Directions

For LFL's Frontline November-December 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 Exodus

Let's Meet ... Dave Probst

Life Project: Next Level Diaper Drive

Life Project: Issues as We Age

Serving Lil' Lutherans





lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal





Meeting ID: 861 3336 6104

Passcode: 652977

Monday, January 13, 2025 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86133366104

Members of the Yellowstone Valley LFL Chapter #331, in Billings, Montana, will share how they have taken diaper drives to the next level. The diaper project started in 2016 when LaVie Health (the local crisis pregnancy center) referred "Rachel" to the Life Chapter. From this first gift of diapers to one mom has come their current program of providing diapers to three families for a three-year period. They also provide a packet of wipes, a frozen meal, and a children's book to each family each month. Tune in to our January Zoom call and get the details for this marvelous project. More details are also available on pages 17-18 of this edition of *Directions*.

If you have projects you would like to share or questions to be answered, email 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:

April 14, 2025 | July 14, 2025





There 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 took 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, speaking at all three conferences, presented on the same subject. Our very own Rev. Scott Licht spoke on the Gospel of Life among widows and orphans in India; our National Director of Y4Life, Michelle Bauman, presented on raising life-affirming kids; and Rev. Michael Salemink, our Executive Director, also shared the For Life message.

On **October 12**, at Hope Lutheran in Shawnee, **Kansas**, in the Kansas City Metro area, we heard again from Rev. McClanahan. As a complement to his presentation on biblical manhood, Deaconess Rose Adle of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne presented on Christian womanhood. Our Director of Volunteer Relations, Virginia Flo, facilitated 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, 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 to be encouraged and equipped to continue on your Gospel-motivated For Life journey. For additional information, visit **lutheransforlife.org/conferences** or snap a photo of the QR code above. You can also find videos from the conferences on our conferences page and on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife.





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 Advocate

Corinne Sheldon, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, West Virginia

We rejoice and **CELEBRATE!** the addition of this Gospel-motivated Life Advocate to the Lutherans For Life Frontline.

New Life Team

We are pleased to announce a new Certified Life Team who has completed both the Life Team Leader and Life Team Member training.

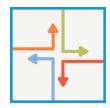
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio Congratulations to Debra Rieddle, Life Team Leader, and the entire Life Team.

We rejoice in and **CELEBRATE!** the addition of these new Gospel-motivated voices For Life 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. The entire Volunteer Relations Team is here to help you!





A Bible Study: Sanctity of Human Life in Exodus



Exodus features more than plagues and Passover. Nearly a third of its chapters outline blueprints for the Tabernacle and chronicle its construction, for example. And the second book of the Bible narrates the foundation for the Israelite nation's identity. It also shows the Lord God Almighty as One at hand and at work alongside humankind in tangible ways. He has an intense devotion to and affection for His people!

The episodes of Exodus profoundly proclaim the sanctity of life as well. Hebrew midwives deliver from infanticide. A prominent figure experiences adoption and fostering. One of the key commandments prohibits intentionally ending life. Another directive outlines explicit punishment for induced abortion. Abundant offspring represent a special blessing (and only the nefarious pharaoh perceives it as problematic). In addition to making the entire population His own "treasured possession," the Lord God specifies a ritual insisting that children belong to Him. He even develops an entire sacred location and life that regards humankind of such worth that only substitute blood from a succession of beasts could ransom it. And repeatedly the narratives relate how He miraculously secures provisions to ensure survival.

Such an ancient record, but so relevant to our present circumstances!

- 1. How many times in your lifetime have you relocated? In your most significant move, who came with you, and whom did you leave behind? How did you feel about all that bouncing around (or staying put)?
- 2. Who were key mother figures for your formative years? What did you most appreciate about them? In what ways might you describe your upbringing as a "cross-cultural" experience?
- 3. Exodus 1:7 relates that the Israelites "were fruitful and increased greatly...multiplied and grew exceedingly strong so that the land was filled with them." Does the Scripture seem to consider this a good thing or bad (consult Genesis 1:28)? What motivates the Egyptians to resist (Exodus 1:9-10)?
- 4. What birth control strategies do they implement (Exodus 1:11, 14, 16, 22)? What outcomes result from their efforts (Exodus 1:12, 17)? How does God assess the Israelite interefence and civil disobedience (Exodus 1:20-21)?
- 5. Why do you think Pharaoh's own daughter defied his directive (Exodus 2:1-10)? How did the foster care arrangement save not only a family but the whole nation? What blessings does the Heavenly Father continue to deliver through adoptions in our day? How can our congregations better participate in and support these opportunities?



6. What revolutionary attitude does Exodus take about slavery (Exodus 3:7-9; 21:2, 20)? To which additional circumstances did the Israelite plight motivate compassion (Exodus 23:9)? How does the Gospel culminate these sentiments (Hebrews 2:14-15; Ephesians 2:11-16)? And how do these matters remain especially relevant in our present setting?



