



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

**Nebraska
Lutherans For Life**

Nebraska LFL Federation Newsletter

Vol. 2 #45

Fall 2024

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Pro-Life Initiative

Vote - November 5

“Protect Women & Children”

+ Language

Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimesters.

- Understand the Language

ESTABLISH PROTECTION IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION

Nebraska would be the first state in our nation to establish pro-life protections in the state constitution.

PROTECT CURRENT NEBRASKA 12-WEEK PRO-LIFE LAW

Takes productive, positive action to support and protect pro-life laws already in place in our state; holds the line as outside abortion advocates attack with their big dollars coming in from out of state and foreign countries.

ALLOW PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED IN THE FUTURE

Establishes a ceiling on abortion, but not a floor. The upper limit means it leaves room to protect life from the moment it starts. Nebraska Right to Life staunchly defends life at all stages and will continue to do so until abortion is unthinkable in Nebraska.

**Deadline for the
Winter 2025
newsletter is
December 15.**

Our Mission

Equipping Lutherans 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.

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Message from Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer Nebraska LFL Pastoral Counselor

The Value of All Life!

Life has been devalued in our culture. Since the 1960's the United States has gone from a culture of life to a culture of death. This is exemplified in the 1973 Supreme Court ruling, Roe v. Wade, which legalized the murder of the unborn in our society, even though science clearly shows that the life in the womb is a baby. We have those who advocate for their death for any reason. While Pro-life supporters advocate for the life of the unborn, the Pro-death supporters argue about quality of life for the mom and even the baby if there should be anything wrong with the baby. From their point of view, if one is deemed to be a burden (by them) and not a productive member of society, they do not have the value as one who is able to work and add to society. One may ask, "What about the handicapped? Do they have value?" From a culture of death the answer is "No." That is why Amniocentesis and other tests are used to determine if a baby has Down Syndrome. It is used as a justification for an abortion. In many countries in Europe, there is the move to eradicate Down Syndrome from their land. Today, there are who advocate infanticide outside the womb by arguing that a mother has a right to abort her baby who has already been born. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, advocated for such a position.

This really hits home with me as my sister, Karla, was one of those who would be considered undesirable by this culture of death. My sister, Karla, was a normal child growing in the womb until tragedy struck. When my mom was giving birth, her blood pressure dropped and she went into a coma. When my sister was born, the medical staff just assumed that she was dead, so they focused their efforts on my mom. But then, a nurse happened to see my sister twitch. She knew that she was alive but she was being oxygen starved because they did not clear out her airways. So, they began to resuscitate her. The good news is that both my mom and sister survived. The bad news was that Karla had severe Cerebral Palsy.

(Continued on page 4)

**DONATION TO
NEBRASKA LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE
MEMORIAL GIFT OR
THANKOFFERING GIFT**

Because I believe life is a precious gift from God, I wish to support the ministry of Lutherans for Life with a gift in thanksgiving for the life of:

Amount of contribution \$ _____
 _____ Memorial Gift
 _____ Thankoffering Gift

I understand this gift will be given recognition in the upcoming NE Lutherans For Life Newsletter.

Name of contributor: _____

Address: _____

"Whatever you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto Me."

Send to:
Nebraska Lutherans for Life
 Bob Saeger
 PO Box 183
 Waco, NE 68460-0183

See page ___ for National Lutherans for Life donation



Our Philosophy

Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of Biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give witness, from a Biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post abortion healing, and family living.

They called the Pastor and he baptized Karla on that same day. In that moment, she received the gift of eternal life. As the Scripture says, ***“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”*** (Titus 3:5–8). On that day, Karla went from physical and spiritual death to physical and spiritual life! Jesus saved her in those waters of baptism. It is solely by His grace as the Scripture says, ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus”*** (Ephesians 2:8-10a). **Why?** Because Karla has value in her Creator’s eyes. He sent His Son, Jesus, who died for her and all people, no matter if they are living in their mother’s wombs or if they have been born! To this culture of death, the LORD says, ***“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.¹⁶ Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands”*** (Isaiah 49:15-16).

