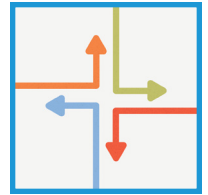


# Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline  
September-October  
2024



*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 ...*

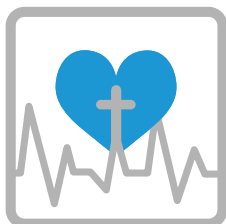
A Bible Study:  
Sanctity of Human Life in Genesis

Frontline Zoom Call

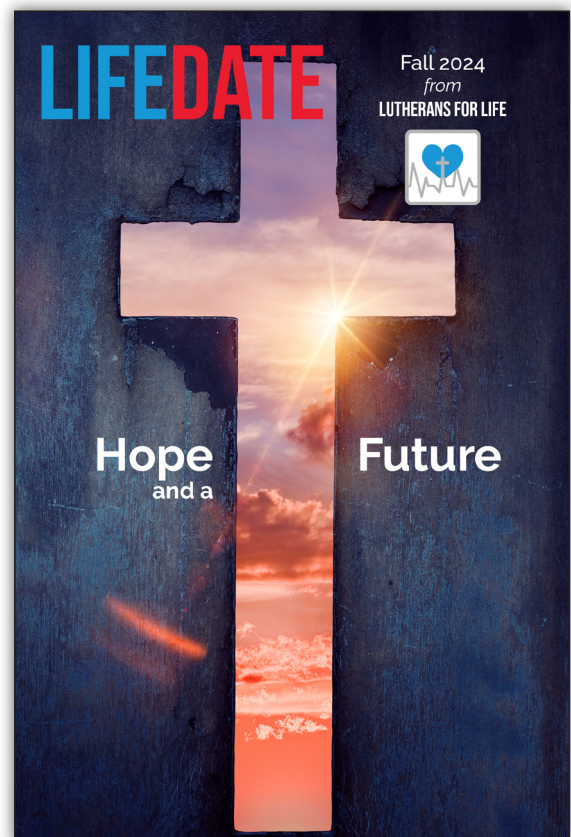
Life Project: Baby Bottle Drive

Life Project: Life Sunday Celebrations

Walking with Jesus



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**



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





The Lutherans For Life **Volunteer Relations Team** joyfully and diligently spends many hours speaking to individuals from Lutheran churches around the country—encouraging, equipping, and supporting them as Gospel-motivated voices For Life whether as **Life Advocates, Life Teams, or Life Chapters**. As an encouragement to all of you already working For Life on the Frontline, we would like to introduce to you the newest members of your Frontline community.

### **New Life Team**

Carolyn Beitz, a member of the Fort Wayne Area LFL #141 Life Chapter and a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is pleased to announce that they have a newly trained and certified Life Team at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

We rejoice and **CELEBRATE!** the addition of this Gospel-motivated Life Team to the Lutherans For Life Frontline. If you would like to know more about becoming a Life Advocate or starting a Life Team or Life Chapter, please contact Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, at [vflo@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:vflo@lutheransforlife.org). We are here to help you!

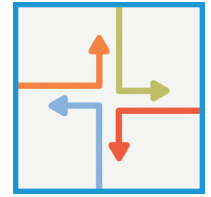
### **New Life Team Online Training Is Here!**

We are pleased to announce that we have completed the process of automating our Life Team training courses with online access. This project has been in process for quite some time, and we are excited to be launching it. We will begin enrolling new Life Teams just starting up and will be moving to converting existing Life Teams interested in having available the online courses for their personal use and for engaging new members.

We advise every existing Life Team to sign up for the new online version of the training as we announce it is available to you. Watch for an email for your Life Team Leader with the sign-up information. Anyone who has purchased their Life Team training resources in the past will get their online access free of charge. Please join with us in celebration of this huge step into the technology arena, something many in the Frontlines have been requesting.



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife)

[www.facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines](http://www.facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines)

[www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts](http://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](http://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.

facebook

- 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))

# LIFEDATE

- 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).

# LIFE NEWS

Available in App Stores

Apple, Google Play, Amazon

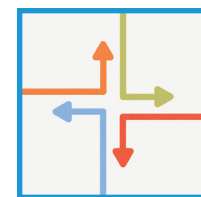
QR Code

Tablet, Smartphone, Laptop displaying app interface



# FRONTLINE CALL

## For all Lutherans For Life Frontline Volunteers!



Meeting ID:  
854 0820 9577

Passcode:  
Grace

Monday, October 14, 2024 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85408209577>

If you have projects you would like to share or questions to be answered, email [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) or call the LFL national office at 888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077.

**Frontline Call Archive:** <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontline-call-archive/>

**Upcoming Frontline Zoom Calls:**

January 13, 2025 | April 14, 2025 | July 14, 2025

## Life Projects

The Volunteer Relations Team is making a special effort to help you, our Frontline—Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters—find interesting projects that you can carry out in your own life ministries. To that end, we have begun adding summaries of projects done by other Frontline members to our bi-monthly *Directions* newsletters.

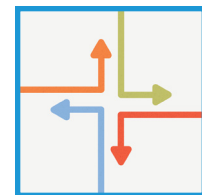
Go to [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org) and hover over the word “FRONTLINES” in the information bar. Life Projects is listed at the end. You may also find it at this direct link: [lutheransforlife.org/life-projects](https://lutheransforlife.org/life-projects).





# FRONTLINE CALL

## For all Lutherans For Life Frontline Volunteers!



### Here is what is coming up on the Frontline Call on October 14!

**Dottie Kuerschner, President of the Fond du Lac Life Chapter #304 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin,** will share some novel ideas for celebrating a Life Sunday. Tune in to hear what they did that immediately attracted more people to their table for meaningful conversation and the chance to distribute their life-affirming materials. Since the Volunteer Relations Team is always looking to expand the Life vision, one of us suggested some additional “props.” Please join us to hear some new ideas. And please plan on contributing your Life Sunday ideas as well.

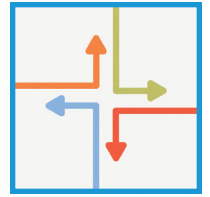
**Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life,** will give us a preview of our 2025 Life Week. A tremendous number of hours is invested each year doing research, planning and writing the devotions and the activity sheets and fact sheets, and confirming presenters with expertise on a variety of life topics. Tune in as Michelle walks us through the resources that will allow us to involve our congregations in these wonderful educational opportunities. Learn to navigate the Life Week webpages so you can use these materials any time in the coming year to deepen and expand the life ministry in your congregations.