- 7. According to Exodus 6:9, the Israelities initially declined the promises Moses relayed from the Lord. What sympathetic explanation does the Scripture give for it? How might this assist us in sharing the sanctity of life with those who appear opposed to it?
- 8. How does the Passover sacrament (Exodus 12:5-7, 12-13, and 13:1) demonstrate the sanctity of every human life with respect to (a) the reason for the plague, (b) the purpose of the sacrifice, (c) the value of humanity relative to animals, and (d) the ceremony of firstborn redemption (Exodus 34:19-20)? How does the New Testament fulfillment of this foreshadowing only elevate the principle?
- 9. The latter chapters of Exodus dedicate extended attention to the Tabernacle. Why do you think it had altars as focal points (Exodus 30:10)? Why do you think it consisted of a temporary tent rather than a permanent temple (Exodus 40:38)? How do these dimensions indicate divine love for humankind? And how has Jesus amplified this reality?
- 10. The central commandment of the ten (Exodus 20:13) clearly and curtly forbids taking life. How does its placement between the one about parenthood and the one about adultery suggest special application to abortion? How does Exodus 21:22-25 (the "harm" refers especially to the child/ren and not only the woman) confirm this suspicion ("life for life")?
- 11. God claims responsibility for the death of the firstborns (Exodus 12:12, 29). Yet the Scripture also attributes this massacre to "the destroyer" (Exodus 12:23). How does God control death (Job 2:4-6; Revelation 1:17-18) even if He does not cause it (Ezekiel 18:32; John 10:10)? What direction does this give in sanctity of life situations like surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis (Ecclesiastes 8:8; Acts 17:24-26)?

Let's Meet ... Dave Probst

Dave Probst joined the Lutherans For Life team as the Director of Development in January of 2022. He received a BS in Financial Management from Southwest Missouri State University in 1993 and a DCE Specialist Certificate from Concordia Nebraska in 1998. Dave and his wife, Jennifer, have been married since 1998 and are blessed with two sons, Josiah and Caleb. The family are members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana, where Jennifer serves as a pre-school teacher and the Early Childhood Ministry Director.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Dave says, "This is my favorite Bible verse because it reminds me of the leadership Christ exemplified to His disciples and how I should fulfill my role as the Director of Development at LFL today. Jesus put our welfare and needs ahead of His own, laid down His life as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, and demonstrated the humility involved in service to others. My prayer is to serve the ministry partners of Lutherans For Life in a similar manner: with humility, grace, and a servant's heart."

According to Dave, his "main role as the Director of Development at Lutherans For Life is to organize and plan fundraising activities. I'm also responsible for updating, thanking, uplifting, and encouraging all the donors of Lutherans For Life. I typically work behind the Frontlines and assure our ministry teams and executive staff receive the financial support they need to

successfully equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life."

Lutherans For Life's Year-End Fundraising Appeal

As this year draws to a close, Lutherans For Life would like to thank **YOU** for all the incredible sanctity of life work God has accomplished through you and all the volunteers in your community. You are vital instruments to the advancement of our mission, "to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospelmotivated voices For Life."

To continue our important work of upholding God's gift of life for all people from fertilization to forever, Lutherans For Life is launching its end of year fundraising campaign for 2024! The theme for this year's appeal 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."

LFL's ambitious goal for our year-end fundraising campaign is to raise \$350,000 to support our ongoing projects and initiatives that affirm life, counter the culture of death, and proclaim the gift of hope found in Jesus.



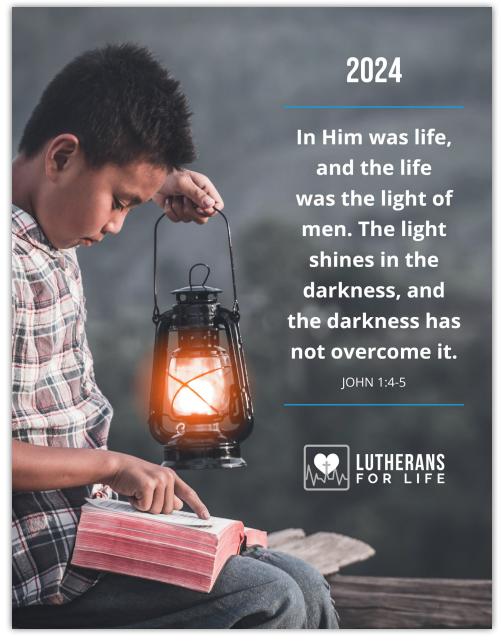
We encourage you to take an active part in our mission by helping raise vital funds to carry forward our important work. Every donation made during this campaign has a significant impact on the lives we touch, the hearts we reach, and the culture we aim to transform.



