



**LUTHERANS**  
FOR LIFE

**2024**

# **Regional Conference Southeast**

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



**November 9, 2024**

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church | Winter Garden, Florida**

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

**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. **Lutherans For Life** also offers help, healing, and forgiveness for anyone who bears the burden of overwhelming guilt through our 24-hour **Word of Hope** hotline (888-217-8679). This free service is available to men, women, and youths for information, referrals, and Scripture-based spiritual care to address life issues such as surprise pregnancy, abortion recovery, suicide, doubting salvation, and physician-assisted suicide.

**Life Teams and Life Chapters and Life Advocates** are developed in congregations and communities—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 youth through its **Y4Life** program! Specifically focused on helping high school and college youth become Gospel-motivated voices For Life, **Y4Life** offers a variety of educational resources, service projects, and interactive, in-person opportunities that teach youth how to uphold the lives of others.

**Lutherans For Life** offers a wide variety of print and online resources—including our quarterly journal, *LifeDate*.

- Your prayers, volunteer involvement, and financial support allow Lutherans For Life to accomplish its Gospel-centered work.
- During the conference, participants will be given an additional opportunity to support LFL.
- Thank you for prayerfully considering how you, your family, and your congregation can help.



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**

# A Word from President Diane Albers

## Welcome to this 2024 Regional Conference!

I am so glad that you are here because we are excited about the issues and speakers we are offering at this conference. Our staff has worked tirelessly to prepare everything for you. I hope that you take an opportunity at this conference to meet and make some new LFL friends, share ideas and projects, and reflect on God's love of life! I hope that you will take time to introduce yourself to our talented staff. They are eager to meet you and discuss their area of expertise—so ask them questions!

I believe that you are here because God has touched your heart in this season of scorn and hate toward the value of all human life. Perhaps you are here because:



- You want to learn about the topics featured at this conference. **"Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees"** (Psalm 119:12).
- You want to be in the company of a group of people who are passionate about life. **"Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart"** (Psalm 119:2).
- You want to be able to successfully debate (or at least coherently talk about) life issues. **"The arrogant mock me without restraint, but I do not turn from your law"** (Psalm 119:51).
- You are ready to take the next step and either join or start a Life Team or Life Chapter or become a Life Advocate. **"May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees ... May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts"** (Psalm 119:171, 173).

Now that is a lot of Law, but Luther teaches us in the Small Catechism: "The Law shows us *our sin* and the *wrath of God*; the Gospel shows us *our Savior* and the *grace of God*."

We proclaim that we are Gospel-motivated voices For Life, and our theme for this conference and for Life Sunday 2025 is **Life Shines in Darkness**.

**"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).

No matter the reason you are here, I pray that you will go home to your congregation with new knowledge and be that light that shines Life in the darkness!

May God bless your conference experience.

# 2024 LFL Regional Conference — Winter Garden, Florida

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
16173 Marsh Road, Winter Garden, Florida 34787**

*All event programming will take place in the fellowship hall.*

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Registration   |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Opening Devotions  |
| 9:15 a.m.  | Welcome & Introductions  |
| 9:30 a.m.  | <p>Presentation – Rev. Evan McClanahan – <i>Biblical Manhood</i><br/>This presentation will look at the ways the world describes biblical manhood and is offering a competing, but dangerous, alternative to biblical manhood. Faced with the reality of a cultural revolution, the need for biblical men has never been greater but also never as rewarding.</p>  |
| 10:15 a.m. | Coffee Break and Snacks  |
| 10:45 a.m. | <p>Presentation – Terri Skoog – <i>Gifts in Dementia</i><br/>There are often difficult conversations about the value of life and challenges associated with dementia, but when we understand how to respond to the changing skills our friends and family members are experiencing, we uncover gifts along the way. This presentation will share how a strength-based approach brings hope and grace to the life of those experiencing dementia. It will identify what cognitive skills are lost and which are kept—and why it matters. We will explore how we can support life, purpose, and peace to make the journey more comfortable for everyone. Participants will understand that dementia takes away some cognitive skills, not all, and learn the basics to recognize the pattern, understand that from the pattern of skills kept and lost emerge strengths and abilities otherwise obscured in usual human experiences, and recognize</p> |



that “dementia behavior” reflects human emotional needs, not a disease or medical symptom. Participants will develop an awareness that dementia can be worked with to enhance quality of life for both the person experiencing it and their companions.