**Life Team Training has been updated, streamlined, and computerized!** Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, will review what the new training program looks like and how to use it. This new online training will be available for those wanting to start a new Life Team at their church as well as for those who are already a trained and certified Life Team who wish to review the training materials or train new team members. The new online system will be populated with the most up-to-date information and resources which will benefit Life Teams, Life Advocates, and Life Chapters alike. It will also provide easy access to new training and interactive programs that will be provided by the Volunteer Relations Team. Join the Frontline Call to learn more about this new valuable resource.





**LUTHERANS**  
FOR LIFE



Check out the Store page on the Lutherans For Life website for the latest new resources:  
[lutheransforlife.org/resources/store](https://lutheransforlife.org/resources/store)

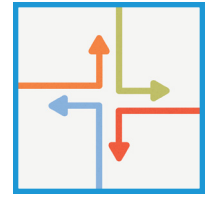
- New LFL Membership brochure
- 10 Reasons Not to Take Your Own Life (fold-out brochure)
- Biblical Manhood – What Difference Does It Make?
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – I Can Come to Jesus series
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About series
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers
- Physician-Assisted Suicide
- Miscarriages: An Empty Cradle and a Full Hope





# A Bible Study: Sanctity of Human Life in Genesis

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The Scriptures begin with God’s love and delight for life. Of course, it doesn’t stop there—every book of the Bible delivers this delightful truth. But it means something important that everything starts with this emphasis. It evidences that He has a particular fondness and preference for humankind. The Almighty Maker loves humankind in its entirety and every human life in particular.

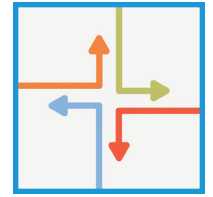
In fact, the grand narrative proclaims that He longs for fellowship with the whole race. The Lord likes to engage and interact with mortals. So these earliest dealings detailed in Genesis inaugurate an ongoing pattern and propensity for bending Himself over backward to protect, provide, and keep them close. He finds these beings special, and this goes for each of us—not just the prime and pristine ones. The saga’s Hero draws near and holds dear even when the accompanying cast render themselves and one another weak and unworthy.

And the chronicle directly addresses several of our contemporary sanctity-of-life issues. Genesis features actors, events, and settings that make clear we need not—we must not—use death as a solution to difficulties. Rather, divine grace regards and invests our kind with significance and sanctity, worth and purpose that circumstances can neither impair nor improve. From before history until beyond eternity, the Most High makes every human person precious.

1. Do you find it easier to start a task or to finish it? Why?
2. What handiwork or artifact that you have created do you take most pride in? What has come of it since you brought it into being?
3. In Genesis 1:26-28, which words designate man as exceptional among the creatures? To whom do these accolades apply? And in Genesis 2:7, 21-22, what divine actions elevate the eminence of the first man and woman? How do these activities continue in our time?
4. According to Genesis 4:1; 25:21; and 30:1-2, 22-23, what constitutes the decisive factor in procreation? How does this compare to present attitudes about sexuality and fertility—even among Christians? How might it cause reconsiderations of contraceptive strategies or rationales for delaying marriage?



5. What do Genesis 4:10-15 and 9:5-6 demonstrate about the Lord our God's disposition toward the taking of human life? Whom else does His Law hold accountable for safeguarding an individual's survival? How did He display Cain's dignity even after he became criminal? Could this relate at all to what we call disability or disfigurement?



6. Genesis gives special attention to aging. What assessment of getting old do Genesis 5:3-19; 12:1-4; 21:1-5; and 25:7-8 reveal? How does this affirm or adjust your appraisal of advancing in years? What problems does our culture commonly identify with later life, and what solutions does it suggest for them? What, in the eyes of the Bible, represents the real problem?

7. Sexual immorality happens just as often in the pages of Genesis as it does among our people. How does it turn out in Genesis 16:1-6; 19:11-3; 26:34-35; 34:1-2, 25-27; and 38:9-10? What consequences does it perpetrate in our context?

8. Genesis 22:9-14 portrays an attempt at employing death to overcome an apparently inescapable predicament. It even has a reasonable justification. How does the Heavenly Father intervene? What principle—explicitly stated—does it dictate about the sanctity of life in uncertainties? How does Genesis 3:14-15 specifically relate this to childbearing? And how does Genesis 25:22-23 extend divine favor undeniably within the womb?


9. The Almighty does not even allow our guilt to locate us outside His goodwill. What comfort and hope does Genesis 50:15-21 deliver to those of us who have participated in violence against life? How can this motivate us to speak truth and show love as voices For Life?








**W**e, at Lutherans For Life, are overwhelmed with gratitude for your thoughts, prayers, steps, and financial gifts to our Step Up 4 Life campaign. Your enthusiasm and commitment to proclaiming God's gift of life from fertilization to forever are inspiring.

### Here's How YOU IMPACTED Step Up 4 Life:

 To kick off the campaign, **Step Up 4 Life** raised \$32,200 in seed money following our appeal letter.

 **Step Up 4 Life** received 452 gifts from 427 donors, totaling **\$101,106** and exceeding our \$80,000 goal. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness! Step Up 4 Life received 417 gifts and \$93,543 in 2023, 519 gifts and \$68,251 in 2022, and 328 gifts and \$27,805 in 2021.

 **Step Up 4 Life** received donations from ministry partners in 38 states including AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI, and WY. The most donations came from Minnesota with 52 donations, Indiana with 49 donations, and Iowa with 45 donations.

 We celebrate with the 10 teams that participated in our **Step Up 4 Life** Team Challenge! Thank you to all the team leaders, team members, and sponsors. Congratulations to the following three teams with the highest rankings from a combination of fundraising and fitness tracking:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – St. Paul, Clifty (Indiana)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Soulful Strutters (Iowa)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Walking This Way 4 Life! (Minnesota)

 **Step Up 4 Life** had 75 walkers and 58 sponsorship donations. The total number of fitness steps taken during the campaign was 14,528,209. One individual amassed 1,469,352 steps!

 We extend a special thank you for the 59 sponsorship gifts received from the **Step Up 4 Life** Winner's Circle (\$750 and up), Marathon Runner (\$500-\$749), and Pace Setter (\$250-\$499).

**PHOTOS** – We want to celebrate our success and share joy with others, so we are collecting photos from those who participated in **Step Up 4 Life** either as a team, small group, or as an individual. Please send to Dave Probst, Director of Development, at [dprobst@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:dprobst@lutheransforlife.org).

Thank you for your compassionate advocacy for the sanctity of life. All these numbers and statistics represent real hearts and minds that believe in upholding the God-given value of every human life. We appreciate and value every one of *you* who supports us with your gifts and your prayers that directly impact our ability to continue this vital life-changing ministry. May God bless all of us as we speak up For Life.

