

LIFEDATE

Winter 2024
from
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



Life Shines in Darkness

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LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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

LifeDate is a free, quarterly publication of Lutherans For Life (LFL). Please notify us of address changes. Letters to the editor, articles, and photos may be sent directly to the editor, Lowell Highby: lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.

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Life Shines in Darkness

by Pastor Michael Salemink



"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 1993 blockbuster film *Jurassic Park* didn't just spawn dinosaurs. It also gave us two of the most poignant sanctity of life affirmations in popular culture. Dr. Ian Malcolm, a chaos theorist played by Jeff Goldblum, laments that "Scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." And the same character appreciates how "Life, uh, finds a way."

Nobody can deny that life issues involve difficulties. Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis bring significant suffering. Bearing a child is hard. Injury, illness, and impairment hurt. They impose and deprive. Feeling afraid, ashamed, impoverished, abused, or abandoned sometimes complicates the circumstances. Even Jesus recognizes the reality: **"When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come"** (John 16:21). **"In the world,"** He goes on to acknowledge, **"you will have trouble"** (John 16:33). The Darkness is real, and it is deep.

It's just that it does not negate the light. The burdens do not cancel the blessings. The sorrows don't even equal the celebrations. God always makes life, and He always makes life worth it. The Good Giver of Life also accompanies each one as the Almighty Lord of **"my power is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). The crucifixion forgiveness of Jesus Christ proves that He constantly populates the adversities themselves with delights.

However compromised—and we all are—every neighbor embodies a gift. However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. **"When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world"** (John 16:21). **"Take heart; I have overcome the world"** (John 16:33)!



His Story | Our Story

by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life



Every time my grandson, Davey, has spent the day or the weekend with us in the last four years, he has asked me to read the book *Dog* by Matthew Van Fleet. It's a book of photographs of dogs, and Davey has stories about some of the dogs and whom they would belong to in his family. I'm enjoying the book with him because soon I know he will choose another favorite!

My favorite book is *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. It is a historical fiction book about a blind young woman during WWII. It has everything I want in a book: historical fiction, love, drama, sadness, tense situations, well-developed characters, and wonderful writing. (*I think I should go read it again!*)

There is another book that has a lot of animals in it. It is a true historical book with love, drama, sadness, tense situations, well-developed characters, and wonderful writing. Davey already has two of them, and I have several. I love this book! Can you tell me what book I am talking about? It is God's book: *The Holy Bible*. In it, God tells us how much He loves us and that He expects that we will follow His commands. The best part in giving us His story is that we learn that our story has always been part of His story!

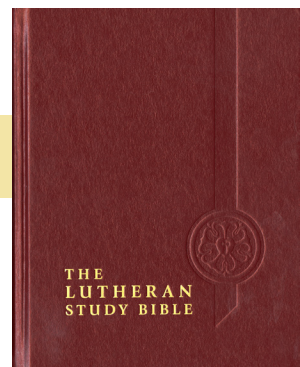
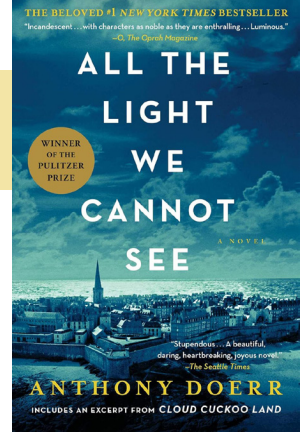
"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness of sin, and this darkness has not covered up or put out the light of Jesus. Later in John 12:35, Jesus tells the crowd that if you walk in the dark, then you do not know where you are going! As part of our story, we should become children of light!

As Gospel-motivated voices For Life, we uphold the God-given value of human life and influence those around us to do the same. We are compelled by God's Word in His book to speak and act on behalf of the vulnerable and the defenseless, despite the world's rejection of the value of human life.

"I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6b).

We see our story in His story because God gives us a part to play. His Word shows us the darkness of our sin but also shows us our salvation. Our world today seems full of the darkness of sin, but God gives us the task of being the light so that His salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. Thank you for being a light shining in the darkness!



Carrying Our Message Forward

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Every year, our annual **LFL State Federations Essay Contest** renews my joy and hope. Hundreds of junior high and high school students across the country participate. They declare profound truth and love in giving voice to the sanctity of every human life. Their testimonies affirm that you're raising and instructing them well. But you should hear it for yourself:

"In 2020, my family fostered two beautiful girls, Athena and Roseanne ... We fostered for 3.5 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." *Ally, Illinois*

"Last December, I coordinated a Christmas piano program for a local nursing home. As the facility doors swung open, I was slammed with the pungent smell of antiseptics, incessant beep of medical equipment, and overall presence of suffering in the room. A veil of pain, fatigue, and confusion seemed to shroud the residents. When the first notes of 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' rang on the piano, that veil was lifted immediately. The residents' faces brightened. Most of them started singing along. Through the gift of music, the assembly was bathed in Christ's light of salvation. After the last hymn ended, they begged us to come again soon. The adults in that room may have lost the ability to walk and talk as they once could, but they will never lose the ability to enjoy God's radiant blessings." *Emma, Texas*

"When I walked into a dilapidated Dairy Queen to meet another possible child to foster, I met Wylynn. The whole time we talked to Wylynn, you could see the light of life inside her. Wylynn was one of our many missing pieces. I am so thankful her mother chose life instead of abortion because without her, I would not be who I am today. We were so glad that God gave us a chance to live out our faith by adopting Wylynn and supporting life. There is a light inside every single foster child out there, a light of hope!" *Gracelynn, South Dakota*

"One of my sisters has dyslexia and dysgraphia. Often, she says she is dumb because of what she has. She thinks that because of her dyslexia and dysgraphia, she will never be considered intelligent. Once she gets past that, however, she is as happy as ever; we just need to help comfort her. She is incredibly smart; things are just much more difficult for her than people realize. Everyone's life shines in darkness." *Maria, Kansas*

"God created every one of us to shine brightly in the world He made for us. Each person is a candle, sustaining His light to share with others. When a baby is aborted, his or her candle is extinguished. Clearly, that is not what God wants for us. None of us is unimportant to God; He cares about all of us, no matter our size, age, parents, gender, or disabilities. Every candle has a special purpose God designed." *Christina, Missouri*

Find out more at lutheransforlife.org/2025-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest.

Basking in the Light

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



May you, by the grace of God, continue to bask in His light.

Yesterday, I met a man who lives in darkness but loves the light. We met on the second legs of our respective flights: his flight from Ireland to Indianapolis and mine from San Juan. The truth is, we never should have connected. I was scheduled to fly through Tampa, not New York; he was scheduled for a connection four hours earlier but missed it by minutes.

Yet, we found ourselves awkwardly sitting next to each other on an airplane, trying to be comfortable in a row of two seats directly behind the one-seat rows in first class. I'm sure you've seen the row—the one that juts out precariously into the aisle indicating not only that the first-class seats have ended but also that the seats for the poor beggars in back have begun. I was the one jutting, which meant I was the most awkward.

He kindly offered me use of the seat pocket in front of him—a place to store my water bottle and purse—since I had no seat in front of me. And that kindness created the foundation for a conversation that would last more than two and a half hours.

He was born in Germany. Yet, after living in various countries for work, he now lived in Ireland. And since I have visited both his hometown in Germany and his new city of residence in Ireland in my many travels, we had lots to talk about: how beautiful the greens of Ireland are and how much it rains; the quaintness of the classic German homes in Oberursel, and the tearing down of the Berlin wall.

As it turns out, we had much in common. Both of us love local farmer's markets. Both of us love to travel. And both of us love long summer days and soaking up late evening sunsets. We both love the light.

