hears all the hurtful words and sees all the cruel acts others do to make fun of me, but He makes it all right because I belong to Him. He has my life planned out to do good works for Him. I get up every day and face the obstacles placed before me knowing Jesus is right there experiencing them with me. He will do a good work in me as I follow His command to love others and be forgiving.

I still struggle in school and fitting in with my peers is a daily challenge, but I know I will be successful. God has blessed me with a wonderful family. I am privileged to play high school sports with my peers. My family supports me just as I am, hearing aids and all. They know God has big plans for my life and they believe in me. That is all that matters. I am living proof that God made me to be exactly like I am and He loves me just as I am. I do not see myself with a disability, but as a child of God, His handiwork, His perfection!

Thank you, Sam, for your eloquent and moving reminder that "God doesn't make mistakes!" It is often those around us that see our disabilities as "shortcomings" when God sees no such thing! Sam's essay should give all of us the courage to face whatever life brings as we walk with our Savior and live the abundant life found in Him.

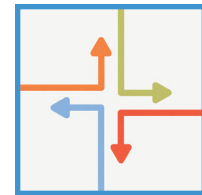
Second Place: Annika Peterson, Arlington, Texas, was in grade 11 when she won second place at the national level in the ninth through twelfth grade division. She attends the Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy, where she is working to establish a Students for Life chapter on her campus. Because of the loss of her newborn brother to Trisomy 18 in 2008 and the adoption of her little sister some years later, Annika is very passionate about helping families and mothers feel empowered to choose life. She is active in her home church, St. John Lutheran Church in Mansfield, Texas, and enjoys the youth, children, and music ministries. Every summer, she works as an assistant counselor at Camp Thurman in Pantego, where she is able show God's love to these little ones all summer long. Last summer she was given permission to write a devotion for her campers and described how God fearfully and wonderfully created them in His image. This message lights up Annika's life whenever she shares it, and praise God, she lights up our lives with this message as well!



Annika's essay is titled "**For Such a Time as This.**" On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned the authority to regulate abortion to the states. Annika firmly states, "As children of God, it is our duty, our privilege, to relentlessly love on mothers and



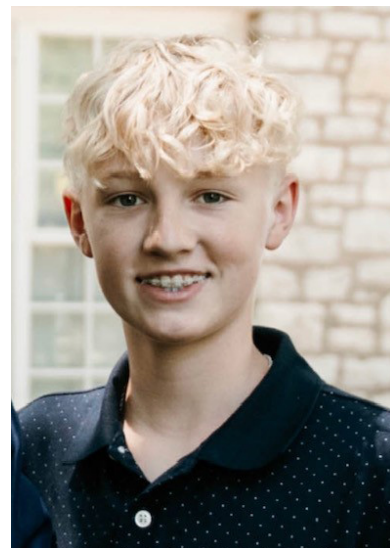
babies ... I am ready to do the work God prepared in advance for me to do, which is standing up for the lives of all the others He created to do His work ... Perhaps I was born for such a time as this”



All of us now living were born for such a time as this! God intentionally made us His children, now, in this place, for His work. Like Annika, let us recognize our importance to the Lord’s plan and His ministry at such a time as this.

National Essay Contest: Sixth through Eighth Grade Division

First Place: Jace Latham, from St. Charles, Missouri, won first place at the national level in the sixth through eighth grade division. Jace was in seventh grade at Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Charles when he won his award. He plays a variety of sports, including basketball, soccer, and track and field. He enjoys spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, and mountain biking. His favorite subjects include math and his STEM curriculum. (STEM is an abbreviation for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.) When he’s not playing sports or spending time outdoors, he can be found working out or hanging out with his friends.



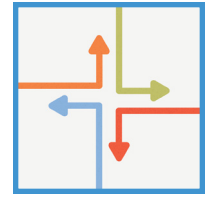
Jace’s essay is titled “**Life’s Puzzle.**”

God’s creation is a beautiful puzzle. When one decides to end his life, God’s puzzle is incomplete. Everyone is part of God’s creation and adds a special piece to the overall puzzle. Our lives add value and have a relevant place in the world God designed. When someone commits suicide, it takes one amazing piece away from God’s puzzle.