*Save the Date | Step Up 4 Life 2025 | May 11-June 24*





**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

## 2024 Regional Conferences

### **NORTHEAST**

**SEPTEMBER 14**

**IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT**

### **MIDWEST**

**OCTOBER 12**

**HOPE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SHAWNEE, KANSAS**

### **SOUTHEAST**

**NOVEMBER 9**

**ZION EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA**



**IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE  
LIGHT OF MEN. THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE  
DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT  
OVERCOME IT. -JOHN 1:4-5**

**LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG/CONFERENCES**



**T**here is such hope in the Gospel message! With three regional conferences taking place this fall—under the theme **Life Shines in Darkness**—we'll be able to draw near to folks across the nation to share the Gospel of Life.

The first conference takes place on **September 14** in the outskirts of Hartford, **Connecticut**, in Bristol, at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Rev. Evan McClanahan, author of our recently released biblical manhood resource, will present at all three conferences, presenting on the same subject. Our very own Rev. Scott Licht will share on the Gospel of Life among widows and orphans in India; our National Director of Y4Life, Michelle Bauman, will present on raising life-affirming kids; and Rev. Michael Salemink, our Executive Director, will also share the For Life message.

On **October 12**, at Hope Lutheran in Shawnee, **Kansas**, in the Kansas City Metro area, we'll hear again from Rev. McClanahan. As a complement to his presentation on biblical manhood, Deaconess Rose Adle of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne will present on Christian womanhood. Our Director of Volunteer Relations, Virginia Flo, will facilitate a panel with local Life Teams sharing their inspiring work. And wrapping up the conference, Rev. Dr. James Lamb, formerly of LFL and Lutheran Family Service, will shed light on Christian citizenship, especially in light of this election year.

Finally, rounding out the conferences on **November 9**, we will be in Winter Garden, **Florida**, just outside Orlando at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. In addition to Rev. McClanahan and Rev. Licht presenting, we will also hear from the founder and owner of Skoog Dementia Support, Teri Skoog, on caring for those with dementia; and on the heels of our election day, author and current Vice President of External and Government Relations at Focus on the Family, Tim Goeglein, will share his thoughts on faith in the halls of power, exploring what is next for America in the Pro-Life movement.

We hope you will be able to join us at one or more of these conferences to be encouraged and equipped to continue on your Gospel-motivated For Life journey. For additional information on each conference, or to register, visit [lutheransforlife.org/conferences](http://lutheransforlife.org/conferences) or snap a photo of the QR code above.





## 2024 Regional Conference Update

By Erika Peterson, Events Coordinator

**"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).**

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**Special Note: Go to the conferences webpage to find out about a free Conference for Life on Friday, October 11, in Shawnee and about childcare at all three conferences.**



**REGISTER TODAY!**



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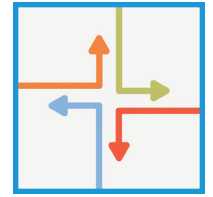
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**REGISTER TODAY!**



# Life Project: Baby Bottle Drive



*This project is shared by the Life Team at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Macomb, Michigan.*

**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5).**

*Your Change Can Change a Life!* A Baby Bottle Drive is an easy and fun way to involve members of your State Federation, Life Chapter, Life Team, congregation, and school families in supporting a Gospel-focused pregnancy resource center simply by filling a baby bottle with coins, cash, and checks. Every donation, large or small, is life-changing.

“The Life Team at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Macomb, Michigan, exists to educate, encourage, and empower the members of our congregation to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Our mission statement is applied to all the events and activities we do. We are truly blessed by the generosity of our congregation and school students who have faithfully supported us each year with their donations that support our three pregnancy resource centers.” *Carol Poterek, Life Team Leader*

St. Peter Lutheran Church has participated in the Baby Bottle Drive for nine years and raised a total of \$38,188.53. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness! The 2023 Baby Bottle Drive raised \$4,639. Of the funds collected, the Life Team donated 10% to LFL National, \$500 to the Life Team budget, and the remaining funds were divided locally between Abigayle Ministries, Compassion Pregnancy Center, and The Luke Project 52 Clinic. The Life Team celebrates the success of the campaign and shows appreciation to the congregation by placing a thank you note in their weekly church bulletin and monthly newsletter.



Ruthann Bettcher has chaired the Baby Bottle Drive at St. Peter Lutheran Church for the past nine years. St. Peter’s Life Team holds their Baby Bottle Drive in the month of January. Compassion Pregnancy Center provides 300 bottles for the Baby Bottle Drive. For distribution, the Life Team places the baby bottles in four large boxes wrapped in baby-themed wrapping paper. The boxes are located around the narthex of the church for the month of January.

On Life Sunday, in addition to the Baby Bottle Drive, the Life Team displays their life banner, hosts a life information display table in the narthex, and distributes the LFL Life Sunday bulletin inserts. (*The 2025 bulletin inserts and other Life Sunday resources will be available this fall on the Lutherans For Life website.*) The Life Team displays a bulletin board in the back of the church highlighting the Baby Bottle Drive and the pregnancy resource centers that are supported. They advertise in the weekly bulletin, monthly church newsletter, and in the pre-service announcements.

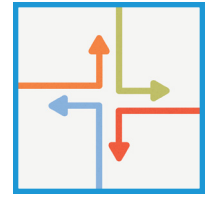
## Steps to Host a Baby Bottle Drive

Work with your pastor and check your church calendar to determine a date to start your Baby Bottle Drive. The campaign can be held in conjunction with Life Week, Life Month, Mother’s Day to Father’s Day, or any other time of the year. (It is suggested to distribute the baby bottles two to four weeks before the collection date.)





1. **Recruit** – Determine a volunteer to coordinate the Baby Bottle Drive campaign. The Baby Bottle Drive coordinator organizes the campaign by working with the pregnancy resource center, by arranging the details and logistics for the campaign at church, by recruiting volunteers to serve at the event, and by handling the publicity for the event.
2. **Contact** – Partner with a local pregnancy resource center to assist you with the campaign. Typically, they will provide baby bottles and publicity materials for the event. If you don't have that option, you can purchase baby bottles at Heritage House '76 ([www.pro.life](http://www.pro.life)). Watch for sales on baby bottles and order in quantities to reduce cost.
3. **Promote** – Announce the Baby Bottle Drive in the church bulletin, newsletter, social media, and from the pulpit leading up to the collection period; distribute posters or flyers; or create a bulletin board. Note: Let the congregation know how the funds raised will be distributed.
4. **Distribute** – Set up a display with the baby bottles. You can utilize a bassinet, pack 'n play, or baskets to hold the baby bottles. Another option is to have volunteers at each entrance to the sanctuary to distribute the baby bottles as the guests leave worship.
5. **Collect** – Determine a collection date and a designated location for the return of the bottles at the end of the collection period. Blessing the collected baby bottle during worship is a great way to send them on their way to those who will receive them. Determine if the church will be counting the funds or if the pregnancy resource center will handle the money.
6. **Celebrate** – Rejoice at the impact For Life! Celebrate with the members how much was raised for women and their families in the area.