To help support the campaign, you can donate online at lutheransforlife.org/donate2024 or mail a check to the national office:

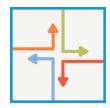
Lutherans For Life 1101 5th Street Nevada, Iowa 50201-1816

If you would like to reach out to Dave about giving opportunities, contact him at dprobst@lutheransforlife.org or 812-603-7970.





Life Sunday | Life Week 2025



Life Shines in Darkness is Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for January 19, 2025. Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date or at any time during the year.

Our Life Sunday 2025 theme 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."

For the past four years, Lutherans For Life has been sponsoring a week full of activities, educational opportunities, and other events during what we call Life Week. In 2025, Life Week will begin on Sunday, January 19, and culminate with the Y4Life Youth Conference in Washington D.C., which runs from January 23 to January 25 and will include the opportunity for both youth and adults to participate in the National March for Life on January 24.



Our Frontline groups—Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters—often coordinate the Life Week activities within their own congregations. These include daily Zoom presentations on the life topics listed below, special events, and activities.

Daily Themes and Colors

Each day of Life Week is designated with a theme and color listed below.

- Sunday: Life Shines at Church Neon Yellow
- Monday: Life Shines at School Neon Green
- Tuesday: Life Shines in Children Neon Orange
- Wednesday: Life Shines in Money Neon Mint
- Thursday: Life Shines in Dialogue Neon Purple
- Friday: Life Shines in Civic Action Neon Punch Pink
- Saturday: Life Shines in Vocation Neon Blue

Zoom Presentations

Join us on Zoom for daily one-hour presentations on life topics from 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET.

- Sunday, January 19 Life Shines at Church Virginia Flo
- Monday, January 20 Life Shines at School Michelle Bauman
- Tuesday, January 21– Life Shines in Children Marie MacPherson
- Wednesday, January 22 Life Shines in Money Rev. Michael Salemink and David Probst
- Thursday, January 23 Life Shines in Dialogue

Adult Speaker: Josh Brahm – LIVE EVENT

Youth Speakers: Michelle Bauman, Rev. Raddatz, and Josh Brahm





• Friday, January 24 – Life Shines in Civic Action

Adult Speaker: (7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET) Kim Laube – LIVE EVENT Youth Speaker: (8:00 a.m. CT/9:00 a.m. ET) Katy Faust, (6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 p.m. ET) Debrief – Michelle Bauman, (7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET) Panel Discussion on Gender: Rev. Tim Pauls, Deaconess Rachel Geraci, and Rev. Chad Hoover

• Saturday, January 25 – Life Shines in Vocation

Youth Speaker: Rev. Chad Hoover – Life Shines in Relationships, Identity, and Family

Adult and Youth Speaker: (10:15 A.M. ET) Rev. Jeff Leininger – Life Shines in God's Callings for Life – LIVE EVENT (Note: Different time for Zoom presentation.)

Zoom Codes for ALL Presentations

Meeting ID: 823 0198 5273

Passcode: Grace

Use our LFL Life Sunday and Life Week 2025 resources to unpack the Life Shines in Darkness theme and discover how it influences the For Life movement in your congregation, your community, and beyond. Resources include fact sheets, activity sheets, competitions, t-shirt order links, event registration, Life Sunday materials, and more! Our prayer is that these materials will provide valuable information and will be an encouragement to you in your life-affirming work in your congregation and in your community. Check out our resources at:

lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2025 lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2025



Life Shines in the Bankness







Sunday, January 19, 2025

Life Shines at Church with Virginia Flo Focus: An overview of the created-redeemedcalled Gospel motivation and practical suggestions for speaking and showing the sanctity of life in and with the local congregation.

Monday, January 20, 2025

Life Shines at School with Michelle Bauman Focus: Identifying life issues that students especially encounter and outlining the opportunities educational communities have for celebrating sanctity of life in curriculum and on campus.

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Life Shines in Children with Marie MacPherson Focus: Emphasizing the blessings God gives through procreation and parenting and finding ways both to oppose the cultural adult-first outlook and affirm receiving kids - one's own and those of others - as privileges, particularly inculcating in them their worth as well as their neighbors'.

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Life Shines in Money with Dave Probst & Rev. Michael Salemink

Focus: Exploring how a consumption economy pressures against the sanctity of life, attending to a Biblical theology of income and expenditure as service to neighbor, and inventorying how to convert cash into investment in Gospel proclamation.

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Life Shines in Dialogue with Josh Brahm
Focus: Strategies and practices for speaking the truth in love about life issues, overcoming barriers and opening relationships through conversation and advocacy that display both courage and compassion to warn and win over.

Friday, January 24, 2025

Life Shines in Civic Action with Kim Laube Focus: Reaching beyond voting toward educating oneself about advancing legislation, engaging elected representatives with grace, and identifying local governance arenas that affect sanctity of life matters.