The Bible discusses the value and purpose of life in great detail. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “**For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope**” (ESV). It is important to understand life can and will be difficult. God has a wonderful plan for each and every one of us; people must not lose hope. Unfortunate events can happen, and one must figure out how to work through them. When individuals keep God in their lives and listen to what He says, they have a better chance of realizing they have a purpose, just as they are. When one commits suicide, a puzzle piece is lost forever. Suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death, affecting every ethnic group and all ages. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, “**For you were bought with a price, so glorify God in your body.**” God did not give people a life for it to end early. Every person has value and is brought into the world for a reason. All people should understand and say to themselves: I am loved, just as I am. Ephesians 2:10 says, “**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**” The importance of life goes beyond our daily lifestyle and tasks. There can also be a stronger purpose in situations not always seen and heard. While 275,000 people are saved every year from suicide, about 800,000 die worldwide from suicide alone. Mental health is important, as well as helping people feel like they belong and are part of God’s puzzle.



God's puzzle becomes incomplete when someone commits suicide. The Bible tells every person they have value and a purpose as a human being. If people follow God's word throughout their lives, everyone will feel connected. In the end, each piece of the puzzle will fit exactly how God intended.



We truly appreciate and value Jace's essay on suicide. Because suicide is the second leading cause of death among teens, Jace's words send an urgent message to his peers: Follow God's Word. Believe that you are created by God for a purpose. Keep God in your life and listen to what He says. This is great advice for all of us, right? Right!

Second Place: Madison Ford, from Frankenmuth, Michigan, won second place at the national level in the sixth through eighth grade division. Madison was 14 and in eighth grade at St. Lorenz Lutheran School in Frankenmuth, Michigan, when she won her award. She enjoys dancing and participates in the Girls of Grace Dance Ministry at her school. She likes shopping, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. Madison's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 28:19-20, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always to the end of the age."**



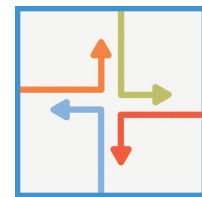
Madison's essay is titled **"Physician-Assisted Suicide: Killing the Living."** Madison's essay affirms the role of Christians in the lives of hurting people. We have to learn about PAS: why it is a problem, why people choose it, how to prevent it, and most importantly, how to offer the love and grace of Jesus to those hurting people.

Suicide of any kind grieves our Father in heaven, and our desire should be to show love, hope, and kindness to those we know who are facing difficult times. We may never know how sharing the love and hope of Jesus may impact a friend's life, but Madison's words should encourage us to do just that.



When Two Quarters Are More Than \$0.50

from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan



Yesterday morning after our VBS opening devotion, a preschooler, hand in hand with his teacher, came to my office on an urgent mission. The little one had arrived late, missed the collection during the devotion, and was concerned that he wouldn't be able to give his offering to help other children learn about Jesus. He handed me two quarters, and I assured him that I would add it to the other offerings.

At first glance, that 50 cents on a corner of my desk doesn't look like much. It's hard to think of too many items that can be bought with it, even at the dollar store. But it reminded me of another time when Jesus pointed out the seemingly insignificant offering of a widow woman.

“He saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘I tell you the truth,’ he said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others ... she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on’” (Luke 21:2-3).

The woman's offering was of the greatest value in the Lord's eyes because it was the expression of the faith and love in her heart. I'm sure the same is true of our preschooler's gift to the Lord. It is the fruit of love for the Savior who has brought him into His kingdom through Baptism, and who through the Word in VBS nurtured and strengthened that love.

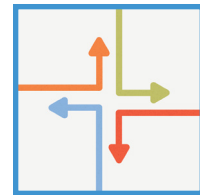
What will that 50 cents accomplish? It has already reminded me of the Lord's gracious work in hearts and led me to offer a prayer of praise to the Savior who paid the ultimate price on the cross for our forgiveness. Not only that, along with the other offerings of this past week, that 50 cents will be put to use in providing the Word to children around the world, that they too may be taken up in the Savior's loving arms in Word and Baptism. Those children will in turn pass the Gospel down to their children and grandchildren. In that way those two quarters will be an ongoing blessing for years to come!

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries, July 30, 2023)



Our Church Baby

from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown, Iowa



The following was shared with Lutherans For Life by Karen Frohwein, former director of development at Lutherans For Life, and a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown, Iowa.

This program highlights an upcoming birth in the congregation while sharing facts about fetal development and the value of every human life. The text can be adapted and customized for your local congregation.

FLYER ONE TEXT:

The Redeemer Baby is a Boy/Girl named _____!