Yet, despite our commonalities, it soon became apparent that our lives were separated by chasms that seemed insurmountable. Chasms ultimately caused by Christ.

We weren't far into our conversation when the topic of work arose, and with that, the topic of Lutheranism. Having grown up in Germany, he certainly knew who Martin Luther was, but he wasn't sure what Lutherans believed. "What's the difference between Lutherans and other Protestants?" he asked. "And do Lutherans agree with Calvin?" I answered his questions.

But those answers brought up more questions, questions he didn't like the answers to. Questions about creation and evolution. "So, I suppose you don't believe in evolution then?" Questions about the nature and gender of God. "Why does God have to be male?" Questions about the veracity of God's Word. "How can you believe a bunch of words written by old men?!" And questions about my view as a woman. "How can you be part of a religion that belittles women and children?"

Each time I gave an answer. And each time, he would become frustrated with my answer. Despite the obvious pricks to his conscience, he consistently responded with a hardened heart: "I don't believe it. That's good for you, but it isn't true for me."

My new acquaintance admitted he had left the church long ago. He confessed

a belief in no deity, nor did he believe in life after death. He and his husband held no allegiance to others; he never had a desire for children. He believed in science and fairness and self-fulfillment.

And my heart ached for him.

Without even knowing it, he was facing multiple life issues, including the greatest life issue of all—he was living life in darkness absent from the Son. And it was clear he intended to remain that way.

As we neared Indianapolis, we both marveled at the beauty of the city from above. Its lights, seen from afar, formed a giant beacon in the darkness, a light drawing me home and drawing him to the completion of his journey, at least for now.

And it was in that complete darkness that I was reminded once again of the power of a single light. One light can guide. One light can set a path straight. One light can bring life. One light can, and has, saved all people.

“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).

Christ is the light that shines in the darkness. Christ is the One who brings life. And no matter how dark the sin and brokenness, Christ has overcome it.

It is easy to become discouraged in a world full of darkness. It’s tempting to believe that the message of Christ, the Gospel itself, cannot possibly stand up against attack, especially when those attacks on the light feel personal. Because they are personal. Why? Because being made one with Christ in your Baptism, you are a carrier of the light.

Despite your brokenness, you are designed to be a light in the darkness. You have the one thing needful—Christ—to share with the world. And, yes, you will be shunned, and challenged, and even attacked for it. Yet, God not only equips you to share the message of life and light with others, but He also promises to be with you:

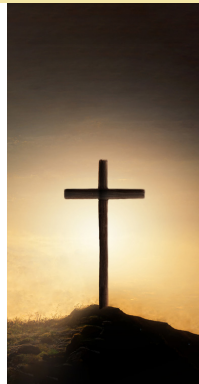
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

And He promises to strengthen you to do this work:

“[F]ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

The man I sat next to could just as easily have been your next door neighbor, your classmate, or your co-worker. He could be the person you meet on the field, at the bus stop, or in the check-out line tomorrow. No matter who he is, he needs the light you carry. He needs Christ.

As we deboarded the plane, my seatmate reached out to shake my hand. “It was nice to meet you,” he said. I wrapped both my hands around his and looked him in the eyes, “It was nice to meet you too. God’s blessings on your work this week,” I said. He simply smiled.



I know the seed of God's Word was sown in the time we spent together, but I have no idea if and when it will grow. Maybe, by the work of the Holy Spirit, my new friend will one day be drawn toward home, too. Maybe, he will someday bask in the light of the Son. I am certainly praying for that to be the case.

But I am also praying for you, too, brothers and sisters in Christ. May you, by the grace of God, continue to bask in His light. No matter the darkness that surrounds you, may He shine through you For Life.

YA For Life's First Connection Event—In Puerto Rico!

On October 25-27, four members of the **Y4Life** and Lutherans For Life staff gathered with 21 members of Puerto Rico's new **Y4Life** team and LCMS missionaries to host a YA For Life event on life issues. Guests from the community and stateside were not only invited to attend, but also to engage in four areas: service, education, worship, and celebration.

And engage they did! The group began with a tour of Old San Juan, where participants wandered through residential districts and past local shops as they headed uphill toward El Morro, one of the largest fortifications in the Caribbeans. Built in the sixteenth century, the castle was designed to protect the city from sea invaders but now serves not only as a museum but also a gathering point for learning about early Puerto Rican culture.

At the base of the castle and outside the city walls is the Santa Maria Magdalena de Pazzis Cemetery. Though it was established much later than the castle, this cemetery holds the remains of many prominent Puerto Ricans.

Not far from the castle, participants walked toward the infamous Casa Blanca, the home of Puerto Rico's first governor, Juan Ponce de León. Though the home was closed, the gardens were open and filled with cool nooks and lush corners for reading, relaxing, and enjoying the outdoors.

Part of the tour included indoor attractions as well, like the Cathedral of San Juan, the second oldest church in the Americas. Participants were shown the famous Fortaleza Street (the one typically filled with rows of umbrellas) that leads to the governor's mansion and the Capilla del Cristo—a small chapel built into the city wall where, legend has it, a man survived after falling off a cliff while horse racing.

Old San Juan was warm and welcoming, a city of color and legend, and it provided a great place to start building new friendships.

After touring, the group headed to a resort on the edge of the Puerto Rican rain forest, Centro de Retiros Paraiso en la Montaña: Cam Paraiso La Montaña, Río Grande. The center provided a beautiful backdrop for learning and friendship forming.

Not only did participants stay and eat together, but they also learned together. The event was designed around topics the **Y4Life** Team in Puerto Rico was interested in, topics that included abortion, marriage and family, IVF, gender roles, and how to be a Gospel-motivated voice for life. Questions were asked, brochures were taken, and many conversations were had between sessions about how to share this life-affirming message with others.

And the conference wasn't just designed for adults! In an effort to welcome and encourage families, the Y4Life staff provided life-affirming lessons for children as well, lessons we hope to prepare for future publication!

In addition to learning, attendees engaged in service—making over 200 homeless kits to hand out around the island—and in worship. Each day began with a devotional service and ended with worship and prayer. Despite the heat and rain, the group even fit in an event around a bonfire one evening that gave opportunities for singing, fellowship, and prayer.

On Saturday evening, a portion of the group chose to head back into Old San Juan to see the city at night, tour even more sites, and grab some famous gelato. We closed the conference the next morning at a mission congregation in Bayamón where we celebrated Reformation, participated in Bible study, and shared a final meal together to celebrate life.

YA For Life in Puerto Rico will not only serve as a model for future **YA For Life** Connection Events, but it will also provide a foundation for building Connection Kits that Life Teams, churches, and for-life individuals will be able to use in the months and years to come. Stay tuned for more news soon!



Find more Puerto Rico photos at lutheransforlife.org. You can also find about more about Y4Life and YA For Life at y4life.org and yaforlife.org.

Be Thoroughly Equipped ...

by James MacGregor, COL, USA (RET)

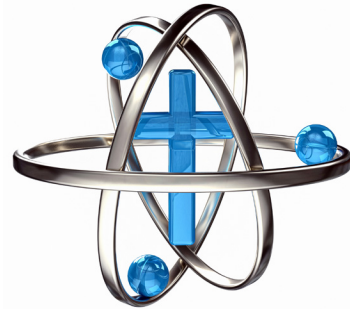


“Be thoroughly equipped for every good work ...” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Ask someone about ethics in medicine, particularly failures of ethics, and they most often talk about the studies, experiments, and practices of physicians in Nazi Germany. Learned men studied eugenics to improve the master race, employed euthanasia to free society of the infirm, and experimented on the living to test the effects of extreme environmental conditions, communicable disease, and transplants. Descriptions of this work will send a chill down your spine.