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Life Shines in Vocation with Rev. Jeff Leininger Focus: Leveraging one's relationships, occupations, interests, and environments to demonstrate the sanctity of neighbors and declare to them how God loves every human being.

Zoom Codes

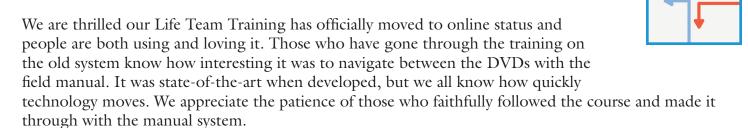
Zoom codes for ALL presentations: Meeting ID: **823 0198 5273** Passcode: **Grace**

All presentations will be at 8:00 PM ET, with the exception of Saturday, January 25, which will be at 10:30 AM ET.

Questions? lifeweek2025@lutheransforlife.org



Life Team Training Goes Viral!



Here is a comment we received from someone who had completed their course using the old manual system and now went through it with the new online course:

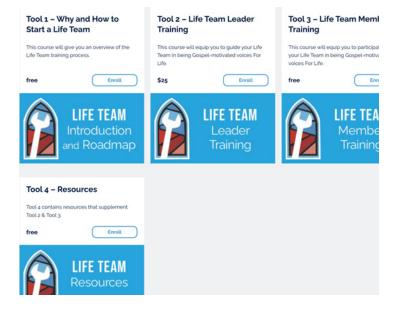
Having taken the training both by DVD and online, the online one was much simpler and worked better for me. It was efficient to get back where I left off with the interruptions that came in. I don't have any material recommendations. It was easy to understand and meaningful.

Deaconess Shirley Dashkevicz, Life Team Leader, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hemlock, Michigan

If you have already completed the course with the manual system, you don't need to take it again. Yet, having a tool that makes it easy to navigate and find valuable information will be a blessing. For anyone signing up for the first time, here is the process:

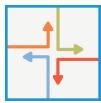
- Your Life Team Leader will go online to volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org where you will find four Tool Kits.
- Sign up for Tool 2 as the Team Leader.
- The one-time fee is \$25.
- Any Life Team Member that signs up after the Team Leader will be free. (That's right, only one fee, and you can add people no charge in any number now and in the future.)

It is extremely easy to add new Life Team Members and keep your team growing.





For those who have already paid for the old system, please reach out to the Volunteer Relations Team and they will give you access to the new online systems **FREE**. New Life Teams, are now starting regularly. We are hearing from these first-time users about their experience:



The LFL Tool Kit for Life Teams is INVALUABLE. When I became the new LFL Life Team Leader at my church, I was overwhelmed with what that even meant. The online training gave me so much confidence and clarity. What I was not expecting was such a wonderfully constructed Bible study, which included devotions and ongoing guidelines for conversations with God throughout the life of our Life Team.

Carrie Strauch, Life Team Leader, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minnesota

I found the online training very well done, very detailed, and very complete. The videos worked well with the manual, which is a good resource. Even though this year I completed my 60th year as an engineering graduate and 50 years as an engineering manager and administrator, I still found the leadership training helpful, especially with respect to the strong Bible study emphasis on Jesus.

James Zalouek, Life Team Leader, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, Maryland

You can imagine how thrilled we are at LFL to see and hear about the results of our labor. God is good, and He clearly was guiding our way. Now, won't you let Him guide your way as you engage in the new online Life Team Training? The first step is to speak to your pastor about starting a Life Team. Remember, once your Life Team Leader has completed the course and taken the easy test at the end, the Life Team members are ready to join in. Life Team members register for **Tool 3 – Life Team Member Training**. Once they have completed the course either as a group or individually with the self-assessment, the team is ready to be certified. We will provide a certificate. Your pastor will be given a litany to use as he sees fit at a worship service to certify you in front of the congregation. In this manner the entire congregation will know you are trained and can be trusted. The entire church can celebrate along with you as you begin your journey of assisting your pastor in equipping your congregation and neighbors in being Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Please contact the Volunteer Relations Team if you are interested or have questions. You will find their contact information at lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/. They are here to help you. May God bless your endeavors in starting a Life Team at your church.

Serving Lil' Lutherans

by Michelle Bauman



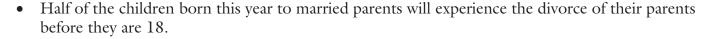
The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This important work has been our primary mission for decades, and because of volunteers like YOU, our work has been successful! The message of life has been shared in churches and communities across the nation; Lutherans For Life has equipped thousands of Gospel-motivated voices!

In 2012, LFL decided to expand its life-affirming message to include youth through its Y4Life program! Originally designed to reach college youth, Y4Life expanded five years ago to include high school youth. As Y4Life Director, it has been exciting to help our college and high school teams grow in number and size, to equip them to see life issues in their schools and communities, and to teach them how to be Gospel-motivated voices for life.