Like all parents, it is a good time to look back on the last nine months and see what we learned during our “pregnancy.” Our journey began in October with a surprise announcement: “Redeemer was having a baby!” This was followed with a Lutheran response from the congregation: “What does this mean?”

“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 ESV).

November – In this month, we learned about the beginning of human life. Our baby was a zygote, blastocyst, embryo, and then a fetus. In all these stages he was a human life for whom Jesus died. In Bible class, we viewed two fetal development videos. The bulletin board in the fellowship hall was set up to walk us through nine months of fetal development with a Gospel focus.

December – Our baby now had fully formed arms, hands, fingers, feet, and toes! Our baby will also develop nails and teeth this month. He/she will form reproductive organs (although his/her gender makeup has been around since conception). We celebrated the birth of Jesus, true God and true Man, this month.

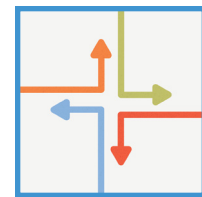
January – This month is all about developing our baby’s body. Our baby’s heartbeat can be heard, and he/she has fingerprints. God has been busy knitting! Our “baby” is **“nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God”** (Colossians 2:19 ESV). The Bible affirms the life and value of unborn children. Isaiah 64:8 states: **“We are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”**

February – Our baby was learning to move and develop his/her muscles. By the end of the month, he/she could suck his/her thumb, yawn, make faces, and his/her hair was starting to grow. We learned how the S.L.E.D. Test, developed by Scott Klusendorf, allows us to use science and reasoning to explain why we are pro-life and not pro-abortion. **S**ize, **L**evel of development, **E**nvironment, and **D**ependency (SLED) do not determine human life. They are non-essential differences to one’s humanity.

March – This month was crucial for our unborn baby. Premature babies born at 23 weeks gestation have a 37.4% probability of surviving through their first year, whereas babies born at 27 weeks gestation have an 86.4% probability of surviving through the first year. Also in March, we held a baby bottle drive for



Lutherans For Life. Approximately \$XXX was donated to this Gospel-motivated, life-saving ministry.



April – Our baby was using all four senses and could look around in the womb. We learned about the blessing of ultrasound technology used in crisis pregnancy centers to help mothers choose life. Members shared ultrasound pictures of their children and grandchildren. We also recognized groups like LFL’s Y4Life and Students for Life of America for mobilizing young people to be the “Pro-Life Generation.”

May – Our baby could hear our voices when we sang in church. We began thinking about baby names by looking at men and women of the Bible. Members suggested names for our baby, and they were narrowed down to the top three names for each gender. We were reminded there is one name above all names: Jesus.

June – Our baby was growing and preparing for life outside of the womb. We collected baby items to be given to ... to be assembled into baby kits and sent around the world as part of the baby shower for our imaginary son/daughter, _____. We welcomed James on June 26, rejoicing in the gift and sanctity of life at all stages.

“I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful; I know that full well” (Psalm 139:14).

FLYER TWO TEXT:

Baby Shower Thank You

“THANK YOU” from our baby _____

Items Collected for Layette Kits and Assembled at ...

- 18 receiving blankets
- 37 onesies
- 14 plastic (diaper cover) pants
- 2 packages diaper pins
- Baby toys
- \$84 donations to help fill out the kits
- \$10 Walmart gift card

FLYER TEXT THREE:

Baby is Born!

Hello Redeemer Family,

I have been alive for nine months now, but today is my first day outside of the womb!

God knew all about me before my life began, but today you also know that I am a boy/girl. My name is _____.

THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING MY NINE-MONTH JOURNEY.

I HOPE YOU LEARNED HOW MUCH GOD LOVES LIFE.

HE GAVE HIS SON FOR LITTLE ONES LIKE ME.

HIS SON BECAME A LITTLE ONE LIKE ME!!!!

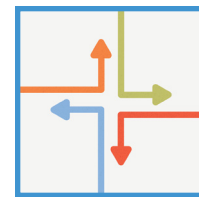
ISN'T THAT AMAZING? ISN'T THAT AMAZING LOVE?

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR EVERY LIFE!