### Other Options to Enhance the Baby Bottle Drive

- **Life Display** – Set up a display table with LFL print resources available from Concordia Publishing House and other visual items such as a large size baby bottle, fetal models, and baby feet pins which are available at Heritage House '76.
- **Baby Shower** – Combine your Baby Bottle Drive with a baby shower and collect four or five requested items (baby clothing, baby board books, diapers, formula, wipes) to support the pregnancy resource center.
- **Guest Speaker** – Invite a staff member from the pregnancy resource center to speak for a few minutes during a worship service to inform the members about the center.
- **Virtual Baby Bottle Drive** – Work with your local pregnancy center to see if this is an option. Sometimes donations can be given online by this means.

Baby Bottle Drives are an important source of funds that allow pregnancy resource centers to provide necessary services to those in need. Dropping coins in a baby bottle is a wonderful example of sharing personal generosity and kindness by both adults and children. Your change can have a direct impact on a life!



Lutherans For Life has produced a set of training manuals called the **Life Team Tool Kit** that has been utilized over the years to help encourage the formation of Life Teams within our Lutheran churches. We discovered that the information in these tools is equally valuable for helping our Life Advocates and Life Chapters in their life ministries as well. This fact was the impetus for our series in our *Directions* newsletter about the “Nine Facets of a Healthy Life Ministry.” In Tool 3, Life Team Member Training, Module 3, we learned about each of these desirable traits. The word *facet* was chosen because, as the facet of a cut gem reflects light, so we are to reflect the light of Christ in our life ministries. The following summaries are taken from the training manual and are also found in our Volunteer Relations brochure.

#### **GOSPEL-MOTIVATED**

A Gospel-motivated group is focused on gratitude to God for being rescued by Christ in the Gospel. At your meetings, discuss how to connect your equipping initiatives to the Gospel, pray for one another and your churches, and remind one another of your identity as God’s beloved.

#### **UNIFIED**

When you are unified, you are working in harmony with God and each other. Unified life ministries have a clear mission statement, have specific processes in place to guide their work, and ensure each member uses their unique gifts to serve others.

#### **CONSISTENT**

A healthy life group seeks regular opportunities to engage their churches in the life arena throughout the year. An intentional presence of carefully paced actions will avoid overwhelming the life group and the churches.

#### **MULTI-FACETED**

The life arena is not about a single issue but about many different life issues. A multi-faceted life group is constantly learning, both personally and as a group, what life issues are currently important to share with their churches.

#### **TRUSTED**

Trust is critical in the relationship between the life group and the churches served. Trust is developed over time, since ministry flows from relationships.

## **Nine Facets of a Healthy Life Ministry**

Consistent

Multifaceted

Unified

Gospel-Motivated

Resourced

Interfaced

Trusted

Multiplied

Careful



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**



## **RESOURCED**

A resourced life group has access to both spiritual and financial support so they can carry out their mission.

## **INTERFACED**

When a life group is interfaced, it has good working relationships with other Christian, life-affirming agencies.

## **CAREFUL**

A careful group knows their churches well, understands their current interest in life issues, knows the level of knowledge they have, and knows the degree of involvement they desire. The life group simplifies issues to meet their people where they are and always speaks the truth with love and grace.

## **MULTIPLIED**

A multiplied life group is one that has engaged other groups in their churches to become involved in the life arena as well. The life group may also partner with another life group to expand their life ministry.

Now that you have a basic understanding of the definition of these nine important facets of a healthy life ministry, we invite you to read the following articles for a more detailed, comprehensive description of what each one of these facets can mean for your life ministry.

We encourage you to review these facets on a regular basis to ensure that your ministry is on target and functioning in a healthy way. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any member of the Volunteer Relations Team. We are here to help and guide you. May God richly bless all that you do in the name of the Lord of Life.

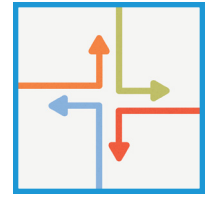
Download "Nine Facets of a Healthy Life Ministry"  
[lutheransforlife.org/nine-facets-of-a-healthy-life-ministry](http://lutheransforlife.org/nine-facets-of-a-healthy-life-ministry)





# 2024 LFL National Essay Contest

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The annual Lutherans For Life Essay Contest, sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents, continues to offer our Lutheran students the opportunity to affirm and express their belief in the sanctity of life. The theme this year is **Life Shines in Darkness**, using the Bible verse, “**In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it**” (John 1:4-5).

The national essay contest is offered to students in two categories: grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Students in both Federation states and Non-Federation states are eligible to participate. After each state has submitted their first-place winner, a national committee selects a national first-place and second-place winner in each category. Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation (e.g., confirmation class, youth group, Lutheran home school) is eligible when validated by their teacher or pastor, along with parental consent.

All state winners should be commended on winning at their state level. The national first-place award is \$250, a framed certificate, free LFL conference registration for both the student and parents, a free hotel stay for the conference, and \$200 for travel expenses. The second-place award for both categories is \$125 and a framed certificate. The Council of Federation Presidents just voted to increase the awards for 2025. Information about the 2025 Essay Contest can be found on the Lutherans For Life website.

## 2024 LFL Grades 9-12 National Essay Contest Winners

**First Place: Claire Jankee**, Delano, Minnesota. She is 15 years old and was a freshman at Mayer Lutheran High School in Mayer, MN, when she won her award. She is the daughter of Lyle and Melissa Jankee, and has two siblings, Ben and Eliza. Claire enjoys a variety of activities with her family, one of them being frequent visits to the family cabin in Wisconsin. In the fall, Claire enjoys deer hunting with her family and never passes up an opportunity to trek out to the woods with her Bumpa. She loves to play volleyball on both the school and local club teams. When given the opportunity, Claire enjoys riding horses and someday dreams of owning her own horse. In the past year, Claire learned how to knit baby hats and donated them to the Choices Health Network, a pregnancy center in Rusk County, Wisconsin. Claire also donated her state essay contest prize to the center and plans to do the same with her prize from the national contest. When given the opportunity to write an essay for this year’s Lutherans For Life contest, Claire immediately thought of the important role of pregnancy centers across the nation. She sees herself as a pro-life advocate and would like to find more ways to be involved and to donate in the years ahead. Although uncertain about what she’d like to do in the future, Claire intends to work with children in some capacity.

