

2024

**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



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Dear Friend for Life,

Congratulations, well done, thanks be to God, and let's go!

These pages represent joy and hope. You've made joy and hope possible in 2024. Your fellowship, encouragement, and generosity have brought Gospel joy and hope to thousands this year.

You share in an active community and effective ministry. You've hosted hundreds at conferences in Washington, California, Texas, Connecticut, Kansas, Florida, and even Puerto Rico. You've reached hearts at congregational events in more than a dozen other states (including Hawaii!). You've counseled countless hours over telephone and videoconference with neighbors in spiritual crisis. You've printed cases and distributed stacks of LifeDate quarterlies, Directions newsletters, and Verba Vitae academic journals. You've started and supported Life Teams, Life Chapters, and Life Advocates. You've coordinated nationwide Life Week festivities and Step Up 4 Life activities. You've launched outreaches to Lil' Lutherans and YA (young adults) For Life. And you've increased staff to meet the need and demand for so much more.

The sanctity of life appreciates what's begun. But it also entices toward what's to come. Your energy and investment are generating promise, potential, and opportunity. In the months ahead, we'll collaborate in enabling a suicide awareness and prevention initiative, a conference about dying like a Christian, a post-abortion healing retreat, networking Lutheran medical professionals and public servants, congregational supports for surprise pregnancies, and online courses.

Look how life shines in the darkness! But it doesn't happen without your help. We need you, they're waiting for you, and God wants you. Your involvement includes solidarity, prayer, raising awareness, sharing education, volunteering service, engaging in civic advocacy, connecting individuals, attending and assisting events. And please consider this our enthusiastic invitation and appeal to send a generous end-of-year offering!

God bless your Gospel-motivated voice For Life!



In truth and love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Michael Salemink". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pastor Michael Salemink
Executive Director, Lutherans For Life

OUR MISSION

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

OUR PURPOSE

Lutherans For Life is dedicated to applying the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to sanctity of life issues, making Jesus known as the Son of God and Savior of all who can help and make a difference in people's lives.

OUR WORK

Lutherans For Life educates individuals, families, and congregations on life issues with a Gospel perspective, equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We offer help, healing, Scripture-based spiritual care, and forgiveness for anyone who bears the burden of overwhelming guilt through our 24-hour Word of Hope hotline (888-217-8679). We also develop and manage Life Teams, Life Chapters, and Life Advocates in collaboration with our Volunteer Relations team—to affirm life and participate in motivating others For Life through the Gospel. Lutherans For Life also serves, educates, and equips youth and young adults to become Gospel-motivated voices and uphold the lives of others.

LFL MINISTRY TEAM



SAVE THE DATE

LFL 2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

DATE | September 24-26, 2025

THEME | Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

LOCATION | Colorado Springs, CO

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

Psalm 139:13-14



Here's what people have shared about our previous national conferences!

“Breakout sessions pointed to life issues to be aware of in our communities, which is helpful for awareness and more research.”

“The conference helps equip to be a Gospel-motivate voice by explaining arguments for pro-life and advising resources available.”

“Information on variety of sanctity of life issues, good discussions, fellowship, and exchange of ideas with other pro-life people.”

“The speakers provided great information and motivation. We'll go home with specific suggestions and contacts.”

“I learned about all that LFL has going on and how I can help my congregation to get more involved. I took note of all the resources that I heard about and will follow up looking at those resources.”

MINISTRY IN ACTION

✓ **St Paul's Life Team**
CHENEY, KS

Packed and delivered 11 Caring Boxes to people involved in a caregiving situation.

✓ **Fond Du Lac LFL #304**
FOND DU LAC, WI

Recieved 150 roses from their county Right to Life group and gave them out after the service on Mother's Day!

✓ **East Dakota LFL #191**
AURORA, SD

Nine people from their Life Chapter rode bikes from Brookings to the Sioux Falls Alpha Center for Bike For Life!

✓ **Life Advocate, Bethesda**
HOT SPRINGS, SD

Hosted a community-wide baby shower called the "Love Them Both Baby Shower," where they collected unwrapped baby items and donations for the moms. Then these things were split between the Department of Human Services in their community and W.E.A.V.E., which stand for Women Escaping a Violent Enviroment.

✓ **St. Charles County LFL #337**
ST. CHARLES, MO

Shared the Word of Hope website on a billboard that delivered 4,090,806 impressions over the course of five months, averaging approximately 186,000 impressions per week. Also ran a digital campaign from October 1 through November 30 that delivered 210,733 impressions.

✓ **Cross Lutheran Life Team**
YORKVILLE, IL

Planned a Disability Awareness Day at Cross Lutheran School, and around 350 Students were served!

✓ **Catalina Life Team**
TUCSON, AZ

Volunteered at Family First Pregnancy Center and Family Diaper Bank in Oracle, Arizona, as well as participating in a couple March For Life events!

✓ **Life Advocate, Messiah**
PLANO, TX

With the help of volunteers, held fundraisers for Baby Bottle Boomerang (pregnancy), Mitzi the Cow Milk Fund (families), and Meals on Wheels (seniors)!