11:30 a.m.	LFL Update
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Servant Event
1:30 p.m.	Coffee Break
1:45 p.m.	<p>Presentation – Tim Goeglein – <i>Faith in the Halls of Power: What’s Next in America for the Pro-Life Movement</i></p> <p>Timothy S. Goeglein, who is the author of <i>Stumbling Toward Utopia</i>, a new book on American life, will speak about the current state of affairs in the pro-life, pro-family, and pro-religious liberty policy arena following Tuesday’s historic election, and what those results will mean specifically at the national and federal levels.</p>
2:30 p.m.	Book Signing by Tim Goeglein and Coffee Break
2:45 p.m.	<p>Presentation – Rev. Scott Licht – <i>“Life” in India</i></p> <p>Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own lives and the struggles here that we forget about our brothers and sisters around the world. In this session we will consider challenges faced by life-affirming believers on the other side of the world—in a different political and religious climate, economy, and culture.</p>
3:30 p.m.	Closing Prayer

## Conference Speakers and Workshop Presenters



**Pastor Evan McClanahan** is originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, and was baptized on June 7, 1981, at Saint Luke's Methodist Church. As a son of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Shreveport, he was steeped in Lutheran liturgy and theology. He attended Centenary College of Louisiana and earned a B.A. in Music. He attended the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for three years and had a one-year internship at St. John Lutheran in Royal, Illinois. He met his wife Amanda in Chicago, and they married August 6, 2006. Upon graduating from seminary, he was called to Living Word Lutheran Church in Grapevine, Texas, where he served as associate pastor. In December 2009, he was called to serve as pastor at First Lutheran. He and Amanda have two children. While at First, he has initiated several ministries, including outreach to HCC

students, the First Word debate and lecture series, and hosting a podcast called *Theology on Air*. He has served on the board for Lutherans For Life in the past and currently serves on the board for a local pro-life ministry in Houston, Lifeline. Pastor McClanahan's presentation will look at the ways the world describes biblical manhood and is offering a competing, but dangerous, alternative to biblical manhood. Faced with the reality of a cultural revolution, the need for biblical men has never been greater but also never as rewarding.



**Teri Skoog** is founder and owner of Skoog Dementia Support LLC. She has over 35 years of experience providing education, support, and care to individuals experiencing dementia, caregivers, and communities. Teri received her BA in Social Work and Aging Studies from the University of Iowa. She is a DAWN Dementia Care Coach/Trainer. In addition to her professional credentials, Teri personally experienced the role of caregiver for her mother who lived and died with diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and vascular dementia. Teri's goal is to inspire a new way to think about dementia inclusivity and support through dignity, purpose, and hope.



**Tim Goglein** champions God's welcomed role in the public square. His years of public service and private initiative have been devoted to faith, freedom, and family. Tim is the Vice President for External and Government Relations at Focus on the Family in Washington, D.C. He served in high-level government posts for two decades. He worked as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, where he was the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison from 2001 to 2008. He was the President's principal outreach contact for conservatives, think tanks, veteran's groups, faith-based groups, and some of America's leading cultural organizations. He was a member of the President's

## Conference Speakers and Workshop Presenters

original 2000 campaign and White House staff, serving for nearly eight years. Also, he has served as a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation and a professor of government at Liberty University. His new book is *Toward a More Perfect Union: The Moral and Cultural Case for Teaching the Great American Story*. From 1988 through 1998, Tim was the Deputy Press Secretary, and then Press Secretary and Communications Director, for U.S. Senator Dan Coats of Indiana (who was in the Senate for a decade). Between his time with the Senate and Bush campaign, Tim served as Communications Director for Gary Bauer in his presidential bid. Tim holds Honorary Doctorate degrees from Concordia University, New York City; and from Faith Evangelical College and Seminary, Tacoma, Washington. Tim is the secretary of the Coalitions for America board, a member of the board for the National Civic Art Society, a member of the board of Family Policy Alliance, and a member of the board of governors of the Young America's Foundation, which owns and operates the Ronald Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, California. Tim also serves on the Institute for American Universities Advisory Board. Goeglein served as Board Secretary of the American Conservative Union Foundation. Also, he is a member of the Council for National Policy, the Philadelphia Society, and the Capitol Hill Club. Tim serves on the Sanctity of Life Commission for his church body, the 2.5 million-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; is a board member of The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty; and has served as a deacon in his church in northern Virginia for 30 years. His hobbies include reading, tennis, swimming, biking, and the fine arts. The most important thing to know about Tim is that he is married to the love of his life, Jenny, of 31 years, and they have two sons, Tim and Paul—one in public policy and one in the fine arts and music.