Y4Life Team Favorites

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



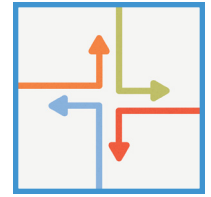
There are so many ways individuals and teams can be involved in upholding life! Here are a few favorites from Y4Life Teams:

- **Baby Bottle Drive:** Distribute baby bottles to members of your team or congregation at the beginning of the month and have participants collect change in their baby bottle throughout the month. Then donate these offerings to a local pregnancy resource center.
- **Movie Night:** Host a movie night for members of your congregation; provide popcorn and other snacks as well! Show a life-affirming movie and lead a discussion following the movie. Here are a few of our titles: *The Drop Box*, *Bella*, *Lifemark*, *Wonder*, *October Baby*, and *Follow the Stars Home*.
- **Clothing Collection:** Contact your local pregnancy care center and find out which supplies they're running low on or would be most helpful for the women and children they serve. Then host an in-gathering for clothes, diapers, baby soap, wet wipes, and other needs.
- **Festival Fun:** Plan to set up a table at a fall festival or other event in the coming months. Provide informative brochures for adults as well as stickers and coloring pages for kids. (Check out the Y4Life store for sticker ideas at Y4Life.org.) Be sure to include a Touch of Life fetal model set so people of all ages can see, touch, and hold the blessing of LIFE in the womb!
- **Homeless Kits:** Assemble kits for the homeless in your area. Include travel shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, lotion, socks, tissues, feminine hygiene items, wet wipes, dental floss, bandages, etc. Contact your local homeless shelter to find out which items they would recommend!
- **Flower Power:** Decorate pots with a life- and identity-affirming Bible verse then plant flowers in them as reminders of God's love. Here are a few of our favorites: Isaiah 51:3; Psalm 139:13-16; Galatians 4:7; Genesis 1:27; Romans 8:38-39.
- **Feeding the Hungry:** Connect with Feed My Starving Children or another organization to bag meals for people in third world countries.
- **Can Collection:** Collect non-perishable food items for a local food pantry or create a food pantry for the members of your congregation who may have fallen on difficult times.
- **Welcome Home:** Create pre-cooked, frozen meals and store them in the freezer at church. Ask your pastor to deliver one to new moms, individuals who have returned home after a hospital stay, or those who have traveled to care for ailing family members.
- **Sidewalk Prayers:** Pray outside of an abortion clinic using the liturgy at Y4Life.org or 40 Days for Life. Sing hymns and read Bible passages that focus on identity, forgiveness, and hope.
- **Pumpkin Carving Contest:** Ask each member to choose a life-affirming charity and participate in a pumpkin carving contest. When finished, have congregation or community members vote on the best pumpkin. Each vote costs \$0.50 and individuals can vote more than once! All donations from voting go to the life-affirming charity of the winning pumpkin.
- **Life Shower:** Hold a baby shower for a local pregnancy resource center. Collect registry items needed for new moms, or gift cards could be used to purchase items for a local pregnancy resource center.
- **Creative Cards:** Host a card-making event. Create cards out of cardstock and write life-affirming messages on the inside. Then deliver the cards at nursing homes or to church shut-ins; include a discussion or guest speaker on a Biblical view of end-of-life issues at the event.



Word of Hope NOW

by Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, Director of Word of Hope



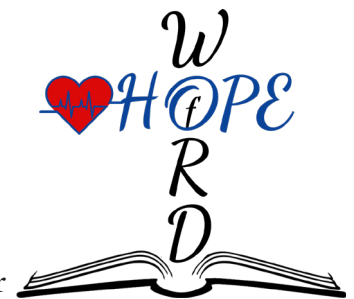
The Word of Hope hotline continues to serve increasingly more people throughout the United States and Canada. We average approximately 240 contacts a month, which includes providing spiritual care sessions to 11 individuals referred by pastors. In addition to helping those who are brokenhearted by life issues, Word of Hope engages in outreach opportunities. I exhibited at one youth event and three adult events to promote Word of Hope. I also presented at two youth events and five adult events, covering a range of life issue topics including abortion recovery, end of life care, identity, disabilities, anxiety, depression, and suicide.

Word of Hope is blessed to introduce two part-time staff members that joined us this year. Deaconess Janet Nicol, out of Columbus, Ohio, is our phone counselor, and provides spiritual care to individuals and covers the hotline three days a week. Our social media assistant, Lorelei Humphrey, from Topeka, Kansas, oversees digital updates and data tracking, creation and posting of social media content, and the implementation of marketing projects. Together, the three of us are working toward some exciting goals!