Life was difficult both for Karla and my parents. The extent of the

damage to Karla’s brain was severe. Right away, my parents were faced with those who suggested that they could give her up because she would need a lot of care. The doctor said that Karla would not live beyond twelve years old. The doctors said that she would never know anyone and anything. She would not be able to perform any basic tasks. She would not be able to walk or talk. All that she would be able to do is lay down or sit in a chair. My parents and later on, my other siblings and I, would need to assist in her care. She needed to have diapers changed throughout her life, she needed to be dressed and fed; much like you would a baby in the first year or so. Later on, she would need a feeding tube since she would aspirate her food and it would go into her lungs. Throughout her life, she suffered with seizures and she was in and out of the hospital more times than I can count. A culture of death sees no value in a life such as this but I am here to tell you that there is value in such a life.



Karla has enriched my life and the lives of our whole family along

with others who knew her. I think that she had a much bigger impact on me than I did on her. While doctors said that she did not understand what we were saying and that she could not communicate, our family knew better. She could communicate with groans if she needed something or was in pain. But she never cried. She had the cutest smile that would come when she was happy. She loved listening to Alvin and the Chipmunks and loved to be read to. I would often read to her the comics. She loved stuffed animals and we would use them to play with her. One of her favorite animals was a brown bear that had a heart that lit up and blinked to a musical beat.



The Scriptures declare, ***“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made***

(Continued on page 5)

in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 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.*” (Psalm 139:13-16).



Karla was my little sister. She was just two years younger than me, but she only lived to be 18 years old because each of her days were written down and known only to her Father in heaven. Karla taught me to see that all of life is precious. That all our days are in the Lord’s hands. This is true for Karla as well as for you and me. Every life has value because every life is created by God and redeemed by the blood of Christ! And in Holy Baptism, the Holy Spirit sanctifies each life to live in the forgiveness of sins and in the joy of eternal life! Even though

she is with our Lord in heaven, there will come a day when our Savior Jesus returns and He will raise her body from the grave and she will live forever with Him, perfect and whole! **Karla’s life has value! And if Karla’s life has value, what about those who are not yet born, especially those with Down Syndrome or some other ailment?** It is my prayer and hope that Karla’s life will help you to see that all of life, including your own is a precious gift from God. By God’s grace, we will stand up for the right to life of all people because all life has value and is precious to us and our Father in heaven!

Living in the
Joy of God’s Gift of Life!
Pastor Kohlmeyer

From the Editor

This is my last issue as editor of the Nebraska Lutherans for Life newsletter. I am stepping down from this position as I want to keep up with everything in my personal life. It has been a joy to send the newsletter for the past eleven years. Another reason for stepping down is the fact that I no longer have a free bulk mailing permit to use in sending the newsletters. I want to thank all of you who sent information for the newsletters and especially Rosemary Everts for proofing each issue and Bob Saeger for his patience.

May the Lord bless all of you.

~Sharon



Thank You

*In Memory of- Arvolen
Martin*

*From—Judy Fullner & Cheryl
L. Johnson*

Norfolk Area Lutherans For Life hosted a display table at the annual Orphan Grain Train convention which was held at MidTown Event Center in Norfolk, NE on September 14, 2024. Pamphlets and booklets were available on the topics of fetal development, adoption, abortion/post abortion issues, pregnancy/infant loss, and end of life topics. Special items available for take home included soft models of a 10 week old unborn baby, Precious Feet pins, bookmarks, buttons, and small booklets for children.



Nebraska Lutherans For Life Federation News

The Board of Directors of the Nebraska Lutherans for Life Federation met at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2024 by Zoom.

PRESIDENT

Bob was pleased to announce that Andrew Kohlmeyer and Leviathan Duley both placed 2nd in the National Essay contest and were presented with a check and certificate. He asked the group if there were any nominations for the Treasurer and Vice President positions, but he received none.

BULLDOGS FOR LIFE

Emma VanTol reported they had an activity fair last week where they received 106 emails from new students and updated emails from others. They also had Y4Life materials available. At their first meeting, also last week, 36 students attended. She mentioned numerous students had been involved in Y4Life in high school and were eager to be involved on the college level as well. She is very excited about this year and the enthusiasm she felt from many students. Bryan Barta, Vice President of the Seward LFL and also a sidewalk advocate will be speaking at their October meeting. They are already planning for the March 4 Life event in January and will need to limit the number to 100 students. She spoke about her internship and what a valuable experience she had with Michelle Bauman. One thing she learned was how to best use the baby models to talk about life to others.

CHAPTERS

Bryan spoke for the Seward chapter. He mentioned that Virginia Flo will be speaking at their October meeting. They are working on billboards to promote life messages as well as the life ballot initiative in November's election.

Dawn presented for the Lincoln chapter and said they were meeting soon.