Let us not be deceived, however, as not all monsters hide under beds or reside in faraway places.

- Less than a quarter century after the Holocaust, “well-intentioned” medical professionals, including some who had fled Nazi Germany, led an experiment in the United States that separated twins and triplets at birth.¹
- Multiple US studies purport to show that women having an abortion “were no more likely to report negative emotions, mental health symptoms, or suicidal thoughts than women who were denied an abortion.”²
- And their spiritual health? Not studied, not important.
- In 2023, Congress investigated a National Institute of Health (NIH) study involving transgender youth—children as young as eight—and hormone therapy after two participants took their own lives; as many as eleven others had suicidal ideations.³
- Later in 2023, the American Neurological Association “issued new guidelines stating more explicitly than ever that clinicians may declare patients brain dead despite evidence of neuroendocrine function.” By one estimate, nearly half of all persons declared brain dead may not, in fact, be lacking all brain function.⁴



Why do these things happen? Even the pagan Hippocratic Oath held dear the sanctity of life—including prohibitions on euthanasia and abortion—while the first post-Nazi era medical oath included the statement, “I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception” No doubt, most of us have heard that doctors should “first, do no harm.”

The answer to “why” then is, of course, sin, but in this case, it is also the false sense of security given by man-authored codes and oaths.

We know there is only one source of truth, morality, and ethics. We can do no wrong in debates about cloning, fetal stem cell use, end-of-life decisions, and so much more, if we, and our healthcare providers, would turn to, and trust, Scripture. In a letter to Timothy, Paul tells us:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Praise be to God “giving us everything we need to live a life devoted to Him.”⁵ The *Journal of Medical Ethics*, while not agreeing with all Christian viewpoints, recognizes that “Christians have been the most consistent advocates [on the intrinsic value of life], defenders of the vulnerable, and good medical ethics continues to benefit from that voice.”⁶ There is a place in these discussions for the Christian perspective. Is your voice being heard?

1. Three Identical Strangers, directed by Tim Wardle (2018, New York City, New York: None Rated), Amazon Prime, August 2024
2. “The Facts About Abortion and Mental Health,” American Psychology Association, updated 21 April 2023, accessed 08 September 2024
3. Letter, 09 May 2023, from multiple members of Congress to Lawrence Tabak, Director, National Institute of Health
4. Integrity in the Determination of Brain Death: Recent Challenges and Next Steps, National Catholic Bioethics Center, 11 April 2024
5. Minor rewording of 2 Peter 1:3-5, specifically verse 3.
6. “Doing Good Medical Ethics: A Christian Perspective,” John Saunders, <https://jme.bmj.com/content/41/1/117>, accessed 09 September 2024

James MacGregor is a Director at Large for LFL of Kansas.

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Ten Truths about the Sanctity of Life

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Meeting deceitfulness with certainty instead of hostility.

Death thrives on lies. It feeds on them, rises or falls on falsehoods, and needs them to survive. Ever since the devil's first, "Did God really say?" sin has loved misinformation. Our Lord Himself exposes what friendly bedfellows death and deception make: "[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning ... for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). The wicked world and our own sinful flesh love dishonesty almost as much, especially when they work as weapons against the commands and promises of God.

Like rust, though, lies don't exist independently. They only come about as corruptions or parasites of realities. Every forgery derives its force from correspondence to the genuine article. It can corrode away at but never completely cancel out its original. The Heavenly Father turns even lies into invitations for speaking facts. So here are ten of the most common and popular opportunities to meet deceitfulness with certainty instead of hostility:

"The Bible doesn't say anything about abortion." Most English translations may not include the technical term. But whole Scriptures concern how God creates, redeems, and calls every human being to be His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever. And Exodus 21:22-23 prescribes capital punishment for even inadvertent taking of unborn life.

"Abortion is a woman's choice (and physician-assisted suicide is a matter of personal autonomy)." Pregnancy involves at least two human bodies and responsibilities (father's and child's) in addition to the mother's. Physician-assisted suicide also requires at least the physician (not to mention the multiple other loved ones and neighbors affected). Every one of these lives belongs to the Almighty Maker—and He knows best how to care for them.

"Without abortions, women will die from pregnancies." Resolving pregnancy complications may require removing the baby, but it never demands intentionally killing the little one (even if we cannot intervene to avoid this dying). Premature delivery does not constitute abortion. Miscarriage (or even evacuation of miscarried remains) isn't the same thing either. And women do perish every year from "legal and professional" induced abortion procedures.

"Chemical abortion is perfectly safe (but Abortion Pill Reversal isn't)." Even the FDA acknowledges that abortion pills inflict injuries and casualties necessitating emergency intervention in at least six percent of cases ([y4life.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Health-Risks-of-Abortion-Fall-2023-Updates.pdf](https://www.y4life.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Health-Risks-of-Abortion-Fall-2023-Updates.pdf)). Hemorrhaging, septic infections, follow-up surgery, infertility, and cancers can result (along with psychological trauma). An antidote exists (abortionpillreversal.com) that has worked 64-68% of the time to save over 4,500 lives and has harmed zero mothers (www.heartbeatinternational.org/apr-101).

“Untreatable agony makes physician-assisted suicide necessary.” Palliative care (pain management) provides at least a measure of relief in the vast majority of circumstances. So most individuals seeking physician-assisted suicide do not even identify physical discomfort as a primary motivation. Suicidal ideation represents an appeal for community, not for execution. And the Incarnation of Our Lord guarantees a redemptive purpose to even our worst sufferings.

“Sexual assault and adverse diagnoses require abortion access.” Further violence does not reverse or relieve from rape trauma. Victims who abort report compounded grief, while those who carry report finding meaning and healing in it. Discriminating who gets to live based on origin or ability endangers the whole of humankind. And most individuals with disabilities love their lives, as do their families, despite the distinct challenges.

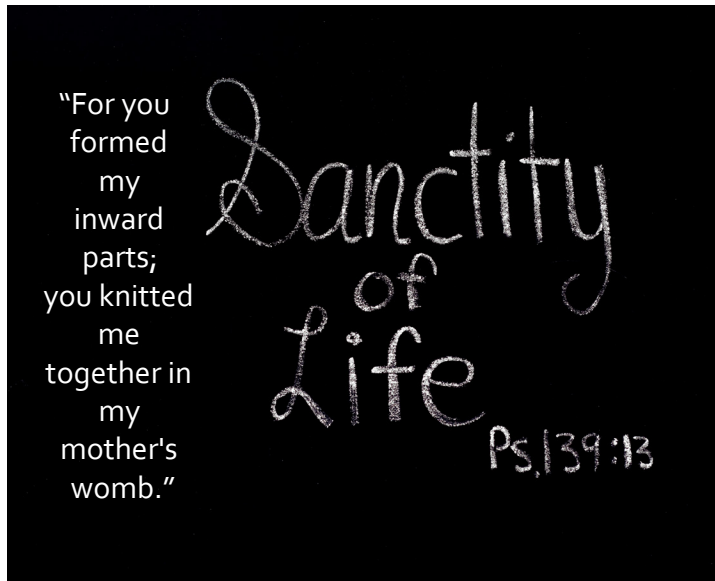
“Abortion eases social crises like abuse, inequality, poverty.” Murdering before birth exacerbates these problems by inflicting them (abusing, disadvantaging, depriving) on those who can do the least with or about them. Putting to death anyone who suffers seems like a lousy strategy for healthy society. On the other hand, the more heads and hands we raise up to address difficulties, the better our chances of success.