**Rev. Scott Licht** grew up in New Ulm, Minnesota, and was raised in the Wisconsin Synod. He graduated from Martin Luther Preparatory School, Northwestern College (the WELS pastor-training college), and attended Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for a short time. In 2005, he earned an MBA and a Master of Science in Information Systems from Iowa State University. Scott worked in the corporate world for 30 years before combining his business and theological education and experience at Lutherans For Life beginning in 2012. Scott satisfied the requirements and was ordained in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission

to Christ (LCMC) in 2014. In addition to his service at Lutherans For Life, he serves as pastor of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huxley, Iowa—a congregation rostered with the LCMC and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Scott has an adult daughter in the Des Moines area and a daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons near Colfax, Iowa. He and his wife, Sue, live near Huxley, Iowa, with three horses. Sue also has three adult daughters. Scott says, "There is never a lack of things to do, and I give thanks for how richly God has blessed me. I enjoy serving Him through the mission of Lutherans For Life, and I would ask for your prayers as we continue to 'equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.'"

## A Special Thank You to ...

**Our conference exhibitors who have invested time and money to share their For Life work.**

- **Choices Women's Clinic**  
[choiceswomensclinic.com](http://choiceswomensclinic.com)
- **Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries**  
[rlom.org](http://rlom.org)
- **Lutheran Haven**  
[lutheranhaven.org](http://lutheranhaven.org)
- **LCMS Life Ministries**  
[www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry](http://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry)
- **Lutherans For Life**  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)
- **Y4Life**  
[y4life.org](http://y4life.org)

## A Special Thank You to ...

- The Central Florida Life Chapter for their prayers and assistance in coordination and execution of this conference. Your service, volunteerism, and support have made this event possible!
- Zion Lutheran Church for hosting the conference, offering childcare, and helping with all the logistics.
- The LFL Board of Directors for their faithful leadership.
- The LFL National Staff for their dedicated service For Life.
- The LFL Council of Federation Presidents, who keeps LFL active and moving forward in our State Federations and the Frontline.
- Our Life Teams, Life Chapters, and Life Advocates, who work so diligently every day to affirm life in so many God-pleasing ways.
- All the conference presenters for providing enlightening presentations on various life topics, equipping us to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.
- All the conference attendees for helping to continue life-affirming work in their churches and communities.
- All donors, who support LFL with their financial gifts in order to sustain our work throughout the year.



## 2024 LFL National Essay Contest

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

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

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

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

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



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

Do you know what the darkest spiritual place is in your city? Elizabeth Johnston, author and pro-life activist, posed this question to her followers ([elizabethjohnston.org](http://elizabethjohnston.org)). The answer: your local abortion clinic. This world is full of sinful and dark places where the most evil of human acts occur, but Jesus came to offer us hope and light in the midst of



the darkness that our sin so often leads us into. One of these lights, when talking about abortion, is the pregnancy care centers that seek to offer women and their partners hope in a time of uncertainty and also give the unborn a chance at life. God's Word is very clear about shining light in the darkness. In John 1:4-5, it is written that **"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it."** Our family has been a strong supporter of local pregnancy centers, and I feel this is one of the most urgent matters of our time—supporting women as they go through an unplanned pregnancy and helping people to realize that God has a plan for every life, planned or not.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

At first, I didn't like it; I was young and selfish. Adding two new kids to my family was difficult. In 2020, my family fostered two beautiful girls, Athena and Roseanne. I was ten years old when we fostered, and they were only six and seven. There were times I'd complain about how they were overtaking my home. They didn't have the same rules or follow the same expectations; in my head, they were being let off easy. I didn't understand what my parents were actually doing. We already had a big family. What I came to realize was that they were planting a light in the darkness as God called them to

do. John 1:4-5 states, **“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”** My parents truly valued life and wanted to give these girls a chance to see Jesus. This helped me understand that foster care fulfills Jesus’ command to care for the fatherless.