Three big initiatives to announce are: 1) implementing a marketing plan to improve brand recognition and awareness about Word of Hope services; 2) producing an online training program to address suicide and physician-assisted suicide awareness, intervention, and postvention; and 3) executing a monthly life issues awareness campaign.

Lutherans For Life (LFL) recently released a new logo. As a ministry of LFL, Word of Hope also revised its logo to reflect the new Lutherans For Life image emphasizing life and compassion. This new look fuels the launching of our social media movement to increase awareness about Word of Hope resources among young adults and youth. We will begin weekly Facebook postings with announcements, devotions, and prayers in October. Be ready to follow us on our new Instagram account, too!



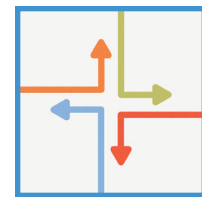
The unique online training program will equip lay people to address suicide and physician-assisted suicide with a Gospel-motivated voice. It is a project requiring a significant amount of funding to produce professional quality materials such as written resources, instructional and roleplaying videos, printable handouts, and online classroom interactions. Over the next several months we will be applying for grants to defray the expenses of high-quality video production and digital curriculum development. Look forward to more information, as we aim to roll out in 2025.

The monthly life issues awareness campaign focuses on releasing newly developed materials across various life issues—such as Christian identity—that will counteract or address worldly awareness topics—such as LGBTQ pride month. Every month a Bible study, blog, infographic, or podcast will be released, each covering a different life issue. Watch for the first set of materials on wellness, domestic violence, bullying, and Down syndrome to be released starting in October! Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we serve on behalf of Christ to uphold the sanctity of life!



Is Your Ministry Gospel-Motivated?

by Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations



“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

Is your For Life ministry Gospel-motivated? That may seem like an unusual question, because of course you are! This question is intended to encourage you to dive deeper into how the Gospel might be applied to the preparation and implementation of your For Life work.

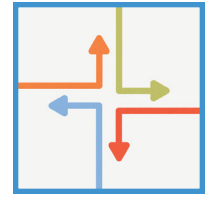
First and foremost, I trust that you and your For Life group are focused on gratitude to God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Without being rescued, we have no hope and no future. God gave us life, and it has always been His intent that we should never perish but be with Him in eternity. Based on His promise of a Savior and the sending of Jesus as our Savior, we are eternally grateful. This is our motivation for serving Him and promoting the sanctity of human life!

Let’s continue to ask some questions that will help you recognize and apply some important actions that will keep your group focused on your Gospel motivation.

When you discuss a new project, event, or activity, do you spend time addressing how this project will connect with a Gospel message rather than just being an activity? Do you outwardly express that Gospel



message in your communications and equipping efforts as you promote and engage in your chosen project? *Always* look for ways to apply God's Word For Life to those you target with your activity.



Do you open your meetings with a devotion and prayer? You may have one person who has a gift for this and desires to provide a devotion for each meeting. Alternatively, you may share this task as a spiritual growth opportunity for all of your members. You might ask your pastoral counselor to provide the devotion for each meeting. Whatever you decide, ask your pastor or contact our Volunteer Relations Team for suggested devotional resources, if needed.

Do you keep an on going list of people that need to be lifted up in prayer at your meetings and in your personal prayers? It's a wonderful way to keep those with life issues in your hearts and prayers, always keeping God in the forefront. He is the Great Physician for those in need of care. With permission, you may want to share your prayer list with the church(es) you serve so they may include these needs in their prayer lists as well. We know that staying in touch with God through prayer is one of the most important means of communication we have with our Lord and Savior. He desires that we reach out to Him, especially in time of need. And don't forget to give thanks for the many blessings you and your life-affirming partners in ministry have received as you work in His kingdom. God always deserves the glory.

In your meetings, do you address the need to be *faithful* in your efforts, rather than focusing totally on *fruitfulness*? It is okay if you do not accomplish every expectation you have set up for each initiative if you are faithful in your efforts. Always keep in mind that our task is to plant the seeds. God is the one that nourishes them and makes them grow. Keep your focus on being *faithful stewards* in your life-affirming work.

Do you exemplify a Gospel-motivated approach to all that your group does? It is particularly important for the group leaders to be an example your group will respect and follow. Are you the one that keeps your For Life group pointed in the direction of the Gospel in all that you do? If so, thank you very much. Keep up the great work! If, however, you are struggling with this job, turn to the Lord in prayer and let Him lead the way.