✓ **St Peter Life Team**
MACOMB, MI

Was able to bless two local pregnancy resource centers with items they needed. One recieved five baby monitors and the other four new crib mattresses.

✓ **Houston LFL #132**
HOUSTON, TX

Hosted "Preparing for Forever Spotlight On Life: What Does the Bible Say about Preparing for Forever." Some of the topics covered were: "Life in a Culture of Death," "Celebrating Life All the Way to the End," "Christian Burial Practices," "God's Word at the End: How Liturgy Brings Comfort to the Dying," "Angels, Demons, and Death," and "Going Gracefully: A Better End-of-Life Approach Than Assisted Suicide." They had an excellent turnout with 286 in attendance with at least 21 of them being kids!

FRONTLINES

NEW LIFE CHAPTER

Treasure Valley #352
Nampa, ID

NEW LIFE TEAMS

Redeemer - Fairhope, AL
Trinity - Crown Point, IN
Our Redeemer - Ocala, FL
St. John - Grand Haven, MI
Trinity - Twin Valley, MN
Zion Wayside - Greenleaf, WI
Trinity - Bellingham, WA

NEW LIFE ADVOCATE

Anita L. - Zion- Grant Park, IL

VOLUNTEER RELATIONS

is dedicated to serving all our Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, State Federations, pastors, and congregations. They start and maintain strong, healthy, and vibrant life ministries and mentor and walk alongside them as consultants and partners.

2024 Highlights

- Launched the Belonging Frontline Playbook
- Created a Project List section in Directions and LFL website with helpful “how to” articles based on actual Frontline life ministry project ideas
- Developed an online version of our Life Team Training Tool Kit for launch late summer
- Published a series in Directions on the “Nine Facets of a Healthy Life Ministry” to educate and encourage our Frontline workers
- Traveled to and presented/exhibited at nine events through June 2024

2025 Goals

- Launch the second Frontline Playbook – Hopeful
- Review and update current Life Team Training material
- Develop training programs for Life Chapters and Life Advocates
- Produce promotional video for online training
- Produce “What Is a Life Chapter” video
- Increase involvement on social media platforms



DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated 56.8 million people, including 25.7 million in the last year of life, are in need of palliative care.

Approximately 75% of women at risk for abortion who view an ultrasound of their baby at a pregnancy center ultimately make the choice to continue their pregnancy.

Common exceptions to abortion limits account for less than 5% of all abortions.

- Rape and incest: 0.4%
- Risk to the woman's life: 0.3%
- Other physical health concerns: 2.2%
- Abnormality in the unborn baby: 1.2%
- Elective and unspecified reasons: 95.9%

Certain factors tend to coincide with gender dysphoria: low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, lack of identity, eating disorders, personality disorder, self-injury, autism spectrum disorder, sexual trauma, gender trauma.

90% of Americans who die by suicide (the second leading cause of death among persons aged 10 to 34) have experienced symptoms of a treatable mental health condition such as depression, anxiety disorders, or other forms of serious mental illnesses.

An estimated 1.3 billion people experience significant disability. This represents 16% of the world's population, or one in six of us.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have legalized physician-assisted suicide (PAS) for patients said to have a terminal illness.

The heart is the embryo's first functioning organ, which starts to develop as early as 16 days after fertilization.

The term "gender" no longer means only male or female. Instead, gender now takes into account identity and expression. (According to healthline.com, there are 64 terms that describe gender.)

56% of Americans would feel uncomfortable telling their friends or family if they were suffering from a mental illness.

There are more than 2,700 pro-life pregnancy centers in all 50 states. Planned Parenthood has approximately 585 facilities in only 48 states.

These facts highlight the increasing financial needs of our expanding Lutherans for Life mission

Scan the code and
GIVE TODAY



WORD OF HOPE

is a unique 24/7 national hotline devoted to intervening on behalf of life issues and imparting the value of all human life as divinely created and redeemed by Jesus Christ.



(888) 217-8679

2024 Highlights

- Highest number of monthly contacts (400+) in over a decade
- Providing spiritual care to the most individuals in a given month (14) and most within a year (31)
- Started eight-week mindfulness video class offered quarterly
- Partnered with Lutheran Family Services and trained three of their counseling staff on our abortion recovery program, Redeeming Grace
- Started Hope Day Wednesday, weekly 90 second Scripture reading and prayer on social media (FB and Instagram)

2025 Goals

- Partner with Concordia University Chicago to produce videos for suicide awareness, intervention, and postvention training with college student actors
- Partner with Lutheran Family Services to hold Redeeming Grace Abortion Recovery Retreat
- Transition Mindfulness Class to online learning management system platform
- Produce three to five educational materials on spiritual care for life issues

Y4LIFE PROGRAMS

seek to equip youth and young adults to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life. Through service, celebration, worship, and education, the next generation is encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders 4 Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world!