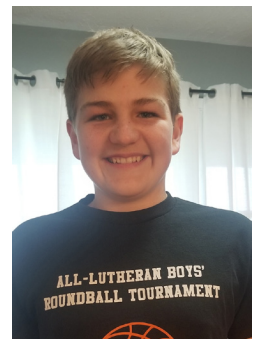
We fostered for three and a half months. As time went on, I realized God’s plan for these girls and why He placed them in my home. As my love for them grew, I realized what a blessing foster care is—not just for me but for these children as well. We provided a safe home and a chance for them to see Christ. This was something they never would’ve experienced if not for my parents opening doors as God commanded: **“You must love the foreigner as yourself”** (Leviticus 19:33-34). By the end, foster care became one of the best things that ever happened to me.

Christ says in Isaiah 1:17, **“Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”** It states how important caring for orphans is to God. Foster care plays a part in fulfilling God’s command and sparking a light for those who haven’t had a chance to see God.

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

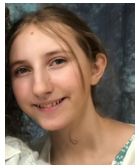
Thank you, Ally, for the honesty and love that shine through in your essay. Sometimes we don’t understand at first why things happen in our life, but as God promises, He showers us with blessing after blessing as we walk in His ways. What a wonderful gift to you that “[your] love for them grew,” and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

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



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

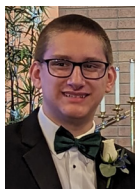
## 2024 State Essay Contest Winners Grades 9-12



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



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



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



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

Photo  
not  
available

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



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

## 2024 State Essay Contest Winners Grades 6-8



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



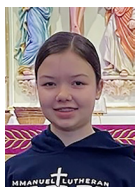
**Maria Heimsoth**  
First Place Kansas  
Hope Lutheran School  
Shawnee, Kansas



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



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



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



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



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



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



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





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

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

**in Washington, D.C.**  
**January 23-25, 2025**

**Y4Life**

## Conference and March

***Open to all high school and college students!***

### ***Life Shines...***

#### **Thursday ...in Dialogue**

@ 6 PM ET

**23**

**January**

- Registration and Exhibits
- Opening Devotions
- Introductions and Icebreakers
- Y4Life Conference Session 1: Josh Brahm
- Music, Sign-making, Exhibits, and Social Time

#### ***...in Civic Action***

@ 9 AM ET

**Friday**

**24**

**January**

- Y4Life Conference Session 2: Katy Faust
- Pre-March Devotion
- March for Life: Rally, March, and Testimonials
- Dinner on own
- Exhibits, Social Time
- Devotion and Post-March Discussion
- Y4Life Conference Session 3: Panel Discussion

#### **Saturday ...in Vocation**

@ 9 AM ET

**25**

**January**

- Y4Life Conference Session 4: Rev. Chad Hoover
- Y4Life Conference Session 5: Rev. Jeff Leininger
- Closing Devotion

**Ends @ Noon ET**

#### **Location:**

Hilton Arlington National Landing (near  
Reagan National Airport)  
2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202

#### **Cost:**

Conference is **FREE** for registered youth. Rooms cost  
\$129 per night with group rate, up to 4 people per room.  
Breakfast included. Limited availability.

**Registration:** Register with QR code or at [Y4Life.org](https://Y4Life.org)

***Conference registration closes  
Dec. 15, 2024***

For more information, visit: ***Y4life.org***

Or email Director of Y4Life, Michelle Bauman, at:  
***michelle@y4life.org***





in Washington, D.C.