“Abortion opponents don’t care about babies after birth (and they’re generally unkind).” The proliferation of pregnancy resource centers demonstrates the profound compassion and commitment of these sensitive and generous communities. For Life

Christians participate more in adoption and fostering than any other demographic.

“Pregnancy resource centers mislead vulnerable women.” It is true that PRCs do not facilitate abortions. It’s also true that they prefer birth and do so with explicit Christian convictions. However, they support persons regardless of decisions, materially and emotionally, with patience but without pressure, providing resources and relationships. And almost all of the funding comes from private charity rather than diverting public monies.

“Christians think abortion amounts to an unforgivable sin.” God loves everyone who permits, promotes, or participates in abortion just as much as all the lives lost to it. Jesus came and died to make up for this sin and make us free from its guilt. Anyone who desires His forgiveness already has it along with His everlasting favor. Only believing such forgiveness unnecessary excludes from it.



Life Sunday Resources for 2025

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

Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light. (2 Timothy 1:10)



In him was life,
and the life was the light
of all humankind.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has
not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)



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SAVE THE DATES! LIFE WEEK 2025 • JANUARY 19-25

You are personally invited to join with us in celebrating under the theme **Life Shines in Darkness**. Now is the time to learn more and get your congregation energized and anticipating the opportunities that **Life Week 2025** provides. Build excitement For Life in your home, church, school, and community! Questions? Contact Michelle Bauman at fllifeweek@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2025



JOIN US ONLINE!

Consider hosting a virtual **Chats 4 Life** session! During these sessions, youth learn about a contemporary life issue they're interested in and are encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussion with Y4Life Director Michelle Bauman. Want to host a **Chats 4 Life** session at your school or church? Email Michelle at michelle@y4life.org to request a Zoom session! Please give 2-3 months notice when requesting a **Chats 4 Life** session to avoid calendar conflicts.

For Life Conversations – Recorded 5-15 minute interviews on life topics shared on our Facebook page and website.

Find us on YouTube!



Coming in January!

Spotlight on

Spotlight on Life brings awareness of life issues through brief locally hosted events. From abortion to euthanasia, human trafficking or disabilities, sexuality and gender, or marriage and family, we work with you to find the right expert speaker and set up for your life event needs.

LIFE

LFL



Help your life event shine!

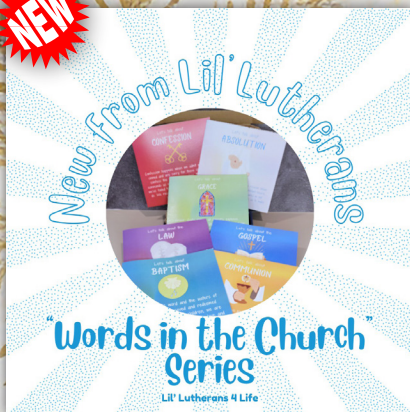
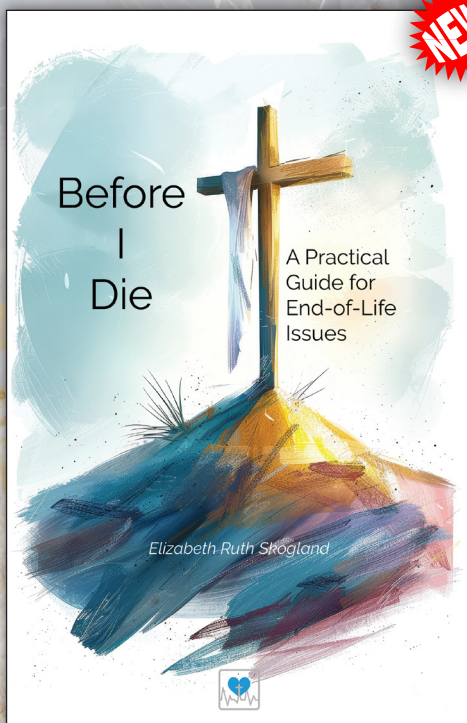
Willing to host a brief event in your church to promote life?

Contact us for more information info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org.

Before I Die – A Practical Guide to End-of-Life Issues offers a wealth of helpful information and guidance. Sections include:

- Principles for the Christian at Life's End
- Quality of Life
- Defining the Moment of Death
- Guidelines for Making Decisions
- Stopping Treatment
- Tips for Dealing with Your Own Mortality
- First Aid for Caregivers and the Bereaved
- Words of Encouragement

Item LFL80gB. **\$3.00 ea.**



Find more
Y4Life
resources
and swag at
y4life.org!

Lil' Lutherans 4 Life "Words in the Church" Series

– These child-friendly brochures discuss absolution, Baptism, Holy Communion, and more. Find order links at lutheransforlife.org/resources/store. **\$1.50 ea.**

Lil' Lutherans 4 Life "I Can Come to Jesus" Series

– These child-friendly brochures discuss anger, joy, sadness, worry and more. Find order links at lutheransforlife.org/resources/store. **\$1.50 ea.**

**Become a
Gospel-motivated
Voice For Life**



**Biblical
Manhood**

What difference does it make?
by Pastor Evan McClanahan



Membership Brochure | Become a Gospel-Motivated Voice For Life – An informational insert, membership form, and return envelope. *Item LFL1600. FREE!*

Biblical Manhood – What Difference Does It Make?
Item 310B. \$1.50 ea.



When She Says, "I'm Pregnant" – It's your daughter. It's your girl-friend. It's your sister. Now what?
Item LFL601B. \$0.50 ea.

Abortion Pill Reversal – Saving a Pregnancy Are you having second thoughts after starting a chemical or medication abortion?
Item LFL602B. \$0.50 ea.

When
She
Says, "I'm
Pregnant"

Pastor Michael Salemink



**Abortion Pill
Reversal**

– Saving a
Pregnancy
by Jennifer Kendrex



Order LFL Resources at cph.org or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



**LUTHERANS
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Share the For Life message all year long with **Life Quotes!**

Life Quotes are quotations on life issues—many from LFL resources and publications—for use in weekly congregational bulletins. You are also free to use the quotations in your monthly newsletter.

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Fill out the form at the link below, and the Miami Valley Life Chapter will send a blanket made with love directly to this expectant mother in the United States (as well as Puerto Rico, and APO and FPO addresses). No strings attached! lutheransforlife.org/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets



Buying or selling a home or commercial property? Support Lutherans For Life at the same time! Call 877.543.3871 or email proliferealestate@yahoo.com for more information. realestateforlife.org
lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life



Frontline Call – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, January 13, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. There will be a devotion, activity update, life project ideas, guest speakers, and Q & A. **For topics, speakers, and Zoom links, go to the LFL homepage calendar.**



For those who have had an abortion, a Word of Hope ... 888.217.8679
word-of-hope.org
info@word-of-hope.org



Find Lutherans For **Life** on ...



Deaconess Janet Nicol Installed

On Sunday, October 20, Deaconess Janet Nicol was officially installed as full-time **Word of Hope** Phone Counselor at her home congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Milford Center, Ohio. The officiant was Rev. Kevin Wilson, Ohio District President – LCMS. Also present for the installation were Rev. Dr. Paul Schlueter, of St. Paul, and Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life.



Word of Hope exists to bring healing found in Christ—to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion. At **Word of Hope**, we know God is a God of mercy and compassion. We are ready to share that message with those who are suffering.

Our team at **Word of Hope** strives to lift the burden of guilt from women and show them that through Christ, all sins are forgiven.

Word of Hope is here to help people find joy once again—the kind of joy that is only found in the healing of Christ. (888.217.8679 • word-of-hope.org)

“Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:1).

And remember ... Every time you shop at any of the 1,800+ online stores in the **iGive** network, a portion of the money you spend benefits Lutherans For Life. It's a free service, and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through **iGive**. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy **iGive**'s repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales. To get started, just create your free **iGive** account. Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/LFL.