Yet, even as Y4Life expanded to include high school youth, parents, grandparents, teachers, and DCEs continued to reach out to me with a consistent question: What do you have for those who are younger?

While it's been a pleasure to share our curriculum supplement, *Teaching 4 Life* (now FREE and DOWNLOADABLE!), and LFL's Owen's Mission program (also FREE) in response to these inquiries, I always hoped Y4Life would grow enough to offer even more.

Why? Because children experience life issues too. Here are a few of the most common issues they encounter:



- 1 in 30 American children are currently homeless, and 1 in 7 live in poverty.
- 6.3 million children in the U.S. will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18.
- Up to 10% of young children experience separation anxiety disorder annually.
- More than 6 million children live with cohabiting parents, and over 18 million children lived in a single parent home in 2023.

Clearly, there are life issues to address, and thanks be to God and to our generous donors for enabling Y4Life to expand and address them!

This summer, Y4Life unveiled a brand new collection of educational materials designed for children from preschool through second grade called Lil' Lutherans 4 Life. And we've been busy creating resources that will help you address life issues with the little Lutherans you love and serve. How can you address life issues with little children? Here are few places to start:



Build a foundation.

If you've spent much time around children, you know they find great joy in discovering who they are and where they come from. They want to hear about the day they were born and how they came to be. They want to know who loved them even before they were born and how their birth was anticipated and greeted with joy. And they want to hear the story again and again.



The story of a child's beginning is important not only because it provides a framework for understanding the value of their own life, but it also fulfills a basic need: belonging. As more and more children struggle to find belonging in broken homes, we have the opportunity to affirm belonging in Christ. Y4Life's "Created for Life" set of activity pages provides a framework for those life-affirming discussions. It rejoices in how children grow month by month in the womb. (And it could even be a great resource for older siblings as they anticipate the growth of a younger sibling!)

Reinforce an identity.

One of Satan's favorite attacks is to make us question our identity. For example, if we don't see ourselves or our neighbor as a handmade, unrepeatable child of God, then it becomes easy to devalue our life or our neighbor's. But life is valuable, not only because God made us, but also because Christ died for us. God's creative and redemptive work testifies to the value of every human life, a value that is not determined by financial status, homeownership, or material goods.

God not only gives us daily bread but also upholds our lives through Word and Sacrament, through the work of the Holy Spirit who sustains us unto salvation. Our Lil' Lutheran "Words in Church" and "Jesus Brings Life" series both remind children of this reality; it reinforces and reaffirms a child's true identity as a beloved child of God and heir to the riches of heaven.

Equip for life.

Helping children understand who they are is important; so too is equipping them to uphold their own life and the lives of those around them. When children are baptized, they are not only brought to faith, but they are also given the fruit of the Spirit. One of those fruits is self-control. What does self-control look like in small children? It often takes the form of self-regulation.

Helping children learn how to process their emotions is important, especially as they live in a world broken by sin. We affirm the lives of the children we love when we help them process their anger, sadness, and loss in godly ways, and we remind them that they are not alone. When we point children to the truth that Christ is with them, comforting and caring for them, we help bear their burdens. When we teach children life-affirming ways to process their emotions, we help prevent actions that can lead to life issues later like self-harm, risk taking, addiction, and co-dependency.

What does all of this mean?

God loves life, and He loves children. As Christians, we love children, too, and we seek to uphold their lives. As society strays further and further from Christ's teachings on life and love, we need to be prepared to serve our little Lutherans and their neighbors in life-affirming ways. Y4Life would like to help you!



Check out our Lil' Lutheran line of activity pages at lutheransforlife.myshopify.com/collections/lil-lutherans, our Teaching 4 Life supplement curriculum at y4life.org/resources/education-resources/, and our Owen's Mission program at y4life.org/programs/local-programs/programs-local-programs-owens-mission/.

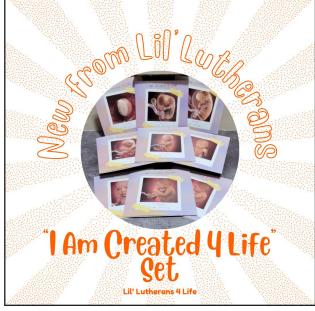


And feel free to reach out to Michelle at Michelle@y4life.org for more ideas about how you can uphold the lives of children, youth, and young adults in your church, school, or community!

Sources

- 1. https://www.heritage.org/marriage-and-family/report/the-effects-divorce-america#:~:text=Key%20Takeaways,children%20will%20last%20into%20adulthood.
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- 6. https://www.aecf.org/blog/child-well-being-in-single-parent-families#:~:text=Statistics%20 About%20Children%20in%20Single,of%20cohabiting%20parents%20has%20grown.
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Life Project: Next Level Diaper Drive



This project is shared by Yellowstone Valley LFL Chapter #331, Billings, Montana, with a special "thank you" to Angie Ebel, President of the Yellowstone Valley Chapter, who provided valuable details for this article.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16).