January 23-24, 2025

YA For Life

## Conference and March

**Open to all young adults!**

### ***Life Shines...***

#### **Thursday ...in Dialogue**

@ 6 PM ET

**23**

**January**

- Registration and Exhibits
- Opening Devotions
- Introductions and Icebreakers
- YA For Life Conference Session 1: Josh Brahm
- Music, Sign-making, Exhibits, and Social Time

#### ***...in Civic Action***

@ 9 AM ET

**Friday**

**24**

**January**

- YA For Life Conference Session 2: Katy Faust
- Pre-March Devotion
- March for Life: Rally, March, and Testimonials
- Dinner on own
- Exhibits, Social Time
- Devotion and Post-March Discussion
- YA For Life Conference Session 3: Kim Laube

#### **Saturday ...in Vocation**

@ 9 AM ET

**25**

**January**

- YA For Life Conference Session 4: Rev. Chad Hoover
- YA For Life Conference Session 5: Rev. Jeff Leininger
- Closing Devotion

**Ends @ Noon ET**

#### **Location:**

Hilton Arlington National Landing (near Reagan National Airport)  
2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202

#### **Cost:**

Conference is FREE for registered youth. Rooms cost \$129 per night with group rate, up to 4 people per room. Breakfast included. Limited availability.

**Registration:** Register with QR code or at [YAForLife.org](https://YAForLife.org)

***Conference registration closes***

***Dec. 15, 2024***

For more information, visit: ***YAForLife.org***

Or email Director of Y4Life, Michelle Bauman, at:  
***michelle@y4life.org***



# Life Shines in the Darkness



**LIFE WEEK 2025**  
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



## **Sunday, January 19, 2025**

Life Shines at Church with *Virginia Flo*

Focus: An overview of the created-redeemed-called 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](mailto:lifeweek2025@lutheransforlife.org)

# YA<sup>For</sup>LIFE

**YA For Life** seeks to equip young adults in their 20s and 30s to be Gospel-motivated voices for LIFE! Through service, celebration, worship, and education, young adults are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become advocates for LIFE in their families, churches, communities, and world. In this way, their life-affirming work ripples into the future - not only changing lives today but also for eternity.



Visit our website  
**WWW.YAFORLIFE.ORG**



Find us on Facebook  
**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**



Find us on Instagram  
**@LFLYAFORLIFE**



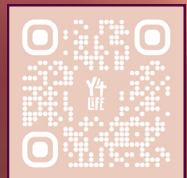
# Y4LIFE SUMMIT

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025



LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR THE Y4LIFE SUMMIT BY  
FOLLOWING THE QR CODE OR BY GOING TO [Y4LIFE.ORG/EVENTS](https://Y4LIFE.ORG/EVENTS)



## Teaching 4 Life Award

Nominate a teacher you know who upholds  
the sanctity of life in his or her classroom  
and he or she could win \$1,000!

Submit your nominations at:  
[Y4Life.org/programs/teaching-4-life-award](https://Y4Life.org/programs/teaching-4-life-award)

Y4LIFE



# Lil' Lutherans 4 Life



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life publications are designed to help parents and teachers of littles, especially children in preschool through second grade, uphold little lives. Publications establish a Biblical foundation for each child's identity, equip adults to recognize life issues children face and respond to them from a Gospel-motivated perspective, and help children process and respond to life issues in life-affirming ways.

Learn more at: [lutheransforlife.myshopify.com/collections/lil-lutherans](https://lutheransforlife.myshopify.com/collections/lil-lutherans)



Prayer is an important part of our lives as life-affirming Christians. Teach your Lil' Lutheran prayers he or she can use to start and end each day.

Designed to help parents and children incorporate prayer into the day, "Prayers 4 Kids" sets the foundation for other Lil' Lutherans 4 Life sets.

Learning how to regulate feelings is a challenging and significant life issue for Lil' Lutherans. The "I Can Come to Jesus" series is designed to help your child learn that in all things, he or she can go to Jesus for help, grace, and security. The fold-out activity pages also include ways for you and your child to work on how to manage his or her emotions.






Because of sin, our world is broken, and young children face a plethora of life issues. The "Words in Church" series is designed to help you begin discussions about life issues with your child and offers solutions that point to the hope and healing God gives His people. Each fold-out activity page begins with a definition, connects God's gift to life and life issues, and provides a hymn stanza to memorize.