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I Love Jesus and ...

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M.



Jim and I recently spent ten days with our daughter and her family in upstate New York on one of our semi-annual mom-dad-grandpa-grandma visits. As you might expect, our granddaughters, Ella (7), and Hannah (4½), are, as the saying goes, “the light of our lives.” But there is another light in our lives that we cherish above all other lights—our Lord Jesus. This is the light that brings LIFE to all mankind.

Our theme for our 2024 regional conferences and for Life Sunday/Life Week 2025 is **Life Shines in Darkness**, 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.”

Jesus is indeed *the* Light and *the* Life for the whole world.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called, or perhaps, more accurately, commanded, to live by this light and to let our light shine in the darkness, thus bringing glory to our Father in heaven. We are to let our life, our actions, shine in the darkness as well.

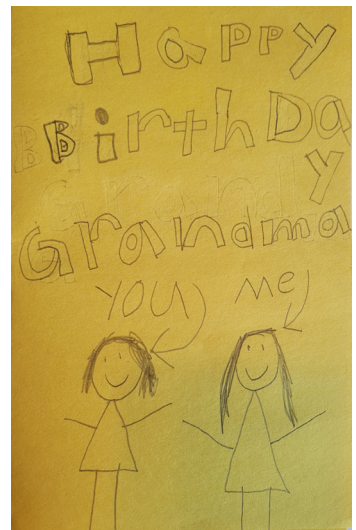
“Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:15-16).

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). *Related to being a light and living a life in Christ.*

“[God] appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (Psalm 78:5-7).

We who truly love our Lord endeavor to teach our children to love Him, trusting in God to keep His promise to us that He will bless His children to a thousand generations to those who fear and love Him. We often do not see the results of our teachings. We may not fully know how our life and our light—gifts from our Savior, shining in the dark world—have impacted those around us. But, sometimes, God richly blesses us by showing us the fruits of our labors done in His name.

I celebrated my 75th birthday in September, and Ella waited for our visit to give me her hand-crafted birthday card. It is one of the most meaningful, beautiful cards I have ever received—and I have received a *lot* of birthday cards. The outside is wonderful, and the drawings of Ella and me warmed my heart.



But the inside of the card caught me totally by surprise and blasted into my heart like a ray of sunshine.

Ella had asked her mom, “What does Grandma like best?” Erin’s answer? Jesus and birds! So, Ella decorated the inside of the card with the two things that her grandma loves best—Jesus and birds! Words cannot begin to express the incredible joy this brings to my heart. Our daughter is teaching our granddaughter about the love of Jesus in a natural and easy way.



My prayer for all of us in the Body of Christ is that in the days ahead, we may continue to teach our children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors of all ages about the Jesus we know and love. May everyone who sees us see the *light* of Jesus shining in our lives. May they see His *life* shining in us as well.

I pray that those who see each of us will say, “Barb loves Jesus and birds.” “Jim loves Jesus and gardening.” “_____ loves Jesus and _____.” Just fill in the blanks and allow God to make *your* life a sharing and a shining of the Light and the Life of the world—our Lord Jesus.



“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (3 John 4).

Illuminating Good and Overshadowing Evil!

by Virginia J. Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations



"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

How fortunate we are to have Jesus in our lives. We can never take that lightly as He literally suffered and died in our stead. And His resurrection overcame evil and the power of the devil. He brings light and life to a dark world filled with sin and illuminates the good we have in our hope-filled lives.

Yet the world has blurred the lines between right and wrong and, even more succinctly, good and evil. One would think everyone's conscience would know better, but our world seems upside down. It can be difficult to know the truth from lies. This is when we need to use our Gospel-motivated voices For Life to tell the truth in love.

How do you discern right and wrong? As Christians we have learned to discern good and evil from God's Word, especially from the Ten Commandments. We need those tablets of stone given to Moses on the mountain top. God knew sin would lead mankind down many dark paths, and the outcome is never good. Evil exists because of sin and the devil, and his wiles are leading the way. We must stand up for what is good and call evil, evil. Remember, we have Jesus, and He overshadows evil and illuminates good.

Just because something is legal doesn't make it right. Laws are being passed legalizing abortion in many states. (*Our former executive director, Rev. Dr. James Lamb, believes the meaning of the word "abortion" has been watered down from its real meaning: Allowing the killing of little girls and little boys in terrible ways before they are born.*) Even if someone is not a Christian and doesn't hold to the truth of God's Word, they know killing someone is evil. Science has proven that life begins at fertilization. All the humanistic arguments about when life begins have been disproven. The evil that man has now contrived has new roots in a new phrase called "reproductive rights," which tells a woman she gets to play God and decide whether the living being in her womb gets to live or die.

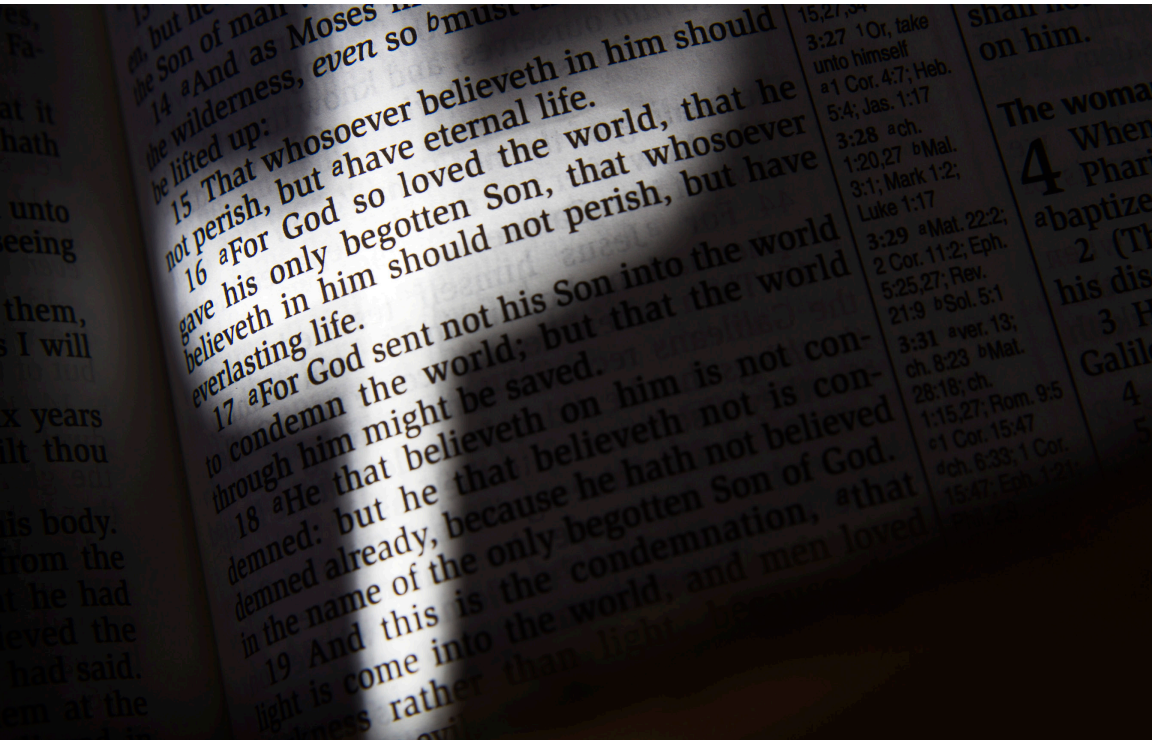
Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia laws are also being passed in states legalizing the killing of the elderly, sick, disabled, and those with mental illness. (*Or as Dr. Lamb would say: The killing of born people before their time.*) We can never forget God loves life, and we need to allow His plan to be fulfilled in our lives and not try to take control in ways leading to death. Man is very good at coming up with catch phrases that make it all seem okay and even honorable. Calling suicide Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) brings no dignity to suicide; it only diminishes the honor and respect the participating medical professionals at one time had. We could trust them to "do no harm" per the Hippocratic Oath. Today, the watered-down oath brings no dignity to the medical profession for those who aid in killing. Even worse, it openly rejects God's plan for us.