Diaper drives are a wonderful project that many Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, and individual congregations have been holding for many years. These collected diapers often go to pregnancy resource centers for distribution to those who come to the centers for help and choose life for their baby. The Yellowstone Valley Life Chapter has developed a program that takes this to the next level:

Providing diapers to individual families for three years!

This diaper project started in 2016 when LaVie Health (the local pregnancy resource center) referred "Rachel" to the Life Chapter. From this first gift of diapers to one mom has come their current program of providing diapers to three families for a three-year period.



"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

The Life Chapter members choose the recipient families, and there is usually a connection through LaVie Health or through one of the members. The Life Chapter has members from four or five congregations in their LCMS circuit, which gives them a chance to help many families. The Life Chapter does not publicize the names of the recipients to the congregations, but they do mention them by name in their Life Chapter meetings.

If funds allow, diaper donations can include multiple sizes to one family. They are currently supporting a family where the oldest child just "aged out," and a new sibling is arriving soon. They also helped a family where the child needed diapers beyond the age of three because of developmental issues. They were able to continue helping this family a while longer as they did not have a new family in the lineup at the time.

This year, for the first time, they held a diaper drive/fundraiser at each of their Life Chapter congregations in January during Life Sunday. People brought diapers and wipes and gave cash donations to purchase diapers. They received twenty-five boxes/packets of diapers, two boxes of wipes, and \$1,070 in funds. This event worked so well, they will probably continue to use a diaper drive to raise the needed funds. Diaper purchases cost them about \$100 per month.

They provide one large box of diapers (depending on the size of diaper, which is anywhere from 96-130 diapers) and a pack of wipes once per month to each family. Any diaper needs beyond that are up to the family to purchase. The families are happy to take whatever is provided as it covers a variety of needs. Since they support only three families at a time, there is no need for a spreadsheet, but they do have



an amazing diaper coordinator, Cindy Ewen. She stores the diapers and buys needed diaper sizes that are not in storage. She asks the members/volunteers delivering the diapers what sizes are needed that month and then brings them to the Life Chapter's monthly meeting.



It is usually the same volunteer who delivers to a specific family. Angie stated:

It is not a "drop and go" service. They try to build a relationship with the family (usually the mom) and encourage them and support them with any questions about motherhood and parenting that they have. Some families request home deliveries, and some pick them up at a church to ensure a neutral location. It depends on what works best for the mom and the volunteer. If the regular volunteer cannot deliver that month, then another Life Chapter member steps in to help. Good communication and servant hearts make this program work.

This past year, the Life Chapter expanded their program to include one frozen meal with their monthly gift of diapers and wipes. The source of the meals varies from month to month. Sometimes it is a couple of the Life Chapter members. One church's LWML group did it for a couple of months, and another church's women's Bible study group is providing for one month. Whoever is providing the meal prepares three identical meals, one for each family. The cooks do not know who receives the meals, but they know the size of the families and the ages of the children. (Currently, they serve no persons with dietary restrictions or allergies, but that is something to always consider when providing meals.) The meals are delivered to the volunteer who also delivers the diapers.

The Life Chapter has prepared a handout with simple guidelines that are given to the group preparing the meals. Important details: put the meal in a 9×13 pan that doesn't need to be returned, include a label that describes the contents of the meal and how to cook it, and include the recipe in case the family wants to make it again in the future.

One last addition to the gift of diapers and a frozen meal was a children's book. The Life Chapter was given several boxes of used children's books. Ladies at an LWML rally wrote encouraging notes and Bible verses in them, and the books were added to the diaper gifts. The diaper coordinator chose the books and reviewed them for content. They are now out of books, but for those of us interested in this project, a regular drive for quality children's books is something to consider. (Arch Books® from CPH are always good—www.cph.org/c-2841-arch-books—but there are many other good choices.)

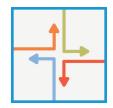
Perhaps the most important question asked was, "What kind of feedback have you received?" Angie's answer was heartwarming:

Some of the families have sent written correspondence of thankfulness. Some have attended one of our meetings so the Life Chapter members can meet who they have been supporting, and the receiving family can meet who has been caring for them. We have a meal together before our meetings, so when one of our "diaper families" joins us, it is like inviting them to our "family dinner." We have an awesome Life Chapter with loving hearts and servant hands.

Thank you to the Yellowstone Valley Life Chapter for giving all of us wonderful ideas to make our diaper drives more personable and impactful.



Life Project: Issues as We Age



This Spotlight on Life Project—Issues as We Age: Beholding the Gospel in Life's Twilight—was shared by Paula Cate, Life Team Leader, and the St. John's Lutheran Church Life Team in Grand Haven, Michigan.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15).