# LIFE TEAM TRAINING

## JUST GOT EASIER

- Life Team Training is now online!
- Easy to access and easy to use!
- Life Team Leader Training is only \$25!
- Life Team Member Training is FREE!

<b>Tool 1 – Why and How to Start a Life Team</b>  This course will give you an overview of the Life Team training process.  free <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>	<b>Tool 2 – Life Team Leader Training</b>  This course will equip you to guide your Life Team in being Gospel-motivated voices For Life.  \$25 <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>	<b>Tool 3 – Life Team Member Training</b>  This course will equip you to participate with your Life Team in being Gospel-motivated voices For Life.  free <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>
 <b>LIFE TEAM</b> Introduction and Roadmap	 <b>LIFE TEAM</b> Leader Training	 <b>LIFE TEAM</b> Member Training

**Tool 4 – Resources**  
  
Tool 4 contains resources that supplement Tool 2 & Tool 3.  
  
free

 **LIFE TEAM**  
Resources

**Register at:**

[volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org](https://volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org)

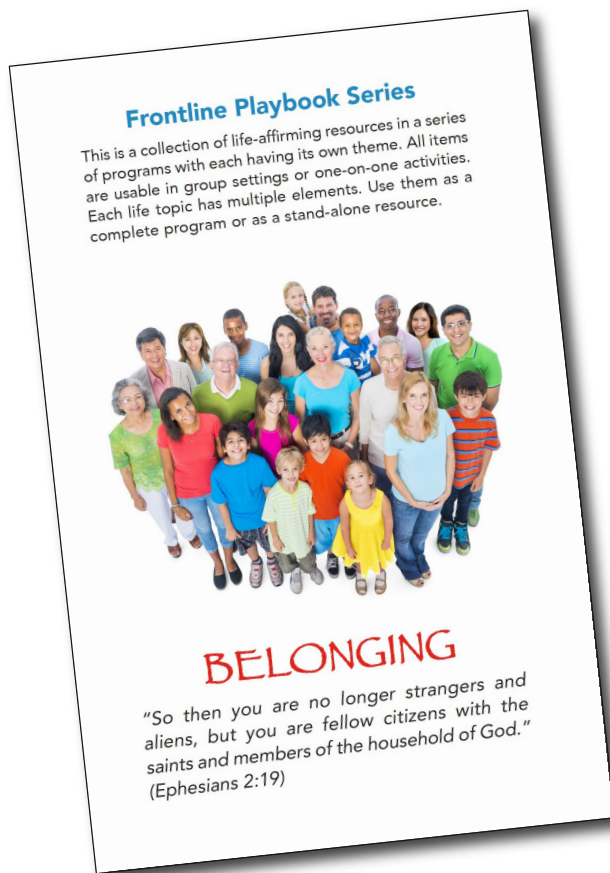
**Questions? Contact Volunteer Relations:**

[lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/](https://lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/)



**LUTHERANS**  
FOR LIFE





# CONDUCT YOUR OWN LIFE EVENT

The Frontline Playbook gives you guidance, ideas, and resources!

Recorded Speeches  
Topical Devotions  
Life Topic Facts  
Supportive Activities

Follow the link and click on  
**FRONTLINE PLAYBOOK  
RESOURCES – Belonging**  
[lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/](http://lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/)

It's FREE and  
available NOW!

## 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"*

## Become a Member of Lutherans For Life ...

Membership in Lutherans For Life will help deepen your commitment to serving the Lord of Life. Membership makes you an active partner in the mission of LFL on a regular basis. Ongoing, regular support is both a way of declaring commitment and developing commitment. Your partnership will help expand our mission of “witnessing to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God.”

### Members of Lutherans For Life Receive:

- LFL’s quarterly journal, *LifeDate*, at no cost to you—keeping you informed on all the life issues.
- An initial membership packet that will help you grow in your understanding of the mission, message, and manner of LFL.
- An official membership card.
- Semiannual mailings updating you on new materials.
- An annual report to help you see how your gifts are being used.
- Sponsor members, who give monthly gifts, receive a letter from the executive director each month giving some devotional thoughts, comments on pertinent issues, and updates on what is happening at the national office.