Today, the world lives in fear of their plans changing because of a surprise pregnancy or unexpected illness, fear of what others will think—especially family,

friends, and the church—fear of the cost to raise a child or the cost of getting old leaving less inheritance, fear of being a burden or suffering when there is available care, and simply fear of the unknown future with these new circumstances.

It is these very fears that Jesus overcame. As Psalm 27:1 reminds us, God will give us the strength to overcome any situation we face in this life. He is our stronghold. Pray and seek His guidance. He is there for us.

In his 1933 inaugural address, at the time of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used the phrase, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” Yet only God makes truly guaranteed promises. We can trust in Him when our lives are hit with surprises that turn our world upside down. Always turn to the hope we have in Jesus. Avoid those traps of trying to rationalize evil acts that prematurely end lives. Jesus is the life that shines in darkness. May we live according to God’s Will and be illuminated by the good for which He lights up our Life.



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Celebrating Life – Even at Halloween

by Grace MacPherson



We worship a God of life ... who broke death itself and rose to give us life.

Fall has never been my favorite time of year. I love the crisp air and changing colors, not to mention my family's four birthdays in eight days—but each year, I struggle to not resent the way my family's celebration of life is interrupted by the world's celebration of death.

From the first hint of cool in the air to the early days of November, my neighborhood is filled with graveyards. Overall, I'm not against Halloween—I still enjoy dressing up or handing out candy. But what disturbs me about this holiday is the often blatant celebration of death I see each fall.

For a lot of people, Halloween is just a fun time with family and friends—a time to get out the costumes and enjoy fall treats. But over the last few years, I've noticed a disturbing trend in Halloween decorations. Where I used to see pumpkins and tombstones, I now see skeletons and zombies. And this year in my neighbor's yard, a ring of hooded figures stood worshipping a house-tall skeleton that stood on a heap of carnage.

My gut response to that display was more than my typical annoyance at a particularly macabre yard. It was fear—not for myself, but for our culture. Displays that celebrate death cannot help but influence the children who see them every day.

And increasingly, this is the norm in our culture: Death is no longer something to fear, but something to celebrate—even to worship.

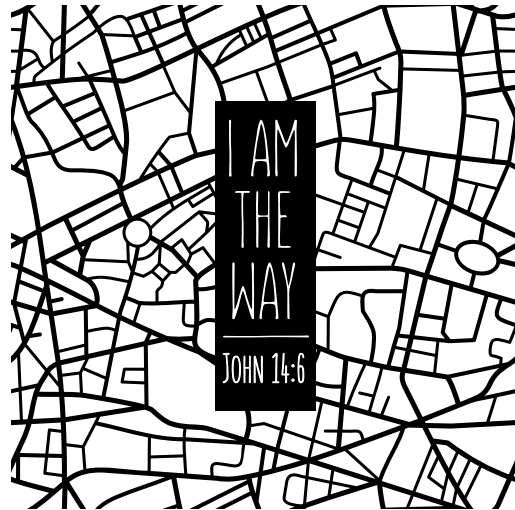
But for the Christian, death is neither something to worship nor something to fear. Death is our gravest enemy—but one that has already been conquered, one that is more laughable than frightening. On the same day so many people celebrate death, we Lutherans thank God for the Reformation that brought back the pure teaching of the Gospel: We have eternal life in Christ through grace alone.

That display in my neighbor's yard worshiped death. But as Christians, we worship the One who is **"the way, the truth, and the life"** (John 14:6 NKJV).

We don't worship a god of death—a god who demands human life in payment for our sins.

Instead we worship a God of life—the God who took on human life in Mary's womb, who was born of a virgin to die like a criminal, who broke death itself and rose to give us life.

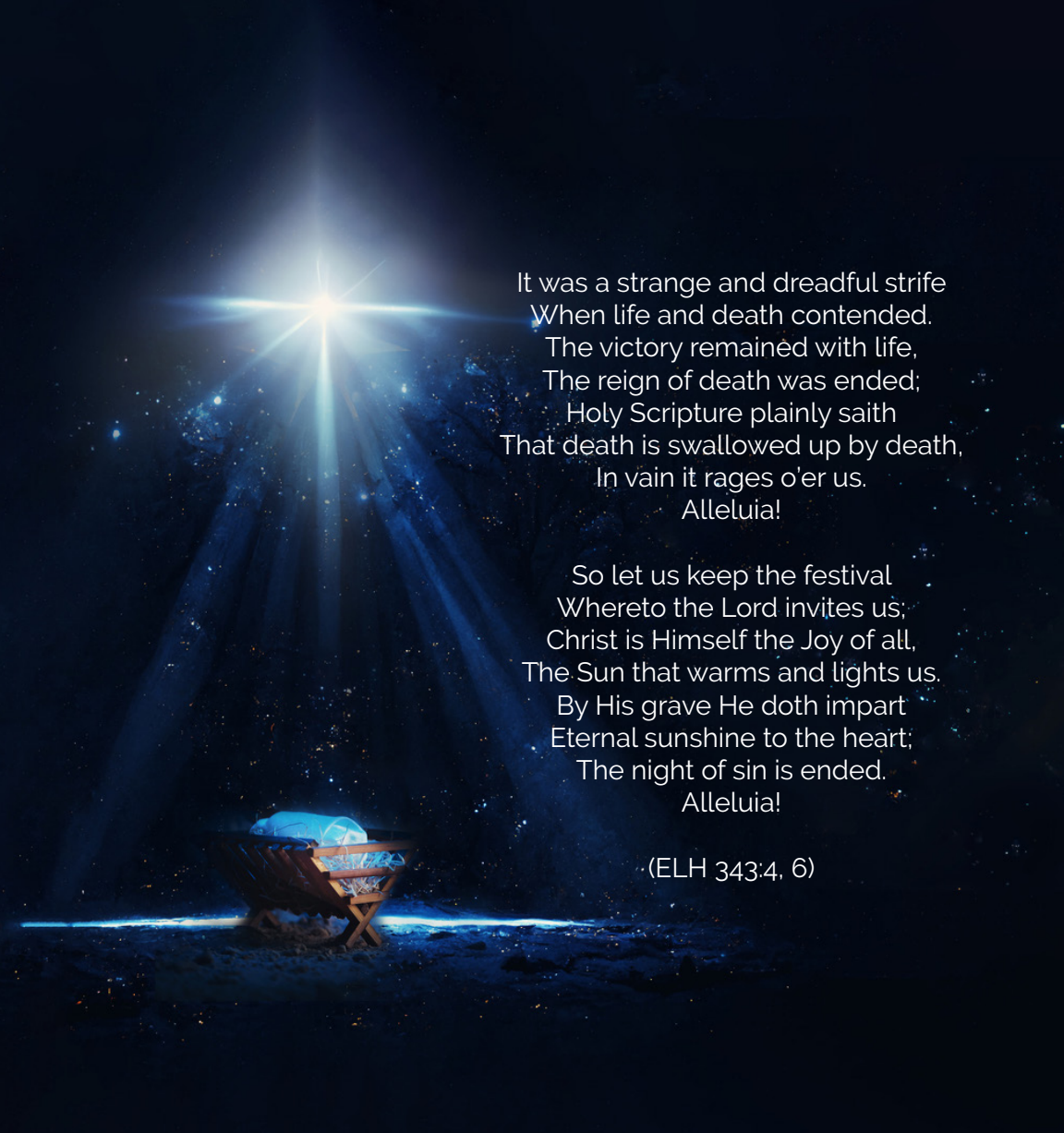
We celebrate our God of life every year at Christmas and Easter—but this year, I celebrated life at Halloween, too.