Our congregation experienced several deaths of dearly loved elder members during the winter of 2022-2023. Some of these members and families were well-prepared with arrangements for Christian funerals, but many were not. Some members were also unprepared for the kinds of medical and ethical decisions associated with the last stages of life on earth. Our congregation needed some help.

At our August 2023 meeting, the Life Team was pleased to learn that Lutherans For Life had created a **Spotlight on Life** presentation on the topic, "Issues as We Age." We decided to pursue the possibility of holding an event on the topic and presented it to our newly installed pastor for approval. We presented the idea to our parish planning council, and the office administrator helped to find possible dates on the church and school calendar. We settled on the date with Pastor Salemink. Our preparations began in earnest after the January 2024 Life Week.

The morning of Saturday, April 27, 2024, began with registration at 8:30 a.m. and concluded around 1:30 p.m. Lunch was provided with the \$15 registration fee. A Thrivent Action Grant of \$250 helped the Life Team purchase tablecloths, flowers for the lunch tables, name tags, and pens. Pastor Vergin opened the workshop with a devotion. The topics covered in the workshop included:

- What is death? What happens when we die?
- Going gracefully.
- The Christian Gospel enables us to welcome God's blessings as life is ending.
- Learning about Advance Directives.
- Having family conversations.
- Funeral worship guidelines.
- Benefits and drawbacks of hospice care and organ donation.
- Physician-assisted suicide.
- Do we have a "duty to die"?

The event was promoted to the area circuit churches, LFL of Michigan, our local Right to Life organization, area senior living residences, and in our own congregation. We were blessed to have 62 registrations for the workshop, and most were able to attend. The messages were very well received, according to our own Pastor Vergin, who had several follow-up conversations because of the material. Pastor Salemink is an interesting, engaging speaker who kept Christ in the center of the message. A bonus for our St. John's congregation was having Pastor Salemink preaching and teaching in the weekend services!

We were thankful to LFL for promotional materials and other assistance. We had not planned for a display of materials because one of our state officers was planning to bring a display. However, he was unable to attend due to illness. Pastor Salemink brought appropriate materials, but we should have ordered more as a precaution. Another idea from a Life Team member was to have an outline of bullet



points of the presentations for notetaking and ideas to guide family conversations. "Issues as We Age: Beholding the Gospel in Life's Twilight" is a worthwhile educational event for our churches. Our St. John's Lutheran Church Life Team was excited to bring this to our area churches and was grateful for the support and materials created by LFL. Pastor Salemink shared these encouraging words:



The "Issues as We Age" events have generated significant interest recently—we even shared one in Honolulu! As with the Grand Haven engagement, I always have a delightful time sharing the sanctity of life, exploring practical opportunities, building relationships with the brothers and sisters, hearing their thoughtful reflections, and answering their profound questions. As the American population ages, this format offers an effective outreach to communities and a winsome exploration of our Gospel-motivated voice For Life.

Is your church interested in a Spotlight on Life?

Spotlight on Life brings life issue awareness and education to your local Lutheran congregations or church sponsored community events, even in smaller venues and rural areas. Lutherans For Life staff are offering to be featured speakers and extend their expertise on a variety of life issues (see suggested topics below). With **Spotlight on Life**, your event will be equipping many others to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. It is simple, like a "speaking event in a box"! You conduct the event and LFL provides the expert speaker, based on topic preference and availability. Whether your event is one hour, a half day, an evening, or something else, your event is sure to be a success with **Spotlight on Life**!





Not sure where to start? Don't worry. LFL is pleased to offer consultation with a staff member to assist you with identifying needs and brainstorming solutions for your exciting event. Begin your planning now. For more information on **Spotlight on Life**, visit lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life or email us at info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org. Presentation topics include:

Factors Affecting Life and Death

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

Life and Death

- Abortion
- Suicide
- Physician-assisted suicide & euthanasia
- Fertilization to forever

Factors Regarding the Sanctity of Life

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





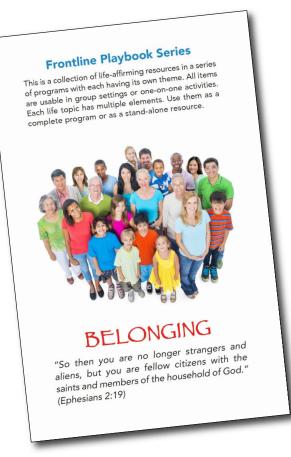
The Lutherans For Life Council of Federation Presidents sponsors an essay contest each year for students in two grade categories: 6-8 and 9-12. This contest is available for students in all states who attend a Lutheran school or a Lutheran church.

We look forward to students across the nation participating in our contest and letting their voices be heard through their life-affirming essays!

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

lutheransforlife.org/2025-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest





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Life Topics in Belonging



Rev. Michael Salemink "Blessed as a Gift"



Michelle Bauman
"God Chose You
to Belong"



Mona Fuerstenau & Rev. Scott Licht "Those with Disabilities Are Indispensable"



Rev. Steven & Stephanie Cholak "Blessed in Longing"



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 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:		
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).