### These items will help you stay connected. Through this ongoing connection you will:

- Be reminded of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ relates to these issues.
- Grow in your faith as you see how God’s Word changes lives.
- Keep informed about what’s going on at the national office.
- Keep up to date on the latest life issues.
- Become better equipped to do more to make a difference in your congregation and community.
- Receive encouragement as you realize you are partnering with your fellow members all across the country.
- Learn about becoming involved at the local and/or state level of LFL.

**[lutheransforlife.org/about](https://lutheransforlife.org/about)**



## **National Lutherans For Life Staff**

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director  
Rev. Scott Licht – CFO/COO  
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications  
Michelle Bauman – Director of Y4Life  
Cori Meier – Y4Life Assistant  
Diana Ladislas – Y4Life Media Resource Assistant  
Virginia Flo – Director of Volunteer Relations  
Michele Hartshorn – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations  
Dr. Barb Geistfeld – Volunteer Relations Associate  
Dave Probst – Director of Development  
Kevin Nessa – Development Assistant  
Jerilyn Richard – Donor Relations Director  
Kim Nessa – Business Director/Accountant  
Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant  
Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – Director of Word of Hope  
Deaconess Janet Nicol – Phone Counselor  
Lorelei Humphrey – Word of Hope Assistant  
Erika Peterson – Events Coordinator  
Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist  
Julie Kyrola – Data Assistant

## **National LFL Board of Directors**

Diane Albers, President – St. Louis, Missouri  
Rev. Byrene K. Haney, Vice President – Fort Dodge, Iowa  
Dr. Roni Grad, Secretary – Tucson, Arizona  
Ronald L. Soule, Treasurer – Mason, Michigan  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro – Herndon, Virginia  
Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama  
Deaconess Pamela Nielsen – Ballwin, Missouri  
Rev. Dennis Norby, State Representative – Valley City, North Dakota  
Katherine Pietrantonio – Thiensville, Wisconsin

Alice Steljes – Pawnee, Illinois  
John Talley – Newark, Illinois  
Diana Vaughn – Ponca City, Oklahoma

## **State Federation Presidents**

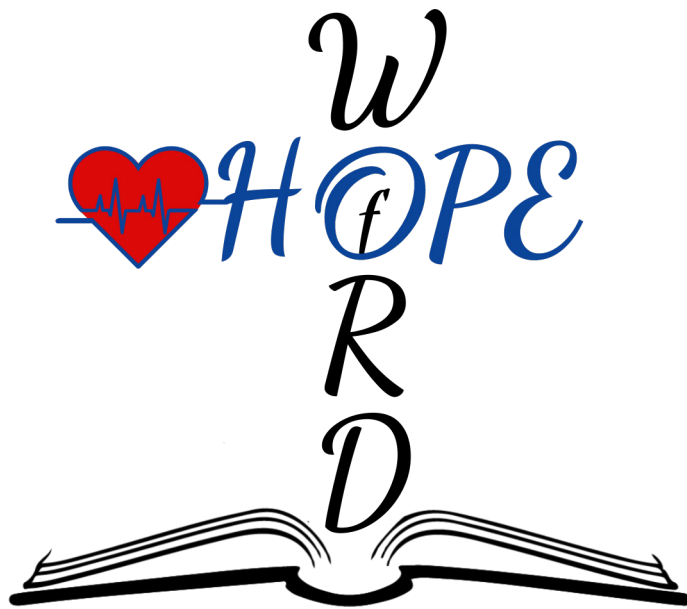
Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais  
Daniel Lindemeier, Iowa – Ames  
Rev. Michael Brockman, Kansas – Oakley  
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler  
Mike Albers, Missouri – St. Louis  
Berniece Stulc, Montana – Belgrade  
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco  
Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City  
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington

**Lutherans For Life**  
**1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Nevada, IA 50201-1816**

[info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)  
888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

**LFL Business Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.**  
**Hours subject to staff availability.**





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

Call 888.217.8679 or go to  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org).

**Word of Hope** is confidential and  
caring.

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

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



Become a **Y4Life** Messenger • [y4life.org](http://y4life.org)



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



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



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**

## NOTES

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*Join Us in 2025!*

**Lutherans For Life National Conference**  
**September 24-26, 2025**

**Great Wolf Lodge**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado**



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**