Every tombstone and skeleton in my neighbor's yard was more than a marker of a cultural obsession with death. For the Christian, every Halloween decoration can be a reminder of eternal life—a triumphant cry that the dead will not remain in their graves forever. On the night when our culture celebrates death, we face even the most disturbing displays without fear: The living God has already conquered death for us.

And as it turned out, a heaven-sent snowstorm covered my neighbor's yard the day before Halloween.

Grace MacPherson lives in Casper, Wyoming, with her family. She is the author of The King's Sword and Domitian.



It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended.
The victory remained with life,
The reign of death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That death is swallowed up by death,
In vain it rages o'er us.
Alleluia!

So let us keep the festival
Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the Joy of all,
The Sun that warms and lights us.
By His grave He doth impart
Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended.
Alleluia!

(ELH 343:4, 6)

No One's Child

by Pastor Michael Penikis



Beyond Human? "Better" than Human?

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Genesis 1:26-28).

This passage from the first chapter of the Bible sets forth some familiar teachings of the Christian faith. First, that God is one and more-than-one (i.e., the Trinity), that humans are made in the image and likeness of God, and that God made humans male and female. God also blesses and commands the procreation of His human creatures. All humans so begotten are to be treated with the same in-the-image-of-God dignity as our first parents were given *by God*. Your value and dignity as a human are yours *because* God has made you and loves you.

Another truth is also found here, one that often gets ignored, overlooked, dismissed, or explained away. That is God's decree that man "have dominion," or lordship, over the earth and the other earthly creatures. Christian worldview scholar and author Nancy Pearcey has called this *The Cultural Mandate*, the Creator's blessing/command that mankind create culture and build society. We were meant to "imitate" God (so to speak) in these activities, doing them in righteousness, for the good of one another, and to God's glory. [Author's note: Throughout this article, "man" is used in the generic sense of "human" unless context clearly indicates that "man" refers to a male human.]

It's obvious that mankind and the world do not operate in this way today, nor have they for a very long time. The break from God's good design and purpose for us came with the Fall, man's rebellion against the Lord God. The Tempter promised Eve that she and Adam would *become as gods*, knowing good and evil. Adam went along with it without raising a single objection. To *become as gods* means being your own god, your own boss, the lord of your own life, making the rules you want—and usurping the place of the true God.

The record of sacred Scripture and the record of human history testify to the clashing of the wills of countless petty little "gods" that all men have become in the heart ever since Adam and Eve's rebellion. Many ideas, philosophies, movements, religions, and assorted "-isms" have arisen from this false sense of human godhood. Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche posited the concept of the *Übermensch* (variously translated as *superman*, *overman*, *above-man*, or *beyond-man*) as a goal for all humanity to set for itself. He wanted it to signal a shift from "otherworldly" Christian values toward the "grounded" human ideal, for Christians. For the

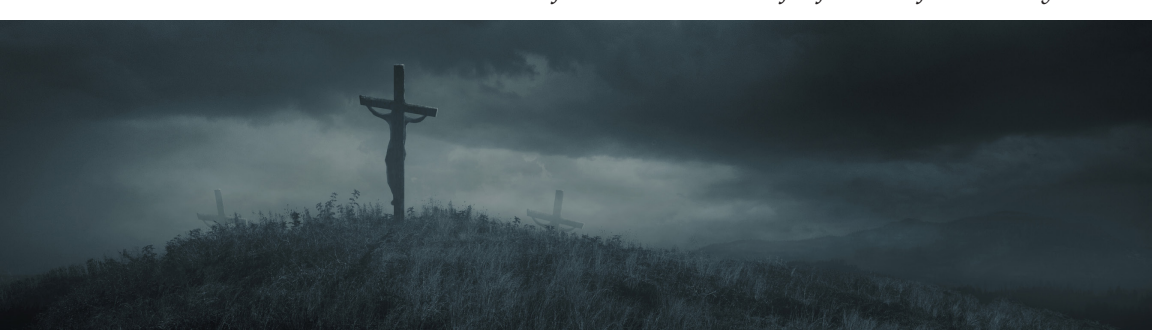
Christian system is “nihilistic” and “destructive,” whereas the *Übermensch* is “life-affirming” and “creative.” Nietzsche also tied *Übermensch* to “the death of God.”

Other philosophies have since developed from this idea, including *posthumanism* and *transhumanism*. You’ve heard of *humanism*, especially in reference to its secular form, which is a non-theistic, naturalistic worldview focused on human “freedom” without “constraints” from God or religion. In earlier usage, humanism referred to advocating classical education and the study of classical literature. (So, there were Christian humanists, such as Luther’s colleague, Philip Melanchthon.) Today, secular humanism is virtually synonymous with humanism.

Posthumanism and transhumanism critically question humanism and seek to move the human race beyond its present physical, intellectual, and mortal limitations. Posthumanists believe in the fluidity of identity, the priority of “practices over individuals,” and that human rights are on a spectrum with animal (and other non-human) “rights.” We are merely one of many natural species. Transhumanists seek to direct human evolution through the use of emergent and future technologies which could expand human intelligence, increase human physical abilities, and extend human life effectively to achieve immortality—heaven on earth! (Shades of utopianism: There’s a reason Sir Thomas More called his imaginary society *Utopia*, meaning “no place.”) In practice in all such approaches, either the individual gives way to the will of the collective whole (like the Borg of *Star Trek*), or a divide grows between post- or transhumans and inferior ordinary humans (like us of God’s creation).

Ultimately, these philosophies and ideas are attacks on our God-given humanity and on God Himself. In her book *Awake, Not Woke*, Noelle Mering says that “the cult of progressive ideology” is, at its root, an attack on the *Logos*, who is the Word of God, God the Son, Christ Jesus. The same may be said of posthumanism, transhumanism, and the like. The goal is to chuck God’s design, purpose, and definition of and for us, then replace them with our own designs, purposes, and definitions—the supposed godhood promised by the Tempter. But he is a liar, a thief, a killer, and a destroyer, and doomed to eternal destruction. It is a most blessed irony, then, that the True and Only Hope is in “the death of God,” not as Nietzsche said but as God in His Word declares, the atoning, sacrificial death of God the Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross, to give to all who trust in Him forgiveness of sins, salvation, and life now and eternally, and to restore us men to a right relationship with God and to His design and purpose for us.

Rev. Michael Penikis was a Pastoral Advisor for Lutherans For Life of Kansas for several years.



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book

January 5 – Christmas II – No human life—and no human pregnancy—ever goes unplanned or unwanted by Almighty God. Ephesians' first chapter makes clear the Heavenly Father conceived each precious person "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). And the coming of Christ Jesus incorporates male and female, old or young, into heaven's household by adoption. Children come as Gospel gifts!

January 12 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – With the sacrament of Baptism, the Lord Jesus makes childbirth central to the Christian Gospel. The coming forth of new life always provides cause for celebration because the Savior has sanctified it. Human beings as helpless and dependent as gestating babies have His blessing: "You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

January 19 – Epiphany II – Surprise pregnancies sometimes seem like tidal waves. Terminal diagnoses also often come like thunderstorms. But even among their sufferings, the Lord Jesus exercises ultimate authority and never fails to make wine for us out of water. The gifts He delivers through each neighbor differ, but the same Spirit works (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) the sanctity of life in them all.