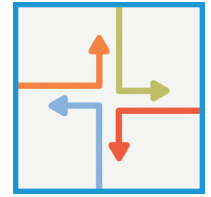


Here is Claire’s essay titled “**Sanctity of Life—Abortion.**”

Do you know what the darkest spiritual place is in your city? Elizabeth Johnston, author and pro-life activist, posed this question to her followers ([elizabethjohnston.org](http://elizabethjohnston.org)). The answer: your local abortion clinic. This world is full of sinful and dark places where the most evil of human acts occur, but Jesus came to offer us hope and light in the midst of the darkness that our sin so often leads us into. One of these lights, when talking about abortion, is the pregnancy care centers that seek to offer women and their partners hope in a time of uncertainty and also give



the unborn a chance at life. God's Word is very clear about shining light in the darkness. In John 1:4-5, it is written that **"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it."** Our family has been a strong supporter of local pregnancy centers, and I feel this is one of the most urgent matters of our time—supporting women as they go through an unplanned pregnancy and helping people to realize that God has a plan for every life, planned or not.



Pregnancy care centers are there for women when they find themselves in an unplanned and desperate situation. Just like Jesus was there for the little lamb when it was lost, carrying it to safety, a pregnancy care center acts as the “hands and feet of Jesus” to those with an unplanned pregnancy. Pregnancy centers offer women free ultrasounds and counseling, along with care and support once a baby is born. These centers have been proven to offer both a life and a future to the mother and the child. God's Word tells us that each life has value, and each human being is an image bearer of Him. When a woman walks into an abortion clinic, she is not being told of the value her child holds. All she is offered is a way out of a situation that will only lead to loss of life and immeasurable despair and grief that she will carry with her for the rest of her life. Pregnancy centers offer so much more to the mother and baby!

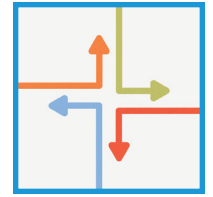
The sanctity of life is affirmed many times throughout the Bible, and it is our Christian duty to uphold what God has so clearly stated in His Word. Just a few of these verses that speak clearly to this are Genesis 1:27: **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them,"** Psalm 139:13-16: **"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be,"** and Jeremiah 1:4-5: **"The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'"**

Unplanned pregnancies are not the only situations where abortion is often looked to. Babies diagnosed with life-altering conditions and disabilities are also at a higher risk of termination. One example is babies diagnosed with Down syndrome *in utero*. In the U.S., 60-90% of babies with Down syndrome are aborted (United States Congress Joint Economic Committee). The thought of having a child with Down syndrome is overwhelming to many parents. The unknowns of health issues and providing a lifetime of care for their child can leave many parents feeling overwhelmed, and they may feel like abortion is their only option. This is another opportunity where a pregnancy care center can guide the mother and father in choosing life for their child. Pregnancy care centers are the light in the midst of the darkness.

My prayer is that more people would come to know and understand the sanctity of life. It is through our nation's pregnancy care centers that women can find hope and direction, but most importantly, find the value in saving the life of their unborn child. Until Christ makes His return, all of those who proclaim to be believers and followers of Him need to step into these situations to uphold the sanctity of life and give voice to the voiceless.



Thank you, Claire, for your voice and your actions supporting those who cannot speak for themselves. Thank you for reminding us that we, as followers of Jesus, do care about unborn babies *and* moms and dads. All people are created in the image of God, and our role in life is to help people see the value and sanctity of that gift of Life. Yours is a special voice doing just that.



**Second Place: Andrew Kohlmeyer**, of Tecumseh, Nebraska, won second place at the national level in the 9-12 grade category and was in the eleventh grade when he won his award. He is homeschooled and attends St. John Lutheran Church in Tecumseh, where his father is the pastor. Andrew has two older sisters, one of whom is married and expecting a child in September. He loves making his family smile and creating stop-motion short films. In school he enjoys learning biblical languages such as Greek and Latin, which he hopes to eventually teach at classical liberal arts schools. Andrew also volunteers at church for Vacation Bible School and Faith Train, which is a combination of VBS and Sunday school, held every Wednesday of the school year.



Andrew's essay was titled "**The New Holocaust.**" He rightly compares the holocaust of Nazi Germany, when 12 million people were exterminated because they were believed to be "inferior" human beings, to the deaths of 63 million babies between the years 1973 and 2022 for the same reason. Well done, Andrew.

## 2024 LFL Grades 6-8 National Essay Contest Winners

**First Place: Allison (Ally) Packer**, from Collinsville, Illinois, won first place at the national level in the 6-8 grade category. Allison won her award while in eighth grade at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville, Illinois, and is a member at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She has two older siblings and four younger siblings—two brothers and four sisters. Allison enjoys volleyball and track. When she is not playing sports or doing other extracurricular activities after school, she enjoys baking and writing.



Allison's essay is titled "**An Open Door.**"

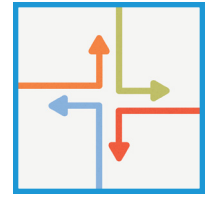
At first, I didn't like it; I was young and selfish. Adding two new kids to my family was difficult. In 2020, my family fostered two beautiful girls, Athena and Roseanne. I was ten years old when we fostered, and they were only six and seven. There were times I'd complain about how they were overtaking my home. They didn't have the same rules or follow the same expectations; in my head, they were being let off easy. I didn't understand what my parents were actually doing. We already had a big family. What I came to realize was that they were planting a light in the darkness as God called them to do. John 1:4-5 states, "**In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**" My parents truly valued life and wanted to give these girls a chance to see Jesus. This helped me understand that foster care fulfills Jesus' command to care for the fatherless.

We fostered for three and a half months. As time went on, I realized God's plan for these girls and why He placed them in my home. As my love for them grew, I realized what a blessing foster care is—not just for me but for these children as well. We provided a safe home and a chance for them to see Christ. This was something they never would've experienced if not for my parents





opening doors as God commanded: **“You must love the foreigner as yourself”** (Leviticus 19:33-34). By the end, foster care became one of the best things that ever happened to me.



Christ says in Isaiah 1:17, **“Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”**

It states how important caring for orphans is to God. Foster care plays a part in fulfilling God’s command and sparking a light for those who haven’t had a chance to see God.

Finally, all lives are significant to God, even those of the fatherless. We’re called to be a light in the darkness and care for orphans. Furthermore, foster care provides the opportunity to share God’s Word with those who need it. It’s a chance to spark light into the dark lives of these young children. It’s a real blessing; all it takes is an open door.

Thank you, Ally, for the honesty and love that shine through in your essay. Sometimes we don’t understand at first why things happen in our life, but as God promises, He showers us with blessing after blessing as we walk in His ways. What a wonderful gift to you that “[your] love for them grew,” and what a wonderful lesson you have passed on to all of us!