Join Us in 2025!

Lutherans For Life National Conference September 24-26, 2025

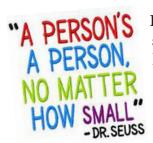
Great Wolf Lodge Colorado Springs, Colorado







Owen's Mission

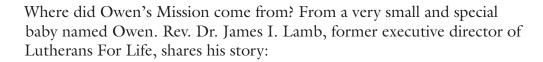


Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), no matter how small!



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.



"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





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





utherans 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 an-

Nine Facets of a
Healthy Life Ministry

Consistent
Multifaceted
Unified
Gospel-Motivated
Resourced
Interfaced
Interfaced
Multiplied
Careful

LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

other 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.



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.





Lutherans For Life Online

- 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/lflfrontlines www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts



• 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.





Available in App Stores







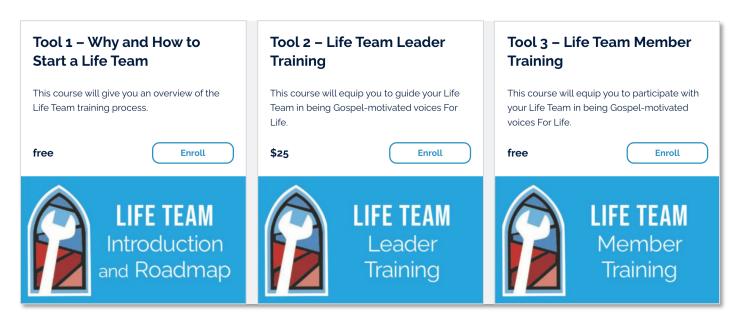






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Register at:

volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org

Questions? Contact Volunteer Relations:

<u>lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/</u>





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 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



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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-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973

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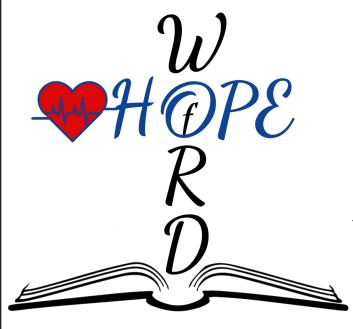
At the heart of **Lutherans For Life** is the Good News that brings hope to a culture so focused on death:

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





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.

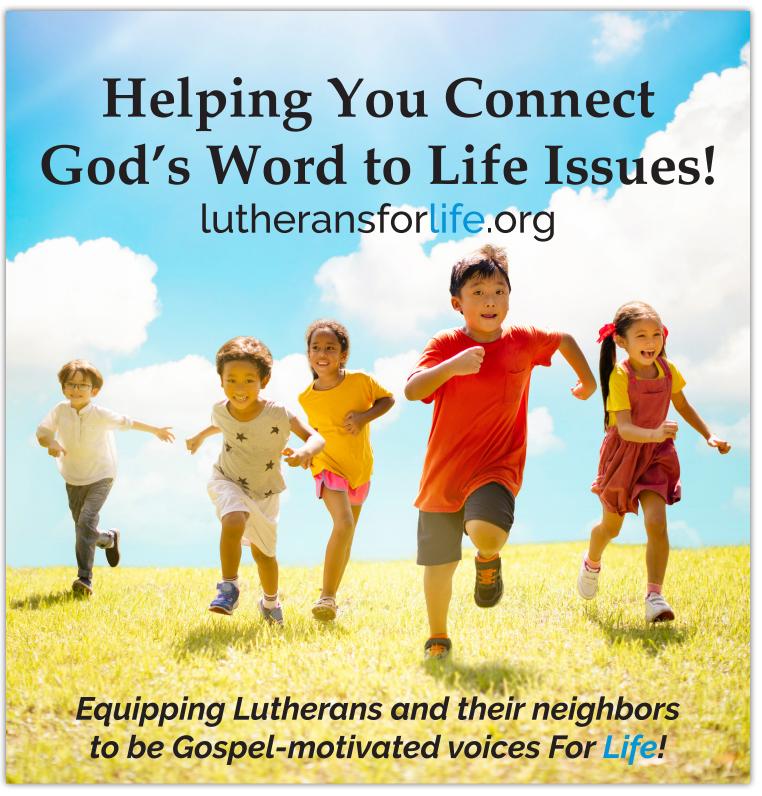
I'm 4Life ... Now what?





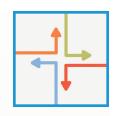


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Check out the Store page on the Lutherans For Life website for the latest new resources:

lutheransforlife.org/resources/store

- Before I Die A Practical Guide to End-of-Life Issues
- Lil' Lutherans Advent Series
- Abortion Pill Reversal Saving a Pregnancy
- · When She Says, "I'm Pregnant"
- 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/ Night Prayers





Directions • November-December 2024

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