Being Gospel-motivated is a joy! It will make your jobs as champions For Life easy and rewarding. Keeping your focus on the Gospel will reduce your burden because God is there to guide you and make your burden light. As His child, may you continue to be imitators of Him, and may you feel the joy that comes with serving the Lord of Life. In doing so, you will fulfill *your* part of the mission to equip Lutherans and our neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.



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!



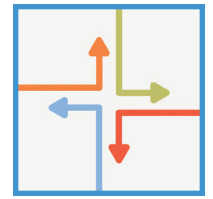
lutheransforlife.org/conference

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



Spotlight on Life



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

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

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

Presentation Topics

FACTORS AFFECTING LIFE AND DEATH

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

LIFE AND DEATH

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

FACTORS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

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

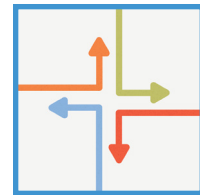


LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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



LAMBs – Mercy Blankets



Although our world might tell us otherwise, children are truly a blessing. Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children—especially those families with a lot of them! Through the skillfulness of some LFLers in Ohio and elsewhere, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project called “**LAMBs**” (**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 Virginia Flo, our director of volunteer relations, at vflo@lutheransforlife.org so that she 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 as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. 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/Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

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		LIFE TEAM TOOL BUNDLE (Includes tools 1-4 and field manuals)	\$30	
			TOTAL	
			SHIPPING	\$15
			GRAND TOTAL	

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



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.

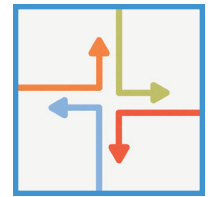
Where did Owen's Mission come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

"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."

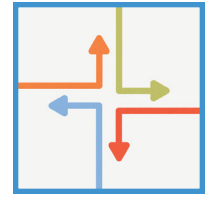
As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with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

lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission



The Basics of Lutherans For Life



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

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

Structure and Relationships

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

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

Membership Information

All officers of State Federations and Life Chapters and Life 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

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 – Thiensville, Wisconsin

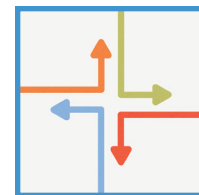
Alice Steljes – Pawnee, Illinois

Ed Szeto – Locust Grove,
Virginia

John Talley – Newark, Illinois

Diana Vaughn – Ponca City,

Oklahoma



State Federation Presidents

Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais

Daniel Lindemeier, Iowa – Ames

Rev. Michael Brockman, Kansas – Oakley

Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler

Mike Albers, Missouri – St. Louis

Berniece Stulc, Montana – Belgrade

Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco

Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City

Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington

Lutherans For Life

1101 5th Street

Nevada, IA 50201-1816

info@lutheransforlife.org

lutheransforlife.org

888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

LFL Business Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.

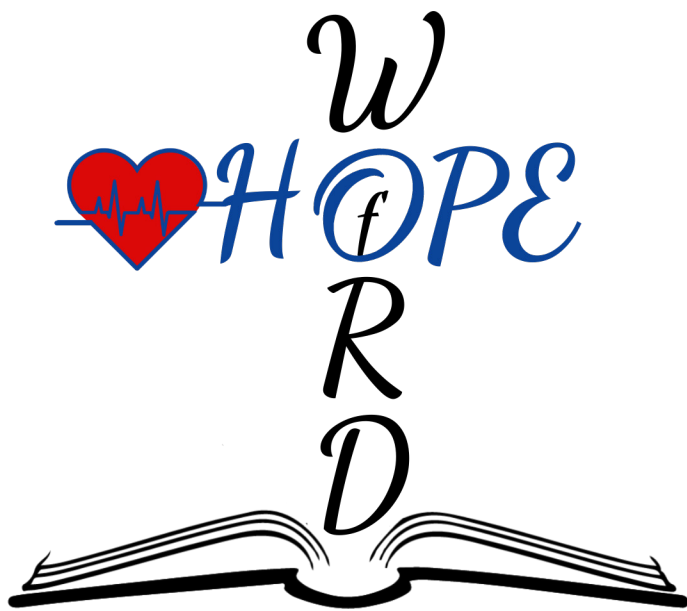
Hours subject to staff availability.

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

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®, Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.





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

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

Word of Hope is confidential and
caring.

Word of Hope is a ministry of
Lutherans For **Life**.

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



Become a **Y4Life** Messenger • y4life.org