**Second Place: Leviathan Duley**, Arlington, Nebraska, won second place at the national level in the 6-8 grade category. He was in the seventh grade at St. Paul’s Lutheran School when he won his award. Leviathan is the oldest of five children born to Pastor Jason and Karis Duley. He is 13 years old and has lived most of his life in Arlington, NE. His siblings are sisters Naomi (11), Gemma (9), Hosanna (7), and brother Judah (3). Leviathan has always enjoyed athletics and plays soccer, basketball, and baseball. He loves to fish, swim, read, play video games, hike, and hang out with his friends. He will be an eighth grader at St. Paul’s Lutheran School this coming fall. His plans for the future include a high school education and exploring different career opportunities as he discerns his future vocation.



Leviathan’s essay is titled **“Life Shines in Darkness.”** He tells the story of an unplanned pregnancy in his family that started with anxiety and worry and ended with joy at the birth of his little brother Judah. Thank you, Leviathan, for reminding us that God *always* knows the plans He has for us, and He blesses those who love Him and trust in Him.

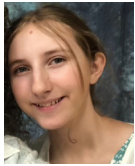


For information about the 2025 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest, go to:

[lutheransforlife.org/2025-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest](https://lutheransforlife.org/2025-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest)



## LFL 2024 State Essay Contest Winners Grades 9-12



**Sybella Burlingame**  
First Place Kansas  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Leavenworth, Kansas



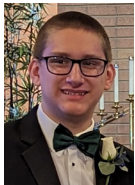
**Olivia Brown**  
First Place South Dakota  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Spearfish, South Dakota



**Claire Jankee**  
First Place Minnesota  
Mayer Lutheran High School  
Mayer, Minnesota

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not  
available

**Emma Roth**  
First Place Texas  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Elgin, Texas

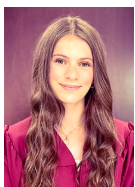


**Andrew Kohlmeyer**  
First Place Nebraska  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Tecumseh, Nebraska



**Julia Koester**  
First Place Non-Federation States  
Wittenburg Academy (online)  
Chatfield, Minnesota

## LFL State Essay Contest Winners Grades 6-8



**Ally Packer**  
First Place Illinois  
Good Shepherd Lutheran School  
Collinsville, Illinois



**Leviathan Duley**  
First Place Nebraska  
St. Paul's Lutheran School  
Arlington, Nebraska



**Maria Heimsoth**  
First Place Kansas  
Hope Lutheran School  
Shawnee, Kansas



**Gracelynn Drevlow**  
First Place South Dakota  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Aberdeen, South Dakota



**Daniel Hudeck**  
First Place Michigan  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Reese, Michigan



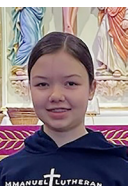
**Isabella Gonzalez**  
First Place Texas  
Westlake Lutheran Academy  
Richmond, Texas



**Nathaniel Hicok**  
First Place Minnesota  
St. John's Lutheran School  
Chaska, Minnesota



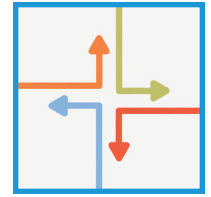
**Micah Tiefel**  
First Place Non-Federation States  
Peace Thru Christ Lutheran School  
Middleton, Wisconsin



**Christina Nissing**  
First Place Missouri  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Bridgeton, Missouri

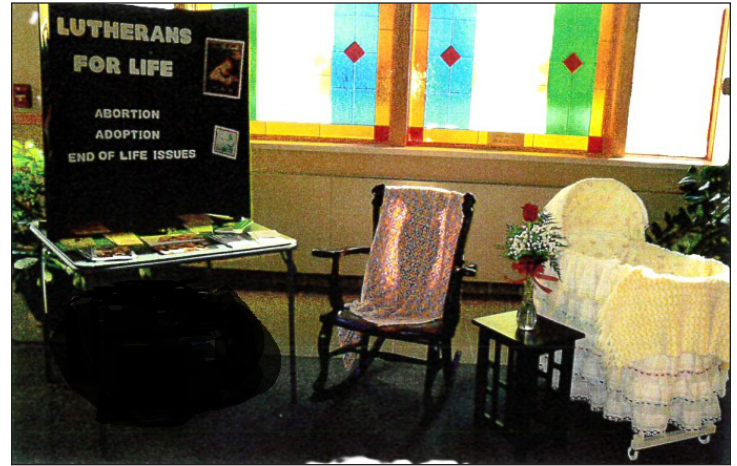


# Life Project: Life Sunday Celebrations



*This project is shared by the Fond du Lac LFL #304 Life Chapter in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.*

Several years ago, the Life Chapter added a rocking chair, a bassinet, a prayer shawl, and a small table holding a red rose beside their display of printed resources. It immediately attracted more people to their table for conversation and the chance to distribute their life-affirming materials. You might even consider expanding this great display idea with items such as a wheelchair, walker, cane, crutches, and an adult sized bib. Anything that aids the understanding that life issues occur from fertilization to forever would add to the deeper meaning of your display. A special thank you to our Wisconsin friends for sharing their idea and positive experience.



For many years, Lutherans For Life has produced Gospel-motivated, life-affirming resources to encourage you to celebrate a Sanctity of Life Sunday. Why do we do this? Why should you celebrate a Life Sunday? Because, of all that He has created, God values human lives above all else, and the world in which we live does not. The Body of Christ *must* be a voice For Life, or individuals will never know of their great value to the God who created them in His image.

In Psalm 139:14 we read: **“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”** And again, in Psalm 139:16: **“Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”**

These verses from God’s Word speak the truth about the value of every human being, yet there are those who do not believe this truth, and there are those who do believe but need to be strengthened and supported in that belief. That is why the Church needs to speak the truth.

## Helpful Resources

Where should you start? With your pastor! Make your Life Sunday a celebration. Go to the Life Sunday resource page on our website, familiarize yourself with the resources we offer, and then speak to your pastor about the wonderful materials already available to make a Life Sunday a meaningful celebration of life—sermons, Bible studies, bulletin inserts, children’s bulletins, and more! ([lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2025/](http://lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2025/))

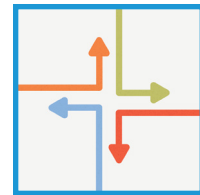
The 2025 Life Sunday theme is **“Life Shines in the Darkness”** and is based on John 1:4-5: **“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”**





## Print and Electronic Resources

If your church does not already have a selection of life resources on display year-round, please consider a special display on a variety of life issues on Life Sunday. Many of our resources may be found on our website ([lutheransforlife.org/resources/store/](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/store/)).