January 26 – St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor – The Apostle Paul involved Gentile Titus in Christian ministry to embody how the Gospel doesn't discriminate. So confinement to mother's womb will not disqualify anyone from worth: Jesus is Lord there, too (Psalm 71:6). And advanced age cannot undermine it either: He employs "elder" as an expression of respect (Titus 1:5-9). We dare not close the kingdom doors Almighty God has opened!

February 2 – Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord – Ever since sinfulness first afflicted creation, labor and delivery sheds a mother's blood. The Law of the Lord laments that this echo and threat of death operates right where human life emerges from. So He intervenes with atonement to preserve that precious life. And Jesus embodies this opposition to abortion from the very beginning (Luke 2:22-24).

February 9 – Epiphany V – Both Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5) and Peter (Luke 5:8) believed their sinfulness unforgivable. Many mothers and fathers conclude the same about aborting their own children. Yet God's mercy overflows the altar (Isaiah 6:6-7) and even the temple (Luke 5:3) until Jesus preaches it in public abundance. And in both cases He commissions agents to continue announcing. Let us also extend His grace to hearts broken by abortion.

February 16 – Epiphany VI – Only in 1 Corinthians 15:8 ("untimely born") do the Scriptures use a technical term for "abortion." Paul labeled himself like a miscarriage or one designated for intentional termination. But the Lord God intervened by reaching out with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Savior dying and rising makes abortion entirely unnecessary – and diametrically opposite to the Gospel message and community.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Find One-Year Lectionary files at lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts

February 23 – Epiphany VII – Joseph’s brothers aborted him well after his birth because they thought him a threat. History eventually disclosed the Heavenly Father’s design: a life-giving mission they didn’t see (Genesis 45:7-8). The same holds true in the surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses we encounter. So Christians practice servanthood to apparently burdensome persons (Luke 6:29), because like mercy from God makes our lives possible.

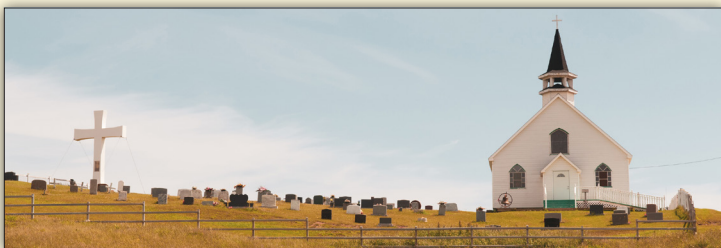
March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord – Our Savior’s miraculous radiance reveals three sanctity of life truths. The timing and manner of our deaths—like those of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah—are God’s business and decision (Luke 9:30). Then, every human life receives a glory from Jesus that we cannot always immediately envision. Just because it’s hidden doesn’t mean it’s missing. And this message isn’t meant for keeping to ourselves!

March 9 – Lent I – Abortion and assisted suicide enact idolatry by assessing life apart from the Word of the Lord (Luke 4:4, 8). Saving faith, on the other hand, receives both child and trials as riches from the loving hand of God. He who makes hills give milk and honey will no doubt bring forth even better blessings from the humblest human life!

March 16 – Lent II – The heart of Christianity is proclaiming Gospel promises courageously. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 26:8) follows the lead of Jesus Himself (Luke 13:31-32) in speaking of God’s truth and Christ’s love even when unpopular. They believe their lives—and everyone else’s—belong in the Heavenly Father’s hands above all. Gospel-motivated voices For Life, take note!

March 23 – Lent III – If Almighty God has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezekiel 33:11), how much more does death of innocents grieve Him? Why then should the people of God ever tolerate the killing of unborn sisters and brothers? And if the Lord of all only deals in death when human iniquity does not allow Him to avoid it, will not the same love move us to warn others against dealing in death?

March 30 – Lent IV – The prodigal’s father kept watching every day for his wayward son’s return. He had to have in order to spot him “while he was still a long way off” (Luke 15:20). Our Gracious God never gives up on a human life, no matter what size, skills, circumstances, or sins it involves. We need not let surprise pregnancies, chronic conditions, or terminal diagnoses steal our hope—or anyone else’s!



2024 End-of-Year Appeal!

by Dave Probst, Director of Development



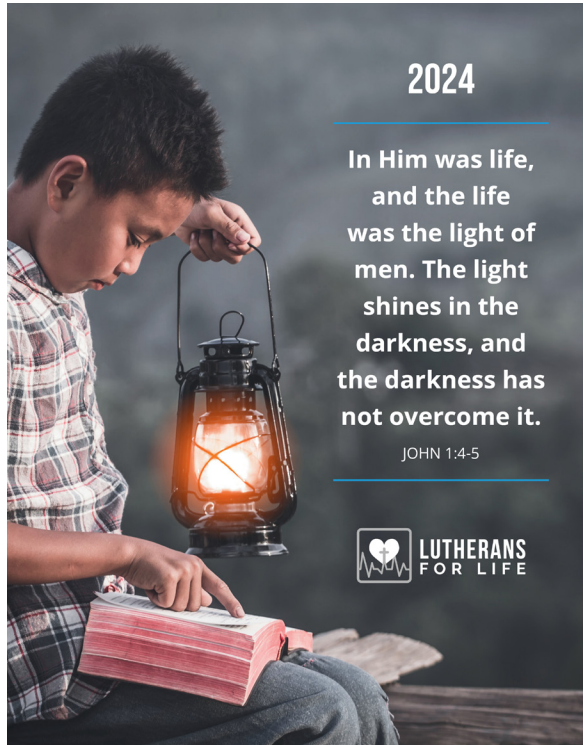
As this year draws to a close, Lutherans For Life would like to thank you for your faithful ministry partnership and assistance in our sanctity of life endeavors! You are a vital instrument in the advancement of our mission: **Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life**—and we thank God for you!

To press forward in our important work of upholding God's gift of life from fertilization to forever, LFL has launched its end-of-year fundraising campaign for 2024! The theme is **Life Shines in 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."

Our year-end appeal booklet shares all the incredible ways your Gospel-motivated partnership assists our efforts to affirm life, counter the culture of death, and proclaim the gift of hope found in Jesus.

We encourage you to read through the appeal book and provide a generous contribution to our end-of-year fundraising campaign. Your gift will provide a significant impact on the lives we touch, the hearts we reach, and the culture we aim to transform.



2024

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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

Donate Now:
[lutheransforlife.org/
donate2024](https://lutheransforlife.org/donate2024)

**Download the 2024
End-of-Year Appeal:** [lutheransforlife.
org/2024-end-of-year-appeal](https://lutheransforlife.org/2024-end-of-year-appeal)

Questions? Contact me at dprobst@lutheransforlife.org or 812.603.7970.



Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, sexual purity and bio-technology.
- **Assists For Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to all, whatever their circumstances.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**
- **Witnesses** to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.
- **Serves** through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.
- **Educates and encourages** through conferences and presentations, printed resources, Life Sunday materials, Bible studies, curricula, audio and video, and through lutheransforlife.org.
- **Equips** local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams, or as a Life Advocate. LFL State Federations, Life Chapters, and Life Teams also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries (including our own Word of Hope) that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.
- Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.
- Is not subsidized by any church body.
- Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

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

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

Our Vision ... Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

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 a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues, such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. We will call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations.

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Sanctity of Human Life Sunday | January 19, 2025

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Life Shines in Darkness

LIFE WEEK 2025

JANUARY 19-25

lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2025

65,464,760 babies have been killed in abortions since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973

www.lifeneews.com/2024/01/17/65464760-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973