Owen's Mission



2024 Highlights

- Approximately 325 youth gathered at Y4Life in Washington, D.C., in January and learn about life issues, connect with other youth, and participate in the National March for Life!
- Over 70 youth attended the Y4Life Summit at Concordia Nebraska in February.
- Y4Life held its first Gender Conference and Apologetics Retreat in April!
- Our Y4Life Director spoke at several local, national, and continental youth events and conferences throughout 2024.
- Y4Life received four grants in 2024 whose proceeds will be used to expand its outreach in 2025.
- Y4Life established Lil' Lutherans 4 Life and created eight child-friendly prayer and encouragement brochures on morning prayer, night prayer, and six emotions.

2025 Goals

- Reach over 1,000 youth through school visits and Engage and Equip events
- Expand our reach to include young adults in their 20s and 30s by hosting YA For Life retreats.
- Build life-affirming resources for parents and teachers to use with young children and pre-teens.
- Equip thousands of youth through Bible study, presentations, and interactive booths at various youth gatherings including the LCMS National Youth Gathering, and Higher Things.



NATIONAL ESSAY WINNERS

SANCTITY OF LIFE—ABORTION

9-12 Grade

“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. 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.”



CLAIRE JANKEE

Claire Jankee was a freshman at Mayer Lutheran High School in Mayer, Minnesota, when she won her award. She enjoys visits to the family cabin in Wisconsin, deer hunting, treks in the woods with her Boina, riding horses, and playing volleyball. Recently, Claire learned to knit baby hats and donated them to the Choices Health Network, a pregnancy center in 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.

AN OPEN DOOR

6-8 Grade


“My family fostered two beautiful girls, Athena and Roseanne. 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. 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.”



ALLISON PACKER

Allison (Ally) Packer was an eighth grader at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville, Illinois, when she won her award. Her family are members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and she has two older siblings and four younger siblings--two brothers and four sisters. Allison enjoys volleyball and track, and when she is not playing sports or doing other extracurricular activities after school, she enjoys baking and writing.

Read full essays at
lutheransforlife.org/article/2024-lfl-national-essay-contest-winners



**Listed below are examples of the many ways
your donation to LFL might be used to assist our
Gospel-motivated, life-affirming mission.**

Gospel Preparation | under \$250

- Print and ship a Life Team tool kit
- Paper for one month (office supplies)
- Develop resources and materials for Life Week 2025
- One Word of Hope spiritual care session

Gospel Motivation | \$250 to \$500

- Develop and print one Frontline playbook
- Resources for Y4Life Youth Encounter events in 2025
- Professionally print 100 Lutherans For Life brochures
- Professionally print 100 Lutherans For Life infographics
- One month of Hope Day Wednesday Prayer videos
- Maintain the 24/7 Word of Hope hotline for one day

Gospel Transformation | \$500 - \$750

- Word of Hope, Y4Life, YA4Life, and Lutherans For Life website maintenance for six months
- Word of Hope nine-week Christ-centered mindfulness course
- Publish and print Word of Hope spiritual care media
- Professionally print 100 Lutherans For Life books

Gospel Proclamation | over \$750

- Develop and publish new LFL brochures and infographics
- Facility and food accommodations at Y4Life in Washington, DC
- Word of Hope video production of online training materials
- One year of Microsoft Office technology for LFL staff
- Host a Spotlight on Life event with a LFL staff member speaker
- Travel expenses for presenting and exhibiting at congregations, conferences, and conventions
- Sponsor lodging, food, travel, and training materials for a Y4Life leadership retreat in 2025
- Develop training materials for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates
- Mail our quarterly journal, "LifeDate," to 2,000 individuals and 500 congregations
- Sponsor travel, food, hotel, and speaking costs for a speaker at Y4Life in Washington, DC
- Development of Volunteer Relations promotional video for online training
- Redeeming Grace abortion recovery retreat with Lutheran Family Services



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose annual budget is funded each year by individuals, families, organizations, Lutheran congregations, and the fees paid for our conferences and special events.

Dear Friends For Life,

Lutherans For Life and its Gospel-motivated, life-affirming ministry efforts reach thousands of churches across the world, hundreds of communities in our nationwide network, and innumerable hearts because of YOU! Your unwavering prayers and generous donations fund the important work of Word of Hope, Y4Life, Volunteer Relations, YA4Life, Lil' Lutherans, and our ministry outreach efforts. Your faithful support directly impacts our vital work of changing hearts and saving lives. Your involvement is crucial to our success. And together, we can make a profound impact in the lives of others!

Please continue your partnership with Lutherans For Life and donate generously today—not for us, but for every life God's created from fertilization to forever. Make your most generous contribution by December 31 and help us exceed our year-end goal of **\$350,000** for the ministry and work of Lutherans For Life.

God's blessings to you and your family



DAVE PROBST
Development Director, Lutherans For Life

WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 ONLINE** | lutheransforlife.org/donate2024
- 2 LFL APP** | Select "Give" on the bottom screen.
- 3 MAIL** | Lutherans For Life, 1101 5th St, Nevada, IA 50201-1816
- 4 QR CODE** |





1101 5th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-1816

Mailing
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non-profit
stamp

Life Shines in the Darkness



LIFE WEEK 2025
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“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

Life Week 2025 is a unique opportunity to explore distinct aspects of life ministry through local activities, online educational events, and interviews.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 – SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