Many LFL resources can also be found at Concordia Publishing House (CPH) ([cph.org/c-1006-lutherans-for-life](http://cph.org/c-1006-lutherans-for-life)). You may also call CPH at 800.325.3040.

## Display Materials

You can display items on a single table or add a brochure rack. You might search the web for a collapsible brochure rack that may be used on Life Sunday or year-round. There are racks in many sizes and prices. A rack greatly expands the number of brochures you can display at one time, which expands the number of life issues for which you can provide information.

Many life ministry groups make their own signs and banners and may choose to ask other gifted church members to assist. Your personal handiwork is surely God-pleasing. You can also find many signs and displays at Heritage House '76 ([www.pro.life](http://www.pro.life)). If you want to learn more about personalized banners or standing displays, please contact Lowell Highby, Lutherans For Life Director of Communications, at [lhighby@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:lhighby@lutheransforlife.org).

If “a picture is worth a thousand words,” then click on the link to **Nine Facets of a Healthy Life Ministry** ([lutheransforlife.org/nine-facets-of-a-healthy-life-ministry](http://lutheransforlife.org/nine-facets-of-a-healthy-life-ministry)), and you will find a life issues iceberg graphic on page five. (Don’t forget to review this entire new document published just for you!) You might consider printing the iceberg and putting it in a standing frame on your display table. You may also contact [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org), and the Volunteer Relations Team will send you a copy via email.

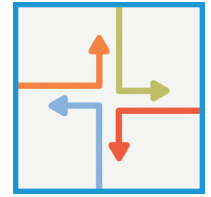
Does your church have a set of life-sized fetal models? Consider purchasing a set to show all ages the wonder and beauty of the unborn child. Fetal models may be purchased from Heritage House ([www.pro.life](http://www.pro.life)). They are useful in children’s sermons and Sunday school lessons as well as on Life Sundays! Smaller sizes and various models are also available. The models do come on sale periodically if cost is an issue.

## Celebrating Life Sunday

Remember, Life Sunday may be observed on any Sunday of the year. However, many churches hold their Life Sunday in January, the month in which *Roe v. Wade* opened the door to unlimited abortion. In 2025, the official Life Sunday is scheduled for January 19, the beginning of Life Week. During Life Week, LFL conducts evening presentations all week long that are available to your entire congregation. This leads to the end



of the week when the youth head to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Y4Life conference that includes participating in the March for Life. Find out more about the Y4Life event at [y4life.org/event/y4life-in-washington-d-c-january-23-25-2025](http://y4life.org/event/y4life-in-washington-d-c-january-23-25-2025). Please consider sponsoring the youth in your church, enabling them to attend.



After 50 years, some congregations have opted to hold their Life Sunday near June 24 when *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. The important thing is to observe Life Sunday! Being For Life is not all about abortion. It is about life at all phases and ages!

## Need More Ideas?

- Consider using the Life Sunday bulletin inserts.
- Distribute white roses to members. White roses symbolize innocence and purity as well as a remembrance of those lost to abortion.
- Hold a coffee hour with plenty of goodies and be available to answer questions about your resources.
- Gift the altar flowers to someone in the congregation: the oldest mom or dad, the family with the most children, the oldest member of the congregation, the youngest member of the congregation, etc.
- Add brochures from your local pregnancy resource center(s) to your display table.
- Give away candy, precious feet pins, 10-week fetal models, etc. Heritage House '76 has tons of merchandise for special life events ([www.pro.life](http://www.pro.life)).

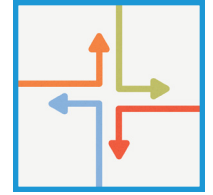


Celebrating life with a Sanctity of Life Sunday will mean extra work and add some cost as well, but the world so desperately needs the Body of Christ to affirm this greatest of all gifts—life! By reminding people of the sanctity of life, we also remind them how valuable that life is. Our Lord Jesus gave His life to give us life everlasting. The two are inseparable. Jesus said, **“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”** (John 10:10).



# Walking with Jesus

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The Christian life is sometimes described as “walking with the Lord.” That’s a good description since Jesus called Himself the Way or Path. In John 14:6, He invites us to follow Him and promises to walk with us.

Besides, walking is something we do daily—something unspectacular but necessary. And Christian living is like that. Not just for Sundays but for every day our whole lives through. Not something “splashy” or sensational. Not looking for attention but giving glory to God. A daily continuing in the way that Jesus directs us. His way, not ours.

- In coming to God—Christ’s righteousness, not our own.
- In treating other people—His way of ministering to their needs, instead of our manipulations to get what we want.
- In viewing life, in setting goals, in tackling problems, in facing death—His way, not ours.

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).**

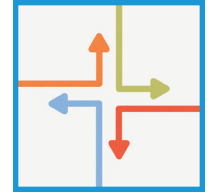
(Source: [www.redeemerclc.info/ministries](http://www.redeemerclc.info/ministries))





# Like a Water Tower

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*This article originally appeared in The Canadian Lutheran magazine.*

by Rev. Marvin Bublitz

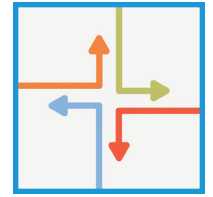
I wrote my column for this issue just after attending Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary's Vicars Dinner, which was sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Canada (LWMLC). It brought back memories from years ago when I attended as a student preparing to head out on my vicarage. It was an enjoyable evening. LWMLC President Linda Long gave a wonderful presentation on all that the LWMLC does to support the work of the ministry. It was a good refresher for me as well as for the vicars.

During the event, I encouraged each of the vicars to think of himself as a water tower. Water towers are filled over time with life-sustaining water. Then they distribute that water slowly to those in need. They do not dump all they have all at once; if they do, it overwhelms.

Vicars are heading out to put into practice what they have been filled with over their training. They will also take more in as they learn under the tutelage of a seasoned pastor. The danger is they might be like a teenager who is taking driver's education, sitting in the back seat and constantly telling Mom or Dad what is wrong with their driving. I cautioned the vicars against that way of serving.



When I was a student, Dean Humann told us in preaching class that we are to preach the whole council of God—but, he said, we don't have to do it in full in every sermon. To do that would be like a water tower dumping all its water at once, overwhelming those intended to be helped. We need to discern not only what people need to hear but when best they ought to hear it.



The Holy Spirit continues to fill us through Word and Sacrament, sustaining our faith and preparing us for everlasting life in our Father's Kingdom.

This counsel does not just apply to pastors. Over my years in ministry, I have met many well-meaning energetic Christians. Unfortunately, some have tried the “hit ‘em over the head with the Bible and drag them to church” approach.