Keri gave a report for the Southeast Nebraska Chapter. We had LFL floats in the area parades this summer, and the Richardson County parade is next week. For three days we will have our LFL float in the parade, and this year Keri has a table at the fair to educate people on the pro-life ballot initiative.

CROSS DISPLAY

Bob stated the cross display is available but nothing new to mention.

LFL DISPLAY

The display was used at the Seward County Fair and was received well.

NEWSLETTER

Sharon Grubb, current editor of the newsletter, will soon be stepping down. Bob asked Emma if the Bulldogs would be willing to help with the newsletter. Emma invited Bob to their next meeting mid-September to present the idea to the group.

501(c)3 STATUS

Bob reported nothing new but said that more information will be coming in the future.

ELECTIONS

A motion was made and seconded to elect Bob Saeger as President and Keri Llewellyn as Secretary for another 2-year term. Motion was approved. We will need a special meeting when we elect a Treasurer.

BULLDOGS FOR LIFE SUPPORT

A motion was made and seconded to support the Bulldogs \$200/student to attend the March 4 Life in January. The motion was approved.

LFL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A motion was made and seconded to pay the registration fees for anyone desiring to attend the Regional LFL Conference. Motion was approved. Bob will also ask Sharon Grubb to put this in the newsletter.

The NEXT MEETING will be Saturday, March 22nd at 10:00 a.m. on the Concordia University, Seward campus.

Regional LFL Conference

Nebraska Lutherans for Life will reimburse registration costs for anyone attending a Regional LFL Conference this year. To request a refund, please contact Bob Saeger, PO Box 183, Waco, Nebraska 68460.



By Pastor Michael Salemink

Election Day is approaching. Thanks be to God that we get to participate in representative government, contribute to the common good, serve our neighbors, share life together, and advocate for righteousness. What a privilege, opportunity, and even responsibility!

Several states are entertaining ballot initiatives concerning the sanctity of every human life. These include Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, and South Dakota. You can learn the details about each of these from our friends at Priests For Life: <https://www.stateballotmeasures.org/>. (In summary, they all ask for expanding abortion access, and so a “no” vote on each one would maintain life-saving restrictions and regulations.) Please share this information with your neighbors, congregations, and communities!

Of course, the sanctity of life means that everyone’s voice counts. The National Association of Secretaries of State has a convenient online portal where you can check your voting registration status: <https://www.nass.org/can-I-vote/voter-registration-status>. And you can encourage and even assist those around you to confirm their registration there as well. (If they discover they haven’t registered, you can easily navigate the link to each state’s website to do so or just use <https://vote.gov>.) You might also consider offering to transport neighbors with mobility difficulties to the polling place.

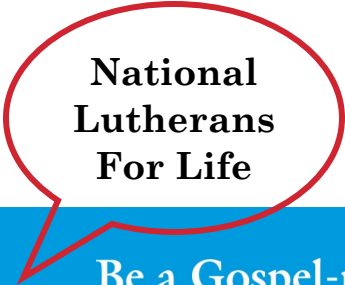
Want to exercise your Gospel-motivated voice even more actively? National Right to Life has affiliates in every state that prepare voter guides. Find your locale here and educate yourself (and your loved ones!) about candidate positions: <https://nrlc.org/about/stateaffiliates/>. (Many of them also organize phone bank calling campaigns in which you can chat with prospective voters from your own home!) Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America will compensate you for canvassing door-to-door and connecting with your fellow citizens as they prepare to vote: <https://sbaproflife.org/voter-contact-program>.

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Be a Gospel-motivated Voice For Life!


Yes, I will help get out the life-giving message of Lutherans For Life!

Please select one of the following:

(Any amount is welcome! Membership contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.)

- My **Annual** membership gift of \$35 \$50 Other \$ _____ is enclosed.
- My monthly **Sponsor** membership gift will be \$_____.
- I do not wish to become a member, but I am contributing \$_____ to support LFL.
- I do not wish to contribute at this time, but I would like to be on your mailing list.
(You will receive *LifeDate*, published quarterly.)

Please make checks payable to **Lutherans For Life** (U.S. Currency). All contributions are tax-deductible in accord with IRS regulations. Fill in credit card info on the back of this flap.

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Address _____

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State/Zip _____

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Occupation _____

Congregation _____

LFL Chapter name/number
(if a local member)

Church body affiliation:
AALC AFLC ELCA
CLBA LCMC LCMS
Other _____