That approach usually ends with the person feeling overwhelmed and running for an exit. As the people of God, we have been filled with the life-giving news of Christ. The Holy Spirit continues to fill us through Word and Sacrament, sustaining our faith and preparing us for everlasting life in our Father's Kingdom.

We are thus moved by that Spirit to tell everyone what He has done. We go about our daily lives and vocations sharing that with which we have been filled. But we do so with gentleness and respect. We do so with great patience and careful instruction. The danger is that, if we dump everything all at once on others, we will overwhelm them.

Another danger is forgetting that it is the Lord's work. If we start to think everything depends on us, then we forget who really brings people to faith: God. Our task is to speak His Word and then let God be God. He determines where, when, and how that Word works. Don't fall for Satan's Garden of Eden lies—that you will be like God. It is ultimately all God's work.

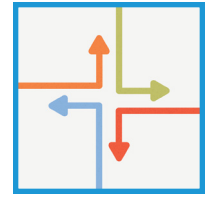
This knowledge is, in fact, very calming. If it depends on me, then all is lost. Thankfully it depends on God. It is His work. We are blessed that He has worked saving faith in us. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, He empowers and uses us in His service where and when He chooses. Thanks be to God.

*Rev. Marvin Bublitz is Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC)'s East Regional Pastor.*





# A Praise Report from a PRC



The Grand Rapids, Michigan, PRC published the picture and description below in their “PRC 2024 Praise Report” magazine. It is included here with permission.

After Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids participated in the bus stop shelter project, a closer relationship has been developed with the pregnancy resource center.

Under the direction of Life Team leader Carla Niemeier, diapers, baby clothing, and other items are being collected year around instead of only between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

The PRC periodically issues a list of items needed. It is printed in Our Savior’s bulletin, and members have been donating many items on the list. Also, several ladies from Our Savior have been doing volunteer work at the PRC.



## 3 give

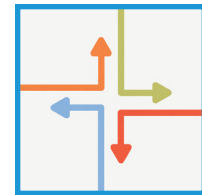
Generosity made this covered bus stop shelter possible! Many moms and their children take the bus to our Wyoming location where they are blessed to leave with arms full of resources: diapers, formula, maternity clothes, baby clothes and more. Thanks to Our Savior Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Nagel Construction Inc., and The Rapid, this bus stop shelter was completed in the spring of 2023. Our moms and their children now have a dry and warm place to wait for their bus and we could not be more thrilled about it! We want them loved and taken care of in every possible way!

**Generosity to PRC allows us to live the truth that people matter to God!**





# LAMBs – Mercy Blankets



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

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Virginia Flo, our Director of Volunteer Relations, at [vflo@lutheransforlife.org](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

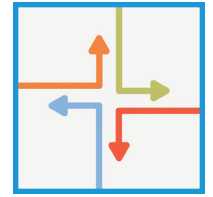
Please send completed forms to: Belén Fry  
Miami Valley Life Chapter  
1505 Tipperary Court  
Middletown, OH 45042-3038



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



# 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

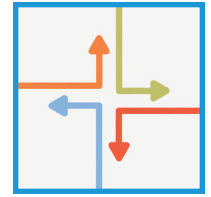


# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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



# 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."



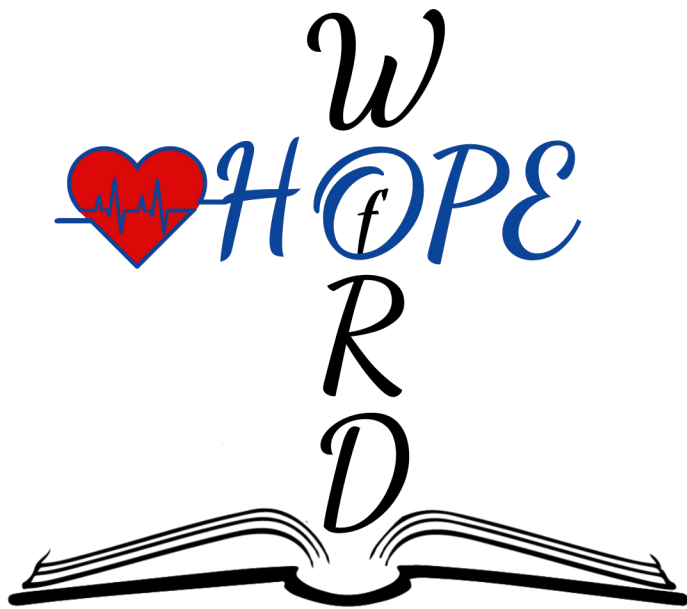
As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with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







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)



# Life Advocates Life Chapters Life Teams State Federations

**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.

## **Virginia J. Flo**

Director of Volunteer Relations  
651.333.0337  
vflo@lutheransforlife.org

## **Michele Hartshorn**

Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations  
612.816.6194  
mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

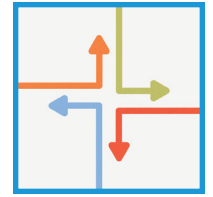
## **Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM**

Volunteer Relations Associate  
830.935.3415 (H) | 830.388.8640 (C)  
bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org



# 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 Life Team is a group of dedicated church members forming a For Life group within one congregation to serve under the auspices of the local congregation.

A Life Advocate is an individual working to support the church's pastor in keeping the flow of educational information in front of the congregation on a regular basis. *Life Teams and Life Advocates do not qualify for the remittance program.*

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





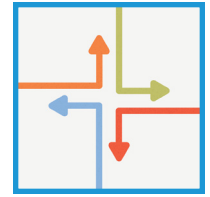
## National Lutherans For Life Staff

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  
Diana Ladislas – Y4Life Media Resource Assistant  
Virginia Flo – Director of Volunteer Relations  
Michele Hartshorn – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations  
Dr. Barb Geistfeld – Volunteer Relations Associate  
Dave Probst – Director of Development  
Kevin Nessa – Development Assistant  
Jeryllyn 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. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro – Herndon, Virginia  
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Deaconess Pamela Nielsen – Ballwin, Missouri

Rev. Dennis Norby, State Representative – Valley City, North Dakota  
Katherine Pietrantonio – Thiensville, Wisconsin  
Alice Steljes – Pawnee, Illinois  
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 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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# Become a Gospel-motivated Voice For Life

At the heart of **Lutherans For Life** is the Good News that brings hope to a culture so focused on death:

**Lutherans For Life** has, since 1979, upheld the value of life affirmed by the resurrected Christ. We educate congregations on life issues with a Gospel perspective, equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Find out more and become a member today!

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



**LUTHERANS**  
FOR LIFE



# Helping You Connect God's Word to Life Issues!

lutheransfor[life.org](http://life.org)



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



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**